

Urban Reconstruction in Nepal:

Lumanti's Experiences and Learning Post 2015 Earthquake

DISCLAIMER:

Readers are informed that the views, thoughts, and opinions expressed in the text including the photographs solely belongs to Lumanti Support Group for Shelter.



Message from the Chairperson

It is an honour for Lumanti Support Group for Shelter that it had an opportunity to serve the needier communities after the Gorkha Earthquake 2015. Lumanti worked in 25 clusters within five of the most affected districts. In total it could assist more than 6000 families with the support of various partner agencies including Misereor.



In this document, we have made a humble attempt to share our experiences and learning on urban reconstruction. The process has been both challenging and rewarding and the team has learned a lot while working with the communities and other concerned stakeholders. Four years of continuous effort towards facilitating community led recovery and reconstruction processes was an opportunity to learn. We are very glad to share those precious learning with the larger group, as they will be valuable for future recovery attempts.

In the capacity of the chair of LUMANTI, I would like to express my gratitude to all the supporting partners, national and international stakeholders, the local governments, partner communities and the whole LUMANTI team for all their assistance and hard work.

Thank you

Sushma Bajracharya
Chairperson
LUMANTI

Message from the Executive Director

Five years passed by. It looks like yesterday. Pain, sorrow, frustration filled the lives of the people. For many of the earthquake affected families there was no light at the end of the tunnel. Falling of the houses was not only the destruction of physical infrastructure, but collapse of the dreams, security, base of survival and hopes.



We knew we had to be with the people, with the communities sharing their sorrows and griefs. Helping them to find hope. Rebuilding their homes and lives. Dream a new future.

This book is the outcome of being with the people, drifting from the theoretical policy boundaries and dwelling in the hearts and minds of thousands whose eyes were filled with tears. We learnt more than we taught. Indicator of our success is the happiness and satisfaction of the people that they found later after rebuilding their homes.

I am grateful to all our funding partners and alliances for being with us, governments for allowing us to make contributions, local leaders including women led saving and credit cooperatives for their pure dedication and tireless efforts to make communities bounced back from disaster through safe reconstruction.

My heartfelt thanks to the women and men in the communities with whom we worked, whose stories inspired us and helped us gain new insights on rebuilding homes, heritage and lives.

Lajana Manandhar
Executive Director
LUMANTI

Abbreviations

ACHR	Asian Coalition for Housing Rights
CAN	Community Architect’s Network
CGI	Corrugated Galvanized Iron
CIC	Community Information Centre
CORDAID	Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid
CSR	Community Search and Rescue
CSRM	Community Search and Rescue Materials
CWF	Community Women Forum
DRM	District Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction Management
GI	Galvanized Iron
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MIT	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
NRA	National Reconstruction Authority
PTAG	Pro-poor Technical Assistance Group
VDCs	Village Development Committees

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About Lumanti	1
1. Background	3
- Earthquake 2015	4
- Emergency Response	6
- Reconstruction and Recovery	8
2. Achievement and Activities	13
3. Urban Reconstruction	19
- Construction of Temporary Shelter	22
- Private Household Reconstruction	26
- Seismic Upgrade Program	30
- Small Scale Community Infrastructure Support	34
4. Program and Process	39
- Community led Approach	40
- Coordination and Partnership	49
- Community Empowerment	56
5. Innovative Approach	65
- Info Falcha : Innovative Conservation of a Traditional Rest House	66
- Pingal Temple Revitalisation	72
- Seismic Upgrading- The Pilot Project	76
- Taukhel Planning	80
6. Key Challenges and their Mitigation	85
- Land Issues	86
- Schematics vs. Reality	88
- Lack of Access to Information	89
- Revision of Grant Amount	89
- Approval Delays	90
- Lack of Materials and Labor	90
- Financial Issues of the Beneficiaries	93
7. Key Learning	95
8. Conclusion	100

About Lumanti



Lumanti Support Group for Shelter is a non-profit organisation established in 1994 to alleviate urban poverty in Nepal through an integrated approach to improving shelter conditions. Lumanti engages in programs of urban development in slum and low-income areas, and traditional settlements around Kathmandu as well as other 14 other municipalities in Nepal through community-based planning and work. Working to help the marginalised, vulnerable and those living in poverty and challenging situation has long been a key focus of Lumanti.

This document highlights the learning from reconstruction programme. After the Gorkha Earthquake Lumanti worked in 25 different areas within 5 districts of Nepal to support relief, reconstruction and recovery. These districts include Lalitpur, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Makwanpur and Rasuwa. The organisation focused most of its reconstruction work in urban areas, specifically in some old towns which were severely damaged during the earthquake. Lumanti partnered with local women's cooperative, community groups, and local and national governments to aid in the reconstruction and revitalisation of these settlements.

Lumanti believes in a community-led approach and the empowerment of women. With this approach, Lumanti emphasised communities' access to decision making in the reconstruction process. The process incorporated risk and vulnerability assessments, coordination and partnership with the local governments and other relevant agencies, technical assistance and capacity enhancement..

Lumanti has contributed approximately 2.2 million USD towards reconstruction projects providing shelter support to over 6000 earthquake affected families.



Background



EARTHQUAKE 2015



In 2015 a series of earthquakes and its aftershocks rocked Nepal over a period of two months causing massive damage across the country. It was among the worst earthquakes to hit Nepal in 80 years leaving hundreds of thousands of people homeless and entire villages flattened across many districts of the country. According to the Home Ministry, 31 of the country's 75 districts were affected out of which the Post Disaster Government Assessment report identified 14 districts in Nepal as the most severely damaged. There were over 9,000 casualties and approximately 23,000 injuries, half a million buildings destroyed including centuries old buildings at World Heritage Sites. A total of 800,000 plus families including both rural and urban areas were identified as earthquake victims eligible to receive the reconstruction grant by the government.

In Kathmandu valley, 50 heritage settlements were badly affected by the earthquake and 138,771 houses were declared as damaged out of which 80% were concentrated in the traditional urban cores. Lumanti had been working on various community development projects in some of the earthquake affected urban areas prior to the disaster. So Lumanti was quick in action for the emergency response in those areas.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Right after the earthquake Lumanti worked in partnership with local women's savings and credit cooperatives in 14 of the urban cores for emergency response and recovery. With their help Lumanti was able to carry out rapid needs assessments. These assessments helped in identifying the affected families and supplies to be provided immediately. To address these needs, funds were used from the collective savings to quickly purchase supplies such as tarpaulin, small cash support for medicines, food and distribute them by recruiting volunteers in required areas. In coordination with local governments and other 'on the ground' organisations, these relief materials were distributed and community kitchens were established for affected families.

Lumanti also worked with local disaster management committees to begin the process of cleaning up debris collected from damaged houses. This proved to be a key step towards supporting affected families to access damaged homes and prepare for rebuilding. Fund was required to cover the costs of dismantling the buildings, renting the equipment, salvaging reusable material, and the cost of labor and rebuilding. Thus, funding partners were reached out and requested for support.





RECONSTRUCTION AND RECOVERY

Lumanti again carried out preliminary needs assessments from 1 June 2015 – 9 June 2015 for better understanding and information on rebuilding issues. This assessment was supported by the Community Architect Network associated with Asian Coalition for Housing Rights based in Bangkok (ACHR-CAN) along with Hunnarshala Foundation based in Gujarat, India. The assessment consisted of community visits, dialogues and meetings with ward committees. The key purpose of the assessment was to identify potential communities to support the community led rehabilitation process. The assessment enabled Lumanti to contemplate and develop a community led rehabilitation program in the earthquake affected areas. Lumanti selected 4 settlements for rehabilitation intervention in and outside the Kathmandu valley. These selected communities were provided support to revive hopes and to plan and rebuild homes and basic infrastructure making the communities better, safer, resilient and sustainable for a dignified life.

