

THE PATH TO HOUSING RECOVERY

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE 2015: HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION



DECEMBER 2020

Fifth Anniversary Edition

Photo: Tshering Lama



The Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform (HRRP) was launched in December 2015. HRRP took over supporting coordination of the post-earthquake housing reconstruction from the Nepal Shelter Cluster which returned to the pre-earthquake format as a standing cluster. The platform provides coordination support services for the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), Central Level Programme Implementation Units - GMaLI and Building (CLPIUs), District Level Programme Implementation Units - GMaLI and Building (DLPIUs), and other relevant government authorities, and Partner Organisations (POs). HRRP is currently in its fourth phase which will run until the end of July 2021. Planning for a fifth phase of the platform is underway. HRRP is funded by DFID Nepal and CRS Nepal and with National Society for Earthquake Technology Nepal (NSET) as the technical lead.

The HRRP works at municipal, district, and national levels, providing support primarily to the 14 districts most affected by the earthquake, as well as direct and roving support to the 18 districts moderately affected by the earthquake. The platform has personnel with expertise in general coordination, technical coordination, and information management across all working levels and areas. At national level the platform also has expertise in Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning (MEAL), operations, and translation.

The HRRP's main areas of focus are:

- **Monitoring and documenting the housing reconstruction process**
- **Facilitating coordination and experience sharing to support improvements in coverage and quality of socio-technical assistance**
- **Supporting collective planning and roll out of additional support for vulnerable households**
- **Addressing gaps and duplications**
- **Advocacy, communications, and research**



Members of the HRRP team with the NRA CEO, Mr. Sushil Gyawali.

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hrrpnepal.org

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Primary Funding:



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NEPAL EARTHQUAKE 2015: HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION
December 2020

First Edition: April 2018
Second Edition: May 2018
Third Edition: September 2018
Fourth Edition: April 2019
Fifth Edition: December 2020



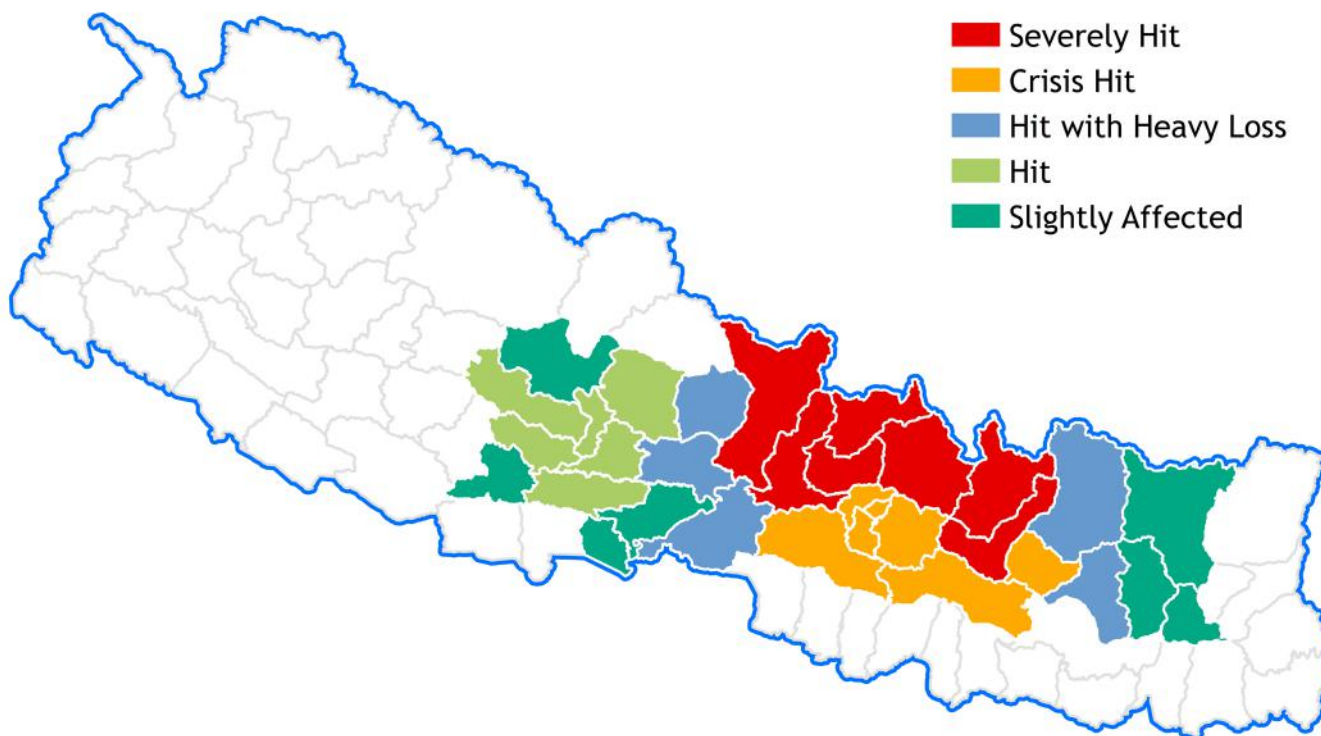
www.hrrpnepal.org

Introduction

As of 15 November 2020, the Grant Management and Local Infrastructure (GMALI) Central Level Programme Implementation Unit (CLPIU) reports that of the 834,911 households eligible for the 300,000 NPRs GoN housing reconstruction grant, 92.4% have now signed the partnership agreement with the GoN, 94.02% have received the first tranche (50,000 NPRs), 81.1% have received the second tranche (150,000 NPRs), and 72.47% have received the third tranche (100,000 NPRs). Of the 78,033 households eligible for the GoN housing retrofit grant, 71.08% have signed the partnership agreement with the GoN, 70.07 % have received the first tranche (50,000 NPRs), and 0.39% have received the second tranche (50,000 NPRs). Through these grants, the GoN has so far disbursed more than 1.85 billion USD to earthquake affected households. In addition, more than 350 million USD has been invested by the GoN and Partner Organisations (POs) in socio-technical assistance.

The Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), published by the GoN in June 2016, identified housing as the most affected sector with the per capita average cost of earthquake damage ranging from 255,860 NPRs in Dolakha to 43,800 NPRs in Makwanpur, at an average of 130,000 NPRs per person across the 14 most affected districts. The PDNA also estimated that an additional 2.5% to 3.5% of the population, at least 700,000 people, would be pushed into poverty in the year following the quake as a result of the disaster.

Immediately after the April 2015 earthquake, emergency shelter assistance was provided to more than 1.2 million houses in the 14 most affected districts. The response then progressed to addressing temporary shelter needs with 699,157 households in the 14 most affected districts



receiving a 15,000 NPRs cash grant, or shelter materials of an equivalent value. The GoN, through the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), began planning the owner-driven housing reconstruction programme in June 2015. The programme includes a housing reconstruction grant of 300,000 NPRs, provided by the GoN in three tranches linked to compliant construction; 50,000 NPRs upon signing a partnership agreement with the GoN, a further 150,000

NPRs after completing the foundation, and a final 100,000 NPRs after completing the walls. A retrofitting grant of 100,000 NPRs is also available to households whose homes have been partially damaged. This grant is provided in two tranches of 50,000 NPRs. The NRA and HRRP defined a core package of socio-technical assistance activities to complement the GoN financial assistance.

This document presents a timeline of key achievements and activities so far in the housing recovery, as well as including a pre-earthquake section in an attempt to highlight the decades of work on earthquake preparedness and response in Nepal which preceded 25 April 2015. It is hoped that this timeline has already contributed to, and will continue to contribute to increased awareness and understanding of the huge number of policies, procedures, and guidelines that have been developed for the recovery process. The timeline also highlights the winter and monsoon seasons and COVID-19 pandemic to emphasise the impact that they have during construction seasons. This document captures the progress, milestones and significant events during the recovery period from April 2015 till November 2020. Furthermore, this document also briefly captures milestones between 1934 till 2015 that has impacts on current recovery period.

There are many lessons from the recovery process so far which demand reflection; we must learn from these and carry them forward in the years ahead to the completion of the housing reconstruction. Overall, this timeline looks to emphasise the enormous efforts made by all recovery actors, at all levels, but most of all by those in earthquake affected communities, to achieve the progress over the past four years.



Photo: People in Need

Key principles for reconstruction as identified in the PDNA:

- Reconstruction should empower communities to take control of their recover facilitated through the Owner Driven Reconstruction (ODR) approach.
- Reconstruction should apply “integrated safer settlement” principles where appropriate, involving the principles of holistic habitat development with an emphasis on basic services and community infrastructure.
- Reconstruction should become a vehicle for building long-term community resilience.
- Reconstruction should strengthen the local economy through processes supportive of the poor, marginalised and informal sector. It should provide an opportunity for the poor to upgrade their overall living and economic conditions.
- Reconstruction should ensure sustainable and environmentally conscious processes that keep in mind issues such as climate change, natural resource management, and scientific risk assessments.
- Reconstruction should be equitable and inclusive, with equal rights to land and property accorded to women.
- Reconstruction should be initiated through targeted strategies that address the specific needs of the diverse communities and settlements affected by the earthquakes.

1934

15 January

Nepal-Bihar earthquake of 8.4M results in more than 8,519 deaths in Nepal



Bhaktapur Darbar Square before and after 1934 Earthquake



Photo: National Seismological Centre Nepal

1988

21 August

6.9M earthquake resulted in 721 deaths in Nepal

Ministry of Physical Planning and Works (MPPW) established.
Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) also established with 26 divisional offices and Town Development Executive Committees (TDECs). These are the government institutions responsible for urban development and housing planning in Nepal.



Lumanti Support Group for Shelter registered as an NGO.
 Organisation is "dedicated to alleviating urban poverty in Nepal through integrated approach of improving shelter conditions".



