

Synopsis of Asia Shelter Forum 2021

Background

Nepal hosted an Asia Shelter Forum (ASF) 2021 meeting at Hotel Himalaya in Kathmandu from 25-27 November 2021 jointly led by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Authority (NDRRMA) on behalf of Government of Nepal (GoN) with the support from the ASF Organizing Committee. Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform (HRRP) was the secretariat for ASF 2021 to conduct management and coordination with concerned stakeholders. The ASF 2021 International Conference was supported by USAID, UKAid, Global Shelter Cluster and ASF Organizing Committee members.

Asia Shelter Forum (ASF) is a regional forum initiated by shelter practitioners in 2015 in Bangkok that aimed to localize the UK Shelter Forum, global annual shelter meetings and other global shelter forums. The ASF aims to improve coordination, collaboration, share learnings and best practices among countries in the Asia region by engaging governments, donors, development partners, shelter cluster mechanisms and humanitarian organizations and partners

The larger goal of ASF 2021 International Conference in Nepal were encircled around documented lesson learns and way forward as the regional platform to exchange collective innovative and localized housing solutions. The primary objective of the ASF 2021 International Conference was to draw on the lessons and experiences of recent disaster recovery and the wider experience of shelter response in the region. It largely aimed at exploring best practices in achieving safe, adequate, dignified shelter for disaster affected households with active community engagement.

The Regional event further aimed at featuring wider discussion on sustainability of longer-term shelter recovery and focuses on-

- Bringing together shelter and settlement practitioners across the Asia region for discussion and way-forward on issues across the region, creating a strong network of shelter Community of Practice (CoP).
- Sharing knowledge, experiences, and best practices in the shelter CoP at all levels (local, national, regional, and global level).
- Advocating and promoting the formation of a National Shelter and Housing Platform in each country to bring about effective coordination mechanisms amongst various shelter practitioners and government agencies.
- Supporting government Ministries to address shelter issues by providing strategic directions for shelter and settlement issues in the region for long-term ownership and sustainability.

Key highlights of ASF 2021

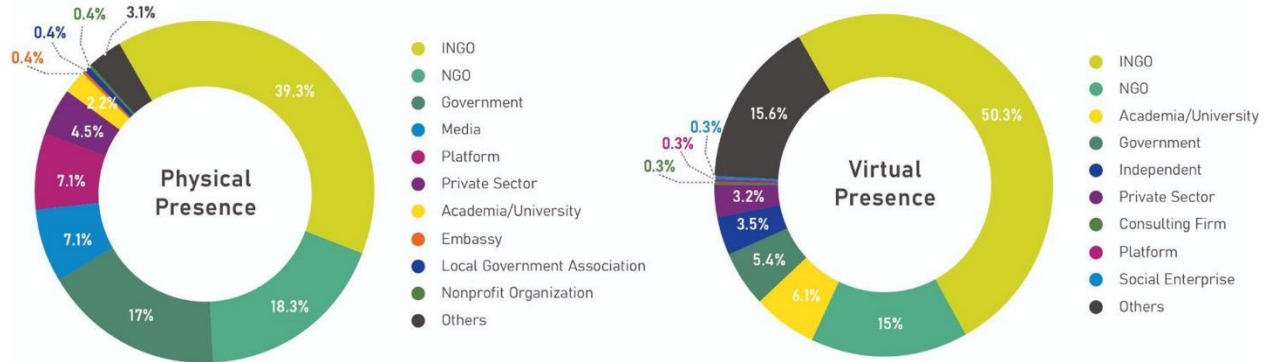
There were about 538 participants (224 in-person, 314 virtual); out of which 22.3% female, and 77.7% male attendees participated in the conference physically whereas out of total virtual attendees 32.2% female, and 67.8% male participated from around the world through zoom and facebook live settings (*graphical diagram below*). Official inauguration of ASF 2021 was conducted by Honorable Minister of MoUD-GoN, Ms. Ram Kumari Jhakri. Minister Jhakri stated that the Government with the collaboration of

provincial governments has been helping the citizens with housing construction at different districts through the People's Housing Programme thereby ensuring the right to housing of poor communities affected by multi-hazard.

Percentage of attendees by Gender



Presence by type of organizations



Chief Executive of NDRRMA, Mr. Anil Pokhrel in his remarks stated that since its establishment, NDRRMA has been trying to encompass all the stakeholders for joint efforts to address the multi-hazard risk reduction in Nepal. NDRRMA has taken learnings from Nepal's Reconstruction efforts and has developed a housing grant policy for monsoon and fire affected victims. The collaborations and meaningful engagements through this kind of regional platforms will strengthen partnerships among all interested stakeholders and agencies in channelising common and joint efforts for disaster preparedness, response, and reduction of losses during the crisis.

