



Housing Recovery and
Reconstruction Platform



Report on the Community Reconstruction Committees Status Assessment

April 2018



About HRRP

The Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform (HRRP) was established in December 2015 to take over supporting coordination of the post-earthquake housing reconstruction from the Nepal Shelter Cluster, as it returned to the pre-earthquake format as a standing cluster. The platform provides coordination support services for the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), Building and Grant Management and Local Infrastructure (GMALI) Central Level Programme Implementation Units (CLPIUs), other relevant government authorities, and Partner Organisations (POs). Phase 3 of the HRRP was approved by the Government of Nepal (GoN) at the beginning of March 2017 and will run until the end of February 2019. HRRP3 is primarily funded by DFID Nepal and CRS Nepal. Other financial contributors and implementing partners include Oxfam, Caritas Nepal, Plan International, National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET), and Habitat for Humanity.

The HRRP has 12 District Coordination Teams (DCTs) primarily focused on the 14 districts most affected by the 2015 Gorkha earthquake (1 team covers the three districts in the Kathmandu Valley) and providing support to the 18 moderately affected districts where feasible. The DCTs are made up of a Coordinator, a Technical Coordinator, and an Information Management Officer. The DCTs are supported by a District Management Team (DMT) made up of a Coordinator, Technical Coordinator, and Information Manager. The DMT provides day to day guidance and support to the DCTs as well as targeted capacity building and has a roving presence across all districts. The national team includes general coordination, technical coordination, and information management expertise and supports the link between national and district level.

Areas of Focus

The HRRP has four main areas of focus:

- Monitoring and documenting the housing reconstruction process
- Improving coverage and quality of socio-technical assistance
- Addressing gaps and duplications
- Advocacy and Communications

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I.0 Executive Summary

The Community Reconstruction Committees Directive, published by the National Reconstruction Authority in October 2016, defines the roles of community reconstruction committees and how they should be established and managed. The directive, and the establishment of Community Reconstruction Committees (CRCs), was intended to support localisation of reconstruction coordination and support. This important role is reflected in the inclusion of CRCs in the core package of socio-technical assistance defined by the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) and the Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform (HRRP) in late 2016.

With the election of local officials at ward and municipal level in 2017 (there were three phases of elections in May, June, and September) it became clear that the role of the CRCs would need to adapt to the new administration context, or may be no longer required. Considering this, and the very low coverage of the core package of socio-technical assistance, the HRRP decided to conduct this survey with the specific objectives as follows:

- To understand the impact of Nepal's new administration structure on CRCs, and how CRCs work with the Rural / Urban Municipalities
- To identify the factors that make CRCs more active or passive
- To collect suggestions from CRC members to make CRCs more functional and active
- To understand if CRCs should still be part of the core socio-technical assistance package

The survey used a combination of a quantitative research method with some open-ended questions to collect qualitative information about the status of Community Reconstruction Committees (CRCs) in the 14 districts most affected by the 2015 earthquake. No secondary data has been collected for this study so this report is based only on the primary data collected during this survey. A simple random sampling method was used for this assessment and representatives from 111 CRCs took part. Data collection took place from 1-15 March and was carried out using KoBo Toolbox; an online and mobile application based system. The cleaned, and anonymised, dataset is available for download [here](#).

The survey found that whilst there is confusion about the role of CRCs in the new administrative context, 26% of CRCs were formed after the local level elections (and 30% of CRCs were formed before the NRA published the Community Based Committees Directive).

Only 44% of CRCs have prepared a Community Reconstruction Plan (CRP). But where a CRP has been prepared and implemented, the results reported included increased rate of reconstruction of private housing, better understanding of the reconstruction process and disaster preparedness amongst the community, approval of house designs for specific situations (heritage site), demonstration house construction, households applying for and receiving the second and third tranches of the GoN housing reconstruction grant, and families affected by the 2015 earthquake moving from temporary shelter to permanent housing. It was also reported that the CRP contributed to other development and humanitarian work such as construction of foot trails, road construction, and relief distribution to landslide affected households.

With regard to the new administrative context, 35% of respondents shared that their CRC is no longer functional as they heard that the role would be taken on by ward or municipal level local government. However, 21% of respondents stated that their CRC is working in close coordination and consultation with the local government. Where there is collaboration between the CRC and local elected officials, the CRC supports by registering community reconstruction issues in CRC meetings and submitting them to the Rural / Urban Municipality officials and then relaying feedback to the community, conveying relevant information regarding reconstruction from local government to the community in their area (this included information on government deadlines, building typologies, movement of engineers for the inspection, and tranche request), prepared plans for each household for reconstruction, and coordinated with trained masons, DLPIU engineers, and Ward Chairperson for housing reconstruction, supported field survey, layout observation, and monitoring, and supported grievance handling. As the Common Feedback Project and BBC Media Action have regularly highlighted that the most important, and most trusted, sources of information for earthquake affected communities are local leaders it is encouraging that CRCs

can play this role when they are supported and are collaborating with the local elected officials.

41% of respondents stated that their CRC is receiving support. The types of support received include technical support (e.g. orientation, training, mason support, etc.), coordination support for reconstruction planning and implementation, and logistics support (file, register, cupboards etc.). Support was received from Partner Organisations (POs), GoN (local elected officials and / or GoN engineers), Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), and Schools and / or Individuals. Where CRCs are not receiving support, 31% of respondents said that it is because their CRC is not functional anymore, 23% said that local elected officials are now responsible for community level reconstruction work, and 22% said their CRC does not know how to access support. Some respondents also said that some local officials are not aware of the CRC directive and concept so they don't support CRCs. Some respondents also said that their CRC does not have any plan to seek support.

