# Chapter four O 4

and accelerating the socialist modernization has greatly stimulated the enthusiasm of hundreds of millions of people. The urban has been raised and the available public





### Urban Social Security and Assistance

rban social security means that the State, through legislation, actively mobilizes the social resources to ensure the citizens without income or with lower income or suffering accidents to maintain the living conditions, ensure the basic living conditions of the urban workers will not be affected when they are old, unemployed, ill, injured in work or child-bearing. The level of public welfare and quality of people's life will be gradually improved on the basis of the economic and social development.. In accordance with Article 45 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, Citizens of the People's Republic of China have the right to material assistance from the state and society when they are old, ill or disabled. The state develops the social insurance, subsistence allowance and medical and health services that are required to enable citizens to enjoy this right. The state and society ensure the livelihood of disabled members of the armed forces, provide pensions to the families of martyrs and give preferential treatment to the families of military personnel. The state and society help make arrangements for the work, livelihood and education of the blind, deaf-mute and other handicapped citizens."

### 1.1 Continuous Development of Social Assistance

Social assistance is a part of the social security system, which means that the state and society, in accordance with the policy and the law, provide various assistances to the persons who have difficulty in basic material life or can not maintain the minimum living standard by themselves due to different causes (natural, social or personal).

At the end of 2009, there were 11.411 million households and 23.456 million urban residents that received the minimum subsistence allowance. The total expenditure of minimum subsistence allowance at all levels of fiscal reached 48.21 billion Yuan throughout the year, of which the subsidy, from the central fiscal budget was 35.91 billion Yuan (of which, the subsidies of 3.42 billion Yuan was paid during the Spring Festival), accounting for 74.5% of all expenditures of the minimum subsistence allowance. Among the persons granted with the urban minimum subsistence allowance, 790,000 persons were in-service employees, accounting for 3.4%; 4.322 million persons were temporary workers, accounting for 18.4%; 3.335 million persons were seniors, accounting for 14.2%; 5.102 million persons were the registered unemployed persons, accounting for 21.8%; 4.109 million persons were the unregistered unemployed persons, accounting for 17.5%; 3.691 million persons were students, accounting for 15.7%; and 2.107 million persons were juniors, accounting for 9.0%.

In 2009, the national urban minimum subsistence allowance standard per month was 227.75 Yuan on average, and the national urban minimum subsistence allowance level per month per capita was 172 Yuan. The urban minimum subsistence allowance consolidated the security of those who were eligible to the allowance under the dynamic management.

At the same time, the rural minimum subsistence allowance was also steadily moving to the security system as the cities did. At the end of 2009, there were 22.917 million households and 47.6 million persons who received the rural subsistence allowance. The total expenditure of rural



Figure 4.1 Urban Minimum subsistence allowance, 2000-2009

subsistence allowance reached 36.3 billion Yuan throughout the year, of which the central fiscal budget provided 25.51 billion Yuan, accounting for 70.4% of all expenditures of the minimum subsistence allowance nationwide. In 2009, the national rural minimum subsistence allowance standard was 100.84 Yuan per capita per month, and the national rural minimum subsistence allowance level per month per capita was 68 Yuan.

#### **1.2 Effective Work in Emergency Relief**

hina is a country susceptible to natural disasters, and so the tasks of relief are extremely heavy. To strengthen the construction of the emergency relief system is a critical matter related to the national economic and social development and the interests of the massive people, is the important content of building a harmonious socialist society, and the important expression of the principles of people-oriented, governing for the people and fully performing the government functions by the governments at all levels. In recent years, the construction of the domestic emergency relief system has achieved significant progress, which has successfully responded to a number of serious natural disasters and has achieved significant results. But the system has some defects, such as incomplete structure, deficient function and weak support capacity.

Under the guidance of the central government, the construction of the national emergency relief system insists on the principles of "government-led, hierarchical management, community mutual aid, self-help through production", regards protection of the people's lives and properties and basic living rights and interests as the starting



Figure 4.2 The Standard and Level of Urban Minimum Subsistence Allowance, 2003-2009

point and ultimate goal, regards the improvement of the emergency relief capacity as the core, makes integrated use of administrative, legal, technological, marketing and other means, co-ordinates the relief works before, during and after the disasters, fully enhances the comprehensive capacity of prevention and emergency response to natural disasters, effectively protects the safety of the people's lives and properties, and promotes the comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development of economy and society.

