

Final Evaluation Report

For Child Friendly Space Project

In Wenchuan-Earthquake affected Areas in Sichuan



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Date: October 2012

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I. Project Background

After the 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake in China, the National Working Committee on Children and Women under the State Council (hereinafter referred as NWCCW) and UNICEF initiated a joint Sichuan Child-Friendly Space Project (hereinafter referred as ‘the Project’). It was planned that 40 Child-Friendly Spaces (hereinafter referred as CFS) would be built. This is the first time that CFS is introduced to China. The experience on emergency responses around the world from UNICEF has proven that CFS would create a safe and protective environment for children, as well as promote social harmony and community integration. Such functions are crucial in supporting children who were derailed from their normal life by the mega Wenchuan Earthquake that hit Sichuan Province.

CFS has provided community-based services to over 332,000 children since the Wenchuan Earthquake. The services include psycho-social support, non-formal education, early childhood development, child protection and child participation, which enable them obtain skills, enhance confidence, for facing future challenges and disasters, at the same time, realizing their rights to healthy development.

II. Evaluation Process

UNICEF’s three year support to the Project ended in May 2011, as originally planned. In order to evaluate impacts and progress of the Project between 2008 and 2011, NWCCW and UNICEF decided to commission an evaluation to a group of independent consultants (hereinafter referred as ‘the Evaluation Team’).

The Evaluation Team reviewed international and national literatures and documents. They conducted on-site observation, in-depth interviews and visits in 11 counties and townships in 3 municipalities/prefectures, where CFS operates, as well as in Beijing for NWCCW and UNICEF. An on-line survey was also conducted covering all 36 existing CFS, which are now under the administration

¹ This English report is prepared based on the Executive Summary and selected contents from the main report of the Evaluation Report in Chinese, which consists of 74,500 Chinese characters.

of local governments.

A total of 1,338 respondents participated in the on-line survey and in-depth interviews, covering relevant administrators, CFS volunteers and staff, parents and children. 281 stakeholders participated in the in-depth interview, while 1,057 valid on-line questionnaires were completed; of which 548 were done by children, 383 by parents and 126 by CFS staff, WCCW staff and township/village cadres.

The Evaluation Team embraces a participatory approach, which ensures that stakeholders jointly review what they have done and achieved in the project. It is also an opportunity for learning and experience sharing. Through mutual learning and review, the participatory evaluation aims for “better next steps”. These next steps are based on consensus built among all stakeholders, which are meaningful, beneficial and sustainable.

The Evaluation Team adopted a number of tools and methods from social sciences, including field study, direct observation, sampling, interviews, cause-effect analysis, quantified analysis and literature review. All of these are used to produce quality findings and results from the Evaluation.

Findings from the Evaluation are laid out with a strong focus on the direct feedback and views expressed by core stakeholders. CFS is by nature a community-based children’s service facility. Therefore, the best and most important assessment of its functions and impacts come from its users. This marks a major departure from the past evaluation that focused primarily on quantitative methods to determine the impacts and effectiveness of service delivery.

As for project impact, the Evaluation Team strives to embrace a multi-perspective approach which draws heavily on feedback and information provided by NWCCW staff at all levels, township government department members, community members, parents and children, complemented by observations and analysis from the Evaluation Team. The aim for doing so is to demonstrate the most crucial impacts and results achieved by the Project.

III. Evaluation Findings

Literature Review

Literature review reveals that, before 2008, there is not much practical service delivery for children in rural communities in China. Service similar to that provided by CFS in Sichuan was basically a gap to be filled, in practice, policy, research and relevant literature. Hence the CFS practice and experiences

accumulated through over three years' piloting in Sichuan, its illumination and policy innovation, are all of pioneering importance and leading reference to community based child protection services in China.

