



## FEATURE STORY: NSET'S 10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN (2021-2030) LAUNCHED, SCOPE EXPANDS TO MULTI-HAZARD RISK MANAGEMENT



National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET) has launched 10-Year Strategic Plan (2021 to 2030) with an idea to ensure greater visibility in its strategic destination and the path to attain its envisioned destination through accomplishment of its mission. This 10-year strategic plan has been prepared with a clear thirst and commitment for growth and efficiency in its overall performance and impact to the society.

Senior Littérateur and expert on Nepali Folk & Ethnic Cultures Prof. Tulasi Diwas and Senior Historian and Academician from Nepal Academy Prof. Dinesh Raj Panta jointly unveiled the NSET's 10-Year Strategic Plan amidst a program on Sep 30, 2021 held in hybrid model in presence of a group of people attending physically and others many connecting virtually.

Addressing the event, Chief Guest Prof. Tulasi Diwas highlighted the importance of translating plans into actions through connecting and engaging targeted people. "Plan is nothing if its not implemented. I am confident with NSET that these strategic plans will be implemented well", Prof. Diwas stressed.

Special Guest Prof. Dinesh Raj Panta highlighted some historical facts of disaster events that Nepal faced in past centuries. Prof. Panta remarked, "we have no evidence of disaster events from the times before 12th centuries, but the assumption is that there should have been such many occurrences. There should be focus to study past disasters and learn from them". CEO Sushil Gyewali from National Reconstruction Authority congratulated and wished NSET for worth contribution in building community resilience in Nepal and the region.

Former Secretary and Urban Planner Mr. Kishor Thapa, Director General of DUDBC Mr. Navaraj Pyakurel and Spokesperson and Joint Secretary of Education Ministry Mr. Deepak Sharma appreciated NSET's efforts and wishes for the success of new strategic plan. Mr. Vijay Singh from UNDP, Mr. Santosh Gyawali from USAID Nepal, Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, DPNET Chair and noted professionals also extended their messages for NSET's journey ahead.

In the beginning, NSET President Dr. Amod Mani Dixit had briefly presented on NSET's 28 years journey and major accomplishments. Then, NSET's Executive Director Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha shared key parts of Strategic Plan 2021-2030. At the end, NSET's General Secretary Mr. Shreeram Singh Basnet extended vote of thanks for all the invited speakers and attendees. The newly launched NSET's Strategic Plan 2021-2030 envisions for "Disaster Resilient Communities in Nepal by 2050".

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To achieve this, NSET has crafted its institutional Mission “To contribute in enhancement of disaster resilience of the communities through development and implementation of appropriate technologies, inclusive and collaborative approaches in order to minimize and manage disaster risks.” This Strategic Plan has established the meaning, priorities, strategic direction for the overall being and operations of NSET and a roadmap for accomplishing targeted goals and objectives for next 10 years. Inputs of all the stakeholders and various analytical documents, reports, feedback and strategic audit have been taken into consideration in creation of this strategic plan.

NSET was founded in 1993 for the broad but very explicit cause of ensuring earthquake safety in the hazard-prone urban as well as backward societies of Nepal and contributing to the regional and global level at large. Our institutional VISION which has been the pivotal inspiration of the organization till 2020 was to develop "Earthquake Safe Communities in Nepal by 2020". The new strategic plan is to further NSET's institutional course of action.

Nepal has been facing significant damages and losses due to various degrees and types of disasters. NSET has had a rich experiences and lessons of

working in the field of earthquake risk management in last 28 years and we believe that such experiences, knowledge, and lessons can be leveraged effectively in managing multi-hazard risks. In addition, the focus of global and national frameworks related to disaster resilience has encapsulated the aspects of multi-hazard risk management. NSET, hence envisions to widen, deepen and scale up its area of contribution in enhancing disaster resilience of communities.

## MAKING RESILIENT MUNICIPALITIES: TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR MAKING SAFER COMMUNITIES

### Digital Building Permit System comes into operation in Bharatpur Metropolitan City

Bharatpur Metropolitan City (BMC) has commenced 'Digital Building Permit System'. Mayor Renu Dahal from the City and NSET's Executive Director Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha jointly launched the Building Permit Software at a formal program organized at Bharatpur of Chitwan on Aug20,2021. The Digital Building Permit Software was developed by NSET as part of technical assistance to BMC. The system was brought into operation with digital approval of a house design of Ms. Sushma KC from Ward No. 9 of BMC.

In the launching program, Mayor Dahal remarked that the software had been just a start of the BMC's broader e-governance goal and it would help general people get service through online without much hassle. She added that this would also contribute to BMC's effective service delivery mechanism and promote transparency.

Mr. Bhoj Raj Khatiwoda, Chief Administrative Officer of BMC said that BMC went on to introduce the Software after the long efforts and series of

discussions. He further stated that the service delivery of BMC will also improve and contribute on good governance and accountability of the employees with the effective implementation of the software.

Speaking at the program, NSET Executive Director, Mr. Surya Naryan Shrsttha shared that the software would contribute to BMC's goal of making it to a smart city through building organized buildings and safer city. Highlighting the multi-purpose features of the Building Permit Software, he added that it would also increase the accountability of the BMC employees except getting a hassle-free service by people.

