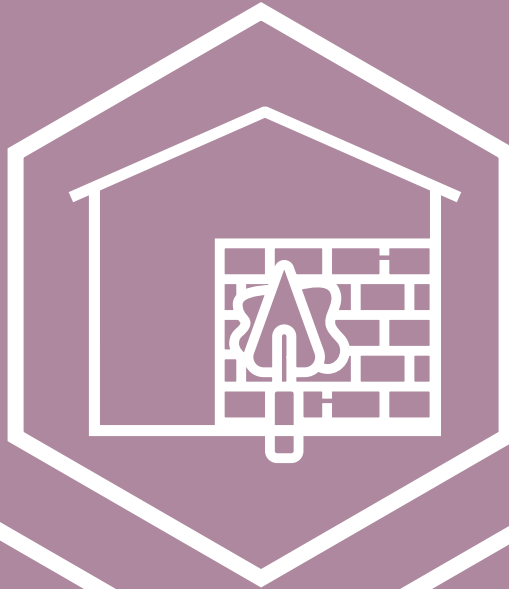




Inter-Agency Common
Feedback Project



COMMUNITY PERCEPTION REPORT

RECONSTRUCTION, FOOD SECURITY
& LIVELIHOOD AND PROTECTION

August 2018



Inter Agency Common Feedback Project funded by:



Community Perception Survey Conducted with:



नेपाल विकास अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान
Nepal Development Research Institute

This material has been funded by UK aid from the UK government; however the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the UK government's official policies and do not reflect the views of the UN or the agencies listed above.



INTRODUCTION

The Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project, referred to as the Common Feedback Project (CFP), is an innovative community engagement project, initiated during the response to the Nepal Earthquake 2015. It is funded by UK Aid, and is based in the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, enabling a strategic connection with humanitarian response and recovery.

The CFP is designed to help the humanitarian and recovery community understand the perceptions of affected people relating to services, people's sense of agency, outcomes and the quality of relations between aid providers and the affected population. It is a common service to humanitarian partners to collect, aggregate, analyse and elevate feedback from disaster affected communities through a variety of sources, including:

- Community perception surveys
- Focus group discussions
- Aggregation of feedback 3W from partner organizations

The objective of the CFP is to ensure that the voices of affected people systematically feed into humanitarian response and recovery, to contribute to a more effective and responsive recovery effort. It provides support to the entire UN Country Team and HCT, including all clusters and organizations, government, donors, development partners, as well as civil society and other actors, in order to help them understand the issues of affected communities in real time, and consequently adapt policies and programmes to strengthen the effectiveness of recovery work to the specific circumstances and concerns of communities, as well as improve communications with affected people.

The project's model has since been incorporated into Emergency Response Preparedness planning endorsed by the national government and UN system. In addition, as a response to the historic flooding across Nepal in summer 2017, CFP was able to expand its work into the flood affected districts, thanks to the continued generosity of UK Aid. Also in 2017, the project received a small grant from the UN Development Group to pilot its innovative approach to systematic community engagement in the least developed regions of Nepal on key development priorities. As such, the CFP's mandate has expanded, now encompassing the entire humanitarian development cycle: response, recovery, development and preparedness.

The CFP is one of the first projects of its kind. Its mandate closely aligns with the future direction of the humanitarian system, particularly the Grand Bargain as it is directly related to the participant revolution.

For more information on the perceptions of earthquake and flood affected communities, please refer to previous reports from the Common Feedback Project found at the following webpage: <http://cfp.org.np/reports/>.



KEY FINDINGS

The broad objectives of the earthquake housing reconstruction and recovery programme are to get earthquake affected people into safer houses with increased resilience to future disasters. In this survey round, the Common Feedback Project (CFP) received some very promising signals from affected households that for a large number of people, the reconstruction and recovery is working as intended.

Around this idea of enhanced resilience CFP regularly asks respondents “do you feel your family’s ability to cope with a new disaster is improved, or diminished?” In August 2018 63 percent of respondents said they felt their ability to cope with a new disaster was at least somewhat improved, since before the earthquake.

Main reasons given for this sense of improved coping capacity



83
PERCENT

Having earthquake safe home



29
PERCENT

Having a preparedness plan



18
PERCENT

Having safe storage for food/grains

It is extremely encouraging for the overall recovery and reconstruction programme to get this feedback from affected communities.

However, where attention needs to be focused now is on the 34 percent who feel their coping capacity has diminished since before the earthquake. For that 34 percent who feel more vulnerable than before the earthquake, it is because they are not living in a safe shelter (56%), they have no savings (51%), they are burdened by heavy debt (39%) and their livelihood options are reduced (37%). For these people, there is a significant risk that the one size fits all approach of the reconstruction process, with all its pressure and tight deadlines, is actually having the opposite of its intended effect, by making them worse off than they were before the earthquake.

Debt is a major problem for the majority of these people, and even those who feel they are recovering. The issue of harmful loans comes up consistently across the report, in all areas:

Reconstruction



55

PERCENT

overall have taken a loan to finance their reconstruction



61

PERCENT

of those who have the second tranche have taken a loan

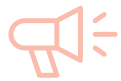


63

PERCENT

of those who have the third tranche have taken a loan

Information



32

PERCENT

want to know how/where to get the announced subsidy loan

Food security



6

PERCENT

need to borrow money to meet their family's daily food needs

Livelihood



29

PERCENT

say debt burden is constraining their family's livelihood recovery



42

PERCENT

plan to take additional loans to cope with livelihood constraints

Taking a loan in and of itself is not the problem. The problem is the extremely high interest rates households are being charged. Without access to announced subsidy loans, and under the threat of a looming reconstruction deadline, the majority of households have been forced to borrow from informal sources, such as neighbours, family and community groups, at interest rates averaging 24 percent, and as high as 36 percent and above in many cases. This situation could easily create a cycle of debt that becomes generational, and is extremely difficult to break.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is essential to ensure that the reconstruction and recovery programme does not make anyone worse off than they were before the earthquake. Currently, there are 34 percent of households at risk of being left behind by the process. It is now imperative to focus on the additional support that these households need to catch up with the process, and also become safer and more resilient, both physically and economically. This support could include access to reasonable finance, livelihood promotion programmes and policy level interventions of easing the pressure of the reconstruction process, among others.
- It is time to abolish the deadlines. The intention of the deadlines was to motivate homeowners who were able to start building, to do so. With 83 percent of respondents starting or finished their reconstruction, it is safe to say that all those who could have begun building, have now done so. The pressure of the deadline, and the fear of “blacklisting” can only have a negative impact on those that remain, who do not have sufficient income and zero savings, who are already burdened by debt, and perhaps even needing to borrow money to eat on a daily basis. The pressure should be taken off these more economically vulnerable households, and instead attention needs to be turned to supporting them to catch up with their neighbours.
- The issue of access to reasonable finance needs to be taken up seriously by all partners to the reconstruction and recovery process. Long term debt resulting from borrowing at high interest rates to meet construction deadlines could have a negative economic impact on the entire earthquake affected area over a long-term period. This would make it more difficult to meet broader development objectives in the future.



PERCEPTION SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In 2018 the CFP wanted to expand its survey tool, to ensure the voices and perspectives of all communities with equal levels of damage were being covered. In previous years, the sampling had been contained to only the 14 priority affected districts. With the changes in the new federal structure, as well as the recognition that many pockets outside of the 14 priority districts had been severely affected, the CFP adapted its methodology to ensure inclusion of these areas.

To undertake the Community Perception Survey, 40 enumerators were trained over three days on the survey questionnaire and sampling methodology. Enumerators were then deployed across the earthquake affected rural/urban municipality to collect data over the course of two weeks from a total of 2580 respondents. All data collection is completed with mobile tablets using KoBo Toolbox.

Inclusion criteria

All gaunpalikas and nagarpalikas in which 50 percent or more of the households are eligible for the housing reconstruction grant (damage grades 3-5 based on the Central Bureau of Statistics damage assessment) were considered heavily affected and included in the survey area. This totaled 118 rural/urban municipalities. This local units were then distributed among three survey rounds to ensure that all heavily affected gaun/nagarpalikas would be surveyed over the course of 2018.

Sample frame

In each survey round, three wards are randomly selected for sampling in each rural municipality, and four wards in each urban municipality. Twenty household level surveys are collected in each ward. This means that 60 samples are collected from each rural municipality and 80 from each urban municipality, for a total of 1860 households from 31 gaunpalikas, and 720 households from nine nagarpalikas in each survey round.

Once wards have been selected, enumerators travel to the nearest settlement of that ward and begin to identify respondents to survey. Respondents are randomly selected from within the pool of available, eligible respondents in the given settlement. Enumerators will conduct a household level survey with one respondent before moving on to the next available household.

Once inside the household, enumerators interview an individual above 15 years of age from the pool of eligible respondents present in the home at the time of the survey. The enumerator selects respondents from different age groups and genders at each home, to ensure the sample is demographically diverse and reflects the population from the survey area.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILING



GENDER DISTRIBUTION

Total of 2580 household surveys were collected across 40 earthquake affected gaun/ nagarpalikas in

Kavrepalanchok	340	13%
Nuwakot	260	10%
Dhading	260	10%
Dolakha	260	10%
Sindhupalchowk	260	10%
Sindhuli	200	8%
Gorkha	180	7%
Okhaldhunga	120	5%
Ramechhap	120	5%
Solukhumbu	120	5%
Makwanpur	120	5%
Kathmandu	80	3%
Lalitpur	80	3%
Rasuwa	60	2%
Chitwan	60	2%
Lamjung	60	2%

Distribution by age

15-24	142	6%
25-39	803	31%
40-54	923	36%
55+	712	28%

Distribution by caste/ethnicity

Chhetri	634	25%
Tamang	602	23%
Brahmin	418	16%
Newar	268	10%
Dalit	218	8%
Magar	143	6%
Janajati	132	5%
Rai	79	3%
Gurung	58	2%
Other	28	1%

