

---

"We are always under reconstruction! Only through pain can we learn the hard lessons... The importance is to keep in mind that the sun always shines after the storm... and the best day is when we finally realize that we do not control the day."  
– Angie Karan

---

August 2016

# Media Monitoring of Nepal Reconstruction

*(August 2015 - July 2016)*

*Nepali Times* Continuous Support  
*Ratopati* Rebuilding Houses  
Reconstruction Efforts  
*People's Reaction* *The Himalayan Times*  
*Nagarik* Compensation Grant  
*Pahilo Post* *Setopati* Aid Management  
*Onlinekhabar* *Republica*  
*Kantipur* *The Kathmandu Post*  
*The Rising Nepal*  
Inter Sectoral Coordination



Kritagya Regmi & Sudeep Uprety

## INTRODUCTION

Over a year has passed since the devastating earthquake of April 2015. The process of rebuilding and reconstruction has begun but at a slow and steady pace. Within a year many national and international bodies as well as private organizations extended their hands and provided funds for relief materials and reconstruction. Various positive news have been published related to the establishment and commencement through an independent national body National Reconstruction Authority, deployment of the engineers for reconstruction, government's scheme for farmers among others. However, even after several months of the devastation, the media agencies have been covering various news highlighting plight of the affected, anger due to the low pace of reconstruction and desperate wait for relief aid.

The government made many efforts to reach the affected ones but the delay in making necessary decisions and slow pace of the reconstruction has pointed many fingers towards it. Even after a year government's failure in reaching the earthquake affected and providing the relief amount has shadowed the tasks conducted. The government had established the National Reconstruction Authority with the aim of speeding up the reconstruction work and assuring quality service.

## METHODS

This media monitoring study to document the media coverage on reconstruction efforts was carried out from August 2015 to July 2016. The news were gathered by monitoring Nepali dailies: *Kantipur* and *Nagarik*, English dailies: *The Himalayan Times*, *The Kathmandu Post*, *The Rising Nepal* and *Republica*, online news portals: *Setopati*, *Online Khabar*, *Ratopati* and *Pahilo Post* as well as weekly magazine *Nepali Times*. Altogether 261 articles were recorded in Microsoft Excel detailing the date, title, author (if available) and links to the articles. These articles were then synthesised and categorised into seven prominent themes.

## FINDINGS

The findings were drawn based on the following themes: reconstruction efforts, compensation grant, rebuilding houses, aid management, inter-sector coordination, continuous support and people's reactions.

### Reconstruction efforts

Three months after the earthquake, the government was yet to come up with a [concrete plan for reconstruction](#). Even till September the [government's plan for reconstruction was in](#) uncertainty with the parliament failing to pass the reconstruction bill. The bill was meant to establish a reconstruction authority to lead the reconstruction of building damaged in the earthquake.

Six months after the disaster focusing on the post-earthquake reconstruction, the ruling parties formed a five member taskforce to draft a [common minimum programme](#) (CMP). Although the government had prepared the [Post Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction Policy-2015](#), the document was still waiting for approval from the cabinet due to the absence of NRA seven months past the disaster. Unless NRA which didn't exist then approves the document it doesn't get valid.

In December, the government published the [design catalogue for reconstruction of earthquake resistant houses](#). The objective of the design is to provide rural households with clear guidance regarding earthquake-resistant construction techniques and to support them to have house designs in compliance with the national building code.

The Department of Urban Development and Building Construction under the Ministry of Urban Development enacted the '[Guideline on Approval for Operation of Earthquake Affected Buildings, 2015](#)' which will be applicable to construction, repair/maintenance, recovery and retrofitting of government buildings, apartments, private and government hospitals, nursing homes, schools, departmental stores, shopping malls, cinema halls, theatres and star hotels for their operation in a safe environment.

NRA had launched a [three-month mega campaign](#) from January 16 for the reconstruction of infrastructures that were damaged in the earthquake. The authority further planned to [train 1,500 engineers](#) in assessing the condition of the affected buildings and planning for reconstruction.

Almost nine months after the disaster, [NRA started the reconstruction survey](#) from Dolakha which was planned to expand in other affected areas. Engineers were deployed at the affected areas to inspect and record the extent of damage. In February to support the earthquake affected the government decided to [deploy engineers and sub engineers](#) for the implementation of earthquake resistant house construction standards. The officials will be providing support for the main tasks conducted during construction.

