

REVITALIZING PUBLIC SPACES OF BUNGAMATI AFTER GORKHA EARTHQUAKE 2015



Centre
for Integrated
Urban Development
(CIUD)

.....fostering liveable cities

2016/17

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Visit at Newa C

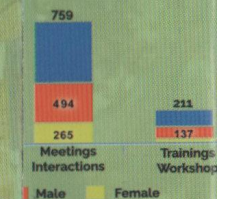
OPS

and engineers of
l settlements of
o rounds of five
aining on Arch
Traditional B
renowned expe
from differen
ndu Valley w
supported the



ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT OF TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS OF KATHMANDU VALLEY
www.ciud.org

tural and Structu
dings of Kathmar



gh CIUD'S softwa

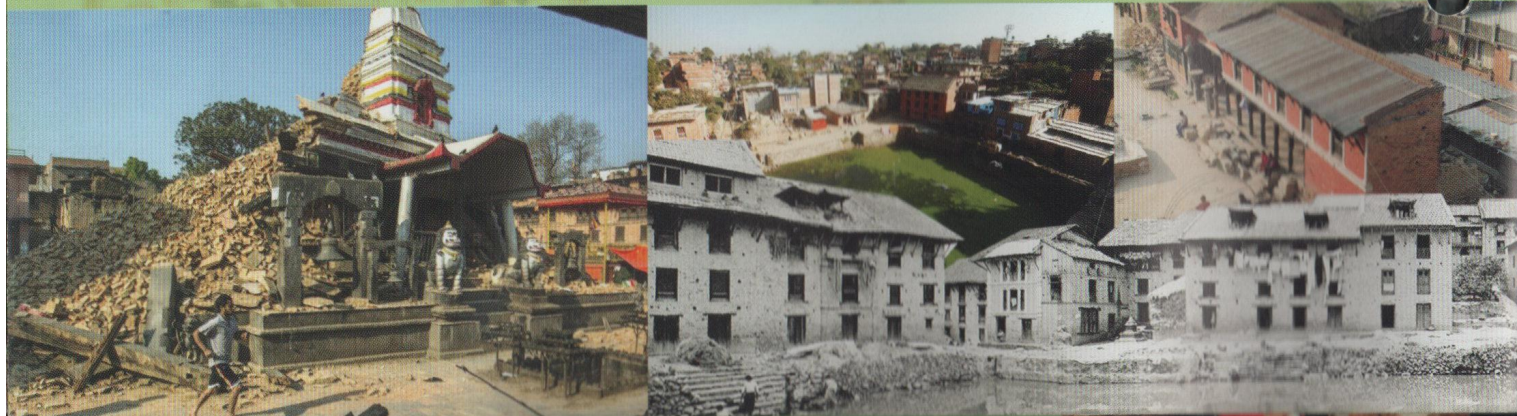
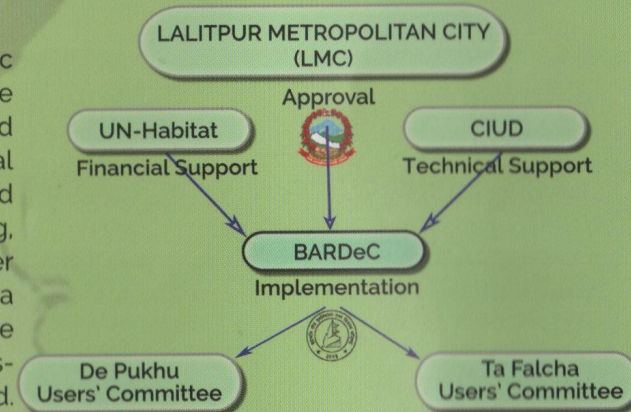
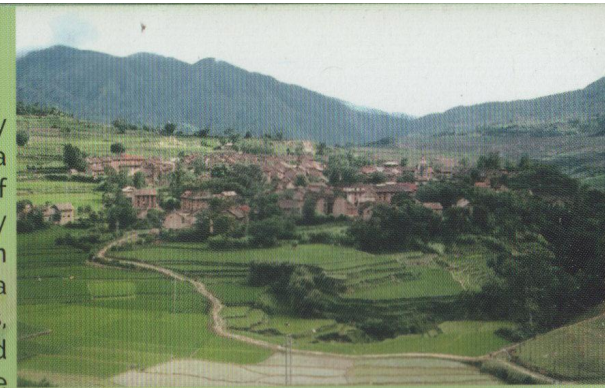
BACKGROUND

