

CCD. UPC

NOTES for preparation of the identification trip to Bhimphedi, Nepal.

Program for the improvement of the affected houses during the recent earthquakes (25/4 and 12/5 of 2015), proposed by Amics del Nepal.

A. Team Organisation.

These are advisory notes. The program team will design them definitively and operationally.

The first recommendation would be to organise the Program Team.

The habitat program should have three main figures:

- Technician He/she is usually the general coordinator of the program. Although there are different technicians involved in the process (Spain and Nepal), it is important that this coordinator has a continuity role and becomes a reference for all of those who take part in the project. It would be ideal that this person is there from the beginning until the end of the program and, therefore, he/she should go to the identification trip.
- Community expert The best thing to do would be to select a local and that he/she begins to work during the identification trip.
- Economic monitoring technician He/she can have partial or sporadic dedication.

B. Aim of the Program.

To improve the habitat conditions of the affected population in Bhimphedi.

This means:

To apply a comprehensive view of the HABITAT concept, as regards as physical support, the house and the urban area where it stands, as well as the lifestyle of its inhabitants and their social, economic and cultural conditions. This entails:

- To improve the physical support, both of the house and other essential physical aspects such as access to water, wastewater treatment or access and communication within the inhabited areas.
- To improve the living conditions of the population, making their social empowerment. The goal, in this regard, will be to make stronger populations after the development of the program, so as they can deal with any new event produced by any other natural phenomenon, such as a new earthquake, more effectively.

This entails strengthening the population (and the institutions that support it) in their organizational capacity, management and decision-making from a better economic rebalance. This implies that the action that will take place does not develop a dependence in the population and does not turn them into people who only expect to receive (begging position) but a workforce that has the know-how and can solve their problems.

C. General Specific Goals:

- Resources should reach the most affected populations, the ones that have fewer resources. This involves the correct selection of the target populations (program resources are very limited) and this selection should be made in participation with priority and efficiency criteria.
- Bhimphedi reality is really wide and complex (areas and castes). It is necessary to design a fair participatory selection system.
- Action should aim at preventing future natural disasters
- To start a dwelling improvement process (resources are small), the first stage will be done with this program, and then leaving it operated by the population itself and other agents, so as they are able to continue improving them, depending on the available resources.

D. Technical and Social Goals:

1. To set up a Follow Up Committee in which the communities, the technicians (locals and from the Program), the local Administration (if possible and convenient) and organizations which are promoting the Program should be represented.

2. To set up an ECONOMIC FUND with the available resources, attracting savings and raising loans together with new resources, that allocate and give priority to those resources in order to reach the target of giving continuity to the process.

3. To organize TRAINING and to build CAPABILITY as a foundation for the social and institutional strengthening.

Training and capacity building of different agents is strongly advised: neighbors involved in the Program, technicians (the ones from the program, the local ones, master builders...) and the local administration.

Training should be recommended for the following areas:

- Social techniques: organization, management, economy, laws and regulations, participation
- Participative design techniques
- Building techniques related to access to the materials and to construction itself

Advisable methodology:

- Training and capacity building workshops. (Usually three days for each area)
- To take advantage of the construction of basic workshops and basic housing (especially prototypes) to train and teach during the process.

E. Specific constructive Goals:

1. Techniques used must be appropriate and be able to build ownership amongst the population. Meaning that the villagers are able to use them by themselves and do not generate dependence. Although this is applicable to all techniques, (also the social ones) it is especially important for the 3 specific building techniques: those of design, access to materials and building

2. Instead of improving or building a number of dwellings, which is always quite limited, the suggestion is an improvement process consisting of a system to access materials and components or producing them that will then be used in the construction of houses (and other urban improvements). This system can consist of:

- BANK OF MATERIALS

To provide for the Program and provide the population with access to economic and easily available materials.

It would be of small dimensions and with placed in the different communities.

That would be a guarantee for the continuity of the Program.

- BASIC PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS

Materials, components and elements which are used in the Program and by the population, are made in them by the villagers (organized as micro companies). This would ensure their continuity. These workshops are thought as real entrepreneurship of the population. So they can impact directly in the productive system giving an opportunity for access to the employment market. Although they are born to give service to the Program, should they be successful, they must consolidate and become

fundamental for the continuity of the Program, be useful to other areas and to the general population and become real productive micro companies.

Some recommended basic workshops are:

- Earthquake-proof wall techniques based on the local construction in stone, brick, blocks and other possibilities.
- Wood, especially for roofs.
- Other techniques such as cooking system or latrines.

It would be convenient that the workshops and the banks of materials are placed in the same location, forming a single facility.

3. HOUSING PROTOTYPE

The banks of materials and the basic workshops are designed to improve and/or produce housing (and urban elements) in a process of continuity. This is accomplished through flexible prototypes, which are to be participatively designed and adaptable to different situations.

The following prototypes are proposed according to the two different ways of action initially envisaged:

NEWLY BUILT HOUSES:

The proposal is to perform a series of prototypes (4-8) that should solve:

- 2 or 3 different typologies: based on a 6x6 ground plan and with different options for one or two more floors, plus a loft (space below roof). It would be possible to use "galpón" (shed / tilework) techniques.
- 3 earthquake-proof wall choices: stone, brick and block.
- 2 different kinds of roofing
- Cooking and latrine options.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT

It would be advisable to implement 3 or 4 prototypes according to different cases and situations, in particular on the basis of damages in different types of walls and roofing.

The first prototypes should be built in a concentrated area, close to the basic workshops. In this way the prototypes could be visited by the different communities who would be able to give their opinion and select them.

On the basis of that selection the accepted solutions could be extended to the whole program as well as to further programs that would ensure their continuity.

F. PROCEDURE

The possible steps to be taken are the following:

1. Organization of the Program Team. Here and there.

2. Obtaining preliminary data:

- Data related to the communities: location, size, level of organization, caste system.
- Data related to the local public administration.
- Design plans to work there.
- Data related to the buildings to visit in the area. Damaged and non-damaged buildings in the different communities.
- Data related to the local regulations (seismic regulations).

3. Identification trip.

Goals. Analyzing and getting details about:

- Situation, options and priorities
- Components of the program
- Basis to design workshops, banks of materials and prototypes
- Basis for designing the economic program, social programs, education and training.
- Identifying the area for the bank of materials, the basic workshops and the prototypes

4. Preparation. (Ending in September)

Design of:

- Bank of materials and basic workshops.
- Prototypes
- Educational workshops and training
- Construction process
- Selection of users
- Funds

5. FIRST STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION (October-December)

- Constitution of the Follow Up Committee of the Program
- Constitution of the economic fund
- Education and training
- Participative discussion about the building prototypes
- Selection of families according the prototypes
- Construction of the bank of materials and the basic workshops
- Construction of prototypes
- Organization of information of potential users of the different communities in the second stage of construction

6. SECOND STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION

- Extension of the program to the communities
- Education and training
- Fundraising to ensure continuity.

7. SPECIFIC DATA FOR THE IDENTIFICATION TRIP

a) Support Team in Bhimphedi:

- A person who knows and is accepted by the communities to guide the visit
- A person who knows the technical situation of damaged and undamaged houses to check possible solutions
- Preparation of the visit to the local administration

b) Transport Information:

- From Kathmandu to Bhimphedi
- In Bhimphedi

c) Workplace in Bhimphedi

d) Location and maintenance (water) in Bhimphedi.

e) Data about:

- Climate, clothing, footwear, vaccines, energy (electricity)
- Currency suitable for the trip, exchange rate, cost of living, accommodation...

8. Dates for the identification trip:

Between 28th June and 14th July.