Chief of Shelter and Settlements, UNHCR and Co-lead of Global Shelter Cluster, Mr. Brett Moore in his remarks informed the participants that global humanitarian response processes has moved from international to national level that let the international community to stand by the needy people in the regions for responses. Mr. Brett stressed the inbuilt capacity that were instilled in Nepal reconstruction processes is critical for future in terms of national level achievements, in manifestations of aspiring leaders and in active involvement of organizations and communities at large which are the driving forces for promising recovery. There is a need to bring international guidance over best practices of humanitarian

and recovery efforts, response support, sharing the best practices, involving the local communities and leaders for the local knowledge has been the main driving factor in the recovery field.

A huge diversity of participants, from regional to national government delegates (Government of Nepal, Government of Bangladesh, Government of Indonesia, Government of Philippines, Government of Vietnam) delegates coming from all around the Asia and Globe along with experts and professionals working in shelter response, disaster risk management and cross cutting sectors have attended the ASF 2021 International Conference in both hybrid and physical mode. Some local government bodies and frontline workers also came forward whereby sharing their accomplishments in housing reconstruction; such success stories have voiced out the proactive roles of local bodies in recovery efforts. Feedbacks collection were accompanied by using mentimeter.

There were five technical panel sessions in the event:

- Global and Nepal Technical and Coordination Leaders
- Government of Nepal Technical and Coordination Lead Agencies
- Nepal Coordination Mechanisms
- Capacity Strengthening of Local Organizations for Humanitarian Response
- Lessons, Challenges and Future in Shelter Response and Recovery in Asia

There were main three thematic sessions in both days of the event under which best practices were shared:

- Sustainable Solutions in Shelter
- Recovery, Reconstruction and Resilience
- Environment, Inclusion and Shelter Innovation

First day was regarded as National day in which technical panel sessions and parallel sessions on sharing best practices, lessons and challenges on shelter and settlement issues and interventions from Nepal were conducted.

Second day was focused on discussing achievements across the Asia region and prioritized the sharing of shelter and settlement practices through presentations and group discussion sessions.

Field visits to conserve shelter reconstruction and recovery in heritage settlements and reconstruction of vulnerable earthquake beneficiaries was conducted on third and fourth day of the program. The field visits were participated by national and international delegates from Asia region comprising from countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Philippines, Indonesia, Spain and USA.

Discussions in Plenary and Thematic Sessions

The five plenary sessions comprising three key thematic technical parallel sessions included with 21 presentations have paved paths towards greater collaboration and coordination among shelter practitioners. Collective forums like ASF were envisioned to fulfill this role of coordinator to fulfill the gap for bridging government efforts and the efforts of civil society and humanitarian actors. Early recovery of disaster impacted people and communities were regarded as the sustainable way of shelter recovery, therefore, the assembled development practitioners draw the attention of the government and its stakeholders for the need to work constructively and influenced to strengthen regional learnings.

The interactions in the conference have also addressed how the nature-based solutions are also critical towards sustainability of recovery processes. Speakers put untiring efforts to showcase the outcomes of the focused program initiatives in disaster recovery and shelter response across many parts of Asia region. Speakers have stressed mass sensitization and citizens' acceptance towards the recovery programs that revolve around following the policies and technologies that ensure strong and resilient homes and communities. Majority of the issues and inputs put forward by participants were encircled around the need of active special provisioned mechanisms, be at national or provincial level, or at local level and at individual organizational level so that disaster preparedness initiatives can be executed systematically.

Snapshots of Key Presentations from ASF 2021

Sharing on Achievements of Nepal's Reconstruction: The major accomplishments by National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), which was formed by GoN to undertake shelter reconstruction and recovery of damaged infrastructures due to Nepal earthquake 2015 was shared by Executive Member of NRA, Dr. Chandra Bahadur Shrestha. The owner driven approach and build back better model laid forward by NRA underscored the exemplary best practices and challenges in Nepal reconstruction, the experiences of which will remain asset to develop similar kinds of shelter rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in the country. In the verge of exiting from mainstream Nepal's reconstruction, NRA was committed towards strengthening of NDRRMA, as successor of NRA, to take over national leadership for disaster preparedness, rescue & relief and post-disaster reconstruction and recovery. Similarly, NRA was committed to influence government and concerned agencies to initiate national campaigns on retrofitting for private as well as public buildings and continue to conduct advocacy for enabling local governments to handle pre, during and post disaster compliances.

