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## Civic-Political Dialogue on Four Years of Post-Quake Reconstruction & Aid Effectiveness

*Kathmandu*



HAMI organized civic-political dialogue marking the four year of earthquake-2015 in Nepal on 24 April, 2019. The dialogue was organized in collaboration with Human Rights Alliance, NGO Federation of Nepal, Right to Food Network Nepal (RtFN), and Food-First Information & Action Network (FIAN) Nepal. The program was concerned with four years of post-quake reconstruction being aligned with status of reconstruction from socio-cultural perspective. In the program, papers were presented by the experts on concerning areas associated with post-quake reconstruction. Dr. Padma Prasad Khatiwada, Human Rights Alliance; Manohar Thapa, Deputy Spokesperson of NRA; Lily Thapa, Women for Human Rights (WHR); Nirmal Upreti, Forum for Nation Building (FNB) Nepal.

In the program, Dr. Netra Prasad Timsina SAAPE presented a paper on aid effectiveness status in reconstruction with his critical observation in the post-quake reconstruction

process in Nepal. He asserted for following Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action. Ownership, harmonization, law abiding, result, mutual accountability are major principles to be assimilated in foreign aid mobilization and utilization process. This applies in the post-quake reconstruction process as international support has been received by the government. Hon'ble Min Bahadur Shahi, Member of National Planning Commission and guest of the program viewed that overall reconstruction progress has been satisfactory. Dr. Chandra Bahadur Shrestha, Executive Committee Member of National Reconstruction Authority and guest of the program addressed the issues raised in the program. Guests Bed Prasad Bhattarai, Secretary of National Human Rights Commission Nepal, Gauri Pradhan, Former Spokesperson of NHRC and Civil Society Activist considered that despite efforts made by the government in reconstruction, still marginalized and vulnerable communities are left out. Now, they have to be prioritized.

Representatives from governments, federations, different organizations that are working in reconstruction, media also shared their views on reconstruction that has not been up to the progress that people have been expecting. They asserted that despite efforts made by the government in reconstruction, social justice-based reconstruction is necessary by prioritizing the vulnerable and marginalized families. Overall, the program was successful to explore gaps in policies and challenges in reconstruction process in the communities. Social justice based reconstruction has to be major priority prioritizing the marginalized and vulnerable at first. The program was chaired by Pom Narayan Poudel, Vice-Chairperson of Human Rights Alliance.

## Policy Dialogue Series

### Post-quake Reconstruction Process: Existing Status and Socio-cultural Issues

#### Nuwakot

HAMI organized policy dialogue on post-quake reconstruction process: existing status and socio-cultural issues on 9 April, 2019 in collaboration with Human Rights Alliance and Samaj Sachetan Kendra, Nuwakot. Dhanendra Rijal, SSK, Nuwakot presented a paper on 'Post-quake reconstruction status in Nuwakot: Challenges in socio-cultural issues'. The paper covered the existing problems and challenges in reconstruction faced by the affected people due to policy challenges and their effective execution along with current situational status in reconstruction in the district. In the program, Bidur subedi, HAMI presented initiatives of HAMI with reference the social rebuilding perspective in reconstruction reflecting overall issues that have been observed in both policy and practice. Rajendra Lohani, former parliament member and the chief guest considered there have been noticeable gaps in reconstruction process due to policy hurdles; hence, revisions in those policies are necessary. Apsara Thapa, Vice-Chair of District Coordination Committee, Nuwakot and Biki Lakha, Head of DLPIU, NRA, Nuwakot also presented existing status of reconstruction accepting still a lot has to be done.



The program was successful for exploring issues based challenges faced by the people in the district due to gaps in reconstruction related policies along with making the concerned stakeholders accountable so that necessary revisions in policies and their effective execution could be ensured. In the program, earthquake affected people; representatives from local level governments, government bodies, CSOs (donor agencies and non-governmental organizations) and media sectors took part in the program. Participants of the program representing local level

governments, different organizations, media and earthquake affected families also shared their observation and experiences in post-quake reconstruction in the district. Overall, the meeting culminated that there is need of timely completion of reconstruction in the district by ensuring cultural identity as well as putting into the priority to the marginalized and vulnerable families. The program was chaired by Yam Kumar Khatri, Chairperson of SSK, Nuwakot.

