



National Reconstruction Authority

REBUILDING NEPAL

"Build Back Better"



PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS RECONSTRUCTION CAMPAIGN

In two years after the devastating earthquake that destroyed over 765,000 homes, reconstruction of private houses has gathered pace.

As of latest data, 632,047 beneficiaries have signed for the grant agreement, from which 603,072 have collected the first tranche whereas only 56,687 beneficiaries

have received the second. Similarly, NRA's focus is continuous strengthening of executing and implementation agencies, also special priority is given to build schools, health centers and public infrastructures.

This fiscal year 2017/18 is seen as the year of reconstruction, targets are to complete the reconstruction of private households and public infrastructures within the specified timeframe. To speed up the grant distribution procedures, the Authority has disbursed second and third installment in advance at the local level.

The work target of NRA for this fiscal year is enlisted below:

- Devolution and allocation of reconstruction work among the newly elected local representatives in respective districts.
- To speed up the grant distribution process, necessary technical assistance will be disbursed in affected districts.
- Required technical and economic support will be provided to shift the vulnerable settlements to safer locations.
- Several programs on livelihoods will be continued, including agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation etc.
- NRs. 50,000 additional grant or technical support (or both) to build earthquake resilient houses in compliance with the

prescribed standards to single women, dalits, elderly and differently able-person.

- Grant distribution procedures simplified for marginalized and poor affected families. The authority will continue to build marginalized and poor families house during the on the job training.
- NRA has simplified the process and implemented a new working procedure 2017 on grievances readdress & management related to building private households, major physical infrastructures, and socio-economic rehabilitation.
- Publication of correction/exception manual for masonry structures.
- Plans brought to build houses as per the cultural and historic architect in all of the affected ancient settlements.
- Plan to build integrated settlements in scattered areas.
- Retrofitting the age-old historic building Singhadurbar and other historic infrastructures; retrofitting will be carried out in all 31 affected districts.
- Partnership with private sectors to facilitate the easy access of reconstruction materials.
- Additional amount will be provided to buy lands to the landless beneficiaries.

Similarly, the National Reconstruction Authority has set the deadline to collect the

private households grants. The beneficiaries should collect entire tranche within mid July 2018.

This decision has come to inform the beneficiaries that grant distribution for private housing is not indefinite.

NRA has disbursed 13 billion in quake-affected districts six months ago with a hope that the beneficiaries will collect second and third tranche. Moreover, the NRA has also set deadlines for various other sectors, the grievances should be registered by Mid February 2018, the identification of vulnerable households and beneficiaries to be completed by August 31, 2018.

