



Community Led Reconstruction Programme

Build-Back-Better

The 2015 Nepal Earthquake

Nepal was hit by a devastating earthquake of 7.6 magnitude on Saturday, 25 April 2015. Subsequent aftershocks, including one of 7.3 magnitude near the Chinese border on 12 May, resulted in additional losses of life and property. The earthquake caused massive destruction in terms of human casualties, property loss, and infrastructural damage. The immediate disaster aftermath involved a large-scale humanitarian response and relief. Government of Nepal along with a huge number of INGOs and NGOs took part in the earthquake response and relief. However, the 2015-16 embargo enforced by the neighbouring country caused logistical delays and disrupted the relief distribution. In spite of these difficulties, ActionAid Nepal's (AAN's) Emergency Response Programme (ERP) reached more than 133,485 people affected by the earthquake with relief materials.

In November 2015, the ERP was expanded to Community Led Reconstruction Programme (CLRP) realising the need of a longer-term and sustainable programme. The CLRP intended to initiate programmes with the idea of 'build-back-better' and 'engendering resilience within communities'. The CLRP ensured a holistic reconstruction process including physical, social, democratic, cultural, and economic reconstruction.

Community Led Reconstruction Programme (CLRP)

Community Led Reconstruction Programme (CLRP) was launched in November 2015 by ActionAid Nepal and its partners to adhere to the vision of 'build-back-better' and engendering resilience within communities. The CLRP positioned affected populations at the forefront of decision-making about social transformation, human rights and interactions with government, to produce a reconstruction that went beyond 'build-back-better' for individuals and society as a whole. CLRP was designed to provide infrastructural supports like building schools and health institutions, to empower people, and mitigate poverty through livelihood supports. CLRP also transformed the power relations and influenced government policies on land rights and fair wages as an essential means of not only improving sustainable livelihoods but also to build the resilience of the affected communities.

It was implemented in seven of the most affected districts: Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts in Kathmandu Valley; Sindhupalchowk District, Makwanpur district, Rasuwa District, Kavre District and Dolakha District. It focused on five thematic areas: women's rights, reconstruction, land rights, livelihoods, and education.



Thematic Areas

After the completion of emergency response programme, the long term strategic plan was developed in close coordination with the partners and other stakeholders. The strategic plan, known as Community Led Reconstruction Programme (CLRP) and launched in November 2015, was intended to innovate programmes to realise the idea of 'build-back-better' and engendering resilience

within communities. Also, it focused on revitalising the nation as a whole and helped make fair wage systems for sustainable living. The intended outcome also focused on engaging in a process of developing a critical mass of grassroots activists, facilitators, and social movement leaders who can best articulate the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in disaster reconstruction process.



Frame of Change

- Increased confidence of local to design their own plans
- Enhanced participation in reconstruction
- Acknowledged and translated National Building Code provisions into actions.
- Bolstered self-esteem through the assurance of livelihoods
- Increased access of women's group to financial institutions
- Fostered inclusiveness, participation, and solidarity
- Increased the quality of public services
- Improved the quality of education
- Enhanced livelihood resilience
- Increased desire to run small scale enterprises
- Restored lost livelihoods

Key Lesson Learned

Some major points for key learnings are:

- Women Leadership is not about the forced participation while increasing the work burden but an approach towards promoting women's engagement that resolve the issues of unnecessary pressure ensuring leadership, hence, changing gender stereotypes.
- Transparency and Accountability is not only sharing about information but the active and constructive participation of relevant stakeholders while acknowledging and addressing the values of transparency and accountability. The Transparency and Accountability tools should not be limited to a formality process. It should be such that it makes all the concerned accountable towards what has been done and what is needed to be done.
- Build back better in the context of reconstruction is not only about the construction but about how we connect build-back-better with capacity devel-

- opments, livelihood, and sustainability which will further strengthen the community resilience to cope against disasters while ensuring sustainability.
- In the communities, generation-old social disparities and discrimination are decreasing slowly and group members are now aware of the positive impact of social solidarity, cohesion, and neighborliness. Because different groups work together, cases of natural resource-based conflicts have decreased and this union among people is what helps a society begin taking strides towards development.
- Forming, reforming, and reactivating different forums and groups using the GESI approach helped address the needs of the most vulnerable people and communities. These forums and alliances are impactful because regular discussion organised and REFLECT approach to systematise knowledge about risk management and to translate plans into action. The REFLECT approach also helped alliance members to understand local-level issues and their root causes as well as their effects and possible solutions to any adverse effects in a participatory way.
- The inclusion of disabled-friendly practices in both the structural and the non-structural components of the programme fostered inclusive education. The inclusions of ramps at schools created awareness of reason for providing access to disabled students, teachers, parents, and locals.
- Strong community mobilisation, capacity-building and the leadership of women together fostered the building-back-better and resilience approaches.
- Reliance on local resources, knowledge, and skills to select and promote on- and off-farm based enterprises assured that people's income would grow.

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