Sharing on Initiatives of Global Shelter Cluster: Sharing on Regional Shelter Cluster Initiatives and Working Groups by Ms. Dipti Hingorani, IFRC Asia-Pacific & Global Focal Point for Technical Coordination, Global Shelter Cluster (GSC) has highlighted the 2018-2022 Strategy of GSC that aims at strengthening shelter and settlements responses to building resilient communities, is framed on improving coordination, advocacy, evidence-based response and strengthening shelter capacity to address ongoing and emerging challenges. GSC is functioned at the global level emphasizing to provide a global coordination platform, and support to technical coordination, strategic planning and monitoring and reporting of country level shelter coordination initiatives. GSC provides shelter response coordination through existence of nine active working groups in Asia region.

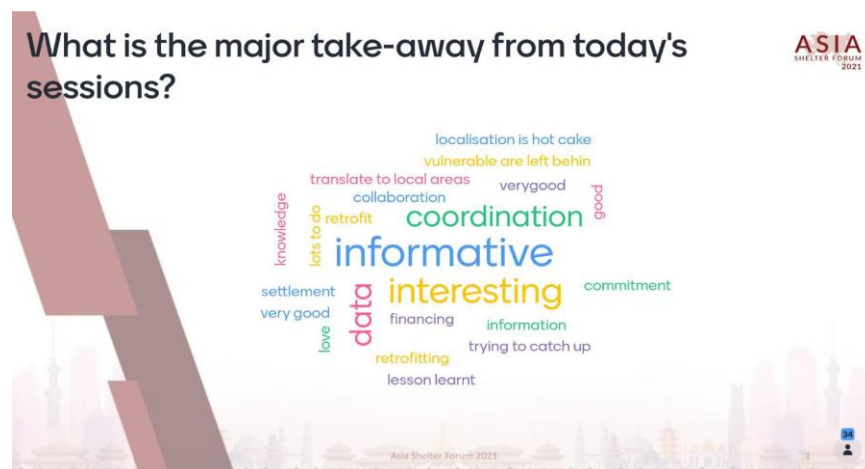
Through Shelter projects in the Asia-Pacific Region Interagency publication started in 2008, led by IOM and supported by Bureau of Humanitarian Aid (BHA) has been able to compile case studies from different agencies, contexts, and crisis with the objective of sharing and learning from past experiences and build evidence for the shelter sector in Asia-Pacific Region. The Regional Cluster has been able to develop 12 key messages drawn from more than 250 case studies as part of Shelter Project Essential and is aimed at a broad audience including local and national governments, humanitarian, and development practitioners, environment practitioners, academia and civil society groups.

ASF 2021 Commitment and Declaration

Through the rigorous discussions undertaken in first and second day of ASF 2021, the shelter recovery practitioners from various development partner organizations and GoN showed Commitment Towards Shelter Emergency Response and Multi Hazard Housing Recovery and Resilience whereby putting efforts to strengthen collaboration to ensure safer and dignified shelter, settlement, and housing to affected families. Nepal Shelter and Housing Community of Practice have declared to effectively coordinate with the GoN so that local governments and communities are equipped with knowledge, systems and resources and empowered to lead timely and appropriate responses. To achieve this goal, the assembled shelter practitioners and experts representing various countries of the Asia region agreed to meet at a minimum for an annual event, aiming higher to institutionalize engagement by scaling up on the existing coordination mechanisms.

Envisioning of Nepal Shelter and Housing Forum: The Nepal Shelter and Housing Forum (NSHF) was regarded as an opportunity for governments, I/NGOs, and community-based organizations (CBOs) to share and identify the most appropriate housing solutions for safe and dignified homes for vulnerable households through improved collaboration and networking. ASF 2021 Regional Forum has boosted robust dialogues between governments, non-governmental organizations, CBOs and practitioners to ensure sustainability and institutionalization of best practices, whereby has escalated the promotion of forming the NSHF for collective coordination among shelter practitioners and government agencies. NSHF is anticipated to continuously strive towards strengthening existing coordination and communication functions (Shelter Cluster, Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform), information management system, policy advocacy along with capacity building of stakeholders involved in the post-disaster housing recovery and reconstruction through collaboration. The NSHF will also engage with other regional and global networks in terms of sharing knowledge, skills, and best practices in the field of shelter and settlements for continuous learning and improvement in this sector. The National Shelter and Housing Forum will be organized in Nepal in 2022 by local agencies to continue the collaboration and build on the joint commitment made during ASF 2021 to work together to build resilient homes and communities in Nepal.

Annex: Few of the Mentimeter Results



Which topic would you like to include in next ASF 2022?