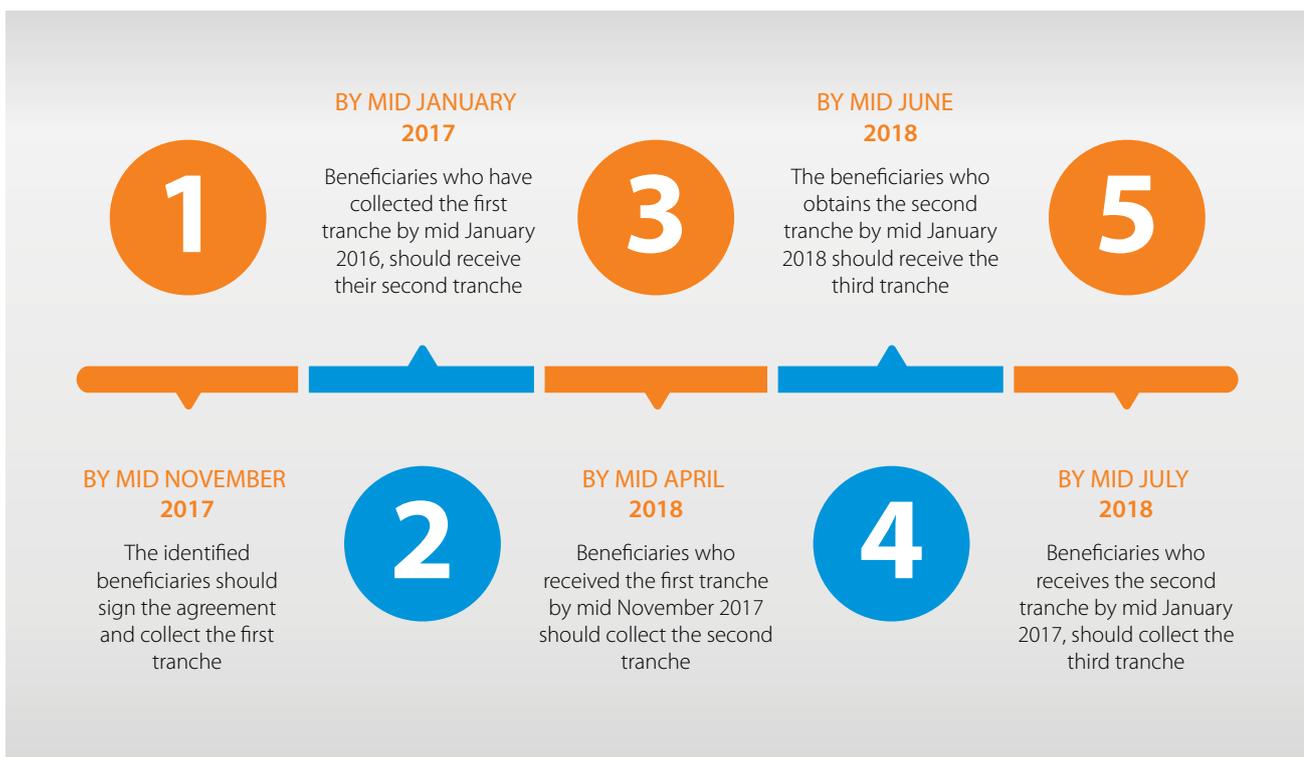
The vulnerable settlements in Kerouja of Gorkha, Selang of Sindhupalchowk, Khalte of Rasuwa, Urleni of Nuwakot and Bosimpa of Dolakha will be shifted by mid October 2017.

By 2020 NRA will complete the reconstruction of all the health infrastructures, till date 230 has been completed. The reconstruction of all the public infrastructures is targeted to complete by 2020.

Likewise, the Authority has implemented the working procedure that gives power to the local representatives at the local level to redress the grievances registered in their respective regions. NRA officials are frequently coordinating with local representatives to build private households in their respective regions. The authority has taken a series of proactive measures to assist women and people from poor and marginalized communities at the local level.

The mass re-construction activity post-earthquake is not merely a technical issue. It is interlinked with the social, economic and above all human behavior and attitude. NRA alone cannot achieve the targeted goals, it is a collective effort.

The key partner in reconstruction is general public. Rebuilding and reconstruction of private households will not move ahead if the beneficiaries fail to take the initiation. Beneficiaries should rebuild their houses. NRA is here to provide monetary assistance of Rs. 3 lakh and technical assistance to encourage and support the rebuilding.



RECONSTRUCTION'S ASTONISHING RISE

- YAM LAL BHOOSAL

The National Reconstruction Authority is deploying every means at its disposal to ensure speedy disbursement of housing grants and availability of human resources and materials so that no private house damaged or destroyed by the great earthquake is left behind.



TARGET BEYOND PHYSICAL RECONSTRUCTION

The Authority is taking the lead to rebuild and rehabilitate the quake survivors. Reconstructing the destroyed public & private structures in stronger and safer manner has been the focus. Equally, the rehabilitation of survivors is another major target of NRA. We aim to build private households, schools, health institutions, public structures, cultural heritages, roads and drinking water. We are also working to shift the risky and vulnerable settlements. Building physical structures is not only our aim, our goal is to provide livelihood trainings and rehabilitate the quake-survivors.

Reconstruction is not only physical reconstruction but also social, economic and emotional rebuilding and restoration.

SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION SURVEY

So far we have completed all the household survey and verification. A total 996,162 houses were surveyed. 765,618 from 31 earthquake hit districts have been identified for grant agreement, among these more than 99 percent have signed the agreement and 95.41 percent have taken the first tranche. 47 thousands households construction has been completed and 118 thousands are on-going reconstruction.

The survey conducted is the second biggest after the population survey. Around 600 thousand people have opened bank account. This is the record in the banking history.

CHALLENGES TO RECONSTRUCTION

The major challenge for reconstruction is to pursue the beneficiaries to build their houses. One of the things to be clear here is that it is the people who have to build their houses, not NRA or any other government institutions. The Authority will provide assistance of Rs.