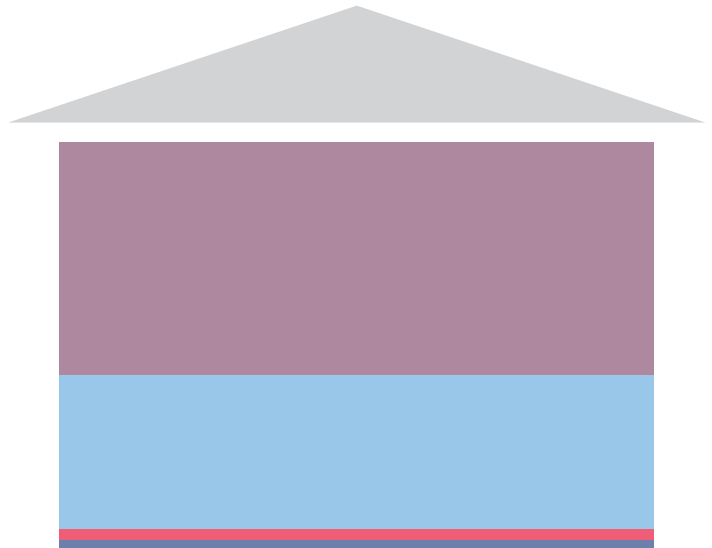
Mother tongue

Nepali	62%
Tamang	23%
Newari	5%
Magar	4%
Rai	3%
Gurung	1%
Others	1%

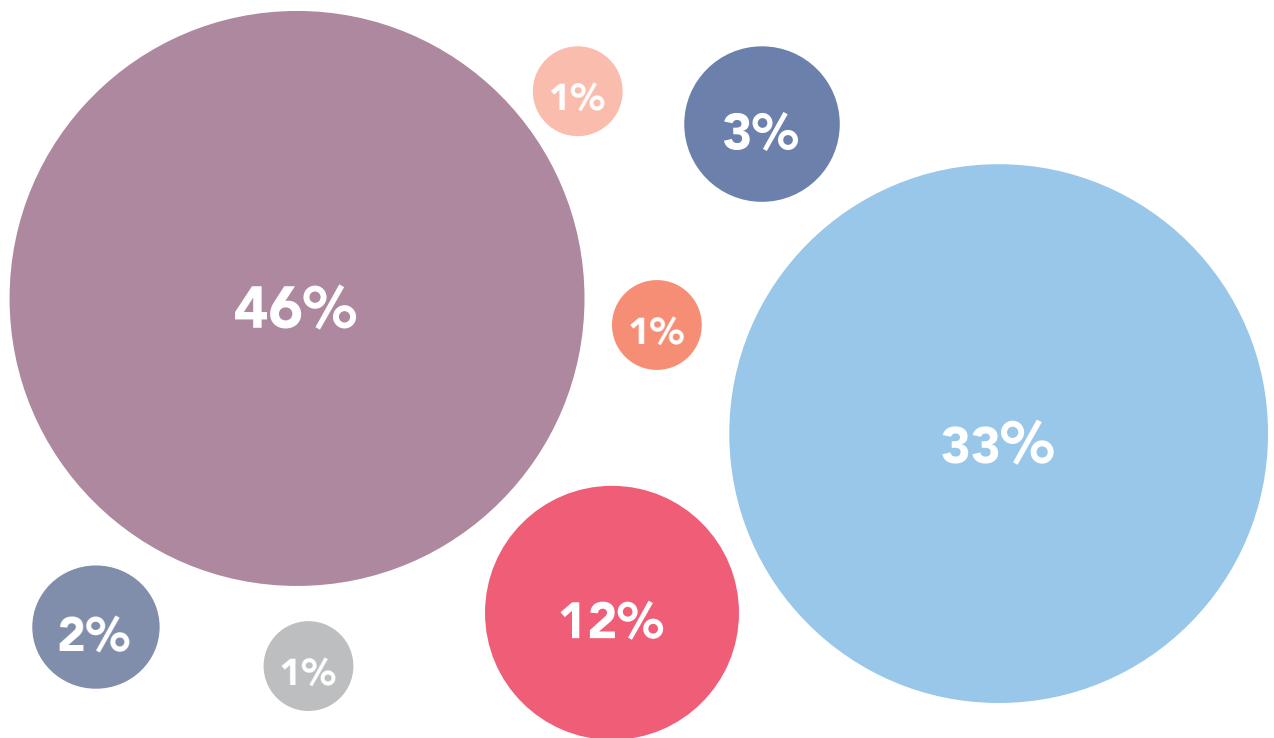
HOUSING PROFILING

How severely did the earthquake damage your home?

- Completely damaged (51%)
- Heavily damaged (45%)
- Minor damage (4%)
- No damage (1%)



What is the current status of your home?

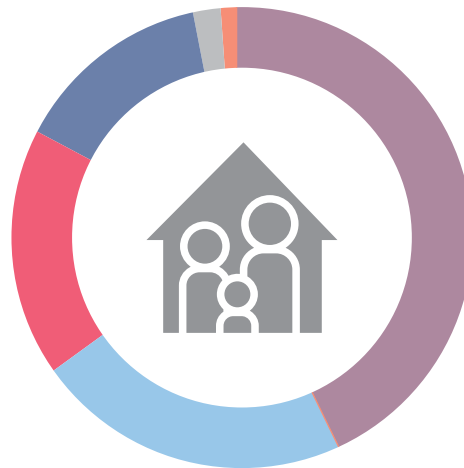


- Reconstruction completed
- Totally damaged, rubble not cleared
- Reconstruction started
- Repair completed
- Reconstruction not yet started
- Totally damaged, rubble cleared
- Old house is as it is but built new one
- Repair planned/started



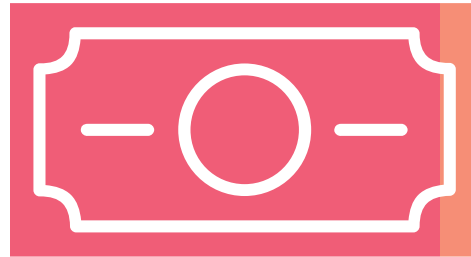
Where is your family currently living?

- In our newly constructed house (43%)
- In a temporary shelter (22%)
- In our original repaired house (14%)
- In our original damaged house (18%)
- With friends/relatives (2%)
- In a rented house (1%)

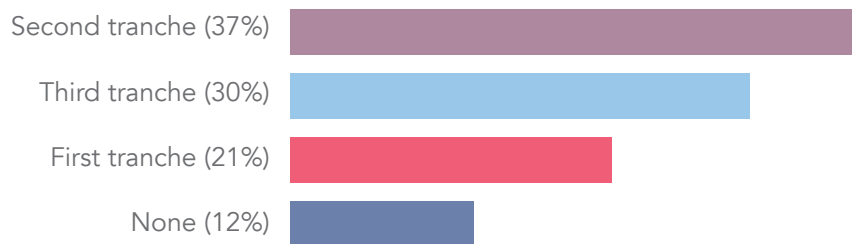


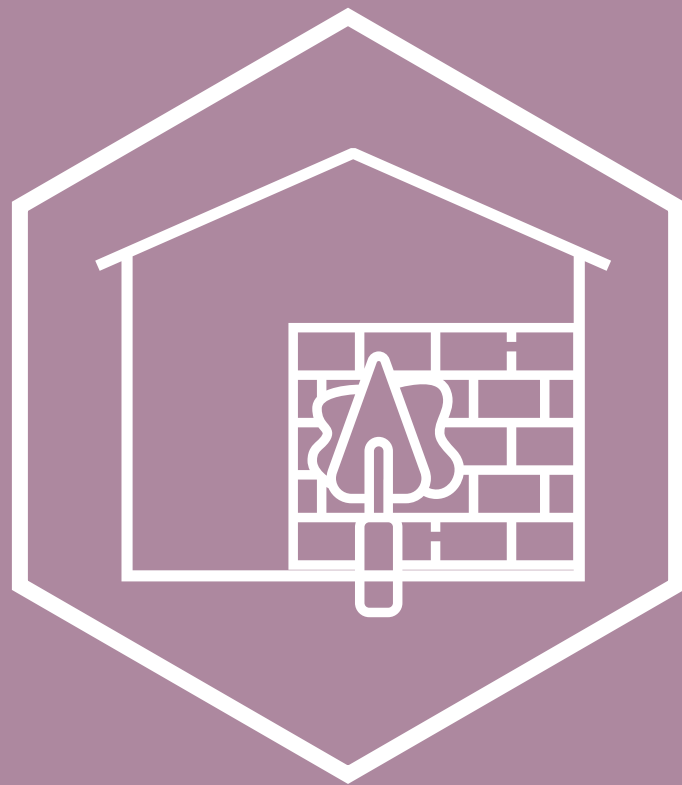
Is your family in the housing grant beneficiary list?

- Yes (90%)
- No, but we should be eligible (10%)



Have you received any government tranche to date?





RECONSTRUCTION



Are your main reconstruction needs being addressed?



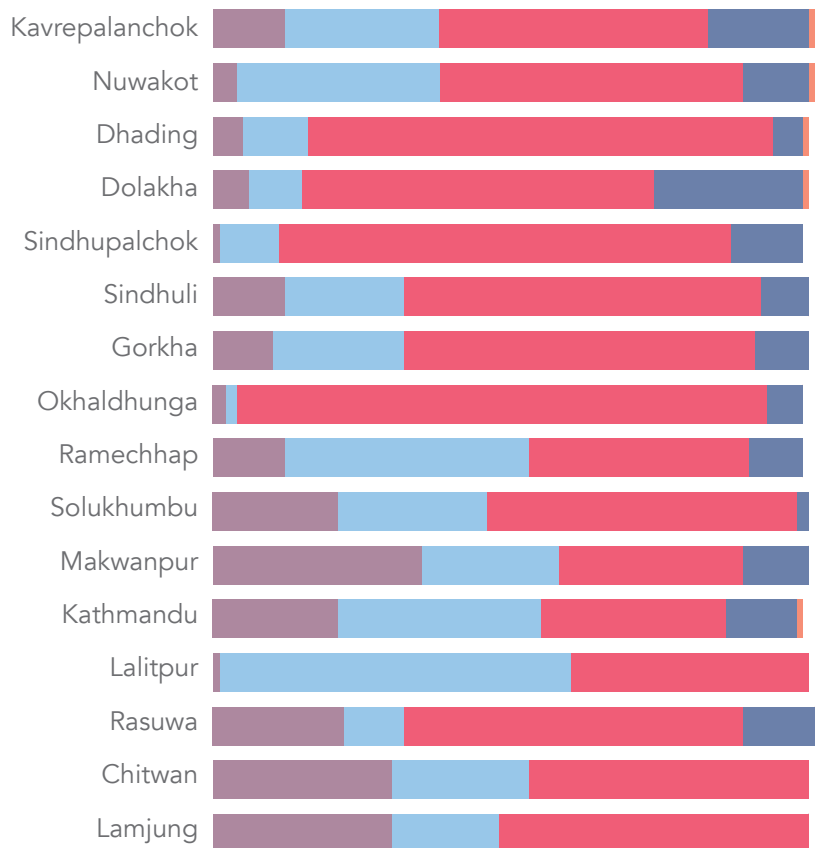
- Not at all (11%)
- Not very much (21%)
- Somewhat yes (57%)
- Completely yes (11%)

Across 2580 respondents in 40 palikas, 68 percent feel their main reconstruction needs are being addressed. This represents a five percent increase over the last survey round in May 2018. Among those whose main needs are not being addressed, the top unmet need remains financial resources, building materials, skilled labour, and information on reconstruction policies. The need for building materials in particular has dramatically increased this round, with 53 percent of those whose needs remain unmet citing it as one of their top two priorities.

The need for financial resources has also increased, from 65 to 84 percent. This may reflect attempts of households to gather resources during the rainy season in order to start building once monsoon is over.

Among the different districts there is significant variation in level of needs being addressed. As in the last round, we see that those districts outside the "14 priority districts", urban centers, and districts which were less heavily affected, such as Makwanpur, Solukhumbu, Chitwan, Lamjung, and Kathmandu are more likely to not feel their needs are being addressed. Conversely, districts which have been prioritized from the beginning, such as Sindhupalchok, Dolakha and Dhading are relatively more positive about their reconstruction needs being met.

Differences by district



- Not at all
- Not very much
- Somewhat yes
- Completely yes
- Don't know/refused

“Trained masons are not available and because of price hikes in construction materials, there is a delay in reconstruction”