NSET
 Earthquake Safe Communities in Nepal

National Society for Earthquake Technology - Nepal (NSET) established (registered as an NGO in 1994)

1993

South-central part of Nepal experienced unprecedented floods, landslides, and debris flows following heavy rainfall in July and August. The total effect of the two events was 1,460 people dead or missing, 73,606 families seriously affected, and 39,043 houses destroyed.

1987

Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning established

1959

10 municipalities in Nepal



1992

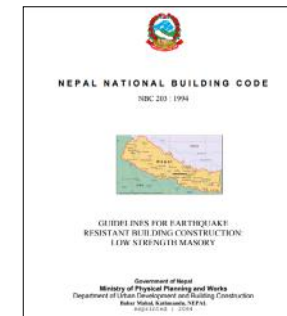


26 new municipalities declared, brings total to 36

National Building Code Development Project (BCDP) starts

1994

Nepal National Building Code published



1997

Building Act passed. Introduces provisions for building permits to be issued by Municipalities and Village Development Committees (VDCs)

1999

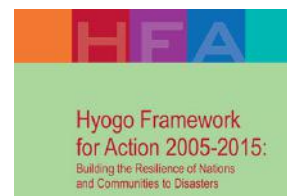
Department of Housing, Building, and Infrastructure renamed **Department of Urban Development and Building Construction** (DUDBC)

Local Self-Governance Act passed. Delegated authority for the design and implementation of DRR activities to local government through District Development Committees (DDCs), municipalities and Village Development Committees (VDCs)

2005

18-22 January

Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction, **Hyogo Framework for Action** (2005–2015) agreed, Government of Nepal commits to national level implementation of the framework.



2008

Koshi river flood affects more than 11,500 households across 6 districts. Shelter cluster (and other clusters) activated and shelter cluster becomes standing cluster

Draft **Contingency Plan for Emergency Shelter** prepared by DUDBC with support from UNOCHA, IFRC, and UN HABITAT.



Photo: Nepal Army

1996

22 new municipalities declared, brings total to 58



Disaster Preparedness Network-Nepal (DPNet-Nepal) formed as an umbrella organisation for national and international agencies, with the objective of facilitating coordination, collaboration, learning and experience sharing, and avoiding duplication in emergency response.

Government of Nepal publishes the **National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management**

National Shelter Policy defines the role of central government in shelter delivery as a facilitator, rather than a provider.

Ministry of Home Affairs published **National Comprehensive Plan on Disaster Management**. The plan emphasised the improvement of national capacity for disaster management and institutional structures.

2007

National Urban Policy published by the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works (MPPW). Policy includes framework for reduction of vulnerability to risk through local level planning on the road network, open spaces, etc.



Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium (NRRC) formed with five flagships; 1 – school and hospital safety, 2 – emergency preparedness and response, 3 – flood management in the Koshi river basin, 4 – community based disaster risk management, and 5 – policy / institutional support for Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

2009

May

Government of Nepal approves **National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management**

Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) produces **Local Disaster Risk Management Planning** (LDRMP) guidelines for municipalities and VDCs

18 September

Sikkim earthquake of 6.9M killed 11 people in Nepal, caused damage to 100s of houses in eastern Nepal, as well as triggering landslides



Photo: China Daily

April

'Guidelines for masons training on earthquake resilient building construction' published by UNDP and Government of Nepal. Guidelines are for training existing masons on earthquake resilient techniques and will form the foundation of the 7 day masons training course used after the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake.



Photo: NSET

October

NSET-Nepal launch **'Building Code Implementation Program in Municipalities of Nepal' (BCIPN)** with funding support from US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA). BCIPN works to build capacity of municipalities to implement building code. In 2010, just 10% of houses in BCIPN working areas were fully compliant. In 2015, after 3 years of the BCIPN programme, this number had jumped to 50% and a further 30% of houses were very close to compliance and could be considered earthquake resilient.

2011

2012

2013



Under NRRC flagship 4, **'Nine Minimum Characteristics'** for a disaster resilient community in Nepal are agreed with DRR actors and government.

Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) produces **Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP)** guidelines for district level and suggests DPRPs should be prepared at VDC level also

MoHA formalised **'District Lead Support Agency' (DLSA)** role and a DLSA was appointed for each of the 75 districts to support with preparation of Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans (DPRPs) and disaster response if required

18 May

Ministry of Urban Development formed

MoFALD produces **'Guidelines for the formulation of District Disaster Management Plans'**

April
Under the Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP) **ICT volunteers are deployed** in 75 District Development Committees (DDCs) and in 50 municipalities

May
72 new municipalities declared, brings total to 130



14-18 March
Government of Nepal delegation joins global DRR community at **UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan** where a new international framework for DRR, the Sendai Framework, is agreed



15 March
Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) publish report **identifying open spaces in the Kathmandu Valley** which could be used for humanitarian purposes in the event of an earthquake.

2014

2015



Photo: GoN Ministry of Irrigation

2 August
Massive landslide in Jure, Mankhaa
Village Development Committee, Sindhupalchowk caused loss of life, displaced 5,000 families, and created a high artificial dam across the Saptakoshi River, one of the main tributaries of the Koshi River, blocking the flow of water completely.

14-16 August
Heavy rain caused **massive floods and several landslides across 18 districts** affecting almost 35,000 families and killing 53 people. The floods and landslides damaged roads, bridges, local markets, transport vehicles as well as livestock and crops. More than 1,240 houses were destroyed and 435 houses were damaged.

December
61 new municipalities declared, brings total to 191



April
District Lead Support Agencies (DLSAs)
Terms of Reference (ToR) revised by Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)

May 2015

25 April 2015

M7.6 earthquake, 11:56 NST
epicentre Gorkha
8,790 people died
22,300 people injured

Emergency shelter support provided to **1.2 million+ households**, this included tarpaulins, blankets and bedding. In the first few weeks of response, biggest providers of emergency food and shelter support were local businesses, CSOs, and communities themselves – demonstrating a high level of solidarity and local strength in response.

Initial Rapid Damage Assessment conducted by the Government of Nepal, **Red Card** system launched to identify earthquake beneficiaries

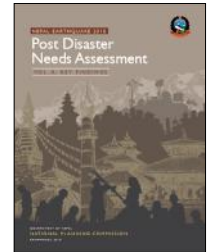


Shelter Cluster Nepal launches **Technical Working Group (TWG)** on Technical Assistance and Training for Recovery



Photo: Shelter Cluster, Nepal

25 June
Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) launched



APRIL

MAY

JUNE



Photo: Shelter Cluster, Nepal

12 May

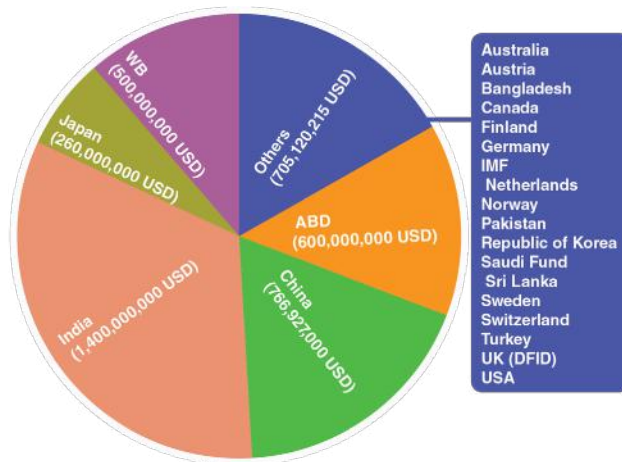
Biggest **aftershock**, **M7.3**, 12:50 NST
epicentre Dolakha
218 died
2500+ injured

15 Partner Organisations reporting emergency shelter support (shelter cluster 4w)

PO

Temporary shelter support starts.
GoN / POs provide cash grant of **15,000 NPRs** or material equivalent to **650,000+ households**.





4.4 billion USD (two thirds of total appeal) committed by international donors to support recovery and reconstruction at donor conference.

August 2015

13 August

Cabinet establishes **National Reconstruction Authority (NRA)**,
Dr. Govinda Raj Pokharel appointed CEO

31 August

NRA loses legal status

September 2015

16 September 2015

Constitution promulgated

26 new municipalities

declared, brings total 217



1,430 masons trained
by Partner Organisations
(POs) and GoN
(HRRP 4W)

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

June – September Monsoon season, generally less construction work takes place

September 2015 – March 2016, unrest in the Terai

July 2015



Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project

Periodic Household Survey
(2100+ Respondents)

74%

Do not feel their main reconstruction needs are being addressed

Do not have the information they need to access reconstruction support

67%

19 August

Flowminder reports that, with the exception of Rasuwa, all of the 14 of most affected districts, have experienced an inflow of people since the earthquake



Shelter Cluster

10 September

Shelter Cluster Recovery and Reconstruction Working Group (RRWG) launched

POs report 200 million USD in place for housing recovery and reconstruction. Shelter Cluster estimates indicate this would be enough to cover the delivery of the **minimum socio-technical assistance package** to all affected households in the **32 districts**.



Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project

Periodic Household Survey
(2100+ Respondents)

72%

Do not feel their main reconstruction needs are being addressed

Do not have the information they need to access reconstruction support

51%

WET

Minimal construction during monsoon (June - September)

October 2015

DUDBC Design Catalogue Vol. 1 published. The catalogue states "It is not mandatory for households to select a design from this catalogue, and they are free to prepare house designs outside of the catalogue but these designs must comply with the National Building Code".



Photo: Chetraj Ojha, DLPIU

25 December

Mr. Sushil Gyawali appointed as CEO

21 December

Reconstruction Act 2072 issued and NRA's **Policy Act** formed

7 December

National Consultation Workshop on the draft **National Plan of Action for Safer Building Construction** prepared by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) and Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC)

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

October 2015 – March 2016: Winterisation support of 10,000 NPRs in cash or in-kind support provided based on Shelter Cluster guidance.

September 2015 – March 2016, unrest in the Terai and blockade at the borders



Photos: Shelter Cluster, Nepal

HRRP Phase 1 launched, led by IOM and UN Habitat, taking over responsibility for supporting the coordination of the housing recovery efforts from the Nepal Earthquake Shelter Cluster.



