

Reflection Report of
HAMI Initiative
to Accelerate
Effective and Inclusive Reconstruction Process
2015



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Min Bahadur Shahi
Convener
HAMI

HAMI in Brief

Formed on 11th May 2015, Humanitarian Accountability Monitoring Initiative (HAMI) is the convergence of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working with the right holders (women, children, indigenous nationalities, Dalit, youth, senior citizens, and persons with disability, and other marginalized and excluded groups). The common cause of this convergence is monitoring the humanitarian accountability in time of humanitarian crisis. With the continuous efforts of evidence based advocacy and lobby, the HAMI network monitors the attempts and activities made so far and to be made in future including other disasters (such as floods, landslides) by the government, international community, non-government organizations and private sectors. HAMI is an effort of the CSOs as a paradigm shift from the perspective of “I or for me” to the “we and us”. CSO federations and alliances play an active advisory role for the HAMI. Their major role is policy advocacy based on evidence based information/data to be generated by this network through collective monitoring effort. A total of 12-13 initiators have formed a core committee to manage/handle the monitoring works (Annex 1).

Vision

A generation/society with full observance of human rights due to the compliance of state and non-state actors on humanitarian accountability.

Mission

To mobilize peoples’ opinion to obtain informed standard humanitarian support by creating a constructive critical mass for the sake of the continual improvement and for addressing and redressing their agendas before state and non-state actors including international communities.

Goal

To make humanitarian support accountable, transparent and equitable linked by common respect for the rights and dignity of disaster affected survivors by a widely recognised monitoring consortium - HAMI.

Objectives

The immediate strategic objective of HAMI is to monitor the accountability of government, non-government as well as private sectors by developing a concrete mechanism and expertising their own networks, capacity, experiences as well as credibility, focusing on the comprehended problems and challenges through coordination and cooperation in the national and international level.

HAMI Activities

Post-Quake Monitoring in Affected Districts

The need of monitoring the humanitarian accountability emerged after devastating April 25th earthquake and its subsequent aftershocks caused huge human and property losses. CSOs made field visits in severely affected districts where government organisations CSOs and private sectors as well as individuals engaged in relief and rescue operations for the sake of the victims. The main purpose of the monitoring was to supervise the situation of rescue, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction situation of disaster affected community from a human right's perspective and to identify the state of accountability of the various stakeholders mobilized in response to the survivors' day to day living condition.

Monitoring took place in Gorkha, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Lalitpur, Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha districts. From the monitoring, it was revealed that Nepalese people have shown incredible strength and resilience to overcome the devastation caused by the earthquake. Government of Nepal (GoN)'s lack of preparedness to face any disaster, its inability to response effectively and efficiently were exposed. The state was not able to provide fundamental framework to address, respect, protect and fulfil its people's basic human rights. Thus, thousands of earthquake victims are in risk of being left out in the shadow of dwindling human rights principles. The state further came under criticism for failing to provide aid to the most remote rural areas and for hindering aid deliveries with its bureaucratic red tapism. Some major concerns and issues were easily visible. Hideous discriminations were observed and exposed in national and social media during the distribution of relief and support materials. Though acclaimed as the publicity oriented stunts, the contributions and efforts from the national level civil society was highly appreciated by the local level as well as internationally. A press conference was also held to disseminate the findings widely.

National CSO Forum on Development Effectiveness

Various CSOs have asked the government to create a conducive environment for them to engage in post-disaster initiatives. Speaking at an interaction program jointly organized by HAMI and NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) on "CSO Forum and Development Effectiveness" on July 24th 2015, civil society leaders appealed the government to create an environment that allowed the CSOs to engage in reconstruction works without further delay to address difficulties faced by earthquake survivors.



and Post Disaster Recovery” in which they have expressed concerns over minimizing local organization’s role in supply and distribution of relief materials to the affected areas. The 22-point declaration has also urged government and international community to enhance collaboration and cooperation with the CSOs at national and local levels. The CSO forum, which was held just a day before the international conference on Nepal’s reconstruction, was aimed at preparing their common position on earthquake recovery, foreign aid and its mobilization and the role of development partners. NFN and HAMI facilitated the dialogue between the government officials and CSOs. During the programme, civil society leaders presented papers on various themes of post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation. Later, the declaration was handed over to National Planning Commission (NPC) Chairman Gobinda Raj Pokharel, who was also taking charge of National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at that time. At the interaction, civil society leaders concluded that they expressed commitment of supporting the government in post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation process and stressed the government to stay strong in its policy framework and international principle of development effectiveness while negotiating with the donors¹.

