



Habitat
for Humanity®
Nepal

TRANSFORMING LIVES





HABITAT'S VISION

**A world where
everyone has a decent
place to live.**

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Executive summary

On April 25, 2015, Nepal was struck by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake killing nearly 9,000 people and affecting 8 million, nearly a third of the country's population. According to the Government of Nepal figures, 602,257 houses were destroyed by the devastating earthquake while 285,099 houses were partially damaged.

Three years after the earthquake, Habitat for Humanity continues to help affected families and communities by providing support for permanent housing solutions. Under an owner-driven reconstruction approach, Habitat Nepal works with affected families through four key pillars of support: social mobilization, technical assistance, tiered assistance and market development. These four pillars make up an integrated approach which sees affected families and communities taking charge of rebuilding their own homes and communities.

With three Housing Support Service Centers set up in two districts Kavrepalanchok and Nuwakot, Habitat coordinates with the government, engages with engineers and shares information on building safe, permanent homes.

Through a community-based reconstruction approach, Habitat Nepal empowers communities to make informed choices about house construction, water, sanitation and other shared resources. Gender equality and social inclusion are also promoted through community training under the Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness. More than 400 community members of whom 40 percent are women have formed PASSA groups after being trained, to support the reconstruction initiatives in their communities while strengthening local capacity to rebuild after a disaster. "The earthquake took away what people had saved and preserved for their lives. What it failed to take away was the people's resilient spirit and common purpose to rise above the adversity", says Tek Bahadur, a

PASSA member and homeowner from Tupche, Nuwakot district.

As families move toward recovery, Habitat's international volunteers work together with local communities to build strong stable homes and communities. National volunteer teams from corporations have also made significant contributions. "After the earthquake I was keen to come to Nepal to help out. As I walked around the village, I could see reconstruction work is going on smoothly though there is still a need for housing support in the community. Some of their stories are hard to listen to but it's nice to be here and able to serve the community", says Andrew Robert Philpolt, a Global Village team leader from Japan.

Habitat Nepal also partnered with the National Reconstruction Authority to conduct training in making compressed stabilized earth blocks in Kavrepalanchok in December 2017 to promote local resources and livelihood while extending reconstruction support to the earthquake-affected community. Sixty community members from Kavrepalanchok were trained. The blocks produced as part of the training were used to build a demonstration house.

Chemeli, a 35-year-old widow and mother of two who lives in Baluwa, Kavrepalanchok, enrolled herself in compressed stabilized earth blocks making training. She thought learning a new skill would provide a better livelihood opportunity and some savings to rebuild a new house. "The training came as a blessing in disguise. For the past two-and-a-half years my family was living in a temporary shelter made of tin sheets. Seeing my dire situation, the ward committee and community decided to build the demonstration house for my family which I would never be able to build in my lifetime. The most amazing feeling was making the blocks and building the house with my own hands. The house has brought smiles to our faces," says Chameli

Nepal earthquake response

In the three years since the earthquake struck, we have supported earthquake-affected families and communities in making incremental progress toward permanent, durable shelter and settlements. Our efforts to reduce their vulnerability and find lasting solutions to their shelter needs is based on Habitat for Humanity's "Pathways to Permanence" approach.

Pathways to permanence



Phase 1

Emergency relief



Phase 2

Recovery



Phase 3

Reconstruction — building permanent homes

Our strategy



Social mobilization



Technical assistance



Tiered assistance



Market development





20,100

water backpacks distributed



5,065

temporary shelter kits distributed



2,424

winterization kits distributed



16,244

houses assessed for safety



893

volunteers mobilized



126

families supported through rubble removal



60

surveyors/engineers trained



12

districts supported with emergency response



emergency response

our
stories



Building dignity and unity in Pipaltar

Following the 2015 earthquake, Pipaltar was one of the worst-hit villages in Kavrepalanchok district – only two out of its 89 houses were left standing. Down but not out, the villagers partnered with local volunteers mobilized by Habitat for Humanity Nepal to remove tons of rubble. Some of the rubble was used to rebuild roads and widen walkways resulting in greater communal space for the villagers.