### Post-quake Reconstruction: Current Status and Socio-cultural Issues

#### Rasuwa

HAMI and Human Rights Alliance collaboratively organized policy dialogue on 19 May 2019 in collaboration with HRCDCR, Rasuwa. The program was able to assess socio-cultural issues and progress in post-quake reconstruction in Rasuwa along with role of CSOs working in the district. Representatives from government (including National Reconstruction Authority, Rasuwa), local governments, CSOs working in the district, earthquake affected people took part in the program.

The chief guest of the program was Debarshi Sapkota, Assistant Chief of the District Administrative Office (DAO) Rasuwa whereas other guests were Babu Lal Tamang, Chairperson of Nepal Red Cross, Rasuwa; Dr. Padma Prasad Khatiwada, General Secretary of Human Rights Alliance; Dibas Acharya DLPIU, Rasuwa. The program was chaired by Hem Nath Khatiwada, Human Rights Alliance, Rasuwa. In the program, Working Paper was presented by Biswas Nepali, Human Rights Activist from Dolakha. The paper covered post-quake reconstruction status focusing current scenario regarding socio-cultural issues observed in the district. Despite efforts made by the government

in reconstruction, still there are several problems and challenges emerged in the communities as marginalized and vulnerable families are not able to return back to their permanent houses due to policy gaps.

Guests and participants asserted that reconstruction progress has relatively slow despite efforts made in the district. They considered that lengthy policy procedural cycle for victims for receiving tranches has created problem. There is need of ensuring relocation or resettlement that has to be based on demand of the people. Marginalized and the most vulnerable families have to be prioritized in the reconstruction; hence, all the stakeholders have to be work together. Assertion was made for collaborative effort among government, CSOs and private sector. However, other single women below of that age have been neglected. Hence, post-quake reconstruction in Rasuwa will be taking noticeable time from now despite efforts made by the government, CSOs and people from the district. CSOs' contribution in the district has been crucial; hence, there is need consolidated efforts to address the challenges that have been observed in the district for timely and meaningful reconstruction.



## Current Socio-cultural Status and Issues after Windstorm

Bara



HAMI and Human Rights Alliance collaboratively organized policy dialogue at Kalaya, Bara on June 13, 2019 in collaboration with Protection Nepal Bara. In the program, windstorm affected people; representatives from local level governments, government bodies, CSOs (donor agencies and non-governmental organizations) and media sectors took part. In the program, Bidur Subedi, HAMI presented overall objective of the HAMI that has been working in humanitarian accountability monitoring campaigns in disaster affected areas; whereas, Om Prakash Giri from Protection Nepal, Bara and Govinda Poudel, Human Rights Activist presented a paper on "Existing Reconstruction Progress in Bara and Parsa after Windstorm: Challenges in Socio-cultural Issues". The paper covered the existing problems and challenges in Nepal Army led reconstruction faced by the affected people due to policy challenges and their effective execution along with current situational status in reconstruction in the districts. The program was chaired by Krishna Lama, Chair of Human Rights Alliance Bara chapter

The chief guest, Hon'ble Dr. Bijay Dutt, Chairperson of National Madhesi Commission shared his concern over quality and timely completing reconstruction process. He also asserted for need of installing technology to inform potential disasters so that necessary and formation of Natural Disaster Management Authority or Commission. Dr. Padma Prasad Khatiwada, General Secretary, Human Rights Alliance shared recent and ongoing humanitarian monitoring activities by HAMI. Paras Shah, Province 2 Assembly Member reminded encouraging contribution in humanitarian activities in relief distribution phase. However, reconstruction progress has not been as per the expectation. Collective groups of committee could be formed so that all of the stakeholders' active engagement could be ensured.