By the end of February only [28% \(144,000\) detail damage assessment survey](#) of the damaged houses was conducted which is important to be conducted before reconstructing the house. To carry out the reconstruction work the [government asked applications for 2400 engineers, sub engineers and assistant sub engineers](#). The engineers will be deployed to the worst hit areas where they will be inspecting the buildings and will provide suggestions regarding the infrastructure.

Almost a year after the disaster, at the time when the earthquake survivors were desperately hoping to get a shelter before monsoon NRA clarified that it won't be possible as the post-earthquake reconstruction is a detailed and time-taking process NRA has said that the [reconstruction of earthquake-ravaged houses would not be completed before monsoon](#). The statement created fear and anger among the public.

Even though the government started distributing money, the earthquake affected [won't be able to construct the house this monsoon](#) due to the delay. The government will provide 50000 in its first instalment which is only enough to construct the foundation of the house. Those hoping to shift in permanent shelter won't have the house ready by monsoon.

After three months of the decision [NRA finally set up its first regional office in Dolakha district](#) which will oversee the task of the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Dolakha, Ramechhap and Okhaldhunga districts. One year post the disaster, the government began the [reconstruction of historic monuments](#) of the world heritage site starting from Bhaktapur.

By the end of April, as part of its efforts to construct earthquake resistant buildings, [NRA planned to mobilize around 2,400 engineers](#) in all quake-affected districts. Following directives from the NRA, the Ministry of Urban Development started selecting engineers. NRA formally took its [house rebuilding project to 11 severely quake-affected districts](#) and announced the names of 300,981 beneficiaries in 11 of the 14 worst-hit districts. The government one year after the devastating earthquake began [mega-campaign for reconstruction](#) in different quake-hit districts.

NRA launched the [Post Disaster Recovery Framework](#), an outline which will guide post-quake reconstruction and rehabilitation works for the next five years. NRA highlighted it would require at least 837.74 billion rupees to restore damaged infrastructure and livelihood of people.

Till May the [reconstruction work of the damaged household delayed further](#) after the political parties blamed that the genuine affected have been left out in the survey. Although NRA has already deployed the engineers to support for reconstruction in the earthquake hit areas they [weren't able to begin the work](#) as the government had not provided grant to the affected for reconstructing their house.

NRA also came up with a programme proposal amounting to Rs 10 billion for [reconstruction of the quake-damaged schools](#) across the quake-hit districts in the country. The proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Finance for approval. The hopes of earthquake affected had been rising after the [government assurance of reconstruction](#). The lifestyle of the survivors had not improved since. The lack of the clear plan of the reconstruction authority stopped many survivors from returning to normalcy.

To provide a proper shelter for the earthquake survivors the District Disaster Relief Committee decided to [build a collective housing](#) for the earthquake affected families of Sindhupalchowk. To speed up reconstruction activities [NRA delegated authority to its six sub-regional offices](#) in coordination with local agencies, NGOs and local communities. The sub-regional offices in Gorkha, Dolakha, Kavre, Nuwakot, Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts was empowered for a more effective implementation of the reconstruction works.

Although the government had started distributing the relief amount of reconstruction, [genuine survivors are yet to receive it](#). The government's indifference has made the quake affected suffer more as some of them are still living in tents or huts for want of proper rehabilitation. NRA had decided to resolve problems, regarding the distribution of grants for the reconstruction of earthquake-damaged private houses.

In the first week of July the Executive Committee of NRA has endorsed the [Complaint Redressal Guideline](#) which will help address the complaints of quake survivors, collected from 11 earthquake-hit districts excluding the Valley.

### **Compensation grant**

The [number of quake victims has been increasing](#) after the government announced to provide 10,000 to each affected household. Many people had filed applications saying that they have

been left out in previous registration. Some also submitted false data regarding the size of the family to get the relief sum. Acting on the complaints made by genuine victims, authorities in Ramechhap [launched an investigation](#) into fake earthquake victims, who managed to secure earthquake victim identity cards and relief by forging phony details. The District Administration Office Nuwakot also planned to [recollect data of the victims](#) as the number of fake victims started rising.