Each of the 87 families who worked with Habitat Nepal to rebuild their homes put in more than 500 hours of their own labor, also known as “sweat equity”. In April 2017, two years after the earthquake, Habitat Nepal celebrated together with the 87 families at a house dedication ceremony. Among them were Niru and her husband Sajan. She said: “My family was involved in rebuilding this house and helped with everything from the foundation to the roof. I am blessed to have a new home.”



Niru with her children in front of their new house in Pipaltar, Kavrepalanchok.

The houses that have been rebuilt are made of bamboo, brick and cement. Families have the option of adding a second floor to the one-story houses as they have the financial means. Toilets adjoined the houses and the livestock that used to share the same living quarters as the families are now kept in a separate area. The families have also received training in water, sanitation, and hygiene and waste management, resulting in a healthier living environment.

While Pipaltar used to be predominantly agricultural, local community members who have received masonry training now have an additional source of income. Among the 55 local community members who have been trained, Sharada is the first and only female mason. She and her extended family of eight lost their family home during the earthquakes.

At the April 2017 house dedication ceremony, Sharada said: “When the CEO of Habitat for Humanity International visited Pipaltar in December 2015, I had expressed my desire to be a part of the community rebuilding process. Then I was not sure how a simple village girl like me could contribute. Now I am a certified skilled mason and I have lent my support to rebuilding houses in neighboring communities. I have since taken on a much bigger responsibility. I accept contracts to build houses and supervise masons on construction sites. To break through a male domain and established myself is truly empowering.”

Indeed, this community had worked together and contributed their own labor to recover what they had lost.



Sharada speaking at the Pipaltar house dedication ceremony on 18 April 2017.

Pipaltar



87

permanent houses with toilets



50,000

hours of “sweat equity” were contributed by the community



9,679

volunteer hours contributed by local and international volunteers



310

international volunteers mobilized



262

local volunteers mobilized



55

skilled masons trained

building strength

We cannot block every blow dealt by disasters but we can help individuals, families and communities to get back on their feet and recover sooner. Disaster resilience can only be sustainable when this process is owned and managed by the communities themselves. To this end, Habitat and its partners have conducted training in the Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness in affected communities. By October 2016, more than 400 members of PASSA groups have been trained, supporting the reconstruction initiatives in their communities and strengthening local capacity to rebuild after a disaster.

As a member of a PASSA group formed in Kavrepalanchok in June 2016, Dilaka is responsible for identifying the vulnerable families in her community and recommending them for receiving extra support such as goods-in-kind, construction labor support and top-up for a subsidy besides the government reconstruction grant. Dilaka, a 48 year-old farmer, also coordinates with the engineers at Habitat's Housing Support Service Center and monitor the construction process to ensure compliance with the national building code. "This is very important. If the house is not built according to the code, the potential homeowner might not be able to receive the remaining tranches (of the government reconstruction grant) to rebuild his/her home. I feel I am playing a vital role in reconstructing my community and bringing them together."

Dilaka was among the first in her PASSA group to make a major decision. "I decided to rebuild my house though I did not have enough resources. I plucked up the courage and took a loan from

a bank. With the support of Habitat Nepal, along with the government grant, my family and I now have a safe roof above our heads. My house has become an attraction and I have received many compliments. I am very proud of my house."

— Dilaka, homeowner, Habitat for Humanity Nepal



403

members trained in PASSA



16

PASSA groups formed

everyone plays a part

“I was attending a religious function with my family in Kathmandu when the destructive earthquake shook our world. Luckily, we were together and safe. Immediately after the earthquake, my first instinct was to serve the people who have lost everything and were badly affected. When I arrived in Tupche, Nuwakot district, I could see destruction everywhere. People were living in dire conditions under their tents and the heavy monsoon rains made it worst.

Habitat’s Housing Support Service Center conducted seven-day skilled masonry training for local masons to help them be familiar with the national building code. It was difficult to persuade the community to rebuild their homes following the national code as they had been building for generations using the traditional method.

Initially, people’s enthusiasm to rebuild in the community was low. They had become distrusting as many organizations had come and gone accomplishing next to nothing. Community members were reluctant to talk with us and were feeling conflicted. However, we did not lose heart; we went door-to-door to introduce ourselves and shared about the services we provide. Soon they arrived in droves at the Housing Support Service Center for technical consultations, house designs, and help with site supervision and document preparation to apply for government reconstruction grants.