In 2009, there were approximately 479 million persons (times) that became victims in various natural disasters, 1,528 persons who were killed and missing due to disasters. A total of 47,213,700 hectares of crops were affected by disasters, an increase of 18.1% compared to the figure of the previous year. A total of 4,917,500 hectares of crops had no harvest, an increase of 22.0% compared to the figure of the previous year. There were 838,000 houses that were damaged. The direct financial loss reached 252.37 billion Yuan.

Throughout 2009, 65.53 million disaster victims received the relief; over 7 million persons were relocated in emergency; 17.45 billion Yuan of central disaster relief funds were appropriated; and 44,600 tents were allocated for the disaster relief. About 93.4% of rural houses destroyed in the Wenchuan Earthquake were reconstructed, and the management of the donation funds for disaster relief in the Wenchuan Earthquake were effectively strengthened and such funds were positively used to support the implementation of corresponding tasks. The Government added the consolation money for the people killed by the disasters, and raised the standard of subsidy for the reconstruction of the rural houses destroyed by the disasters. The high and new technologies, such as satellite remote sensing, were applied in disaster monitoring and evaluation. The disaster management information system basically covered all provinces, municipalities and counties. The central government promoted the establishment of the national "Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Day" and carried out some relevant activities, and promoted the establishment of the national disaster mitigation model communities. The capacity of disaster prevention and mitigation was enhanced markedly.

#### 1.3 Breakthrough in Building Various Adoption Institutions

t the end of 2009, there were 40,250 various adoption social welfare institutions nationwide, with 2.993 million beds and 2.362 million adopted persons. With respect to the persons resided at the institutions, there were 127,000 persons with preferential support, 1.835 million persons "without child, family and source of subsistence", and 400,000 persons at their own expenses. If classified by age, there were 2.071 million old persons, 175,000 young adults and 115,000 children. If classified by nature,; there were 1.864 million persons by self-care (complete self-care), 226,000 persons by involved care (semi-self-care) and 271,000 persons by full support (no self-care ability).

### **1.3.1 Rapid Development of Services for the Elderly**

The appropriate general services for the elderly, combined with the financial support and service assurance, have been further improved. Certain counties (and municipalities) in China have established the subsistence subsidy system for senior citizens, and the structure of services for the elderly based on the families, communities and institutions has been formed basically. Some trials on the construction of the basic services system for the elderly have been conducted. Some national standards, such as Basic Norms of Institutional Services for the Elderly and the Basic Norms of Household Services for the Elderly, have been formulated. The Standard Regarding the Construction of the Nursing Institutions for the Elderly has been promulgated.

At the end of 2009, there were 38,060 various elderly social welfare institutions nationwide, with 2.662 million beds and 2.109 million adopted persons. Among those institutions, there were 5,291 urban elderly nursing institutions, with 493,000 beds and 323,000 adopted elderly persons at the end of the year; 31,286 rural elderly nursing institutions, with 2.088 million beds and 1.73 million adopted elderly persons; 1,401 homes for disabled veterans, with 67,000 beds and 46,000 adopted elderly persons; 47 rehabilitation hospitals for honorable veterans, with 8,000 beds and 4,000 adopted elderly persons; and 35 sanatoriums for demobilized veterans, with 6,000 beds and 4,000 adopted elderly persons at the end of the year.

#### 1.3.2 Major Progress in Child Welfare

Social welfare institutions are the charitable bodies set up by the Chinese government, who are responsible for adoption of orphans whose parents are dead and their relatives are unable to bring them up, as well as the abandoned babies and children whose parents can not be found through the investigation of the pubic security departments. Children in the welfare institutions can enjoy the state welfare benefits, and are under the care and custody of the welfare institutions.

