

looking back

Annual Report FY2016
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016



contents

Looking back	3
Disaster response	4
Shelter mapping and research	6
Geographic information system	7
Pipaltar community	8
Capacity building	9
Bamboo cultivation	11
Other disaster response	12
Building a sustainable organization	13
Habitat for Humanity Nepal's approach	14
Events	15
Volunteer engagement	18
From despair to joy	19
In appreciation	21
Recognition	22



looking back

The devastating earthquakes in 2015 not only affected tens of thousands of people, but also had a significant impact on how Habitat for Humanity works in Nepal. In nearly two decades of work, HFH Nepal has helped more families in need of decent housing through partnerships and campaigns such as the 100,000 Housing Campaign. The devastating earthquakes of 2015, which left more than 8,790 people dead and destroyed or damaged more than 785,000 houses, were to change that. In the aftermath, Habitat volunteers removed 650 tons of earthquake rubble and worked with Habitat Nepal to distribute 5,142 temporary shelter kits and 20,000 water backpacks. Engineers later completed safety assessments on 16,244 earthquake-damaged homes. In the cold months, 2,424 winterization kits were distributed to survivors. In addition, 116 trainers and 632 people in affected communities were trained in the Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA), which teaches communities to be more aware of the hazards and vulnerabilities related to shelter, and guides them on the process to construct safer and more resilient homes and communities.

Before 2015 drew to a close, an unofficial border blockade led to an acute shortage of fuel, cooking gas, medicines and other essential supplies creating an economic and humanitarian crisis in the country. The civil unrest and crisis that suspended imports from India for four and half months nearly brought the country to a standstill and created significant delays in Habitat Nepal's programs and activities. The blockade badly affected the supplies of essential commodities, including fuel and construction materials required for reconstruction work.

Due to unstable situation and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our volunteers, Habitat for Humanity took an unprecedented step of canceling the 32nd annual Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project which was to be held in Chitwan from November 1 to 6, 2015. About 20 families, who were selected as potential home owners, had been provided with masonry training and

materials such as cement, bricks and bamboo to build adequate housing.

Amid the setbacks, Habitat for Humanity International's CEO Jonathan Reckford's visit to Pipaltar and Rampur was an encouragement to earthquake-hit communities. Not only was he able to speak with survivors and hear first-hand accounts, he also helped to distribute sleeping bags funded by a donor. His hope of returning and visiting the families in their new, rebuilt homes resonated with all who were present. While he was in Kathmandu, he also launched the Habitat Young Leaders Build. He encouraged Nepali youth to be a part of Habitat's largest youth campaign in the Asia-Pacific region and to work with families to build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.

Looking back, it has been a challenging year. Our programs and staff were tested and came out stronger. We appreciate the importance of partnership as we worked with the United Nations Shelter Cluster to initiate recovery and rebuilding after the earthquakes.

After delays, the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) was finally established in late January 2016 to lead the country's reconstruction process and on March 3, it began distributing grant assistance to those whose houses were destroyed by the earthquakes last year. The NRA also issued guidelines on reconstruction for international non-governmental organizations including Habitat Nepal. With government approval and guidance from the NRA, Habitat Nepal is looking forward to support families in rebuilding through an owner-driven approach. Our Build Nepal strategy will be implemented in both disaster-affected and non-affected districts. Through a participatory approach, communities gain knowledge on building back safer technologies and access to durable construction materials. Training in income-generating skills improves their earning capacity. Vulnerable groups such as female-headed households can look to better living conditions through adequate access to clean water and safe sanitation as well as shared community resources.

disaster response as of June 2016

temporary shelter kits



Number of temporary shelter kits distributed: 5,142
Number of families/people supported: 5,065 / 25,325
Number of volunteers involved: 142
Number of demonstration temporary shelters built: 21

Locations: Thulo Dhading, Pedku and Sunkhani VDCs in Sindhupalchok district; in Paanchkhal, Kashikhanda and Lamidanda VDCs in Kavrepalanchok district, Chapagaon and Godam Chaur VDCs in Lalitpur district, Dhunwakot VDC in Dhading district