300,000 and technical support to the beneficiaries. The Authority will thrive only when the beneficiaries strive to build their households.

Another major challenge for the Authority is to provide adequate human resources and technical assistance. There is a lack of enough human resources in the market. The irony is that many youths are migrating abroad in search of employments whereas there is reconstruction lack of human resources for reconstruction. If only we can bridge this gap, reconstruction would foster.

Almost all grievances has been redressed, remaining other grievances have not been registered which is another challenge for NRA. Duplication of grievances and registration of beneficiaries is no exception. Coordination with major government agencies is an additional challenge.

RECONSTRUCTION IS TAKING PACE

We are certain that reconstruction is taking pace; we are determined to scale reconstruction during this fiscal year. We can certainly claim this on the following basis:

From the aforementioned number of private households built and ongoing construction. The corrective and exception manual designed to accommodate the households that are constructed without following the standard.



The budget of fiscal year 2074/75 has come into effect. We have speed up our work to implement the budget.

The local election is another major hope for reconstruction at the local level; it will ease and speed up the reconstruction work. The work will be decentralized among the authorities of the respective quake-affected districts.

Mobilization of manpower, grievances registration and readdressing, grant distribution, livelihood trainings will be decentralized among the local authorities. Additionally, NRA plans to include local government authorities to ensure the reconstruction scales up. When the regional and local level includes reconstruction into their prime priority, the reconstruction is sure to move forward. To meet our target of building private households, we have set time limitation for

second tranche for the beneficiaries who have taken first tranche. Similarly, to simplify the distribution of second installment, the local authorities are including the timeframe for the beneficiaries for the collection of second tranche in their reconstruction mandate.

CONCLUSION

Reconstruction is a joint effort: The NRA is always willing to remove the hurdles to ensure timely reconstruction. To meet the target of reconstruction of private households, the willingness of beneficiaries is a prime requirement. For this the role of central authority and district units is equally imperative.

Reconstruction will not only reconstruct the physical structures but will also reconstruct the economy of entire Nepal. *(Spokesperson, NRA)*

HELPLINE FOR QUERIES ON RECONSTRUCTION

National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) launched a toll free on June 1, 2017. The callers can use the helpline, available 24/7, by dialing and registering their queries or complaints at 616-72000-01, and NCell users at 98015-72111, according to the NRA. The calls will be responded within 24 hours.

The helpline numbers are geared at providing timely, relevant and accurate information on safe building practices to beneficiaries and clarifying any confusion to

do with adapting the principles of resilient construction.

The helpline would be useful for hundreds of thousands of all concerned people across the country in establishing communication with the NRA offices. The United Nations Development Program has provided financial and technical assistance for the service.



The helpline is aimed to help the NRA understand local level issues in its post-quake reconstruction tasks.

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

RECONSTRUCTION GEARED TO ACHIEVE SOCIAL INCLUSION

The 2015 earthquake caused widespread damage, going far beyond the destruction of houses, buildings and other infrastructure. People who were hit the hardest belonged to marginalized and vulnerable groups, including the poor, the disabled, women, Dalits, children and the landless. The Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) report has identified that the quake increased the vulnerability of these groups and that nearly a million people may have fallen below the poverty line.

To expedite rebuilding in the 14 hardest-hit districts, the Authority has introduced new policies to include women and Dalits in the district level committees on reconstruction. The Authority has made it mandatory for all public buildings to be disabled-friendly. The Authority is going to work closely with the local leaders to make sure that everyone is included in our quest to complete reconstruction quickly. To ensure better communication with the quake-survivors from different communities, the NRA's radio jingles have been translated into local languages too.

The local governments elections is finally over in earthquake affected areas. The women including Dalit women in each ward, will provide the NRA with new opportunities to include women and people from marginalized communities in the reconstruction process.

Locally elected women representatives can encourage more women to get mason training and help in the reconstruction of their houses and neighborhoods.

In coordination with various partners, the NRA has been conducting mason training programs, in which women and Dalits are encouraged to participate. As masonry is a traditionally male-dominated field, this training program can very well break gendered stereotypes and build women's capacity and recognize their contribution in the country's reconstruction endeavor.