In order to properly look after the orphans and





abandoned babies, the has government formulated and implemented the minimum care standard for the orphans scattered in the communities and the children in the welfare institutions, and invested lots of funds in establishing welfare institutions and improving the conditions and facilities. Welfare institutions combine the support, education and medical treatment and give elaborate care to the orphans, disabled children and abandoned babies, so that they may enjoy the warmth and love like normal children and live and grow up happily in the welfare institutions.

At the end of 2009, there were 115,000 children adopted by various adoption institutions nationwide. There were 303 independent child welfare institutions with 44,000 beds and 116 vagrant children aid and protection centers with 4,000 beds. Throughout 2009, there were 145,000 urban vagrant and begging children (and times) without subsistence source received the aid.

## **1.3.3 Intensified Development of Retardation and Mental Illness Service Institutions**

The Ministry of Civil Affairs, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Health have jointly formulated the Construction and Development Planning for the Mental Health System, which requests the local governments to make preparation for the special investments by the central government for the development of mental health professional institutions. There are 110 mental health-care clinics that have been included in the construction planning of the national mental health system. At the end of 2009, there were 266 retardation and mental illness service institutions managed by the civil affairs administrations nationwide, of which, there were 177 community welfare hospitals (mental illness clinics) with 39,000 beds and 33,000 adopted patients at the end of the year.

#### 1.4 Healthy Development of Aging Undertakings

t the end of 2009, there were 113.09 million persons at or above the age of 65 nationwide, Laccounting for 8.5% of the total population of China. There were 167.14 million persons at or above the age of 60 nationwide, accounting for 12.5% of the total population. In order to respond to the growing aging population in China and satisfy the increasing demand for elderly services, the elderly service departments took active and effective measures to expand the extent and scope of services for the aging population and solve the problems existing in the services for the elderly in the urban and rural areas. At the end of 2009, there were 19,909 elderly legal aid centers nationwide, 136,000 elderly right protection and coordination organizations, 59,543 elderly schools with 5.415 million students, and 329,000 elderly entertainment rooms in different types. There were 433,000 times of correspondences and visits received throughout the year, which effectively protected the legal rights and interests of the aging population.

## **2** Urban Health Care

#### 2.1 Urban Health Care Security System

edical security system is not only an important part of the social security system which is a safety net of the public, stabilizer of the society, and main subscriber of the medical costs, but also an important part of the medical health system which is on one of the important part of the urban and rural medical systems in China.

Since the reform and opening-up policy was introduced, especially since the 3rd Plenum of the 14th CPC National Congress, the central government has made series of major decisions and actively promoted the reform of basic medical insurance system. The trial reform of employees' basic medical insurance started in Zhenjiang of Jiangsu Province and Jiujiang of Jiangxi Province in 1994. The national reform of urban employees' basic medical insurance system was launched at the end of 1998, which changed the public health care system into a social medial insurance system. The urban medical aid system was established in 2005, which granted aid to the people who receive minimum subsistence allowance or have other difficulties. The trial of basic medical insurance for urban residents started in 2007, which included students, children and the elderly and other non-employed persons into the coverage of the medical insurance. The medical insurance system for urban residents was implemented nationwide in 2009.

The framework of medical security system with the Chinese characteristics has been formed basically through the reform and research in many years. The urban employees basic medical insurance, the urban residents basic medical insurance and the new-type rural cooperation medical service have covered the urban employed and non-employed people,, rural people, and the people with difficulties in urban and rural areas. They are the major components of the medical security system in China. The basic medical insurance system is the main player of the medical security system. Meanwhile, the urban and rural medical aid and social charity donation and other relevant systems provide aid to the poor people for their participation in the insurance and for their payment of the personal contributions, creating a possibility of minimum social secure. The higher and variety of medical demands of the people are satisfied through the supplementary medical insurance and commercial health insurance.

In 2009, the urban residents basic medical insurance was

implemented in all cities nationwide, and the problem of insurance participation by the retirees of the close-down and bankrupt state-owned enterprises was being settled in high speed. At the end of September 2009, there were 363 million urban employees and urban residents participating in the medical insurance nationwide, an increase of 44.78 million persons compared to the figure at the end of 2008. The urban residents' basic medical insurance has been launched throughout in China.

