

Creating Resilience to Natural Disasters Through FFP Land Administration – an Application in Nepal

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SUMMARY

Information on people to land relationships - documented in a land administration system - is crucial in occurrence of any natural disaster. Fit-For Purpose approaches and interventions have been used in the process of earthquake recovery and to improve the resilience for four affected communities in the Dolakha district in Nepal. In April 2015 a massive earthquake measuring 7.6 magnitude struck Nepal followed by subsequent aftershocks, larger than magnitude 4. Due to landslides, ruptures and destabilization almost five hundred settlements were considered in the need for relocation. The introduction of a Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration with attention to the landless, poor and vulnerable proved to be a workable approach in the recognition of human rights and land rights. It should be noted that Nepal already has a long tradition in the recognition of land rights and its administration since long time.

The Nepal Government experienced problems in the recovery and reconstruction assistance to the earthquake victims. This concerned housing affected communities, especially people without any land documents. One pre-condition for securing housing grants for the affected households is a proof of land-ownership. Many earthquake victims could not show a proof of land ownership and did not have access to the available reconstruction grants.

The role of grassroots surveyors in the FFP LA processes is imminent and creates a lot of potential. This can be utilised by governments to achieve complete coverage in their land administration systems to be better prepared for natural disasters. In the aftermath of a natural disaster housing is a priority, as well as the need for building permits, the need for land documents, and the need for reconstruction grants. The FFP LA approach in the post-earthquake context brought quick results and benefited not only four communities in Dolakha district but also had impact at national level as it supported the national land policy formulation process and ignited the FFP country

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implementation strategy.

This paper will describe the results and benefits of the FFP LA approach in four communities in Dolakha district as well as the role of grassroots surveyors in the FFP LA processes.

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