Some of the suggestions from survey participants to improve the functionality of the CRCs included having clearly defined roles and responsibilities for CRCs within the new administrative context, providing clarity for CRCs on how to collaborate with local government, providing training and orientation, increasing support from local elected officials for CRCs, and to support resourcing of CRPs.

From the results of the survey it seems that well supported CRCs, that can collaborate and coordinate with local elected officials, can play an important role in the reconstruction, particularly with regard to grievance handling and outreach activities with their community.

Partner Organisations that have been working with CRCs have found that their support for improved sharing of information with households, facilitating bulk purchase of construction materials, and targeting of additional support to vulnerable households has increased construction rates and compliance. However, as with all components of the core socio-technical assistance package, the coverage and standard of support to CRCs varies greatly across the earthquake affected areas. CRCs and local elected officials also need clarity on each other's roles and responsibilities to be able to collaborate effectively. The NRA has said that there is no official position currently on the status of CRCs in relation to the new administrative context. However, the GoN is planning to handover major administrative responsibility, including reconstruction roles, to the new local bodies. It remains to be seen how the CRCs will contribute to this, but it is expected that this will be better understood as the handover of administrative responsibility is rolled out.

Following on from this survey, a number of next steps are recommended. The most important of these is determining if the Community Based Committee Directive still stands (and if support to CRCs remains in the core package of socio-technical assistance), and then if so, updating it to provide clarity on the roles and responsibilities of CRCs in relation to those of the local elected officials. Resources should be committed to supporting regular training, orientation, and backstopping for CRCs and local elected officials so that they can effectively carry out their tasks. From the HRRP perspective, and based on the experience of Partner Organisations (POs) that have been supporting CRCs, it seems that they still have a critical role to play in facilitating and mobilising for the housing recovery at local level.

2.0 Background

In October 2016, the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) published the Community Reconstruction Committees Directive. The directive defines the roles of community reconstruction committees and how they should be established and managed. The directive specifies that the committees should have a president, five members (of which a minimum of three should be women), and a secretary. The committees have a tenure of one year and at the end of every fiscal year, positions would be renewed or new members selected. The roles and responsibilities of CRCs are described as follows:

- To promote and facilitate a collective approach to reconstruction of their settlement
- Support the reconstruction coordination committee in the VDC with collection and processing of grievances
- Support organisations working on reconstruction at ward and community level
- Coordinate with local bodies and other stakeholders for institutional development, capacity building, and other activities related to financial and social prosperity
- Support the VDC secretary, municipality executive officer, and technical persons with their work in the area
- Support the enrolment and tranche disbursement process
- Develop an integrated reconstruction and recovery plan
- Coordinate with political party representatives in the area and support consensus building amongst them

In December 2016, the NRA and the Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform (HRRP), launched promotion of a core package of socio-technical assistance which includes:

- Community / Household Orientations
- Continuous Door to Door Technical Assistance (Mobile Technical Support)
- Short Training for Masons

- On the Job Training for Masons
- Helpdesk / Technical Resource Centre
- Demonstration Construction

Initially the package did not include support to Community Reconstruction Committees, but it soon became clear that the CRCs could, and should, play an important role in socio-technical assistance and the package was updated to include CRCs. The objectives were defined as increasing community participation in, and ownership of the reconstruction, supporting households to work together; supporting community engagement with POs working in the ward and community, improving coordination between communities, local authorities, and all other stakeholders working on reconstruction, and to provide a community based platform for reconstruction and development planning and preparedness.

Similar to other components of the core package of socio-technical assistance, support to CRCs has been uneven. Some Partner Organisations (POs), such as JICA, CRS, and NSET, invested in supporting CRCs in their working areas and found that CRCs were able to support improved sharing of information with households, facilitate bulk purchase of construction materials, and targeting of additional support to vulnerable households. Partner Organisations have found that increasing the role of the CRCs has led to increased construction rates, and improved compliance. But in many areas CRCs were not even formed, or were formed but did not function due to a lack of support.

The administrative restructuring of Nepal, and the local level elections which took place in three phases in May, June, and September 2017, have completely changed the context for CRCs and there has been confusion about their role in this new administrative structure. The NRA has said that there is no official position currently on the status of CRCs in relation to the new administrative context. However, the GoN is planning to handover major administrative responsibility, including reconstruction roles, to the new local bodies. It remains to be seen how the CRCs will contribute to this, but it is expected that this will be better understood as the handover of administrative responsibility is rolled out.