The fiscal funds at all levels paid for the urban medical aid throughout the year reached RMB 4.12 billion Yuan, of which, the funds for supporting the participation in the medical insurance appropriated by the civil affairs departments reached 580 million Yuan, and the funds for the major illness medical aid reached 3.14 billion Yuan. There were 15.063 million person/times received the aid accumulatively, of which, there were 10.959 million person/ times participated in the medical insurance with the financial support from the civil affairs departments, at an average of 53.5 Yuan per capita. There were 4.104 million person/ times received the urban major illness medical aid with the financial support from the civil affairs departments, at an average of 764.7 Yuan per capita.

#### 2.2 Health Service Institutions

t the end of 2009, there were 5.22 million health technicians nationwide as estimated, of which 2.16 million were practicing (assistant) physicians and 1.74 million certified nurses. Compared to the figure of the previous year, there was an increase of 190,000 health technicians (3.8%), 80,000 practicing (assistant) physicians and 90,000 certified nurses. The number of practicing (assistant) physicians per thousand persons in China wss increased from 1.58 persons in 2008 to 1.62 persons in 2009, while the number of certified nurses per thousand persons was increased from 1.25 persons to 1.30 persons.

At the end of 2009, there were 4.27 million beds in the medical institutions nationwide as estimated, of which 3.963 million beds were in hospitals and clinics, accounting for 93% of the national total. Compared to the figure of the previous year, there was an increase of 234,000 beds in the medical institutions, of which there was an increase of 218,000 beds in hospitals and clinics. The number of beds in medical institutions per thousand persons in China was



At 00:02 on January 6, 2005, a boy with 3,660 grams and 52 centimeters was born in Beijing Maternity Hospital. With the birth of this boy, the population of China reached 1.3 billion.

increased from 3.05 beds in 2008 to 3.20 beds in 2009, while the number of beds in hospitals and clinics per thousand persons was increased from 2.83 beds in 2008 to 2.96 beds in 2009.

At the end of November 2009, 4,434 communities among all 6,705 urban communities in the cities nationwide (accounting for 66% of the national total) established their community health-care service centers. There were 168,000 health-care professionals, including 138,000 health-care technicians, at an average of 38 health-care professionals per center. The scale communities and residents committees typically established a community health-care service station. At the end of November 2009, there were 22,000 community health-care service stations nationwide, with 75,000 health-care professionals as estimated, at an average of 3 health-care professionals per station. Compared to the figure of the previous year, the number of community health-care service centers (stations) increased by 1,895 and the number of health-care professionals increased about 24,000.

## B Education Development

Education is a foundation for planning the development of the next one hundred years. Education is the cornerstone of a nation's prosperity and social progress, and the fundamental way to improve the quality of nationals and promote the comprehensive development of the people. It carries the expectation of hundreds of millions of families for a better life. To strengthened education is fundamental to a powerful country. To put priority on education and improve the modernization level of education are of decisive significance for the achievement of the goal of building a well-off society and building a prosperous, democratic, civilized and harmonious modern socialist country in China.

The education of new China was developed on an almost scratch basis. In 1949, 80% of the population in China was illiterate, and only 20% and 6% of the population entered primary school and secondary school respectively. There were only 117,000 students studying at universities. Through the unremitting efforts in the past 60 years, especially with the reform and open-up policy implemented in the last thirty years, the education in China has undergone enormous changes, and made remarkable historic achievements.

#### 3.1 Full Realization of Urban and Rural Compulsory Education

fter the founding of new China, the central government proposed to expand education and improve the quality of the whole nation. In the 1980s, it further decided to implement the nine-year compulsory education. Through unremitting efforts, the goal of general implementation of nine-year compulsory education and general elimination of illiteracy among young adults was realized at the end of the last century. After entering the new century, the focus was put on strengthening and developing the education in rural areas and fully including the compulsory education into the coverage of the fiscal budgets. Therefore, the compulsory education reached a new stage of consolidation, improvement and universal coverage. In 2009, the net rate of entry into primary school nationwide reached 99.4% and the gross rate of entry into secondary school reached 99.0%, while the rate of illiteracy among young adults reduced to below 3.58%.

