



Program Overview

SCOPE OF THE DISASTER

On April 25, 2015, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal. Following a second strong earthquake on May 12 (7.3 magnitude), and a sequence of aftershocks, the Government of Nepal (GoN) reported the death toll at 8,700, while those injured reached 25,000. A Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), completed in June 2015, found that total damages and losses amounted to about US\$7 billion, with reconstruction needs of about



Photo: The World Bank
Housing reconstruction and human settlements were identified in the PDNA as the largest single need, accounting for almost half of the total reconstruction needs

US\$6.7 billion. As the earthquake sequence destroyed 490,000 houses -- mostly traditional mud-brick and mud-stone houses built and occupied by the rural poor -- and rendered another 265,000 houses at least temporarily uninhabitable, the largest single need identified in the PDNA was housing and human settlements, accounting for US\$3.27 billion or almost half of the total reconstruction needs.

NEPAL HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

To address the housing reconstruction needs and to build a more resilient Nepal, the Government of Nepal is leading the overall housing reconstruction efforts nationally through a housing reconstruction program meant to encompass all of the housing stock to be rebuilt. The program will also serve as a coordinating framework to standardize housing reconstruction policy, irrespective of the funding sources.

RURAL HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM (RHRP)

The Rural Housing Reconstruction Program will focus on restoring affected housing in 14 targeted rural districts while providing technical support to enhance the government's ability to improve long-term disaster resilience.

The program's overall objective will ensure that houses destroyed in the most-affected districts of the country will be rebuilt using earthquake-safer building techniques through grants and technical assistance to eligible households from the Government of Nepal.

The program also seeks to equip beneficiaries with skills to **construct earthquake-safer core housing units** supported by **training, technical support and a subsidy program**, and allow people to continue incremental construction with improved techniques.

To support the Government of Nepal's rural housing reconstruction efforts, a Multi-Donor Trust Fund has been established with support from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the World Bank. Key Development Partners, such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), are working in close collaboration with MDTF partners in extending the coverage of the rural housing reconstruction program services to additional areas of the country.

BENEFICIARIES & ELIGIBILITY

The program will directly benefit approximately **55,000 households** (or about one-tenth of the housing destroyed in the earthquake sequence) located in municipalities within the 14 most-affected districts of Nepal: Sindhupalchowk; Kathmandu; Nuwakot; Dhading; Rasuwa; Gorkha; Bhaktapur; Kavrepalanchowk; Lalitpur; Dolakha; Ramechhap; Makawanpur; Okhaldhunga; Sindhuli. A high proportion of houses in these districts are categorized as completely damaged and/or in need of demolition.

Technical advice (provided through the RHRP), to improve long-term disaster resilience, will be aimed at **all housing reconstruction** beneficiaries estimated to be approximately **490,000 households**.

Eligibility will be determined based on a comprehensive, door-to-door assessment of the damages to the housing stock in the affected districts, carried out by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS).

IMPLEMENTATION ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the **leadership of the Government of Nepal**, the Rural Housing Reconstruction Program's implementation has been carefully structured to reflect the program's operating principles (mentioned above in Box 1) as well as the conditions on the ground. As shown in Diagram 1, there is both flexibility as well as regular monitoring and evaluation to assure that implementation is responsive to the needs of beneficiaries. Best practices have been gleaned from other international reconstruction experiences and incorporated into the implementation structure and procedures for the RHRP.



The Program's objective is to restore and improve long-term resilience to rural housing damaged during the April and May 2015 earthquakes in Nepal using earthquake-safer building techniques and materials through an **owner-driven approach** while encouraging a culture of safer and sustainable housing and settlements.

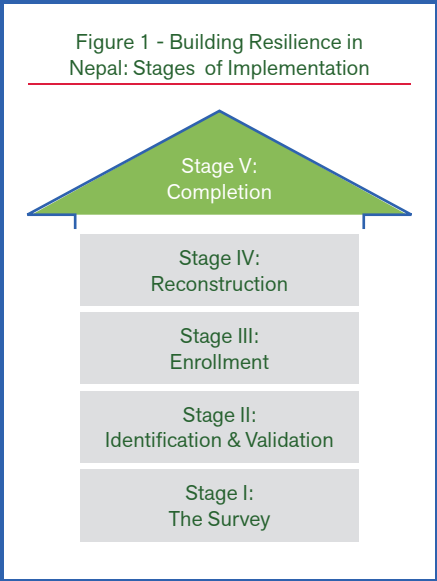
IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

The Nepal Rural Housing Reconstruction Program is structured around **five major stages** of implementation (see Figure 1) -- each one building upon the other, as follows:

Stage I: The Survey

The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) is conducting a comprehensive census of damage to the housing stock in each of the fourteen most-affected districts. Technical and logistical support is being provided by UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). This door-to-door assessment will generate a **beneficiary/damage database** to serve as the basis of the rural housing reconstruction program as well as assist in the effective monitoring of the recovery process.