Considering the change in context, and the poor coverage of support to CRCs, the HRRP decided to conduct a status assessment on CRCs across the 14 districts most affected by the 2015 earthquake. The specific objectives of the survey were:

- To understand the impact of Nepal's new administration structure on CRCs, and how CRCs work with the Rural / Urban Municipalities
- To identify the factors that make CRCs more active

or passive

- To collect suggestions from CRC members to make CRCs more functional and active
 - To understand if support to CRCs should still be part of the core socio-technical assistance package
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3.0 Methodology

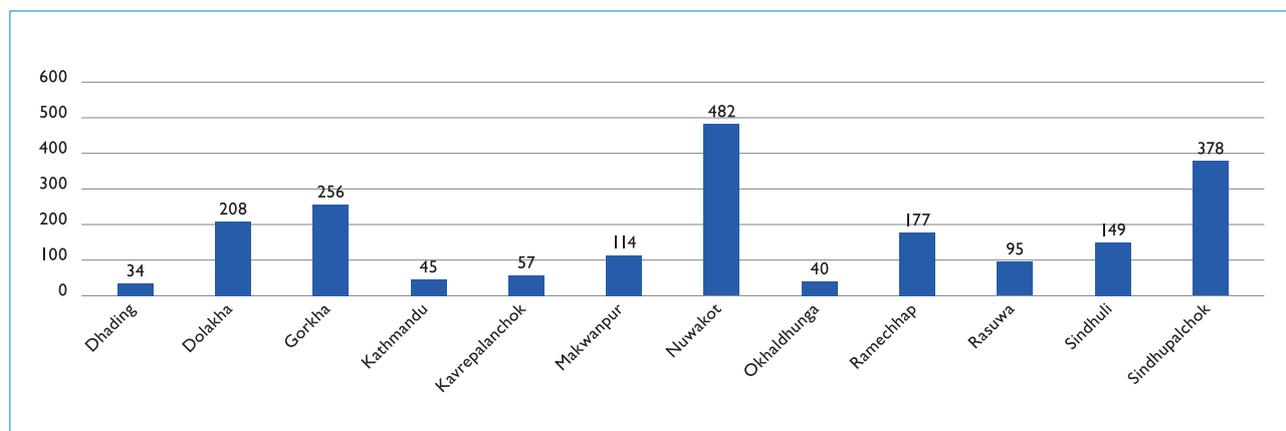
A combination of a quantitative research method with some open-ended questions has been used to collect qualitative information about the status of Community Reconstruction Committees (CRCs) in the 14 districts most affected by the 2015 earthquake. The survey was conducted with executive committee members from the randomly selected CRCs. No secondary data has been collected for this study so this report is based only on the primary data collected during this survey.

Data collection took place from 1-15 March and was carried out using KoBo Toolbox; an online and mobile application based system. Where HRRP teams were unable to collect data using the mobile application due to connectivity or other issues, paper based data

collection was used. The cleaned dataset is available for download [here](#).

3.1 Sampling Procedure

A simple random sampling method was used for this assessment. Prior to conducting the sampling, the HRRP District Coordination Teams (DCTs) collected details of all Community Reconstruction Committees (CRCs) in their districts. The districts with the most CRCs were Nuwakot, Sindhupalchok, Gorkha, and Dolakha, and the districts with the least CRCs were Rasuwa, Dhading, Kathmandu, and Okhaldhunga. The number of CRCs in each district is presented in the following bar graph:



The selected sample is representative of the 2,035 CRCs across the 14 districts. The formula used to calculate the sample size was:

| Definition | Symbol | Number |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|
| Deviant error | Z | 1.96 |
| Expected prevalence | p | 0.5 |
| 1-p | q | 0.5 |
| Margin of error | e | 0.1 |
| Total population size | N | 2,035 |

$$n' = \frac{n}{1 + n/N}$$

The sample size was calculated by using the random sampling formula where n=sample size, N=total population size, n'=Z²*p*q/e², z=1.96 deviant error, e=margin of error, p=expected prevalence, q=1-p. After simple random, we also used stratified sampling for selecting samples among districts.

Based on this the sample size of 96 CRCs was determined with district specific targets related to the number of CRCs in that district. The total number of CRCs interviewed is 111 as more were interviewed than the sample size. The number of CRCs interviewed in each district is presented in the table below:

| District | No. of CRCs Interviewed |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Dhading | 4 |
| Dolakha | 8 |
| Gorkha | 22 |
| Kathmandu Valley | 8 |
| Kavrepalanchok | 4 |
| Makwanpur | 8 |
| Nuwakot | 18 |
| Okhaldhunga | 2 |
| Ramechhap | 8 |
| Rasuwa | 4 |
| Sindhuli | 6 |
| Sindhupalchowk | 19 |
| Total | 111 |