Service delivery

A total of 1,057 people participated in the online survey, of which 548 are children, 383 are parents and 126 are CFS staff, WCCW officials and Township/village leaders. Over 900 children and parents who participated in the online survey give very high remarks on the CFSs operation. 98% of children and 99% of parents surveyed believe that CFSs help eliminate or reduce negative impact of earthquake on local children. Over 99% of children said that they are satisfied or very satisfied with the quality services of CFSs and performances of their staff members. A key purpose of the Evaluation is to explore and identify aspects of 'change'. 97% of children surveyed said that CFSs help them become more confident. Over 70% parents thought they now understand the rights of the child and are more respectful to children, and that CFSs help improve communications and relationship between them and their children. Over 98% of CFS staff members and other people involved in CFS Project said they are more confident from engaging in CFS activities/work. Nearly 100% of children, parents and staff members surveyed want CFSs to continue to provide services to children from the communities.

The survey findings indicate a rather high frequency of visits by child respondents. The majority of child respondents (84%) are of school-age, and despite the fact that they spent most of their time in schools other than holidays and weekends, they have tried their best to find time to visit CFS and use services, participate in activities, and/or assist in service delivery by CFS. For all 548 participating children, the average frequency of visits to CFS reaches 13 times each month; 75% of all children surveyed make at least 5 visits to CFS every month, while 19% pay more than 20 visits to CFS every month. The frequency of visit reflects directly the extent to which these child clients' needs are met by the contents, design, quality and delivery of services by CFS.

All 1057 survey respondents identified the most effective and useful activities delivered by CFS. Among the top ten options, three groups chose seven common ones, which include reading, group games/activities, child-parents interactive activities, children's participation in the CFS management and service delivery (through children's committee, child managers and child volunteers), CFS staff/volunteer helping children handle their psychosocial issues, Training, awareness raising and advocacy for parents, and handicrafts making activities (by children individually, collectively, and with their parents). These activities can contribute to enhanced interaction between children, interaction and

communication between children and parents, children's participation in CFS service delivery and management, and psychosocial support for children.

All planned activities for the project are completed. The evaluation indicates that CFS project has completed its expected tasks in the planned project cycle, and continues to operate in communities. It is found that CFS, in their day to day operation and service provision, is planned, implemented and assessed through a rights-based approach. Core services of CFSs are delivered centering on the development, protection and participation rights of the child. In light of this, the CFS model is a breakthrough from the previous sector-oriented approach in service delivery for children. CFS designs and delivers services for children based on the rights of children (which overlaps primarily with children's needs), marking an innovative approach for comprehensive community-based services for children.

At the emergency relief stage, children's needs are more urgent, abnormal and special, while at reconstruction stages, children's needs require more long-term, sustainable inputs for extended coverage. The Project has positive values in protecting children's rights at both stages. It is proven by time that the Project can meet these different needs, by moving from focusing on specific targeted groups, to delivery of more universal services for more diverse communities and a larger number of children.

CFS was introduced by NWCCW and UNICEF after the Wenchuan Earthquake and has developed from a safe space for children's activities during emergency relief, to a key component of a child protection system.

The Evaluation found that CFSs have provided appropriate and immediate psycho-social support to children after the earthquake, which built a buffer-zone for the negative impact on children. About one year after the earthquake, most CFSs were moved from temporary shelters to permanent buildings. At the early stage, CFSs was a facility for emergency child protection and household 'stabilizer', with main services such as games, recreational activities and early childhood development. CFSs are now more focused on community-based communication, referral services and child rights advocacy. They now serve as community-based comprehensive resource centers and service platforms.

At its early stage, in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, the Project ensured that gaps in needs and services for children's education and protection due to impact on social structure by the earthquake are filled. Through daily and thematic activities, children from earthquake stricken communities shared and interacted with their peers. Such interaction also took place between parents and children. This forms an important level of psycho-social support, development and protection service for children at community level. Of all 1057 survey

participants, 98% of children, 100% of staff/volunteers, and 99% of parents indicated that CFS help eliminate or reduce the negative impacts by the Wenchuan earthquake on children in their communities.