Nine months post the disaster NRA was still looking for the genuine affected. NRA on January made the decision to provide grant meant for post-earthquake reconstruction works to quake-affected households only after getting [“exact details”](#) on damages. The decision was made due to the growing concern from donors over possible misuse of funds. Although NRA had made the work plan to provide the relief amount to the victims [they were not able to distribute the grant](#) as the survey was not completed. The government had committed the donors that they won't move forward the reconstruction work unless the data is collected.

The Chief District Officers of all the earthquake hit districts pointed that the affected people are eagerly waiting to reconstruct the house and the [government should encourage them by providing the relief amount on time](#). After almost a year of the deadly earthquake, the government was [all set to distribute aid](#) for reconstruction in eight districts. The agreement signing has already begun in many places and the affected people will be receiving the first instalment.

When NRA began distributing money for reconstruction in Singati of Dolakha, the [task was halted due to controversy](#). The distribution was halted after the Cadres of two political parties Maoists and Naya shakti stressed the amount should be distributed on the basis of the earthquake affected ID card which was provided by the government before conducting the survey. However, the distribution began the next day. Two months later, to [speed up the grant distribution](#) NRA started preparations to provide the relief grant to 8 districts outside the valley within a week for which the VDC and the household were already finalized.

Amidst criticisms for the failure of making no progress even a year after the quake, NRA started preparing to expand reconstruction works in 11 districts from April 24. NRA finalised the name list of [“real beneficiaries”](#) after re-verifying details of damage caused to houses and infrastructure and is preparing to sign aid agreements with over 50 percent of the total quake-affected households that were identified by the Post Disaster Need Assessment conducted last year after earthquake.

Fourteen months after the disaster, the government had only [provided grant to 1,000 survivors](#) to rebuild their houses. NRA till May had identified 300,961 earthquake survivors as eligible for the Rs 200,000 reconstruction grant. Only 47,925 survivors of them have signed the contract with NRA to get the grant.

To support the livelihood of the survivors, government had decided to distribute 90 % of the total grant of the livestock to the [earthquake affected farmers](#). The program was said to run under the Ministry of Livestock Development from March. The [government provided grant to 1,700 earthquake affected farmers](#) to build shed for the livestock.

Till mid-June a total of 74,4,81 house owners of 11 districts whose house was damaged in the earthquake did [grant agreement for reconstruction](#). NRA was able to provide the [first instalment of the housing reconstruction grant](#) to less than one-tenth of the affected population. The government [signed agreement with 1,80,413 households](#) for the relief amount by the end of June. The survivors were forced to live in temporary shelter for second monsoon since the disaster.

Although the process of distributing first instalment of housing grant started it has been moving ahead at a [snail's pace](#). The process of distributing first instalment of grant had not even begun in four districts, namely Kavrepalanchowk, Sindhuli, Nuwakot and Makwanpur till first week of July.

Although the grant distribution process has been accelerated as BFIs started grant distribution after signing a pact with NRA, the government is likely to take [another 16 months](#) to reach out to all the quake-affected households identified as eligible to obtain the government's aid to reconstruct their houses.

### **Aid Management**

Commission of Investigation of Abuse and Authority (CIAA) on November end said that the [amount used rescue and relief](#) of the earthquake had been misused. CIAA had said it will further strengthen the investigation and gave 15 points suggestion to the government.

When the earthquake affected was informed that they will receive 10,000 as a winter relief they were very happy. But the [amount wasn't provided in time](#) which raised anger among the victims as they were in dire need of warm clothes to tackle winter. At the time when the earthquake affected people were waiting for relief materials the some of the [earthquake relief materials went missing](#) from the warehouse of the District Disaster Management Committee in Gorkha district.

At the time when government was planning for reconstruction the survivors living at the temporary shelter located near the epicentre were hit by a snow storm. [Emergency relief supplies](#) like warm clothes, blankets, tents, food and money were sent to the villages via helicopter and road.

At the end of February the, [government released more than Rs 22.78](#) billion in relief funding to the survivors of devastating earthquake, including the search and rescue missions. As hundreds of quake survivors were [waiting for the reconstruction](#) the government was urged to move ahead quickly. Out of the 22.78 billion, the government has provided more than Rs 7 billion to purchase warm clothes for the quake survivors.