VDC - village development committee

rubble removal



Amount of rubble removed: 650 tons
Number of volunteers involved: 637
Locations: Harisiddhi, Bungmati, Pipaltar, Rampur, Sankhu and Khokana
Number of families / people supported: 126 / 630



safety assessment



Number of houses assessed: 16,244

Number of families / people supported: 16,244 / 81,220

Number of surveyors / engineers trained: 60

Locations: Kavrepalanchok, Dolakha, Lamjung

water backpacks



Number of water backpacks distributed: 20,000

Number of families / people supported: 20,000 / 100,000

Number of volunteers mobilized: 64

Locations: Gorkha, Dolakha, Sindhupalchok, Ramechhap, Kavrepalanchok, Bhaktapur and Dhading

winterization kits



Number of families / people supported: 2,424 / 12,120

Locations: Nuwakot district: Tupche, Salme, Likhu, and Ghyangfedi



shelter mapping and research

With support from the Asia-Pacific market development team, Habitat Nepal has completed housing market research in Kavrepalanchok, Nuwakot and Lalitpur, representing three of the 25 districts in the central region that were worst hit by the earthquakes. The research was done on the low-income housing market in Nepal to understand what kind of affordable housing products and services

could be offered in a post-disaster context. The data that was collected included how existing microfinance institutions operate in the disaster-hit areas, what kind of livelihood opportunities are available for survivors and what kind of recovery and reconstruction are needed as well as water and sanitation, solid waste management, roads and transportation.



geographic information system

In June 2016, a team from Habitat Nepal conducted a baseline survey of 529 families in the earthquake-hit Salme village development committee in Nuwakot district. This kicked off the launch of the Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping which is used to support reconstruction efforts following the 2015 earthquakes. The geographic data that the system yields will enable Habitat Nepal to monitor the progress of our work with the families whom the government has identified as having qualified for assistance. These families will rebuild their homes under an owner-driven approach with Habitat Nepal monitoring the progress of construction and other program activities. Habitat Nepal is planning to roll out the GIS to other earthquake-affected areas and eventually to non-affected regions.

“By adopting GIS mapping technique, we are now transforming our work from paper to digital system. Such infographic system is easy to access and has limited typo errors. The best part of GIS mapping is, it is result-oriented.” - Suman Baral, Habitat Nepal staff



pipaltar community

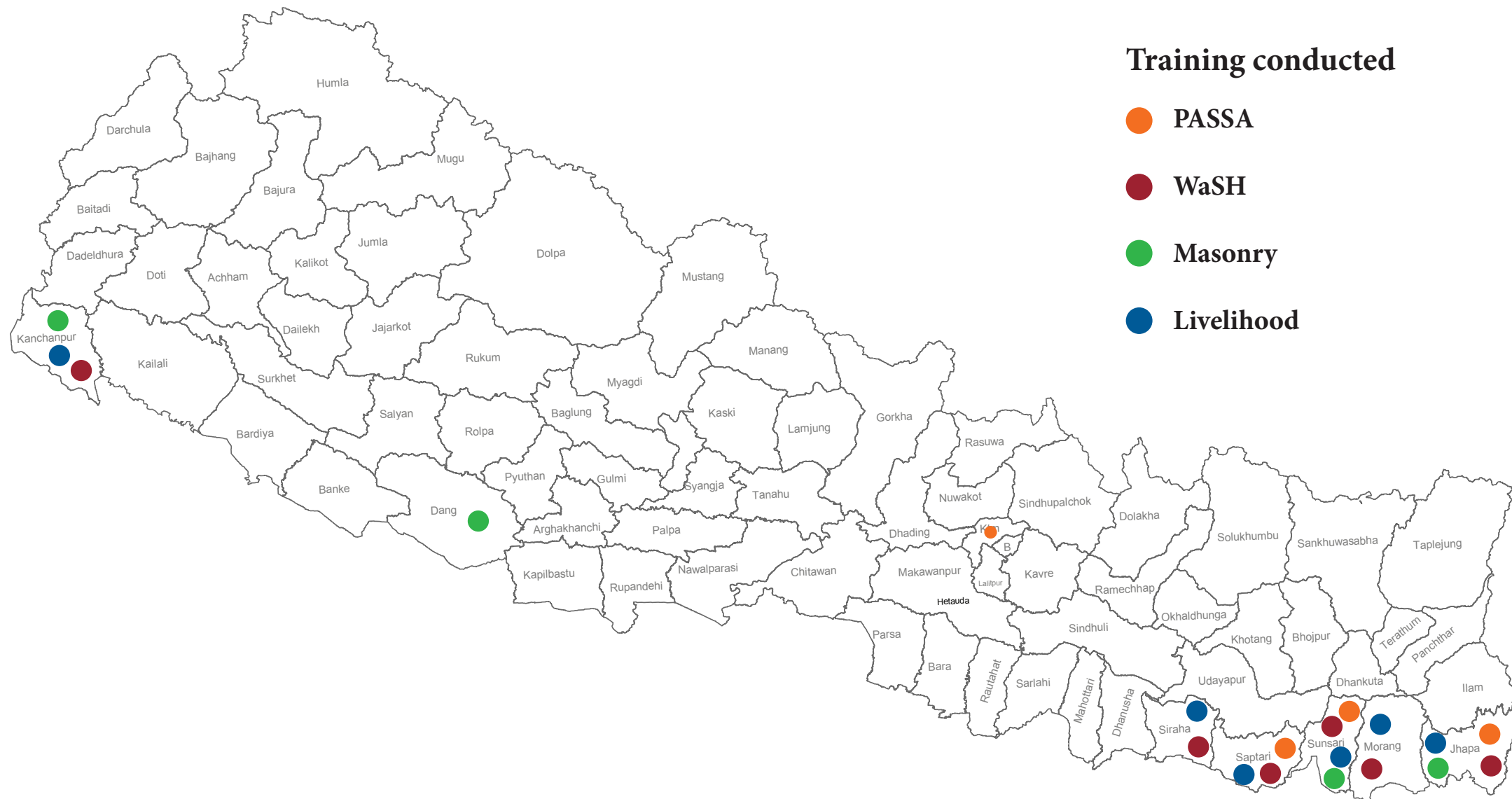
Pipaltar was one of the worst-hit villages in Kavepalanchok district. All 89 houses in Pipaltar that were between 75 and 100 years old were destroyed by the earthquakes on April 25 and May 12, 2015. In the aftermath, Habitat Nepal in partnership with the community, initiated an emergency response. With extensive engagement from the community and volunteers, dangerous structures were demolished and rubble was removed to allow for new construction. Their efforts also resulted in 68 lineal meters of at-risk land being secured, thus improving access to the village. Gabions were also raised to secure land vulnerable to soil erosion and landslides. The community worked together and contributed their sweat equity to recover what they had lost.

