

April 2017



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



**TWO YEARS
AFTER THE
25 APRIL
EARTHQUAKE**



Supporting Nepal to **Build Back Better**

Key Achievements in UNDP's Earthquake Response

Context

Two years have passed since the earthquakes of April and May 2015 rattled Nepal to its very core. Although the country is now well into the recovery and reconstruction phase, a great deal remains to be done: hundreds of thousands are still living in makeshift shelters, battling food and water shortages, and struggling to earn a decent living.

UNDP has been working closely with the Government of Nepal and other development partners, as well as communities, to extend support to affected people in the worst-hit areas through its recovery programme, with a focus on vital post-earthquake development initiatives, including resurrection of community infrastructure and public services, as well as restoration of livelihoods.

At the same time, UNDP also holds the longer-term vision of raising Nepal's resilience against similar shocks in the future. To this end, it has been providing technical assistance to the Government in developing recovery policies, as well as strengthening disaster risk reduction mechanisms.





Created over

60,000

new jobs for the most vulnerable people, most of them 2015 earthquake survivors, through micro-enterprises

Supporting the **National Reconstruction Authority**

As a trusted partner of the Government of Nepal, UNDP has been providing the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) with the technical expertise necessary for the Authority to better roll out its mandate and serve the public. This includes help in operationalizing the national-level recovery coordination mechanism and supporting district-level coordination in Dolakha, Gorkha, Kavrepalanchowk, and Sindhupalchowk.

UNDP, along with the World Bank and other development partners, also played a key role in assisting the NRA prepare its Post-Disaster Recovery Framework (PDRF), a five-year road-map intended to guide recovery and reconstruction. And, in partnership with DFID and JICA, UNDP helped 14 severely-affected districts to plan and budget their recovery efforts, while ensuring that disaster risk reduction and Build Back Better approaches are mainstreamed throughout.

The agency, in coordination with KOICA, was also involved in safe demolition, debris management and site preparation so as to facilitate reconstruction of 10 health-care facilities in Nuwakot. UNDP, with UNICEF, further provided technical oversight and quality assurance to the process of rebuilding 650 temporary learning centres in nine districts.





Enabling Economic Recovery

To mitigate the widespread negative economic fallout of the disaster on markets and livelihoods, UNDP sought to promote sustainable economic recovery by enabling people in the worst-affected areas to regain their sources of income, alongside providing new opportunities, particularly through support to micro-enterprises. Over 60,000 new jobs were thereby created, largely targeted at rural poor and socially-excluded communities.

The rehabilitation of damaged community infrastructure was another point of focus for UNDP. Close to 200 such facilities were rebuilt, benefitting over 23,000 households in quake-hit areas.



Rehabilitated close to 200 community infrastructures damaged by the quake, benefitting over

23,000

households.



The debris work provided temporary jobs to over

4,300

locals (40% female) in the earthquake affected areas through cash-for-work scheme.

Restoring **Public Services**

Local governments around Nepal had been hard pressed to continue delivering public services in the wake of the earthquake. To accelerate resumption of the same, UNDP worked to equip more than 120 government offices, health posts and schools with solar-powered electricity.

Additionally, legal aid clinics and human rights clinics were set up for the benefit of quake-hit communities, enabling over 123,000 people therein—most of whom were women or those belonging to vulnerable groups—to seek counselling and support in their hour of need.

Building a More **Resilient Nepal**

In a bid to help Nepal develop more farsighted recovery and resilience strategies, UNDP has been working with the Government of Nepal, different development partners and communities to counter current and future disaster risks. These efforts have included conducting trainings on safe construction practices for over 2,000 local engineers and masons in affected areas, as well as the ongoing support to the development of the National Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategic Action Plan.

In the same vein, UNDP also jointly organized a rural housing competition with the Nepal Engineering Association, aimed at engaging Nepali youth and professionals in designing affordable models of earthquake-resistant structures that make the most of locally-available resources.



650

temporary
learning centers
reconstructed.

Highlighting challenges faced by PwDs

UNDP supported the publication of a research report by the Social Science Baha on the unique challenges faced by persons with disabilities (PwDs) in post-earthquake Nepal. "Disaster, Disability and Difference" sought to empirically assess the contemporary landscape of disability in the country, and make policy recommendations for the meaningful inclusion of Nepalis with disabilities within both disaster risk reduction activities and the broader development agenda.





Fostering **Innovation**

In line with the high priority it places on promoting innovation in its activities, UNDP has worked to extend partnerships with private sector and civil society organizations to come up with inventive, non-traditional solutions to the various problems facing Nepal on its path to recovery.

New partners have comprised an array of local and international entities—from the global tech-giant Microsoft

to academic institutions like the Nepal Engineering College and groups such as the Association of Youth Organizations in Nepal. These collaborative ventures with the private sector have led to a number of immediate, concrete and tangible impacts, triggering not just a scale-up of successful prototypes, but also expansion of these partnerships to all core areas of UNDP's work in Nepal.

SMARTPHONE APP FOR EARLY RECOVERY

In partnership with Microsoft, UNDP developed and rolled out an innovative smartphone-operated software application on debris management, which helped ease early recovery

works in the immediate aftermath of the disaster. The app—the first of its kind in the world—enabled better handling of large-scale crisis-response; it could manage the entire project, recording workers’ attendance, preparing their payrolls, measuring GPS locations of quake-damaged houses to calculating the costs of clearing debris.

ENGAGING YOUTH FOR RECONSTRUCTION

In another collaboration with Microsoft, UNDP held a Youth for Reconstruction Appathon, with 400 youth participants working to develop innovative software applications that could ease post-quake reconstruction. The appathon culminated in promising software aimed at engaging young volunteers, as well as the creation of an online virtual marketplace system dealing in debris material.

E-BUILDING PERMIT SYSTEM

UNDP supported several municipalities to launch and expand the e-Building Permit System [e-BPS], an innovative tool designed to ensure compliance with the National Building Code for quake-resistant and resilient housing. The system has been formally launched in Kathmandu, Kirtipur and Lalitpur.

GEO-STRATEGIC RECLUSTERING

To help locate solutions for sustainable settlements in mountain regions damaged by the quake, UNDP tested and introduced the concept of “geo-strategic reclustered settlements in a post-disaster scenario” aimed at



achieving optimum and sustainable utilization of available land and other resources.

MOBILE VIDEO VAN FOR SAFER RECONSTRUCTION

The success of Owner-Driven Reconstruction (ODR) for post-earthquake rebuilding depends to a great extent on providing owners access to information and awareness on resilient construction. In this regard, UNDP supported the operation of a mobile video van to travel around villages and disseminate messages related to safer building practices.

REUSING DEBRIS

UNDP’s initiative to upcycle debris to serve as building blocks has provided quake-survivors an affordable and efficient means of pushing forth with reconstruction.





Created over **60,000**
new jobs for the most vulnerable
people, most of them 2015
earthquake survivors, through micro-
enterprises



Over **1,500**
masons and engineers trained
to facilitate earthquake-resilient
reconstructions in quake-affected
districts



Powered more than **150**
government offices, health posts,
rehabilitation centres and schools
damaged by the earthquake with
solar energy



Over **130,000**
people (largely women) received
direct legal aid support, counselling
and information



3,467
private and 207 public buildings
assessed and safely demolished



Rehabilitated **26**
quake-affected micro-hydro plants
with total capacity of 662 kW,
benefitting 35,000 people

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