Bhimeshwor Municipality, Dolakha

Top unmet reconstruction needs



84
PERCENT

Financial resources



53
PERCENT

Building materials



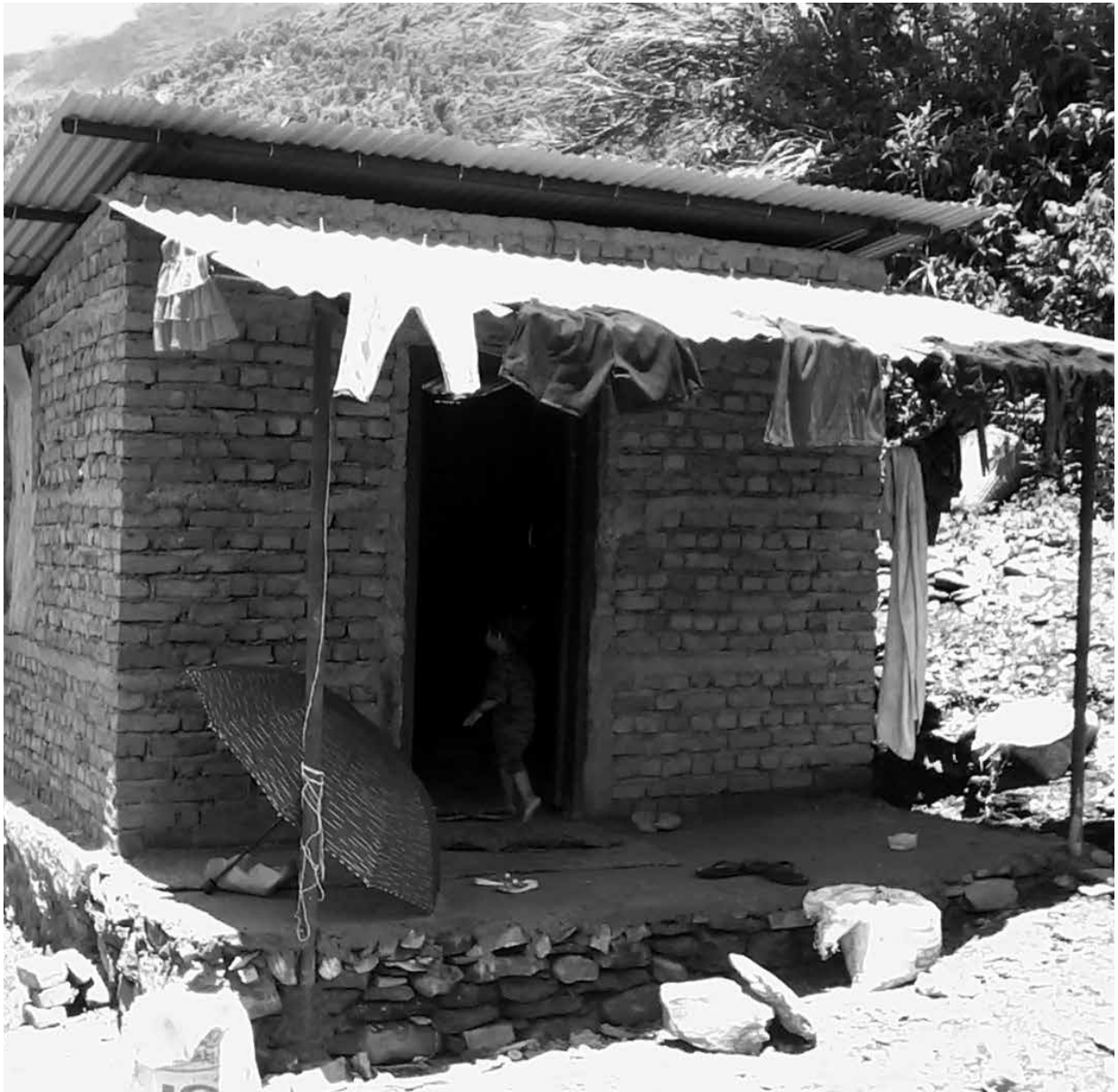
17
PERCENT

Skilled labour



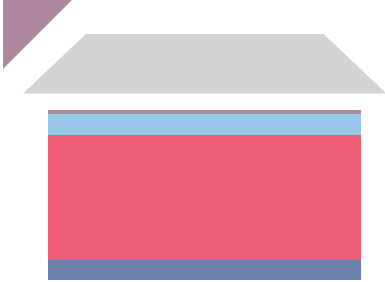
10
PERCENT

Information on reconstruction policies





Do you have the information you need to access reconstruction support?



- Not at all (2%)
- Not very much (12%)
- Somewhat yes (73%)
- Completely yes (12%)

A total of 85 percent of respondents feel they have the information they need to access reconstruction support. Among the 14 percent who do not feel they have sufficient information, the top unmet information needs included: when will grievances be processed, how to access the advertised subsidy loans, and what is the process for getting government support. The issue of information on subsidy loans also emerged strongly in focus group discussions, with participants asking how and where they could access this loan that they have heard advertised on the radio. Given the challenges in turning the subsidy loan policy into practice, it is only fair to inform the public that these loans are unlikely to be widely available any time in the near future, and that they should also explore other financial mechanisms that can help ease the burden of debt for affected families.

Additionally, 94 percent feel confident that they understand the grant process thoroughly enough to access all available support. While respondents may feel confident, it is clear, when they are asked to name the features of the process, that understanding is only truly high in the basic concepts, such as tranche value, and much lower when it comes to more technical aspects of the program. Furthermore, some districts know much less about the programme’s technical aspects than others, such as Solukhumbu, Kavrepalanchok, Sindhuli, Ramechhap and Okhaldhunga.

Top information needs



38 PERCENT

When will the grievance file be addressed?



32 PERCENT

How/where can I access a subsidy loan for additional finance?



30 PERCENT

What is the process for getting government support?



24 PERCENT

When do we need to complete the reconstruction process?



17 PERCENT

How do I get the next tranche?



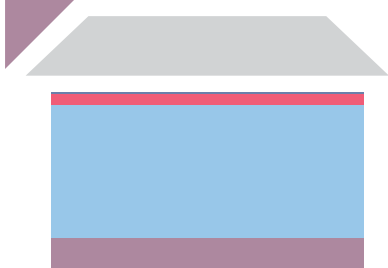
13 PERCENT

What will happen to me if I don't build a house with the grant money?

“Do I have to return the government cash support if I am not able to finish housing reconstruction on time? When is the deadline to finish reconstruction?”

Dakshinkali Municipality, Kathmandu

Do you feel confident that you understand the grant process thoroughly enough to get all support?



- Not at all (1%)
- Not very much (6%)
- Somewhat yes (77%)
- Completely yes (17%)

What do you know about the grant process?



- 50,000 first tranche (84%)
- 150,000 second tranche (79%)
- 100,000 third tranche (70%)
- Second tranche after foundation (40%)
- First tranche on enrollment (36%)
- Third tranche after roof beams (walls) (27%)
- Toilet needed for third tranche (24%)
- Engineer inspection and sign off for each tranche (30%)
- Government approved house design (32%)
- 17 models (15%)

Which form of communication makes it easiest to understand the reconstruction process?



57
PERCENT

Radio Program



43
PERCENT

Door to door interaction



42
PERCENT

Television Program



33
PERCENT

Public Service Announcement (PSA)



28
PERCENT

Interaction Program



10
PERCENT

Radio Jingle

"I have heard a rumor that those who have finished house reconstruction will get house completion certificate and NRs. 50,000. Is that true?"

Bhimeshwor Municipality, Dolakha

Have you consulted an engineer for your housing reconstruction needs?



- Have consulted (85%)
- Have not consulted (13%)
- Plan to consult (2%)
- Don't know/refused (1%)

Eighty-five percent of respondents have consulted an engineer for their reconstruction. The majority of respondents received some sort of technical guidance from the engineer that visited their construction site (57 percent), while others were mostly told their house was compliant (36 percent). Only two percent were told by engineers that they needed to make any corrections.

Among the 15 percent who have not consulted an engineer, the main reason given was that they have not having begun to reconstruct. This indicates that people are only consulting engineers once they have started building, not in advance. According to reconstruction partners, such as the Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform (HRRP), advanced consultation could help make the process more effective for homeowners, by ensuring they start out on the right foot.

"We have to take a photograph of every step of the reconstruction work and sent it to the ward office. The engineer does a housing inspecting based on that photograph. Doesn't the engineer have to visit the house to do inspection work?"

Sotang Rural Municipality, Solukhumbu

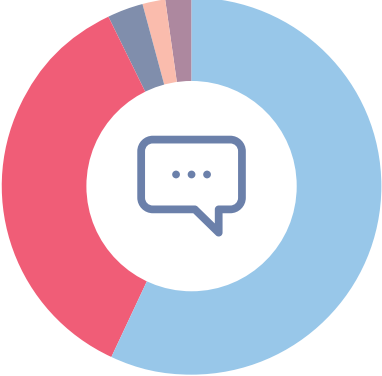


Recommendation

Those households who have not yet started, particularly in the 18 additional districts, should be encouraged to consult engineers before beginning to reconstruct to ensure they are on track and minimize avoidable errors.

What was the suggestions or advice given by the engineer regarding your house?

- Technical guidance on how to build (57%)
- House is built as per criteria (36%)
- Must build according to 17 models (3%)
- House needs corrections (2%)
- Can repair/retrofit (2%)



Average number of house inspections by tranche received

Tranche received	Housing inspections
First	2
Second	3
Third	4

ENGINEER AVAILABILITY



DISTRICTS

Lamjung	Ramechhap
Chitwan	Sindhupalchowk
Makwanpur	Dhading
Kavre	Gorkha
Dolakha	Nuwakot



FEEDBACK SOURCE

Focus group discussions
Field monitoring visits
Informal discussion

The majority of respondents who have begun or completed their reconstruction work reported having consulted with an engineer, and received feedback and advice on determining appropriate materials, selecting house measurements and suggestions on implementing safer building practices. However, they also claimed to have faced difficulties in getting a consultation, technical guidance and advice on safer building practices from engineers in a timely manner, due to the limited number of engineers. As a result, most focus group participants revealed they had to take photographs of each step of the rebuilding process to use as evidence to get approval at a later date.

"There is no uniformity among engineers in technical guidance. I was suggested to use block-bricks to build safely and get the rest of the tranches. I did what engineer suggested. Now, engineer is refusing to approve, saying I did not build properly. It is such a stress that I need to invest extra money to correct or lose my third tranche."

Bakaiya Rural Municipality, Makwanpur

"People in our community have faced problems due to information gaps related to reconstruction guidelines and delays in inspection of houses. This has resulted in many barriers to the reconstruction process, like construction of noncompliant houses. Many houses have required corrections to get approved for remaining tranches."

Panchakanya Rural Municipality, Nuwakot





DAKSHINKALI



DISTRICTS

Kathmandu



FEEDBACK SOURCE

Field monitoring visits
Informal discussion
Survey

In Dakshinkali Municipality many households complained that engineers charged them up to NRs. 2,000 per visit, and additional funds to provide house designs. The majority of respondents were unaware that catalogues of pre-approved designs exists and could be used free of charge.

"The engineer charged NRs. 35,000 for house design. We raised this issue to Municipality office but the response was only: 'how can engineers survive on their salary if they don't charge that amount?'"

Dakshinkali Municipality, Kathmandu

"Government engineers are directly asking money to pass the building design in the form of undisclosed expenses. They are giving us a very hard time."

Dakshinkali Municipality, Kathmandu

"The engineer asked a lot of money, NRs. 36,000, to prepare house design. They have not even shown us 17 house models and told us that we need to pay for any house design."

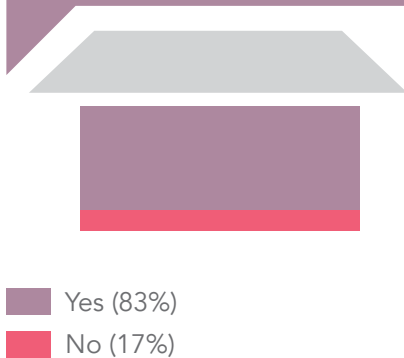
Dakshinkali Municipality, Kathmandu

"Engineers are asking money for house inspection. Do we really have to pay?"

Dakshinkali Municipality, Kathmandu



Have you begun to reconstruct or repair your house?



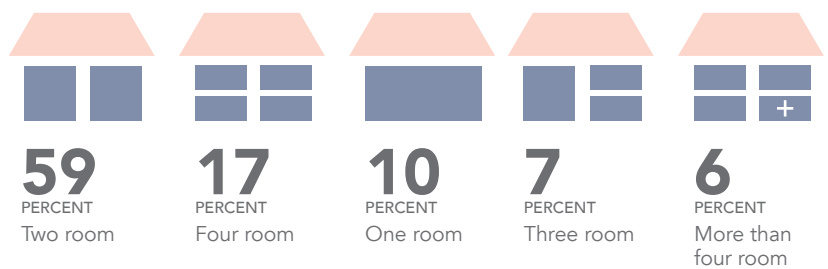
A total of 83 percent of respondents report having begun their reconstruction or repair process. This is roughly equivalent to the May 2018 survey round, meaning there has not been a significant number of households which have begun to build during the rainy season, which is to be expected.

Fifty-nine percent of respondents reported building or having built, a two-room house. This is not surprising, given that previous community perception reports have highlighted that the two-room design has been widely suggested by field engineers, and many households have felt they did not have the option to select a different design. Despite that, 91 percent of respondents report being satisfied with the house they are building or have built. Focus group discussions revealed that respondents are generally satisfied because they are happy to have a permanent place to live again, after the earthquake. However, it remains difficult for them to re-arrange their lives to fit into a much smaller physical space than they previously lived in. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics Damage Assessment, 86 percent of pre-earthquake households were two storeys or more. Many reveal they are coping by making an outdoor kitchen, using their temporary shelter or old house for guests and searching for additional storage for food and grains. Many also admit that they plan to expand the house or build another house once they have gotten out from under the debt they took to build.