115 Partner Organisations reporting emergency shelter support (shelter cluster 4w)

PO



Shelter Cluster

31 December

The Nepal Shelter Cluster reverts to pre-earthquake form as a standing cluster focusing on preparedness and contingency planning

Construction challenges during Winter (November - February)

COLD

15 January**CBS Detail Damage Assessment** starts

Photo: HRRP Nepal

March 2016**13 March 2016**

A **pilot enrolment** held in **Singati, Dolakha**, for households from Lamidada and Laduk VDCs.

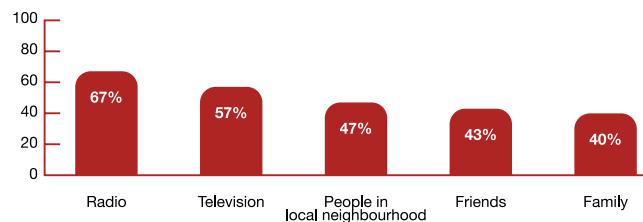
31 March

Cabinet approved NRA **NGO Mobilisation Guidelines** launched.

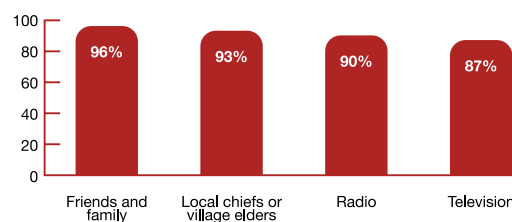
15 January - 20 June: Detailed Damage Assessment conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), to determine eligibility for GoN housing reconstruction grant in 11 of the most affected districts (not including three Kathmandu Valley districts). 762,106 households surveyed using a census model in which each household is visited and assessed by a trained enumerator.

JANUARY**FEBRUARY****MARCH**

September 2015 – March 2016, unrest in the Terai and blockade at the borders

BBC Media Action research

Most reported source of information



Most trusted source of information



Photo: HRRP Nepal

62 Partner Organisations supporting housing reconstruction (HRRP 4w)

PO

April 2016

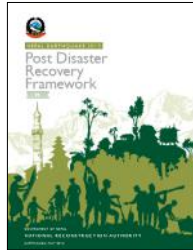
20,160 masons trained by POs (HRRP 4W)



Mid-April
NRA begins signing reconstruction grant agreements in 10 districts outside Kathmandu Valley

May 2016

Post Disaster Recovery Framework (PDRF) launched



June 2016

GoN deploys **2,500+ engineers, sub-engineers, and assistant sub-engineers** supporting housing reconstruction in 14 worst affected districts.



Photo: DLPIU Gorkha

APRIL

MAY

JUNE



Photo: CRS Nepal

24 May

450+ aftershocks reported with magnitudes equal to or above M4 since April 25th 2015 (51 equal to or above M5, 5 above M6). 20,000+ aftershocks of less than M4 reported.

Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project

Periodic Household Survey
(2100+ Respondents)



82%

Do not feel their main reconstruction needs are being addressed

Do not know how to access reconstruction support

62%

68 Partner Organisations supporting housing reconstruction (HRRP 4W)

PO

July 2016

7th NRA Steering Committee meeting agrees to increase the GoN housing reconstruction grant from 200,000 NPRs to 300,000 NPRs.



August 2016

Procedures for handling of grievances related to reconstruction published by NRA



Photos: CRS Nepal

September 2016

29,340 masons trained by POs and GoN (HRRP 4W)



JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

11 July - 15 September: The Detailed Damage Assessment, conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), to determine eligibility for the GoN housing reconstruction grant is carried out in three Kathmandu Valley districts. Almost 114,414 households are surveyed under a system in which households certified by the local village and municipal authorities as earthquake-affected are assessed.

Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project



Periodic Household Survey
(2100+ Respondents)

74%

Do not feel their main reconstruction needs are being addressed

Do not have the information they need to access reconstruction support

67%



Phase 2 of the HRRP launched, led by IOM

WET

Minimal construction during monsoon (June - September)

October 2016

Community Reconstruction Committees Directive published by NRA

November 2016

Inspection guidelines and associated Inspection Forms published by NRA.



December 2016

19 December
Participation Agreements signed by **475,000+** households in **11 districts**, almost **450,000** received **first tranche** of the reconstruction grant. (GoN Reports)

25 December
First phase of **geo-hazard risk assessment** begins. NRA teams deployed.

29 December
Grant Disbursement Procedures for Private Houses Destroyed by the Earthquakes approved by Cabinet

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER



Photo: HRRP Nepal



25 November

Socio-Technical Assistance (STA) coverage (HRRP 4W)

9

VDCs with minimum package of STA

VDCs with no STA

296



Photo: Baliyo Ghar, NSET

Construction challenges during Winter (November - February)

COLD

January 2017

10 January

Dr. Govind Raj Pokharel appointed
NRA CEO

**Refinancing Procedures for
Reconstruction of Private Houses**
published by NRA

Government of Nepal publishes **National
Urban Development Strategy**

31 January

Cabinet approves **first revision
to NRA NGO Mobilisation
Guidelines**



March 2017

DUDBC Design Catalogue Volume 2
published, including designs for alternative
technologies such as confined hollow concrete
block masonry, hollow concrete block masonry,
compressed stabilised earth block masonry,
bamboo and stone masonry hybrid structures,
and timber structures.

Inspection Forms (first and second inspection)
published for dry stone masonry, and houses
constructed using sun-dried bricks.



46 new municipalities declared, brings total
to 263

21 November 2016 – 14 April 2017: Detailed damage assessment, conducted by Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) to determine eligibility for GoN housing reconstruction grant, carried out in 18 'moderately affected' districts. 176,428 households surveyed with system in which local village and municipal authorities certify households as earthquake affected.

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

25 January

Socio-Technical Assistance (STA) coverage
(HRRP 4W)

9

VDCs with minimum package of STA

VDCs with no STA

171



February 2017

Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project

Periodic Household Survey
(2100+ Respondents)



55%

Do not feel their main reconstruction
needs are being addressed

Now have the information they
need to access reconstruction support

58%

PO

81 Partner Organisations
supporting housing reconstruction
(HRRP 4w)



Phase 3 of the **HRRP** launched,
led by CRS Nepal

May 2017

7 May
Grant Disbursement Procedures for Private Houses Destroyed by the Earthquakes revised to reflect **increase in grant** (from 200,000 NPRs to 300,000 NPRs) and **repair and retrofitting grant** (100,000 NPRs)



14 May

First phase of local elections.
 The ToR set out for Locally Elected Bodies.

April 2017



43,310 masons trained by POs and GoN (HRRP 4W)

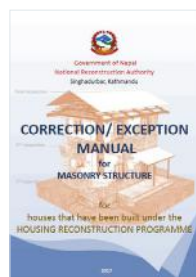
7 April

Cabinet approves **second revision to NRA NGO Mobilisation Guidelines**

7 May
Partnership Agreements process begins in **18 moderately affected districts** with households eligible for reconstruction grant

15 May

Corrections and Exceptions Manual published by NRA.



Inspection form for houses constructed with dry stone masonry published by NRA.

NRA toll-free number launched.
 16600172000 (NTC), 9801572111 (NCELL)

Procedures for interest-free loans to earthquake victims based on collective guarantee published by NRA

June 2017

23 June

Criteria for purchasing habitable lands for earthquake victims published by MoFALD CLPIU.



28 June

Second phase of local elections.

27 'District Support Engineers' deployed across 14 districts by NRA, with support from UNDP, based in the MoUD DL-PIU offices, provide guidance and back up for field engineers.



Under Federal Administration restructuring **6 metropolitan cities, 11 sub-metropolitan cities, 276 municipalities, and 460 rural municipalities** are declared

Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP) allocates budget to all 753 municipalities (under new administrative structure) for **hiring of IT officer**

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project

Periodic Household Survey
 (2100+ Respondents)



53%

Feel their main reconstruction needs are being addressed

Have the information they need to access reconstruction support

75%



Source: MoFALD
 June 2017

25 April

Socio-Technical Assistance (STA) coverage
 (HRRP 4W)

25

VDCs with minimum package of STA

VDCs with no STA

149



July 2017

Deadlines set by NRA for Disbursement of Housing Reconstruction Grant.
Grant agreement signing: 16 November 2017
First tranche: 13 January 2018
Second tranche: 13 April 2018
Third tranche: 15 July 2018



Photo: People in Need

August 2017

Relocation and Rehabilitation of Hazard-prone Settlements procedures published by NRA

Flooding. 12 districts heavily affected.
 9,850 houses destroyed
 301,500 families affected
 44,700 families temporarily displaced
 131 people killed
 32 people missing
 30 people injured



September 2017

51,270 masons trained by POs and GoN (HRRP 4W)

18 September

Third phase of local elections.

25 September

Repair and Retrofitting Manual for Masonry and RCC Structures and **Hybrid Structures Manual** published by NRA

Government of Nepal passes the **Disaster Management Act**. Includes provision for establishment of a National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA).