Civic Political Dialogue: Nepal’s Post Earthquake Democratic Reconstruction

A civil political dialogue was organized in Kathmandu to ensure meaningful participation of the CSOs in all phases of reconstruction policy formulation related to post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation, Leaders from various political parties, Members of Parliament (MPs) , policy makers, members of NPC, bureaucrats and civil society leaders, representatives of various federations and networks and the representatives of the communities from quake-affected districts were present in the dialogue. The major objectives of the dialogue were to create conducive environment through continuous dialogue among key stakeholders to assure reconstruction, and rehabilitation on the basis of public inputs on reconstruction policy. The dialogue concluded that the new reconstruction policy should be prepared keeping social dynamics and effective implementation in mind. They suggested the government to formulate reconstruction policy in line with coordinating and collaborating with CSOs.

¹ The declaration of the forum can be downloaded from www.hami.org.np.



Civil Society Consultation-Meeting with Networks, Federations and Alliances on Nepal's Reconstruction

Several rounds of meetings were organized with various national federations and alliances on current situation of the earthquake. The representatives of various federations and alliances participated in the meeting. At the meeting, participants stressed to identify the key hurdles being faced by communities in the aftermath of earthquakes and their plans for reconstruction stating that the agenda of reconstruction was not in government priority. They expressed serious concerns over the delay in expediting reconstruction and rehabilitation processes. Additionally, they urged on the need of putting pressure on government to make the reconstruction authority functional. The NRA has turned dysfunctional with the major parties' differences over endorsing the NRA bill through the parliament. The meeting decided to submit a memorandum to the government in coordination with concerned stakeholders to create pressure in reactivating the authority before winter arrives. All networks and federations agreed to work together and support each other during the monitoring process. The participants expressed their views on the joint-approach of working together in post reconstruction and rehabilitation areas.

Similarly, interactions were also organized to identify the issues of reconstruction in consultation with the civil society leaders. They urged the need for the continuous civic-political dialogue on identifying the issues of controversy, debate and dilemma in order to contribute for the smooth progress on reconstruction. The reconstruction mission will complete only when the spirits and essence of the new constitution connected particularly with the federalization process, localization of development efforts and people's inclusive participation on Nepal's prosperity is met with appropriate plans, policies and programmes.

National Workshop: Rebuilding a More Resilient Nepal: Sharing of Recommendations for Reconstruction and Recovery

HAMI organised a National Workshop entitled "Rebuilding a More Resilient Nepal: Sharing of Recommendations for Reconstruction and Recovery" together with other partner organizations, HCG, NCDMC in collaboration with OXFAM on 29th October, 2015 at Hotel Grand, Kathmandu. The program was organized to commemorate 6 months of the earthquake and influence long-delayed post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation works of Nepal. The workshop was organized with wider involvement of national level stakeholders, leaders from different political parties, MPs, policy makers, NPC members, bureaucrats, and civil society leaders, representatives of various federations and networks and quake survivors. Oxfam presented a policy paper entitled "Rebuilding A More Resilient Nepal" with key recommendations to the government for post-earthquake reconstruction. The paper identified the failure of the government to bring NRA into operation as the key impediment to reconstruction and rehabilitation in the country after the April 25 earthquakes. People from quake-hit districts shared their sufferings. They urge the MPs to provide appropriate shelter and support to the affected communities before the winter sets in. The disaster victims were quite confused about government support on reconstruction whereas the participants stressed to reinstate the (NRA) by passing



of reconstruction bill through the parliament. The parliamentarians highlighted that the delay in replacing the NRA ordinance with a bill through the parliament has made NRA dysfunctional halting reconstruction and rehabilitation works.