ADB stressed that the acceleration of reconstruction works is a key to Nepal's economic recovery and [NRA needs to release sufficient budget immediately](#), enforce fast-track decision making, and adopt building-back-better principles and innovative approaches for time and cost-efficiency to expedite unhindered implementation of reconstruction works.

Almost, a year after the disaster the government approved different guidelines and the work procedure related to land acquisition and reconstruction. The [Cabinet meeting has approved the](#)

[work procedure prepared by the National Reconstruction Authority](#) which mandates NRA to distribute state announced aid to quake survivors for housing reconstruction.

Three weeks remaining for the process of [signing a legal contract of assistance for rebuilding homes](#), NRA remained in Singati, Dolakha, without much progress. Out of the 5,300 households identified under the Singati Resource Centre, the NRA has signed agreements with only 641 households. While working in Singati, NRA received more complaints than agreements it signed with the displaced families.

At the time when NRA was trying to speed up its work, [the posts remained vacant](#) even after 4 months post the establishment of the reconstruction body. The body formed to run the reconstruction task effectively and quickly was itself in a problem due to the lack of adequate staff, of the 208 positions only half was filled. In Mid- April [NRA appointed 6 co-secretaries at the sub-regional offices](#) at Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Kavrepalanchowk, Nuwakot, Dolakha and Gorkha.

By the end of [May the government had signed agreements](#) for the Rs 200,000 grant assistance as many as 36,287 quake-hit families in the 10 most affected districts for rebuilding homes that were completely destroyed. Only 1,000 families received the first instalment of the grant amounts till then.

NRA had [reached an agreement](#) with the total 223,830 families to provide the grant amount of Rs 200,000 each family to reconstruct their houses. First installment of Rs 50,000 has already been released each to 24,428 families. On the second week of July, Transparency International (TI) Nepal, on behalf of the civil society, decided to [inspect the post-earthquake reconstruction efforts](#) as its attempts to check quality, to find out whether the disaster survivors are given the grant announced by the government and to listen to their possible complaints.

In the third week of July NRA was [given the permission](#) to spend Rs 84 billion out of the total Rs 142 billion allocated for the reconstruction of earthquake ravaged structures this fiscal, 2016-17. The Ministry of Finance has extended the authority to NRA to accelerate the reconstruction drive. Grant distribution to the quake survivors has been stalled since the beginning of new fiscal, as the MoF was slow in authorising NRA to spend the budget earmarked for post-quake reconstruction and rehabilitation for this fiscal, 2016-17.

### **Inter Sectoral Coordination**

On end of October, Oxfam launched a policy paper titled "[Rebuilding A More Resilient Nepal](#)" with key recommendations to the government for post-earthquake reconstruction. Oxfam had identified the failure of the government to bring National Reconstruction Authority into operation as the key impediment to reconstruction and rehabilitation in the country after the earthquake.

To ensure uniformity in the design of houses and distribution of relief and guarantee all reconstruction work met government standards [NRA announced temporary ban on all reconstruction related activities conducted by NGOs/INGOs](#). This was done to bring all organisations involved in reconstruction under its jurisdiction.

Ten months following the disaster the government made a decision to provide relief amount to the earthquake affected through [banks and financial institutions](#) to avoid misuse of the amount. NRA decided to begin distribution of grant assistance from March 3 to those whose houses were destroyed by earthquake last year starting from Singati, Dolakha.

The government announced [solar subsidy](#) for survivors who lost their houses in last year's earthquakes. Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC), the government institution responsible for promoting clean energy in Nepal, unveiled its new subsidy policy. Previously, only the families headed by women, endangered indigenous people, and Dalits were entitled to solar subsidy, now AEPC has decided to provide solar subsidy for earthquake survivors, too.

Following the endorsement of the reconstruction policy, NRA asked key concerned ministries (Urban Development, Federal Affairs and Local Development, Education, Tourism, Culture and Civil Aviation, Education, and Health Ministries) to [present detailed action plans](#) part of its preparation for the formulation a five-year action plan for reconstruction of earthquake-ravaged houses and infrastructure at the earliest. The policy is about how to begin the reconstruction work and make proper use of the funds.