The key approaches followed for rehabilitation projects were technical assistance, financial support, partnership with women's groups and cooperatives and local governments, social mobilisations and community empowerments. This has contributed in effective management of the projects and timely accomplishment of the reconstruction targets. There was also a policy gap that hindered in smooth reconstruction of the homes in the age old heritage settlements. Lumanti also advocated for formulation of policies that are friendly to the heritage settlements and people living there. The projects also faced changed scenarios in socio-political environment, but the strategies that had been taken helped to successfully complete the projects.

Four years of continuous effort towards facilitating community led recovery and reconstruction processes was an opportunity to learn. The learning was valuable and it is worth sharing for future recovery attempts and shall be discussed in the following chapters.

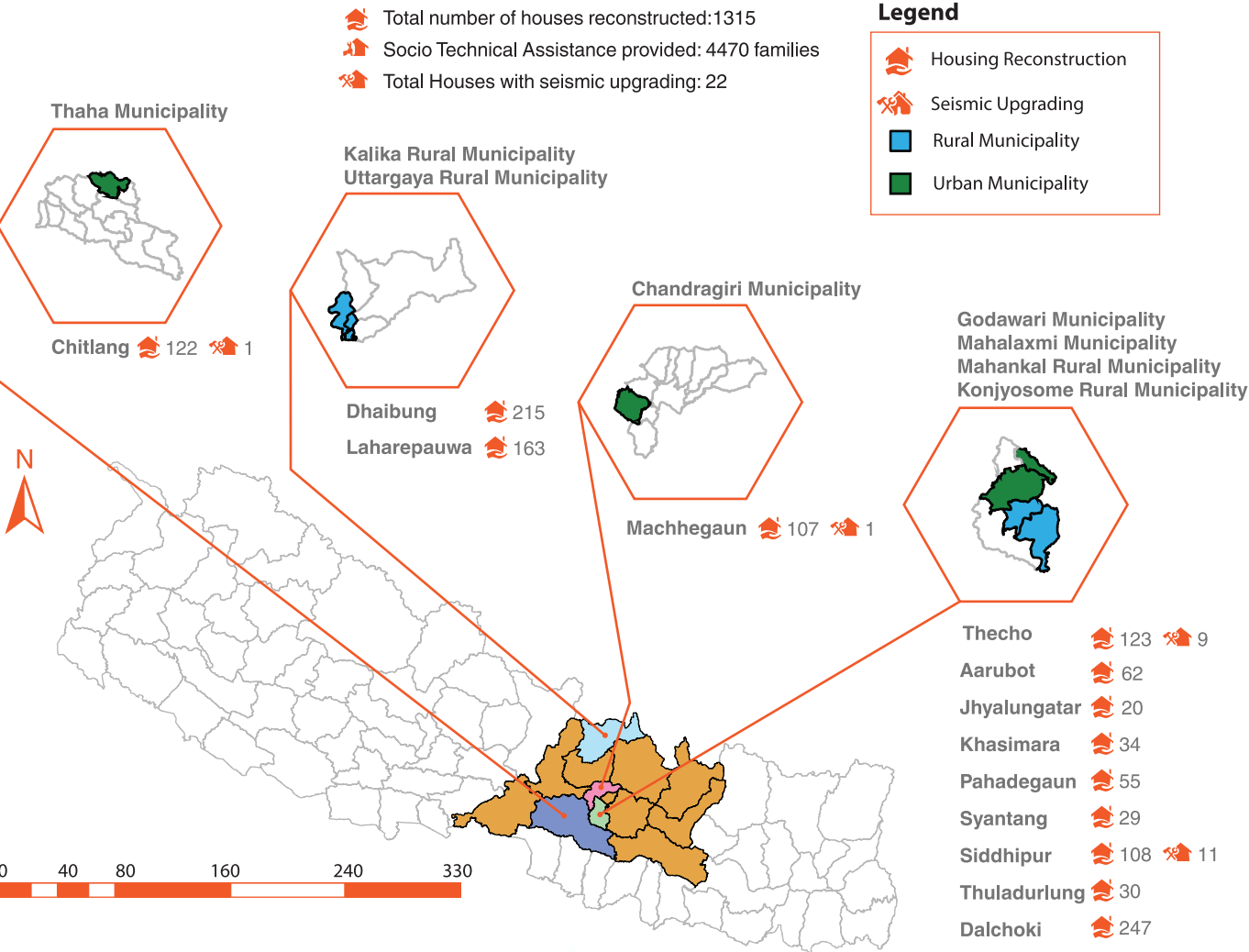




Activities & Achievements



PROGRAM AREAS GEOGRAPHICAL DETAILS



SMALL SCALE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

	Road Network and Paving	11 projects
	Drainage Management	5 projects
	Open Space Management	9 projects
	Pati	7 projects
	Individual Toilets	575
	Community WASH Projects	3 projects
	Community Health Center	1 project

DRR



Stock Pile Centers in **64 areas of 5 municipalities**
(Kirtipur, Chandragiri, Godavari, Rasuwa, Sankharapur)



DRR Based Trainings **3870 participants**



Community Volunteers **2221 people**

CAPACITY BUILDING



Mason Training **519 participants**



Other Technical Trainings **62 participants**



Other Trainings **1072 participants**



Urban Reconstruction





After the Earthquake of 2015 Nepal experienced heavy downpour of support in all forms from many national and international organisations bringing in new possibilities for community based development activities. However this possibility was channelized mostly towards rural areas. Despite the fact that the majority of damaged households were in urban centres, these areas were left rather neglected in terms of policy support, technical assistance and aids. Realising the vulnerability of urban poor, Lumanti directed its focus towards four of the core urban areas in and around Kathmandu valley - namely Siddhipur and Thecho from Lalitpur District, Machhegaun in Kathmandu District and Chitlang in Makawanpur District.

The following chapters discuss in detail the efforts of urban reconstruction by Lumanti through varying approaches in technical assistance, social empowerment and policy advocacy to build back better cities post disaster of 2015.



CONSTRUCTION OF TEMPORARY SHELTER



The earthquake brought many affected families down to living in tents. Tent was the basic shelter that was only an emergency response and people needed a temporary shelter or transition homes to stay for a longer period until they built a new house. The government also issued notice to support the construction of temporary shelters. This set the context for Lumanti to provide assistance for the construction of temporary shelters.

Lumanti supported the construction of temporary shelters through networks including community based organisations and disaster management committees. In total 5,963 families were reached out and they were provided assistance to construct temporary shelters. These families resided in 24 communities of Kathmandu Valley and in selected VDCs (Village Development Committees) of Dhading and Rasuwa. Also in Rasuwa and Dhading, in coordination with the District Disaster Reduction Committee and respective VDCs, Lumanti provided CGI (Corrugated Galvanized Iron) sheets to the affected families and also provided technical training to the local masons.

For the construction of the temporary shelters, Lumanti mobilised volunteers from Pro-poor Technical Assistance Group (PTAG), the informal group of community architects promoted by Lumanti. The members visited affected communities in the valley and provided technical support in the form of design, material supply and construction supervision for temporary shelters.





The youth from the affected communities, women and local masons also joined together to build the temporary shelters. Shelters were constructed from locally available bamboo or plywood with GI roofing material depending upon need and availability.

In order to effectively implement temporary shelter support, Lumanti met with local stakeholders for an initial consultation with the groups. The preliminary needs assessment conducted by local stakeholders showed that temporary shelter was the immediate need of the earthquake victims in the community. Before identifying the specific sites at which to implement the project, cooperative leaders from the worst hit areas were invited to discuss the methods and process for identifying the most vulnerable. Each cooperative, through consultation with their board members, developed their own strategies for implementing the project. Lumanti then signed an agreement with partner organisations and local government to move forward with the construction of temporary shelters.