Other guests and participants considered that despite commendable support from all the sectors during rescue and relief distribution phase, reconstruction process of led by the Nepal Army has not been without criticism due to lack of unanimity in

identification of actual beneficiaries creating tension on the communities. In the meeting, guests assured that raised issues in this reconstruction process after the storm in Bara and Parsa will be taken to the policy makers or decision makers.

Meanwhile, HAMI and HRA team members visit the affected one of the communities of Kalaya-18, Bhalwain community of Motisar, Bara. A brief informal interaction was held with the representatives from Nepal Army who were mobilized in construction of houses, beneficiaries, and affected but not included in the beneficiary list. There has been apparent discrimination while collecting data of beneficiaries as noticeable number of families have been left out just because they have different political faith than the newly elected local level representatives (mainly Ward Chairperson) resulting cases of tensions among the people. There is need of providing livelihood based support to the affected families and awareness activities have to be carried out as well.



## Meeting with Networks and Federations

### Status of Civic Space

Rasuwa

HAMI organized meeting with federations and networks working in Rasuwa district on 18 May 2019 at Dhunche, Rasuwa. Dr. Padma Prasad Khatiwada, General Secretary of Human Rights Alliance was the chief guest of the program and Hem Nath Khatiwada, Human Rights Alliance, Rasuwa chaired the meeting. Bidur Subedi, HAMI shared briefly about the objective of the meeting. Representatives from numerous CSOs working in the district in different sectors took part in the meeting including Nepal Red Cross Society, Samudayik Atma Nirbhar Sewa Kendrs, People in Need, District Land Right Forum. In the meeting, Dr. Padma Prasad Khatiwada, the guest; Hemnath Khatiwada, Chairperson of Human Rights Alliance, Rasuwa; Babu Lal Tamang, Chairperson of Red Cross Nepal and other participants considered that the role of CSOs working in the

district is noteworthy as they have support to NRA and people in reconstruction. They asserted that CSOs role in the district has been very crucial over the years; evidently, they have played supporting role in reconstruction process. Overall, CSOs have to play watchdog and support to the government in socio-economic transformation. Overall, participants shared that local governments and government bodies have provided conducive environment considering need of civic space in the district; hence, CSO's contribution or role has been relatively smooth as organizations those are active in the district are supported by the government bodies from the district. Regular interactions are essential for CSOs playing the role of watchdog and be co-part of reconstruction process and other activities led by government.

### Interaction with Networks and Federations

Kathmandu

HAMI organized interaction program on the role of CSOs in the context of damage caused by recent windstorm in Bara and Parsa districts as well as role in post-quake reconstruction after the 4th year of April 2015 earthquake. It was organized in collaboration with HRA. The meeting was organized on April 7, 2019 in Kathmandu. In the program, representatives from different network federations and

organizations including NGO Federation; Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal; Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal (ACORAB) Nepal; Alliance for Social Dialogue; Community Electricity User Groups; Association of Family Forest Owner's, Nepal; School Management Committee Federation of Nepal; Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal; Forum for Protection of Consumer Rights-Nepal.

Bidur Subedi, HAMI presented a fact monitoring report prepared by collecting information from district chapters of Human Rights and HAMI networks working from the districts. It covered facts about damage caused by the windstorm of March 31 in the districts, relief distribution status, role of CSOs coordination with local government, and event to be organized marking 4th year of the great earthquake. In the program, Jit Ram Lama, NGO Federation of Nepal and guest of the program considered that role of CSOs is crucial. Constructing resilient structures have to be ensured focusing the most vulnerable or marginalized communities. Bijay Kumar Dutt, the chairman of the Madhesi Commission and guest of the program praised for reflecting humanitarian support in unity in diversity. Subash Khatiwada, ACORAB, DB Karki, All Nepal Peasant's Federation, Sushila Bhusal, FPCR, Tilltam Poudel, HAMI presented as asserted for carrying out monitoring activities in disaster affected areas. The meeting was able to explore issues relat-

ed to need of CSOs' monitoring for effective relief distribution committed by the governments and others; landless and farmers to be prioritized in relief distribution; need of quality of materials in distribution; challenges faced by women and children at the districts; need of equity based relief distribution; carrying out event to mark 4th year of the great

earthquake. Rem Bahadur BK, HAMI and chair of the program stated that collected suggestions with regards to relief distribution will be prepared as consolidated report. An interaction event will be organized marking 4th year of the great earthquake aiming to making government and other stakeholders accountable in post-quake reconstruction.