Aiming to complete the reconstruction works in a planned way NRA was also preparing a [recovery framework on post-earthquake reconstruction](#) in line with the Post Disaster Needs Assessment. The authority officials consulted with donors supporting Nepal's post-quake reconstruction. The framework will include detailed work plan and amount allocated for reconstruction projects. NRA plans to consult with line ministries and lawmakers elected from the quake-affected districts before taking a final decision.

[NRA agreed to engage NGOs in rebuilding houses](#) almost a year after the devastating earthquake. NRA had temporarily barred NGOs from helping in reconstruction. The authority's Directive Committee endorsed guidelines related to the mobilization of NGOs, reversing the past decision. The work of the NGOs' will be thoroughly monitored. During this period home ministry said that the immediate relief to any disaster affected cannot be effective and timely unless the government adopts a fast-track approach by amending the existing legal procedures which is very bureaucratic and lengthy.

In order to eliminate confusion and misperceptions [PM Oli urged neighbouring countries](#), foreign diplomats and the international community to remain updated on the exact situation, feelings, efforts and policies of the government. By the end of May, for the proper distribution of grant a [MoU was signed](#) between NRA and Nepal bankers Association, according to which the affected will be provided directly through the bank account.

In June [NRA signed a pact with 29 Banks and Financial Institutions \(BFIs\)](#) which includes 20 commercial banks, eight development banks and a finance company to distribute relief funds to earthquake affected in the most-affected districts. To receive relief fund distributed by the government, they will have to open an account in these BFIs.

NRA approved [proposals of various 27 NGOs worth Rs 12.28 billion](#) for the reconstruction of as many as 6,759 private houses of the earthquake affected, 133 public schools and 2 health posts

in various earthquake-hit districts. Showing query towards reconstruction tasks carried out so far [Nepali Congress asked NRA about the progress](#). NC also suggested NRA to move forward the reconstruction tasks [without being bias](#).

The investigation conducted by National Human Rights Commission in Gorkha, Nuwakot, Rasuwa and Dhading showed that the [rights of the earthquake affected have been hindered](#). As the reconstruction work started in Sindhupalchowk, the cadres of kriyasil Political party reached sindhupalchowk to [support the reconstruction](#) work which has begun in two VDCs of Chautara Municipality. After months after implementation of reconstruction authority act, the [Authority directive committee planned to conduct meeting](#) for the first time.

On the third week of June, [Nepali Congress obstructed the Parliament meeting](#) protesting the government's failure to address the concerns of the earthquake affected. NC demanded that the government should distribute the grant amount of Rs 200,000 to earthquake survivors at once rather than in instalments so that they can reconstruct the house as soon as possible without any hassle. NRA had clarified that it [won't be able to provide amount at once](#). The demand was made by NC leaders as the government had been delaying to provide the relief amount and the victims are having a tough time. After almost a week the [government decided to provide Rs 150,000 in first instalment](#) and Rs 50,000 in second.

NRA announced that it will [adopt a fast-track method](#) to conduct a survey of earthquake-affected households in the Valley. This came in the wake of mounting pressure from the main opposition party Nepali Congress concerning the government's sluggish reconstruction procedure.

At the time when the government was planning on how to invest the money provided for the reconstruction, District Development Committee of Dhading made its [policy program and budget public](#) for the fiscal year 2073/74. The DDC also pointed that more than 8 billion rupees will be required and put forward the plans and programs for post-earthquake reconstruction.

Three hundred and fifty people in Gorkha are taking [masonry and carpentry training](#) which was approved by CTEVT to produce skilled workers to build earthquake-resilient homes in Gorkha.

## **Public reaction**

When the government announced of providing support for reconstruction, the survivors were very happy. But the [government's apathy towards the reestablishment](#) of the survivors has made them sad and concerned. The survivors were happy they survived the disaster but governments delay and lack of effective program for them has faded their hope. Earthquake survivors in Dhading had sent warm clothes to top political leaders in a symbolic protest after the local bodies [delayed the distribution of winter relief](#) in the district.

The survivors of Chitwan were waiting to settle in a safer place since a year. They even said that more than the relief-aid they needed a safe place to [settle](#). They showed concern that any big disaster can occur as the area has been severely damaged by the disaster. Many survivors had similar concerns.