Affected families were selected based on the criteria of vulnerability to receive these temporary shelters. Following the selection of beneficiaries, Lumanti's technical team, consisting of engineers and architects, designed a simple 10'x12' one room temporary shelter using CGI sheets, bamboo, and plywood as a starting point for assisting families.

Lumanti provided funds to the cooperatives, which then procured construction materials and distributed those materials to the families. Lumanti provided a brief orientation about the technical and non-technical aspects of building these shelters to groups of cooperative leaders and families, and technical team assistance was also given on-site to families who requested it.

Technical assistance for construction included site visits by Lumanti architects and engineers with leaders of the women's savings and credit cooperatives as well as to families who were in the process of constructing their temporary shelters to offer more practical assistance and advice on the structure, taking into consideration any changes the family wanted to make in the design and materials to use.

In the 9 months following the earthquake, with support from different funding partners such as UN Habitat, OXFAM, IOM, Christian Aid, Mercy Relief, Sign of Hope, GIZ, CORDAID, ACHR, MISEREOR, temporary shelters and relief materials were supported to 6889 families in 5 districts namely Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Rasuwa and Dhading.

JAY RAM MAHARJAN

THECHO, GODAWARI MUNICIPALITY

"The technical team of Lumanti regularly supervised our ongoing construction works. They used to move around in this community every day and whenever they came to this area, they not just looked at the buildings but also asked if everything was okay regarding the family and finances. Felt like we had someone to look over us at all times."



PRIVATE HOUSEHOLD RECONSTRUCTION

Lumanti supported in rebuilding 8 different settlements post the relief phase in coordination with various levels of governments and community organisations. It was a priority to reach out to the most affected and the most vulnerable families prioritising low income, marginalised groups, women headed households, elderly people, and single women.



The process of reconstruction of damaged homes included not only technical and financial support but also policy advocacy, community mobilisation and documentation. As part of the program beneficiaries received:

- ▶ 300,000 rupees in grant support, given in 3 tranches as per government rules
- ▶ Free technical drawings, roughly equivalent to NRs. 30,000
- ▶ Technical consultation as per requirement of the beneficiaries
- ▶ Technical and process orientation programs for beneficiaries
- ▶ Assistance with the registration, application and documentation processes a (to attain the building permit from municipalities)
- ▶ Assistance navigating land issues
- ▶ Construction supervision while constructing earthquake resilient homes
- ▶ Additional grant support for vulnerable individuals and families

NANDA LAXMI SHRESTHA

MACHHEGAUN, CHANDRAGIRI MUNICIPALITY

"I had been living in rents and then temporary shelter with my husband and two daughters after our house got damaged. We were not sure whether to demolish the remains of old house and rebuild in the same place or to build a new structure elsewhere. With the right technical guidance from Lumanti team we realised the risks of building in between two tall partially damaged neighbours so we decided to build a new one in a small parcel of land. After 4 years we now have finally completed our house and have a safe permanent shelter."





SEISMIC UPGRADING PROGRAM

In the beginning, when the rehabilitation program was conceived, the idea was to support more families for repair of their partially damaged houses, if this seems technically sound. There were several partially damaged households in each area that were revealed through community mapping as well as government survey data. Repairing a home versus reconstructing a home has two primary benefits:

01

Repairing a house holds significantly less financial burden than rebuilding a house.

02

Beneficiaries are able to retain much of the original character and aesthetic of the house.

03

Repairing can be done in a lesser time allowing the family to shift in a house early



BIJAYA LAXMI AMATYA

SIDDHIPUR, MAHALAXMI MUNICIPALITY

“With technical guidance from Lumanti, me and my husband were able to strengthen our home. Throughout the construction process, my husband provided significant support but sadly he passed away a year ago. Nonetheless he ensured that his family had a secure home to live in.”



However, people were more interested in rebuilding a new house instead of maintaining their old ones, even though the latter was more expensive. So only a total of 22 houses could be included for repair. Beneficiaries that joined the housing repair program agreed to contribute 30% to the total repair cost. The beneficiaries received:

- Up to 250,000 rupees in grant support
- Free technical drawings, as needed
- Technical support at any time
- Assistance with the application process and documentation
- Assistance with any other issues
- Technical repair that ensured earthquake resilience



SMALL SCALE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT



Open spaces are an integral part of social life in settlements and in cases of disasters they doubly function as evacuation areas. There were several pockets of open spaces that needed to be conserved or revived in the areas that Lumanti was reconstructing and therefore Lumanti decided to design projects for open space revitalisation from the budget that was used for repair. These projects addressed revitalising courtyard spaces, public rest houses, pavements, drainage management, toilet repairs etc. The infrastructure projects helped to bring the community members together and work towards a common goal. Municipalities also contributed additional funds to support some of these projects. The cooperatives in each area took the lead to bring in more actors/contributors and mobilised the community for implementation of the prioritised projects.





Program & Process



COMMUNITY LED APPROACH



RISK AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

In the month following the earthquake, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) conducted a non-technical rapid assessment. Lumanti added to this base of knowledge by conducting risk and vulnerability workshops in all the affected areas in which Lumanti works. These workshops were implemented through active contribution by the community members. During these workshops, community members participated in various mapping exercises in order to prioritise the recovery needs of the community and create disaster mitigation plans. These plans were used to develop the program and encourage the affected communities to take safety measures at both the household and community level in order to build resiliency against future disasters. Various aspects and issues were identified by the community members for mitigating future hazards and disasters. A Vulnerability Capacity Assessment report and plan was used as a strategic tool for advocating for developing disaster risk and reduction strategies.

COMMUNITY MAPPING

Community maps are tools to portray various scenarios of community made by community members themselves. It is a participatory way to collect data from the field. In April 2016 an international team of architects and volunteers from Community Architect's Network (CAN) supported by ACHR came over to Nepal to jointly conduct a community based workshop whereby community mapping was used as a tool to collect information related to the status of land ownership, homeownership, land areas, damage grade, construction technologies, building by laws and policies. These data supported us not just in selection of beneficiaries but also understanding the deeper issues that could hinder the process of reconstruction. Identification of issues through various layers of mapping, discussing policy solutions and making recommendations to address the issues through focus groups discussions was facilitated by Lumanti. In preparation for mapping, Lumanti executed baseline activities such as household surveys, land surveys, and preliminary community discussions in coordination with the local governments and the women's cooperatives.



Through various workshops and meetings, communities were able to provide their input. The maps themselves are large in order to provide enough space to work on. The base map is placed on the ground and the community members gather around it. Individually, people identify their household and specify their issues. Communally, information on land and home-ownership, land areas, damage grade, construction technologies, building bylaws and policies are all discussed by the community and placed into the map.

NAMRATA MAHARJAN

THECHO, GODAWARI MUNICIPALITY

"My husband is an alcoholic and had no concern for rebuilding the house after it collapsed. I felt helpless especially without lalpurja at hand, I felt like we would be living with our son in the temporary shelter forever. But Lumanti came along and through their efforts, we were able to verify our land ownership from the ward office and receive our grants for reconstruction. I still need to save money to put on windows but I am happy to have a stable roof over my head."



Community mapping is a highly collaborative process. First, Lumanti needed to coordinate with the ward offices, municipalities, and the women's cooperatives. Then, the community itself worked on the physical mapping together. However, and within reason, privacy concerns regarding individual information sometimes stalled the mapping process. Lumanti met with these communities, actively listened to their concerns, and worked to reassure individuals and make the mapping process go as smoothly as possible. After many days of mapping in each community, Lumanti was able to gather crucial information to best help the communities in reconstruction and infrastructure projects.

Through community mapping the team realised that none of the houses had standard land parcels and majority did not have land titles. After this breakthrough revelation it was obvious that land related issues were the biggest obstacle to proceed ahead. Reconstruction was not as simple as designing and building. The existing policies restricted people from building in their own land, obtaining municipal approvals and receiving financial support. Basically neither existing government policies nor reconstruction policies were in favor of the majority of the settlements. It was very similar in Machhegaun as well.