10 August – 16 September 2017: resurvey and verification conducted to address grievances with detailed damage assessment

JULY

AUGUST

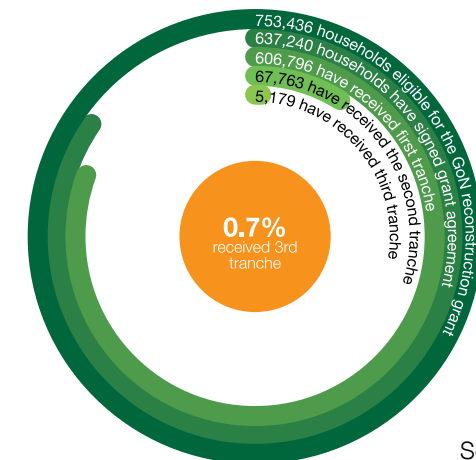
SEPTEMBER



Photos: Pradipraj Onta



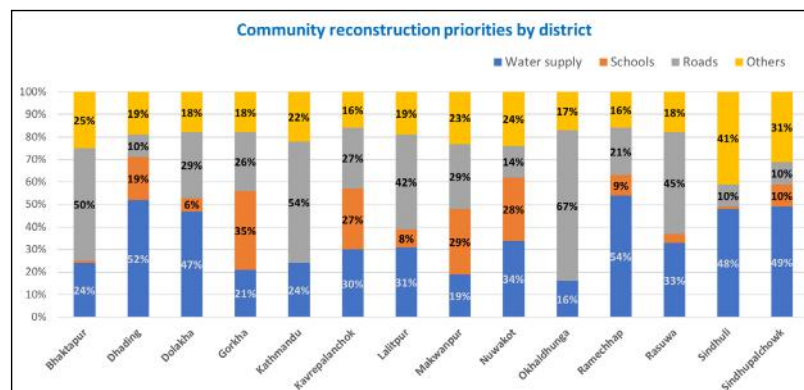
Photos: Niranjana Shrestha



Source: MoFALD
September 2017

WET

Minimal construction during monsoon (June - September)



December 2017 Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project report. **Water supply remains an issue in 14 districts** (see graph). 37% of respondents say water supply is the biggest community reconstruction need followed by roads (31%) and schools (13%).

The report recommends continued restoration of access to necessary water supply for affected communities.

December 2017

450+ engineers, sub-engineers, and assistant sub-engineers deployed by the GoN to support housing reconstruction in the **18 moderately affected districts**.

Flood Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) launched

October 2017

23 October

Mr. Yuburaj Bhusal appointed NRA CEO

7 November

Inspection form for houses constructed with sundried bricks published by NRA.



7 December

Second phase of federal and provincial elections.



26 November

First phase of federal and provincial elections.

31 December

Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP) support for social mobilisation under local authorities ends.

5,000+ social mobilisers supporting reconstruction no longer employed under local authorities

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Average house construction cost is 675,000 NPRs (approx. USD 6,750).

Almost 60% of respondents are or are planning to build using stone masonry with an average cost of 550,000 NPRs (approx. USD 5,500).

56% have taken loans (or are planning to) to reconstruct their home, at an average interest rate of 23% p.a. (HRRP report on the cost of construction)

The Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project

Periodic Household Survey
(2100+ Respondents)



50%

Feel their main reconstruction needs are being addressed

Have the information they need to access reconstruction support

76%

25 October

Socio-Technical Assistance (STA) coverage
(HRRP 4W)

26

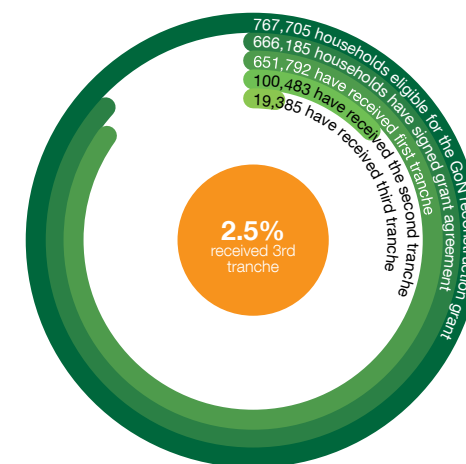
VDCs with minimum package of STA

VDCs with no STA

134



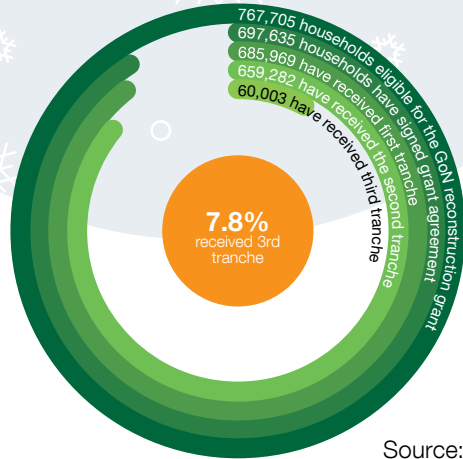
21 November
Clearing Away the Rubble: Moving Beyond Blockages to Reconstruction Progress launched (HRRP and Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project)



Source: MoFALD
December 2017

Construction challenges during Winter (November - February)

COLD.

Source: MoFALD
March 2018

JANUARY

9 February

Deadlines extended by NRA.
 Second tranche disbursement by
 13 April 2018

21 February
Project Monitoring
Information System
 launched by NRA

28 February
NRA toll-free number
 responded to **8,691 calls.**

FEBRUARY

25 February

Socio-Technical Assistance (STA) coverage
 (HRRP 4W)



27

VDCs with minimum package of STA

VDCs with no STA

124

PO

102 Partner Organisations
 supporting housing recovery
 (HRRP 4W)

March 2018

54,179 masons trained by
 POs and GoN, (HRRP 4W)



Light Timber / Steel
Frame Structure Manual
 published by NRA.

MARCH

9 March

Women in Reconstruction Event.
 Continued gaps in effectively engaging
 and supporting women in housing
 reconstruction highlighted.

15 March

Temporary Shelter Status: 90%+ of
 respondents living in temporary shelter
 have not modified or improved their
 shelter since it was built

Women in Reconstruction: almost
 50% women respondents have signed
 the Partnership Agreement with
 government in their own name.

Community Reconstruction
Committees (CRCs): 50%+ of
 CRCs not receiving any support from
 reconstruction actors.
 (HRRP surveys and research)

April 2018

3 April

Deadlines extended by NRA.

Second tranche disbursement by 16 July 2018.

The MoUD and MoFALD Central and District Level Programme Implementation Units (**CLPIU and DLPIUs**) became the **Building and GMALI CLPIU and DLPIUs** and moved under the NRA.

APRIL



Source: MoFALD
April 2018

May 2018

15 May

NRA published list of 18,505 households identified as vulnerable and requiring additional support for their housing recovery. These households were identified based on the following criteria:

- Senior Citizens above 70
- Single women above 65
- Persons living with disabilities (red and blue card holders)
- Children under 16

MAY

The Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project

Periodic Household Survey
(2580 Respondents)



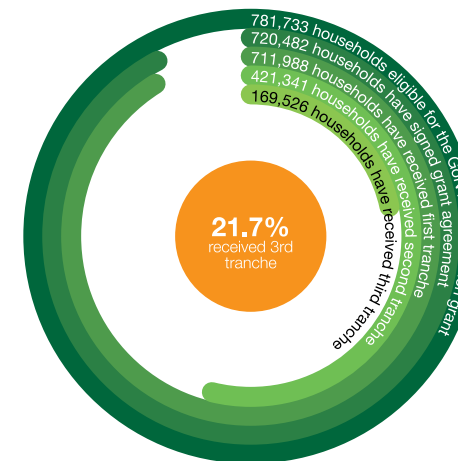
68%

Feel their main reconstruction needs are being addressed

Have the information they need to access reconstruction support

85%

CFP and HRRP analysis **estimates 20% of houses being constructed are one room, one storey and 61% are two rooms, one storey**. When compared with CBS damage assessment data on pre-earthquake floor areas it appears that the reconstruction is causing a big change in house size.



Source: Building and GMALI CLPIUs
June 2018

JUNE

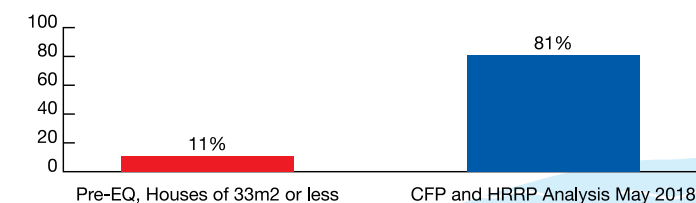
27 June

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Mr. K.P Sharma Oli inaugurates the newly reconstructed and seismically strengthened Gaddi Baithak sponsored for restoration by Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, United States.

30 June

HRRP 4W phased out. Tracking of Partner Organisation activities **transitioned to NRA 5W**.

Comparison Pre and Post EQ



September 2018

16 July
Deadline for
disbursement of
second tranche
passes



Gatlang, Rasuwa: traditional house in the background and one room, one storey house being constructed in the foreground. The one room, one storey house is being constructed simply to access the Government of Nepal housing reconstruction grant.
Photo: DFID/Magnus Wolfe-Murray

3 September
Report on NRA, Building DLPIU technical staff survey published. 51% did not receive training before deployment and 45% of respondents reported facing pressure or threats from households to pass their house and 29% reported facing pressure or threats from ward / municipal officials to pass certain houses.

6 September
NRA Steering Committee **extends tranche disbursement deadlines**; new deadline for second tranche disbursement is 15 January 2019 and new deadline for third tranche disbursement is 14 May 2019. The deadlines do not apply for households identified as eligible for the reconstruction / retrofit grant by re-survey/verification, households in traditional settlements, and households that need to relocate. Steering Committee also decides to give the **responsibility for monitoring and approving housing reconstruction / retrofit grant disbursement to municipal governments.**

6 September
GoN approves of Unified Concessional Loan Guideline 2075.

11 September
NRA, GMALI CLPIU, Building CLPIU, and HRRP launch **municipal survey and action planning process** across 32 earthquake affected districts.

25 September
'Interest subsidy on subsidised loan policy guideline 2075' circulated by Nepal Rastra Bank to BFIs. Provides for loan of up to 300,000 NPRs with a loan period of between 5 and 10 years. The bank and financial institutions should not exceed 2% in their base rate for this loan. The government will pay 50% of interest costs and the household will pay the other 50%.

JULY

July 2018

NRA announced **approval of vulnerable support projects** under five organisations; Mercy Corps, Care Nepal, People in Need, NRCS, and Practical Action

24 July

First meeting of **Hollow Concrete Block Technical Working Group (TWG)**. The TWG includes representatives from NRA and Building CLPIU on the GoN side as well as representatives from the Partner Organisations (POs) Build Change, NRCS, and NSET. The HRRP technical coordination team is facilitating the TWG.