The NRA has started discussions with the local representatives on reconstruction difficulties in their respective regions. To ensure social inclusion, it has established GESI (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion) units for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes, integrating GESI measures into all recovery and reconstruction activities and projects. The strategy includes raising awareness,

The newly-elected women leaders and representatives from marginalized communities can be an inspiration to many women and marginalized quake-survivors.

developing capacity and addressing the specific needs of women and people from vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Similarly, the NRA will provide an additional Rs200,000 per family to landless quake survivors to help them

buy their own land. A majority of these landless survivors belong to marginalized communities. Similarly, households that have been identified by a geo-hazard study as residing in risky areas and that are willing to shift to another location will receive an additional Rs200,000 to buy land in safer areas.

Partner organizations now can support these vulnerable communities by providing the second and third tranche of grant with technical support. This will also attract our national and international partner organizations to join hands in supporting the most vulnerable communities. Likewise, vulnerable communities can also receive an additional top-up of Rs 50,000 from partner organisations.

To address this aspect of reconstruction, the NRA has made a request to stake holders/ partners to build model houses for women, differently able and marginalized people during on-the-job training.

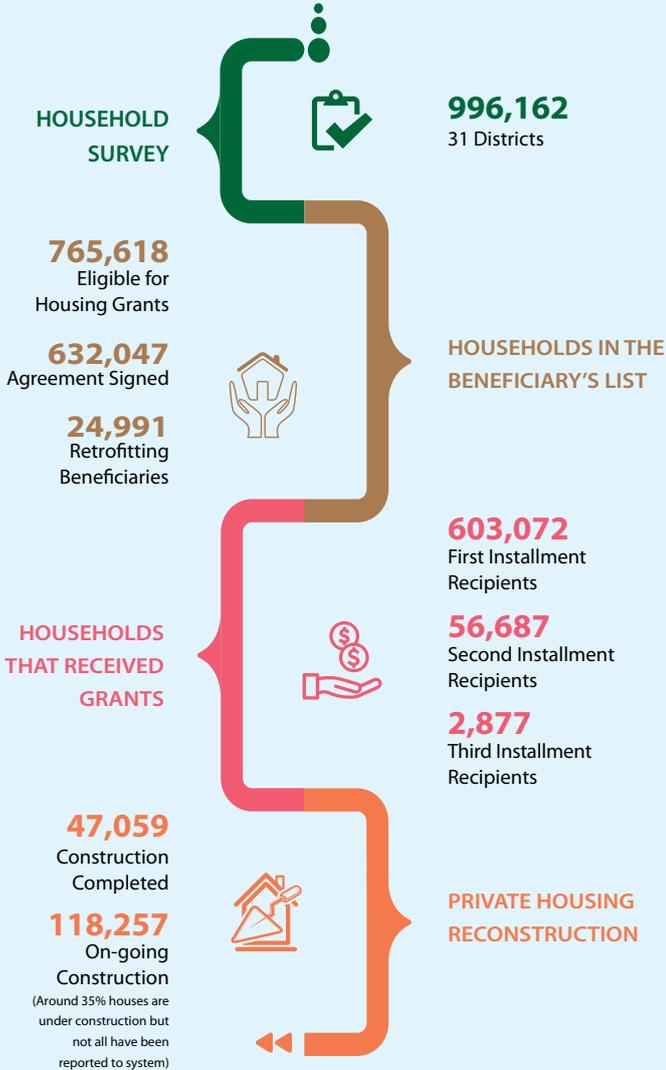
The NRA's strategies, policy measures and tools will bear fruit when there are effective institutions and capable human resources to reach out to needy people.

NEPAL Reconstruction Progress In Numbers

As of August 16, 2017)



PRIVATE HOUSING



GRIEVANCES MANAGEMENT

- 207,861 Grievances Registered
- 201,951 Number of Grievances Reviewed
- 198,321 Number of Grievances Redressed



HUMAN RESOURCES (Mason)

- 32,177 Short Term Training
- 10,914 On the Job Training



DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

- 904 Completed
- 965 On-going



MODEL HOUSES

- 816 Completed (in 14 districts)
- 1514 On-going

PUBLIC BUILDING RECONSTRUCTION



HEALTH CENTERS

- 230 Completed (Pre-fab)

- 140 On-going (Including repair and retrofitting)



EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- 2,456 Completed

- 1,601 On-going Construction



GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

- 98 Constructed (Temporary)

- 128 On-going (Permanent)



ARCHEOLOGICAL HERITAGES

- 56 Completed

- 111 On-going Construction



COMMUNITY SHELTER

- 129 Completed (By Ministry of Urban Development and Nepal Army)



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UN CAN HELP BY BRINGING IN GLOBAL EXPERIENCES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

VALERIE JULLIAND

**UN Resident Coordinator and
UNDP Resident Representative**



About five years ago, there was an earthquake in Italy—much smaller than the one in Nepal—and still today people there are living in prefabs. Reconstruction is not an easy task to approach.