I feel a great sense of accomplishment, when I see that 217 homeowners who came here for technical support have built their new houses.”

— Sujata, 26, a civil engineer at Habitat’s Housing Support Service Center in Tupche



1,695

households received technical assistance



3

HSSCs established

building stability

“I was returning home from work, when the major earthquake struck on 25 April 2015. My world fell apart when I received the dreaded phone call from my daughter — I lost my eldest son. He was crushed to death by falling debris as my stone house collapsed. I can still feel the horror — the screaming of the people fleeing down the road as houses around me collapsed one after another.

Despite the tragic loss I pulled myself up and consoled my family. We lived under the tarpaulin sheets for nine days. I did not know where to begin. I had no knowledge of the distribution of relief materials and the government reconstruction grant until I came into contact with Habitat staff who showed up at my doorstep.

With support from my community and Habitat Nepal, I was able to rebuild a new house. I now have a home with proper water supply, toilet facility and sufficient room for my family members and peace of mind, that my family is living in a safe and sturdy home.

Now I have resumed my work as a carpenter, I feel things are getting better. I am starting to see a ray of light after the darkness.”

— Guna, 56, Habitat homeowner who rebuilt his house in Tupche in September 2017. Habitat’s Housing Support Service Center helped him to obtain the government’s reconstruction grant. Guna was also able to borrow tools from a construction equipment library.



441

households provided with access to construction equipment



3

construction equipment libraries established

building self-reliance

“At the time of the earthquake, I was away from home. As soon as the earthquake stopped, I rushed home to find my family safe but my two-story house had turned into a pile of rubble. We lived in a tent for five months in dire conditions. Being an experienced mason, I decided to rebuild my house. Later, through a PASSA member, I came to know that the house I tried to build did not meet the national building standard and I might lose the chance of receiving the government reconstruction grant. I then went to Habitat’s Housing Support Service Center to seek support and redesign my house. Through Housing Support Service Center I came to know about the skilled masonry training and I enrolled in it. With new skills and knowledge on hand, I started building my new house. Volunteers from Japan also helped in the construction. I had a chance to learn a new Japanese word — “arigato” (which means “thank you”).

The training not only boosted my confidence but it also honed my skills in building disaster-resilient houses that I now use to help my community.”

— Ganga, 47, trained mason in Tupche



146

skilled masons trained



52

unskilled masons trained

impact



692
houses built



373
houses under
construction



9
houses built with
compressed stabilized
earth blocks (2 model houses)