AUGUST

August 2018

131 Partner Organisations supporting housing recovery (NRA 5W)

14 August

Sushil Gyawali appointed as CEO of the NRA. Mr Gyawali has served as CEO of the NRA previously from 25 December 2015 to 11 January 2017

PO

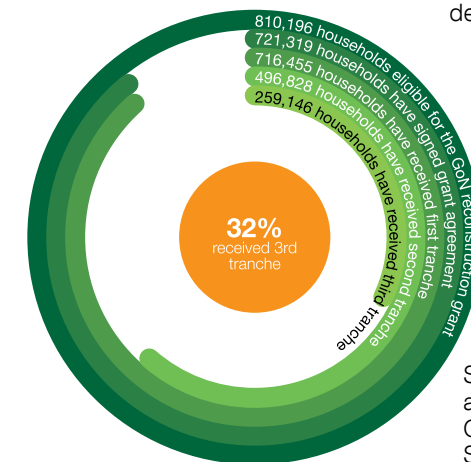
27 August

Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) launch mobile app providing information on municipalities, including news and contact details for officials.

SEPTEMBER

28 September

National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN) launch a mobile app providing information on rural municipalities, including news and contact details for officials



Source: Building and GMALI CLPIUs
September 2018

66,338 masons trained by POs and GoN (NRA 5W)

WET

Minimal construction during monsoon (June - September)

November 2018

HRRP and ASF Nepal survey in Ward No. 3, Aamo Chhindgimo Rural Municipality, Rasuwa (Gatlang) found that of the houses built under the housing reconstruction programme **71% are one room houses and 26.5% are two room houses.**

5 November

NRA meeting on 'Strategy for Training and Orientation on Housing Reconstruction' for municipalities and to put in place an adequate information dissemination framework from national to local level and vice versa.

October 2018

1-5 October

Members of the HRRP team represent the Nepal earthquake recovery at the **Global Shelter Cluster Annual Shelter Week** in Geneva Switzerland.

OCTOBER

Socio-Technical Assistance (STA) coverage
(NRA 5W)

186

municipalities with minimum package of STA

municipalities with no STA

1733



NOVEMBER

15 November

NRA approves **"Integrated Settlement Development procedure"**

NRA approves **Resurvey and Reverification procedure 2075**

131 Partner Organisations supporting housing recovery (NRA 5W)

PO

The Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project

Periodic Household Survey
(2580 Respondents)



72% feel their main reconstruction needs are being addressed

Now have the information they need to access reconstruction support

88%

December 2018

20 December

Government cabinet meeting passes the disaster risk management regulations paving the way for the establishment of the **National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority.**

20 December

Shelter Cluster Nepal Lessons Learned Workshop to review the cluster performance after the earthquake in order to contribute to improvements in cluster performance for future disasters.

23 November

UK Shelter Forum: NRA CEO, Sushil Gyewali, addressed the forum through a pre-recorded video and also answered questions via live video conference during the panel discussion on recovery in Nepal

21 December

Donor level meeting on 'Improving Support to the most Vulnerable': this meeting was organised by HRRP and the discussion was focused on how to better support vulnerable households through government in areas where there are no Partner Organisations (POs) and effective methods to disseminate effective solutions in collaboration with government and local authorities.

25 December

Third anniversary of the establishment of the National Reconstruction Authority

Honorable Prime Minister KP Oli laying the foundation stone of the Dharara tower as part of celebrating the third anniversary of the NRA.

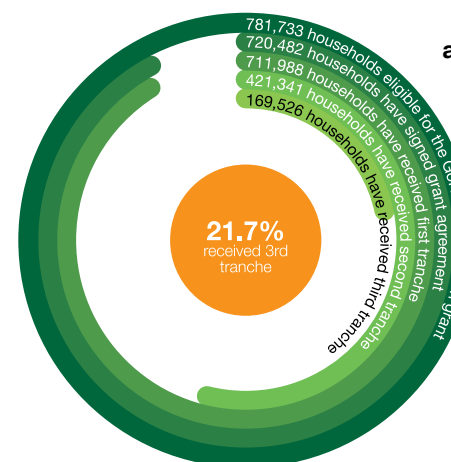


DECEMBER

26 November 2018 - 21 Jan 2019: District Level Reconstruction Orientation for affected districts; as part of this the NRA signed an MoU with all 21 districts

25 December

NRA Executive Committee Meeting approves **'Integrated Settlement Development Guideline 20175'**



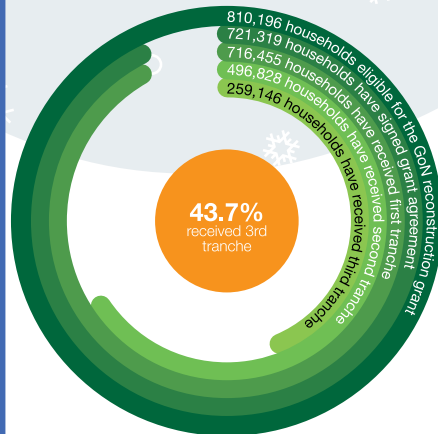
Source: Building and GMALI CLPIUs
November 2018

Construction challenges during Winter (November - February)

January 2019

4 January

NRA approves "Procedure for conservation, renovation and reconstruction of Gumba / Monastery / Stupa affected by earthquake"



Source: Building and GMALI CLPIUs
January 2019

February 2019

HRRP3 is extended for five months to run up to the end of July 2019.

4 February

Council of ministers agrees revisions to the 'Grant Disbursement Procedures for Private Houses Destroyed by the Earthquake (Second Amendment), 2075'.

7 February

NRA Hollow Concrete Block Manual is published.

13 February

Launch in Kathmandu of new ALNAP (Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action) lessons paper capturing learning from earthquake response worldwide over the past decade, including the 2015 Nepal earthquake response.



5-7 March

Nepal Red Cross Society holds 'Movement-Wide lessons learned workshop of the Nepal Post 2015 Earthquake Operation'

17 March

DLPIU technical staff go on strike, closing DLPIU offices and ceasing all work.



Engineers outside the locked DLPIU office in Gorkha.

29 March

NRA launches the final round of reverification and resurvey for households missed during previous surveys or who had registered a grievance related to the result of their previous survey.

JANUARY

Preparation and Review Workshops held in all 32 earthquake affected municipalities by the earthquake.

16 January

Earthquake Safety Day is celebrated across Nepal.

21 January

An interactive housing typology dashboard is launched on the HRRP website. The dashboard is available on the homepage of the website - www.hrrpnepal.org

29 January

16th Century old Char Narayan Temple at Patan Durbar Square restored.



Search and rescue simulation in Nuwakot as part of Earthquake Safety Day.

FEBRUARY

18 February

100th edition of the HRRP bulletin.

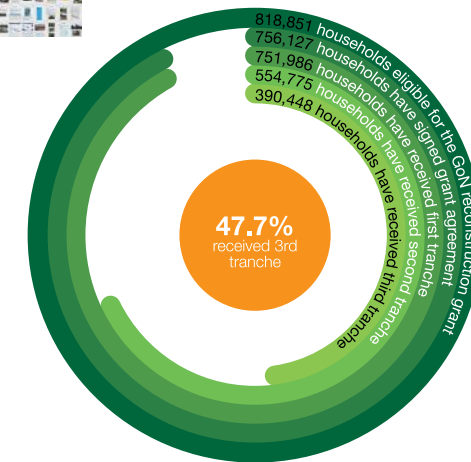
Report on 'Causes Behind Delays in Housing Reconstruction Progress in the Earthquake Housing Reconstruction Programme (EHRP), A Study of Rural Municipalities of Lalitpur' published by the NRA Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist for Lalitpur, Okhaldhunga, and Rasuwa.



19 February

Round table discussion on support to vulnerable households held by HRRP Vulnerable Support Working Group (VSWG).

MARCH



Source: Building and GMALI CLPIUs
March 2019

April 2019

8 April

NRA decides to provide grant to beneficiaries living in vulnerable settlement who have purchased land before February 04, 2019 through their own initiative.

18 April

GoN publishes **first ammendment of Unified Concessional Loan Guideline 2075.**

13 Partner Organisations supporting housing recovery (NRA 5W)

66,249 masons trained by POs and GoN, (NRA 5W)

PO



APRIL

Socio-Technical Assistance (STA) coverage (NRA 5W)

168

municipalities with minimum package of STA

municipalities with no STA

1674



May 2019

3 May

As of beginning of May, HRRP covered all 32 districts with cluster based approach.



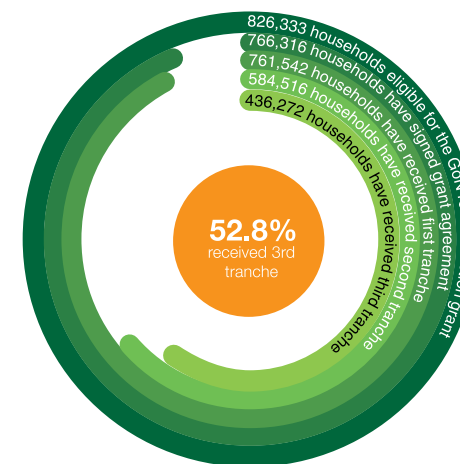
MAY

THE PATH TO HOUSING RECOVERY
NEPAL EARTHQUAKE 2015 HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION



13 May

HRRP timeline
The Path to Housing Recovery, Nepal Earthquake 2015 Housing Reconstruction, Fourth Anniversary Edition published.



Source: Building and GMALI CLPIUs June 2019

JUNE

June 2019

21 December

NRA decides to delist beneficiaries from the beneficiary list if they do not sign Partner Agreement and take the first tranche by July 06, 2019.

July 2019

2 July

NRA approves **procedure for providing private housing reconstruction grant to houses built immediately after earthquake and prior to deployment of engineers** and which are in compliance to earthquake resilient housing technology.

NRA approves **procedure on reconstruction of single or multi-owned private houses in heritage settlement.**

8 July

Compilation booklet of Acts, Policies and Procedures of NRA.