The Project nurtured the development of volunteerism in the communities. From the Evaluation, it is found love, sense of responsibility, commitment to the community, realization of personal values, as well as continuous training opportunities provided by the Project have jointly played a role in keeping the staff members from leaving their posts, in spite of relatively low living allowances they receive. The volunteerism demonstrated by the staff members also inspired adults and children from the communities for self-motivated volunteerism. 79% of children surveyed said that they have provided volunteer support to CFS, while 80% of parents surveyed had been involved in volunteer support for CFS operation. CFS creates the platform for meaningful community volunteer engagement and participation.

Observations of the Evaluation Team and feedback from the stakeholders prove that the CFS is safe and child friendly. It is an environment where children are free from violence, exploitation and abuse.

CFSs contribute to the stabilization of communities, thus benefiting the reconstruction. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, much manpower and confidence was needed for recovery and reconstruction. Without someone looking after their children, parents would not feel comfortable to work on reconstruction and livelihood restoration. CFSs played an important role in this aspect. The day-care and early childhood development services, as well as games, recreational activities and pro-active social interactions at the CFSs significantly reduced the burden on parents and they had more time and energy for recovery and reconstruction.

CFSs have developed a set of community-based services for children, including psycho-social support, life skills/non-formal education, child development, early childhood development support, child protection and child participation.

For pre-school age children, CFSs organize parent-child interactive games, outreach activities and family education activities, to provide early childhood development support for parents and children. As many children over the age of 3 are in kindergartens and/or schools, they only access the services at CFSs after school, on weekend days, during public or school holidays. From an age perspective, children between the age of 0 and 3, particularly 2 and 3, and their parents and caregivers, are naturally the core 'clients' of CFSs during the weekdays. Therefore, Early Childhood Development is a key service provided and welcomed by rural parents in the pilot communities. Added to its value is the fact that CFSs provide these quality services that are safe, child friendly and delivered with

relatively more professional conducts, free of charge.

For children at school ages, CFSs provide non-formal education and life-skills training, aiming to strengthen their social and self-development skills. The Evaluation Team believes that these services complement formal education in school in a significant way and are particularly valuable in rural settings where there is a lack of child-focused public facilities and space, in particular community based children's education/development and leisure services/facilities.

The evaluation team confirms that child protection service is a key service component of CFS in the communities. Child protection services have been delivered through various means, including extensive community awareness-raising and communication initiatives carried out by parents and children, joint preventive communication and advocacy campaigns with local government counterparts such as WCCW (e.g. Children's Forums and Thematic Child Protection activities), and development of response mechanisms for child protection at community level.

The evaluation findings indicate that CFS proves to be able to provide children with special needs (e.g. children with disability, left-behind children and children from single-parent families) tailored services: CFS serves as the front-line where children with special needs in the communities are identified and supported. Appropriate social-psycho support provided for children with special needs, including those who have been affected by the earthquake, disability and other family factors, is one important added value on top of the general services CFSs provide. Through referral service, CFS helps children with special needs to access support from other specialized service agencies or individuals.

The Project-supported initiatives, such as training on adolescent self-protection, prevention of sexual abuse, and anti-family violence, have contributed to better child protection in the community. CFSs provide community-based support and relevant referral service, including support for families that reproduced as a result of loss of children in the earthquake, identification of potential risks for child abuse through contact and interaction with children and parents in daily service delivery. Upon incidence of child protection case, CFSs arrange for relevant coordination and referral services from relevant government departments, mass organizations and NGOs, if available. CFSs have also delivered preventive educational activities on Disaster Risk Reduction, assisting children to know more on self-protection and improve their skills and capacity to respond more effectively in emergencies.