#### 3.2 General Development of Higher Education

I adult colleges nationwide, 6.395 million junior college students enrolled and 21.447 million students at college. At present, there are 29.79 million students at various high education institutions nationwide, with the gross entry rate of 24.2%. Realizing the popularity of higher education is another historic leap in the history of the development of education in China after the popularity of compulsory education.

#### 3.3 Rapid Development of Vocational Education

lacksim ince the reform and opening-up started in the late 1970s, especially the beginning of the new century, the development of vocational education has been placed on a more prominent position. Adhering to the principle of being oriented to everyone to be educated, the entire society and the employment, the secondary vocational education and senior vocational education have developed dramatically, generating the capacity of training skilled persons in a large scale. In 2008, the total number of enrolled students in secondary and senior vocational education reached 11 million, and the number of students at school exceeded 30 million nationwide. The structure of education system in China has changed significantly. Meanwhile, the continuing education and adult education focusing on updating knowledge and enhancing skills have been developed rapidly, basically satisfying the diverse learning needs of the people.

#### 3.4 Promotion of Equality in Education

To let everyone have equitable access to education is a fundamental right of citizens granted by the Constitution and is the relentless pursuit for the education in China. Great achievements have been made in the implementation of the policies to progressively introduce the compulsory education in urban and rural areas, establish and improve the financial assistance system for the students from poor families, grant preferential policies to rural areas, especially the poverty-stricken areas and ethnic areas, support the development of special education, protect the right to receive compulsory education for girls and the children of migrant workers, and build the modern remote education network in primary and secondary schools to share the high-quality resources. These policies have helped the urban and rural children, teenagers and the people to enjoy more equal education opportunity and more high-quality educational resources.

#### 3.5 Establishment of Modern Education Systems

n 2008, there were 260 million students at all sorts of schools nationwide, of which nearly 160 million students were receiving nine-year compulsory education. Among more than 19 million secondary school graduates, over 85% were ascended to the stage of high schools, of which more than half entered to secondary vocational schools. Among more than 8.3 million high school graduates, over 73% ascended to colleges and universities, of which more than half of them entered senior vocational schools. There were more than 1 million postgraduates and 240,000 doctoral candidates studying and making research at schools. The establishment and continuous improvement of the education system has not only guaranteed the people's opportunity to receive education and build a solid foundation for the construction of harmonious socialist society, but also provided a powerful assurance of talents and human resources for the construction of well-off society and socialist modernization.

Main Targets for Education Development of Set by the National Guideline for Medium and Long term Educational Reform and Development (2010-2020)

Index	Unit	Year 2009	Year 2015	Year 2020
Preschool Education				
Number of Students at Kindergarten	100,000 Persons	2658	3400	4000
Gross Entry Rate One Year Prior to School	%	74.0	85.0	95.0
Gross Entry Rate Two Years Prior to School	%	65.0	70.0	80.0
Gross Entry Rate Three Years Prior to School	%	50.9	60.0	70.0
Nine-year Compulsory Education				
Students at School	100,000 Persons	15772	16100	16500
Consolidating Rate	%	90.8	93.0	95.0
High School Education*				
Students at School	100,000 Persons	4624	4500	4700
Consolidating Rate	%	79.2	87.0	90.0
Vocational Education				
Students at School for the Middle-class Vocational Education	100,000 Persons	2179	2250	2350
Students at School for the Senior-class Vocational	100,000 Persons	1280	1390	1480
Education				
College Education**				
Total Number of Persons Receiving Education	100,000 Persons	2979	3350	3550
Students at School	100,000 Persons	2826	3080	3300
Of which: Postgraduate Students	100,000 Persons	140	170	200
Gross Entry Rate	%	24.2	36.0	40.0
Continuing Education On-job Employees Continuing Education	100,000 Persons	16600	29000	35000

Notes: \*including the number of students receiving middle-class vocational education;

\*\*including the number of students receiving senior-class vocational education.