PO

13 Partner Organisations supporting housing recovery (NRA 5W)



68,807 masons trained by POs and GoN, (NRA 5W)

JULY

23 July

NRA removes the names of **57,309** beneficiaries from the beneficiary list.

Socio-Technical Assistance (STA) coverage (NRA 5W)

173

municipalities with minimum package of STA

municipalities with no STA

1668



August 2019

11 August

Rasuwa and Okhaldhunga becomes the districts with highest progress in reconstruction out of 14 most EQ affected districts. 83% of the beneficiaries have received tranche III in these districts.

21 August

Government of India provides the **reimbursement of NPR 245 Crore** to the reconstruction of Nepal.

AUGUST

26 August

HRRP publishes Reconstruction Facilitators at Local Level (English and Nepali)

A booklet to share the varied experiences of mayors, deputy mayors, ward chiefs, municipal chairpersons, and administrative and operation staff within District Level Programme Implementation Units (DLPIUs) in earthquake affected districts.



September 2019

1 September

Approval of **"Guidelines for hiring Social mobilizers and Mobile Masons on service contract."**

6 September

Dwalka bazar, Dolakha to be reconstructed as 'Heritage Settlement' with technical assistance provided by NSET.

MOU signed between **NRA, Kathmandu Valley Development Authority and Seoul Housing for the reconstruction** of the archaeologically important **Heritage Settlements at Sankhu, Bungmati, Khokana and surrounding areas.**

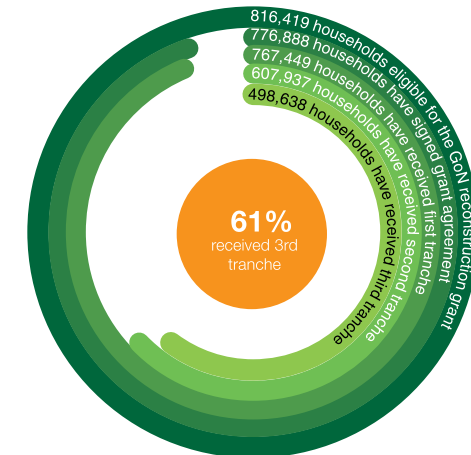


Photo: NRA

SEPTEMBER

26 September

HRRP fourth phase approved by the NRA Executive Committee.



Source: Building and GMALI CLPIUs September 2019

WET

Minimal construction during monsoon (June - September)

October 2019

9 October

Sharing of Nepal's reconstruction experiences and practices by HRRP in Global Shelter Forum held in Geneva.

11 October

Completion of 5063 schools out of 7200 Schools (70.32 % completion) destroyed by the Earthquake.



Photo: China-AID

23 October

Establishment of Urban Technical Working Group (UR-TWG) to support urban recovery and reconstruction.

25 October

MOU signed between Rastriya Baniya Bank and UKAid: Sakshyam to Finance to provide concessional loans to earthquake victims of Gorkha and Dhading.

OCTOBER

25 October

Sharing of Nepal's reconstruction experiences and practices in UK Shelter Forum by HRRP.

11 Partner Organisations supporting housing recovery (NRA 5W)

71,753 masons trained by POs and GoN, (NRA 5W)

PO



Socio-Technical Assistance (STA) coverage (NRA 5W)

173

municipalities with minimum package of STA

municipalities with no STA

1668



December 2019

Mr. Anil Pokharel appointed as **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA)**.

November 2019

4 November

Retrofitting of Department of Road Building, Babar Mahal begins.



Photo: Samanantar Nirman Sewa

NOVEMBER

15 November

GoN publishes **second amendment of Unified Concessional Loan Guideline 2075**.

Formation of International Conference Secretariat at NRA, Singha Durbar.



Photo: NDRRMA

2 December

NRA addresses grievances of 42,742 households adding 4,644 new beneficiaries.

6 December

Newly established National Research Centre for Building Technology (NRCBT) under DUDBC and Retrofit Alliance reviews on existing codes and guidelines on seismic assessment and retrofitting design practiced in Nepal.

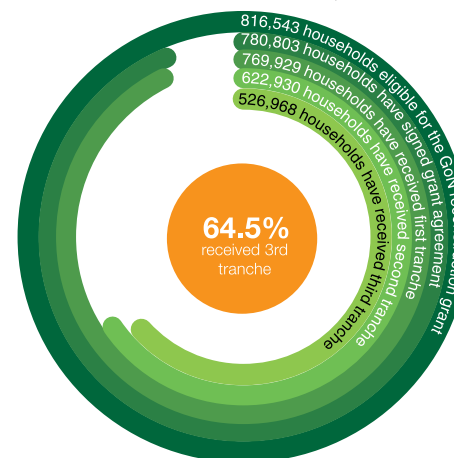
10 December

Urban Technical Working Group (UR-TWG) starts Qualitative Study on prioritizing urban issues

DECEMBER

20 December

Formation of **Retrofitting Technical Working Group**: Working group formed to support NRA, CLPIU Building to speed up retrofitting of buildings in earthquake affected areas through standardization of technical documents, solutions and approaches related to retrofitting. Five TWG meetings followed by Six internal working sessions.



Source: Building and GMALI CLPIUS December 2019

Construction challenges during Winter (November - February)

January 2020

8 January

NRA addresses grievances of 21,600 households.

16 January

22nd Earthquake Safety Day observed with theme “**Resilient infrastructures for sustained happiness and prosperity**”.



Photo: NRA

20 January

Inauguration of **50,000** houses constructed in Gorkha and Nuwakot using Government of India (GoI) fund.

February 2020

NRA notification on non-beneficiaries after thorough data analysis from the resurvey and reverification process conducted in 2075/2076.

4-7 February

Launch of **social mobilization training** for the social mobilizers of Kathmandu and Lalitpur. Subsequent trainings conducted in other 14 districts.

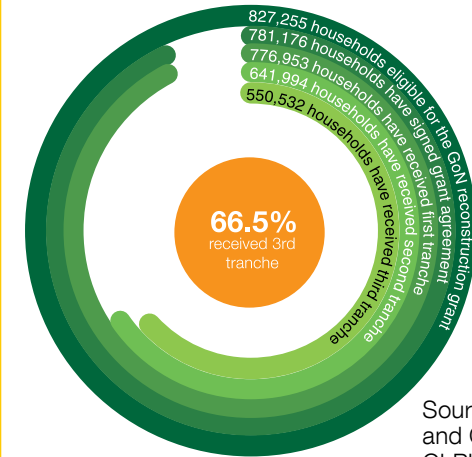


Photo: NRA

March 2020

17 March

NRA addresses a grievances of **13,385** households.



Source: Building and GMALI CLPIUs March 2020

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

9 Partner Organisations supporting housing recovery (NRA 5W)

PO

71,932 masons trained by POs and GoN, (NRA 5W)



Socio-Technical Assistance (STA) coverage (NRA 5W)

173

municipalities with minimum package of STA

municipalities with no STA

1667



24 March

Enforcement of Nationwide lockdown to curb COVID-19 (Coronavirus) global pandemic.



Photo: Prakash Mathema / AFP

COVID-19
NATION-WIDE LOCKDOWN

Construction challenges during Nation-wide Lockdown due to COVID-19 crisis

COVID-19

NATION-WIDE LOCKDOWN



April 2020

1-14 April

Publication of **COVID-19 Municipal Assessment (Rapid Municipal-Level Needs and Gap Assessment Report)** by HRRP.

6 Partner Organisations supporting housing recovery (NRA 5W)

75,220 masons trained by POs and GoN, (NRA 5W)



23 April

Fifth memorial day of Gorkha Earthquake 2015 commemorated with theme **"The pathway towards Resilience: a reflection on Nepal's reconstruction and the future."**



HRRP and NRA jointly organized first webinar session to commemorate fifth memorial day of the Gorkha Earthquake 2015.

June 2020

Publication of **Impact of COVID-19 on Post Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction** by HRRP.

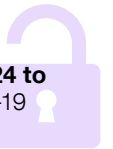


1 June

NRA addresses a grievances of **84,146** households.

15 June

Enforcement of lockdown from **March 24 to June 15** to curb transmission of COVID-19 infection. Partial Lockdown still in effect.



APRIL

MAY

JUNE

Socio-Technical Assistance (STA) coverage (NRA 5W)

187

municipalities with minimum package of STA

municipalities with no STA

1662



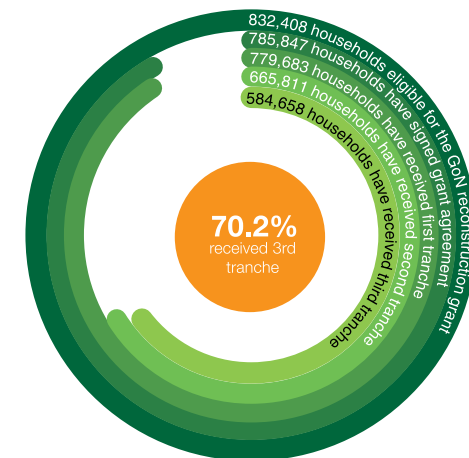
29 May

NRA adopts procedural guideline to ensit in reconstruction beneficiary incase of damage to his / her house destroyed during demolition process.

NRA steering committee approves safety standards to be maintained to minimize the COVID-19 infection during reconstruction process.



Photo: NRA



Source: Building and GMALI CLPIUs
June 2020

July 2020

1 July

Ministry of Home Affairs releases Disaster Victim Rescue and Relief guideline (7th amendment), 2077.

8 July

Webinar and sharing session of “**Four Lessons from the 2015 Nepal Earthquake Housing Recovery**” organized by HRRP jointly with Habitat for Humanity - Nepal.



August 2020

9 August

Government of Nepal approves “**Updated National Building Code 105:2020**” replacing “National Building Code 105:1994”. National Building Code has been updated with criteria, including structural designs, necessary to ensure all types of buildings are constructed safe and earthquake-resilient.