Child participation service of CFS aims to create opportunities and spaces for children to participate in service delivery and management processes relating to children in CFSs and communities. In the past three years, the Project provided

due emphasis and concrete actions on encouraging children's participation, in training, workshops, capacity building initiatives and daily service delivery and management processes. Through Children's Committees, Small Managers, Child Volunteers and Children's Forum, in particular the establishment and functioning of children's committees in CFSs, children's effective participation was possible, confirming children's role as a social actor in the CFS, families and communities.

CFS, as established by the Project, serves as a frontline service for children at community level. It is a new form of child welfare service delivery. The comprehensiveness and diversity of such a new service dictates that no single agency or organization can provide all resources needed for such service delivery. Multi-sectorial participation (including involvement of a range of organizations and individuals at different levels) and coordinated and integrated resources (including policy, funding, and venue, human resources and technical knowhow, and so on), are the prerequisites for maximized functioning and effectiveness, as well as sustainability of CFSs. The Project successfully established coordination mechanisms that promoted multi-sectorial collaboration at national and local levels.

The Project also established and promoted positive interaction and linkage between grassroots practices and international principles and standards, mobilized effectively the coordination functions of local WCCW and Women's Federation. The project has promoted the participation of relevant social actors including corporate and public interests volunteers, through maximized utilization of existing human resources and physical resources (venue and spaces) available in local governments and communities.

Capacity Building

Capacity building of relevant stakeholders of the Project, including mainly the WCCW cadres at all levels and CFS staff/volunteers proves to be a key guarantee of the effective operation of the Project and CFS, and is itself a key result of the Project – a team of professional community workers for children established. The Project has established and operated a systematic training mechanism with frequent capacity building events/initiatives. The evaluation team realizes that significant efforts were put into training for project managers, coordinators and CFS staff/volunteers. In response to the roles and functions of CFS, and the practical needs of CFS staff/volunteers, capacity building initiatives were implemented to help project managers and CFS staff/volunteers gain more theoretical knowledge and develop practical skills.

More importantly, capacity building for CFS entails not only intensive multi-day and multi-step training and workshops, but also the follow-up post-training

supervised practice that encouraged mutual sharing and learning between CFS staff/volunteers, and onsite discussions and communications between project managers (mainly local WCCW and Women's Federation cadres) and CFS staff/volunteers on a regular and frequent basis, in an equal way.

In the evaluation survey carried out online, 86% of staff/volunteer respondents (who have participated in CFS/Project related training) ranked the three most useful training as Child Rights (100%), Social Work (99%) and Child Protection (84%). Over 98% of CFS staff members and other people involved in CFS Project said they are more confident from engaging in CFS activities/work. 83% of staff/volunteers believe that their capacity in working with children has improved. 81% of staff/volunteers confirm that through training and supervision, they have enhanced understanding of children's Rights. 89% of staff/volunteer respondents believe that the frequency of training is appropriate. 10% of staff/volunteer respondents expressed their hope to have more training opportunities; 94% of staff/volunteer respondents agree that the length of each training workshop is appropriate.

CFS and Community

Child Friendly Space has become a connector that contributes to the harmonious and stable development of communities. CFS becomes an important platform on which children, elderly people and women effectively participate in community affairs and rural cultural construction processes. Through support provided to parents, relatives, teachers and other community members, CFS contributed to rebuilding of social networks, forming an encouraging and supportive environment for pro-active community participation, and improving the environment for children's development.

As the affected population moved out of prefab settlement area to permanent venues, NWCCW and UNICEF, along with local counterparts made necessary efforts to ensure that CFSs move along with the population to rebuilt communities, and their services made locally sustainable with government support. In July 2010, Sichuan Provincial People's Government released a policy document, clearly stating that local governments at county, prefecture and district levels where CFSs operate should take over the operation of CFS after ending of UNICEF funding support in May 2011, and include it in the post-earthquake reconstruction plan. The policy paper also proposes local governments to include CFS in the community public service delivery system, make coordinated arrangement to ensure venue, funding and human resources are available, supporting the sustainable development of Child Friendly Space.