Humanitarian Action, Human Rights and Development

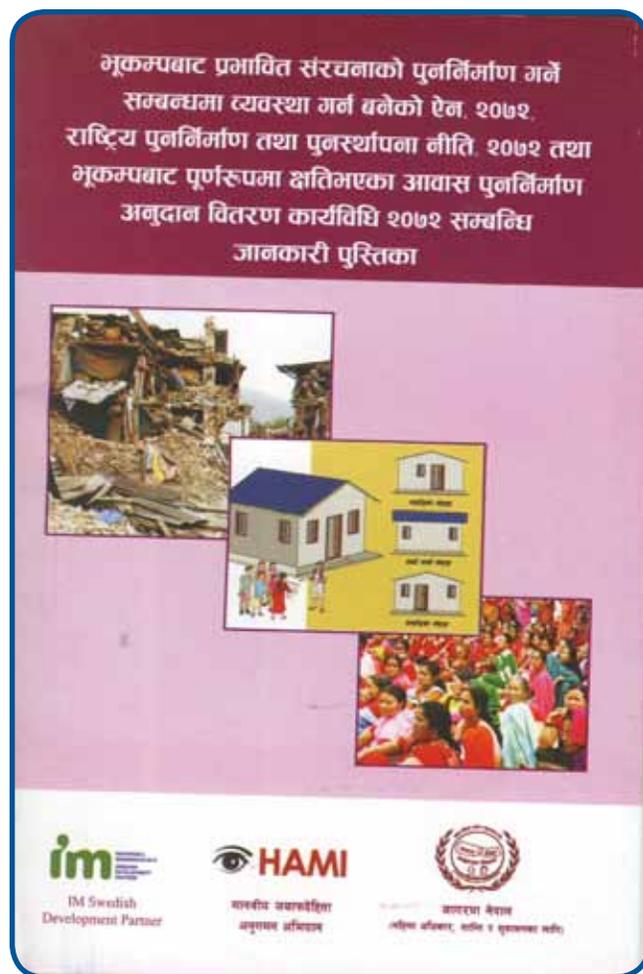
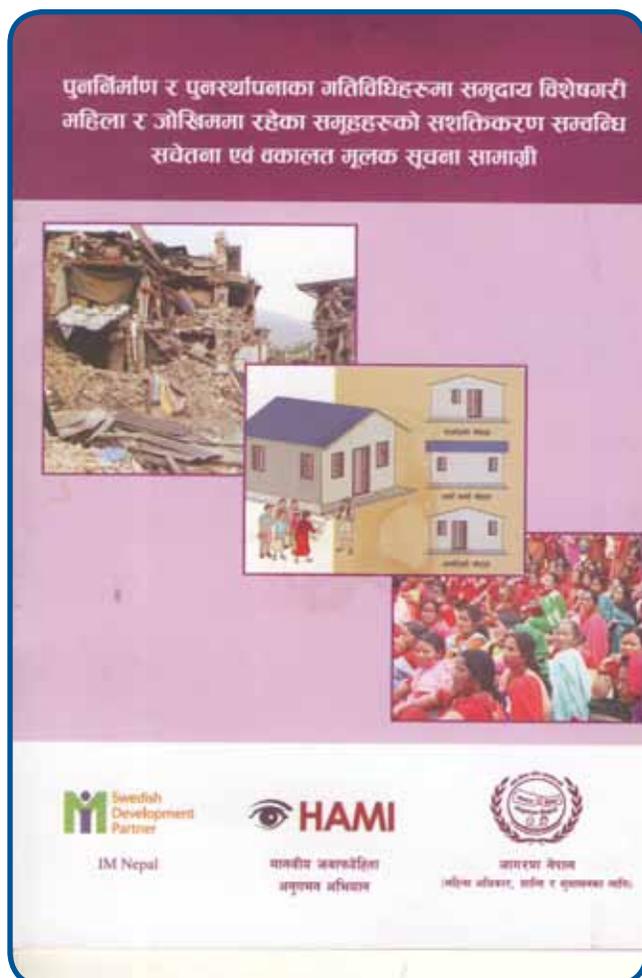
28th January 2016, Action Aid Nepal, DPNet-Nepal, Civic Alliance for Recovery and Reconstruction and HAMI corroboratively organized a one day workshop on “Humanitarian Actions, Human Rights and Development- Strengthening Accountability in Recovery and Reconstruction Process” to create a platform for constructive thoughts and international sharing of experiences related with humanitarian actions and accountability issues. Presentations were made by Mr. Min Bahadur Shahi, Convener of HAMI, Mr. Ram Chandra Neupane, Chairperson of DPNet, Ms. Bronwyn Russel United Nations (UN) representative and Mr. Rishi Raj Acharya, Under-Secretary and Chief of Disaster Management Sector at Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development MoFALD and Ms. Bimala Rai Poudel, former NPC member. They talked about some elements and



principles of reconstruction, importance of transparency, justice and responsiveness and the need for integrating and mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into sector and local development plans and capacity building on DRR at local level. Hon. Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mr. Ananda Prasad Pokhrel focused on the overall scenario of the country and explained how priorities shifted from providing humanitarian support to earthquake survivors to constitution drafting and ending the ongoing blockade. In the end of his remarks, he made promises about reconstruction and appealed all to support. Min Bahadur Shahi highlighted on the persistent issues related with humanitarian support and need for advocacy from all sectors to create accountable programs. Various countries around the world shared their experiences of working in disaster and responses taken in their respective countries including Myanmar, Greece, Sierra Leone and Gaza.