Bungamati is a 7th century traditional 'Newar' settlement enriched by tangible and intangible cultural heritages, natural resources and a compact built urbanscape. It is widely known as the home of Machhindranath, the popular rain deity of Kathmandu Valley, locally known as Bungadya. Additionally, Bungamati is famous for wooden handicrafts and spectacular natural beauty. The 2015 Gorkha earthquake has devastated private houses, temples and shrines, including the collapse of major iconic temples of Machhindranath and Hayagriva Bhairav. In Bungamati, a total of 89% of houses were completely uninhabitable due to physical damage. Many public spaces were therefore occupied by those affected families.

UN-Habitat along with CIUD was involved in supporting the people of Bungamati after the earthquake. Further, UN-Habitat mobilized its resources to provide technical support to the people in conserving their heritage through community participation and capacity building. Public space improvement is a part of this larger initiative of local people.

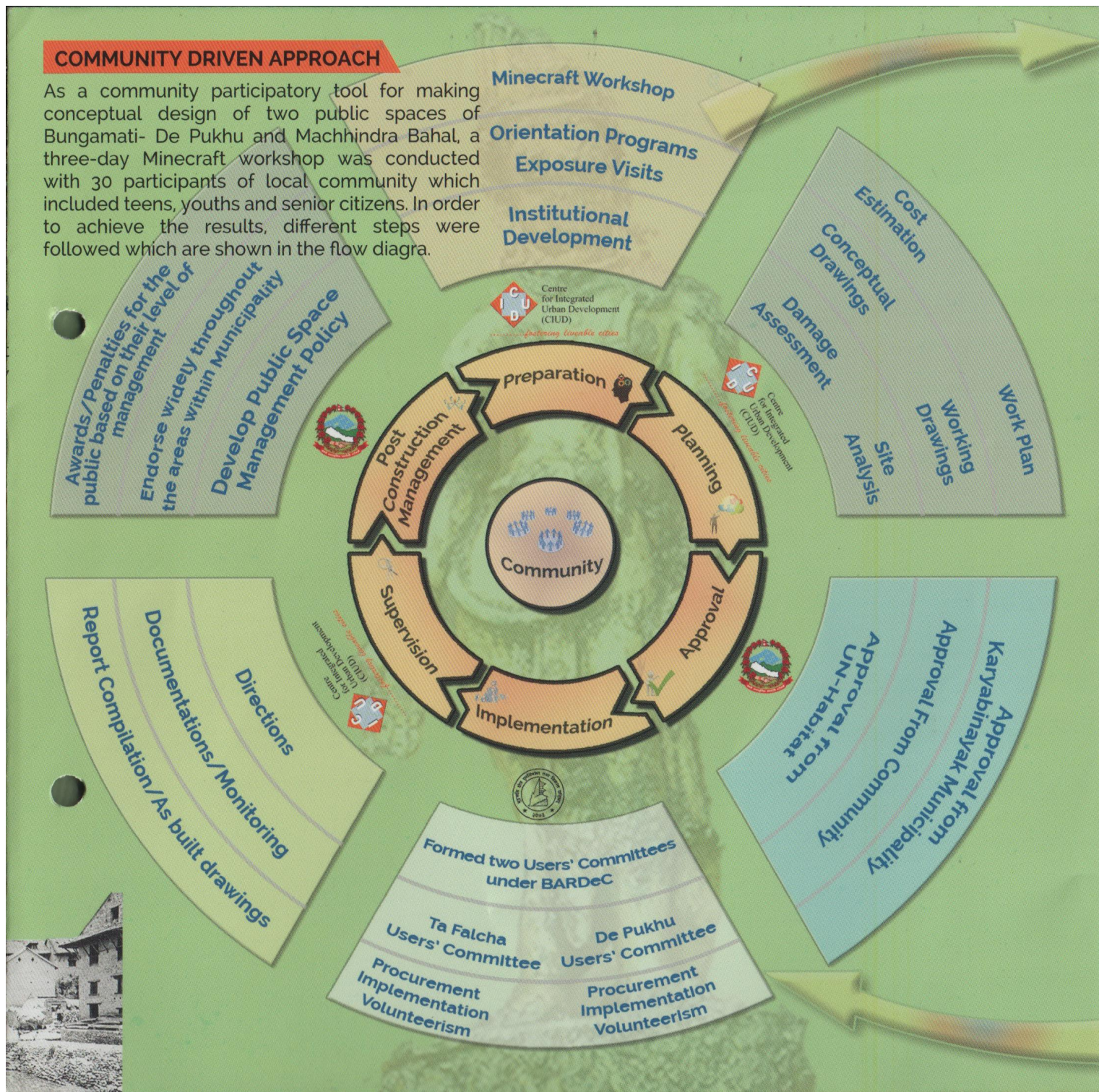
OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this initiative was to revitalize public spaces of traditional settlements in the post-earthquake situation thereby present an example of community-led open space management. The project included the technical support and counseling, community formation and awareness in development of integrated urban planning, coordination among the local authorities and other development partners. In partnership with Bungamati Area Reconstruction and Development Council (BARDeC), the project had identified two important public spaces- Machhendrabahal Public Building and De Pukhu the pond. The project intended to revitalize two public structures and demonstrate participatory open space management.