13 August

Publication of **Urban Housing Recovery Compilation of Case Studies from Nepal and Beyond** published by HRRP.



September 2020

22 September

NRA Steering Committee recommends **one year extension for NRA**.

The 17th meeting of the NRA Steering Committee held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli recommended to extend one year tenure to the NRA.



Photo: NRA

24 September

GoN publishes **Unified Concessional Loan Guideline 2075 - third amendment**.

25 September

Launch of **House Cost Calculator** web application developed by CRS, NSET and HRRP and supported by House Cost Technical Working group including PIN, PA, Build Up Nepal.



JULY

7 Partner Organisations supporting housing recovery (NRA 5W)

PO

75,220 masons trained by POs and GoN, (NRA 5W)



AUGUST

13 August

Urban Technical Working Group (UR-TWG) together with NRA and CLPIU Building conducts Enumerator's workshop for NRA engineers and starts **Quantitative Study** for identification of urban housing recovery issues.

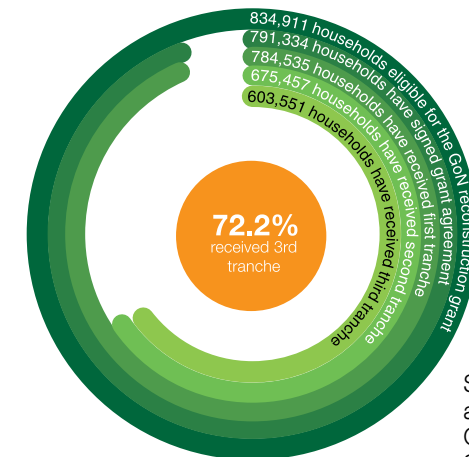
24-27 August

Web-based National Symposium on Nepal's Reconstruction (NSNR-2020) held from 24- 27 August 2020



Photo: NRA

SEPTEMBER



Source: Building and GMALI CLPIUs
September 2020

WET

Minimal construction during monsoon (June - September)

October 2020

21 October

China-Aid hands over **Shree Durbar High School** to NRA.

NRA hands over **Shree Durbar High School** and **Ranipokhari** including Balgopaleshwor temple to Kathmandu Metropolitan City.



Photo: Harishjung Chettri/ Barakhari

OCTOBER



Photo: Prime Minister's Secretariat

Rt. Hon President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari and Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Mr. K.P Sharma Oli inaugurates Balgopaleshwor temple located at Rani Pokhari premises in Kathmandu.



Photo: Durbar High School

November 2020

3 November

House Cost Calculator mobile app developed by CRS, NSET and HRRP and supported by House Cost Technical Working group including PIN, PA, Build Up Nepal launched in playstore.



6 November

NRA decides final grant disbursement deadline:

- Partnership agreement by **15 December 2020**.
- First tranche by **30 December 2020**.
- Second tranche by **12 February 2021**.
- Third tranche by **14 May 2021**.

NOVEMBER

27-28 November

NRA organised **Web-based Seminar on its achievements in Recovery and Reconstruction - Experience and Learning-2020**.

29 November

Nepal organised **Virtual & Abridged fourth Asia Shelter Forum 2020**.



Asia Shelter Forum 2020 (Virtual & Abridged):
The fourth Asia Shelter Forum 2020 was held in Nepal on 29 November 2020. It was virtual and abridged due to COVID-19 Pandemic situation. The Asia Shelter Forum will be held face-to-face in April 2021 in Kathmandu if COVID-19 pandemic situation allows. The program was hosted by the Government of Nepal, led by Ministry of Urban Development with support from National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC), and Asia Shelter Forum Organizing Committee Members namely HRRP, CRS, IFRC, EU, IOM, Habitat for Humanity and NGO Federation Nepal.

Photo credit: NRA



Shyala (3600m) Northern Gorkha, Nepal:

"A home in the lap of the Himalayas is always beautiful. All you have to do is love it and make it cozy, comfortable and safe."

A house under construction by one of the housing beneficiaries, Ms. Lakhpa Chenzom Lama at Shyala (3600m), in Gorkha district.

Left: old damaged dry stone masonry house.

Right: is her new house under construction with dry stone masonry and earthquake resilience wooden seismic band.

She has received her third tranche.

Photo credit: Tshering Lama (Cover Image)

"The quality of the housing reconstruction will determine how the overall reconstruction is viewed, if the housing reconstruction is well managed and effective then the reconstruction programme will be considered a success."

General Nadeem

Retired Director of the Pakistan ERRA

Speaking with Shelter Cluster partners on 8 October 2015

Conclusion

In the fifth year of the recovery from April 2015 Gorkha Earthquake significant results have been achieved in terms of housing recovery. This year also provides an opportunity to remember the tragic loss of life and immense destruction to housing and infrastructure across such a large part of Nepal. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on the many positives of the recovery process to date; more than 1.85 billion USD has been disbursed to earthquake affected households by the Government of Nepal (GoN) through housing reconstruction and retrofit grants, more than 3,000 technical staff have been deployed by the GoN to carry out inspections and provide socio-technical assistance to households, more than 71,932 masons have been trained, a comprehensive geo-hazard risk assessment has been completed by the NRA and as of November 2020, 2,569 of households eligible for the GoN relocation grant have resettled and a further 1,498 are in the process of resettling, the government has agreed revisions to policy and procedures to improve access to financial assistance, and international donors and Partner Organisations have provided significant support to the GoN for the reconstruction efforts.

However reconstruction is not over yet and still a lot needs to be done. It is important to understand that remaining caseloads are spread out through different context and nature. Lot of work is still remaining in urban areas where disaster took place. Many of the vulnerable households are yet to complete reconstruction or to even start it. In addition, progress with retrofitting beneficiaries is still negligible. One positive initiative this year has been the deployment of 236 number of social mobilizers and 774 number of mobile masons in 14 districts. They are deployed to provide social and technical assistance to households and targeted support to vulnerable households to jointly reconstruct

their house with support from community. Another positive outcome this year is approval of the “Updated National Building Code 105:2020” to replace the existing “National Building Code 105:1994”. The National Building Code has been updated with criteria, including structural designs, necessary to ensure all types of buildings are constructed safe and earthquake-resilient.

Along with the priority to complete the remaining work, This is also a year to reflect on what lessons have been learned from the earthquake recovery so far, and to look at how these can be institutionalised to support an improved recovery process over the coming years, and for future disasters. The process of documenting lessons learned is never easy. And institutionalisation of those lessons learned and good practices into various government and non-government entities is even more difficult. It can be like a marriage of knowledge with practice and culture. This year NRA has started documenting experience, lessons learnt and communicating them with an intention to institutionalize learning in government systems. NRA has conducted a National Symposium on Nepal’s Reconstruction in August 2020 followed by web-based seminar on “NRA’s achievements in Recovery and Reconstruction Experiences and Learning-2020 in conjunction with the Asia Shelter Forum 2020” in November 2020 with the expectation of hosting face to face International Conference on Nepal’s Reconstruction with Asia-Pacific Shelter Forum in April 2021.

On 22 September 2020, 17th meeting of the NRA Steering Committee chaired by the Prime Minister, K.P. Oli, extended NRA for one more year considering the COVID-19 pandemic and remaining reconstruction tasks. The NRA is mandated to complete remaining reconstruction works in the first six months of the extended term while it will audit

“Leadership and coordination in a single programme: Vision and leadership by Government, coordination between all assistance actors, consensus on complementary roles and clear objectives, and in a spirit of collaboration and common purpose. Instead of a multitude of projects, all agencies implemented the same programme using resources efficiently to cover the entire affected area.”

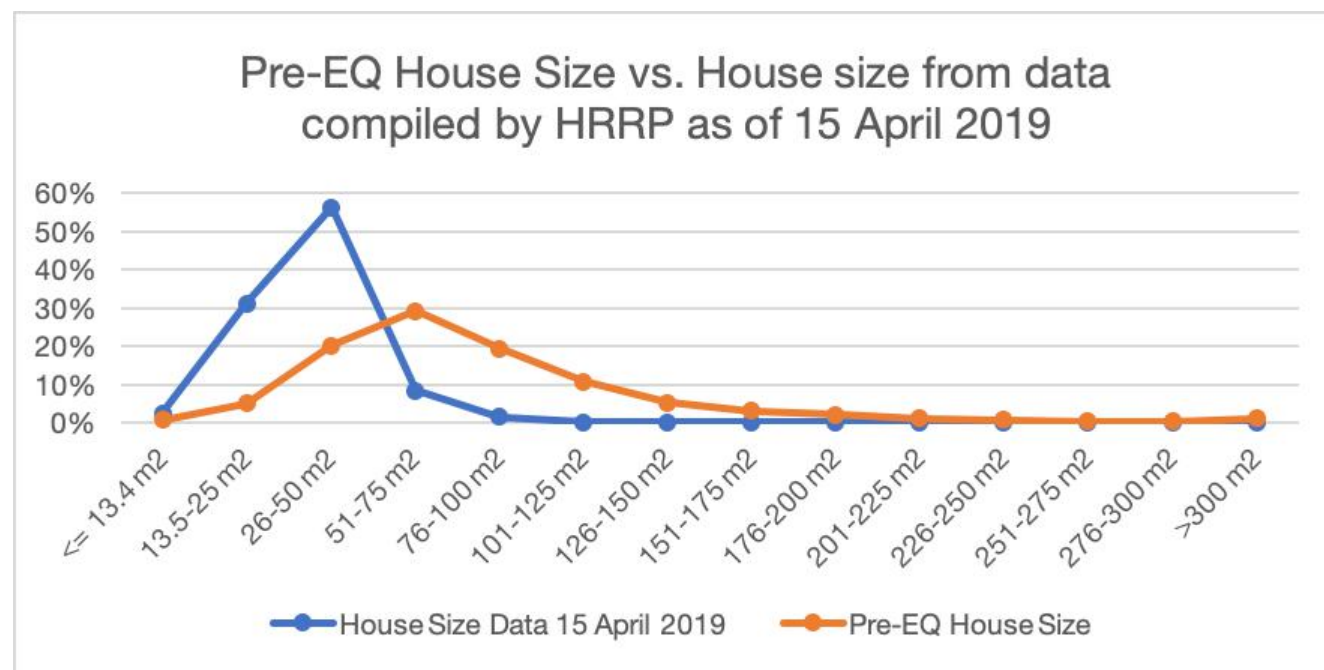
Kashmir Earthquake 2005, Learning from The Shelter Response and Rural Housing Recovery
Habib Mughal, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed, Hamid Mumtaz,
Babar Tanwir, Sumera Bilal, Maggie Stephenson

all its income and expenditure and handover its works to various government agencies concerned and local level in the remaining six month period. According to the NRA, all reconstruction and retrofitting beneficiaries must apply to their respective local body for the third or last installation of the grant by mid-May 2021. According to the NRA this would be the final deadline for processing the grant.