The officials deployed for identifying genuine affected took a long time after [many fake survivors tried to get relief sum](#) by showing the house which was damaged before the earthquake. Locals and politicians in Sindhuli [expressed dissatisfaction](#) and claimed that the data collected by the NRA does not record all the damaged houses.

The survivors even after signing the agreement were reported of [not receiving the amount](#). Due to the slow pace of the government the survivors of many areas were [eager to know about the reconstruction plan](#) but the district's head, VDC secretaries and the NGOs are all unable to address their curiosities. This has further piled up unhappiness among the survivors.

After a year, delay of reconstruction created anger among the earthquake affected and officials from the earthquake hit districts. Secretaries of Village Development Committees (VDCs) in Sindhupalchowk district [warned of not cooperating with post-quake reconstruction works](#). According to MoFALD total [76,824 complaints has been submitted](#) by the people showing dissatisfaction over the reconstruction work. Most of the application was about the survivor's not getting relief amount.

In June, some 500 earthquake survivors from Badegaun, Nawalpur, Kunchowk, Bhotsipa, Sipapokhare and Simpāl Kavre VDC [staged demonstrations](#) in front of the District Administration Office (DAO), Sindhupalchowk and the Reconstruction Office, in protest against exclusion of their name in the final survey of the disaster losses conducted by the government.

After a long wait for the relief aid from the government many [survivors thought it was time they reconstruct their house](#) without further delay. They were concerned if they will get the sum from the government or not. The displaced families of Dhusa village who were provided temporary shelters in Darechok VDC of Chitwan are [returning to their old settlement](#), to their quake-damaged homes. They wished to be close to their land so that they can earn enough for the family and the temporary shelter didn't have enough space for a big family.

The earthquake survivors of Sindhupalchowk who had left their homeland and moved to the capital and other nearby districts in search for safe shelter have been [returning home in hope of getting house rebuilding grant](#) announced by the government. Many people are seen gathering in ward offices to sign an agreement paper for the grant to rebuild shelter.

Receiving the grant has not been easy for the earthquake affected. The [long process and the additional cost](#) of transportation, fooding and lodging have made it difficult. Victims have requested the government to make such provision that the banks would reach out to the victims to distribute the relief, instead of the other way around. Barpak Locals also stated that the relief would not be sufficient to build their house, and requested the government to make arrangement for additional grants as well as to provide subsidy for transportation of building materials.

More than 1500 people of earthquake survivors have [complained of being excluded](#) from the procedure to provide grant amounts to quake survivors. The latest data collected by the NRA showed the number of earthquake victims in Kavre district has [come down by 16 per cent](#). The

signing of contracts for housing grant that was halted earlier in 35 VDCs due to protests by quake victims, who were displeased by their exclusion.

Fifteen months post the disaster NRA has registered a total of [99,302 complaints](#) lodged by quake survivors of 11 affected districts. The number of complaints has been rising.

### **Increasing problems**

With the arrival of winter, the situation of earthquake affected [living in temporary shelter became worse](#). [Elderly persons](#), post-partum mothers and children have been hard hit. Many victims also [moved to another area](#) due to freezing cold. Many victims are waiting for Rs 10, 000 that the government promised to provide them for [buying warm clothes in winter](#). The earthquake affected people have [questioned the efforts](#) after the concerned bodies and government delayed in providing relief. The number of patients visiting health facility due to cold related ailments has also increased. Winter also [claimed lives](#) this year. In Makwanpur due to the fear of cold the [victims even took loan from local landlords to build better shelter](#).

After the concerned authorities failed to set up a working distribution mechanism to send the rice to the earthquake victims, a large quantity of [rice was rotten at the warehouse](#) in Gorkha. After almost eight months since the disaster, more than two lakh earthquake affected people of the worst hit districts were said to be in [high risk of food scarcity](#). Lacking requests for relief materials from the affected areas the government was preparing to sell the rice which was provided as a relief.

The earthquake survivors are having tough time living in temporary shelter. Lack of money and governments delay in providing the amount made their condition even worse. Although the government began the reconstruction campaign the [victims of Bungmati, Sankhu and Bhaktapur see no signs of getting help](#). Some of the survivors even build their house as it was unsafe for them to live in the damaged residence.

