

# ACCOUNTABILITY, EFFICIENCY & TRANSPARENCY

The Electronic Building Permit System of  
Nepal

# Building Codes in Nepal: A Challenge

- National Building Code (NBC) formulated in 1994
  - ▣ After 20 years, implementation of the building code is limited
- Municipalities responsible agencies to issue building permits
  - ▣ Only 3 of 58 municipalities have tried to incorporate NBC



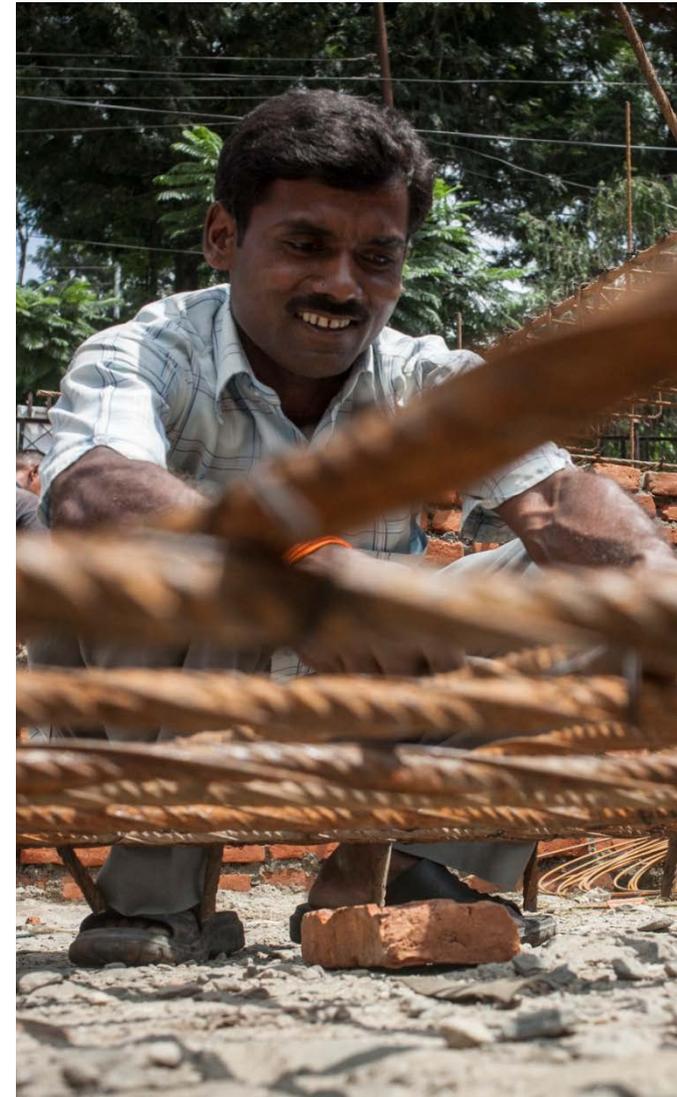
# The Problem with Current Building Permit Processes

- Building Permit Process remains superficial and subjective
  - ▣ This leaves permit process subject to manipulation or oversight
- No effective mechanism for verification or stock-taking
  - ▣ Limits our understanding of level of risk
- High workload, limited staff combined with an inefficient system



# Electronic Building Permit System (E-BPS)

- UNDP supported KTM and Lalitpur municipalities to develop E-BPS and build capacity of staff to use the system
- Goal was to develop an automated system that would digitize records and ensure NBC and building by-laws are incorporated into permit approval



# How does E-BPS work?

- Compliance Checking
  - ▣ System verification of data submitted complies with NBC
  
- Online Registration
  - ▣ Reduces workload and strengthens user focused service delivery
  - ▣ Provides users the tools and information necessary to submit a successful permit application
  
- Tracking Permit Process
  - ▣ Allows users to keep track of permit application process and reduces workload of staff to track applications
  - ▣ Strengthens service delivery as users have 24 hour access to permit process
  
- Management of Building Permit Application
  - ▣ Consolidates the entire building permit process into one gateway

# How does E-BPS work?

- Archiving Building Permit Data
  - ▣ System will maintain building records and provide accurate building stock and exposure data which allows for analysis into risk levels in urban areas
  
- Checklists for Vulnerability Assessment
  - ▣ System allows for qualitative vulnerability assessment of each building structure following DUDBC guidelines
  
- Revenue Generation
  - ▣ System keeps track of payments related to building permit process and can limit discrepancies

# E-BPS: Accountability, Efficiency, Transparency

- Accountability
  - E-BPS promotes accountable service delivery and good governance by placing checks and balances in the permit process to ensure NBC and by-laws are being complied and enforced
- Efficiency
  - The online system consolidates the permit process and promotes quality service delivery
- Transparency
  - E-BPS places the entire building permit process in a public domain where information can be accessed and progress can be tracked

# E-BPS: Moving Forward

- Need to ensure system sustainability (which will require resources and continued trainings)
- Archival of information and linking various tools together
  - ▣ Open Mapping, Risk Sensitive Land Use Planning, etc
- It is not just about Building Codes
  - ▣ E-BPS must evolve into a system that promotes disaster risk management, land use planning, service delivery across sectors

# E-BPS: Lessons

- National Building Code implementation is also an issue of governance
  - ▣ In addition to technical trainings, we need to strengthen municipal governance processes to ensure adequate service delivery and compliance/implementation of building codes
- E-BPS highlights the importance of new technology (adapted for Nepal context) in strengthening capacity and governance
  - ▣ While old tools remain important, we cannot exclude new and innovative approaches to the problems we face
- While challenges in E-BPS remain (sustainability, change management), it is important for organizations working on building code implementation to share information to ensure the system incorporate work being done across the municipality

# Linking E-BPS with Urban DRR and Governance

## LINKAGES

- Important that E-BPS is linked with other approaches in building code implementation and improved service delivery and e-governance
  - ▣ ADB e-governance package proposed
  - ▣ World Bank proposed automated permit system for high rise buildings with DUDBC
  
- Links need to be made with open spaces, building archival in order to ensure permit approvals are aligned with disaster preparedness plans

## HOW?

- How can Community Based DRR programs and other sectoral programs in Kathmandu use of E-BPS
  - ▣ Resources such as exposure data, trained masons and designers available for public
  - ▣ Linkages with school and health sectors could be particularly beneficial (regarding licensing and building safety)



Thank You