

## HUA YUAN-GIVE2ASIA SARS FUND

*Developed and administered in Greater China by The Asia Foundation*

### Understanding the Scope of the Problem

The sudden emergence of SARS in Greater China (the PRC, Hong Kong and Taiwan) is only the latest, albeit the most dramatic, incident in a continuing series of respiratory epidemics in Greater China. When one recalls that in the past decade several new strains of influenza (Hong Kong Flu, Avian Flu, Guangdong Flu, etc.) all have begun their global march in Greater China, it becomes clear that SARS is not an isolated incident.

Greater China already has by far the world's highest rates of respiratory diseases, including the highest rates for Tuberculosis, Pneumonia, Acute Bronchitis and related illnesses. SARS only adds to that list. The reasons are both many and obvious – environmental pollution, behavior (excessive spitting, smoking, etc.), low levels of awareness about hygiene, and animal husbandry practices that have animals and humans in unhealthy proximity.

In considering how best to assist the fight against SARS, it is then necessary to distinguish among 3 kinds of needs:

1. *Preventing* the further spreading of respiratory illnesses in Greater China, which is first and foremost a question of education, awareness and psychological sensitivity. Such informational and behavior-change efforts must be innovative and sustained over a long period to be able to make a difference.

2. *Treating* SARS and other respiratory illnesses, on the other hand, requires a functional and accessible public health care system. Such a system is absent in China. In fact, it is not an exaggeration to say that China today is and has been in a public health crisis for the past 3-4 years. The problem deteriorates daily, and the stop-gap SARS treatment measures, especially in more rural areas such as Shanxi and Hebei, where there have been relatively large numbers of SARS cases, are neither particularly effective nor having any staying power.

3. *Controlling* SARS will require the establishment of new infectious disease control management measures and institutions that have been revealed as glaringly deficient in all of Greater China. Taiwan and Hong Kong certainly have first rate and easily accessible health care systems. But SARS has demonstrated that those systems, like the mainland's, simply do not have in place the facilities, the protocols or even the attitudes to respond rapidly to health crises, to conduct effective screening and quarantining, and most tragically of all, to protect their medical professionals.

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The Asia Foundation, which is administering the SARS Fund with guidance from Give2Asia and the Hua Yuan Science and Technology Association, thus concludes that this is an opportunity for donors to turn crisis into opportunity. They can do this by supporting activities that both fight SARS in the short term and help build capacities to prevent, control and treat SARS and other respiratory illnesses in the longer term.

### Proposed Program Strategy

Asia Foundation staff propose a multi-pronged approach for a SARS Fund. This approach would include a variety of partners – non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as well as relevant public agencies and health services – and would focus on both short-term SARS-specific projects as well as long-term initiatives. (For project planning purposes, “short-term SARS projects” are about 6 months in duration – most medical analysts believe SARS will have run its course in China by then.) Each project would be classified as contributing to prevention, treatment or control. Consequently, this program management approach would allow for a more rational and cost-effective way of helping fight.

More specifically, the following projects are *illustrative* of how The Asia Foundation would apply this approach with Hua Yuan and Give2Asia in China. All of these suggested activities represent actual project requests. Please note that ultimate allocation of funds will depend upon the funds available and current circumstances.

#### **1. CHINESE NGOS – SARS short-term projects**

- China Youth Development Foundation: care and shelter for children of SARS victims and medical professionals. (*treatment*)
- China Medical Science Foundation: subsidies and material support for medical volunteers. (*treatment*)
- Beijing University Volunteers Service Center: support services for hospitals, clinics and medical professionals combating SARS. (*treatment*)
- Dong Fang Hua Yu Exchange Center and a coalition of 11 other Beijing NGOs: psychological treatment services and counseling hotlines for those affected by SARS (panic, fear, depression and tension in Beijing are at all time highs – professional health care services in China do not offer any counseling or psychological treatment of any kind). (*treatment*)