Index	Unit	Year 2009	Year 2015	Year 2020
Number of Persons Received the College Education	100,000 Persons	9830	14500	19500
Average Years of Education Received by the Work Force at the	Year	9.5	10.5	11.2
Primary Ages Of which: Proportion of Persons Received the College Education	%	9.9	15.0	20.0
Average Years of Education Received by the New Work Force Of which: Proportion of Persons Received the High School Education or above	Year	12.4	13.3	13.5
	%	67.0	87.0	90.0









Figure 4.5 The Number of Full-time Teachers, 1949-2008



Figure 4.4 The Number of Students at Different Schools, 1949-2008



Figure 4.6 Social Donations Received by Civil Affairs Administrations

## Emerging Social Charity

Since the reform and opening-up and through the efforts of urban and rural governments and all walks of the society in China, the framework for the development charities has been formulated on the basis of the philanthropic culture, charity organizations, charity policies and charity donations, and the government support, community sponsorship and public participation.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs promulgated the Guidelines for the Development of Charity in China (2006-2010) in November 2005. The Guidelines indicates that it is an important part of the traditional Chinese virtues and human civilization to widely carry out the activities of voluntary donations of assets and labor by citizens, legal persons and other organizations, help the poor, the elderly, orphans, disabled and ill, support education and make other charity contributions. In the course of realizing the well-off society, implementing the scientific development concept and building a harmonious socialist society, the development of charities is highly important for organizing and mobilizing social resources and regulating the gap between the rich and the poor, easing social conflicts and promoting social equity, improving the quality of citizens and promoting social accountability, creating unity, friendship and harmony, and promoting the socialist material civilization, political civilization and spiritual civilization.

At present, the spread of philanthropic culture in China is unprecedented, and philanthropic idea becomes more and more popular. The charity activities, such as charity performance, charity auction, charity sale and charity medical consultation have expanded the impact of charity in the communities. The elections of "Charity Star", "Charity Person" and "Charity Ambassador" and the activities of "Charity Week", "Charity Concert" and "Charity Artwork Show and Auction" have advocated the philanthropic actions, created a philanthropic atmosphere and promoted the socialist spiritual civilization. Philanthropy has played an increasingly important role in supporting the elderly, handicapped, orphans, the poor, students and patients, resulting in a positive and far-reaching social impact.

According to the statistics of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, by the end of 2009, there were 33,000 regular social donation stations, points and charity supermarkets nationwide, of which there were 8,101 charity supermarkets. Those stations, points and supermarkets have basically formed a social donation network covering all cities in China, and are being expanded to some township communities and communities gradually. Throughout 2009, the civil affairs departments at all levels received total donations of 6.86 billion Yuan from all walks of the society, of which the in-kind donation was 220 million Yuan. The civil affairs departments received 124.766 million pieces of clothes and quilts, of which 13.844 million were pieces of cotton-padded clothes and quilts. The civil affairs departments indirectly received social donation of 1.41 billion Yuan and 6.81 million pieces of clothes and quilts via other departments, of which 5.276 million pieces were cotton-padded clothes and quilts and the in-kind donation was 18.849 million Yuan. These donations benefited 15.223 million persons (times) in poverty and need.

After the Wenchuan massive earthquake in the west of China on May 12, 2008, the people nationwide and disaster-stricken people joined hands, shared weal and woe, overcame great difficulties, and gave selfless assistance and great support to fight against disasters and rebuild their homes. According to the announcement of the Ministry of Civil Affairs on May 12, 2009, the total value of domestic and foreign donations received for earthquake relief nationwide reaches 76.712 billion Yuan. Among these donations, the China Red Cross received 4.955 billion Yuan, the China Charity Federation received 927 million Yuan, and other 16 national foundations that were authorized to carry out earthquake relief donation activities received donations of 1.2 billion.

Now, the devastated earthquake-stricken areas have taken on a new look. The disaster-hit people are building their new homes with full confidence.

After a 7.1-grade- Richter earthquake that occurred in Yushu, Qinghai Province on April 14, 2009, the social contribution of more than ten billion Yuan has been received so far.





Beichuan Middle School is rebuilt after Wenchuan Earthquake

