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

Get Involved!

Visit the HRRP website hrrpnepal.org

Subscribe to the HRRP mailing list bit.ly/3aQJbRC

Follow the HRRP Flickr page (and share photos!) @hrrp_im

Like our Facebook page @HRRPNepal

Follow us on Twitter @hrrp_nepal

Primary Funding:
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.

Key principles for reconstruction as identified in the PDNA:

- Reconstruction should empower communities to take control of their recovery 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

1939
10 municipalities in Nepal

1959
10 municipalities in Nepal

1987
Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning established

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 (UDDBC) 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.

1992
26 new municipalities declared, brings total to 36

1993
26 new municipalities declared, brings total to 36

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”.

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.

1994
Nepal National Building Code published

NSET (registered as an NGO in 1994)
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).

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.


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.

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).

2000

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

2005

18-22 January


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

2008

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

2009

May

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).

MoFALD produces ‘Guidelines for the formulation of District Disaster Management Plans’

18 May

Ministry of Urban Development formed

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.

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.

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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

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

2011-2015

2011

MoFALD produces Local Disaster Risk Management Planning (LDRMP) guidelines for municipalities and VDCs

2012

2013
9

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

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

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.

2015

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

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

25 June
Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) launched

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

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

25 April 2015
M7.6 earthquake, 11:56 NST epicentre Gorkha
8,790 people died
22,300 people injured

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

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)

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 (2100+ Respondents)

Periodic Household Survey

Do not feel their main reconstruction needs are being addressed
72%

Do not have the information they need to access reconstruction support
51%

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.

Periodic Household Survey (2100+ Respondents)

Do not feel their main reconstruction needs are being addressed
74%

Do not have the information they need to access reconstruction support
67%

Shelter Cluster Recovery and Reconstruction Working Group (RRWG) launched

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

July 2015
Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project

Periodic Household Survey
(2100+ Respondents)

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

**JULY**

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

**AUGUST**

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

**SEPTEMBER**

2015

September 2015 – March 2016, unrest in the Terai

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)

Do not feel their main reconstruction needs are being addressed
72%

Do not have the information they need to access reconstruction support
51%

Shelter Cluster Recovery and Reconstruction Working Group (RRWG) launched

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”.

DUDBC Design Catalogue Vol. 1

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

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)

12

31 December

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

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)
Construction challenges during Winter (November - February)

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.

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.

BBC Media Action research

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

62 Partner Organisations supporting housing reconstruction (HRRP 4w)
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
- 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.

June 2016
- GoN deploys 2,500+ engineers, sub-engineers, and assistant sub-engineers supporting housing reconstruction in 14 worst affected districts.
- 68 Partner Organisations supporting housing reconstruction (HRRP 4W)
- Do not feel their main reconstruction needs are being addressed
  - 82%
- Do not know how to access reconstruction support
  - 62%
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

WET

Minimal construction during monsoon (June - September)

September 2016

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

November 2016

Photos: IOM

Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project

Periodic Household Survey (2100+ Respondents)

74% Do not feel their main reconstruction needs are being addressed

67% Do not have the information they need to access reconstruction support
November 2016

Inspection guidelines and associated Inspection Forms published by NRA.

25 November

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 2016

Community Reconstruction Committees Directive published by NRA

2016

Photo: HRRP Nepal

December 2016

Photo: Ballyo Ghar, NSET
Construction challenges during Winter (November - February)

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

25 January
Socio-Technical Assistance (STA) coverage (HRRP 4w)

9 VDCs with minimum package of STA
171 VDCs with no STA

31 January
Cabinet approves first revision to NRA NGO Mobilisation Guidelines

February 2017

Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project
Periodic Household Survey (2100+ Respondents)

55% Do not feel their main reconstruction needs are being addressed
58% Now have the information they need to access reconstruction support

March 2017

81 Partner Organisations supporting housing reconstruction (HRRP 4w)

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.

176,428 households surveyed with system in which local village and municipal authorities certify households as earthquake affected.