YOU HAVE BEEN HERE FOR ONE YEAR NOW. ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE PACE OF RECONSTRUCTION?

I have seen things progress in the past one year I have been here. When I arrived here last July, a recurrent complaint I heard was that reconstruction wasn't going on fast enough. The media also portrayed the pace of reconstruction as being slow. But I've definitely seen things speed up with the arrival of Mr. Pokharel. We can always do better, but at the same time we cannot expect a least developed country like Nepal with weak infrastructure to carry out reconstruction faster when more developed countries haven't been able to do so. About five years ago, there was an earthquake in Italy—much smaller than the one in Nepal—and still today people there are living in prefabs. Reconstruction is not an easy task to approach. Definitely, there are things that can be improved, which is what I think the NRA is doing these days. But if we consider that around 47 thousands houses have been rebuilt, and around 118 thousands are under construction, that's quite an achievement in two years.

HOW HAVE YOU ASSESSED THE ROLE OF UN AGENCIES IN HELPING THE GOVERNMENT WITH ITS RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS?

The UN plays a very important role. First of all, the UN agencies played a crucial role in the relief operations, mobilizing the support of the international community and responding to the humanitarian needs. Then in the reconstruction phase, the UN agencies contributed enormously, assisting the quake-survivors directly, strengthening NRA's institutional capacity and working on specific issues like water, construction of schools, health posts, livelihoods and so on. The UN's role is to complement and support the work of the NRA and I think it's working well. As the Government leads the reconstruction process, the UN can help by bringing in global experiences from other countries, which have gone through similar enormous disasters, which would be challenging for any state.

YOU HINTED THAT RECONSTRUCTION HAS

BEEN HINDERED BY THE FACT THAT NEPAL IS A LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY. WHAT OTHER OBSTACLES TO RECONSTRUCTION DO YOU THINK THERE ARE?

As I said, the fact that Nepal has relatively poor economic strength to generate revenue is a big challenge in itself. Another challenge is the country's inequality. I completely understand the one-size-fits-all approach that was initially adopted with \$2,000 given to each family whose house was destroyed by the earthquake. Faced with an enormous number of houses—around 750,000—that needed to be rebuilt, a tailored approach wouldn't have been feasible. But there was—and still is inequality in the country and a lot of disparity between people. All have been affected by the earthquake, but those from wealthier families or from advantaged ethnic groups have not been affected in the same manner as those who were already very poor before the earthquake and had very limited means to sustain themselves; these ones were hugely affected because they literally lost

everything and they have no support network. So if you give the same amount of reconstruction aid to these two groups of people, of course you don't get the same result.

The big challenge for Nepal now is to address this inequality and to ensure that the reconstruction process doesn't perpetuate it. We really have to support, protect and support more and differently those who were already poor and excluded before the earthquake. It's a challenge that goes beyond reconstruction. Of course the onus to address this challenge is not only on the NRA but also on the Nepali government as a whole and society. Reconstruction is a very visible activity, it therefore magnifies the situation. It is also a golden opportunity to improve the situation. Let's address issues while carrying out reconstruction. Let's have masons who are Dalit and Brahmins and who work side by side. The gender gap can also be addressed. Women have very much been in a disadvantaged position to access aid, loans or else.

The other challenge is to ensure that reconstruction boosts the local economy and that the materials we use to build houses are bought locally. There is a shortage of materials. There are many places where beneficiaries of the NRA financial support cannot build their houses as there is no reconstruction material to be bought in their areas. Addressing the livelihood component is another challenge that hasn't received the attention it deserves. It is equally necessary for

people to have a new house and a restored livelihood, to have means to sustain themselves. Nepal still faces a situation where 25 percent of the population lives in poverty, and the earthquake worsened the situation. We have to help people get out of poverty. Otherwise what will happen—and we've already seen this happening—is that people will move to the Capital city because there at least they can do something. It creates a situation where people live on land that isn't theirs, and later they are forcefully evicted out of the land. It will only create more urban poverty and perpetuate misery.

