

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MERCY CORPS RESPONDS TO TWO GLOBAL DISASTERS

Portland, OR - May 12, 2008 - Mercy Corps is providing humanitarian assistance this week to two global disasters. In Sichuan, China near the epicenter of today's earthquake, Mercy Corps staff are assisting with emergency response efforts of the agency's long-time local partner, the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA). Additional Mercy Corps staff in the region are on their way to the disaster site.

Also this week, four Mercy Corps aid workers will enter Myanmar including one Oregon-based member of the agency's Global Emergency Response team, Richard Jacquot. The agency's first humanitarian expert enters Myanmar capital Yangon Tuesday - Mervyn Lee who is Director of Mercy Corps Europe. Currently a resident of Ashland, OR, Jacquot also managed Mercy Corps emergency response efforts in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

In both post-disaster environments, clean water, food and sanitation will be top priorities for aid workers. Updates from aid workers will be posted on Mercy Corps web site www.mercycorps.org.

China:

Mercy Corps has aid programs and several staff members in Sichuan. The agency has confirmed that all of its staff and beneficiaries in the province are safe, although communication with them is very difficult at this time.

Mercy Corps and CFPA plan to travel tomorrow to Chengdu, a city about 100 km from the earthquake's epicenter in the eastern part of Sichuan.

Mercy Corps has worked with CFPA for seven years on poverty alleviation projects in rural areas of 14 Chinese provinces. The agency's history working in Sichuan includes a program called Project GLOW that addresses key social issues for youth of the Yi ethnic minority.

Myanmar:

Following a rapid assessment of the humanitarian situation, Mercy Corps aid workers will help with emergency response efforts and coordination working closely with local groups and other international aid organizations on the ground. Staff at Mercy Corps' international headquarters in Portland are exploring options for sending material aid to the country. Mercy Corps was not working in the country when the cyclone hit and is one of the few aid agencies allowed to send staff in.

Mercy Corps officials remain hopeful that the Myanmar government will allow more humanitarian assistance in the coming days. Nine days into the crisis, Mercy Corps staff emphasize the importance of using experienced emergency response workers to lead

recovery efforts. Current death toll estimates are more than 30,000, but international agencies fear it could be much higher.

Mercy Corps is currently accepting donations for humanitarian assistance to cyclone and earthquake victims. Distribution of donations will be monitored by Mercy Corps and reputable local partner organizations.

HOW TO HELP:

Mercy Corps
Myanmar Cyclone Fund - or - China Earthquake Fund
Dept NR
PO Box 2669
Portland, OR 97208
www.mercycorps.org
1-800-852-2100

Mercy Corps works amid disasters, conflicts, chronic poverty and instability to unleash the potential of people who can win against nearly impossible odds. Since 1979, Mercy Corps has provided \$1.5 billion in assistance to people in 106 nations. Supported by headquarters offices in North America and Europe, the agency's global programs employ 3,500 staff worldwide and reach more than 16.4 million people in more than 35 countries. Over the past five years, more than 89 percent of the agency's resources have been allocated directly to programs that help people in need. For more information, visit www.mercycorps.org