In August 2015, Habitat Nepal constructed the first disaster resilient demonstration house made of brick, bamboo and cement. From August to September, 2015, the families in Pipaltar were trained in masonry skills, enabling them to build earthquake-resilient houses with local materials. Habitat Nepal is currently working with a local non-governmental organization, Partnership for Sustainable Development Nepal (PSD), to support the families in rebuilding through an owner-driven approach. As of the end of June 2016, a total of 21 permanent houses have been built, while another 46 houses were under construction.



capacity building

In the financial year ended June 30, 2016, over 2,800 people have been trained in the Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA); water, sanitation and hygiene; and masonry and livelihood skills. Habitat Nepal played a key role in organizing this training, with participants coming from Habitat for Humanity, partner organizations and earthquake-affected communities as well as non-affected areas.



participatory approach for safe shelter awareness

Since 2014, Habitat Nepal and its partners have been training staff members, staff from partner organizations and local communities in a participatory method related to shelter safety and disaster risk reduction. The Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness aims to enable individuals and communities to identify shelter vulnerabilities and risks, and make a plan to put shelter safety strategies into place. For the financial year ended on June 30, 2016, a total of 445 people have been trained in PASSA through the sessions conducted in Sunsari, Jhapa, Saptari and Kathmandu districts.

water, sanitation and hygiene

While Nepal has met the Millennium Development Goal for safe drinking water and made good progress toward the target for basic sanitation, there is more to be done. Habitat Nepal has been offering training in water, sanitation and hygiene to different communities across the country. The training focuses on raising awareness and promoting good hygienic and sanitary practices. More than 1,400 people in the east and west have been trained in the recently ended financial year.

masonry

The massive earthquakes in 2015 heightened the need for building back safer. Through training in masonry skills, Habitat Nepal enables local masons to build disaster-resilient houses using local construction materials and appropriate techniques. As part of the training, participants put their masonry skills to good use through the construction of 519 toilets and installed 135 tube wells. For the financial year ended June 30, 2016, a total of 191 people were trained in Dang, Kanchanpur, Jhapa and Sunsari districts.

livelihood training

Habitat Nepal has been conducting various livelihood training such as livestock rearing and vegetable farming to help families improve their earning capacity. Participants also learned about cultivating a home garden and recommended farming practices. In the recently ended financial year, a total of 472 people have been trained in the east and west.



bamboo cultivation

With the funding support of Habitat for Humanity Netherlands, bamboo is promoted as a sustainable and eco-friendly building material in eastern Nepal. In east, we trained 31 women in cultivating and harvesting bamboo districts in collaboration with community forest organizations and district level forestry department. Another 21 masons learned about new techniques for constructing more sustainable bamboo houses. In addition, 13.5 hectares of land has been set aside for a bamboo plantation, two disaster-resilient houses made of bamboo have been built and nine bamboo nurseries have been set up in Jhapa and Morang.