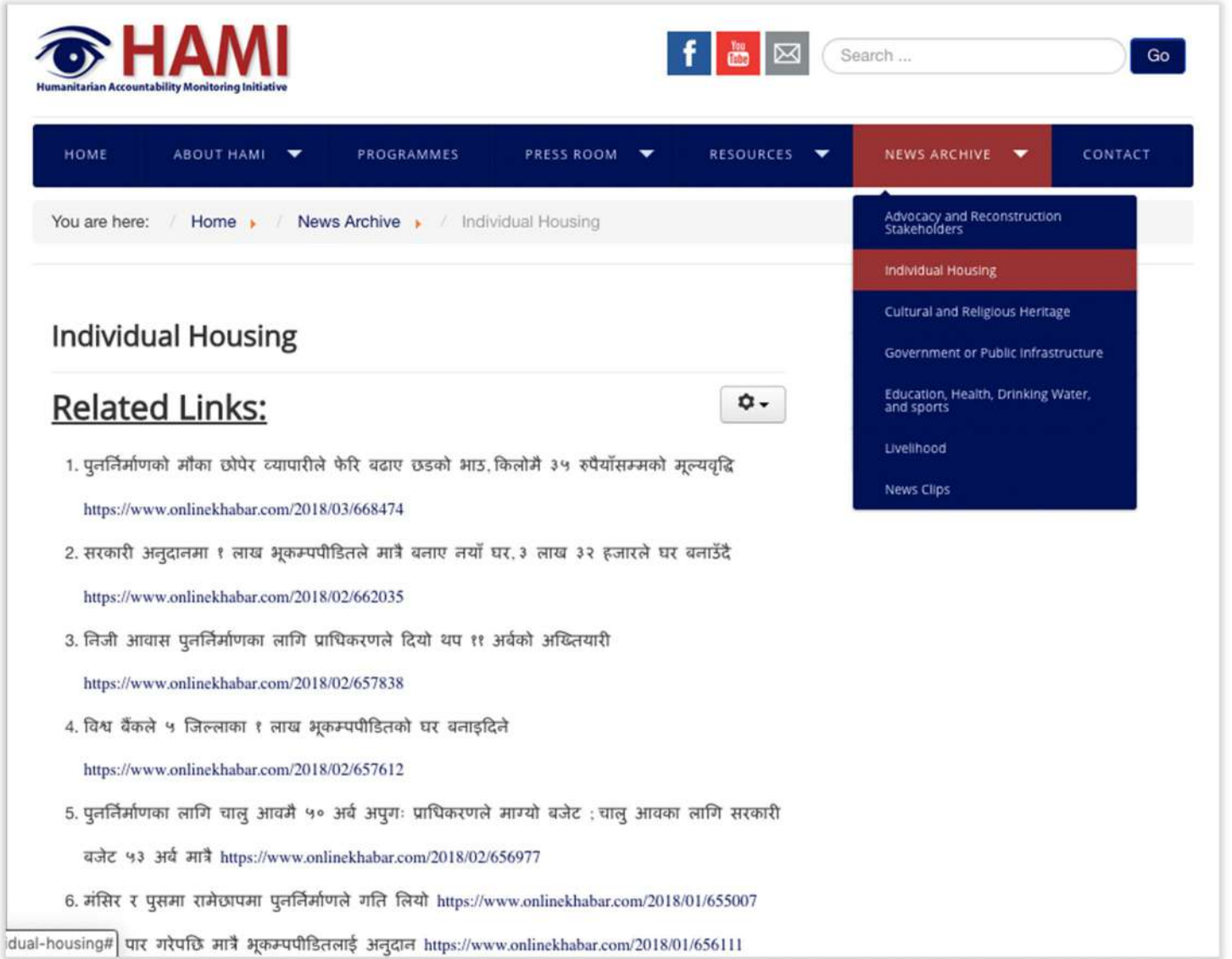
## Discussion on National Budget: Inclusive Development for Prosperity and Equality

