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Please continue to help. Most important is your personal connection to what we do to help the people of Surmang, to help the ultra-poor of Qinghai. Now that we are extending our network to Haxiu and Maozhuang, we need your help more than ever. [Please contribute here](#)

Surmang to Sign Major Agreement with Chinese Government

By Lee Weingrad



The Chinese Government has invited Surmang Foundation to sign a major and historic partnership agreement at the end of November. Surmang has operated a private clinic in Yushu County, Qinghai Province since 1992.

The agreement calls for Surmang to install its unique rural health delivery system in four earthquake-damaged township

clinics in and to rebuild one of the most severely damaged -- the largest of these four. The Surmang Clinic has provided free medical care, including free medicines to over 130,000 patients in the past 10 years. The Yushu region has one of the highest infant and maternal mortality rates in China, with a maternal mortality rate of 3,000/100,000 (Beijing is 80/100,000) and an infant mortality rate of 1 in 5.

In addition to the training of local doctors and the provision of free services and meds, the Surmang prototype focuses on "community-based health care" via a corps of Community Health Workers (CHWs), whose focus is on mother and child health. The additional 4 clinics will add another 140 CHWs to the 40 at Surmang.

In addition the agreement elevates the Surmang Clinic to the status of a village clinic, meaning the meds supply chain is within the inventory system of the Ministry of Health.

According to Surmang Director Lee Weingrad, "The poor have no access to quality medical care and women and children are at the greatest risk. This is a major breakthrough – it gives us the opportunity to influence and impact the way public health is practiced in the poorest parts of rural China. It creates the opportunity to give a much larger population access to quality health care. We estimate, that at current levels we will be able to benefit nearly a half million patients in the next 10 years."