Preparation of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Material

IEC materials were prepared in Nepali language by the locals to raise awareness on reconstruction programs and policies. The materials developed by government regarding the policies and other necessary documents for the reconstruction were translated into Nepali language. It helped marginalized community to understand policy document as they were disseminated in the form of booklet, pamphlet and leaflet.



Awareness Raising Sessions

With the motive to engage earthquake-affected people in the reconstruction and recovery process, HAMI team provided the series of awareness sessions for locals in the affected areas. Orientation sessions on essential information on the safety, social security and legal provisions introduced by the state were provided to the women, people with disabilities and elder people. Information on policies, various necessary documents and information on other government commitments were oriented and shared with the affected families by using IEC materials. Since women and children are more susceptible to physical injuries and trauma and vulnerable to other external threats, the women and children were made aware on the threats of human trafficking and any kind of violence against women and children which loom large at times of such disasters.

Multi-stakeholder consultations in the district

HAMI organized multi-stakeholder consultations in Gorkha, Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk, Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhading districts. The major objectives of the program were to identify the issues related to reconstruction and make a common platform and to exchange the ideas related to challenges and issues related to post disaster scenario. There was a participation of diverse background including Chief District Officer (CDO), local leaders of political parties, representatives from I(NGO)s, UN, media and disaster affected people. The findings of the Focus



Group Discussions (FGDs) were shared in the roundtable interaction to bring out the grievances of the grass roots to the concerned stakeholders for further discussion and interactions. Major challenges and issues were identified through the interaction. The participants mainly raised the concern on transparency, accountability and effectiveness of I(NGO)s and government while reconstructing quake destroyed infrastructures. They emphasized to give high priority to landless people, physically challenged, women and children in course of distributing the relief in the humanitarian basis. Therefore, participants emphasized to hand over the authority

to local bodies for developing the building codes as per their necessity. Similarly, lack of coordination with the NGOs was seen which created difficulty to identify the problems and outreach of both government and non-government Organisations in the affected areas. Additionally, they expressed that building codes should incorporate not only RCC building but also building made with mud and stone. .

Fact Finding Mission on Earthquake Affected Districts

The fact finding study was conducted in six districts, namely Gorkha, Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk, Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhading and Kathmandu Valley in November 2015 with an intend to identify people and communities voices on recovery and post-earthquake reconstruction in the aftermath the April 25 earthquakes. HAMI consulted and organized FGDs and Key Informants Interviews (KIIs) with the community people and presented the findings to the stakeholders on interaction program titled “People’s Participation on Reconstruction.” The team observed the situation of survivors during the on-the-spot monitoring and held discussions with the local communities and earthquake survivors on relief, rescue, early recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The collected facts during this second phase of monitoring indicated serious lack of coordination among the government authorities for ensuring human dignity of the affected communities, families and individuals indicating apex body’s urgent action for smooth coordination for reconstruction. Collected data have further justified the increasing trend of violence against women in the temporary shelter or camps. In order to address this, there is a need for women friendly reconstruction plan. . Similarly, physically challenged women and children have been further victimized during the cold winter indicating an urgent need to rehabilitate these communities in a secure and safe place. In many places, children are still deprived of education and fear entering the damaged or ruined buildings to resume their studies. The issue of caste-based untouchability is more precarious than others as they are not even allowed to leave the vulnerable place and mixed up with other communities in temporary shelter or camp. Furthermore, the mechanisms created so far in order to address the rehabilitation and reconstruction in the local level are not inclusive. One of the main and foremost authorities from the government that are the Village Development Committee (VDC) secretaries themselves have been found over-burdened due to earthquake. The rehabilitation and reconstruction issues are fallen under the quagmire of the overloaded responsibilities of the VDCs and municipalities of Nepal. Mainly people at the local level have given suggestions that media needs to be reflected as a critical medium for solutions rather than creating problems to the societies. Finally, some good initiations by the government have been taken to fulfill the needs of the affected communities such as distributing package based money, providing loans for them to rebuild houses. One of the major issue put forth by stakeholders during the interaction in the district were the mechanisms to guarantee transparency in fair distribution, ensuring that no affected communities, persons or survivors are left out.