Risk insurance	Housing finance	Disaster risk communication
Refugee Resettlement	Concrete localization	forecast based financing
Local Preparedness	Localization	Achievements per ASF 2021



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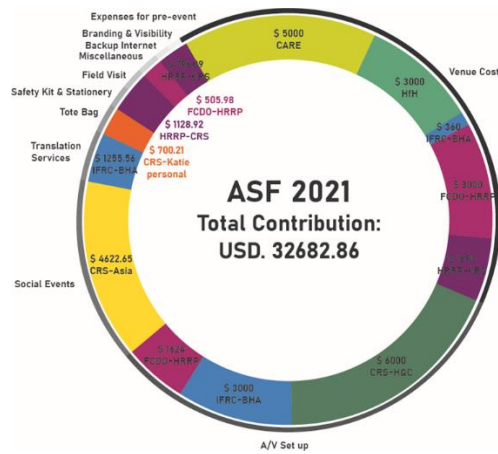


Disaster financing	Education & Communication Strategies	Budgetting for Inclusion
Inclusiveness	Buildback safer	More on GESI
Partnership	Inclusion	Quick construction



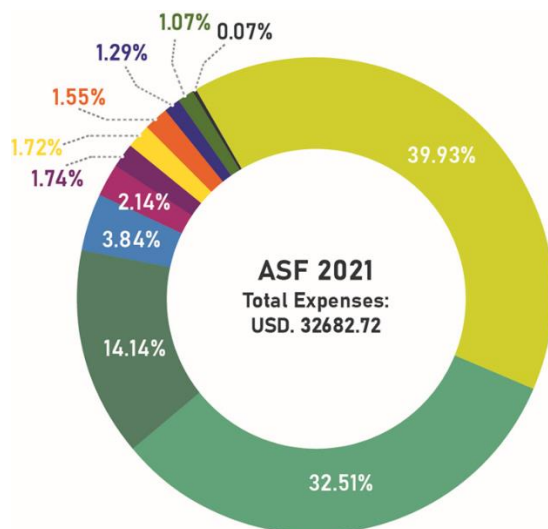
Annex: Budget Expenditure and Income Details

Summary of Expenses													
S.N	Description	Total Cost	Rate	USD	ASF Event								
					CARE	HFHN	CRS-H&C	IFRC-BHA	FCDO-HRRP	HRRP-CRS	CRS-Asia	CRS Katie- Personal	
1	Venue Cost	1,526,776.90	117	13,049.38	5000		3,000.00		360.00	3,000.00	1,690.00		
2	Back Up Internet	49,500.00	117	423.08						423			
3	Audio Visual Set up	1,243,000.00	117	10,623.93			6000	3000		1624			
4	Miscellaneous Expenses	59,200.00	117	505.98							506		
5	Branding & Visibility	41,072.00	117	351.04							352		
6	Expnes for Pre-Event Mgmt Team	2,570.00	117	21.97							22		
7	Field Visit Expenses	65,617.61	117	560.83							560		
8	Safety Kit & Stationery	66,466.60	117	568.09							568		
9	Translation Services	146,900.00	117	1,255.56				1255					
10	Social Events	540,849.75	117	4,622.65							4,622.65		
11	Tote Bag	81,925.00	117	700.21								700.21	
	Total Expenses	3,823,877.86		32,682.72	5000		3000	6000	4615	5047	3698	4,622.65	700.21
									1385		2313		
									6000				
									CARE	5000	117	585000	
									HFHN	3000	117	351000	
									CRS-H&C	6000	117	702000	
									IFRC-BHA	6000	117	702000	
									FCDO-HRRP	5047	117	590499	
									HRRP-CRS	2313	117	270621	
									CRS-Asia	4,622.65	117	540849.75	
									CRS-Katie (Personal)	700.21	117	81925	
									Total	32,682.86		3,823,894.75	



Contribution by Organizations

- CARE-Nepal (USD. 5000.00)
- Habitat for Humanity - HfH (USD. 3000.00)
- CRS-H&C (USD. 6000.00)
- IFRC-BHA (USD. 6000.00)
- FCDO-HRRP (USD. 5047.00)
- HRRP-CRS (USD. 2313.00)
- CRS-Asia (USD. 4622.65)
- CRS-Katie personal (USD. 700.21)



- Venue Cost (USD. 13,049.38)
- A/V Set up (USD. 10,623.93)
- Social Events (USD. 4,622.65)
- Translation Services (USD. 1255.56)
- Tote Bag (USD. 700.21)
- Safety Kit & Stationery (USD. 568.09)
- Field Visit Expenses (USD. 560.83)
- Miscellaneous Expenses (USD. 505.98)
- Backup Internet (USD. 423.08)
- Branding & Visibility (USD. 351.04)
- Expnes for pre-event mgmt. (USD. 21.97)