Habitat Nepal's work with female-headed households in cultivating and building with bamboo is recognized when Habitat received the first prize from the Arab Gulf Program for Development (AGFund) at the 18th Microcredit Summit in Abu Dhabi in March 2016. We would like to share the achievement with our partner organizations in the east that are instrumental in their support.

In the western region also, another five bamboo nurseries have been established in Dang and Banke districts. Our partner organizations play a key role in promoting the cultivation and use of bamboo for sustainable construction. We are thankful to Aviyan Nepal, Sahara Nepal, Jeevan Bikas Samaj, Mahuli Community Development Center, Mahuli Development Centre, Shreejana Community Development Centre, FORWARD, Mahila Upakar Manch and Nepal Women Community Service Center for their support in the East and West.



other disaster response

While the country's attention was focused on families affected by the devastating earthquakes, we did not forget those who were hit by other disasters. In August 2015, we helped 18 fire-affected families in Saptari district to rebuild their houses using local materials such as bamboo, brick and mud. Another 24 families rebuilt their homes incrementally with Habitat Nepal's help. The affected families also received training in masonry skills, health and sanitation, and disaster risk reduction. Habitat Nepal helped these families with the support of Jersey Overseas Aid Commission.





building a sustainable organization

One of the key goals of Habitat for Humanity's global strategic plan is to grow skills and leadership capabilities. To that end, Habitat Nepal has provided various training to its staff to build up their knowledge, strengthen their skills, and develop their potential to operate with excellence. Such training include workshops in resource development, human resources, program design, monitoring and evaluation, and safety and security as well as specialized training in legal and construction aspects of disaster response and a participatory approach for safe shelter awareness. A total of 30 Habitat Nepal staff members have been trained.

habitat for humanity nepal approach

Habitat Nepal aims to support families affected by the 2015 earthquakes through a strategy that emphasizes a four-pillar approach: social mobilization, technical assistance, tiered assistance and market development. Currently, we are assisting families in Kavrepalanchok and Nuwakot.

social mobilization

Engage families and entire communities in the Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness to empower them to make informed choices on house construction, water, sanitation and other shared community resources. Participation is critical to successfully implement a tiered service model program in a community.

technical assistance

Non-financial services and products that will enable families to make improvements to their houses. Delivered through the set-up of Housing Support Services Centers manned by cadre of technical trained staff and social mobilizers to support community members in the collaborative, owner-driven reconstruction efforts.

tiered assistance

The most vulnerable households are given non-financial support through livelihood skills training. This enables them to improve their earnings capacity. The families can also be provided with goods-in-kind such as construction materials and tools.

market development

A market survey in disaster-affected areas is carried out to better understand the ability of households to access safe shelter, building materials, construction labor, and other service providers. A value chain analysis is also being conducted on the construction industry to address gaps to improve access to affordable housing.

a day of service

On November 3, 2015, 50 national and international Habitat staff gathered in Kavrepalanchok district to remove rubble, level the ground and plant perennial grass to reduce soil erosion and the risk of landslides. Their act of service signaled their solidarity with Nepali families in need of adequate housing.

In the eastern region, Habitat Nepal and local non-governmental organization, Jeevan Bikas Samaj, built a new house for Phulesa Khatun and her family in Morang district.



women build council

A group of 20 women came together in Kavrepalanchok district on October 10, 2015, to help fellow women survivors of the devastating earthquakes rebuild their lives. Volunteers included Alaina Teplitz, U.S. Ambassador to Nepal; Beth Dunford, USAID Mission Director at the time and Nepali women leaders and executives from various sectors. The Women Build volunteers helped to remove rubble, interacted with the earthquake-affected families, and spread the word on Habitat for Humanity's mission of providing families with a way out of poverty through decent homes.



international women day

On March 7, 2016, Habitat Nepal and the Women Build Council jointly organized a panel discussion entitled “Ensuring Access to Decent Housing for Women” in Kathmandu. The event drew a panel of experts including Senior Advocate Sapana Pradhan Malla; Yosodha Timilsina, head of National Information Commission; and Deependra Nath Sharma, Secretary of the Ministry of Urban Development.

