In the wake of the devastating earthquakes of 2015, damage to the housing sector was widespread in central Nepal. In response, the Government of Nepal, through the leadership of the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), launched a housing reconstruction program, which provides financial and technical assistance for resilient reconstruction across the affected districts of the country. The owner-driven program offers housing grants and technical support to eligible beneficiaries—Nepalis with homes in need of reconstruction due to the earthquake—enabling even the most vulnerable households to rebuild their homes.

The Nepal Earthquake Housing Reconstruction Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) was established to support the Government of Nepal’s housing reconstruction efforts. Administered by the World Bank, with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Government of Canada, and the Department for International Development (DFID), the trust fund was created to help finance a US$3.27 billion investment in housing and human settlements—almost half of Nepal’s total reconstruction needs (US$6.5 billion).

The World Bank is engaged in the reconstruction through its Earthquake Housing Reconstruction Project (EHRP), which provides: 1) financing for both the uniform housing grant and direct technical assistance in three of the most-affected districts (Dhading, Dolakha, and Nuwakot), and 2) the technical framework for the entire government housing reconstruction program, including all of the housing stock to be rebuilt. The EHRP also assists the government’s NRA with both technical and capacity-building assistance. The MDTF activities are supportive of both the government housing reconstruction program and the EHRP.

The following pages feature a sample of the housing program’s first-year achievements and illustrate the key components that are now in place to facilitate the housing reconstruction effort.
GOVERNMENT HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIRST YEAR...

THE NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY (NRA) was established and its chief executive officer appointed.

AN EARTHQUAKE HOUSEHOLD DAMAGE AND CHARACTERISTICS SURVEY was launched and completed in 11 districts, with 714,770 homes surveyed. The survey identified 531,937 households in the 11 districts as eligible for a housing subsidy.

A PROGRAM OPERATIONS MANUAL was produced and is being used for all housing reconstruction efforts.

EARTHQUAKE-SAFER HOUSING DESIGNS were finalized and disseminated by the NRA.

A NEW MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (MIS) was designed and launched to increase efficiency and ensure transparency and accountability.

CENTRAL AND DISTRICT-LEVEL PROJECT IMPLEMENTING UNIT OFFICES as well as seven Regional offices were established by the NRA.

THE BENEFICIARY ENROLLMENT PILOT was successfully executed in Singati Bazaar, Dolakha District.
AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED with more than 50 banking and financial institutions to facilitate the payment of housing grants to enrolled beneficiaries through personal bank accounts.

THE FIRST TRANCHE OF THE HOUSING GRANT was delivered to 39,702 beneficiaries (12 percent of enrolled beneficiaries) as of July 31, 2016. The number has been increasing by 5,000–10,000 a day and all first-tranche payments are on track for completion by 2016.

1,301 ENGINEERS, 469 SUB-ENGINEERS, AND 508 ASSISTANT SUB-ENGINEERS were deployed throughout the most-affected districts of the country.

THE NRA established a grievance redress mechanism (GRM) to receive and file grievance cases and promote accountability.

4,236 MASONS AND 561 ENGINEERS were trained in earthquake-safer construction techniques.

THE GOVERNMENT'S POST-DISASTER RECOVERY FRAMEWORK, which outlines all sector plans and financial projects through 2020, was launched on May 12, 2016.

THE GOVERNMENT ENROLLED 324,770 beneficiaries in its housing reconstruction program (61 percent of all eligible Nepalis). That number increased by 5,000–8,000 a day until all beneficiaries were enrolled.
GOVERNMENT HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

STAGE V: COMPLETION

STAGE IV: RECONSTRUCTION

STAGE III: ENROLLMENT

STAGE II: IDENTIFICATION & VALIDATION

STAGE I: THE SURVEY

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN NEPAL: STAGES OF IMPLEMENTATION