146
skilled masons trained



52
unskilled masons trained



62
engineers and architects
underwent Training of
Trainers in masonry



57
people trained in house
wiring



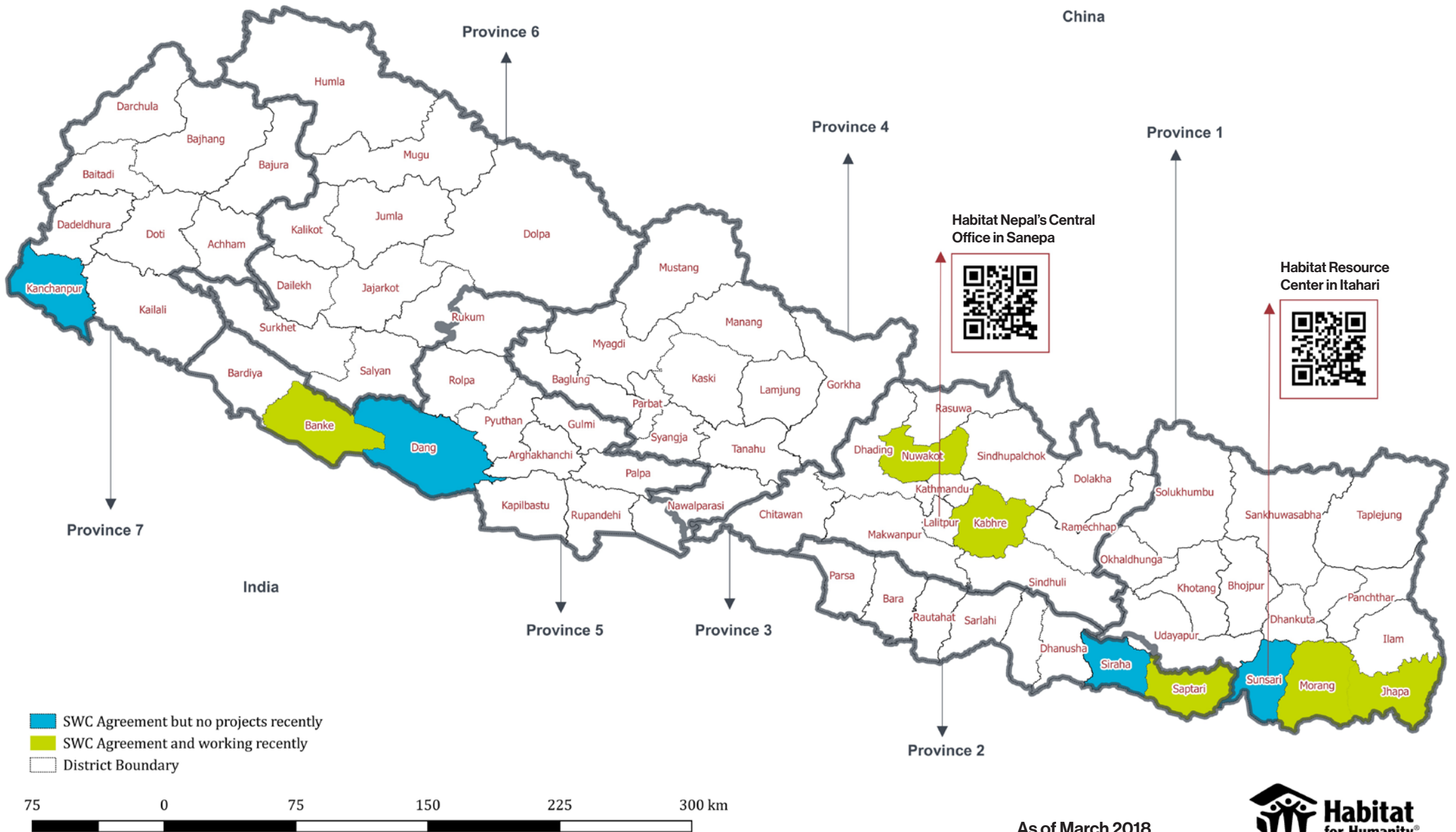
102
people trained in making
compressed stabilized
earth blocks



17
people trained in plumbing



Areas of operation under Habitat for Humanity Nepal's agreement with the Social Welfare Council



As of March 2018





Chameli with her son in front of their newly built house made of compressed stabilized earth blocks in Baluwa, Kavrepalanchok.

way forward

Following any major disaster, the road to recovery is long. While Habitat Nepal provided substantial support to meet emergency needs and support the self-recovery and rebuilding of safer permanent homes for earthquake-affected families, there is still much more to be done. We will continue to partner with families and communities to build back safer and promote resilience against future disasters. We are also committed to equipping people with skills that provide income-generating opportunities, helping them to recover from debilitating effects of a disaster.

Despite strong government commitment and donors' interest in serving the earthquake-affected people, authorities cite that fewer than 20 percent of earthquake-affected families have completed home reconstruction. The Government of Nepal is working to speed up reconstruction, reporting that over 400,000 houses are under construction. The National Reconstruction Authority, responsible for overseeing rebuilding efforts, is counting on nonprofit organizations including Habitat for Humanity Nepal to continue their long-term support to earthquake-affected families.

To support the reconstruction drive of the Government of Nepal, Habitat Nepal is currently looking for funding to launch Phase II of its Nepal Earthquake Assistance Program, focusing on affected districts that did not receive as much help. To date, Habitat Nepal has worked with over 1,200 earthquake-affected families in two districts to rebuild their houses. The projects under Phase I will be completed in June 2018. Subject to funding availability, Habitat Nepal aims to provide construction technical assistance through its Housing Support Service Centers and community mobilization support to families who receive direct government grants. Habitat also seeks to secure top-up assistance for the most vulnerable families.

Every family needs help to rebuild when a disaster strikes. We know we cannot do it alone. Together with our donors and partners including families, communities and local governments, Habitat Nepal aims to build back safer, manage risks and increase resilience to disasters. When the crisis has passed, our vision remains — a world where everyone has a decent place to live.



we are grateful to our donors for their support

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**through shelter,
we empower**





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