#### **2. CHINESE NGOS – SARS and longer-term projects**

- Beijing University Sociology Department and volunteers: in cooperation with Beijing City Health Bureau, assisting and advising hospitals on the establishment of counseling and psychological support services for SARS and other respiratory disease patients. (*treatment*)
- Rural Women Knowing All: Development and distribution of popular educational materials on SARS and respiratory disease, targeted at rural female populations. (*prevention*)

- Sichuan Women’s Federation and Zhongshan University, Guangdong: survey, needs assessment and subsequent public health education for migrant workers. (*prevention*)
- Guangzhou Occupational Health Education Center: training and education for factory workers on SARS awareness and the links between working environment and respiratory illness. (*prevention*)
- China NPO Network: Development of a peer-to-peer inter-NGO coordination mechanism and activities to build the capacity of Chinese NGOs to respond rapidly to crises. (*prevention and treatment*)
- Hong Kong Clean Community Coalition: Operational and technical support for an alliance of volunteers and local NGOs to both encourage local community self-help clean-up operations and to interact with the several government-initiated cleaning and hygiene campaigns (“Operation Unite” add “Team Clean” – both basically government staffed and run).

### **3. PUBLIC AGENCIES AND HEALTH SERVICES –SARS short-term and longer term projects**

- Mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan Departments of Health: a) technical support, training and pilots to put in place international standards of infectiousness disease control management; b) technical assistance to create Health Emergency Rapid Response teams, in cooperation with local communities. (*control*)
- Mainland Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture: Technical and financial assistance to new Rural Primary Health Care Cooperatives program, announced just in January, 2003, to be developed over a 10-year period. The Asia Foundation will help by supporting county health bureaus’ innovations and experiments in the management of these new community-managed system. An initial focus can be on SARS, particularly the creation of payment schemes and addressing questions of how poor rural peasants can pay for SARS screening and treatment (government reports to the contrary, they are charged for SARS treatment). (*treatment and control*)

#### Fund Administration and Costs

The Hua Yuan-Give2Asia SARS Fund will be administered by Asia Foundation staff based in Beijing, Hong Kong and Taipei, with advice from Give2Asia and the Hua Yuan Science and Technology Association’s Board of Directors and staff.

The administrative cost of the fund is 10%, which will directly support the effective and accountable design and implementation of SARS Fund activities<sup>1</sup>. With advice and suggestions from Hua Yuan and Give2Asia, staff will match the pooled contributions of the fund with the most pressing and suitable SARS needs in Greater China. First, specific projects following the approach above will be developed: partner organizations and agencies will be contacted, and project concepts developed and fully budgeted. Allocation decisions will be recommended by Hua Yuan and approved by the Board of Directors of Give2Asia.

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<sup>1</sup> Program administration costs will be monitored and revisited as the fund grows.

Due diligence will be conducted on all fund beneficiaries, and oversight will be ongoing to ensure that projects are proceeding as planned. Progress reports will be made available to donors via Hua Yuan's web site ([www.huayuan.org](http://www.huayuan.org)) and mailings, and upon the completion of a project, a final financial and program report will be required and made available.

Through such measures, contributors to the Hua Yuan-Give2Asia SARS Fund can be sure that (1) their donations will be used as intended, (2) they will have a specific, identifiable impact, and (3) they will receive feedback on the impact of their support.

**To learn more about the SARS Fund**, , contact: Mike Rea, Managing Director, Give2Asia ([mrea@give2asia.org](mailto:mrea@give2asia.org), 415.743.3336) or Jane Wang, Director of Public Relations, Hua Yuan Science and Technology Association ([sarsfund@huayuan.org](mailto:sarsfund@huayuan.org), 650.631.7558).

**Contributions** may be made by check, wire transfer, stock donation, etc. Checks must be made *payable to Give2Asia* and can be sent to Give2Asia – SARS Fund, 465 California Street, 9<sup>th</sup> floor, San Francisco, CA 94104.