In the mapping process in Siddhipur which encompassed 420 households, it is found that most of the damaged houses are partially demolished (45%) and people are still living in the same house. Around 30% of the houses remained untouched after the damage by the earthquake. Only 14% have cleared the site for reconstruction when the team collected the data. In terms of land ownership certificate, 60% of households have it and about 8% are in process to get it. In addition to this, the team realised that none of the houses had standard land parcels (2.5 ana). Due to this, most of the houses were not eligible for municipal approval for construction and that means they were not eligible to obtain the reconstruction grant. The existing policies restricted people from building in their own land, restricted them from obtaining municipal approvals and restricted them from receiving financial support. Basically neither existing government policies nor reconstruction policies were in favour of the majority of the settlements.

RAJU MAHARJAN

SIDDHIPUR, MAHALAXMI MUNICIPALITY

“Before the earthquake my big family lived in a house overlooking a big courtyard. But after the earthquake our house was damaged and my family members had to live in scattered manner, some in the damaged house, some in rent and some in temporary shelter. Also I have been suffering from brain tumor and needed an operation. Financially this was a big liability in times of disaster. We were lucky that I and my brother’s name were enlisted separately and we were able to attain substantial grant as well as additional grant under vulnerable category along with loans from cooperatives and relatives that enabled us to rebuild our homes. I would like to thank Lumanti for guiding us through all the documentation process.”

Moreover, when people were asked about the source of funding for the reconstruction, more than 50% are depending on loans, only 5% have savings of their own, whereas 14% said they have to sell assets (farm land). 8% of house owners said they have no capacity for rebuilding, they cannot take out a loan as they have no income source to pay. Therefore there was an urgent need for financial support as well as technical support in the community.

So the first thing even before designing buildings was to advocate for policies that would support the process of reconstruction for the majority of the population.

In Chitlang, it was not necessary to do the community mapping process as the beneficiaries who would receive support from the project have already been identified by the ward. Lumanti was given the responsibility of providing technical and financial assistance to families in four community clusters (2 wards) in the settlement.

BENEFICIARIES SELECTION

The beneficiaries of Lumanti reconstruction program are representatives of those most vulnerable. All victims suffered great losses - whether these losses are their homes or also family members. Many people are still struggling to survive, to rebuild their home and to find a sense of normalcy. Regardless, it is never possible to support everyone in each settlement due to lack of resources and time and therefore strategic selections had to be made in order to determine the ones in most need.

For the selection of beneficiary, it was crucial that the majority of the community people agree to the selection and therefore coordination with all stakeholders was mandatory. Initially meetings with ward citizen forums were conducted in each ward in all the settlements. All the members of ward citizen forum, leaders of political parties and representatives from other local organisations like tole development committee, clubs and social workers were invited to the meeting. The priority was given to economically weak people, families with elderly, disabled and single women.

BHAKTA BAHADUR THAPA

CHITLANG, THAHA MUNICIPALITY

"Me and my wife Maiya are in our sixties and cannot earn anymore. Our only son committed suicide and we don't have any source of regular income. We have our grandchildren and daughter in law to take care of. So this earthquake has been additional financial burden for us. It would have been not possible to build this home without the support from Lumanti. Now that it is complete we have good night sleep. We have a safe home now, I think this is a light of hope for us. We will regain our happy days gradually."



The map, that includes information on damage grade and house owners' name, was shown and probable beneficiary name was collected by discussing between them. After the series of discussion with ward and municipality, the name list of beneficiaries was finalised for Thehco, Machhegaun and Siddhipur. For Chitlang, the ward allocated ward 4, and 9 where Lumanti was required to support all the beneficiaries in the government list.

The government had adopted this policy to provide assistance to the entire ward and not promote scattered support. Chitlang was later merged as part of the Thaha Municipality. One of the biggest challenges faced in Chitlang was that many of the families, in the list given to Lumanti had already settled in Kathmandu, Hetauda and other areas and the team had problems getting in touch with them. Despite numerous attempts to contact them, nearly 30% of the beneficiaries were out of touch. Given the limited time frame of the project it was very necessary that Lumanti identified new beneficiaries for the project. Thus, coordination with the ward assisted to find out new families seeking support for reconstruction. New wards were then explored for this purpose.



Some of the criteria for determining potential beneficiaries upon mutual consent of related stakeholders were as follows. These individuals:

1

Belong to extremely poor and vulnerable families.

2

Are poor who have completely lost their homes and belongings with no alternatives.

3

Families who have very small pieces of land available for reconstruction.

4

Women headed families and families who lost their family members in the earthquake.

5

A large family with many children, pregnant women or with babies.

6

Families with elderly people and people with illness.

In order to become eligible for the reconstruction program, beneficiaries must have owned the home that was damaged by the earthquake and the home had to be listed by the government as earthquake affected. Through Lumanti's assistance, many people have had the opportunity to start this journey towards regaining their homes. Though it is still a struggle, Lumanti's assistance has made many of the beneficiaries feel they have hope and that they have support. These two elements are essential in the process of disaster recovery.

COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Throughout the reconstruction process, Lumanti coordinated with several entities. Within the government, Lumanti has been working in coordination with the National Reconstruction Authority in addition to other national, district level, and local government agencies, including municipalities, and ward offices.

Lumanti also partnered with community based organisations including user groups and committees, women's savings and credit cooperatives, community leaders and representatives. One example of these groups is the Community Women Forum (CWF), a network organisation of women managed cooperative and savings groups and coordinated with the local women managed cooperatives and savings groups in the project area. Fourteen of these cooperatives and 2 local groups actively involved in earthquake relief activities in the recent past assisted in the identification of beneficiaries. They also assisted in the coordination of grant distribution.



The local elections in May 2018 helped the project to give a push forward. Since the elected mayors and the ward chairpersons were locals and they had given priority to the reconstruction as the prime agenda of their election, the coordination became very easy and Lumanti received support from the local government to resolve various issues which were hindering the reconstruction process.



For technical support, Lumanti partnered with Hunnarshala Foundation a non profit organisation based in India and Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) Their technical expertise gained from experience with the Gujarat earthquake in 2001 and Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004 proved invaluable in Lumanti's reconstruction program. Working alongside Lumanti's technical teams, these organisations provided insight into earthquake resilient construction and made a positive impression on many of the beneficiaries.

ASHA LAL NAPIT

CHITLANG, THAHA MUNICIPALITY

"I am thankful to Lumanti for providing us this design and supervising during the building construction. We don't need to run away if we feel the jolt anymore. I think this home is strong enough to bear the big earthquake. Rebuilding this home in a short span of time would not be possible without Lumanti's technical support and facilitation to attain the grant support."



POLICY ADVOCACY

Since there was much gap between reality and policy, Lumanti tried to work as a bridge to bring the two closer. Lumanti found that working with local governments was more effective to ease the process of reconstruction in terms of adopting a flexible approach as per need and reality.

The team advocated with the municipality for a unique building bylaw that would support reconstruction in core areas. There were several series of talks with various socio-political groups and local governments, ultimately houses in core areas started getting municipal approval.



CAN (COMMUNITY ARCHITECT NETWORK) WORKSHOP FOR OPEN SPACE REVITALISATION

The Community Architect Network (CAN) also provided technical support and community based work to identify and develop master plans for both reconstruction and infrastructure projects needed within the communities after the earthquake.



Lumanti in partnership with CAN and Hunnarshala organised a workshop to envision “Transformation of Traditional Open Space” from August 2-7 2018 with active participation of local government and community members. This workshop focused on the revitalisation of public space in traditional towns, particularly Thecho and Siddhipur. More than 100 participants took part in envisioning the transformation and adapting for best use of traditional open space.

The objectives of the workshop were:



Utilize community participation to develop a master plan of selected areas within each settlement.