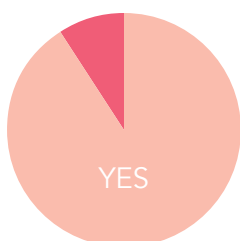
Recommendation

Investments in technical assistance and social mobilization remain necessary to ensure that households understand the importance of safe building practices, not just as a government requirement, and how to use them in the future in a house that will meet their lifestyle requirements.

How big is the house you are building/have built?



Are you satisfied with the house you are building/have built?

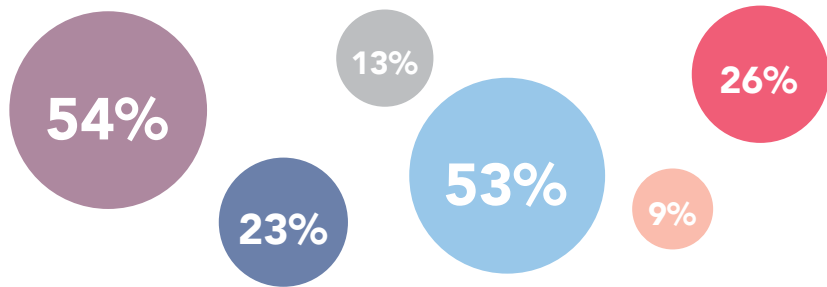


If no, why are you not satisfied with the house you are building/have built?



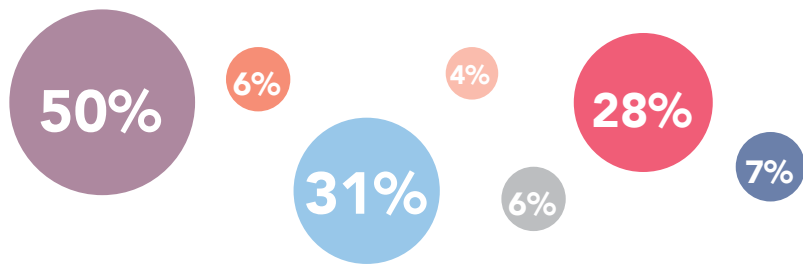


Why are you building/ have you built a house you are not satisfied with?



- I have nowhere else to live
- Government tranche deadline
- Have to build to get next grant installment
- Life was difficult in temporary shelter
- Concern over blacklist if I don't build
- Family members were getting ill because of cold and rain

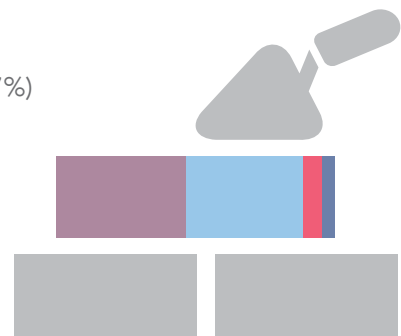
How will you/your family adjust after construction is completed?



- Build more rooms when we have enough money
- Build another house when we have enough money
- Finding alternative storage for food/grains
- Separating joint family
- Don't know
- Living in old house
- Other

Why have you not begun to reconstruct your house?

- Waiting for grievance to be addressed (41%)
- Do not have enough funds (37%)
- Do not have land (6%)
- Others (4%)



HOUSE SIZE



DISTRICTS

Lamjung	Ramechhap
Chitwan	Sindhupalchowk
Makwanpur	Dhading
Kavre	Gorkha
Dolakha	Nuwakot



FEEDBACK SOURCE

Focus group discussions
Field observation and monitoring visits
Informal discussions

The majority of FGD participants stated that the mostly commonly constructed house in their community was a two-room model. Overall, the majority of participants report being happy to have shifted to a new house, that they feel safe in, after living in a temporary shelter for such a long time. However, many participants complained that the two-room house is insufficient for their family members and for the storage of harvested crops. They reported managing to adjust by using a tent or temporary shelter as their kitchen, and many admitted they have, or will, extend their house after receiving the final tranche.

“Our previous houses reflected the culture and tradition of our community, but that is missing in the new two-rooms houses.”

Kalinchowk Gaunpalika, Dolakha

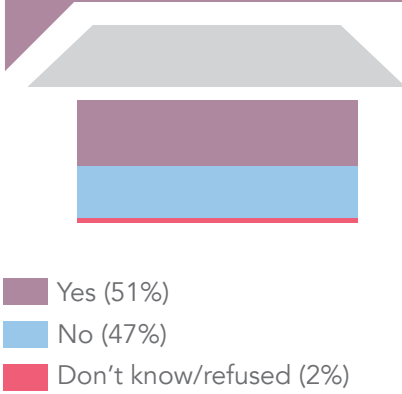
“I have constructed a two-room house, but there are four in my family. We are in dilemma where to make a kitchen for our family. I am planning to continue using our temporary shelter as a kitchen and to store harvested seasonal crops.”

Melamchi NP, Sindhupalchowk





Have you taken a loan to finance your reconstruction?



Fifty-one percent of respondents have taken a loan to finance their reconstruction. However, as households advance through in the reconstruction process, their likelihood of needing to take a loan increases. While only 35 percent of those who have gotten the first tranche have taken a loan for reconstruction, 61 and 63 percent respectively of those who have the second and third tranches have taken loans, and 66 percent of those who report having already completed their reconstruction have taken a loan to do so.

The majority of respondents are borrowing from informal sources, with neighbours (38 percent) and friends and family (31 percent) topping the list. These informal sources carry the highest interest rates, and are potentially the most damaging to the long-term economic recovery of earthquake affected communities. The issue of indebtedness continues to grow, and presents itself across reconstruction, and livelihood recovery questions. Community members in focus groups expressed grave concerns about how to escape the debt trap they feel they are in.



Recommendation

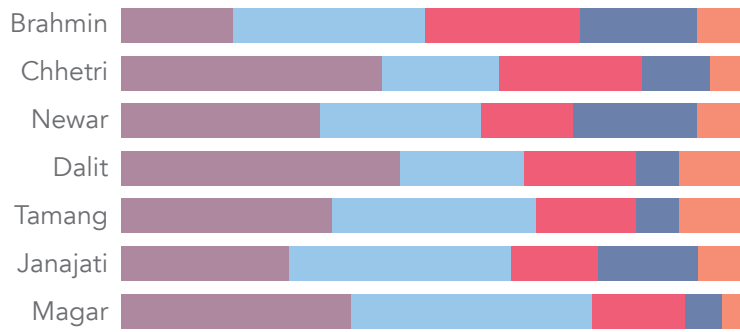
Concerted effort needs to be made to find sustainable finance solutions for communities to ensure the reconstruction process, with all its deadlines and demands, does not lead to negative, and severe, long-term economic consequences for already struggling households.

Where did you take the loan from?



Source of loan by caste/ethnicity

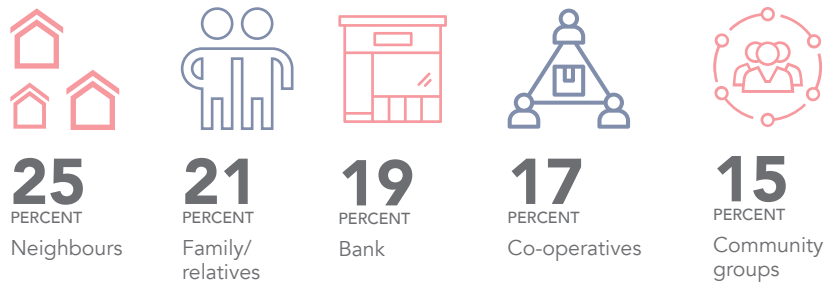
- Neighbour
- Family/Relatives
- Co-operatives
- Bank
- Community groups



Likelihood of taking a loan by caste/ethnicity

Caste/Ethnicity	Likelihood (%)
Brahmin	51%
Chhetri	53%
Newar	55%
Dalit	55%
Tamang	50%
Janajati	49%
Magar	45%

What is the average interest rate (annually)

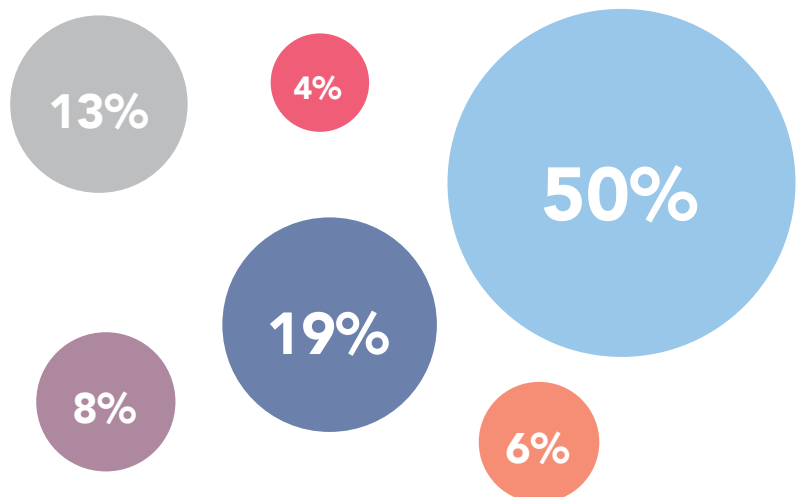


Loan to finance reconstruction by tranche received

Tranche received	Yes (%)	No (%)
First	35%	62%
Second	61%	37%
Third	63%	35%

How much do you anticipate needing to finish your overall reconstruction?

- 1-3 lakhs (\$1,000-3,000)
- 4-7 lakhs (\$4,000-7,000)
- 8-12 lakhs (\$8,000-12,000)
- 13-17 lakhs (13,000-17,000)
- More than 17 lakhs (\$17,000)
- Don't know





ACCESS TO FINANCIAL RESOURCES



DISTRICTS

Lamjung	Ramechhap
Chitwan	Sindhupalchowk
Makwanpur	Dhading
Kavre	Gorkha
Dolakha	Nuwakot



FEEDBACK SOURCE

Focus group discussions
Field observation and monitoring visits
Informal discussions

The most commonly raise question across 17 focus group discussions was how and where could households access the subsidy loan, which they have heard advertised for a number of years now. Participants relayed that when they go to banks to apply for the subsidized housing loan, they are told to follow the normal banking loan process, which only provides them with a high interest rate loan. These recipients expect the government commitment to be fulfilled and to provide the subsidy loan to escape from the high interest and extreme debt that accompanies it.

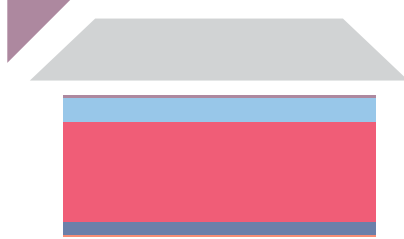
People feel that they are in a debt trap as they are compelled to borrow from multiple sources, like banks, cooperatives and neighbors at very high interest rates in order to reconstruct their new house. As they don't have any good source of income, they think it will take many years to pay back those loans.

“When will we get low interest or subsidy loan that government promised us.”

Kamalamai Municipality, Sindhuli



Are you aware of how to build using safer building practices?



- Not at all (2%)
- Not very much (17%)
- Somewhat yes (71%)
- Completely yes (10%)
- Don't know/refused (1%)

A total of 81 percent of respondents say they know how to build using safer building practices. As with other information related questions, CFP wanted to understand if this perception was reflective of community member's true knowledge of these practices. Results, as illustrated below, were better than anticipated overall; however, concerns remain over low levels of knowledge on use of quality materials, and banding requirements.

Additionally, as with all information questions, the level of knowledge of each element of safer building is lower among women than men. It is extremely important to ensure that women are equally targeted with information on reconstruction practices and policies, as they are often overseeing household reconstruction. The majority of respondents got their information from engineers or other family or community members, proving that face-to-face interaction is the most common method of learning and understanding new information.

What do you know about safer building practices?