WHAT LESSONS ARE THERE FOR NEPAL TO LEARN FROM POST-DISASTER RECONSTRUCTION IN OTHER PLACES LIKE HAITI OR INDONESIA? DO YOU THINK ANY USEFUL LESSONS ARE BEING APPLIED HERE?

Reconstruction is not only about reconstructing buildings. What we've seen in places like Haiti and others is that if we focus merely on one aspect of reconstruction, we don't address future vulnerability. I was part of the response team in the Haitian earthquake, and one lesson Nepal must learn is about preparedness and a disaster risk management approach that the country has to have. This means if you do not rebuild in a safe way—by adopting a very strict construction code, by retrofitting

public buildings, schools, hospitals, etc. — you lay the ground for tomorrow's disaster. When I first came here, some people told me that Kathmandu resisted the earthquake quite well. That's a very wrong idea. Kathmandu didn't suffer a great deal of destruction, because the epicenter of the earthquake was not in Kathmandu. Had it been the epicenter, it would've been severely damaged and the death toll would've been much higher than 9,000. In Haiti, the epicenter was right in the capital city, and the result was that 250,000 people died. Authorities in Kathmandu have to learn the lesson and make good preparations. I know that some steps have been taken such as introducing a building code, but they aren't enough. There has to be strict enforcement of the code.

THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE FUNDING GAP IN RECONSTRUCTION. HOW CAN THE UN HELP NEPAL BRIDGE THE GAP?

This is something we want to and could do but before pledging more money, donor countries want to ensure that what they have already given is used. Not all reconstruction aid that Nepal received has been spent. Let's not forget also that Nepal's earthquake has already become old news and that there are, unfortunately, so many new disasters hitting the world. So there is very severe competition for available funds. Still, many donors are interested in continuing to support Nepal. But Nepal has to show them what it has done.



NRA BEGINS RELOCATION OF VULNERABLE SETTLEMENTS



The National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) has concluded a study of vulnerable settlements. It has so far identified 136 settlements that need to be relocated. Among them, 60 need complete relocation, and the rest need partial relocation. There are 2,361 households in the 136 settlements. The Authority identified vulnerable settlements in highly affected districts like Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Gorkha, Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, Dhading, Lalipur, Makawanpur, Kavrepalanchok, Ramechhap and Okhaldhunga, and some

in less affected districts, Chitwan, Lamjung, Solukhumbu and Tanahun.

In some of these settlements, almost all the families need to be shifted to another location, whereas in others, only few families have to be relocated. Of the 136 settlements, in the first phase, the processes to relocate families from five settlements—Kerauja in Gorkha, Selang in Sindhupalchowk, Khalte in Rasuwa, Urleni in Nuwakot and Bosimpa in Dolakha—and building of integrated settlements in another location has already begun.

The NRA, together with the Department of Mines and Geology, conducted studies in more than 660 settlements.

FIELD STUDY TO RELOCATE THE SETTLEMENTS

To expedite the process of relocation, NRA CEO Dr. Govind Raj Pokharel inspected these settlements. He visited most of these vulnerable areas and instructed concerned officials to accelerate the relocation process of the vulnerable settlements.

The NRA has held discussion on undertaking infrastructure projects from this fiscal year in vulnerable settlements. The authority has decided to provide an additional Rs200,000 for land purchase to each family from these vulnerable areas that are willing to shift to another location. The NRA has also instructed the concerned chief district officers to take the necessary initiative to manage land for the rest of the families.

NRA'S MOBILE APP FOR REBUILDING SAFER & BETTER

Anyone willing to access NRA related news, information, official messages can get it via "Surakshit Ghar" mobile application. The app has been produced by Build Change to assist NRA with its efforts to build better and safer.

The app contains NRA's notice, suggestions, information on constructing earthquake resilient houses including the details of Government's approved housing designs and certified local masonries.

Moreover, the app includes NRA's official message with audio and visual clips and information about the procedures to receive the grant. The prominent feature of this app is that the affected beneficiaries can send their queries and the Authority's respective officials, experts and technicians would answer.