Design the area to optimally maximise social and economic development opportunities.

To attain these objectives, the workshop first collected oral accounts of issues, stories, history and aspirations of the community members. These accounts were collected through a community mapping exercise that allowed community members to visualise place in parallel to their recollections. Following the collection of the oral accounts and the mapping exercise, the team presented the completed maps to the community. The team then worked with the community to identify possible interventions that could be applied towards revitalisation of public space, and then to prioritise those interventions. The direct involvement of the community in the decision making process helped to increase community investment in the project. In Thecho, the priorities were identified as cleanliness and the improvement of the pavement surrounding the Pingal Dabali. In Siddhipur, the construction of a pati at Devnani and Bhimsentole were chosen for discussion.

This workshop served as a catalyst for Lumanti, its partners, and the communities involved to work on significant infrastructure projects to better serve and revitalise the communities.

GOPAL AWALE

SIDDHIPUR, MAHALAXMI MUNICIPALITY

“My wife, son and daughter died under my collapsed house. My other 2 sons and a daughter however survived. I was devastated emotionally after the earthquake. Also I was financially weak. Even though I am a mason, I had not been able to work for a couple of years due to my failing eyesight, so I had no source of earning. But I am grateful that with technical support from Lumanti and loans from Didi-Bahini cooperative. I and my family were able to rebuild our house. It also gives me some consolation to realise that I could put my masonry skills to use on reconstruction.”



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT



COMMUNITY WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Establishment of saving's groups is the key for empowering the women of affected communities and engaging them in the reconstruction process, both at the household and community level. Various capacity building activities have been conducted to engage women in the reconstruction process and to enhance economic empowerment. The saving's groups are connected as a larger saving's cooperative through which Lumanti has provided assistance to link with financial institutions for soft loans for families seeking support for housing construction.

In coordination with the local women's cooperatives, trainings on various topics such as health and hygiene, social mobilisation, finances, mason orientations as well as solid waste management were provided in the communities to help build the community knowledge base and allow members of the community to have more investment in the processes of reconstruction and revitalisation.

MAILA KHAWAS

MACHHEGAUN, CHANDRAGIRI MUNICIPALITY

"Lumanti supported my family by not only providing technical drawings/plans for reconstruction but also loans, grants as financial support. Also as a mason myself, I was able to learn the technologies of constructing earthquake resistant house through involvement in construction of my own house under guidance of Lumanti. I want to thank Lumanti for their ongoing support in every aspect for my family at a time when support was difficult to find."



COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE (CIC)

Community consultations regarding reconstruction agendas frequently organised at CIC (Community Information Centre) coordination with Women's cooperative to transfer knowledge regarding structural safety in construction, reconstruction policies and government procedures.



Community had most frequently asked questions on topics such as land titles, land swap, land size and bylaws. Other questions were related to government grant receiving procedures, bank loans, construction systems and household designs. Lumanti team gathered the community in their respective user committee groups and gave related suggestions and solutions on these issues. Since government policies were frequently changing and interpretations were different, community members were usually confused on the amount of grant to be received and the procedures. The Lumanti team extensively worked with both the local women's cooperatives and the user committees to connect community members and provide suggestions and solutions for their issues.



USER COMMITTEE MOBILISATION

In Thecho, the beneficiaries selected upon mapping were divided in 9 different user groups based on proximity of their households. Similarly in Siddhipur, the identified families were divided in 6 different user groups, 2 users' groups in each ward. In Machhegaun the families were divided into 7 different user groups. Each user committee had a leader who could give time and effort to the entire group to facilitate construction activities. User committees were formed to ease the process of information dissemination, experience sharing and enable mutual support. User committees made mutual decisions related to prioritisation of construction, mason mobilisation, material procurement and storage, paper works for various government and banking procedures and neighbourhood level decision making for successful reconstruction of households and neighbourhoods.

The context of Chitlang was little different compared to the other three settlements. The houses were rather scattered and it was not possible to form a cluster committee in this situation. It was more of an individual reconstruction, but the project team made sure that technical support was provided to each of the houses.





TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical teams formed by Lumanti comprising architects, engineers, and social mobilisers, led by a project coordinator, provided technical support to the people in affected communities. These teams were the 'on the ground' force that aided the community in the reconstruction process by preparing drawings for house construction and providing technical supervision of the reconstruction process. The technical teams from these field offices consulted with the beneficiaries to begin making conceptual drawings for rebuilding their home. These conceptual drawings included significant input from the beneficiaries and incorporated earthquake resilient designs. These drawings were then presented to the beneficiaries for approval, and if changes needed to be made, the technical team's architects and engineers adjusted the drawings as needed. The finalised drawings were submitted to the municipalities for approval. Once the drawings were approved, the engineers from the technical team worked with the contractors and masons for that house to guide them in the techniques and technologies that were needed to make the homes earthquake resilient.





Lumanti also provided orientations for masons in earthquake resilient technologies to help bring more awareness of these technologies into the communities and further ease the reconstruction process. The technical team from Lumanti was stationed in each community on a routine basis to provide technical assistance, orientation and awareness regarding earthquake resistant construction technology to the most vulnerable households in the community. These teams provided much needed technical assistance to the families not only directly through the reconstruction process, but also through information centres, training and orientations on 'Build Back Better' approaches.





Innovative Approaches



INFO FALCHA: INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION OF A TRADITIONAL REST HOUSE



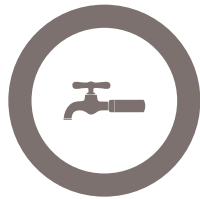
This was one of the open space revitalisation projects implemented in technical support of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) whereby an old *falcha* in a small neighbourhood square named *Kujho* in Thecho was reconstructed with innovative disaster resilient elements. It was observed during the earthquake that despite having large courtyards in front of the houses, people preferred to evacuate and shelter in spaces far away from their homes, preferably in agricultural fields that were devoid of any built structures. This was because the neighbourhood squares did not have any reliable place to shelter. Taking this scenario as a case, this project was designed to rebuild the existing Falcha that was partially damaged by making the structure earthquake resistant enough to provide immediate shelter to the most vulnerable such as elderly, newborn, pregnant or injured. Also components such as storage space for Community Search and Rescue Materials (CSRM), solar lightings, water storage tank (20,000 ltr. capacity) and bio sand filtration system to purify the water stored were incorporated in the falcha. Water system was one crucial component meant for regular use as well as for back up during disaster. The concepts and designs were formulated by MIT in close consultation with the team of Lumanti working on ground who was also responsible for executing the concepts as per design.



Upon approval of the project from the municipality, the construction process was initiated by mobilising a users' committee comprising active members from the neighbourhood. This was done in coordination with the local women's cooperative. The user committee was made responsible for material and labour procurement to ensure ownership of the project at local level. In order to make proper use of the Community Search and Rescue Materials (CSRM), experts were hired to train 25 local youths on the use of those materials through mockup practical teaching methodology. Upon completion of the construction, the user committee was converted to a management committee. This committee was responsible for the following:



Regularly cleaning, replacing and keeping a log of LSR materials.



Regularly distributing water to households in the area.



Regularly cleaning and maintaining the water tank and water distribution system.



Conducting regular meetings with ward office and local women's cooperative to update the process and challenges.



Maintaining the structural elements of the Falcha.



After the completion of the Info Falcha, the locals called it a fusion of the past and the present. The design cleverly incorporated lighter roof trusses of metal and bands of concrete for earthquake safety hidden behind the traditional facade of brick, wooden elements and clay tiled roofs. Similarly, a water tank tucked under the square tiled dabali, bio sand filtration behind the brick walls and solar panels angled away from the roofs to retain the sanctity and beauty of heritage outlook.