- Should have vertical reinforcement in corners (71%)
- Selection and examination of construction place (63%)
- Shape of house should be rectangular or square (54%)
- Stone should be dressed properly (27%)
- Use of quality construction materials (23%)
- Need to have bands at DPC level, sill band, lintel level and roof level (20%)



Where did you get this information from?

- Engineer (73%)
- Community member (52%)
- Family member (30%)
- Village Municipality (27%)
- Radio (25%)
- Community leader (20%)
- Television (14%)
- I/NGO (13%)
- Municipality (9%)





Are you satisfied with the reconstruction support you have received?

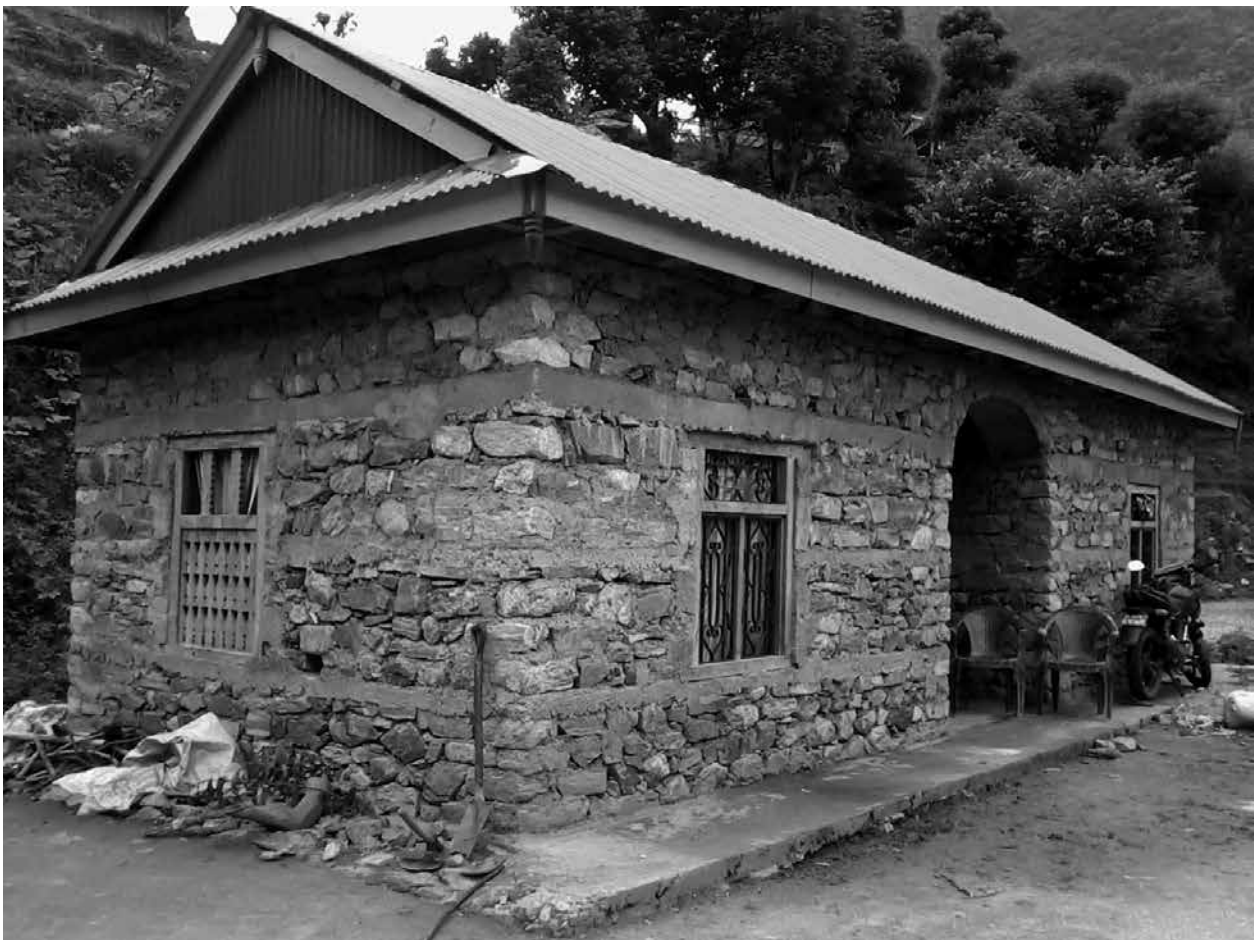
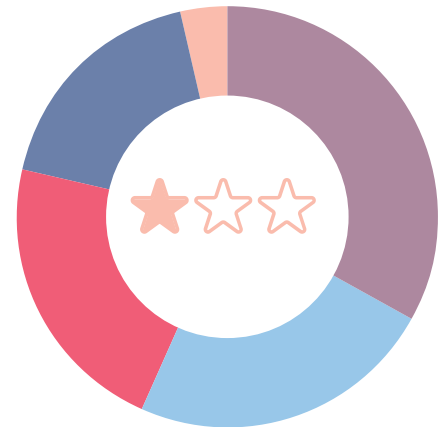
Seventy-four percent of respondents report feeling satisfied with the reconstruction support they have received. Among those who are not satisfied, the insufficient value of the tranches to reconstruct, the lengthy delays in receipt of tranches and the complicated nature of the process are the top reasons for dissatisfaction.



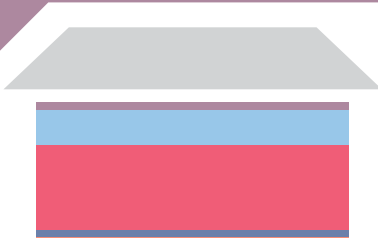
If no, why are you not satisfied with the support received?

- Not at all (11%)
- Not very much (16%)
- Somewhat yes (60%)
- Completely yes (14%)
- Don't know/refused (1%)

- Insufficient tranches (59%)
- Not received timely (42%)
- Complicated nature (39%)
- Lengthy grievance process (32%)
- Unfriendly to illiterate people (6%)



Do you feel you/
your family has
recovered from the
earthquake?



- Not at all (6%)
- Not very much (26%)
- Somewhat yes (62%)
- Completely yes (6%)
- Don't know/refused (1%)

Among 2580 respondents across 40 palikas, over three years after the earthquake, only six percent feel their family has completely recovered, with an additional 62 percent who feel their family has somewhat recovered.

Among those who do not feel their family has recovered, respondents cited a lack of disaster resilient housing as their top constraint. The majority of respondents who said this are only in the planning, or very initial stages of reconstruction. This illustrates the strong emphasis communities are putting on housing in their overall perception of their recovery. The next greatest constraints are a lack of economic opportunities, the burden of debt and the insufficiency of current livelihood options to meet recovery needs. This makes it clear that many families are still struggling greatly with the financial and shelter needs of their family.



Recommendation

The recovery process should not compound these struggles with demands and unrealistic timelines, or a narrow focus on one element of recovery, but instead focus on creating a conducive environment to supporting a wholistic recovery for affected communities.

If no, what are the top things constraining your recovery?



58
PERCENT

Disaster resilient housing



54
PERCENT

Economic opportunities



42
PERCENT

Debt



23
PERCENT

Insufficient livelihood



7
PERCENT

WASH



5
PERCENT

Preparedness and risk reduction capacity



Besides building your home, what is your community's biggest reconstruction need?

Across 2580 respondents in 40 palikas 37 percent say their main community reconstruction priority is water supply. This represents a slight decline from previous rounds, potentially because of the monsoon, where water is more easily available. However, this round of survey also sees an increase in communities' prioritization of roads, trails and lanes.



37 PERCENT Water supply



22 PERCENT Roads



10 PERCENT Trails/lanes



7 PERCENT Hospitals/health centres



7 PERCENT Schools

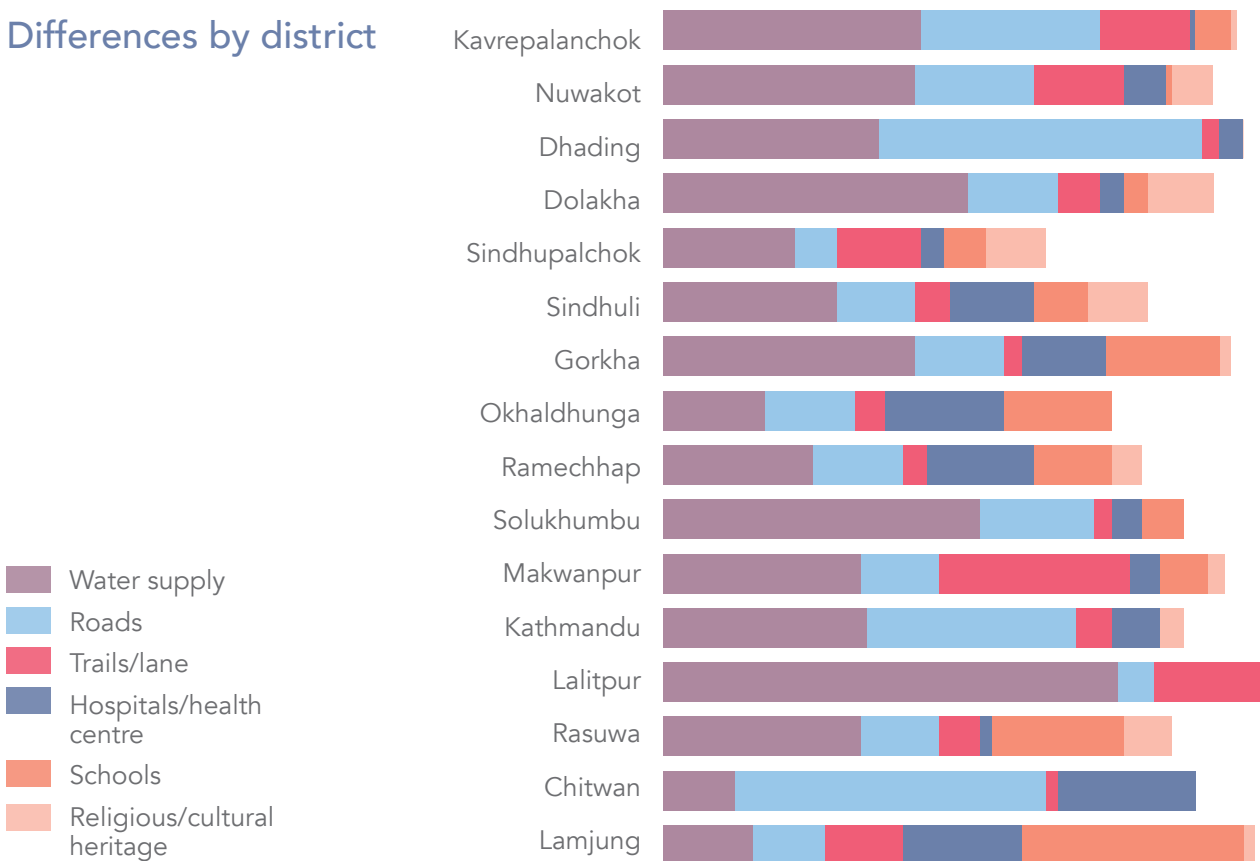


5 PERCENT Religious/cultural heritage

"It would be a big support for us if government manage clean drinking water for us."

Baiteshwor Rular Municipality, Dolakha

Differences by district

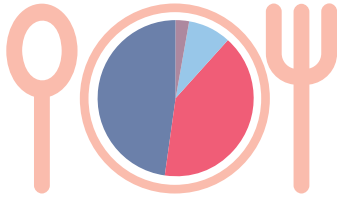




FOOD SECURITY
AND LIVELIHOOD



Are your family's daily food needs being met?



- Not at all (3%)
- Not very much (9%)
- Somewhat yes (41%)
- Completely yes (48%)

Across 2580 respondents in 40 palikas 48 percent say their family's daily food needs are completely met, and an additional 41 percent say they are somewhat met. This leaves only 12 percent who feel their family's daily food needs are not being met. Among all of those respondents whose food needs were not completely met, requirements to meet family food needs were cited as: new skills, paid work, land to farm and improved seeds.