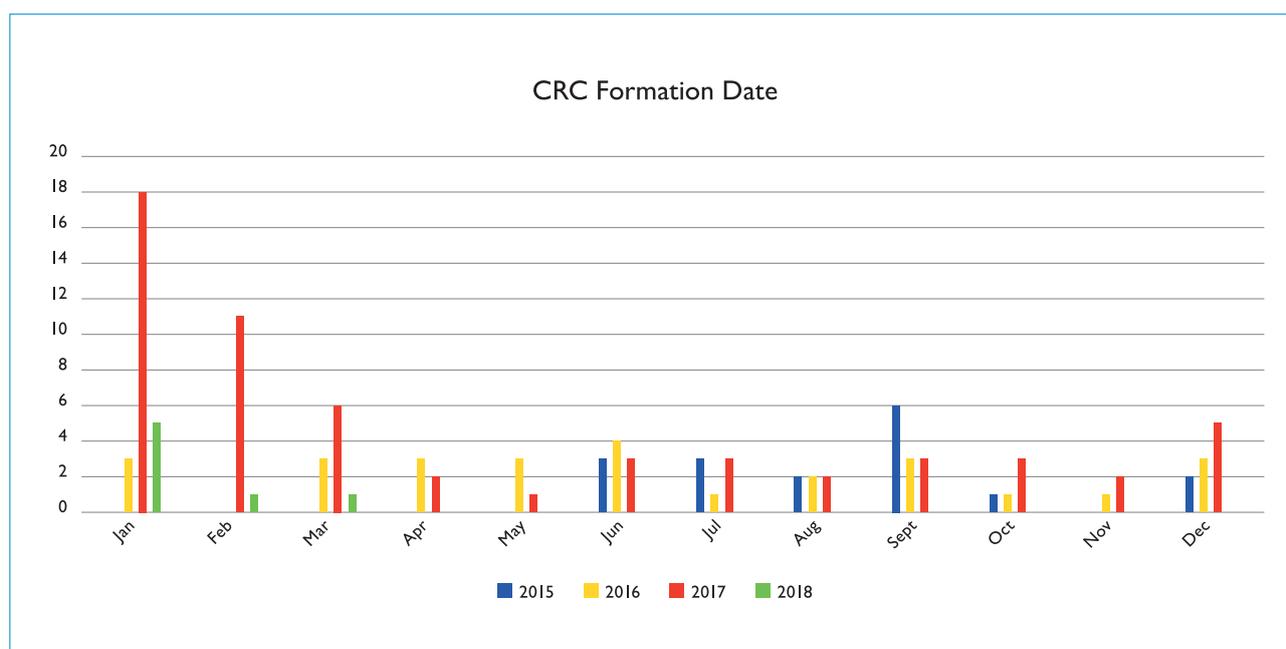
4.0 Data Presentation and Analysis

4.1 Respondents Role in CRC

50% of respondents were the CRC Chairperson, President, or Coordinator, 2% were CRC Vice-Chairperson, 25% were an ordinary CRC member, and 13% were the CRC Secretary. 10% were other members, for example Executive Members. 15% of respondents were female. The CRCs represented by the respondents have an average of 60% male and 40% female members.

4.2 CRC Formation Date

Of the CRCs surveyed, the first to be formed was established on 15 June 2015, less than 2 months after the 25 April 2015 earthquake. 30% of CRCs were formed before the NRA published the Community Based Committee Directive and 26% of CRCs were formed after the local level elections.



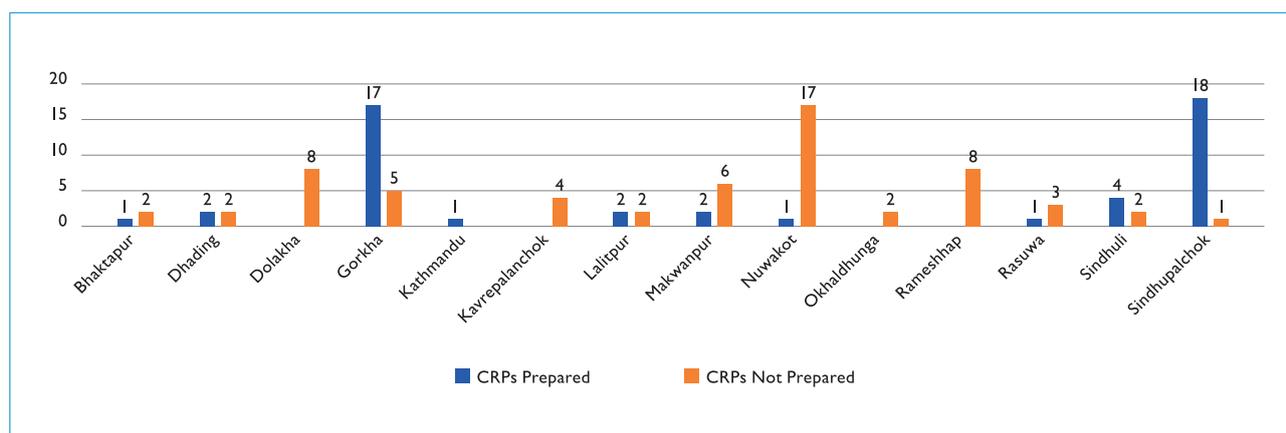
4.3 Has the CRC prepared a Community Reconstruction Plan?

The survey found that only 44% of CRCs have prepared a Community Reconstruction Plan (CRP). District wise, 95% of CRCs in Sindhupalchok and 77% of CRCs in Gorkha have prepared a CRP. In Ramechhap, Kavre, Dolakha, and Okhaldhunga no CRPs have been prepared.

The CRCs who had not prepared a CRP were asked why not, and the responses were as follows:

- 21% of CRCs said that they lack the skills required to prepare the CRP
- 15% of CRCs said there had been no follow up with the CRC members after the formation of the committee and no guidance had been provided on preparing the CRP
- 11% of CRCs said that the CRP was not prepared because of a lack of budget

Other reasons for not preparing included that the CRC



was inactive due to a lack of commitment or resources, CRC members were not interested in actively taking on the role, a lack of collective effort, CRC being focused only on grievance management, and a lack of capacity building / training. Some CRCs also shared that they have not been functioning since the local officials were elected.

4.4 Is the CRP being effectively implemented?

The CRCs that have developed a Community Reconstruction Plan (CRP) were asked if they felt the plan was being effectively implemented. Overall, 86% of CRCs reported that they feel the CRP is being effectively implemented. In Dhading, Nuwakot, and Rasuwa 100% of CRCs with a CRP felt it was being implemented effectively. This was also high in Sindhupalchok (89%) and Gorkha (88%).