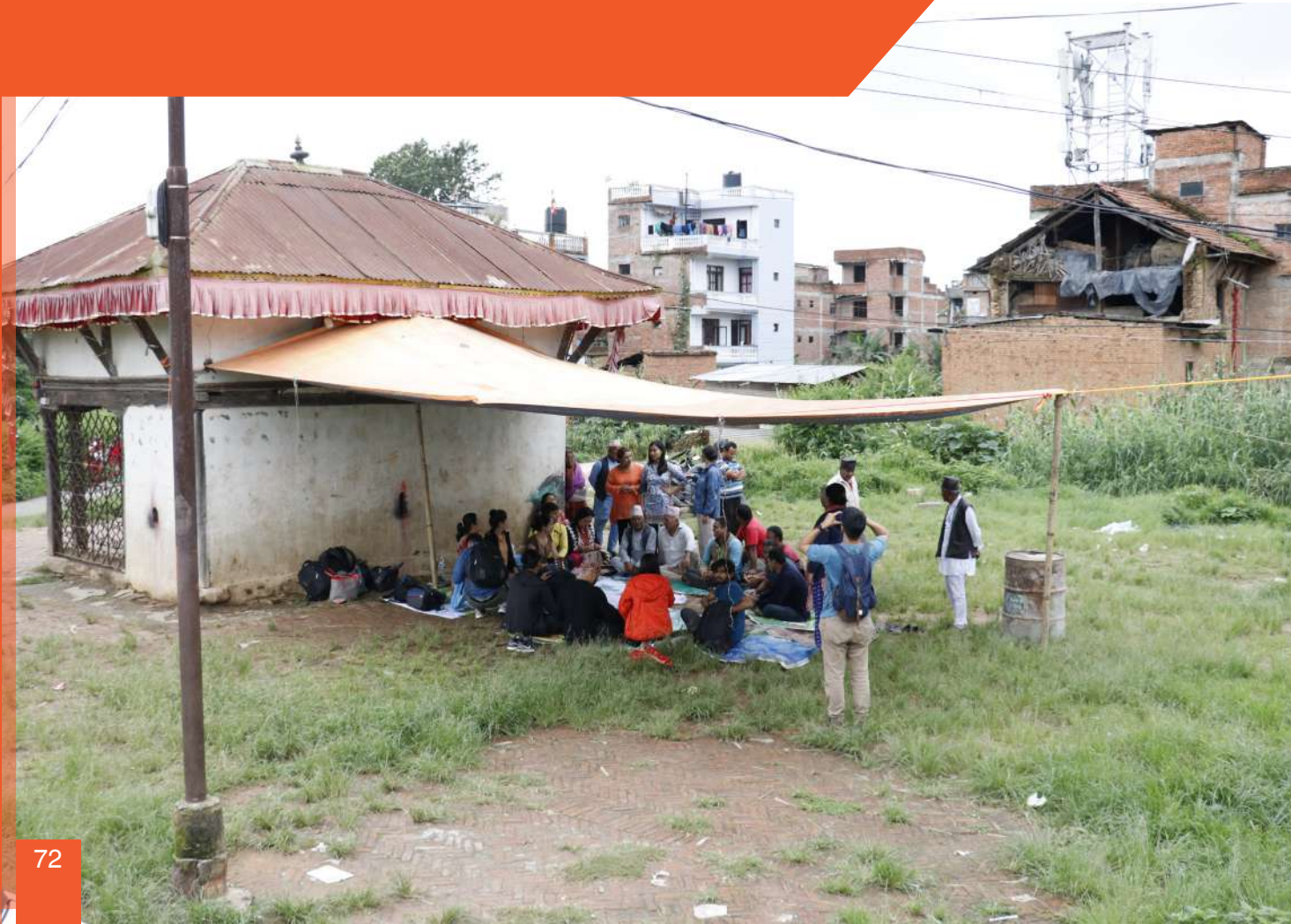


As it goes with every project that Lumanti implements, this falcha was also privileged of generous contribution from the locals in the form of labor contribution, human resources for material procurements, donation of construction elements and finishing components. Regular meetings with the locals in and around the courtyard housing the falcha along with local women's cooperative was key at maintaining flow of information and transparency of the project developments. The level of involvement of the community has been the very reason for their ownership and efficient management of the project post construction phase.

Today the falcha is a vibrant space with people of all age groups and gender using it at different hours of the day for variety of uses. Because of the water supply, mornings are filled with ladies from the neighbouring households lined up for waster, because of the solar lights, the evenings are filled with sounds of bhajans sung by elderly of the area. Several students from different parts of the world have come to study the process of bringing community together to create vibrant public spaces taking this Falcha as an example. Lumanti has extended this idea, innovation to other settlements such as Siddhipur and Bungamati as well.



PINGAL TEMPLE REVITALISATION



Another very befitting example of community led open space revitalisation is once again from Thecho towards the southern edge of the settlement where the Pingal temple is situated. Pingal is the biggest open space in Thecho housing various structures such as the temple of Pith Bhairav, viewpoint overlooking the Nakkhu River and beyond, forest below the edge, pond, dabali, and stone edifices belonging to various clans, a pati, water tank, a primary school, public ground and streets connecting all of them. The temple holds highly sacred value with every festival, family events, religious rituals and processions taking place either in the temple premises or passing through it.

Despite the significance of the space it was not well maintained. The temple was partially damaged by the earthquake and not repaired thereafter, the pati had crumbled down with its remains lying down by the drainage, and neglected, grasses almost 4 feet high were growing on the platform around the temple, weeds and garbage in the pond, view point surrounded by high metal mesh obstructing the view, litters everywhere. The revitalisation project was then conceptualised to enhance the functional and aesthetic quality of the area so that it would draw more public of various gender and age groups and be suitable for multi-function activities.



NANDA KUMARI MAHARJAN

THECHO, GODAWARI MUNICIPALITY

"I am very grateful to Lumanti for supporting us to build our houses but I appreciate even more that Lumanti build pavements, drainages and made spaces like Pingal and Buddha Park better. Not only do I have a new safe home but also a beautiful community."



Lumanti along with a team of experts from CAN organised a workshop in 2018 to understand the needs and aspirations of the community. Several active leaders of Thecho, guthi members, local women's cooperative, youth clubs members, technical experts, schools administration and most importantly ward office participated in the workshop. Upon series of discussion and mapping, models of current situation and possible interventions were created. The community was allowed to choose upon priority projects and make suggestions. Taking all the inputs from the local level the final project design was made. Lumanti decided to act upon all structures except for renovating the temple which was planned to be executed by the people and the municipality at a later date.

User committee was responsible for execution of the design under regular monitoring of Lumanti's technical team and social support from local women's cooperatives. The site clearance and tree plantations were executed by the local women and youth groups, whereas other construction were executed by mobilising expert labourers. As the project gradually progressed, the area started gaining visual aesthetics and this prompted many local donors to contribute financially. The pond clearance and beautification was funded by a local businessman, whereas tree lightings by the youth club. At the end of the project, the grounds were paved with porous pavements, viewpoint edge was re constructed, seats were added, platform was made even, repaved and its edges strengthened, scattered edifices were properly aligned, solar lights added, drainage improved.

The degree of participation of the locals from early phase of inception to completion has built up a deep sense of responsibility towards the project and therefore the local community is actively involved in regular maintenance and up keeping of the area. After a year of completion of the space revitalisation, the temple is finally ready for renovation with financial contributions from municipality and the locals together.

Upon completion, locals along with the mayor expressed their satisfaction saying the area had a major facelift and it feels more vibrant. No wonder there are crowds of people (locals and visitors from neighbouring settlements) visiting and taking selfies in the premises, every evening!



SEISMIC UPGRADING THE PILOT PROJECT



Seismically strengthening a partially damaged house was one of the best practices of cost effective and sustainable reconstruction efforts that Lumanti was able to conduct. With technical guidance from Hunnarshala, who had previously implemented mass scale seismic upgrading projects post the earthquake in Gujrat, Lumanti was able to upgrade the conditions of 22 households in 4 urban areas.