CFS fills the prevalent current gap of lack of children's services and public space

in rural areas in China. It proves to be valuable, with evidence, in child protection, as well as creating a space for activities for and growth of children, that is child-friendly, safe, free and accessible. For those children who have grown up together with CFSs, CFS has brought about deep and far-reaching impact and support for them, becoming a critical element in their growing up processes. Meanwhile, CFS serves as an irreplaceable key actor in the construction and development of harmonious communities, receiving widespread recognition and support from local children and adults.

Community people's views about CFS have evolved too, from "a space where children were able to play for free and cared for" in the emergency response stage, to today's "community-based center for development, protection and participation of children" – changing the conventional view on child rearing in China. Such a change validates the fact that CFS is transiting gradually from an 'add-on' service delivery organization, to an integral part of community life.

From Practice to Policy

Government support, community recognition, and the results of parents and children benefiting from services point to the replicable value of community-based services for children piloted through the CFS Project. 4 years after being introduced into China, CFS has become the pioneer and advocate for community-based child protection system in China. The best practices and experiences of the CFS will continue to promote community based service delivery for children in emergencies and regular development contexts. Building on the Sichuan experiences, CFSs have been established and delivered services for children and parents in Yushu Earthquake affected areas. The concepts and practices of CFS have also been introduced to serve children, including migrant children, in other parts of China, such as Hebei, Shanxi, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Guangxi, Fujian and Jiangxi province.

The NWCCW Office has included best practices and experiences of Child Friendly Space Project in the national legislation on children's development. The 10-Year National Plan of Action for Children (2011-2020) (NPA-Children) calls for "[o]ne Children's Place [to] be established to provide play, recreational, educational, health, psycho-social support and referral services for children in over 90 per cent of urban and rural communities", as one of the targets, with corresponding measures to achieve it. "CFS, as a successful demonstration of a prototype of the Children's Place, will continue to demonstrate and lead the way forward in the establishment of Children's Places."²

² Mm. Su Fengjie, Deputy Director General, NWCCW Office, Speech on the National Review and Replication Meeting for Child Friendly Space, Chengdu, Sichuan, May 8, 2012.

The NWCCW Office and UNICEF are working together to incorporate the CFS model into the child protection system building process, as an important element. Such developments are evident confirmation of valuable contribution that CFSs have made in meeting children's needs and realizing child rights in the emergency relief and reconstruction processes.

The CFS practice derives from international emergency response experiences, while the locally created and developed theoretical and practical innovations in community based services for children in post-earthquake relief and reconstruction in Wenchuan Mega Earthquake, and in the daily contexts today, have been known to the international community of children's development work. CFSs in China operate not only during and after the immediate aftermath and reconstruction phases of emergencies, but make transition from emergency response to service platform for children in developmental contexts, and from services supported by international projects to services supported through local governments. Such transition and sustainable development can serve as useful reference for development work for children in the international arena.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Project established a mechanism for monitoring and supervision of project progress and results, in order to ensure that 40 CFS provide effective services in a sustainable manner. This marks a distinctive feature of the project's from other public interest projects.

The Project was initiated during the emergency relief stage, faced with a number of uncertainties. Its pioneering nature in China also meant that there was no previous model to refer to. Right from the beginning, UNICEF and NWCCW, as well as Sichuan Provincial WCCW, WCCW at prefecture and county levels, townships and villages, and CFS have put project monitoring and supervision in a central place.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) ensures that the service delivery, funding support and supplies procurement for CFS are based on the needs of children and communities. It is also a way to provide support on theories and practices for CFS managers and workers at all levels, through dynamic interactions and guidance, enabling CFS staff/volunteers to learn and grow together with the CFS, as well as communities and children involved in CFS. At its early stage, M&E focused on supervision and guidance, complimented by monitoring. Along with the rapid development of CFS, M&E gradually shifted its focus on monitoring on the quality of services, assisted by technical support and administrative supervision.