Mr. Suman Pradhan, Manager of the Technical Support for Resilient Community (TESREC) program of NSET, shared that the Software would make Consultancies and the BMC more responsible in delivering the service to the common people. "Once the consultancies enter the details and house designs into the software, then it is checked by the municipal engineers at Building Permit section of municipality and if all





the details are found correct it would be approved for further process", Mr. Pradhan remarked.

## Findings and research methodologies on 'Tomorrow's Cities' project shared



NSET presented on the initial findings and research methodologies on the Tomorrow's Cities Project regarding earthquake risk management in cities of Tomorrow on Oct 5, 2021 in Kathmandu. Other presenters and speakers included representatives from SIAS, IOE-TU and Practical Action.

The dissemination workshop aimed towards discussing on the preliminary findings of the Tomorrow's cities project was organized by South Asia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) for the local community members of Khokana focusing on the Ward level Disaster Risk Management committee members.

The event included a dedicated session on participatory hazard mapping also attended by the Ward no. 21 chief, Mr. Rabindra Maharjan. Mr. Maharjan highlighted the need for community participation in research-based projects in his closing remarks.

## National Advisory Committee meeting of "Mero Surakshit Gaun" held

A meeting of National Advisory Committee of Technical Support for Resilient Community (TESREC), also known as "Mero Surakshit Gaun" program has been organized at Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA), Singh Durbar, Kathmandu on September 8, 2021. The meeting was held under coordination of Mr. Bishnu Datta Gautam, Joint Secretary, Head of Development Assistance Coordination Directorate at MoFAGA.

The meeting mainly reviewed the progress of the TESREC program and discussed on Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment Methodology among others. Mr. Suman Pradhan, Manager of TESREC program, shared the progress

report of the program at the beginning. After the presentation, participants discussed and put forth their views and suggestions on the matter highlighted in the report.

Speaking at the discussion, Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Executive Director of NSET, highlighted major interventions carried out under the TESREC program. "Among others, major contributions are on these sectors: Building Permit System (BPS), Multi Hazard Risk Assessment (MHRA), Risk Sensitive Land Use Plan (RSLUP) and Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP), and these works can be taken as model work which could be replicated in other Rural Municipalities," he remarked.

Highlighting the need of replicating the RSLUP, BPS and MHRA in other Rural Municipalities, Mr. Bishnu Datta Gautam, Joint Secretary at MoFAGA, said that model drawing could be very useful to initiate Building Permit System in the Rural Municipalities.

Mr. Rishi Acharya, Under Secretary at MoFAGA, stressed on the need of implementing the MHRA, RSLUP, BPS and EPRP in all program municipalities. Informing that a technical working team is set to be formulated for each sector, Mr.



Acharya said that MoFAGA is also making a plan on project harmonization as the three projects: Tayar Nepal, Bhakari and TESREC have similar objectives and approaches.

Mr. Rajesh Dhungel from USAID shared that under the TESREC, a Community Disaster Preparedness and Learning Center (CDPLC) is to be established in program municipalities and it could be replicated later in municipalities through MoFAGA, National Disaster Risk Management Authority (NDRMA) and Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA).

Mr. Santosh Gyawali from USAID said that USAID is coordinating with the all the USAID funded projects namely, Tayar Nepal, TESREC and Bhakari in terms of MHRA, RULSP, BPS and EPRP.

Mr. Manoj Kumar Nakarmi from DUDBC emphasized that MHRA needed to be prioritized in all the programs, policies and guidance. Altogether 19 participants including Dr. Ramesh Guragain, Deputy Executive Director of NSET were present in the program.

### Development of Catalogues of Model Building Designs for Rural Buildings

During this reporting period, a built architectural drawing of the model building of Chure rural municipality has been prepared. The 3D drawings of two model buildings of Kailari and Baijanath rural municipality has been completed. 3D physical model of one model building of Kailari rural municipality has been completed and draft catalogue for the model building of same has been designed.

The catalogue of model building designs contains the designs for such most prevailing building typologies. These model designs include both architectural and structural aspects.

### Workshop on Building Permit System in Kathmandu

A two-day workshop on Building Permit System (BPS) has been organized during 11-12 August 2021 in Kathmandu. The program was jointly organized by Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration and 'Mero Surakshit Gaun' program of NSET. The workshop was organized to share the experiences on effective implementation of Building Permit System (BPS) and Building Code Implementation (BCI) and discuss the ways to enforce the Building Code compliance to Stone in Mud houses which is categorized as '4' by National Building Code (NBC) of Nepal.

Technicians and engineers from experienced municipalities and Rural Municipalities (RM)) which are new to implement the BPS had shared the

experiences and other aspects of BPS and BCI on the occasion.

Total 10 technicians / engineers from the same number of municipalities and 5 technicians from NSET were present at the workshop. The Hetauda, Bharatpur, Dhangadhi and Vyas Municipalities are successfully

implementing the BPS in their municipalities while Tamakoshi RM (Dolakha), Chure and Kailari RM (Kailali), Babai and Baijanath RM (Dang), Simta RM (Surkhet) and Sinja RM (Jumla) have just started to enforce the BPS.