As the [water sources started to dry](#) in many earthquake hit areas the survivors living in temporary are [reeling with water scarcity](#). The survivors have to [walk for hours to fetch water](#). One year post the disaster the earthquake affected of Gorkha were still living in the temporary shelter under the torn tent. They have shown concern over the low pace of reconstruction effort of the government. The condition of the survivors had not improved at all. While they are having hard time managing a shelter in the monsoon, the [tents were being rotten in the storage](#). No provision of distributing stored tarpaulin was made. [Heavy rains caused landslides](#) in various quake-affected districts. More than 200 families were displaced and had moved to the forest for settlement. People have also started having difficulty after the [water entered in the temporary shelter](#) due to heavy rainfall.

The [foot trails damaged by the earthquake had not been repaired](#) in many places due to which the survivors living in remote areas were facing difficulty. It has also increased the risk of landslide. Various studies have been conducted in Nepal since the earthquake which has highlighted that a large section of children in five of the 14 districts worst hit by earthquakes last year are [still undergoing through serious problems](#) even 13 months after the natural disaster.

The earthquake affected of Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur, who were missed out during data collection will have to [register their name at the ward](#) as the enumerators won't be visiting those areas to collect names. The decision was made after NRA decided not to conduct survey at all the areas of three districts.

## Rebuilding houses

The survivors in all the affected districts are having a hard time living in the temporary shelter, many are [still living in the damaged house](#). The tarpaulins were torn and many were damaged by wind and rain. After the government delayed in providing the grant for reconstruction the affected people in many places started [reconstructing the house on their own](#). Many were in [dilemma whether to start reconstructing their house or to wait for the governments support](#). Many affected even began reconstructing their house while many were expecting the government will soon provide them with the relief amount. They have also shown concern in the slow pace of government.

Quake survivors, including the Chepang community, of Gajuri, Banighat and Dhusha VDCs in Dhading district [began reconstructing earthquake-ravaged infrastructure](#) in their villages as part of a 'food for work' programme initiated by the District Disaster Management Committee. They were involved in rebuilding roads, foot trails and drinking water pipeline.

It has not easy for the earthquake affected of Bhaktapur as they were [deprived of reconstructing their house](#) as the map was not being approved by the municipality. For those willing to rebuild the house on their own NRAs [action plan](#) wasn't a good news. It stated that the reconstruction of houses damaged by the earthquake can begin only from April 25 one year after the earthquake. Not waiting for the government the [earthquake affected of shivalaya, Ramechhap have constructed their house](#) which was damaged in the devastating earthquake. The entire area consisting almost 50 houses has been reconstructed by the locals and the house was claimed to be safe.

After the government showed no sign of reconstruction the earthquake affected have begun preparations to tackle the monsoon by [repairing the temporary shelter](#). As the government delayed in providing the relief amount for reconstruction the affected of [Bhaktapur have started living in the damaged house by repairing it](#). The move was taken after they had difficulty living in camps.

The locals of Khokana prepared a [master plan for reconstruction](#) themselves. A detailed survey plan was prepared with the technical assistance of 10 locals within the period of 4 months. Preparations were underway to move the plan further. With the onset of monsoon and governments delay in providing relief amount for reconstruction the earthquake affected living in tents are worried that their [temporary shelter might be destroyed by the wind and rain](#).

At Singati the government had already [provided the relief grant](#) to the survivors but they were not sure whether to construct house now or later. Most of them have said that the sum is not enough to build a house so they will save it in the bank and collect some more money, then build a strong house.

Meanwhile, tired of government's slow reconstruction process nearly a year after the earthquake, thousands of [displaced families have decided to rebuild their homes](#) without waiting for governments support. More than 31,000 earthquake survivors worst affected districts have [rebuilt their homes](#) on their own. Officials even believed the number could rise once the CBS completes a detailed assessment of the damage to houses.

A year after the Earthquake, the government deployed engineers to the affected areas to help quake affected rebuild safer houses. But the [quake survivors living in the city's old business hubs](#) such as Asan, Indrachowk, Makhan, New Road have hardly had a chance to talk about their problems. Land, rather lack of it, poses a problem to the people living in the heart of the city. Many in the old parts of the city share a tall house built on a tiny piece of land with other relatives, not at all safe in the event of an earthquake. With many of the older houses either collapsed or wrecked beyond repair they have no solution but to build a new one.

