

Today marks the second anniversary of one of China's worst disasters in living memory, and is a particular milestone for those with family members still listed as missing. Some 17,291 are still classified as such, but from today, [relatives may apply to have their missing loved ones officially recognised as deceased](#) -- a process that will take a further year to complete.

A huge amount has been accomplished in the two years since the tragedy struck: whole towns have been rebuilt, and people have shown immense resilience and strength of character as they have strived to put their lives back together. We have been inspired and humbled by the survivors we've met, who have retained hope and courage in the face of tremendous physical, emotional and economic turmoil.

For others, as [SQR's recent research interviews](#) have shown, the recovery process is far from over. There is every chance the third anniversary will be upon us before we know it, with a substantial minority still struggling to fully recover from the repercussions of 12 May 2008.

SQR remains as committed to its objectives as ever, and we will continue to develop community recovery projects to support the poorest of the poor still badly affected by repercussions of the earthquake; encourage grassroot organisations that are playing a role in the rebuilding of stricken communities; and act as a platform for the development of a vibrant civil society.

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