All respondents were asked how they meet their family's daily food needs. While growing and buying food top the list, six percent of respondents report needing to borrow money to meet their family's daily food needs. In the context of an expensive reconstruction process, that the majority of households need to borrow money to complete, families that are required to borrow additional funds just to eat should be a grave concern.

If no, what are the things your family requires to meet daily food needs?



40
PERCENT
New skills



38
PERCENT
Paid work



35
PERCENT
Land to farm



29
PERCENT
Improved seeds



18
PERCENT
Cash support



17
PERCENT
Access to water



12
PERCENT
Fertilizers

How are you meeting your daily food needs?



86
PERCENT
Growing own food



84
PERCENT
Buying food



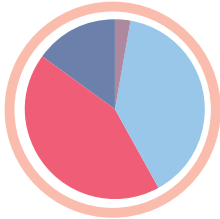
6
PERCENT
Borrowing money



5
PERCENT
Cash for work



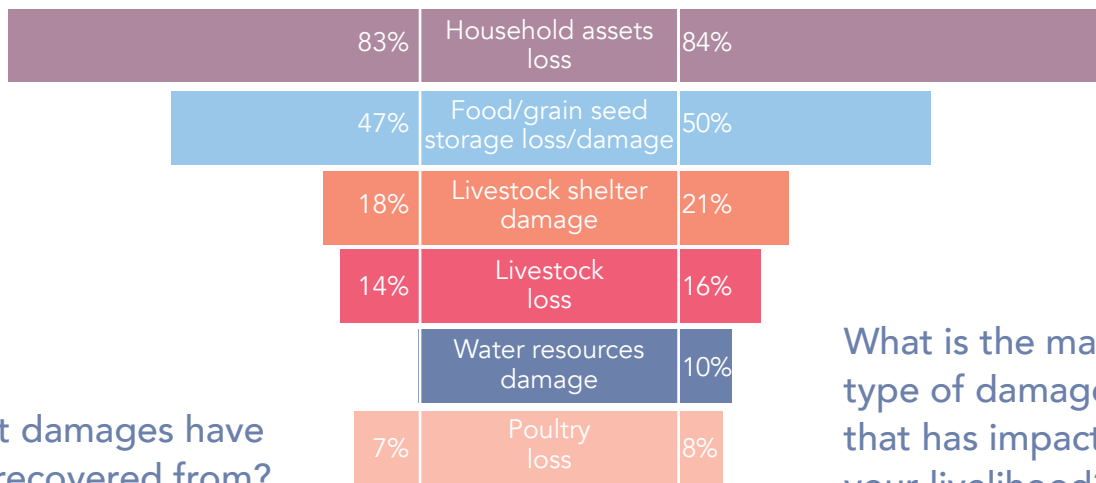
Has damage from the earthquake impacted your livelihood?



- Not at all (3%)
- Not very much (39%)
- Somewhat yes (43%)
- Completely yes (15%)

Ninety-seven percent of respondents say that damage from the earthquake has impacted their livelihood to some extent. Among the 58 percent who said their livelihood was completely or somewhat impacted, 76 percent report beginning to recover from these losses.

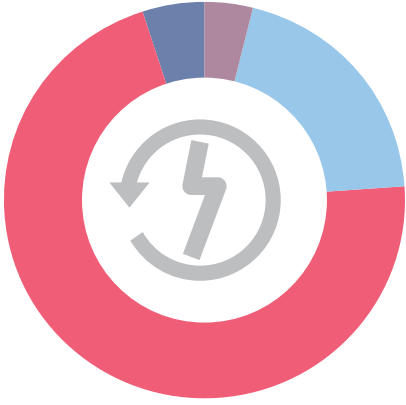
As in the May 2018 survey round, we see that water supply is the one form of livelihood damage that no communities report even beginning to recover from. This indicates that the slight decrease in concerns over water supply seen in the question about community reconstruction priorities is likely due only to the monsoon, and that continued concerted effort in water supply recovery is greatly needed in affected communities.



What damages have you recovered from?

What is the main type of damage that has impacted your livelihood?

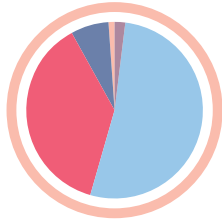
Have you begun to recover from these damages?



- Not at all (4%)
- Not very much (20%)
- Somewhat yes (71%)
- Completely yes (5%)



Do you face any constraints to livelihood recovery?



- Not at all (2%)
- Not many (53%)
- Some constraints (38%)
- A lot of constraints (7%)
- Don't know/refused (1%)

Across 2580 respondents in 40 palikas 98 percent feel they face some type of constraints to their livelihood recovery, with 53 percent saying "not many" and seven percent saying "a lot". Among the 45 percent who face "some" or "a lot of" constraints, top constraints include a lack of jobs, a lack of skills, and the burden of loans. Compounding this concern, when asked how they plan to cope with these constraints 42 percent say they will take additional loans.

As we already know, most families are borrowing money to rebuild their house and meet reconstruction deadlines. Here we can see that this debt is making it more difficult for them to recover economically. There is a very high risk of a dangerous cycle of debt beginning in earthquake affected communities where the majority of households are borrowing money at extremely high rates and under poor terms from informal lenders.

What are the top constraints to livelihood recovery?



48 PERCENT

Lack of jobs



30 PERCENT

No skills



29 PERCENT

Burden of loans



22 PERCENT

Don't have resources to start a livelihood

"I need additional financial support. I have no money to payback loan. Hence, I would be thankful if we get capacity building and job-oriented trainings".

Dordi Gaunpalika, Lamjung



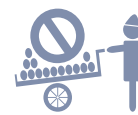
20 PERCENT

Farmland destroyed



13 PERCENT

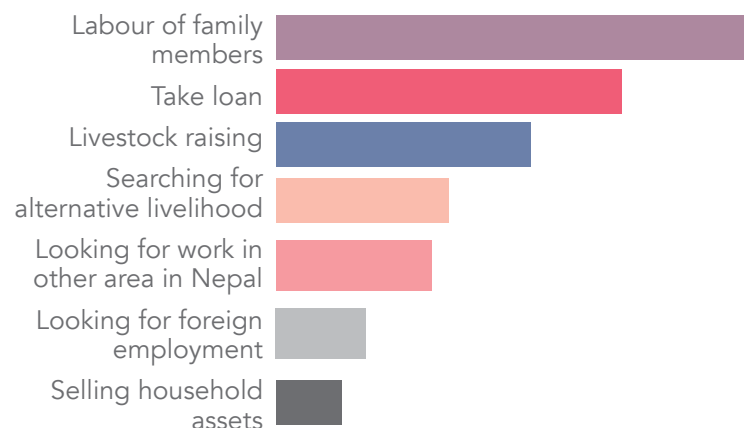
Water resources damaged



10 PERCENT

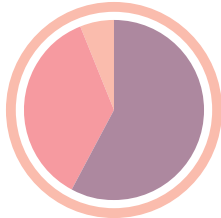
Lack of access to market

How do you plan to cope with current loss of livelihood?





Are you aware of any training available in your area/community?



- Yes (58%)
- No (36%)
- Don't know/refused (6%)

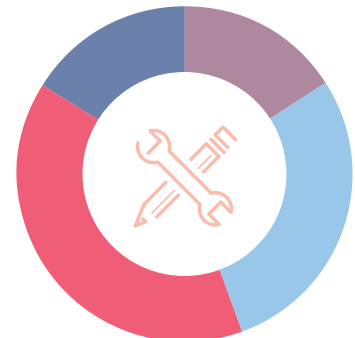
A total of 58 percent of respondents are aware of training opportunities in their area. However, male respondents were significantly more likely to be aware of training opportunities than female respondents at 66 percent compared to only 50 percent of women. Additionally, among those that knew about training, participation rates are higher for men, at 18 percent versus only 13 percent of women. Respondents who did not participate in training, but wanted to, cited several reasons for not being able to participate, including limited availability of spaces, household chores, and not being informed in time to participate. Women were much more likely than men to say their lack of participation was due to not being informed in advance and training being focused on male participants. This strongly indicates that training opportunities not being targeted, or made accessible, to women.

"If I had received masonry training, then I would have already reconstructed my house"

Mahabharat Rural Municipality, Kavrepalanchok

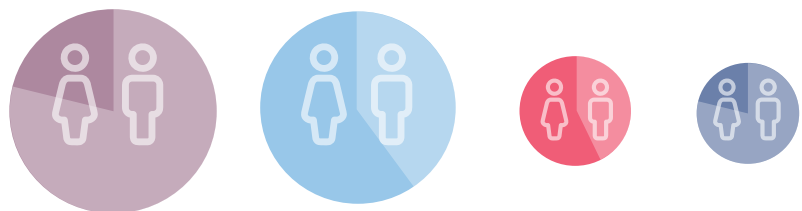
Have you had the opportunity to participate in any training?

- Yes (16%)
- No, but I wanted to participate (29%)
- No, did not want to participate (40%)
- Don't know/refused (16%)



What was that training?

- Masonry (45%)
- New farming skills (40%)
- Entrepreneurship (13%)
- Carpentry (11%)



Reason for not participating if wanted to?



42
PERCENT
Limited number



41
PERCENT
Due to household chores



14
PERCENT
Not informed



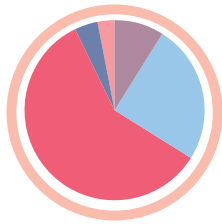
13
PERCENT
Due to agriculture works



9
PERCENT
Focus on male participation



After the earthquake, do you think that your family's ability to cope with a new emergency has improved or diminished?



- Significantly diminished (9%)
- Somewhat diminished (25%)
- Somewhat improved (59%)
- Significantly improved (4%)
- Don't know/refused (3%)

A total of 63 percent of respondents stated that their family's ability to cope with a new emergency has improved to some extent, since the earthquake. Thirty-four percent of respondents feel their family's coping capacity has diminished.

Among those who feel their coping capacity has diminished, unsafe shelter, lack of savings and debt are cited as the key reasons for this diminished capacity. Ninety-four percent of those who listed unsafe shelter have not yet completed their housing reconstruction. Importantly, we see the issue of debt and overall reduced economic resilience being raised here once again. It is of the utmost importance to recognize the negative impact an accelerated reconstruction process may be having on economically vulnerable families, and ensure that damage is minimized.

For those who do feel more able to cope with a new emergency, the top factors making them feel more resilient include having an earthquake safe home, an emergency preparedness plan, a safe place to store food and grains, shelter alternatives and safe storage for assets. This is incredibly encouraging, because this is the very point of the earthquake recovery: to put people in safer homes, with better preparedness and coping capacity. It is extremely positive that for 63 percent of earthquake affected families, this is working, at least to some extent.

What is needed now, is to take a closer look at that 34 percent who is at risk of being left behind and actually made worse off through recovery efforts. One size fits all is never realistic, and we have always known that some families would need additional support. Concerted effort and attention needs to be turned now to identifying those being left behind and ensuring they receive the support they need to also meet the objectives of the reconstruction and recovery programme.

What has improved your capacity to cope with a new emergency?