The locals of Barpak started [reconstructing the house](#) after the government delayed its program. Almost 40% house has already been prepared but the government had planned to make the model village in the area. The locals have shown concern on destroying the house which is almost half ready.

### **Continuous support**

Six months post the disaster as the winter was approaching the [United Nations was concerned about providing food and warm shelter](#) to the earthquake affected people which was the top priority with the cold season approaching.

As numerous nations and organisations provided support to the government after the earthquake the delay in the reconstruction became a major concern for all. In January US Deputy Secretary of State Antony John Blinken held a telephonic conversation with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli about the [reconstruction of Nepal](#).

India and China [outlined their areas of engagement](#) for post-earthquake reconstruction. The grant provided by the Indian government will be utilized mainly for the reconstruction of public and private houses. Some fund will also be used for rebuilding cultural heritage sites. China has proposed building schools and hospitals in Sindhupalchok district, schools and houses in Rasuwa district and repairing Kathmandu Durbar Square.

The opposition in the Australian Parliament, the Labour Party, [expressed interest in supporting post-earthquake Nepal reconstruction campaign](#). EU and Transparency International Nepal (TI Nepal) [launched a support programme](#) to foster integrity in the post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation process. The one million Euro project will run for a period of five years to complement the rebuilding campaign with various accountability and transparency activities. According to a [UN report](#), more than 10 UN agencies had raised Rs 25 billion and spent the funds to provide relief to the survivors of the disaster.

A year after the disaster, [major donors and Red Cross have renewed their support for reconstruction](#) bid in Nepal. As part of a larger response, European Partners, including the

European Union (EU), the United Kingdom, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland and France collectively pledged 328.75 million euros approx Rs39.3 billion for the relief, recovery and reconstruction efforts.

The donor community, including India, China, Japan, World Bank and Asian Development Bank, has pledged over \$4 billion. [EU has agreed to provide grant assistance of Euro](#) 105 million to the Government of Nepal for the post-earthquake rehabilitation and reconstruction. The objective of the state building contract is to improve financial and implementation capacity of the government for recovery and reconstruction.

The [Government of Switzerland](#) agreed to provide a total of CHF 5.7 million (equivalent NPR. 598.5 million) to support in its earthquake reconstruction efforts through Decentralized Rural Infrastructure and Livelihood Project (DRILP) Phase III. A member of World Bank-led [Multi Donors Trust Fund \(MDTF\)](#), indicated that they would oppose any effort by the government to renegotiate the current arrangement to provide phased housing grant. The donors also questioned the government's effort to change the terms of arrangement raises legal implications and questions on the very feasibility of housing assistance programme itself.

In July, donor agencies supporting the NRA led initiative to extend a grant of Rs 200,000 called on the government to [work as per the commitment](#) expressed in the past and follow global best practices while releasing instalments of the housing grant to quake survivors.

## CONCLUSION

The government has made various efforts in terms of initiating the reconstruction works post the earthquake. The survivors at the worst hit areas remain in the hope of receiving the government aid soon. While the government authorities have pledged to complete the reconstruction on time it has been learnt that it would take at least four years to produce 12 billion bricks which is required for post-earthquake construction. The failure of government in speeding up the reconstruction and the need allowing the NGOs/INGOs has been a topic for discussion. Later the government approved NGOs proposals for involvement in reconstruction. Experts opine that allowing the organization to work with the fast track approach, the survivors won't have to live in tents.

The problems of the earthquake affected victims were increasing more and more as the food started finishing, water sources got dry and their temporary shelter got damaged. At many areas the affected spoke bitterly and were not positive towards the government support. The hopes of the villagers were seen to rise when the NGOs reached to support them. The affected have also questioned the effectiveness of the government which has attracted the attention of the donor agencies towards the low pace of reconstruction effort. Although the government managed to sign the contract many were not provided money on time. The delay in reconstruction has also attracted many donor agencies towards the worsening situation. The increasing troubles of the survivors have surely been mentioned in media, various studies have been conducted but the efforts to curb the problems is yet to take place.