### Series of Community Orientations held in Sinja and Kailari

Six community orientation programs for the community people/ house owners of Kailari and Sinja Rural Municipalities have been conducted during the period.

A total of 277 participants were sensitized through the orientation programs on safer building construction, multi-hazard risk reduction and management. The orientation programs were organized in ward no. 3,4,5 and 6 of the Sinja RM. Similarly, It is also held in two wards of Kailari RM as well.

### Political Leaders in Babai oriented on building permit process

One orientation program for the political leaders of Babai Rural Municipality have been conducted during the period on building permit process.


A total of 27 participants were sensitized through this orientation program on safer building construction.

### Mason Training conducted in Sinja and Babai

Two mason trainings on earthquake resistant building construction for rural buildings has been conducted at Sinja and Babai Rural Municipalities (RM) during the reporting period. Total 62 masons got trained on







earthquake

During the reporting period, three days training on earthquake resistant building design and building permit system has been conducted at Sinja rural municipality for overseers' students and teachers.

## Disaster risk management training in Tamakoshi

Three days disaster risk management training has been conducted during the reporting period. the training was conducted at Tamakoshi rural municipality specifically targeted for Malu khola community.

A total of 25 participants were trained where most participants were from model disaster resilient community.

A workshop on Building Permit Process has been organized under 'Mero Surakshit Gaun' in Babai Rural Municipality in Dang on August 31, 2021. The program was jointly organized by NSET and Babai Rural Municipality (RM) in order to orient the participants about the importance of building permit process.

A total of 28 people including Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Chief Administrative Officer, Ward elected representatives of Babai RM, its staff and NSET team members. The program was conducted by Mr. Rabindra Bohara, Engineer of NSET and Mr. Raiesh Devkota, Engineer, Babai RM.

Mr. Rajesh Devkota, Engineer, Babai RM welcomed participants with program highlights. Mr. Rabindra Bohara, Engineer, NSET-Nepal gave presentation on Building Permit Process. The program was formally concluded Sabitra Biswokarma, Deputy Chairperson, Babai RM.

During the period, all partner FM radios, Hamro Radio for Tamakoshi, Radio Daily Mail for Kailari and Chure, Radio Hapure for Babai, Radio Sanibheri for Simta, Radio Misson for Baijanath, and Radio Sinja FM for Sinja Rural Municipality, have produced and broadcasted four episodes of radio programs on the theme of earthquake safer building construction and multi-hazards preparedness.

Weekly Podcast series have been started on the theme of multi-hazard and disaster, mainly in Nepali language. In this reporting period 11 number of episodes have been produced and published.

Meanwhile, one online exit workshop for TESREC partner radios with 25 total participants have been conducted. With this radio programs have been officially closed for 'Mero Surakshit Gaun' program

INSET NEWSLETTER

## ENHANCING PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITY

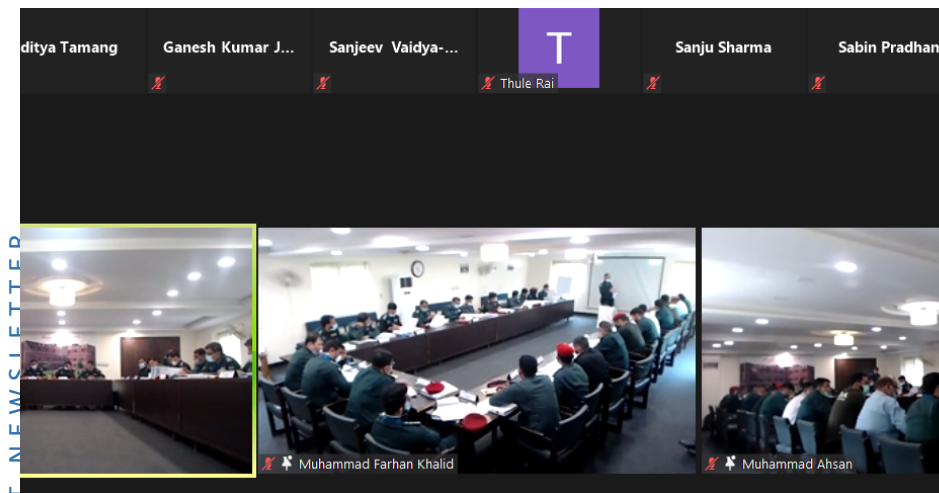
### PEER Progress Review Meeting with NDRRMA

NSET briefed the NDRRMA about progress of the PEER program on April 16, 2021, in Kathmandu. The meeting was attended by the Chief Executive of NDRRMA and Under Secretaries at the institution, senior focal official from USAID/BHA Nepal for PEER; and Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Director of Disaster Preparedness and NSET-PEER senior program officers.



The meeting was a timely platform for strengthening collaboration with the nodal agency, discuss possible strategies for implementing PEER to a wider scope in Nepal and complement national efforts in emergency preparedness and response; and sharing of the list of PEER graduates and instructors in Nepal (PEER database), along with relevant program country reports for Nepal.