Corporate executives, influential women leaders, academics and media representatives participated in the event. The panelists and participants had a lively exchange on how public and private sector partnerships could play a vital role in ensuring women’s access to decent housing. They also explored various ways of overcoming the challenges to making constitutional provisions, and implementing existing policies as well as programs.



celebrating womanhood 2016

The Celebrating Womanhood Navadevi Annual Awards were introduced in 2002 by local performing arts and event management agency to honor Nepali women from all walks of life. In June, the awards ceremony was held in Kathmandu and televised nationwide. Among the organizers was Shrijana Singh Yonjan, one of the founding members of Habitat Nepal’s Women Build Council. Social workers Revati Gurung and Basudha Ghotane were honored for their resilience and their contributions to reconstruction following the earthquakes.



habitat young leaders build

Since 2013, Habitat Nepal has been a keen supporter of Habitat Young Leaders Build, the largest youth-driven campaign in the Asia-Pacific region. The campaign was officially launched in Kathmandu on December 4, 2015, a day before International Volunteer Day. Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International, gave a keynote speech at the event that was jointly organized with the U.S. Embassy and Nepal Scouts. He called on Nepali youth to enable families to gain strength, stability and independence through shelter. New ambassadors for HYLB were also introduced: model Ayushma Desraj Joshi Shrestha; actress Anna Sharma; media personality Sanjay Gupta; and Nepal Scouts representative Prakash Pandey.

By end-May 2016, Habitat Nepal has mobilized a total of 50,000 supporters and reached more than 110,000 participants in HYLB activities designed to raise awareness of poverty housing and to advocate for decent shelter. Participants in Kathmandu performed flash mobs, b-boying, and disseminated the 10 key messages on how to “Build Back Safer” developed by the United Nation. Shelter

Cluster to students in over 50 high schools and colleges. In the eastern and western regions, Habitat Nepal’s partner organizations conducted cleaning campaigns, drawing competitions and training in water, sanitation and hygiene for young people in communities and schools.

As part of HYLB, Habitat Nepal, together with local NGOs Aakar Nepal and We Save Humanity Social Group Nepal, organized an event at a local park in Kathmandu on April 24, to mark the first anniversary of the devastating earthquakes. Supporters lit candles to show their solidarity and resilience and a photo exhibition was also held to showcase Habitat volunteers’ contribution in post-earthquake recovery. Eight out of 26 youth advocacy grants, each amounting to US\$250, were also awarded to Nepali young people and organizations. They had submitted successful proposals to raise awareness of the need for decent housing with activities such as drawing competitions and training in water, sanitation and hygiene.

volunteer engagement

The earthquakes of April and May 2015, combined with the blockade that followed, severely affected the construction of permanent houses and led to limited opportunities to host Global Village volunteer teams in Nepal. Nevertheless, in the past year, Habitat Nepal hosted 73 local volunteers from Standard Chartered Bank and a total of 210 international volunteers from United States, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan and Germany built houses as well as toilets in Pokhara, Chitwan and Kavrepalanchok districts.

“I feel truly blessed to have gone for the build and immersed myself to work alongside such an amazing people who now feel like family. It was an incredible experience and I hope to come back again. Thank you to those who are donating and supporting this cause.”

— Tracy Csavin, a U.S. volunteer who worked in Kavrepalanchok district.



from despair to joy



Ratna Bahadur Danuwar, 88, was shaken by the sight of his mud house crumbling before his eyes when the earthquake hit in April 2015. His wife, Bhagwati Danuwar, felt equally helpless. “I could not do anything.” The couple lives in Kavrepalanchok district with their son and daughter-in-law. After the earthquake, the Danuwars set up a makeshift tent using tarpaulin and depended on food distributed by relief organizations.

They had to bear with bad weather conditions and more aftershocks for two months as they lived in the tent. In June, the family received a temporary shelter kit from Habitat Nepal during one of its distributions in the district. The family built a shelter using the CGI sheets, rebar with steel tubes and 24-gauge wire from the kit together with some materials that they salvaged from their old house. Ratna Bahadur’s son, Bhim Bahadur Danuwar, shared: “Life in a temporary shelter was hard. At times, my parents got annoyed because it was either too hot or too cold, or because the rain that hit our tin roof sounded like thunder.”

The turning point came when the Danuwars worked with Habitat Nepal to build a permanent house that was completed in April 2016. The single-storey brick and cement house has two rooms, a kitchen, a veranda and a toilet.



Ratna Bahadur Danuwar (second from right) in front of his new house with his multi-generational family: (from left), grand daughter-in-law Rita, daughter-in-law Sabitri, wife Bhagwati and son Bhim Bahadur.

“The thoughts of moving in to our new house bring a smile to my face. I am really excited to spend the rest of my life in our new home.” — Bhagwati Danuwar



in appreciation

Habitat for Humanity Nepal is very thankful to all the US affiliates for their support.

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recognition

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