The major objective of this app is to make the information available at the earliest and help the beneficiaries to build back better. The app can be downloaded for free and also can be used offline.





CEO POKHAREL ADDRESSES WORLD RECONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE

Chief Executive Officer of the National Reconstruction Authority, Dr. Govind Raj Pokharel, made a keynote speech on 'Early lessons from post-earthquake recovery in Nepal' at the third edition of the World Reconstruction Conference (WRC3) that took place in Brussels in June 2017.

In his presentation, Dr. Pokharel highlighted the strengths and shortcomings of the response and recovery in the last two years and on the way forward – what Nepal needs to do for sustainable and resilient recovery. He explained the necessity of a national disaster management agency responsible for preparedness, planning. He also stressed the importance of a vibrant civil society and private sector and the need to consciously involve them in preparedness planning and recovery.

Moreover, Dr. Pokharel pointed out that commitment to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable cannot be just rhetorical or remain at the theoretical level in planning, and that it has to be articulated clearly in project activities and expected results.

NRA DEPLOYS 332 ENGINEERS FOR RESURVEY IN 14 DISTRICTS

National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) has deployed 332 trained engineers to conduct the re-survey in the 14 districts hardest hit by Gorkha Earthquake-2015. They will be collecting the details of earthquake-affected families as per the compliants registered in central office, NRA.

The engineers to be deputed in the districts were imparted a three-day training in Kathmandu in three groups. During the

training, NRA Executive Committee Member Dr. Hari Ram Parajuli requested the engineers to collect the data accurately and leave no data behind.

The engineers will reassess around 128,000 complaints of the quake-survivors to the NRA that they were not listed on the beneficiary list for the relief grant. The data will be collected

via GPS and will be directly saved in the central server.

NRA has deputed 27 engineers in Dolakha district, 28 in Gorkha, 16 in Nuwakot, 24 in Ramechhap, 4 in Rasuwa, 29 in Dhading and 12 in Sindhupalchok. Likewise, 41 in Kavre, 16 in Okhaldhunga, 60 in Sindhuli, 48 Makwanpur, 11 Kathmandu, 8 in Lalitpur and 7 in Bhaktpur. The re-survey is aimed to be concluded by September 16.

NRA CEO MEETS WITH JAPANESE STATE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT

On a visit to Nepal, Japanese State Minister of Environment Tadahiko ITO met National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) CEO Dr. Govind Raj Pokharel in Sighadurbar at NRA office. Tadahiko inquired about reconstruction progress and the way forward.

Tadako also expressed Japan's support in Nepal's ongoing rebuilding works, and stressed on providing support to particularly eradicate the hurdles in the reconstruction process.

In response, CEO Dr. Pokharel expressed gratitude to the Japanese Environment Minister for Japan's continuous support to Nepal after the 2015 earthquake. He also



explained the monetary gap of 4bn in reconstruction and appealed for support from various sectors.

Tadahiko provided many valuable suggestions on earthquake preparedness and responses. He also asserted that Japan would provide necessary support and assistance in Nepal's rebuilding.

Likewise, Japanese minister also inspected the reconstructed Shree Path Pradarsak Secondary School at Lalitpur, Kathmandu, Durbar Square and also attended the plenary session of "Stakeholders Meeting on Disaster Waste Management following Earthquake in Nepal" in Kathmandu organized by the Ministry of Environment of Government of Japan.

LIVELIHOOD TRAINING AT LOCAL LEVEL

National Reconstruction Authority has outlined a set of livelihood training package in all Gaunpalikas and municipalities of 31 affected starting.

NRA's Executive Committee Member Dr. Bhisnu Bahadur Bhandari stated that the demands and necessities from the local level would be reviewed and identified. He added that the beneficiaries' demands would be given special preference while deciding the training package.

The training is aimed at empowering small entrepreneurs with the collaborative effort of related ministries, private institutions and development partners.

Similarly, smaller groups will be formed and the training will be given as per their interest, needs and prospects. They will be provided easy access to the equipment needed in the training. Moreover, NRA will assist them to find the market for their products also.

NRA will timely conduct a follow-up study on the implications and impact of the training.