When asked what the factors were that contributed to the effective implementation of the CRP, the respondents shared the following:

- Regular meetings with active participation of CRC members
- High level of coordination with all relevant stakeholders
- Self-motivated and responsible members who are committed to the role
- Support received from other community members and reconstruction actors
- Technical support from engineers and other field staff
- Training and orientation
- Mobilisation of trained masons for reconstruction
- Homogeneous community
- Labour exchange practice (mutual housing construction support)

In Katunje Danda Tole, Melamchi Municipality-7, the CRC agreed in its very first meeting to support the process of labour exchange for housing reconstruction in their area. The committee meets twice a month, and in every meeting the schedule for labour exchange is reviewed and updated. The most vulnerable members of the community are prioritised. To make sure that all households can get the construction materials that are needed, the CRC facilitates group purchasing of materials by four or five households at a time which lowers the material and logistics cost. There are 5 or 6 construction groups in the area at the moment. Each group has 4 to 5 people in it with a mix of skilled and unskilled labour, and all the members are local people who are contributing to the construction of each other's homes, with the understanding that their own home will also be constructed. Each construction team works on a number of houses at a time. They will first complete the foundation of one house and then move on to the foundation of the next house to allow time for the foundation for the first house to dry. The construction groups are monitored by the CRC. This process of labour exchange saves people money (hiring a trained mason can cost 800-1000 NPRs / day and in addition the household need to provide breakfast, lunch, and afternoon tiffin) and has also increased the rate of reconstruction. The CRC are supported by a mobile mason, that has been trained and hired by JICA, with the supervision and inspection of the construction and provision of door-to-door technical assistance. Masons training for people in this area was provided by KOICA, UNDP, JICA, and USAID SABAL.

“Our CRC is not functional now as there are already local representatives on board who have taken on the roles and responsibilities of the CRC.”

The respondents were also asked about the barriers to effective implementation of the CRP. Some of the

barriers shared were that the committee was formed haphazardly, roles and responsibilities were not clear, the CRP was not prepared properly, lack of follow up from POs following committee formation, and irregular CRC meetings. One CRC did not implement the CRP after the local officials were elected as they thought that the officials would take on this role.

4.5 What are the key results achieved because of CRP implementation?

The respondents reported that the following results were achieved because of CRP implementation:

- Rate of private housing reconstruction has increased
- Increased awareness and understanding in their community on the reconstruction process and disaster preparedness
- Approval of housing design for brick faced house in a heritage site area
- Demonstration house construction
- Households have applied for second and third tranches of the GoN housing reconstruction grant
- Prepared the disaster response plan for their ward
- Community members are following housing standard and standard procedure to claim the GoN housing reconstruction grant
- Families affected by the 2015 earthquake have moved to their permanent house from temporary shelter
- Other development and humanitarian works are also carried out e.g. construction of foot trails, road construction, relief distribution to landslide affected households, etc.

“109 households [out of a total of 119 households] have already completed reconstruction of their house because of the support and motivation provided by our CRC.”

4.6 How is the CRC working with the relevant Rural / Urban Municipality?

35% of respondents shared that their CRC is no longer functional as they heard that the role would be taken on by ward or municipal level local government. On the other hand, 21% of respondents stated that their CRC is working in close coordination and consultation with

the local government. 2 respondents informed that their CRC does not have any contact or collaboration with the local government at either ward or municipal level. Where CRCs are working with local government, the areas of collaboration, as shared by the respondents, are as follows:

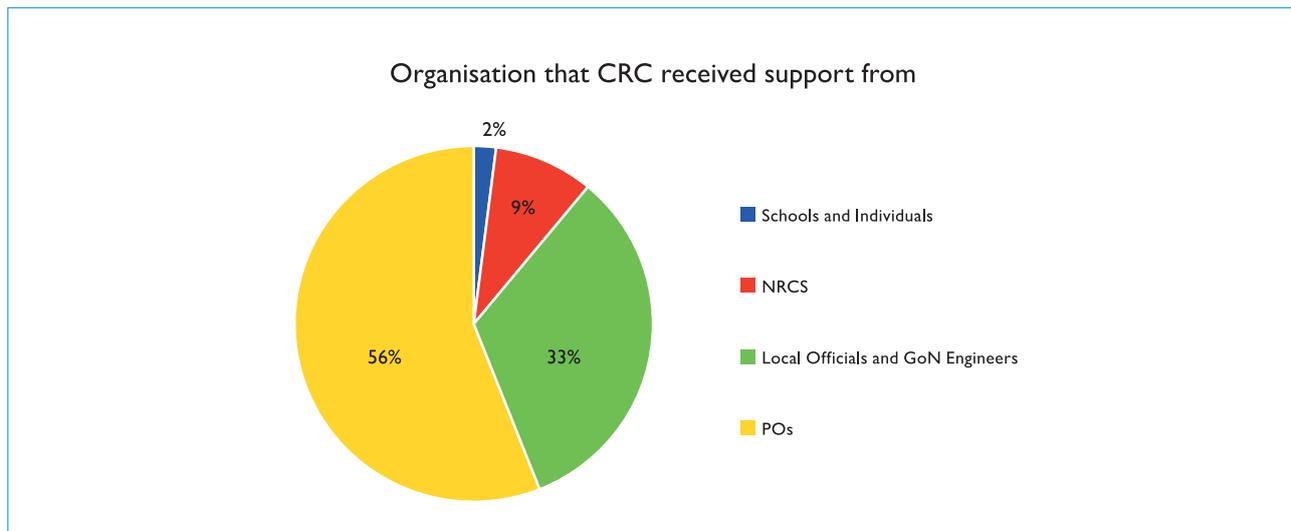
- Issues raised in CRC meetings are registered and submitted to the Rural / Urban Municipality officials and feedback is collected and relayed to the community
- The CRC conveyed relevant information regarding reconstruction from local government to the community in their area. This included information on government deadlines, building typologies, movement of engineers for the inspection, and tranche request.
- Prepared plans for each household for reconstruction, coordinated with trained masons, DLPIU engineers, and Ward Chairperson for housing reconstruction
- Worked together for field survey, layout observation, monitoring, suggestion, and meetings
- Supporting grievance handling