### Training for Instructors (TFI) held in Pakistan



NSET in collaboration with Punjab Emergency Service (PES) Rescue 1122, conducted Training for Instructors (TFI) from June 15-19, 2021, at Emergency Services Academy, Lahore, Pakistan. This is the first time that a PEER instructors' course was delivered through blended learning due to restrictions

and safety precautions for COVID-19 pandemic. The participants along with the national instructors were physically present at the training venue, whereas one regional instructor and course monitor joined the course via online platform from Nepal.

Of the total 27 graduates, 25 were from various units of Punjab Emergency Service; one (1) from Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) of Quetta; and one (1) from National Highway and Motorways Police. Twenty-six (26) males and one (1) female composed the group of graduates.

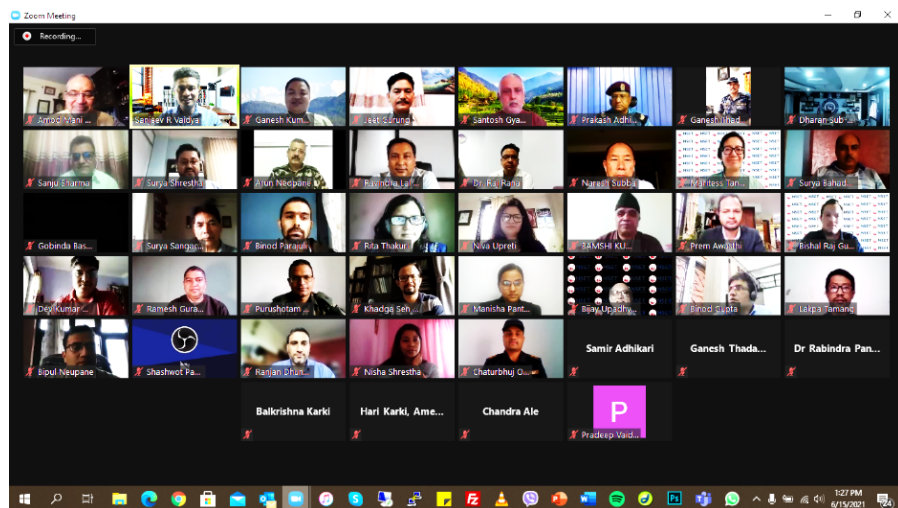
A certificate distribution & closing program was organized on June 19, 2021. Dr. Rizwan Naseer, Founder Director General of PES was the Chief Guest. Dr. Rizwan Naseer expressed PES Rescue1122's gratitude to USAID/BHA and NSET for organizing said activity even in COVID-19 pandemic situation. The Executive Director of NSET, Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha; and NSET President and Chief of Party, PEER IV, Dr. Amod Mani Dixit, also graced the closing program. A final review was organized inviting MFR senior instructors, actors who appeared in the video, NSET senior professionals, and also PEER MFR instructors in the region. The review & validation meeting was held on February 2, 2021, via online platform.



## National Webinar on Sharing report on the possibilities for strengthening disaster risk reduction policies and plans in the context of COVID-19 in Nepal

NSET organized National Webinar on Sharing of the report on the possibilities for strengthening disaster risk reduction policies and plans in the context of COVID-19 in Nepal on June 15, 2021.

PEER partner institutions ranging from relevant national governments and non-government agencies, international organizations, local governments, public health experts and other stakeholders in emergency preparedness and response in Nepal participated in the program.



The main objective of the webinar was to present summary of findings and report on the gaps and challenges in existing policies and guidelines in the context of COVID-19 response in Nepal and collectively explore possible strategies and action plan options for addressing the identified gaps/challenges in responding to COVID-19.

Dignitaries from National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRMA), Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC), Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), COVID-19 Crisis Management Committee (CCMC), Nepali Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force; Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), Disaster Preparedness Network-Nepal (DPNet-Nepal); along with senior representatives from Dharan Municipality, Vyas Municipality, Nepal Ambulance Service, World Health Organization (WHO), ADPC Nepal, USAID/BHA and NSET, participated in the program.

## Community Action for Disaster Response (CADRE) course review workshop held in Bangladesh

NSET, in collaboration with Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) conducted Community Action for Disaster Response (CADRE) online National Course Review Workshop for Bangladesh during May 31-June 3, 2021; and June 7-10, 2021.

The review workshop highlighted updates and regional consensus on the PEER CADRE curriculum, with contextualization to the prevailing needs of Bangladesh and also in the context of communicable diseases such as COVID-19. The review highlights/ updates/adaptation of this CADRE

curriculum has been shared also with ADPC for consolidation in the ongoing nationalization of CADRE curricula in Bangladesh, under PEER-South Asia.

## Completion of CADRE-TFI/IW in India

National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET) under Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER), supported by USAID/BHA successfully completed a Community Action for Disaster Response – Training for Instructor's/ Instructors' Workshop at 03 BN, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Mundali, from August 24-31, 2021 with instructors meeting on August 23. A team of 8 people with 1 monitor, 4 full instructors and 2 assistant instructors and a NSET representative from Nepal voyaged to Mundali to team up with 3 members from India comprising 1 Course coordinator, 1 full instructor and 1 assistant instructor from India. A total of 27 participants from different NDRF battalion in India joined the course comprising an all-male group.