Big disasters drive change, and that change is generally not just in terms of the physical structures that are rebuilt but also in terms of the social and cultural aspects of housing and settlements. For example, data on house size compiled by the HRRP provides the following information on how house size has changed in earthquake affected areas since the 2011 census.

The graph clearly indicates that house sizes are generally becoming smaller under the reconstruction, where more information is required is on the social and cultural impacts of this. Are there more houses being built, representing a move away from joint family living? Are there changes occurring in how houses are used or designed? Or are people planning to extend these small houses in future? If so, what information will they need to access to make sure that any extension does not impact the earthquake resilience of their house? Certainly the post-recovery phase will have to address these issues. The need of technical assistance will be still relevant in the post-recovery phase with clear incremental construction guidelines to be used if the homeowners decide to extend vertically as well as horizontally. The risk of unsafe extension has to be avoided. The GoN efforts in continuing the technical assistance through local government i.e. municipalities, is very important for ensuring safe extension and promoting the retrofitting of old damaged structures.

It may also be interesting to review how the past 20 years of work in Nepal on building code implementation and safer construction has influenced the housing reconstruction happening now. This may allow for greater understanding of how the housing reconstruction might influence the next 20 years of work in Nepal on building code implementation and safer construction. This is particularly important in terms of working to ensure that initiatives to improve construction practices under the reconstruction are sufficiently institutionalised and sustainable to have a wider effect on construction practices throughout Nepal. Key to this will be supporting, and crucially retaining, the government staff currently working on the housing reconstruction. The municipal and ward officials as well as the 1000s of technical staff that have been deployed in earthquake affected areas could have a positive role to play in building code implementation beyond the reconstruction. There is huge scope for exchange visits and learning events to provide opportunity for discussion and sharing that could extend the



impact of the reconstruction beyond the earthquake affected districts. But this requires investment in facilitating this type of process, and more urgently local officials and technical staff need support in terms of continuous mentoring and training opportunities.

municipal or even ward level authorities. This process should be institutionalized through the NRA Exit Strategy to develop the process into a culture of policies and practices to be followed by local authority linking with MoUD and municipal building code implementation plans.

One important question in the fifth year is - what should be the NRA's focus in its final one year period in regards to housing recovery? The answer may not be straightforward due to the context and nature of the remaining caseloads. The National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) should work together with its prime successors: National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) and the Municipalities to explore menus of solutions for safe extension and retrofitting with an offer to households with free of cost regular socio-technical assistance by developing the household level extension/retrofitting plan monitored and supported by



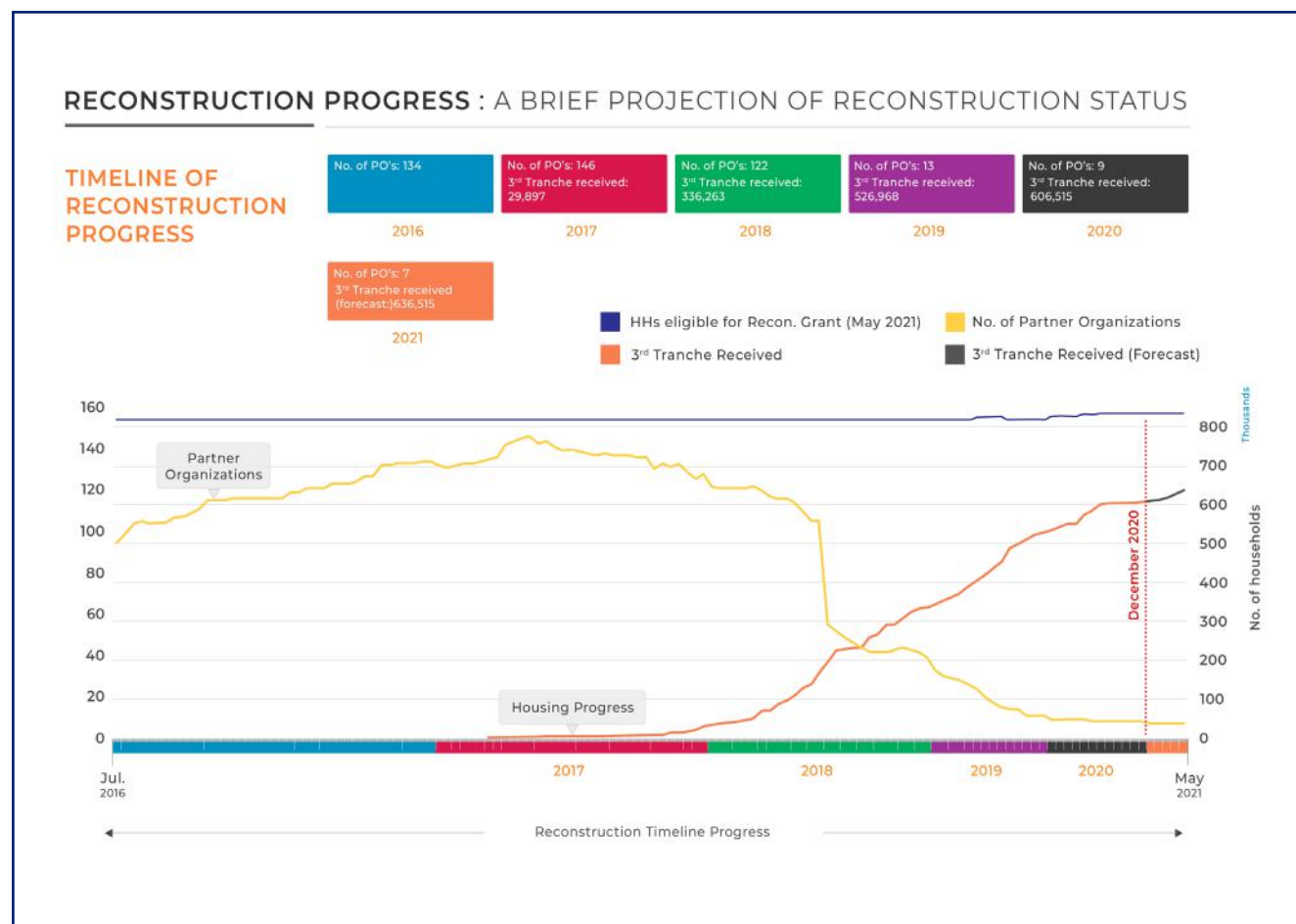
Ward no. 6, Mahalaxmi Municipality, A home for two - with success as Multi-ownership housing beneficiaries in historic settlement of Kathmandu valley: *Tulsi Bahadur Nemkul and his sister-in-law Pancha Maya Nemkul had decided to sell their ancestral plot of land where they earlier used to farm to raise money for reconstructing their damaged house. A lot of beneficiaries in this ward opted to sell their houses or farmlands to rebuild their houses rather than seeking loans from financial institutions, thus affecting their livelihoods. They came to know that they were eligible for the government's grant of rupees three hundred thousand each, rupees six hundred thousand in total, under the multi-ownership private shelter reconstruction approved by the National Reconstruction Authority. The Nemkul duo decided to use the grant and construct their house with traditional Newari architecture. The grant provided them with much needed respite although it wasn't enough. They are the only beneficiaries in their wards to have completed reconstruction and receive all government tranches. Today, they have a strong and resilient house that fulfills their need of a secure abode.*

“In reconstruction, it is better to have 100,000 people each concerned about one house than to have 100 people concerned about 10,000 houses.

George Soraya, World Bank

Whilst there has been huge progress made on the housing reconstruction over the past five years, there are still many tasks left. There are more than 186,000 households who have signed the partnership agreement and yet to receive the third, and final, tranche of the government's financial assistance for housing reconstruction. However, the sixth anniversary is coming at a time when interest and support for the housing reconstruction in Nepal is dropping significantly. The number of Partner Organisations (POs) supporting housing recovery has gone from more than 120 in late 2016 and early 2017 to 35 by March 2019 and less than 11 by Oct 2020. It is a huge achievement on behalf of the Government of Nepal to be getting financial assistance out to more than 834,000 households and to have established all the policies and guidelines required to do that; and to put in place the 1000s of engineers needed to manage the process. But that took time. And it took households time to prepare and plan before starting reconstruction - some households are still taking their time to plan before starting and some will need additional time because their recovery process is more complicated. Whilst much of the early support from POs on areas such as mason training and demonstration construction has been very positive, and should be encouraged, the limitations in coverage of technical assistance provided by POs as well as the drop off in this support at a key moment in the reconstruction represents a challenge.

Certainly the task is still not over. And since Nepal will next year proceed into the post-recovery phase, priorities should be in - developing further housing recovery policies; developing shelter, housing and construction standards; training and capacity development of human resources; enforcing planning and building regulations; institutionalising capacities from the recovery, (including staff, systems, learning); institutionalising data from recovery (including standards, guidance, curricula, maps), linkage and transition to disaster preparedness and transfer recovery experience within the country.



“If we aim to ensure people are supported to take informed action, whether through building codes or other measures, we should anticipate an iterative process that is continuously learning, responding to opportunities and challenges.”

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