“There was confusion about the roles of the CRC and the Grievance Handling Committee. Most of the reconstruction progress and issues were covered by CRC when it was functional. Now there needs to be clear guidance on how the CRC and the local government will work together.”

4.7 Is the CRC receiving support?

41% of respondents stated that their CRC is receiving support. The types of support received include technical support (e.g. orientation, training, mason support, etc.), coordination support for reconstruction planning and implementation, and logistics support (file, register, cupboards etc.). One of the CRCs, from a heritage site area, shared that they had received support on Master Plan formulation, structural design, financial assistance, and proposal development. Support was received from Partner Organisations (POs), GoN (local elected officials and / or GoN engineers), Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCs), and Schools and / or Individuals.

Where CRCs are not receiving support, 31% of respondents said that it is because their CRC is not functional anymore, 23% said that local elected officials are now responsible for community level reconstruction work, and 22% said their CRC does not know how to access support. Some respondents also said that some local officials are not aware of the CRC directive and concept so they don't support CRCs. Some respondents also said that their CRC does not have a plan to seek support.



4.8 Please share your suggestions on how the CRC can be more functional

15% of respondents suggested that their CRC requires more training, orientation, and technical support and 13% said that allocating a budget to their CRC for their activities would increase their activity. 6% of respondents felt that CRCs should have more responsibility or authority in reconstruction and 5% said that regular CRC meetings where community level reconstruction issues can be discussed are required. Some other suggestions from respondents were as follows:

- Clearly defined responsibility as per new

administrative context and clarity on how to collaborate with local government

- Reformation of committee where it has become inactive
- Good planning is required, and implementation of the plan requires resources
- Local elected officials should be aware of CRCs in their area, and should take initiative to support existing CRCs or to form CRCs where they don't exist
- More involvement of stakeholders in CRC
- CRCs should have a basic support fund for communication and logistics

5.0 Partner Organizations' Experience

This section provides a summary of some Partner Organisations' experiences in supporting Community Reconstruction Committees (CRCs). Other POs that wish to share experience for inclusion in this section can contact the focal point for the research within HRRP - Rupa Pandey, meal@hrrpnepal.org - directly regarding this.

5.1 JICA

In their working areas in Gorkha and Sindhupalchok, JICA have facilitated the formation of Community Based Reconstruction Committees (CBRCs). The CBRC is then involved in selecting three masons from the community to take part in advance training to become mobile masons. Once the masons have completed the training, the CBRC is involved in selecting the mason that is hired by the JICA project to support the community. Each of the mobile masons that are hired will be responsible for approximately 100 houses.

Once the masons have been selected a workshop is organised with CBRC executive members and the selected mobile mason to identify the community issues and prepare plan to address those issues. The CBRC also conducts subsequent community meetings to prepare the Community Reconstruction Plan (CRP).

The Mobile Mason in coordination with CBRC and with the backstopping support from the Community Mobilization Team (consisting of 1 engineer and 1 social mobiliser per ward (previously per VDC) supports the house owners in their area by providing socio-technical assistance. For example, they provide information regarding GoN policies and procedures, facilitate arrangement of construction materials and masons, and support construction planning. The Community Mobilisation Teams support on the spot training to masons who have not received any earthquake resistant techniques related training but are working on constructing houses, facilitate GoN engineers' inspection visits, and provide households with information regarding the status of inspection forms and grant disbursement.

JICA have found that this approach has led to a substantial increase in reconstruction rate and as of 30 April 2018 89.1% of households in these areas

have started reconstruction their homes; 48.9% have completed reconstructing their homes; and 20.1% have already received 3rd tranche of the housing grant. Importantly, this approach has also increased the compliance rate and the quality of construction. The CBRCs have facilitated the bulk purchase of construction materials which has improved access to construction materials for many households and led to some discounted prices. This approach has had a very positive impact on the most vulnerable households who are now progressing through their reconstruction.

5.2 National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET)

There are very few CRCs in the areas where NSET is implementing its Baliyo Ghar reconstruction program. NSET works very closely with CRCs where they exist. The CRCs are getting technical assistance as required which is mainly focused on coordination for homeowner orientations, information campaigns, door to door technical support, organising mason training and implementation of OJT. CRCs are seeking support on construction technology, designing of houses, cost estimation and onsite construction supervision to the homeowners which is regularly done by the program team. These activities are carried out in collaboration with the Baliyo Ghar Mobile Team (MT) which consists of an Engineer, Social Mobiliser, and Mason.

