

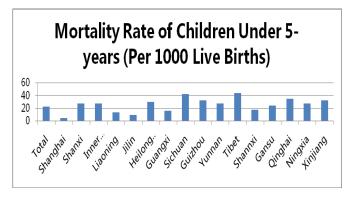
# **Building Pediatric Care Capacity in Less Developed Areas**

# Eight Years' Experiences in China

### **Program Background**

China has experienced spectacular economic growth in recent years, averaging 8-9% per year. As a result, on average, the standard of living is higher than ever before in China's history. However,

uneven economic development and disparities in health status also widened significantly during this period. For example, National statistics (2003) show that the mortality rate of children under 5-years old varies from 27.87% to 54.9% in less developed provinces, while the mortality rate is 7.02% in Shanghai. Further data (2005) indicate that mortality rate of children under the age of 5-years is 10.7% in urban areas while 22.5% in the countryside.



To address the need for improving pediatric care in the less developed areas in China, Project HOPE and its long-time partner Shanghai Children's Medical Center (SCMC) collaboratively launched a Rural Training Program in 2002. The program aims to build pediatric care capacity through fellowship training at SCMC and outreach training and on-site coaching in the less developed areas.

#### **Program Description**

Each year, the program selects 25-30 health service providers from less developed areas to participate in a year long fellowship training at SCMC. In addition to providing group training sessions, the program works with each fellow to design an individualized training plan and curriculum to address each participant's needs for classroom training, clinical practice and skill strengthening. The program also assigns each fellow an experienced clinical mentor who coaches, supervises and provides daily guidance. While the fellowship training is underway at SCMC, the program also periodically conducts outreach training to hospitals in the less developed areas.

To ensure quality and track progress, the program uses monitoring and evaluation tools. Furthermore, communications with program alumni are conducted to obtain feedback and track program outcomes.





### **Program Achievements**

Over the past 8 years, the program has trained 139 physicians and 59 nurses from 80 hospitals in 15 provinces in China. The major specialties included Internal Medicine, Pediatric Intensive Care, Neonatal Critical Care, and Hematology and Oncology.

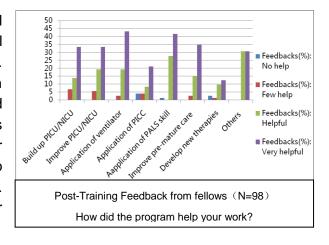
One of the outstanding achievements is the successful professional team building at the hospitals in the less

developed areas. The program fosters team

NICU established at a local hospital

building by training multiple staff from one hospital in order to advance the entire specialty at that hospital. The trained fellows apply the knowledge and skills learned at SCMC and work together to improve the quality of care at their home institutions. To date, nine new Intensive Care Units were established by trained fellows at their home hospitals.

In 2009, Project HOPE conducted a survey of all trained fellows. 170 questionnaires were mailed to all alumni and 98 fellows (58%) responded the survey. All the respondents reported that the program enhanced their vision and passion. 89% reported improved knowledge and skills. Most of the fellows are able to perform new medical procedures, better utilize medical equipment and provide improved care to their patients after they return to their local hospitals. 34% of trained fellows have become leaders in their hospitals.





received training from the fellows, and more than 130,000 patients benefited from the improved services.

The trained fellows also served as trainers to their peers in local settings. Approximately 10,000 local professionals

Most importantly, the program has helped narrow the health care gaps through capacity building and system strengthening, and to benefit more children and families in the less developed areas of China.

For more information, visit www.projecthope.org., or contact Dr. Yan Zhou at zhouyan@projecthope.org.cn