

An aerial photograph showing a massive debris flow of mud and rocks that has inundated a valley in Zhouqu, Gansu, China. The flow is a thick, greyish-brown slurry that has completely covered the valley floor and lower slopes. In the background, a hillside is densely packed with traditional Chinese-style buildings. In the foreground, a multi-story modern building stands on the right side, partially obscured by the debris. The overall scene depicts the devastating impact of a natural disaster.

Zhouqu, Gansu, China
Debris Flow



Zhouqu County was a beautiful place that be called “Gansu Spring City”





Debris flows at Sanyanyu Gully (left) and Luojiayu Gully (right) occurred in the night of 7th August, buried the farms, destroyed the houses, made great casualties, rushed into Bailong River and formed a dammed lake which submerged the main street of the city.

1471	Death
Over 2000	Injured
294	Missing
Over 45000	Emergency Moved
Over 120	Houses Destroyed



The farms were buried
The school was submerged



The house was destroyed
People lose their families



Easily weathered slope



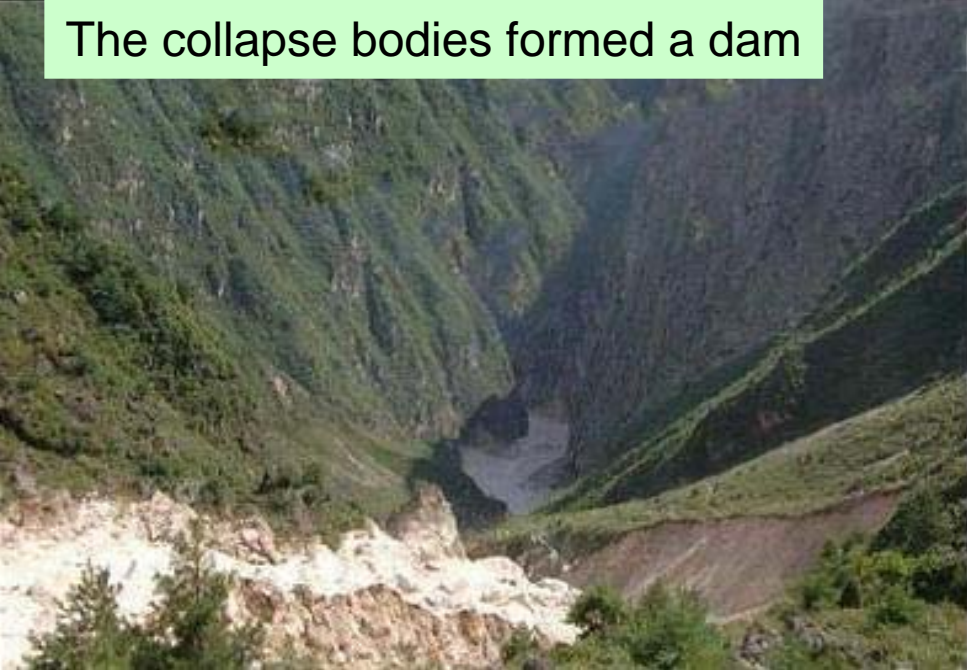
Unsteady loose materials



Many drops

During the rainfall, the local geomorphology creates a good condition for debris flow starting

The collapse bodies formed a dam



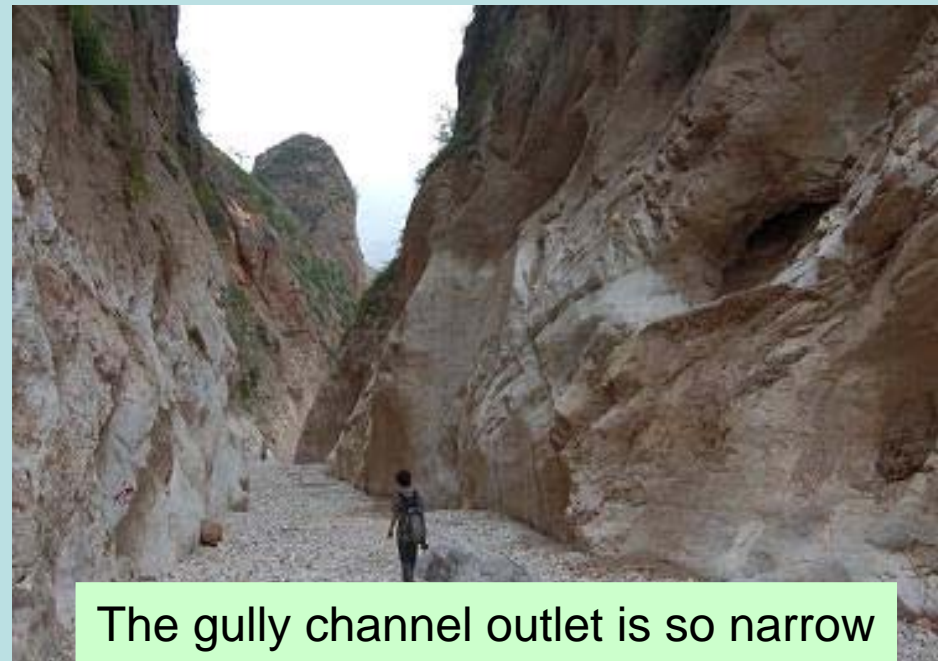
The debris cone is easily taken away



These factors enlarged the damage



The prevention project was destroyed



The gully channel outlet is so narrow

Scientists' Responsibility

How to solve the survival crisis?