COMMUNITY DRIVEN APPROACH

As a community participatory tool for making conceptual design of two public spaces of Bungamati- De Pukhu and Machhindra Bahal, a three-day Minecraft workshop was conducted with 30 participants of local community which included teens, youths and senior citizens. In order to achieve the results, different steps were followed which are shown in the flow diagra.



MINECRAFT WORKSHOP

Pre-Workshop

1| Selection of 30 local participants
Pre-orientation about Minecraft Game
Site Visits to the participants

2|

3| Orientation on public space management from experts

4| Division of 10 groups for two public spaces

4|

5| Focus Group Discussion (FGD) among groups

Workshop

6| Presentation of results of FGD

6|

7| Designing of results in Minecraft Game

8| Presentation of all 10 Minecraft models
Selection of three priority projects

8|

9| Presentation it to large scale community
Finalizing the concepts for priority projects

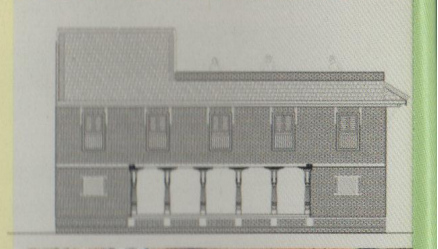
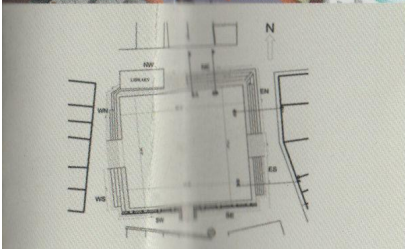
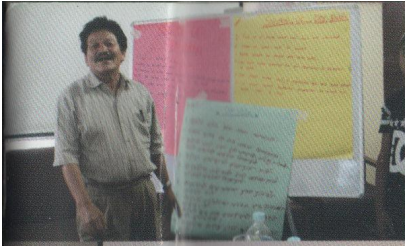
10| Preparation of Engineered Drawings
Presentation of Drawings to the community

10|

Post-Workshop

11| Approval from the community
Approval from Municipality

Formation of Users' Committees for implementation



OTHER SOFTWARE ACTIVITIES INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To make the rebuilding process more community centered and make the initiatives sustainable, 12 Tole (neighbourhood) Committees were formed in the neighbourhood level under the auspicious of BARDeC so that the community would get grass root level platform to put their opinion and conduct activities.