CADRE-TFI/IW is a demanding training which turns the participants into future CADRE instructors. 24 participants among 27 participants successfully completed the course while 3 participants received the certificate of attendance. The participants were very pleased to participate in such a training where they learnt to present themselves as an instructor, as well as the lessons to be delivered in CADRE.

The closing program was graced by the Commandant of 03 BN, NDRF Mundali Mr. Jacob Kispotta and Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Executive Director, NSET. NSET was gratified towards NDRF in approving for the conduction of the training in such a situation while NDRF was grateful towards NSET for supporting NDRF to reach at such imposing step in responding and being prepared against disaster.



## BUILD BACK BETTER: ASSISTING POST GORKHA EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION

### National Workshop on Closing of Baliyo Ghar program held

Upon the completion of program activities, “National Workshop on Closing of Baliyo Ghar Program” was held on Sep 24, 2021 in Kathmandu. The main purpose had been to share and discuss major learning and experiences of reconstruction efforts in past 6 years in Nepal.

Addressing the closing event, CEO Mr. Sushil Gyewali from National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) recalled the journey of Nepal’s post-earthquake reconstruction. CEO Gyewali highly appreciated USAID and NSET for all the worth support provided contribution made through ‘Baliyo Ghar’ program.



On the occasion, Dr. Chandra Bahadur Shrestha, Executive Committee Member of NRA briefed on reconstruction experiences of Nepal and highlighted how satisfying it is to have larger portion of task accomplished within this period. Dr. Shrestha advised NSET to do Nepal’s reconstruction repository for future generations.

Dr. Hari Ram Parajuli, Executive Committee Member of NRA shared on NRA’s experience on how Nepal could resolve technical issues of reconstruction timely and efficiently. “Achieving 95% compliance rate in private housing is a big achievement to mark”, Dr. Parajuli remarked.

Mr. Dilip Bhandari, Deputy Director General, DUDBC shared his experience of working for housing reconstruction in district and at local level, and also how technical support was provided to earthquake affected families.

Mr. Shyam Kishor Singh, Program Director of CLPIU (Building) stressed on need to consolidate the learnings of Nepal’s Housing Reconstruction for the use of future generation.

Mr. David B. Chalmers, Office Director from Environment and Resilience Office of USAID Nepal expressed that USAID family feels delighted to have been able to walk together with thousands of earthquake-affected families in their post-earthquake recovery efforts.

Also, representatives from local government shared their experiences. Ms. Kamala Sharma, Deputy Chairperson of



Siddhalek Rural Municipality Dhading appreciated the support provided to the communities through Baliyo Ghar to build back better and safer.

Mr. Birajman Shrestha, Ward Chair from Bhimeshor-2 shared how reconstruction progressed resolving complex issues of city core area & heritage site of historical Dwalkha Bazar.

Mr. Haribansha Chaulagain, Ward Chair from Bhimeshor-4 shared his happiness that there are many female masons in the community now developed who can work for resilient construction.

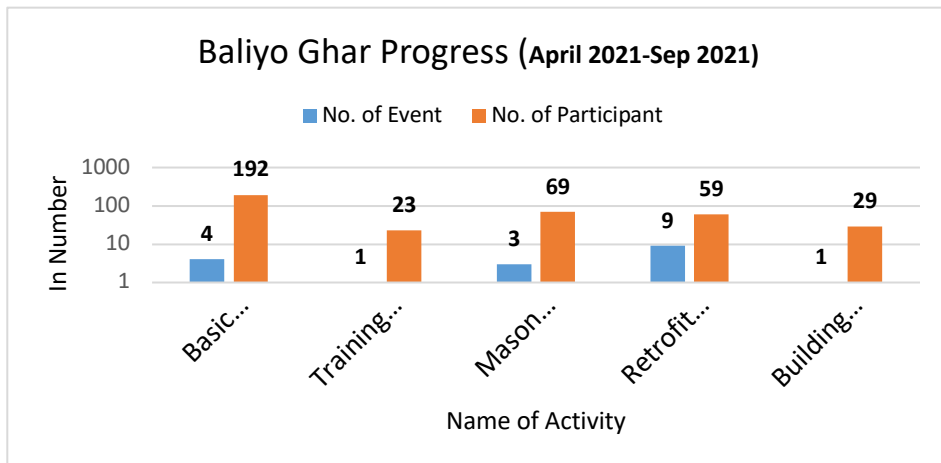
Addressing the event, Ward Chairs Mr. Bijay Raj Itani from Nilkantha-10, Mr. Laxman from Siddhalek-7 and Mr. Rammani Pudasaini from Kageshowori-Manahara - 2 also shared their experiences of housing reconstruction in their areas and appreciated contribution from Baliyo Ghar program. Trained Masons Ms. Bimala Basnet and Mr. Surya Prasad Subedi shared their journey of earthquake resistant construction practice.

Ms. Bhubneshwori Parajuli from HRRP mentioned on collective efforts of various agencies to support and accomplish housing reconstruction in Nepal and appreciated Baliyo Ghar's stake.

Journalist Sunil Koirala who is also Executive Producer for Baliyo Ghar Television program shared on media campaigns conducted for effective and safer housing reconstruction.