Phase 3 of the HRRP launched, led by CRS Nepal
**April 2017**
- 7 April: Cabinet approves second revision to NRA NGO Mobilisation Guidelines
- 24 April: Socio-Technical Assistance (STA) coverage (HRRP 4W)

**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)
- 15 May: First phase of local elections. The ToR set out for Locally Elected Bodies. Inspections for houses constructed with dry stone masonry published by NRA.
- 16 May: Partnership Agreements process begins in 18 moderately affected districts with households eligible for reconstruction grant
- 14 May: Corrections and Exceptions Manual published by NRA.

**June 2017**
- 23 June: Criteria for purchasing habitable lands for earthquake victims published by MoFALD CLPIU.
- 27 June: Procedures for interest-free loans to earthquake victims based on collective guarantee published by NRA

**Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project**
- Periodic Household Survey (2100+ Respondents)
- 53% Feel their main reconstruction needs are being addressed
- 75% Have the information they need to access reconstruction support

**Source:** MoFALD June 2017
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

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

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).
  - August 2017
    - Relocation and Rehabilitation of Hazard-prone Settlements procedures published by NRA
    - Flooding. 12 districts heavily affected.
      - 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

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

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

Source: MoFALD

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.

**October 2017**
- **23 October**
  - Mr. Yuburaj Bhusal appointed NRA CEO
- **7 November**
  - Inspection form for houses constructed with sundried bricks published by NRA.

**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)

**November 2017**
- **26 November**
  - First phase of federal and provincial elections.

**December 2017**
- **7 December**
  - Second 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

**2018**
- **21 November**
  - Clearing Away the Rubble: Moving Beyond Blockages to Reconstruction Progress launched (HRRP and Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project)

**Number of VDCs**
- **26** VDCs with minimum package of STA (HRRP 4W)
- **134** VDCs with no STA

Source: MoFALD December 2017
Construction challenges during Winter (November - February)

9 February
Deceased 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.

March 2018

March 2018

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

Light Timber / Steel Frame Structure Manual published by NRA.

9 February

697,635 households have signed grant agreement
659,282 have received the second tranche
60,003 have received the third tranche

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.

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

The Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project
Periodic Household Survey (2580 Respondents)

68%
Feel their main reconstruction needs are being addressed

85%
Have the information they need to access reconstruction support

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.

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.
2018

WET

Minimal construction during monsoon (June - September)

**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 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

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

- **August 2018**

  - **PO**

**September 2018**

- **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%.

- **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.

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
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.

2018

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

25 December
Third anniversary of the establishment of the National Reconstruction Authority

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
NRA Executive Committee Meeting approves 'Integrated Settlement Development Guideline 20175'
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".

- 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.

**February 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.

- 18 February
  100th edition of the HRRP bulletin.

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

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

**March 2019**

- 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.

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

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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 amendment of Unified Concessional Loan Guideline 2075.

May 2019

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

13 Partner Organisations supporting housing recovery (NRA 5W)

APRIL

May 2019

13 May
HRRP timeline

June 2019

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

Source: Building and GMALI CLPIUs June 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.

13 Partner Organisations supporting housing recovery (NRA 5W)

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

**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.

**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.

**2019**

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.

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

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

November 2019

4 November
Retrofitting of Department of Road Building, Babar Mahal begins.

15 November
GoN publishes second amendment of Unified Concessional Loan Guideline 2075.

December 2019

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

4 November
Sharing of Nepal’s reconstruction experiences and practices in UK Shelter Forum by HRRP.

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

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.
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".

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.

March 2020

17 March
NRA addresses grievances of 13,385 households.

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

May 2020

1 May
NRA decides to provide additional top-up support grant of NRs. 50,000 to vulnerable beneficiaries.

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."

29 May
NRA adopts procedural guideline to enlist 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.

June 2020

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.

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

July 2020

17 July
Publication of COVID-19 National Storage and Distribution Plan (First Update) by HRRP.

NRA Steering Committee approves the National Storage and Distribution Plan (First Update).
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

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.

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)

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

SEPTMBER

72.2% received 3rd tranche

Source: Building and GMALI CLPIUs September 2020

Photo: NRA
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.

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.

27-28 November

29 November

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

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.
"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 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 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.

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 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.
"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."

Reconstruction as Transformation
Southasiadisasters.net, Issue No. 171