EXPOSURE VISITS

To motivate local people of Bungamati in building back better, they were taken for exposure visits at Bhaktapur and Patan to expose and make them experience the ambiance of improved traditional buildings which were structurally sound and can accommodate for economic activities. Total of 12 exposure visits were conducted for 12 Toles where local men, women, youths and elderly people actively joined and took advantage from this educative excursion. The visitors were made interacted with the experts working in the field of traditional buildings, tourism and business to motivate them.

MEETINGS/INTERACTIONS

CIUD conducted numerous meetings and interaction programs with local communities, stakeholders, municipality and different organizations in order to go along with to build back better the individual houses and public spaces of Bungamati.

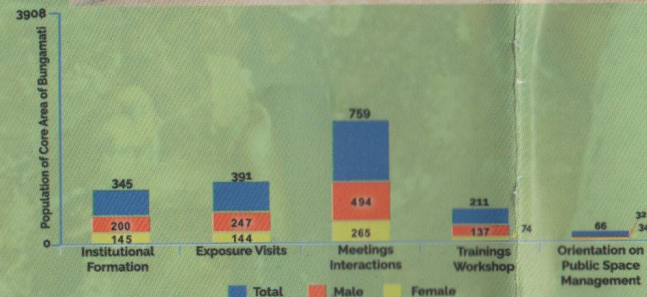
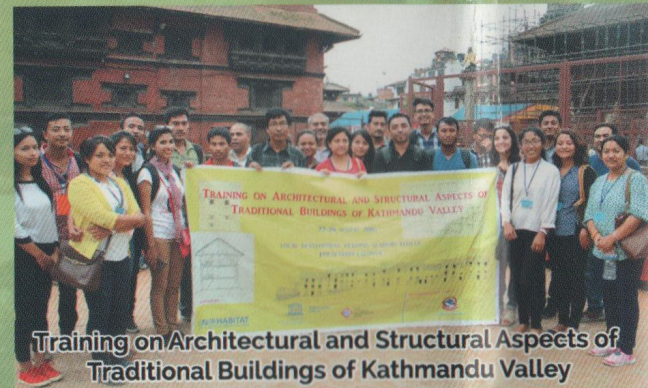
COMMUNITY ORIENTATION FOR PUBLIC SPACE MANAGEMENT

To make local people understand about the value and importance of public spaces in their settlements of Kathmandu Valley, CIUD successfully organized two rounds of orientation programmes at neighbourhood level. over 75 local people and stakeholders participated the program with enthusiasm.



TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS

To train local architects and engineers of Bungamati and rest of the traditional settlements of Kathmandu Vally, CIUD organized two rounds of five-day training programmes entitled 'Training on Architectural and Structural Aspects of Traditional Buildings of Kathmandu Valley' from renowned experts of Nepal. Total of 64 trainees from different traditional settlements of Kathmandu Valley were trained. UN-Habitat and UNESCO supported the initiative.



Beneficiary chart through CIUD'S software activities.

KEY LEARNINGS OF THE PROJECT

From the initial phase, the communities were involved in the project activities to bring ownership and participation. Formation of tole level community groups, exposure visits were turned out to be effective in planning and designing. The application of the Minecraft was an effective tool in synergizing the ideas and opinions of the local people in finalization of the plan and design of the planned physical interventions of the area.

Two users' committees were formed and they were made fully authorized in making decisions and implications. This led to the accountability and transparency of the project activities and the financial parts as well. This also motivated them in making contribution to the project in several other ways.

The financial system of releasing the fund to reimburse the expenses often turned out to be difficult especially when the volume of expenses is very large. Generally communities do not have the extra fund and purchasing the materials is beyond their limit.

The ownership of any interventions are assured when the communities are directly involved. This also ensures the sustainability of the interventions.

The availability of the skilled and unskilled labors was not easy at the time when the people were more focused on the building construction after the earthquake.

After the local election, it was found comparatively easy dealing with the local authorities. They also assured for the necessary supports and coordination.

De Pukhu- the pond has provided a new look of the neighbourhood after the renovation. People are planning more community activities in the open spaces. Now people come and socialize on the steps of the pond during their leisure which use to be a walled pond earlier. Similarly, the public building is being appreciated as it provided a safer space for their festivity gatherings, puja, and feast. Moreover, the space is in high demand for their public meetings and get together.