5.3 CRS Nepal

CRS Nepal work with CRCs in Gorkha and Okhaldhunga, throughout the programme cycle, from initial assessments, through field coordination, and on every programme activity that is implemented. The main areas where CRCs support CRS Nepal are as follows:

- Day to day Information dissemination in the communities on behalf of CRS
- Act as bridge between CRS and general community members to ensure two-way communication
- Support for developing household selection criteria for different project activities

- Support beneficiary selection per defined criteria for different project activities
- Support Identification and Prioritization of Asset Restoration/Infrastructures schemes
- Identification of vulnerable households to participate as skilled and unskilled labors in Asset Restoration/ Infrastructure Schemes
- Identification and finalization of land for the construction of demonstration houses
- Supervision of construction activities in the communities
- Ensure operation and maintenance of the infrastructure schemes and demonstration houses once completed

Based on their experience CRS Nepal recommend that CRCs have an important role to play in representing their community during planning and implementation of reconstruction activities. However, with the newly established local government structures there is a strong need for CRCs to be formed / revitalised in consultation and coordination with locally elected representatives to ensure continued ownership and sustainability. The previous government had announced that Disaster Management Committees would be formed as part of the new wards or municipalities. CRS Nepal recommended lobbying for CRCs to be part of this for the reconstruction phase.

6.0 Conclusion

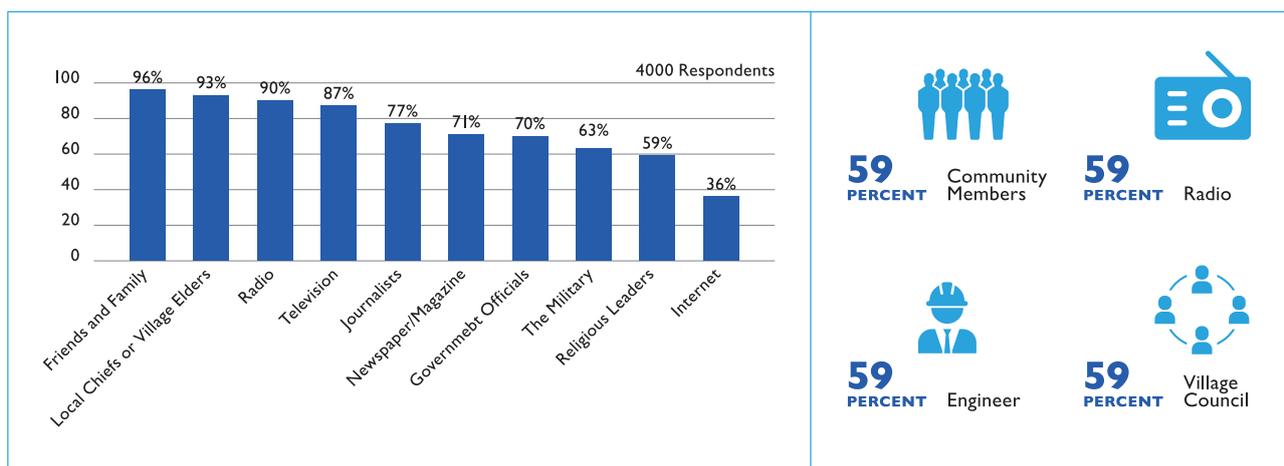
In relation to the four objectives of the assessment the conclusions are as follows:

| Objective | Conclusions |
|--|---|
| <p>To understand the impact of Nepal's new administration structure on CRCs, and how CRCs work with the Rural / Urban Municipalities</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is certainly confusion around the roles and responsibilities of CRCs, and the need for CRCs, now that there are local elected officials in place. • The survey results do however indicate that where CRCs and local elected officials collaborate and share roles and responsibilities it can have a positive impact on the housing reconstruction. • It is particularly positive that some respondents reported that their CRC collect and document local reconstruction issues, then bring these to the local elected officials, and bring resolutions / relevant information back to their community. • It is interesting that 26% of respondents were from CRCs that were formed after the local level elections. |
| <p>To identify the factors that make CRCs more active or passive</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRCs are diverse, similar to the diverse contexts in which they operate, so there are numerous factors which contribute to different levels of activity. However, some common factors which make a CRC more active have been identified as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Having a CRP ○ Getting support and training ○ Having resources available for the implementation of the CRP, and for CRC activities ○ Good engagement with local officials ○ Good engagement with POs working in the area ○ CRC members that are committed, understand their role, and actively engage with the process |
| <p>To collect suggestions from CRC members to make CRCs more functional and active</p> | <p>See Section 4.8 (page 10) above.</p> |

| Objective | Conclusions |
|--|---|
| To understand if support to CRCs should still be part of the core socio-technical assistance package | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the HRRP perspective, and based on the findings of this survey, it seems advisable for support to CRCs to remain part of the core socio-technical assistance package From the NRA perspective, the role of CRCs is something that is expected to become clearer as the handover of major administrative responsibility, including reconstruction roles, to the new local bodies is rolled out Where CRCs already exist, and are functioning, it should be expected, and encouraged, that they would continue to do so in close collaboration and coordination with the local officials. In areas where CRCs are no longer functioning or have never been formed, the scale of resources required to activate CRCs may be far beyond the scope of what is available from reconstruction actors thus making it difficult to ensure support to CRCs at scale. |

One of the most important areas that CRCs reported working on is dissemination of information to the communities that they represent. The Common Feedback Project and BBC Media Action have regularly highlighted that the most important, and

most trusted, sources of information for earthquake affected communities are local leaders. Given this, it is encouraging that CRCs reported taking this on, especially where they are active and collaborating with local elected officials.