National Workshop on Nepal Earthquake: Building Resilience, Rebuilding Lives

‘Nepal Earthquake 2015: Building Resilience, Rebuilding Lives’, was organised by HAMI and Jagaran Nepal in collaboration with Oxfam GB and IM Swedish Development Partner on 7th March 2016, a day after the NRA began housing reconstruction aid distribution process from Singati Resource Centre of Dolakha district. At the function, NRA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sushil Gyewali released the fact-finding report prepared by HAMI. There was wider participation of -representatives of CSOs, members of legislative parliament, government officials, civil society promoters, leaders of social movements, NGO professionals, youth leaders, journalists,



experts etc. Admitting the delay in the whole process of formation of the authority and appointments, CEO Gyawali said that the state recognizes the suffering and pain of the people and affected communities. He highlighted on the government's initiatives and efforts during the relief distribution and reconstruction process. He further highlighted the importance of local governance, proper service delivery and system and development for the successful rebuilding and reconstruction. Admitting the reality of not completing the housing reconstruction before monsoon, CEO Gyewali stressed on the need of collective efforts for reconstruction. Gyewali said it is the responsibility of the government to assure safe and secured shelter. Similarly, Mr. Parbat Gurung , Ms. Kamala Dong, Mr. Gangalal Tuladhar—MPs of legislative parliament emphasized that the recent devastating earthquake should be looked as an another experience or excuse rather than a new opportunity to rectify the past errors. They plead the government, CSOs, human right activists, local actors and leaders to initiate awareness raising campaigns and to build informed communities that are prepared and strong enough to resist any kind of disaster.

Public hearing

HAMI in partnership with Khokana Rebuilding and Reconstruction Committee conducted a public hearing program in Khokana, Lalitpur on 29th March 2016. Khokana, in Lalitpur district of central Nepal one of the oldest village around the valley with rich architects, is one of the most victimized area within the valley. It is a beautiful Newari village that lies south of the Kathmandu Valley. The earthquake had displaced 840 families out of 944 families residing within the village who were forced to take shelter elsewhere. People still face difficulties in fulfilling their basics needs like health, food, water supplies etc. Similarly, other structures like monuments, temples, public buildings, roads etc are also severely damaged and are waiting for repair and reconstruction. The main objective of the public hearing was to provide platforms for earthquake affected people to voice

their opinions on the quality of services, effectiveness, and transparency and accountability of the government and participation of the communities. There were around participation of 200 affected communities and stakeholders, local political leaders of different parties, representative of government and local organisations working in the district. Affected communities were able to express their needs, aspirations and grievances to hold the service providers accountable. Different actors committed to support the reconstruction process and assured to help to ensure transparency, people's participation and accountability of government towards local people in coming days in the reconstruction.



Key Achievements

In such harsh condition, no country or organization alone can respond to address humanitarian crises, assure and address human rights issues and ensure social justice. Thus, CSOs in Nepal played a vital role - continuously working in synergy with the state, stakeholders, multilateral humanitarian organizations, public-private sector, experts and communities themselves to build safer and conducive environment essential for dignified life in present and future for all the quake affected households. The key achievements of HAMI initiative are as follows:

- Established as a strong CSOs Alliance on humanitarian, accountability, monitoring and recognized by government and non-government stakeholders
- Worked as a bridge to bring out the voice of the affected community among public and played a role of watch dog on reconstruction process.
- Able to build value based partnership with different organizations.
- Build opinion and initiate dialogue/discourse on democratic reconstruction on human rights based approach.
- After continuous lobby and National CSOs forums on development effectiveness held prior to the donor conference, the government included the representative of civil society in International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction (ICNR).
- Continuous dialogue series had created pressure to reinstate the NRA and start the reconstruction process.

Gaps and Challenges

The earthquake struck a new blow in overall social and economy stature of the country. The earthquake yet provided a perfect opportunity for the state to mobilize and unite the people for common good, gain their trust and support and impose its strong stratum among its citizen. However, due to sluggish response from the state, the trauma and despair experienced by the earthquake victims and affected communities amplified the delayed response from the state in rescue mission and relief distribution. The post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts have also been delayed despite the government's repeated commitment of addressing the need of the earthquake survivors. Unfortunately, such commitments have been limited to mere paper-works and only talking agenda.

There have been shortcomings with regard to coordination from the relief organisations too. Needless to say, the government should be in the driving seat coordinating all the works being carried out by NGOs and INGOs. The donors must advise the recipient I/NGOs to coordinate with the government mechanism effectively.

With absence of elected people's representatives in the local bodies, the Village Development Committees (VDCs), Municipality and District Development Committees (DDCs), there have been doubts about the credibility and accountability of the funds disbursed at local level. Additionally, the absence of locally elected leaders will be felt when there are potential conflicts over the disbursement of resources.

With the blockade by Indian states on Nepal fuel crisis deepened. Nepal, which is fully relying in India on petroleum products, suffer the most during five month blockade as it has no other options. National priorities has to be discussed at the higher level to resolve them before things are worsened.