The priorities for M&E work are as followed:

- Quality services are provided and rights of children are respected.
- Supplies are used as planned with good management support to achieve planned objectives of CFS.

Through project support Sichuan WCCW (SCWCCW) recruit two full-time monitoring and coordination officers, who provide regular supervision and random monitoring on the services and management of CFS. The project also recruits another coordinator, based in NWCCW, to liaise and promote communications and information management between UNICEF, NWCCW, SCWCCW, local WCCW, local women's federations and governments.

In the early phase of CFS project, five expert teams were formed, covering the fields of project design, psychology and social work, early childhood development, M&E, public education and advocacy, to provide technical assistance to CFS. The Technical Assistance teams have developed materials such as 'Working Manual for CFS', 'Management and Development Manual for CFS', 'Family Education Series for CFS' and 'Essential Standards for CFS'. The TA teams also conducted various training, on-site support and M&E, based on the needs of WCCW at all levels as well as CFS workers. WCCW of participating cities and counties were also involved in M&E by providing administrative supervision and monitoring. Through training and M&E, capacity of CFS workers, levels of CFS management and service delivery have been enhanced and improved.

To ensure normal operation and quality service delivery of CFS, SCWCCW has put in place a province-prefecture/city-county multi-level project monitoring and supervision mechanism since 2009. Officials involved in the monitoring and supervision monitor the operation, quality of services provided by CFS, through conversations and discussions with project managers/officers, CFS workers, children, community members, review of CFS documents and other approaches. Based on these, they provided feasible feedback and advices for improvements of service delivery for CFSs. SCWCCW and TA teams also provided technical advice and M&E to relocation of CFS, aiming at standardizing and ensuring the quality of CFS relocation. Various approaches applied in M&E have enabled CFS operation and service delivery to be done in a more standardized and orderly manner. During the life of the project, 140 provincial, 152 city/municipality and 642 county/district level monitoring and supervision activities were conducted.

Required by the project plan between UNICEF and NWCCW, WCCW at province, city and country levels established multi-departmental collaboration

scheme and organized multi-departmental meetings on a regular basis, to coordinate for and promote support to CFS. Through continuous communications and coordination, the participating departments have offered valuable recommendations and support to CFS. Support has been provided in the forms of providing funding and materials, as well as conducting training on topics like fire prevention and hygiene. Other participating departments organized fundraising activities for CFS. During the life of the project, 7 provincial, 43 city and 138 county level coordination meetings have been organized.

Regular TA and support from UNICEF is twofold. Firstly, UNICEF provided formal technical assistance through facilitating training workshops and sharing of IEC materials. Secondly, Project Officer from UNICEF worked regularly with project team from the WCCW, to conduct on-site observations, sharing with children, and exploring issues and solutions with CFS workers. These on-site monitoring visits were effective encouragement to CFS workers and volunteers.

The evaluation confirms that the achievements made by the CFS project can largely be attributed to concrete and continuous M&E work, such as those described above. The M&E activities have also been appreciated and welcome by frontline CFS workers and children, reflecting its participatory nature. In a model of project management like this, the relationships amongst different stakeholders are not as simple as “funders, managers and implementer”, but one through which all achievements are made through contributions made by all parties and individuals involved.

All 40 CFS provided two progress reports to NWCCW and UNICEF every year. In these reports, they would report on the current status of their core services, training of staff and volunteers, human resources, use of equipment, beneficiaries and service access, operational expenses, main periodical achievements and constraints.

From 2009 to 2011, UNICEF and NWCCW jointly conducted three internal spot checks on operational and financial situation of the project. In 2009, an external audit was also conducted by a team from the National Administration of Audition.