To convince community members regarding the effectiveness of this process, a demonstration project was set up in Thecho. It was done on a partially damaged house that had a shared wall towards its east, severe crack open at the north west corner, deflected first floor and several cracks on the western wall. The homeowners worked as daily labours and couldn't afford to reconstruct a new structure from scratch, so strengthening the existing structures was the most feasible approach.

RAM KUMARI SHRESTHA

MACHHEGAUN, CHANDRAGIRI MUNICIPALITY

"The earthquake caused cracks on our house in several places and we felt unsafe to stay in but we didn't have enough money to demolish and rebuild it. When Lumanti's technical team consulted examined the home and assured us that the house could be made safer it was a big relief. With technical support and with reinforcements added, our house got stronger and our family now feels safer than ever before."





But this was a new approach and local masons had no previous experience on the technical aspects. With constant supervision from an engineer and supervisor from Hunnarshala, the technical team of Lumanti trained the masons on the job. New tie beams were inserted, damaged walls were carefully brought down and rebuilt with substantial support and ties, small wall cracks were tied with mesh and metal straps, floors were restructured with additional support. The house became seismically stronger than before and when the homeowners were asked how they felt about the structure, they answered back saying now they don't fear the house collapsing any longer.

Upon completion of the project a photographic exhibition of the entire construction process was held in the open space before the house. Local government officials, local community members and technical staff of the municipality were invited to the exhibition. The positivity outcome of the demonstration project helped to convince more homeowners to adopt seismic upgrading to build safer homes.

TAUKHEL PLANNING



One month prior to the earthquake in April 2015, Lumanti in partnership with Community women's forum (CWF) and Bishnudevi Women and Credit Savings Cooperative in Machhegaun had held a heritage workshop on the historic preservation of heritage sites. A few weeks following this workshop the April earthquake severely affected the area. The cooperative now found a need not only for preservation, but also reconstruction. Of the 3 areas in Macchegaon, Taukhel was the most devastated. More than 70% of the houses were completely damaged. Of the 86 houses at the time of the earthquake, only 26 are still standing. 4 people died during the earthquake, one of whom was only two years of age. Similar to case with many of the older settlements, most of the collapsed houses were old, worn down, and constructed with either sun-dried brick or poor-quality brick work in mud mortar. 3 days following the earthquake, Lumanti Support Group for Shelter arrived to distribute food items and temporary shelters, of which 115 were distributed in the area. During this time discussions began between Lumanti and the cooperative on how to begin reconstruction in Taukhel.

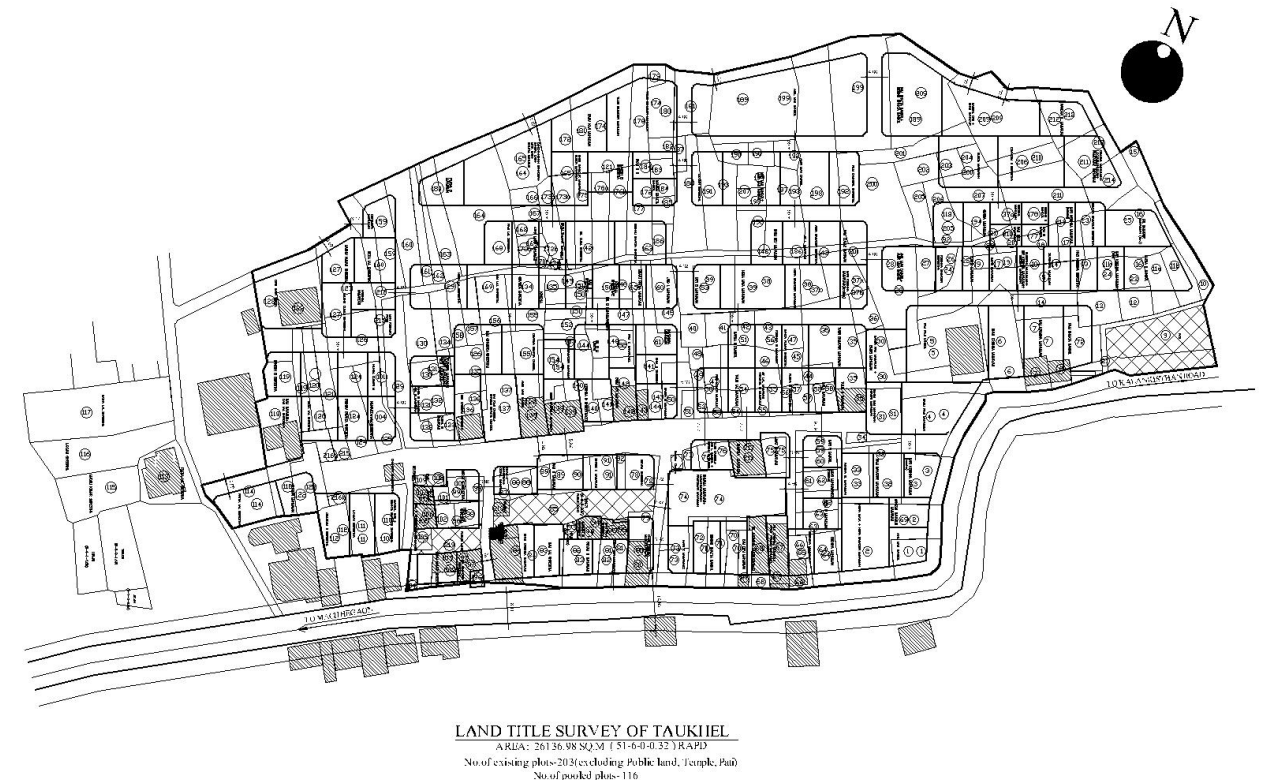




The settlement in old Taukhel was the row houses that housed approximately 86 families. These row houses were located on either side of a narrow road cutting through Taukhel. In order to accommodate reconstruction, a wider road was needed to be installed to aid access and movement of construction materials and to meet municipal regulations. In response to this issue, the women's cooperative, Lumanti, the ward office and the reconstruction users' committee collaborated to utilise land from an adjacent field to widen the road and reconstruct the row houses.

In order to accommodate the widening of the road, intensive exercise of design and land division was worked out by Lumanti in coordination with the local community. Upon much revisions and consent of 95% land owners, the land was pooled through a cooperative and collaborative system in which residents contributed a percentage of their property to help redistribute the land. The land was set up in a blocking system to allow for the wider road and smaller roads between housing units.

In addition, with technical support from Lumanti, the identified vulnerable families received technical support for reconstructing their homes. This project has been a very unique example of how land use planning was devised and implemented through a community led approach. Had it been a conventional approach, the open spaces and street networks would probably not have been as inclusive and reflective of the original heritage settlement.





Key Challenges and their Mitigation



KEY CHALLENGES AND THEIR MITIGATION

As with any large-scale project relating to disaster reconstruction, Lumanti has faced many challenges when implementing the reconstruction program. Throughout these challenges, Lumanti has persevered and worked diligently to ensure the program was a success. The challenges discussed in this report are by no means comprehensive. However, these challenges are some of the most significant in the reconstruction process and highlight how Lumanti has been able to work through these issues to help the beneficiaries of the program.

1. LAND ISSUES

One of the most significant challenges faced in the course of the project was related to land, specifically land titles and distribution of property within families. In order to receive reconstruction grant support from the government, one must be in possession of a land title. However, that is very often not the case in many of the settlements.

In response to this issue, Lumanti took part in advocacy work at the local and municipal levels to help consult on bylaws in favor of those who do not possess land titles but do have valid ownership of the land. Upon rigorous efforts in advocacy ultimately the houses that possess "field book"- informal land ownership papers were verified at community level through a process termed "sarjamin" and declared eligible to receive the first tranche of the grants.

