



UN-HABITAT

One Year After Earthquake UN Habitat helping Pakistan “Build Back Better”

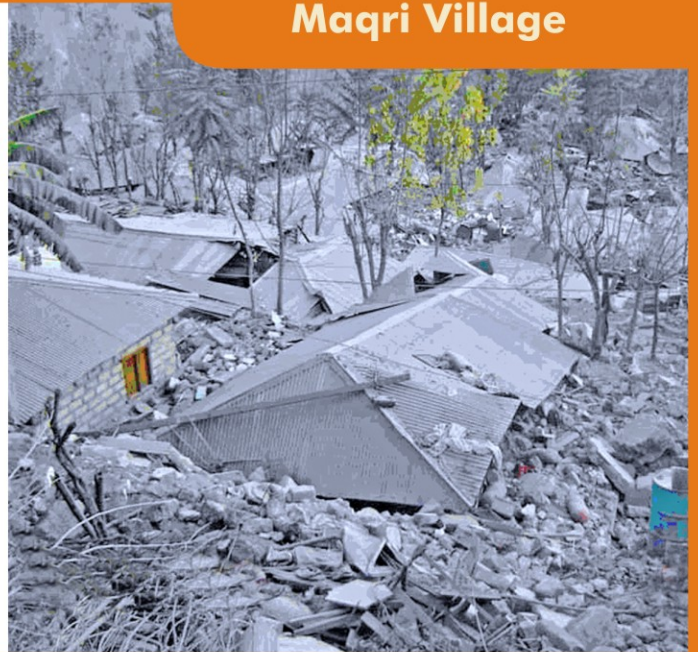
A year has passed since the horrific Earthquake that left over 3 million people displaced and over a half a million houses damaged and destroyed.

Since then, UN Habitat has supported the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) to establish 12 Housing Reconstruction Centers in Pakistan Administered Kashmir (PAK) and North Western Frontier Province (NWFP).

15,271 people have been trained through 473 training sessions by these HRCs. 158 training sessions have been conducted in PAK resulting in 7,625 people being trained and 7,646 people have been trained through 314 training sessions in NWFP.

UN Habitat is responsible for the six HRCs in Kashmir. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and German Technical Assistance (GTZ) are responsible for the six Centers in NWFP.

Maqri Village



Role of HRCs in Reconstruction

HRCs provide training on seismic resistant building techniques, capacity building of local authorities, technical advice and public awareness, coordination of training implementation and training quality control of training delivered by master trainers. The National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET) and Emergency Architects (EA) are providing technical expertise to support the program. The UN Habitat program has been funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), with additional support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

HRC



UN Habitat response to the Earthquake

UN Habitat was one of the first UN agencies to start working directly with ERRA in Pakistan; by being placed as a senior advisor to provide advice on housing reconstruction. UN Habitat arrived in Pakistan in October, 2005 just days after the massive Earthquake. The initial mission was to provide Winterized Shelters.

With the humanitarian effort well underway, UN Habitat began working with ERRA to develop its longer term rural housing reconstruction strategy. Over 80 NGOs were brought together to function in four working groups: 1) Devising technical guidelines, 2) Creating training material, 3) Implementing training strategies and 4) Launching an information campaign.

HRC Staff

Field staff have been working under very difficult conditions to support affectees. Morale is high due to the growing success of the reconstruction process and the establishment of twelve Housing Reconstruction Centers (HRCs) in Pakistan.

Demands on HRC staff are very high with training goals set at around 60,000 skilled artisans needing to be trained. It is going to take a lot of hard work and patience from HRC staff and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), assuming the role of Partner Organizations (POs) helping with training in the field, to meet these numbers.

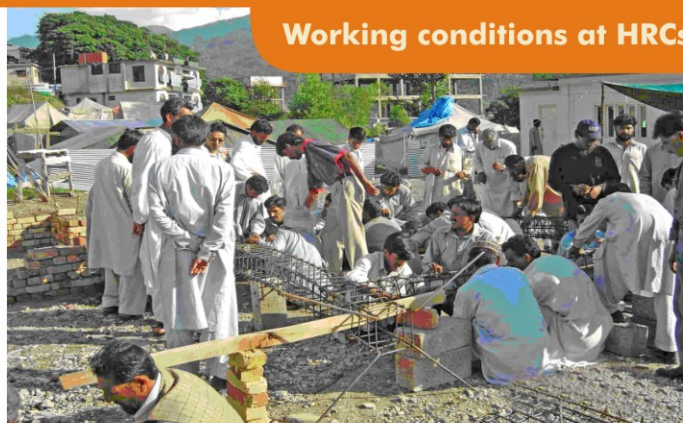
UN Habitat Staff pose for a group picture in between presentations at a Workshop in HRC Bagh.



Working Conditions at HRCs

Through positive attitude and teamwork working conditions in HRCs have been vastly improved from when they first began a few months ago. However, no permanent structures have been formed at HRCs as staff are still operating and conducting training sessions in tents and cabins. Temporary bathroom facilities also add to the everyday camp life of these staff members. Still, training sessions are taking place on a regular basis and are receiving great responses.

Working conditions at HRCs



Relevant Web Sites for Further Information
on Earthquake Reconstruction:

<http://www.erra.gov.pk/WebForms/Housing.aspx>

www.un.org.pk

www.nset.org.np

www.archi-urgent.com