On the occasion, National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) offered Letters of Appreciation to USAID and NSET. USAID and NSET also handed Letter of Acknowledgement to NRA for overall guidance and leadership in reconstruction efforts.

The closing program was chaired by NSET Executive Director Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha. Mr. Shrestha thanked all the participants and also expressed gratitude to all the stakeholders and communities for their guidance and support to successfully accomplish Baliyo Ghar program activities.



To start with, NSET's Deputy Executive Director and Program Director for Baliyo Ghar had shared program accomplishments highlighting major achievements, impacts and key lessons. Baliyo Ghar Program Manager Mr. Ranjan Dhungel shared on program implementation and acknowledged the guidance and support received from various agencies and sections of people.

## Efforts through Baliyo Ghar Program

At the end of the September 2021, nationally, among the 99 % of beneficiaries who have signed participatory agreement with government, 90% have received the second tranche. Likewise, 84% have received third tranche of government grant. Coming to end of the program implementation, Baliyo Ghar Program has 95% progress in second tranche and 89% progress in third tranche disbursement, 5% and 6% higher than the national average respectively. Despite having nationwide COVID-19 restrictions and lockdown, the program accomplished targeted program activities during April to September 2021. The program employed various tools and techniques to reach out to the



target groups, remodeling activity implementation strategies to cope with the health and safety protocols put in place by the Government of Nepal, local governments and NSET. The summary of work accomplished during the period are as follows:

- ✓ **Training to 23 local government representatives**, officials, and social activists on role of local governments in institutionalization of reconstruction learnings, building code implementation and local level disaster management policies, acts, and guidelines.
- ✓ Training (basic) to **192 engineers and architects** working at different municipalities on building code implementation and building permit process.
- ✓ Training to **59 masons on retrofitting** of partially damaged masonry buildings and construction of **five masonry building** retrofitting demonstration models.
- ✓ Conduction of **3 mason registration workshops** to trained masons, local representatives, officials from local authority, local contractors and representatives from partner organizations with view to institutionalize the learnings and process of reconstruction benefitting **69 people**.
- ✓ Conduction of Building Construction Training for Contractors benefitting **29 people**.

## Engineers' Training on Basics of Repair and Retrofitting of Buildings conducted

NSET provided socio-technical assistance to different Urban Municipalities and Rural Municipalities (Previously VDCs) of four most earthquake affected district i.e., Dolakha, Dhading, Nuwakot and Kathmandu for safe reconstruction through Baliyo Ghar Program. Apart from socio-technical assistance for reconstruction, Baliyo Ghar has been supporting the reconstruction by policy building, conduction capacity building trainings and awareness programs in the working area as well as outside the working area in some cases.

Retrofitting of existing buildings is one major aspect of building earthquake resilient community in the future. The Engineers Training on Basics of Repair and Retrofitting is one of many programs that was conducted throughout the Baliyo Ghar program duration of 6 years. The main purpose of the course was to acquaint engineers and sub engineer with the basic understanding in the theoretical background and current practices of retrofit based on the different manuals, guidelines and SOP pertaining to retrofitting published by GON and NRA. The training was conducted with different sessions with interactive theoretical lectures, case studies, video case stories and video demonstration. The trainings were conducted virtually with the help of Microsoft Teams as the major platform for presentation and interaction during sessions. Six series of virtual training were organized in which 250 participants were certified.

## Housing Reconstruction accomplished in Bigu area of Dolakha

Bigu Rural Municipality from Dolakha district marks accomplishment of Post-Earthquake Housing Reconstruction within the area. Mr. Yudhisthir Khadka, Chairperson of Bigu Rural Municipality, in an event organized at Singati in Bigu on September 17, 2021 extended satisfaction to this achievement

ending the painful journey left by the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake.

Bigu is close to the epicenter of largest aftershock of 2015 Gorkha Earthquake that had tremored on May 12, 2015 causing massive destruction in Dolakha district and around. The tremor had left almost all-in-all rural houses under the rubbles. Scenario is now changed, the earthquake impacted families are now inside their own rebuilt houses that are expected to withstand future tremors. People's lives are gradually restored and seem gearing up.

CEO Mr. Sushil Gyewali from National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) recalled the moment when participation agreement had kicked off from the same place six years back. CEO Gyewali remarked, "we had started formal commencement of the housing reconstruction process signing first participation agreement with a beneficiary family from this place and now I am feeling deeply satisfied to see the reconstruction task accomplished in the area."

USAID Mission Director Ms. Sepideh Keyvanshad, in her address appreciated the efforts of Rural Municipality, the government agencies and partners to make this achievement possible. "I am happy to see the post-earthquake reconstruction accomplished here. Its so pleasing to see many women actors contributing to reconstruction", Ms. Keyvanshad expressed.

