



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2008

Contact: Jerry Irvine
(202) 222-0811; irvine@globalfundforchildren.org

Statement on the Myanmar and China Tragedies

Dear Friends,

The unfolding tragedies in Myanmar (Burma) and China illustrate, yet again, the destructive power of Mother Nature. We at The Global Fund for Children are extremely concerned about the plight of the children affected by the recent cyclone in Myanmar and the earthquake in China and we extend our deepest sympathy to the people of these regions.

It is at times like these that the global community often shows its finest qualities, most notably a deep empathy coupled with a desire to administer aid and support as quickly and efficiently as possible. While we at The Global Fund for Children share this desire, we also recognize that a complementary long-term, strategic approach will be required to effectively address the needs of those most affected by the catastrophes. Community-based organizations are both the first responders and the longest-lasting service providers to the children and families in their communities. It is especially in this long-term response role, as relief efforts taper down and communities transition from relief to routines, that grassroots groups make the critical difference in a full community recovery.

Our border-based partner in Thailand, WEAVE, works with displaced Burmese women and children living in Thailand and ensures that young displaced children receive sufficient education through community-based preschools. Ruili Women and Children Development Center works on the Myanmar border with China to improve the health and well-being of neglected and sexually exploited women and children, often victims of trafficking. Both organizations expect an increase in displaced persons from the disaster areas of Myanmar who will require their programs and services. While our grantee partners in China are not within the earthquake-affected region, they are considering an appropriate role to assist neighboring communities.

We have opened up our emergency grant fund to all of our partners affected by and helping those affected by these disasters. This fund supports immediate disaster-related activities, such as relief supplies and psychosocial support, with funds typically disbursed directly to the ground within one week of the crisis. We await the response of our grantee partners and stand ready to help. If you would like to make a donation to support our emergency grants fund for this and other crises, please [click here](#).

Again, our thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Myanmar and China. We will work diligently to provide the most effective aid and assistance that we can in the coming days, months, and years ahead on the road to recovery.

Best,

Maya Ajmera
Founder and President, The Global Fund for Children

Victoria Dunning
Vice President, Programs, The Global Fund for Children