For the disputes concerning distribution of property within families, the technical teams and social mobilisers consulted regularly with the families to help them navigate these issues and find solutions among themselves to move forward with mutual consent in compliance with the reconstruction documentation procedures.



2. SCHEMATICS VS. REALITY



Schematics versus reality can also be tied into land issues. Often the existing drawings for the land belonging to beneficiaries did not match up to the actual measurements of the land on which the beneficiaries live. This created a problem, in that if the drawings did not match the land, the municipalities could not grant construction permits and thereby restricting the homeowners from receiving the second and third tranches. In response to this issue, Lumanti's technical teams worked tirelessly with the local government and the beneficiaries to work through this problem with the goal of matching the drawings and the land with support from municipal surveyor "Amin". After the first few cases of delays and difficulties to set the process right, the rest of the cases followed with slight ease. As a result, Lumanti was able to get many beneficiaries the municipal approval they needed to access the grants and rebuild their homes.

3. LACK OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION



Lack of understanding in regard to governmental procedures and plans can lead to several issues within active programs, for both the beneficiaries and the program facilitators. For example, there was an initial lack of understanding in regard to the actual procedures for the application process for reconstruction. Through working with local governments, meetings with stakeholders, and connecting with groups, Lumanti made a significant effort in understanding these processes in order to best

aid those undergoing the reconstruction process. In addition, Lumanti provided orientations and training for the beneficiaries and masons, as well as consulted with beneficiaries on a one-on-one basis to help disseminate the information as effectively as possible. Direct support in documentation processes such as filling up application forms, guiding the step-by-step procedures for series of approvals required and even delegating and referencing the cases to municipal staff for faster follow ups were some of the activities that the beneficiary highly benefited from.

4. REVISION OF GRANT AMOUNT

In the early stages of reconstruction, the government announced that the grant support from the government would amount to NRs. 200,000. During this time, Lumanti began the selection of beneficiaries and set numbers of houses in each community that would benefit from the program. Realising earthquake survivors would need additional financial support the government increased the amount to NRs. 300,000. With this increase, Lumanti requested the donor organisations to increase grant amount which was not agreed by all the donors.

This change did allow for families to receive more money towards reconstruction, therefore allowing them respectively to speed up the reconstruction process and move into their new safe, earthquake resilient home.

5. APPROVAL DELAYS

Plans for reconstruction had to be approved by government officials prior to and repeatedly at various stages of disbursement of grant support. At times, approvals took longer which means the release of grant installments and reconstruction progress were delayed. Lumanti consistently communicated with government officials, the cooperatives, and the beneficiaries in order to remain transparent and help find ways to both ease and speed up the process.

6. LACK OF MATERIALS AND LABOR

The flurry of rebuilding activity in the communities at the beginning of the reconstruction process made it difficult for many people to find the resources they need. Demand for construction materials and contractors at this time were so high that there were not enough resources to go around. Part of Lumanti's planning process for the reconstruction program was to schedule reconstruction in a way that was staggered so not all beneficiaries were rebuilding at the same time. This was done by mobilising user committees to decide mutually within themselves the sequence and order of construction so as to ease up communal space for material storage and material supply. This helped lessen the demand for construction materials and contractors and allowed the beneficiaries to have their homes reconstructed in a timely manner.

KANCHHA KHAWAS MACHHEGAUN, CHANDRAGIRI MUNICIPALITY

"The process of constructing our house has been full of challenges. Because the settlement is further from the core area, transporting construction materials from the market proved difficult. Shortages of skilled and unskilled laborers and masons also hindered the construction process. However, I am delighted that construction of our house is finally completed and I plan to reopen my shop right away. I have considered my new home as my new beginning. I have regained my shop and soon will regain my livelihood as well."





7. FINANCIAL ISSUES OF THE BENEFICIARIES

Financial issues of the beneficiaries remain a significant problem in reconstruction. It is difficult to rebuild if there is a financial crisis, land issues, health and other issues that need to be addressed first. There are many reasons why families may not be able to afford to rebuild their homes. Though not all these issues could be solved for all families, Lumanti social mobilisers and other staff worked together with women's led local cooperatives as well as with certain banks to provide low interest loans to the beneficiaries. Regardless, most of the beneficiaries had to sell of part of their agricultural lands to finance their constructions.

MUNA ADHIKARI

MACHHEGAUN, CHANDRAGIRI MUNICIPALITY

"After the earthquake we were not sure if we could afford to build a new house. But with upon consultation with Lumanti we were able to get 9 lakh rupees loan from the local women's cooperative and 4 lakhs rupees from the bank. We also sold 3 aanas of land and along with the grant of 3 lakhs from Lumanti we were able to complete the construction of our new home in a span of 7 months."





Key Learning



KEY LEARNING



From the beginning, the project faced numerous challenges and hurdles. However, Lumanti took these challenges as an opportunity to build new relationships and adapt according to the new context. After the local election, the municipalities and the ward became very strong and were given a key role in the reconstruction process. The team in each area developed a good relationship with the local government and acted as a bridge between the community and the municipality. Many of the challenges related with approval, lands etc. were addressed through consultations with the elected representatives.

The women's saving and credit cooperatives in each of the areas played a key coordination role in the entire reconstruction process. Process is easy where the communities are organised and have a strong sense of collectiveness. These cooperatives were keys for empowering the women of affected communities and engaging them in the reconstruction process, both at the household and community level. Various capacity-building activities have been conducted to engage women in the reconstruction process and to enhance economic empowerment. The saving's groups are connected as a larger saving's cooperative through which Lumanti has provided assistance to link with financial institutions for soft loans for families seeking support for housing construction.

The reconstruction project in the urban core area could only be successful with the formation of contextual Building by-laws. Lumanti's reconstruction program has been a success, both in quantitative and qualitative measures. From the number of homes rebuilt, repaired and the infrastructure provided to help revitalise those communities, Lumanti has had significant achievement in meeting the goals of the reconstruction program. This can be directly attributed to Lumanti's collaborative approach to project planning and implementation. Through joint monitoring and implementation, Lumanti has used its networks to help administer the reconstruction program in several communities. Lumanti understands that, in order, to be most effective, this program needed to work through an established network prior to the implementation of the projects in each area. These networks, including the women's cooperatives, local government and user groups are one of the many reasons Lumanti has been able to expand their reach in the number of the communities in Kathmandu Valley and beyond.



For the families supported by Lumanti's reconstruction program, success in the reconstruction program meant to have their home completed, to have a home that is earthquake resilient, and most of all, to once again feel they are safe and secure. The beneficiaries of this program are all appreciative of Lumanti's efforts in helping them return home and indeed feel they have the safety and security they had been missing since the earthquake hit in 2015.

Another important learning has been the importance of the level of community involvement in the reconstruction program. If the people and local stakeholders accept the program and

participate in the program as a community, this indicates a high level of achievement. Without the feedback and participatory action on the part of the community members, Lumanti would have had difficulty identifying the exact needs of those communities and also the measures to address those needs. The people were actively involved in making decisions that affect their communities. Lumanti constantly mobilised and motivated communities to be engaged in taking the right steps collectively. This way, more people were helped than any one organisation can aid on their own. In this respect, the reconstruction program was a great success.

Conclusion



Lumanti's reconstruction program has been a success, both in quantitative and qualitative measures. From the number of homes rebuilt, repaired and the infrastructure provided to help revitalise those communities, Lumanti has had significant achievement in meeting the goals of the reconstruction program.

Lumanti learned valuable lessons. These lessons are an asset for us. These lessons will always guide us in our future endeavour.





Lumanti Support Group for Shelter

Jeetjung Marg, Thapathali, Kathmandu, Nepal

P.O.Box : 10546, Kathmandu, Nepal

Telephone: +977-1-4102119

Fax: +977-1-4102118

Email : shelter@lumanti.org.np

www.lumanti.org.np