RECONSTRUCTION DOOR OPENS FOR STUPAS AND BIHARS

The Preservation, Restoration and Reconstruction of the Earthquake Affected Stupas/Bihars Working Procedure 2017 has opened door for reconstruction of affected historical Stupas and Bihars. The executive committee meeting of 16 June approved the procedure to rebuild the affected 1,100 stupas and bihars.

The working procedure only applies to rebuild and retrofit the stupas that are below 100 years. The earthquake has affected a total 1,300 stupas; of which 1,100 stupas are below 100 years. According to the Ancient Monument Preservation Act, 2013; the monuments that are above 100 years are to be built by Department of Archeology.

NRA Executive Committee Member Dr. Chandra Bahadur Shrestha assured that reconstruction of aged old Stupas/Bihars would take a pace in coming days. He added that the reconstruction of vulnerable stupas and monuments will be given a prime priority and other monuments are to be rebuilt as per their status.

NRA TO HELP PRESERVE ANCIENT SETTLEMENTS

The National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) has placed a distinct priority to preserve the ancient, archaeological and touristic settlements and their heritage.

The Authority will extend additional support to rebuild around three thousands houses in six ancient settlements.

Among them, three are in Kathmandu valley namely Sankhu, Khokana and Bungmati, and remaining three in Gorkha, Nuwakot and Dolakha. Similarly,

additional 50 thousand Rupees will be provided to encourage the households to traditionally rebuild the facade of the house.

NRA Executive Committee Member Dhruva Prasad Sharma stated that preserving the historical and ancient settlements will be a great gift to our future generations and are also important from the point of tourism development.

According to Sharma, NRA will recommend the related agencies to provide an easy access to wood and ease the land registration process.

AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH HR FACILITY BETWEEN NRA & UNDP



NRA secretary Sarbjit Prasad Mahato and UNDP Country Director Renaud Meyer signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) regarding the capacity strengthening of NRA for resilient reconstruction.

As per the MoU, UNDP committed to support USD 500,000 and provide comprehensive and rapid institutional capacity strengthening of NRA through establishing Human Resource Facility.

The prime objective of HR facility is to assist the NRA in identifying and recruiting the required experts and other professionals, and mobilize them in critical positions at the central and district levels, so as to enable the NRA to deliver on its reconstruction and recovery mandate.

The initiative, under the Capacity Strengthening of the NRA for Resilient Reconstruction Project aims to avoid duplication and overlaps in the reconstruction efforts, as well as effectively mainstreams the principles of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion and the Build Back Better approach throughout the process.

Mahato remarked the importance of human resources management to improve functional capacities of NRA to effectively lead the implementation of post-earthquake recovery and reconstruction.

The MoU concluded the use of Fast Track Procedures for recruitment and procurement to address the current challenge of lengthy recruitment process.

NRA STEERING COMMITTEE'S 10TH MEETING



The steering committee meeting of the NRA, led by Prime Minister SherBahadurDeuba, on July 12, 2017 endorsed the executive committee's several proposals including providing additional grant and waiver of fees for the approval of house designs from concerned municipal offices.

Prime Minister Deuba also stressed on speeding the reconstruction efforts. The steering committee meeting has also approved the NRA's budget worth Rs 145.93 billion for the next fiscal year. The steering committee made the decision to set timeline on private household grant distribution.

Similarly, three settlements of Kathmandu Valley — Sankhu, Khokana and Bungamati — and three outside Kathmandu — Gorkha Durbar Square area, Nuwakot Durbar Square area and Bhimeshwore temple area of Dolakha district have been proposed for restoration as per their original architectural designs.

At the meeting, NRA CEO Dr. Pokharel mentioned NRA's intention to preserve the traditional structure in these settlements after rebuilding.

The committee also approved the proposal to place 8 NRA's local contact offices that would look after all the 17 less affected districts. For Baglung, Magdi and Parbat: the office will be in Baglung. Gulmi office will look after Palpa, Argakhachi and Gulmi; Syangja for Kaski and Syangja, Chitwan for both Nawaparasi and Chitwan itself, Dhankuta for Bhojpur, Sankhuwasabha and Dhankuta. Similarly Lamjung, Tanahu and Solokhumbhu will have individual contact offices.

Committee has decided to implement the working procedure in upcoming NRA's fiscal year.

After the meeting, NRA CEO Dr. Pokharel stated that the reconstruction this year will focus on private households, education and heritage and health sectors.



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