



## Connecting Sichuan Program at a Glance

### Overview

On May 12, 2008 a devastating 8.0 magnitude earthquake struck in Sichuan Province, China. The earthquake destroyed vital infrastructure such as roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, farms, businesses, homes and entire communities. 87,000 people were killed, 375,000 injured and 15 million were left without shelter.

Cisco responded with immediate disaster relief aid by providing volunteers on site, needed medicines, emergency communications infrastructure, and grants of over \$2.6M to aid ongoing disaster relief efforts. On July 1, 2008 Cisco signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Sichuan Provincial government forging a public-private partnership to help with the long-term rebuilding efforts, a program and partnership that has come to be known as Connecting Sichuan.

Given the immediate and long-term needs of the Province and Cisco's unique expertise in information and communication technology (ICT), the Connecting Sichuan program focuses on leveraging ICT to build replicable, scalable and sustainable models of 21<sup>st</sup> century healthcare and education, both critical requirements of vibrant, sustainable communities.

### Why Cisco

As an integral part of the company's culture, Cisco corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs focus on responding to natural disasters, supporting employees, protecting the environment, improving access to education, and collaborating with governments and partners to build stronger, more vibrant communities.

Over the years, we have learned that prosperity and wellbeing flourish when people's basic needs have been met and they have the knowledge and practical skills to reach their full potential. Food, water, shelter and security are essential to human life, and education and healthcare are major catalysts that make sustainable prosperity possible in communities worldwide.

### Background

The Connecting Sichuan program has been designed to leverage Cisco's extensive technical expertise and networking capabilities to help improve the quality of healthcare and education in the earthquake affected areas of Sichuan, particularly in rural communities. It also underscores Cisco's CSR vision and long-term commitment to the success and sustainable development of China.

Cisco's \$45 million (RMB300 million), three-year commitment to support the rebuilding of lives and communities in Sichuan demonstrates the collective power of public-private partnerships and the associative power of collaborative technologies. The objective is to build replicable, scalable and sustainable models of 21<sup>st</sup> century healthcare and education.

To design and deliver these innovative solutions for healthcare and education, Cisco is working closely with government and industry leaders throughout the province, the country and from around the world. To date, there are over 47 government, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), systems integrators and solution providers contributing to Connecting Sichuan.

In December 2008, the China Ministry of Civil Affairs honored Cisco with the 2008 China Philanthropy Award. And in May 2009, the Ministry of Commerce honored Cisco for Sichuan rebuilding efforts.

### Healthcare

Connecting Sichuan is building a foundation for China Government's Health 2020 reform initiative focused on delivering universal health services throughout the country. Specifically, Connecting Sichuan is promoting effective collaboration - "collaborative care" - between health institutions through a converged network to support the delivery of health services.

### Education

The Connecting Sichuan education initiatives are aligned with the Ministry of Education's national priorities and the priorities of the Sichuan Department of Education. Connecting Sichuan is working to advance these priorities by providing network-based services and collaboration technologies to educational institutions ranging from elementary schools to colleges. Additionally, we are also helping to educate future ICT workers by opening Cisco Networking Academies at colleges and universities throughout the Province. Cisco Networking Academy teaches students ICT skills through globally consistent, locally relevant and high quality e-learning curricula, hands-on labs and online assessments.

## Impact and Updates

### Healthcare

- Successfully supported remote diagnoses between Huaxi Hospital in the Provincial capital of Chengdu and temporary field hospitals in Qingchuan and Dujiangyan utilizing Cisco Unified Communications solution
- Installed HealthPresence in the Sichuan-Hong Kong Rehabilitation Center at Sichuan People's Hospital to provide physical and psychological rehabilitative care to earthquake victims
- Provided a Mobile HealthPresence Clinic, a custom-made Isuzu vehicle equipped with state-of-the-art technology, to serve hard-hit Wenchuan county and other rural communities
- Supported a comprehensive architecture review for the new Provincial New Rural Co-op Medical Insurance System (NRCMIS), which was experiencing overload conditions due to the large number of earthquake victims
- Launched the Sichuan Province Health Network Planning project with the Sichuan Department of Health and SinoSoft
- Designed a high-level regional health information consolidation and network plan for Deyang city
- Launched the Healthy Wenchuan project in concert with ECCOM Network System Co. Ltd. a network infrastructure services and solutions provider, and West China Hospital

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"Connecting Sichuan program provides a role model of how to provide quality basic medical and public health services supported by relevant technology, operational procedure and good governance. The model may show how to achieve the objectives in Healthy China 2020 and the New Health Care Reform Plan."

*- Dr. Gonghuan Yang, Deputy-Director General of China Center for Disease Control and Prevention*

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### Education

- Launched two model schools by September 1, 2008, when schools re-opened
- Completed four 21<sup>st</sup> century education prototypes: a city school, a town school, and two vocational colleges. The city school model is at Dujiangyan High School, the town school prototype is at ZunDao and the vocational college implementation is at Aba Teacher's College and Pengzhou Vocational College
- Designed innovative solutions and services for rural schools, including using renewable energy sources in the SongPan village school solution
- Twenty-five new Cisco Networking Academy sites were established, 51 new instructors were trained and student enrollment has increased by over 12 percent

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"Everywhere I go, I describe Cisco as a company of compassionate people who enable, ennoble, and empower communities worldwide through collaboration and human networks. The Connecting Sichuan project is doing just that for the people of Sichuan."

*- Fred Mednick, Founder and CEO, Teachers Without Borders*

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### For more information

<http://www.cisco.com/web/about/citizenship/socio-economic/specialprograms/sichuan.html>