83
PERCENT
Earthquake safe home



29
PERCENT
Preparedness plan



18
PERCENT
Safe storage for food/grain



15
PERCENT
Alternative for shelter



13
PERCENT
Safe storage for assets

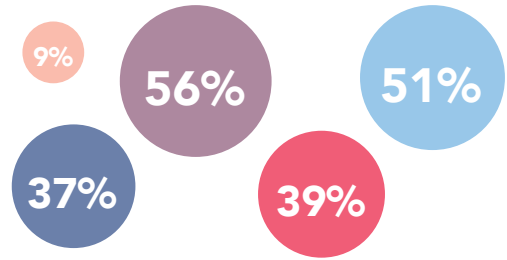


12
PERCENT
Safe space for livestock

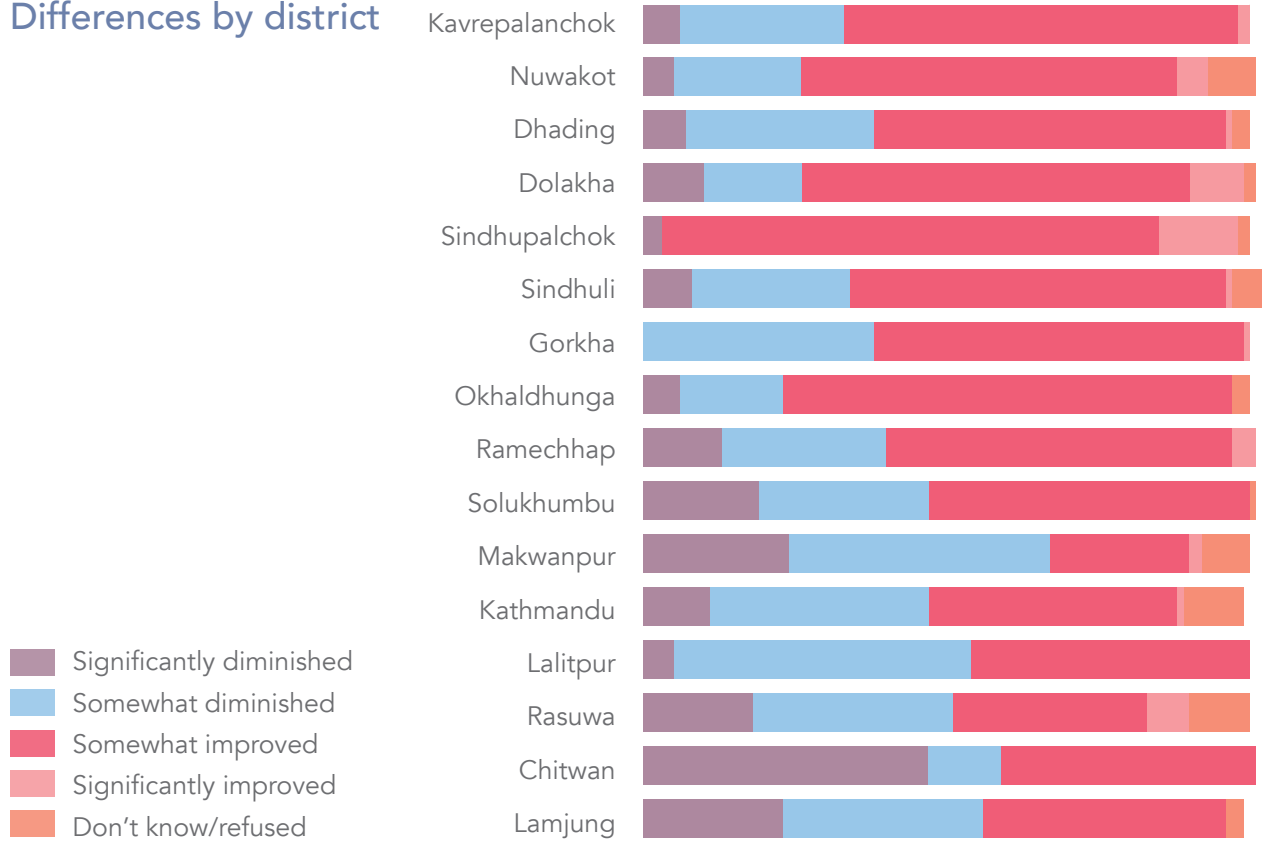


What has diminished your capacity to cope with a new emergency?

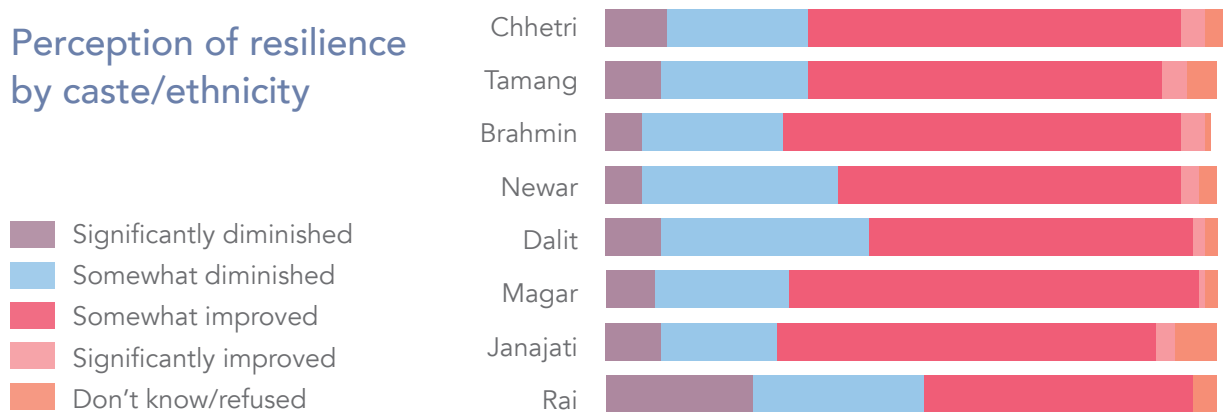
- Unsafe shelter
- No savings
- Debt
- Reduced livelihood options
- Land vulnerability



Differences by district



Perception of resilience by caste/ethnicity





PROTECTION

Is anyone in your community being excluded or discriminated against in earthquake recovery activities?



- Not at all (10%)
- Not very much (52%)
- Somewhat yes (25%)
- Completely yes (6%)
- Don't know/refused (6%)

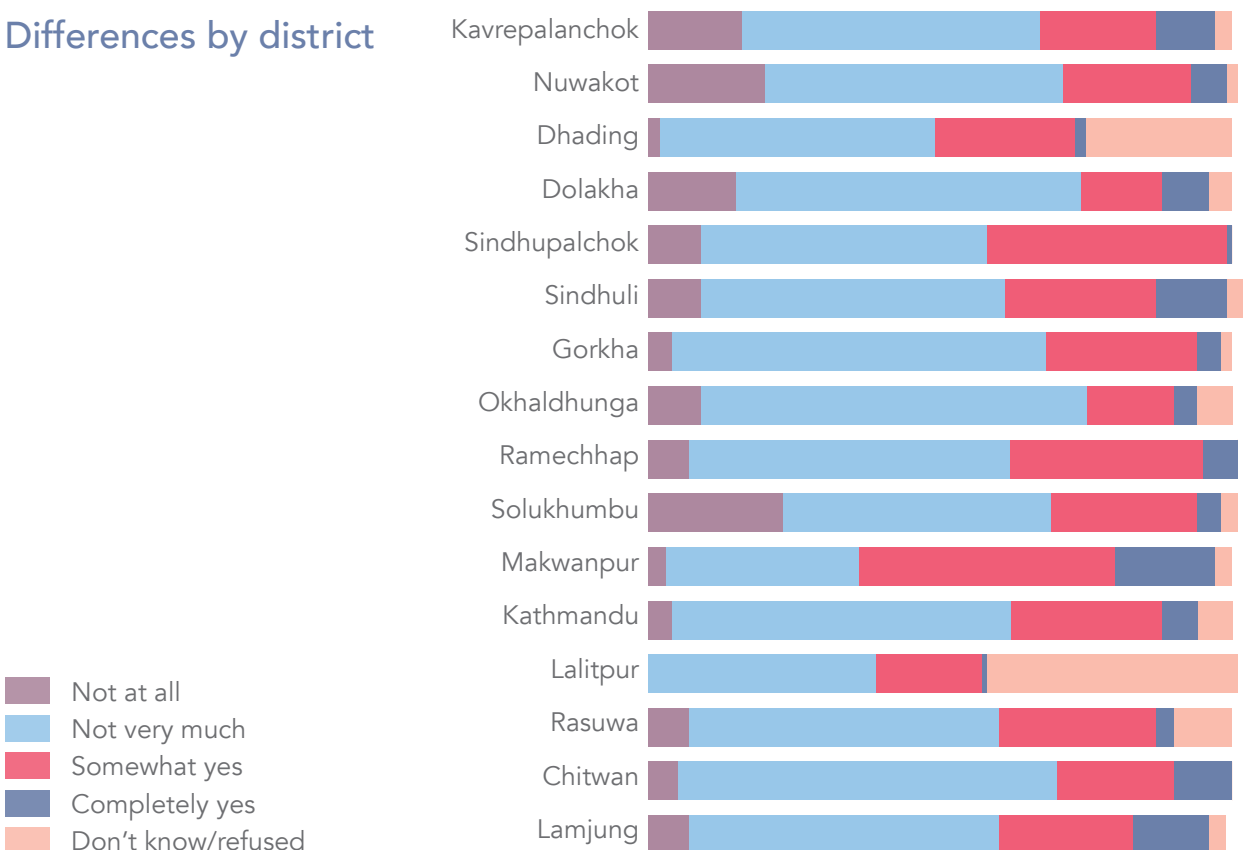
A total of 31 percent of respondents feel that someone in their community is being excluded or discriminated against in earthquake recovery activities. Reasons given by respondents for this exclusion or discrimination are, first and foremost, political connections, followed by joint families, and lack of proper documentation, including identity or land documents, and unregistered land.

In focus group discussions, particularly in Makwanpur, Bagmati and Bakaiya gaunpalika, the issue of land ownership and documentation was raised. Participants expressed frustration with being unable to take part in the reconstruction process, or even take loans for livelihood or housing recovery because the land they have been living on for decades is not registered.

"We have been facing the issues of land ownership certificate even living here utilizing the land for decades. Now, we want the government to be flexible and change its policy to allow us to reconstruct new house within our unregistered land."

Bagmati Rural Municipality, Makwanpur

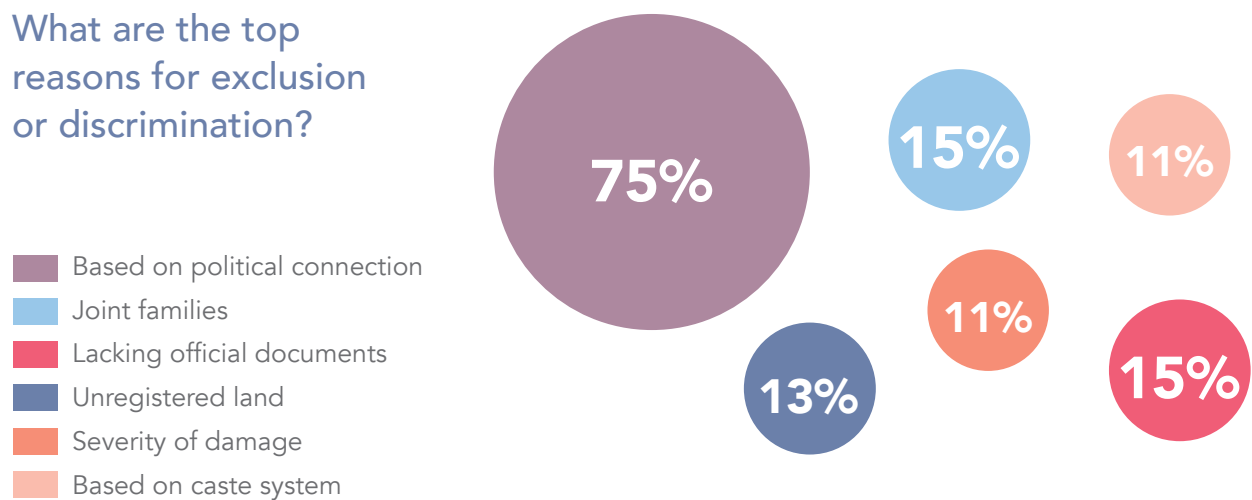
Differences by district



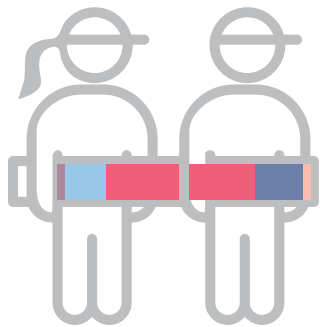
“Most of the people in our village face a lot of difficulties, especially when it comes to receiving government facilities, as we do not have land ownership certificate. Also, even if we wish to start small business and take housing loan for reconstruction, banks financial institutions cannot provide us with loan due to lack of land ownership documents. Hence, we are compelled to take loan from community members at higher interest rates.”

Bakaiya Rural Municipality, Makwanpur

What are the top reasons for exclusion or discrimination?