Way forward

The government together with its development partners, must seize the opportunities presented by earthquake reconstruction to build a more equal and resilient Nepal. Government should guarantee optimum utilization of available financial resources. Transparency and accountability should be fully ensured at all levels for programming, budgeting and implementation in the entire process of rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Development partners should focus their activities to reinstate the sustainable livelihoods that lead to the affected areas towards self-reliant economy ensuring food security and self-employment. Development partners should spend the earmark budget in partnership with government, CSOs and national institutions. They need to enhance collaboration and cooperation with the CSOs at national and local level.

It is the duty of all the concerned stakeholders to institutionalize the achievements made so far by the historic people's movements in different phases of the contexts and time frames. Some of the issues related to this are connected to internalize the concept of the social justice, leadership of the progressive thoughts for inclusive and fair development efforts connected with Nepal's prosperity through full functional democratic reconstruction and the monitoring of the principle of the continual improvement.

Developing mechanisms for guaranteeing the 31 fundamental rights of the individuals and community as provisioned in the new constitution should be implemented when reconstruction is taking place. The challenging tasks ahead in this context are fulfilling the people's economic, social and cultural rights. The issue of state restructuring needs also to be materialized by understanding the ground reality of the people and communities connected with their needs and priorities.

The CSOs can pressurize the government in conducting local elections as the reconstruction requires at least five years according to the government. Given the situation, it makes sense to hold long-delayed local elections at the earliest to ensure credible reconstruction in quake-affected districts. Similarly, humanitarian, accountability, monitoring, strengthening of CSOs and concerned stakeholder's monitoring of the international development aid effectiveness are all so equally important for the civil society.

Annexes Media Coverage

- <http://systemchecknp.com/news>
- <http://www.rajdhani.com.np/article/0272498001441072460>
- <http://bit.ly/1XBk8p4>
- <http://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/15763>
- <http://www.onlinekhabar.com/2015/10/343737/>
- <http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-03-08/homes-for-earthquake-victims-unlikely-before-monsoon-nra.html>
- <http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-03-09/two-monsoons.html>
- <http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-03-07/nra-shifts-goalpost-as-victims-wait.html>
- <http://thenaturenepal.com/particular.aspx/2016/03/07/post-earthquake-reconstruction>
- <http://www.rajdhani.com.np/article/0307448001457409223>



Annex 3: CSO Declaration

National Civil Society Forum on Development Effectiveness (Nepal's Post Disaster Reconstruction Initiatives) Declaration 24 June 2015 Preamble

We, the representatives of various federations, alliances, networks of citizen forums, human rights activists, journalists, development workers, community based organisations, cooperatives, researchers, youths, rural and urban poor, farmers, organisations working with women, children, senior citizens, indigenous people, Dalits, persons with disabilities, and the sexual minorities, across Nepal, solemnly express our profound sorrow and solidarity to all affected people and communities of the unprecedented catastrophe that struck us in the form of a major earthquake of 7.8 magnitude on 25th April 2015 and the consequent aftershocks. We offer our heartfelt condolences to all those who have lost loved ones, prayers for the departed souls, and wish speedy recovery of those injured.

We highly appreciate the generous and overwhelming expressions of support and assistance offered by a wide range of stakeholders including the Government of Nepal, civil society forum, international community, private sector, and the Nepali diaspora. The rescue operations, relief distribution, and monitoring of the overall situation in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake was made possible by their collective effort.

We are also deeply saddened by the fact that more than 16 districts, 900 VDCs, and innumerable settlements and hamlets have been severely affected and that more than five million residents have suffered physically and mentally, we are inspired beyond words by the tenacity and resilience of the affected people, and by the ingenuity of communities in coping with the disaster through indigenous and local knowledge, resources and techniques.

We are concerned about upholding the social justice and economic, social and cultural rights of the multicultural landscape of quake affected areas constituting a diverse population (over 53 % indigenous communities, 33% hill caste, 55% women, 6% Dalit, nearly 1% Madhesi and Muslim each and nearly 0.05 % foreigner). Among all the indigenous peoples, the Tamang community is most seriously affected by the earthquake. We are deeply concerned about specific needs, priorities and urgencies of these voiceless survivors at this hour.

We realise the need of consolidating the voice of civil society across Nepal for generating efforts to ensure the rights of the affected people and communities based on the principles of equity, justice and humanitarian accountability by complying with the international instruments on human rights and humanitarian law, and to contribute for extending support for Nepal's reconstruction based on and as mandated by the Paris Declaration

on Aid Effectiveness, Accra Agenda for Action (AAA), and Busan Outcome Document, policies being framed for sustainable development goals (SDGs), as well as Least Developed Countries(LDC)s Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA).