IV. Challenges and Recommendations

Challenges remain in the design, implementation and management of the Child Friendly Space Project. These include the impacts of reduced funding support on service delivery after the end of the UNICEF project cycle; the capacity building and staff turnover of CFS staff; the gap between the service delivery concepts advocated by the Project and the local government financial capacity and guiding

concepts on service delivery; the sustainable development of CFS; and the transformation of local concepts and attitudes in the process of national replication processes.

Based on the data and information collected from the in-depth interview and on-line survey, and the analysis of the evaluation team members, the Evaluation team proposes actions for the future development of CFS, for references for management and implementing parties (including CFS) at all levels. The key principles of these recommendations include “maintenance”, “development” and “innovation”.

For CFSs, the Evaluation team proposes strengthening of its coordination and referral initiator role, in order to better protect child rights at grassroots level, through networking and collaboration with other departments and community organizations. Recommendations are made for CFS staff to further explore recruitment and development of local volunteer team, and provide them with professional training, so that they can provide volunteer support in a stable and more professional manner, relieving the workloads of staff members.

Community resources including existing community facilities and services such as youth and children’s palaces, village cultural activity rooms, and activity rooms for elderly persons should be better mobilized and shared with CFS, to enrich and enhance training and thematic activities for children.

For NWCCW, the evaluation team recommends design and development of strategic plan for replication and roll out of CFS (Children’s Place) in the coming year to be carried out, in order to provide guidance on steady implementation of the target set out in the NPA for Children’s Development (2011-2020). More training opportunities (including formal diploma courses) were recommended for CFS staff to provide them more development space and incentives, in addition to the stable remuneration and welfare packages. This entails inclusion of staff development, in particular technical capacity building in the annual work plan, with budgeting guarantee, for both existing and new CFS.

It was suggested that NWCCW, building on the results achieved, document and package the CFS for international and domestic fundraising, using internationally confirmed fundraising techniques and tools.. It was also recommended for several CFS to be selected to pilot the possibility of operation as a social enterprise, and other forms of sustainable development possibility for CFS, including but not limited to a more diversified channels of financial support such as participation and contribution from private sector, community organizations, NGOs and philanthropic individuals. NWCCW can maximize its coordination and leveraging power to garner more support for CFS from its member ministries including

Youth League, Education, PSB, Civil Affairs, Health, Charity Federation and Red Cross.

Review of documentation tools and mechanisms should be conducted to keep and strengthen effective documentation means and tools, in order to ensure strong, effective and pragmatic recording and documentation that is suitable for local staff capacity and contextually appropriate. This will be crucial for the planned replication of CFS in Sichuan Province and across the country by Sichuan WCCW and NWCCW.

For UNICEF, the Evaluation team recommends continued follow up technical and funding support be provided, to keep the CFS operation up to date with new concepts, international perspectives and innovative approaches, and to support further improvement of a select number of existing CFS. More flexible procedures in procurement of supplies were recommended for UNICEF in future program support to CFS and similar initiatives. Local procurement of supplies and simplified bidding and procurement processes were mentioned as potential ways forward.

UNICEF can provide concrete and effective support in taking the CFS project to the international communities. Documentation of CFS from an international perspective, support of replication meetings and field exchanges, and inclusion of CFS in Sichuan in the global UNICEF community of practices sharing and exchange system.

Continued monitoring of and supervision on existing CFS on a regular basis, as well as technical support from both NWCCW and UNICEF are also recommended by the Evaluation team to ensure that the CFS continue to deliver child-friendly services for children and parents in their communities.

CFS may face the challenge of lack of professional social workers and relevant referral and responses mechanisms to handle severe child protection cases, but it can play a key role in the preventive work. On one hand, CFS can provide information for children on self-protection, and equip them with necessary life skills and actions that they can take to avoid risks and dangers. On the other, CFS may work as the key force of communication on child protection in communities, in order to change the community attitude and knowledge about child protection, and create a good environment for care and love for children, and child protection in general.

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