Left: Most trusted information source - 2016, BBC Media Action. This is sourced from a nationally representative study conducted in 25 districts in Nepal, with a total of 4,000 respondents. Respondents were asked about their sources of information on current affairs and political issues, as well as about which of these sources they most trusted.

Right: In the December 2017 Common Feedback Project report, 8% of respondents answered 'completely yes' and 69% 'somewhat yes' to the question "Are you aware of safer building practices and how to apply them?". Of these respondents, 59% had received the information from community members, 56% from the radio, 51% from an engineer, and 42% from the village council.

The experience of Partner Organisations, as outlined in Section 5.0 above, further demonstrates the positive role that CRCs can play at local level in terms of mobilising and facilitating communities in key areas of the housing recovery and reconstruction.

Encouraging the role of CRCs, and ensuring that it does not become a source of misinformation and confusion (for the community and the CRC members) relies on investment in training, mentoring, and back stopping on

a regular basis for CRC members, local elected officials, and socio-technical assistance field staff (including Government of Nepal inspection engineers). This trio have the most important roles in the reconstruction, and are at the frontlines supporting households every day. Investing in supporting these groups is potentially the only way to localise the recovery and enable responsive local support that can address households' information needs in a timely manner.

7.0 Next Steps

The first step required following this survey is to determine if the Community Based Committee Directive still stands (and if support to CRCs remains in the core package of socio-technical assistance), and then if so, the next step would be to update it to provide clarity on the roles and responsibilities of CRCs in relation to those of the local elected officials. It could be useful for the GoN to assign a focal point and department for the CRCs at district and central level and to create and invest in a support and monitoring mechanism for CRCs and local elected officials as part of the update to the directive.

HRRP has prepared maps of the areas where Community Reconstruction Committees exist, overlaid

with construction and compliance rates in the ward and location of vulnerable households. It is hoped that these maps may support with targeting of support to CRCs given that CRCs could play an important role in targeting of additional support to vulnerable families.

In general, resources need to be committed to supporting regular training, orientation, and backstopping for CRCs, local elected officials, and socio-technical assistance field staff so that this trio of important actors in the housing recovery can effectively carry out their tasks.

8.0 Annexes

Annex I: Survey Questionnaire

१. Name of Community Reconstruction Committee (CRC) सामुदायिक पुनर्निर्माण समितिको नाम :

.....

२. Name of respondent/s उत्तरदाता(हरु)को नाम :

३. Respondent's role in CRC (tick one) उत्तरदाताको समितिमा पद :

Chairperson/president

Vice-president

Secretary

Treasurer

Member

Other (specify)

Address ठेगाना

४. District जिल्ला :

५. Ward No वडा नं :

६. Nagarpalika/Gaunpalika न.पा/गा.पालिका :

७. Village/Community गाउँ/समुदाय :

८. CRC Formation date (English Date-dd/mm/yy) सामुदायिक पुनर्निर्माण समिति गठन भएको मिति :

.....

९. Has the CRC prepared a Community Reconstruction Plan (CRP) के सामुदायिक पुनर्निर्माण समितिले सामुदायिक पुनर्निर्माण योजना तयार पारेको छ ?

Yes छ

No छैन

(go to Q.N.12)

१०. If yes, when it was prepared? (English Date-dd/mm/yy) यदि छ भने कहिले तयार पारिएको थियो ?

.....

११. Timeframe of the CRP (English Date-dd/mm/yy) सामुदायिक पुनर्निर्माण योजनाको समयावधि

.....

१२. If not prepared, why not? यदि छैन भने किन तयार नगरेको ?

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१३. Is the CRP being effectively implemented? के सामुदायिक पुनर्निर्माण योजनाको प्रभावकारी कार्यान्वयन भएको छ ?

Yes छ No छैन (go to Q.N.15)

१४. If yes, what are the key contributing factors of effectiveness? यदि छ भने, प्रभावकारिताको लागि कारक तत्वहरू के हुन् ?

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१५. If not, what are the barriers preventing implementation of the CRP? यदि छैन भने, सामुदायिक पुनर्निर्माण योजना कार्यान्वयनको लागि बाधक तत्वहरू के छन् ?

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१६. What are the key results achieved because of CRP implementation? सामुदायिक पुनर्निर्माण योजनाको कार्यान्वयनको कारणले कस्ता कस्ता मुख्य परिणामहरू हासिल भएका छन् ?

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.....
.....

१७. How is the CRC working with the relevant Rural / Urban Municipality? सामुदायिक पुनर्निर्माण समितिले अहिलेको सन्दर्भमा गाउँपालिका/नगरपालिकासँग कसरी काम गरिरहेको छ ?

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१८. Is the CRC receiving support? सामुदायिक पुनर्निर्माण समितिले सहयोग प्राप्त गरिरहेको छ ?

Yes छ No छैन (go to Q.N.21)

१९. If yes, what support is the CRC receiving? यदि छ भने, सामुदायिक पुनर्निर्माण समितिले के सहयोग प्राप्त गरिरहेको छ ?

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-

२०. If yes, from who? यदि छ, भने, कसबाट प्राप्त गरेको छ ?

-
-

२१. If not, why not? यदि छैन भने, किन ?

-
-

२२. Please share your suggestions on how the CRC can be more functional. सामुदायिक पुनर्निर्माण समितिलाई कसरी क्रियासिल बनाउन सकिन्छ, तपाईंको सुझाव दिनुहोस् ।

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सूचना संकलनकर्ताको नाम :

संस्था :

मिति :

Information Collected by (name):

Organization:

Date:



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