We underline the need of better coordination among all stakeholders including CSOs and ensure that any contributions being made from within and outside the country should be effective, efficient and sustainable, and genuinely address the need of the affected people and communities.

To this end, we have come together to put forward this civil society declaration on development effectiveness in the context of Nepal's post disaster reconstruction initiatives in Kathmandu on 24 June 2015. We urge the following:

On Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

1. We recognise the urgency of addressing the specific needs and priorities of the affected people and communities based on humanitarian grounds, ensuring human rights and dignity of the people. We urge government agencies to create enabling environment for civil society, especially for monitoring assistance and relief distribution ensuring gender equity and equality. We also urge the government to incorporate the role of CSOs in any rescue and relief operation guidelines, decisions and to disseminate circulars at centre, district and community levels in all phases of disaster management including rescue, relief, rehabilitation, resettlement and reconstruction.
2. We call upon the GoN to create a conducive atmosphere required to promote a meaningful engagement of CSOs in assisting the local administration to provide emergency needs ensuring proper public information related to the disaster and response through media/community media, in relation to medical treatment and quality food commodities, shelter in the affected areas, and so on. The public's right to information on all governmental activities must be ensured.
3. It is our firm opinion that any reconstruction work in the immediate and longer term should promote use of local resources including water, forest, social capital, tourism and indigenous knowledge (particularly with Dalits and indigenous communities) while ensuring full respect of local culture, customs and needs of local communities.
4. While recalling the government's responsibility of ensuring civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as fundamental rights of the people, especially in view of its endorsement of nearly two dozen human rights instruments, we would like to draw attention of the government to ensure that all the procedures, plans and processes for reconstruction and rehabilitation are inclusive to human rights.. The government must not curtail rights of the people provided by the constitution under any pretext including in the declaration of earthquake affected area as 'crisis zone.' In this respect, we also urge the government to promote a sense of calm and confidence in order to help survivors normalize their lives.
5. We are deeply concerned towards over politicization, nepotism, partiality, misuse, mismanagement, food adulteration, and matters coming up as 'corruption' in distributing relief materials in the highly affected areas. We urge the government to design environment friendly plans construction and reconstruction of infrastructure works, while being mindful of any negative cost in the longer run. Also, we urge public infrastructure to be disabled and senior citizen friendly.
6. We are committed towards ensuring that future generations of Nepali citizens find easier ways to cope with similar crisis at different times in the future. Thus, we place high value on raising capable future generation to mitigate disaster by mobilising the present day youths. In this aspect, , we urge the GoN to generate disaggregated archive/data bank of the overall losses due to the earthquake by mobilizing and coordinating with the expert organisations both in the government and non-government sectors.

7. We are concerned about the violations of rights, discrimination, violence against women and children on the ground of gender, sex, caste/ethnicity, culture, customs and social practice. We urge the government to promote and protect the specific needs and priorities of the vulnerable people at this hour of emergency. We urge the government to pay special attention by developing special mechanisms towards fulfilling the rights of communities including endangered communities (Thami, Jirel, Baramo, Chepang, Hyolmo, Hayo etc.) with their prior consent ensuring right to information through the formulation of appropriate policies, and rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes.
8. We are concerned with the lack of timely response by the government, particularly in remote locations that are difficult to access by road transportation and air transportation. We call upon the government to provide immediate priority for the relief and rehabilitation in such locations. We urge the international community to assist the GoN unconditionally in view of humanitarian accountability.

