

NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Periodic Progress Report-1

10th April, 2016

Background

The National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) was constituted on 25 December 2015, following the enactment of the NRA Act on 20 December. Since then it has been working towards fulfilling its mandate to lead and facilitate reconstruction for ensuring that all physical infrastructures damaged by the earthquake are rebuilt in a planned and systematic manner and on time. The NRA began setting up office at a time when public expectation was that the reconstruction should begin immediately across all earthquake-affected districts while the Authority did not have basic physical facilities, human resources and policies needed for undertaking reconstruction at the required scale.

Despite the odds, the NRA was able to begin the process of providing reconstruction support to qualified families in March 2016. These are families had lost their homes in the earthquake of 25 April 2015 and the aftershocks that followed and whose losses have been verified by technicians. It enrolled the first recipient and signed a grant agreement with him at Singati of Dolakha District on 13 March 2016. The guidelines prepared for the process, and the field test at Singati have provided a reliable foundation for rolling out reconstruction simultaneously in other earthquake-affected districts.

This document attempts to summarize information on the reconstruction efforts at the NRA since its formation in December 2015.

Reconstruction Grants

The NRA began enrolling families whose homes had been damaged by the earthquake for providing reconstruction grants in March 2016. The distribution of grants to qualified households began from the Singati hub in Dolakha District that enrolled people from Lamidanda and Laduk Village Development Committees (VDCs). By 25 March 2016, the NRA had completed 641 grant agreements in these villages.

Survey and documentation

The survey and documentation of over 591,000 households – of 732,363 households in the 11 districts where the survey is underway – had been completed by 5 April 2016.¹ The Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) says that the earthquake of April 2015 had fully damaged 498,697 households and partially damaged another 256,617. The survey and documentation is being carried out to verify the damages and to ensure that no one eligible for support is missed, and no one is “double-dipping”. NRA has been coordinating the survey being carried out by more than 1600 engineers deployed in the earthquake-affected districts.

Reconstruction of Damaged Infrastructures

The NRA has begun the process of facilitating the rebuilding of historical and cultural sites, government buildings, schools, health posts and hospitals. The work for rebuilding two heritage sites in Kathmandu – Rani Pokhari and Dharahara – has already begun. In the case of Rani Pokhari, the bidding process for reconstruction has begun. The Government has also opened an account at the Rashtriya Banijya Bank for allowing the public to contribute towards the reconstruction of the Dharahara, a landmark built in 1831 that had collapsed on 25 April 2015. The designing for a new Dharahara has already begun.

NRA Facilities, Human Resources and Sub-Regional Offices

The NRA central secretariat is located at Singh Durbar, in the building that formerly housed the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM). Some staffs are housed at an adjoining pre-fabricated building. The NRA began work with a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), an Acting Secretary and one non-gazetted official on 28 December 2016. It now has a staff of 86 and has sub-regional offices in Dolakha, Gorkha, Nuwakot and Kavrepalanchowk districts. The NRA is now in the process of setting up the remaining sub-regional offices and Local Resource Centers (LRC) to service a specific number of VDCs.

Central Project Implementation Units

The Government has established Central Level Project Implementation Units (CL-PIU) at different ministries for leading the reconstruction work. The CL-PIU under the Ministry of Urban Development (MOUD) leads the reconstruction of individual households, government buildings, urban and rural settlements, and health infrastructures. Similarly, the CL-PIU for

¹ Dolakha, Sindhupalchok, Gorkha, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Dhading, Kavrepalanchowk, Ramechhap, Okhaldhunga, Sindhuli and Makwanpur .

rebuilding damaged heritage sites is based at the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation; that for rebuilding damaged schools at the Ministry of Education and the CL-PIU for building damaged infrastructures of local government bodies is based at the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MOFALD).

The MOFALD also distributes grants for building houses to eligible families and the CL-PIU at the MOUD provides technical support for the purpose. These CL-PIUs have made arrangements for necessary resources, including human resources for undertaking reconstruction. The MOUD has also begun recruiting around 2700 engineers, sub engineers and sub-overseers who will be deployed to all VDCs and LRCs for providing technical advice and for carrying out supervision of homes being built with Government support.

Policy Instruments

The NRA now has clear policy instruments for steering reconstruction and resettlement efforts. The Reconstruction and Resettlement Policy 2072 (2016) is the foundational document that guides all NRA activities. There is also more clarity in the organizational structure of the NRA and its implementation modality, and approaches. These policies and guidelines have clarified the roles and responsibilities of different institutions involved in reconstruction, resettlement, and livelihood support.

The Prime Minister chairs the Advisory Council and Steering Committee of the NRA. The leader of the main opposition party in parliament is the vice-chair of the Council that has representatives of all political parties represented in parliament, members of parliament representing the 14 worst affected districts, senior government officials and heads of security agencies, among others. The Executive Committee of the NRA has seven members, including the CEO.

The Council of Ministers has approved NRAs rules and guidelines for the following interventions:

- Housing Grant Distribution
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Land Acquisition
- Public Procurement
- Reconstruction Regulation
- Land Registration, and
- Working with non-governmental organizations

On 10 April the NRA began facilitating the signing of housing grant agreements with qualified families in eight districts outside Kathmandu Valley. The survey and documentation has begun in Bungamati and eight wards of Karyavinayak Municipality in Lalitpur District, and preparations are underway to carry out the Detailed Damage Assessments in Kathmandu Valley, and the remaining 17 districts. The NRA's plan is to complete the surveys and begin distributing housing grants before the monsoon season.

Work in Progress

The NRA has begun providing budget authorizations to different ministries for reconstruction related interventions. On 6 April it had provided authorization for NRs.4. 7 billion for different ministries. The reconstruction of various schools buildings, health centers, heritage sites, places of tourist interest and government buildings have already begun.

The NRA is now the process of finalizing guidelines for managing human resources, guidelines for Reconstruction Fund Operation, and the guidelines for training and capacity building of masons. It has also completed the first draft of the Post Disaster Reconstruction Framework (PDRF) that will guide its investment and operations for the next five years. Towards this end, the NRA has also begun discussions with experts and heads of planning divisions of all the ministries for taking the process forward as a sound framework is vital for ensuring that Nepal builds back better.