NSET's Executive Director Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha briefly portrayed the journey of housing reconstruction in Bigu and similar other rural settlements rattled by 2015 Gorkha Earthquake. Addressing the event, Ms. Kalika Pathak, Vice



Chairperson from Kalinchowk Rural Municipality and Mr. Sanjiv Oli, Vice Chairperson from Bigu Rural Municipality shared about the experiences of reconstruction in the localities. COP Dr. Ramesh Guragain from Baliyo Ghar and Acting Chief of DLPIU Dolakha Mr. Arjun Tamang highlighted the key features of reconstruction efforts in Dolakha district. On the occasion, Chairperson Mr. Khadka from Bigu acknowledged NRA, USAID & NSET with certificates of appreciation for their support and contribution towards achieving reconstruction goals and also helping in building community resilience. Mr. Khadka also thanked all the key actors and stakeholders who contributed to housing reconstruction. NRA and Bigu Rural Municipality also felicitated noted masons and house-owners as "Local Champions". Also, Ward Level Mason Directory handed over to Chairperson of Bigu Rural

Municipality and Vice Chairperson of Kalinchowk Rural Municipality. USAID's Baliyo Ghar program has prepared Mason Directory that accounts the information of trained masons with contact details for the future use by potential house-owners & Rural Municipalities.



Some glimpses of formal program organized to mark completion of reconstruction at Bigu Singati in Dolakha.



### Implementation of Community Level Local Action Plan under VFL 2019

Various community level action plans have been implemented under Views from the Frontline (VFL) 2019. As part of it, embankment of gabion box in the confluence of Dhyangri and Kamal Khola of Kamal Rural Municipality-1 Jhapa has been done. Similar work was also done on the confluence of Jethi and Baidnath Khola of Udaypurgadhi Rural Municipality-5, Udayapur. Likewise, Kalikhola small irrigation program has been accomplished in Triyuga Municipality-11, Udayapur. Nawa Prabhat (NP) Nepal partner organization for implementing the action plans in Province 1.

Similarly, in Province no. 4, construction of an intake, and boundary around intake, Repair and maintenance of 100 meters pipe of Khakauli Moretac drinking water scheme was carried out in Vyas Municipality.1, Tanahun. Construction of boundary wall in the existing open toilet and setting up seven stand handwash stations in Satya Sheela Secondary School was done in Galyang Municipality-5, Syangja. Likewise, implementation of Water supply connection to 75 households from Pankhola Drinking Water supply Scheme in Gandaki Rural Municipality-2, Gorkha has also been done. Fulvari Integrated Rural Development Organization (FIRDO) Nepal was partner organization of implementing these activities.

As part of it, in Province number 3, small landslide mitigation activities like filling up gabion wall around the water tank and plantation around the tank was accomplished in Chandragiri Municipality-3, Kathmandu and Kalinchowk Rural Municipality-1, Dolakha. Likewise, installation of a hose pipe for fire response was also done in Lalitpur Metropolitan City.

### Meeting of the MDS Taskforce Members held

A meeting of Making Displacement Safer (MDS) Taskforce Members has been organized at Nava Dristikon Yuva Club in Kathmandu. The program was organized on hybrid mode as some participants physically present while others joined through online platform. The meeting was organized to discuss the action plans of the project.



The program was stated with the results of VFL Light Survey and after that a discussion conducted. Mr. Bijay Krishna Upadhyay, Technology Innovation Expert from NSET, facilitated

the discussion. All the participants expressed that this type of intervention in the urban unmanaged settlement was a need of the time. Mr. Tek Raj Adhikari, a member of the KMC 9 ward committee, appreciated the project activities and committed their support to run the project activities as planned. On the occasion, all the members expressed their commitment to using the taskforce committee to make the project activities most effective and fruitful. The meeting decided to hold the first FGD within August.

### Focused Group Discussion organized



With the view to find the perception of community-level disaster risk reduction, a Focused Group Discussion (FGD) was held in Namuna Tole, Sinamangal Kathmandu. The interactive session sensitized the participants on the possibility of assessing the Hazard, Risk, Vulnerability and Capacity of the



community to plan for disaster risk reduction. The participants got basic information regarding the process of initiating community actions for disaster risk reduction. FGD helped to gain in-depth insight into roles and responsibilities in the disaster risk reduction process.

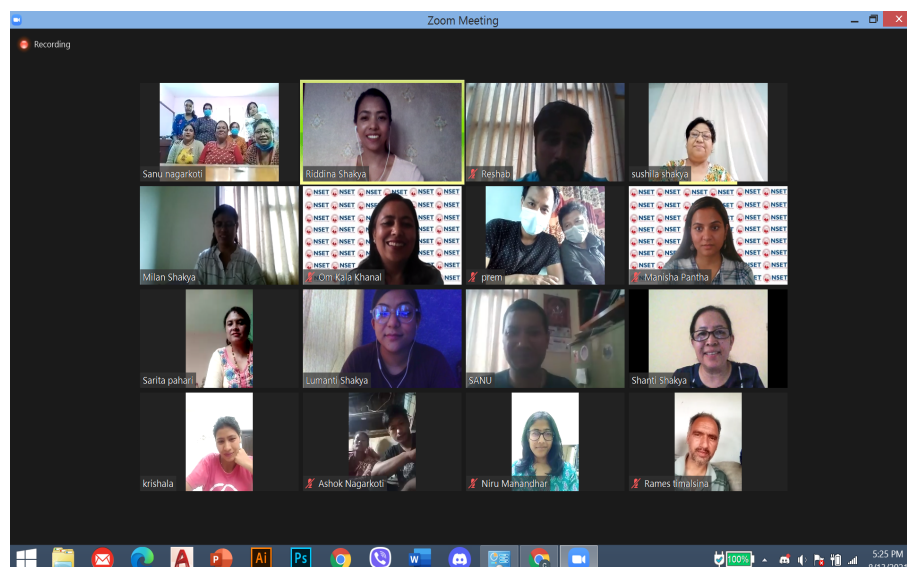
A total of 5 focus groups representing all the section of people including, disables, children, women participated in the program.