HAMI organized discussion program on 25 April, 2019 in Kathmandu in collaboration with Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Center (KIRDARC Nepal). The program was centered on inclusive development for prosperity and equality through fair and justice based national budget allocation in Karnali province. The program was organized aiming to pull the attention of government other stakeholders for ensuring justice and fair budget allocation along with priority in the 15th Plan to Karnali Province. In the program, Dr. Dilli Raj Khanal presented a key note on socio-economic status of Karnali Province and need for inclusive development for prosperity and equality through national budget and 15th Plan. He asserted for allocating budget based on the indicator areas by aligning with SDGs so that fair development is possible in Karnali Province. The chief guest, Dr. Pushpa Raj Kadel, Vice-Chairman of National Planning Commission shared that Karnali Province has to prioritize in both infrastructural and social development areas. He assured that upcoming budget and 15th Plan will address the concerned areas through necessary policy, plan, and budget allocation. Guests Min Bahadur Shahi and Dr. Ram Kumar Phuyal members of the NPC also shared that Karnali province has to be given special priority for ensuring regional disparity in terms of infrastructural and social development. For this, government as well as National Planning Commission will address the issues for ensuring inclusive and fair development by prioritizing Karnali province while drafting policies and allocating budget.



in the program, federal parliament members, provincial parliament members, former ministers, local level representatives from Karnali province and representatives from CSOs as well as media persons took part in the program. Representatives from federal and provincial parliament and former ministers viewed that due to lack of positive perception about the region has caused for isolating the province from mainstream development. They committed for raising voice for bringing fair development in the region by ending regional disparity in overall areas of development. Furthermore, participants of the program shared their views for addressing the challenges that are prevalent in the region. The program was chaired by Samjhana Malla, General Secretary of KIRDARC Nepal and moderated by Govinda Bahadur Shahi, Program Director, KIRDARC Nepal.

## Archiving on Post-Quake Reconstruction News



The screenshot shows the HAMI website interface. At the top left is the HAMI logo (Humanitarian Accountability Monitoring Initiative). To the right are social media icons for Facebook, YouTube, and Email, along with a search bar and a 'Go' button. Below the header is a navigation menu with options: HOME, ABOUT HAMI, PROGRAMMES, PRESS ROOM, RESOURCES, NEWS ARCHIVE, and CONTACT. The 'NEWS ARCHIVE' menu is expanded, showing a list of categories: Advocacy and Reconstruction Stakeholders, Individual Housing (highlighted), Cultural and Religious Heritage, Government or Public Infrastructure, Education, Health, Drinking Water, and sports, Livelihood, and News Clips. The main content area is titled 'Individual Housing' and features a 'Related Links:' section with a list of six news items, each with a URL. A sidebar on the right contains a search bar and a 'Go' button. At the bottom of the page, there is a URL: <https://www.onlinekhabar.com/2018/01/656111>.

Since January 2018, HAMI has been archiving post-quake reconstruction related news. Archiving news concerning with post-quake reconstruction is one of the approaches for making the concerned stakeholders accountable in the reconstruction process. It also works as a part of documenting the reconstruction journey in the country so that future course or preparedness could be made by the concerned stakeholders. In this archiving, news of post-quake reconstruction areas has from the newspapers and online portals have been categorized under: advocacy and reconstruction stakeholders, individual housing, cultural and religious heritages, government and physical infrastructure, education, health, drinking water and sports, livelihood.

Source of news are from both print and online sources from the national levels. Till the date, among the sectors, more than 2000 news stories have been archived so far. On the official website of HAMI, monthly update is made. Meanwhile, crucial, relevant, critical issue based news from the aforementioned sources have incorporated in the agency mapping report as well in other advocacy based initiatives carried out by HAMI. Overall, this initiative has been concerned with making the stakeholders to play constructive role in the campaign for timely completion of reconstruction in those earthquake affected districts.

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