On Development Effectiveness

9. We commit to play a catalyst role for recovery and want to play watchdog role, based on the principle of continual improvement for monitoring the development initiatives performed under reconstruction and resettlement packages of government and international communities. We urge international agencies to mobilize domestic expertises and respect dignity of the affected people and communities.
10. We urge the government to ensure meaningful participation of the CSOs in all phases of reconstruction, that is, policy and programming, such as disaster management bill with wider consultation with CSOs, implementation and ensuring monitoring by clearly recognising their roles and responsibilities. We urge the government to develop policy framework and country strategies through multi-stakeholder participation ensuring meaningful participation of women based on inter-sectionality and social inclusion approach and set the policies, standards and timeframe to ensure the quality performance of implementing agencies in order to materialize the Post-Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) into action.
11. We are deeply concerned about the formation of the reconstruction authority of the government through an ordinance without consultation with CSO and relevant stakeholders. We stand on our position that formation of such authorities should adhere to the democratic norms and values and should be free from any political interference.
12. We are concerned over rumours regarding international aid flow violating mandates especially by minimizing the roles of the local organisations regarding supply and distribution of relief support to the affected communities. We urge the development partners to spend the earmark budget in partnership with government, CSOs and national institutions. We urge both the government and the international community to enhance collaboration and cooperation with the CSOs at national and local level.
13. We urge both the government and international community to adhere country system, process and ownership in receiving any support, funds as well as monetary and non-monetary cooperation from the international communities, ensuring harmonisation and mutual cooperation. Government should develop its national strategy to manage the sources of funding. It should give priority to domestic resource mobilization, cut off unproductive expenditure, enhance efficiency and effectiveness of its entire mechanisms to absorb the available resources. Bureaucratic hurdles and operational bottlenecks should be fully removed for the effective implementation of plans and programmes.
14. We are deeply concerned about the democratic participation of people and communities during reconstruction and resettlement planning process. Therefore, we urge the government, political parties and concerned authorities to immediately schedule the election of the local governments and pave the way for meaningful participation of elected local representatives that ensure democratic reconstruction and resettlement as demanded by the crises.

15. We urge the government for promulgating Land Use Act in order to implement its land use policy. Reorganizations of settlements and urban development plans are required through geological studies in the whole country. We are concerned that government should amend procurement act and regulations and land accusation laws as soon as possible, which are prerequisites for reconstruction works.
16. We call government and all development partners to focus its activities to reinstate the sustainable livelihoods that lead to the affected areas towards self-reliant economy ensuring food security, fair market, consumers' rights and self-employment. We urge the government and international agencies to encourage the affected people to get involved in productive sectors and revive supply chain system.
17. We urge the government to monitor the resource mobilization patterns, way of actions and the activities of international agencies. We also urge the government to take actions to those agencies, which are not responsible, transparent and do not follow country system and national policies.

On Debt Cancellation

18. Since Nepal is a party to LDC Group, we urge the government to be consistent in calling for full cancellation of international debts (public and private) as agreed by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) in its resolution 68/224 (adopted at 68th session in 2013 vis-a-vis Follow-up to LDC-IV conference) and in line with GA decision contained in opening session 16 of the GA resolution 61/188 (adopted at 61st session in 2006) which states if a country fulfils the criteria of being an LDC it is eligible for debt write-off. The fund thus saved must be used for post-disaster recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation.
19. We request that the international community respond to Nepal's civil society's voice on debt cancellation for Nepal at this hour of emergency as per the commitments of the resourceful member states of the United Nations and international agencies.
20. We urge the international community to realize their pledges and commitments made at different forums while responding to the specific needs and priorities at a time when Nepal is passing through most difficult time of its history responding the unprecedented crisis.
21. We are equally concerned that government should guarantee optimum utilization of available financial resources. We ask the government to adopt "Zero tolerance to corruption". Transparency and accountability should be fully ensured at all levels for programming, budgeting and implementation in the entire process of rehabilitation and reconstruction. We urge the government, international community and the CSOs as well as private sector to put into practice social audit of their activities they have carried out in the post-disaster response.
22. Taking this as our own accountability, we commit our constructive engagement in the process of monitoring the post-disaster situation for the sake of development effectiveness, equitable and judicial mobilisation of resources provided that the government creates enabling environment for the CSOs. We urge the government to form a monitoring team including experts in the related field for the effective implementation of the PDNA.

HAMI Initiators

Organisations	Areas of Involvement
National Alliance for Human Rights and Social Justice Nepal (Human Rights Alliance)	Overall protection and promotion of human rights
Jagaran Media Centre (JMC)	Discrimination (Caste/Ethnicity, Class and Gender)
Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC Nepal)	Mainstreaming human rights based development approach (Relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction - 3R)
Rural Women Creative Forum (RWCF)	Rural women and children
Nepal Participatory Action Network (NEPAN)	Senior citizens
Jagriti Children and Youth Concern Nepal (JCYCN)	Youth and children
Blue Diamond Society (BDS)	LGBTI/MSM
Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (ACORAB Nepal)	Dissemination of community issues, and their monitoring
The World Association of Community Radio Broadcasting (AMARC - Asia Pacific)	Internationalisation of the issues and their monitoring
Centre for Ethnic and Alternative Development Studies (CEADS)	Indigenous nationalities
SOLVE Nepal	Relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction (linkage with micro-finance)
Federations, Alliances: NGO Federation of Nepal Dalit NGO Federation (DNF), Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN), and Federation of Community Forest Users' Group Nepal (FECOFUN) Other federations COCAP RtFN	Policy Advocacy



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