Likewise, NSET has distributed relief materials including minimum required food or nonfood items for the most affected families by a flash flood at KMC-9, Namuna Tole, Sinamangal, Kathmandu. The



heavy rain in the Bagmati Water Shed Area in the early morning of September 6, 2021, resulted in a flash flood in the Bagmati River. Water from the Bagmati river entered Namuna tole through the weep holes and construction joints on the embankment wall. Further, the flash flood on the adjacent road due to the heavy rain also entered the settlement and the drainage also swelled accordingly. By 4 am the entire settlement was submerged. The flood entered the ground floor of about 30% of the houses.

## Community level orientation on Covid 19 held in LMC-12



In collaboration with NSET, Lakasa Nepal (LN) organized a virtual orientation program on Covid-19 through the Zoom app with participation from four

communities: Badikhel, Bhattedanda, Pahade Thapa Gaun and Sikharpa. LN hosted the program while NSET being the resource organization took the responsibility of orientating the participants on Covid-19. The resources of the orientation program were shared through a PowerPoint presentation.

A total of 42 community people participated in the orientation program among which 5 were from Badikhel, 6 from Bhattedanda, 9 from PTG and 12 from Sikharpa. Similarly, there were 8 attendees from LN and 2 from NSET as an organizer team.

The participants now have a better understanding of the Covid-19 scenario in Nepal, its causes, effects, treatment and preventive measures.

Speaking at the program, Ms. Sushila Shakya, Executive Director of LN shared a brief background of NSET and on how LN and NSET came up with the orientation program considering the request and need of communities in Covid-19 awareness. She welcomed the NSET team and participants from her side and handed over the floor to NSET team for further facilitation.

Ms. Manisha Pantha, a Resource Person from NSET presented an informative session on COVID-19. Ms. Om Kala Khanal, a Resource Person from NSET facilitated the session.

Ms. Shanti Shova Shakya, Country Program Coordinator (CPC) of LN facilitated concluded the program. She also extended here sincere thanks to all the participants from the communities for their active participation.

## Pratibadhha conducting community-based interactions on landslider risk management

NSET along with PIN, SWN, DU and NU, is implementing the program “Risk-informed Landslide Management in Nepal’s Hill Areas (Pratibadhha)” in Dolakha and Sindupalchowk districts of province 3. in 119 municipal units in the province with 1121 ward offices. Pratibaddha aims to work in the grass root level to enhance the understanding of communities regarding landslide risk and their relationship with human activities. The principal objective of the program is to increase the resilience of communities in rural hill areas of Nepal through the effective mitigation and management of landslides.

As part of sensitizing people, communities, local authorities and members of local disaster risk reduction committee to understand landslides, their risk and interrelation of human activities with landslides through community-based orientations, ward and municipal level workshops, IEC materials and innovate landslide models like LDEM and P3DM. During the period, the project was dedicated mostly in scaling of community-based interactions, piloting of ward level workshops. The below are the lists of activities.



### Draft of Landslide (LS) calendar

First Draft of LS calendar was prepared in this quarter which will be distributed in the next quarter. The content of the poster comprised introduction to LS, their risk mitigation measures, Response and Preparedness. Colleagues from NSET, DU and NU coordinated and brainstormed in preparation of the draft. The calendar comprises of 12 different pages as per 12 months as per Nepali calendar. Each poster comprises of key messages along with some works that can be done in that month to reduce the risk of landslide.

### Community level orientations using LDEM

23 Live demonstrations were carried out in this period where 542 people participated. The demonstrations were held at all the municipal units of program area. The manual for the demonstration was developed in the first

quarter of the project. The manual along with the content and curriculum of orientation was used to ensure holistic knowledge on landslide, their risk, risk mitigating strategies, preparedness and response are imparted to the participants.

### Ward level workshops using P3DM

3 ward level workshops were piloted on 3 wards of Bigu RM on this quarter after one model comprising of 3 wards of Bigu was cut. The layers cut by the CNC machine were glued together and filed using a paper sand to get a uniform surface. The model later was taken to community for workshop where they plotted different attributes like rivers, roads, landslides, infrastructures etc. upon plotting on the model it was used to describe how our development works were affected by landslides and also how some of our development works specially roads exacerbated landslides. The model was also used as a planning tool to identify some prospects of development works and also to identify areas where landslide risk reduction works are required.

Total 61 participants participated in the workshops where 44 were male while 17 were female. The participants were selected as per their profession and participants comprised mostly of local authorities, political leaders, students, members of development committee, gumba and volunteers. The database of the participants has been maintained at projects google drive.

For more information, please contact us:



**NSET**  
Earthquake Safe Communities in Nepal

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