

Explain the issues in natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies that china f...



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China is one of the countries most affected by natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies like earthquakes, floods, draughts, famine, typhoons and storms. The country has faced six of the world's top ten deadliest natural disasters. These disasters affect more than 200 million people every year and result in economic losses up to 300bn Yuan each year, which is about 2% of the country's GDP (Watts, 2010). According to Dr. Eric Noji, human vulnerability due to poverty and inequity, environmental degradation and rapid population growth especially among the poor are the three primary reasons that make natural disasters in China into catastrophes (Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, n. d.). Again, Chinese regulations require their buildings to be earthquake-resistant. However, the collapses of schools, hospitals, and factories during natural disasters raise questions about the country's enforcement of building codes (Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, n. d.). The Ministry of Science and Technology of China has established a few monitoring and early warning systems around Mount Ailao in southwest China's Yunnan Province, the southeast China's Fujian Province and the reservoir region of the Three Gorges Project on the Yangtze River. However, these structural systems are not sufficient given the vast topography of the country (Xinhua, 2011). In order to address these issues, the government of China needs to invest considerably towards the expansion of the public health system to provide shelter, potable water, food, medical care and sanitation. Secondly, the country can work in collaboration with international agencies to develop and implement frameworks for disaster response, risk assessment, evacuation measures and public education. Finally, the government also needs to

ensure that building codes and policies are implemented within their country. This is the key to prevent massive loss of life and damage to property as a result of natural disasters. References Watts, J. (2010, March 31). China spends big to counter severe weather caused by climate change. Guardian. Retrieved from <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/mar/31/china-announces-extreme-weather-measures> Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. (n. d.). China's Earthquake and Natural Disasters: Meeting the Needs. Retrieved from http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.item&ws_id=452898 Xinhua. (2011). China reports progress in natural disasters monitoring. Retrieved from http://www.china.org.cn/environment/2011-02/11/content_21895506.htm.