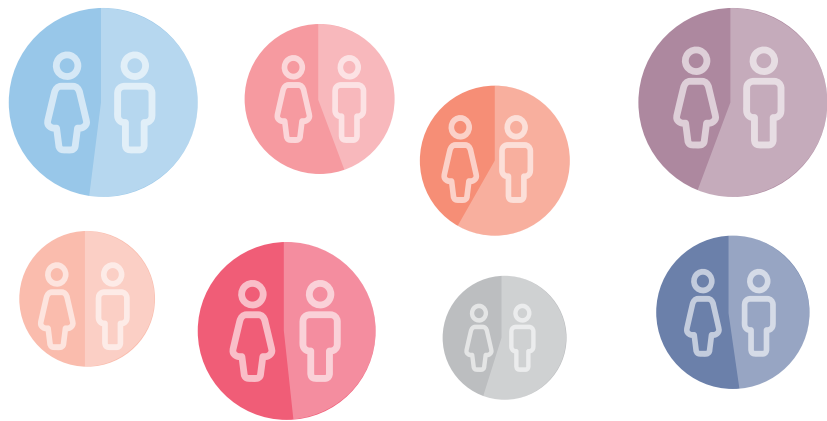
Do you feel that men and women are equally engaged in the reconstruction/recovery process?



Seventy-eight percent of respondents think that men and women are equally engaged in the reconstruction and recovery process. Results from focus groups may shed some light on this response. The majority of focus group participants stated that men and women were equally engaged in the reconstruction process, but that they were engaged in different ways. Women are mostly engaged as wage labourers, mixing cement, carrying stones and bricks, while men are more likely to work as skilled labour. Participants also added that when it comes to wage labour, women are paid less than men for the same work. It seems that because both men and women are engaged in reconstruction, respondents reported that they are equally engaged, when in fact, upon closer examination, the nature of their engagement is anything but equal.

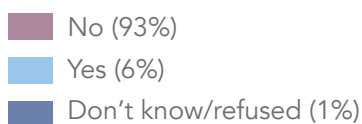
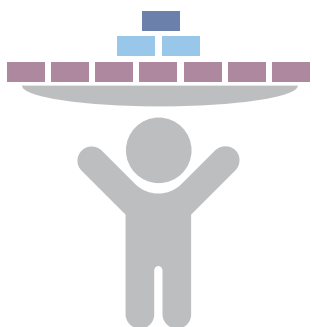
- Not at all (3%)
- Not very much (16%)
- Somewhat yes (59%)
- Completely yes (19%)
- Don't Know/refused (3%)

If no, why are they not equally engaged?



- Women don't know how to reconstruct (35%)
- Women don't have construction skills (35%)
- Low participation in training (31%)
- Low engagement in building process (23%)
- Preference given to men in beneficiary list (22%)
- Lack of proper knowledge on reconstruction proces (22%)
- Women are not as strong as men (18%)
- Reconstruction is not women's role (15%)

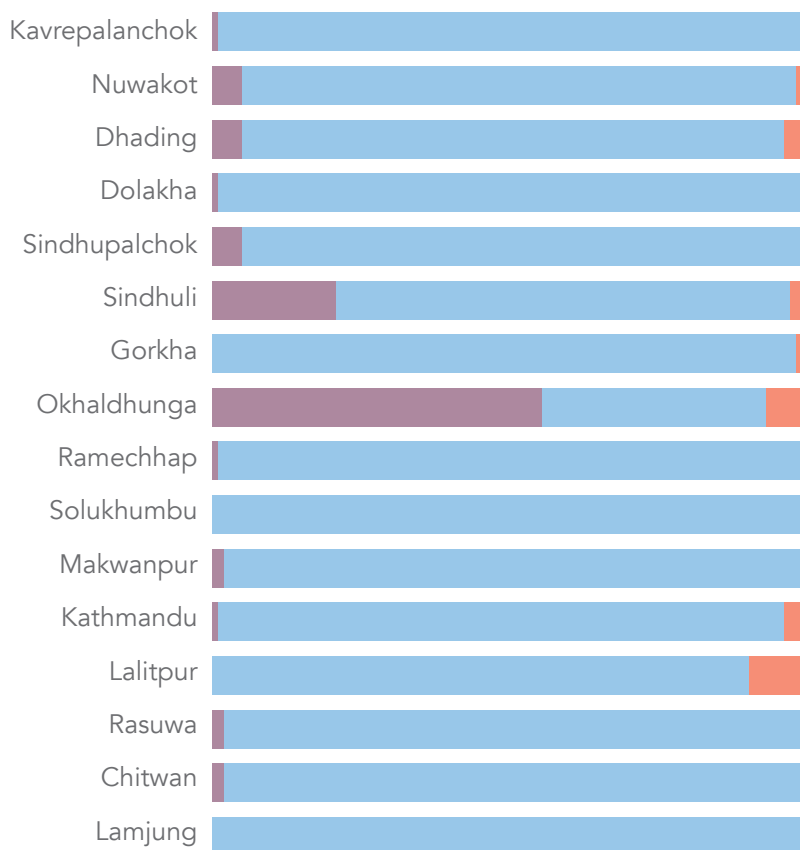
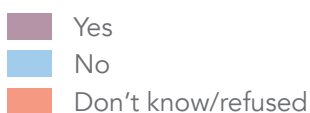
Are there any children working in reconstruction in your community?



Overall, across 40 palikas six percent of respondents say there are children working in reconstruction in their community. However, extreme variation by district is observed. While the majority of districts are below two percent, and many at zero percent, Sindhuli is at 20 percent and Okhaldhunga at an extremely concerning 56 percent. Child protection partners working in the reconstruction should take a closer look at these communities to understand what is driving up the rates of child labour.

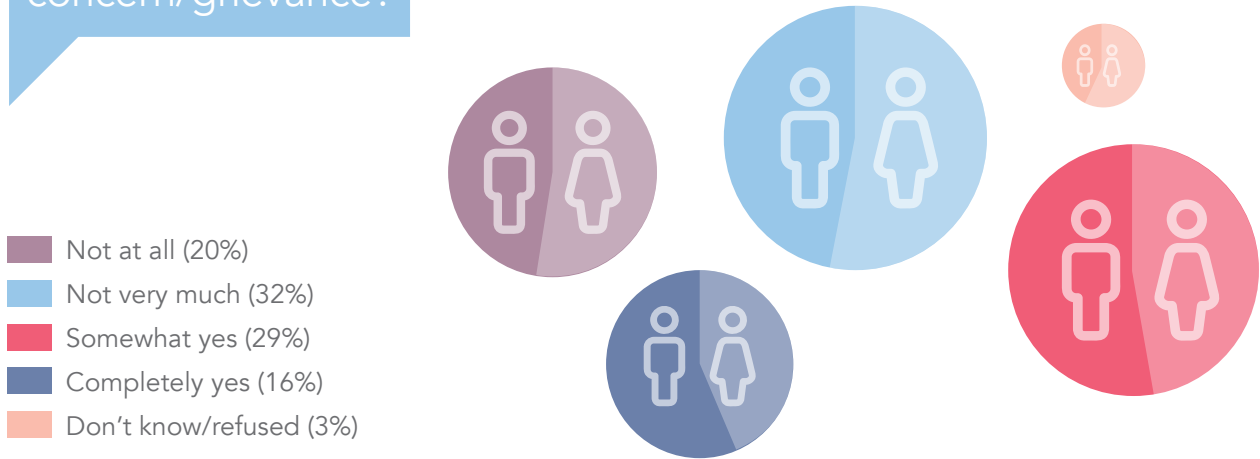
Some focus group participants in Sindhupalchok claimed that children below the age of 16 from far western districts like Dailekh, Surket and Jajarkot are working as wage labourers in their communities

Disaggregation by district

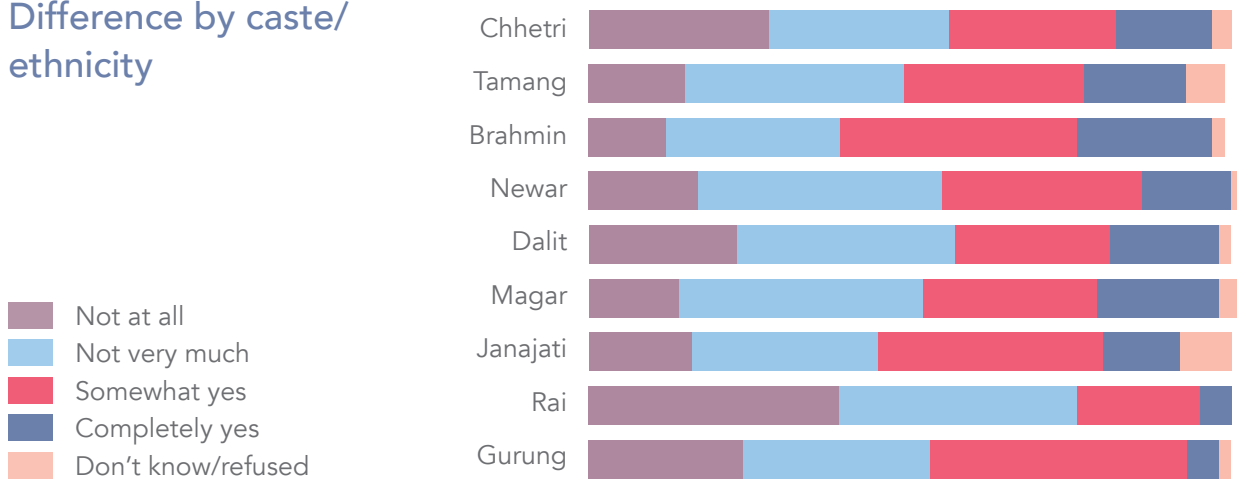


Have you provided any feedback on the reconstruction process, including: asking a question, filling a complaint/concern/grievance?

Across 2580 respondents in 40 palikas 45 percent have provided some form of feedback on the reconstruction process, either by asking a question or filing a concern, complaint or grievance. Among the 42 percent who have not provided feedback, the top reason is not having a question, concern, complaint or grievance, which is excellent. Unfortunately, 33 percent have not provided feedback because they do not feel that anyone would listen to, or care about, what they have to say.

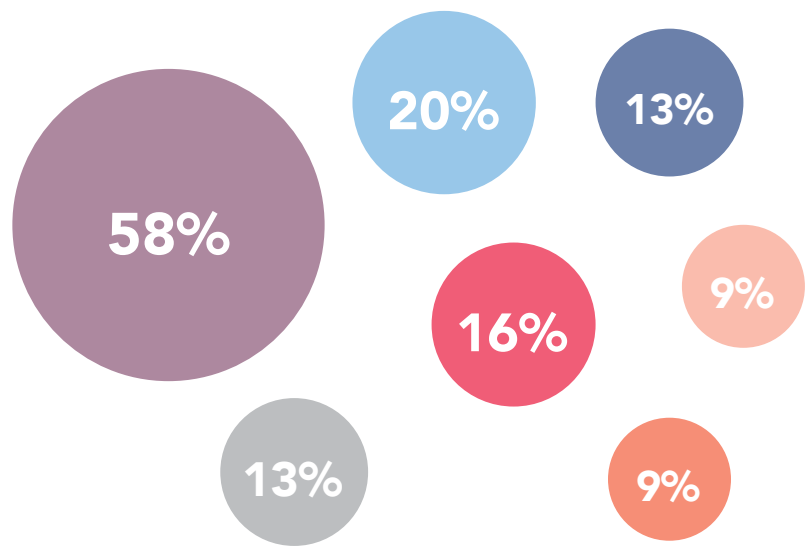


Difference by caste/ethnicity



If no, what are the barriers to providing feedback?

- Do not have a question/ complaint/grievance
- Do not feel anyone would listen or have concern
- Don't know where and how to give feedback
- Do not think anyone cares about my feedback
- Do not feel it would change anything
- Do not have access to concerned person
- Do not feel I am able to ask a question







Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project
UN Resident Coordinator's Office
Pulchowk, Kathmandu
+977(1)5523200 ext 1534
www.cfp.org.np
smriti.pant@one.un.org