CBS will liaise with the Ministry of Housing Affairs (MoHA)/ District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRC) in the data collection and use the data already collected by the rapid visual assessment that has been conducted by the MoHA/ Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD).



Stage II: Identification and Validation

Based on the eligibility criteria, an analysis of the survey results will generate a **list of eligible households at the Village Development Committee level** (and when possible, at the local ward level). The beneficiary list will be published at the local level and a **grievance period of 35 days** will be provided to allow for inclusion/exclusion claims and grievances.

Stage III: Enrollment

Eligible beneficiaries will enroll in the program by entering into a legally binding **Participation Agreement (PA) with their VDC or municipality**. The PA outlines the entitlements and obligations of both parties regarding key details of the program such as:

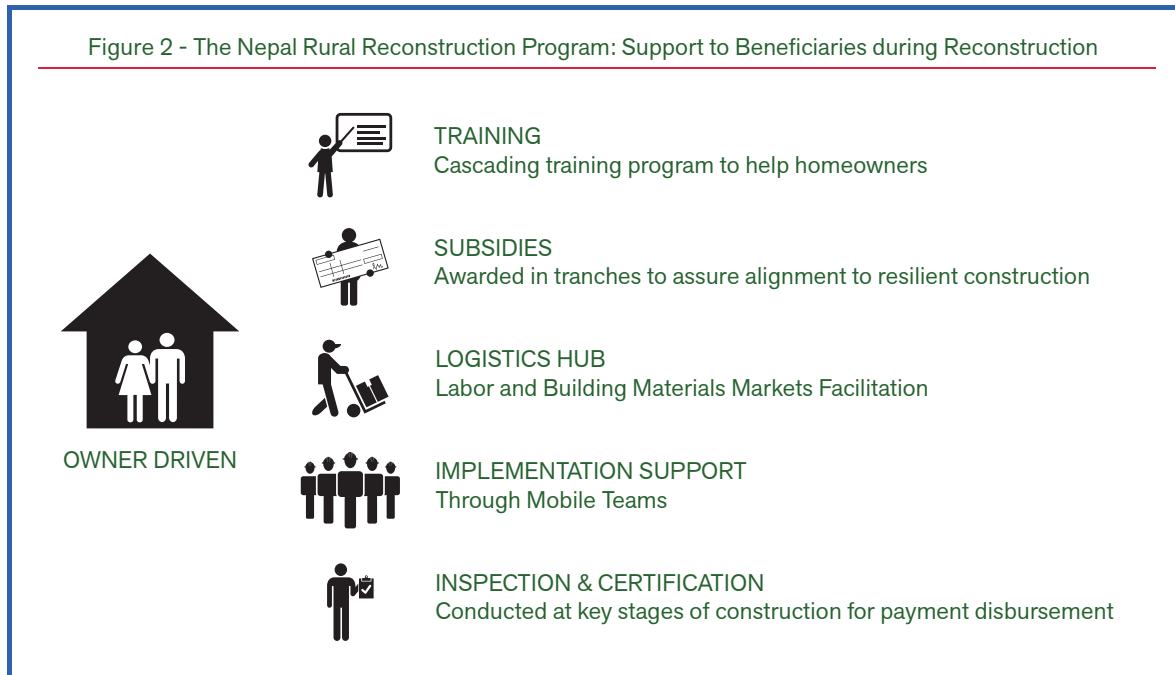
- payment
- housing construction standards and
- grievance redress mechanisms (how beneficiaries can address any complaints).

During enrollment, those beneficiaries without **bank accounts** will be assisted with opening one or with determining another workable payment mechanism.



Stage IV: Reconstruction

The principal of owner-driven reconstruction is fundamental to the Nepal housing program. Beneficiaries will be supported with socio-technical assistance; training and market facilitation; and cash-based assistance, provided in tranches, upon certification of earthquake-safer techniques guided by Nepal's National Building Code (NBC). The reconstruction stage encompasses the following components (see Figure 2):



Stage V: Completion

In the final stage of the program cycle, the beneficiary will obtain the "Building Construction Completion Certificate", which precedes the occupancy of the housing unit. At the completion stage, it will be vital for the RHRP to broadly launch a clear **communications message** to inform beneficiaries on how to request and obtain the Building Construction Completion Certificate.

This material has been funded through the Nepal Rural Housing Reconstruction Program Multi-Donor Trust Fund, thanks to the contributions of: US Agency for International Development (USAID), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the World Bank. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the US or Swiss government's official policies or the policies of the World Bank and its Board of Executive Directors.

January 2016

FUNDED BY



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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