

## Earthquake Resistant House Project 2018 – 19

(This report is prepared by Yadav Kumar Rai and Jase Rai and submitted to ANUVAM on February 7, 2019)

This was the fourth year of ANUVAM's Earthquake Resistant House Construction Project. So far six families have already benefitted from this project and for this year; the year of 2018 – 19, three more families were going to get benefitted from it.

Masons and carpenters were in high demand during the time we began our project as there were houses being constructed all around Rapchha. Mason and carpenter leaders were getting 1500 rupees wage per day whereas general masons and carpenters were getting 1200 rupees per day. Our mason and carpenter leaders agreed to work in 1300 rupees per day and general masons and carpenters were paid 1100 rupees per day. Cook was paid 1250 rupees per day and the same was paid to mud mixing man.

Apart from their daily wages, these workers were provided 3 times tea/chhyang, and lunch and dinner during their work days.



Tea/chhyang time – at Krishna's House

## Krisna Rai's House

We started Krishna Rai's house construction on second week of November 2018. This was one of the three families chosen to get the earthquake resistant/anti seismic house for the year 2018-19.

There were two mason and two carpenter leaders. More masons and carpenters, a cook and a mud mixing man was the regular construction team and altogether 15 workers worked in Krishna's house.

Krishna and his family wanted the house a bit larger and we complied with their request. And it took more construction materials and manpower to complete the house compared to other two houses.



The corner stones from old shelter were all useless so two mason leaders had to work continuously for 10 days to cut the corner stone. Almost 30% of the stone required for the wall was salvaged from the old house. But the wood from the old house was totally unusable.

Most of the wood required in the house construction was cut at least 6 months in advance. And the cost of wood cutting and its transportation was paid by the fund made available by ANUVAM.

The group of 15 workers took 20 days to complete the house. But not all 15 workers worked for the total 20 days as some workers were absent for few days during the construction period. According to attendance record book, 224 workers were required to complete Krishna's house.



## Sarke BK's House

It was a difficult decision made in difficult situation. Sarke's family does not have much land, let alone a proper flat land where they could build their house. The old house belongs to his elder son, and at the adjacent was this small open land where we built Sarke's family's house. The construction area is somehow wet most of the time of year, so we decided to put a heavy duty plastic layer below the first seismic bend so that the bend is protected from water coming up via the walls from the ground.



Bottom part of wall is covered with heavy duty plastic

This construction site is located in a place where sun will only arrive at around 10 o'clock in the morning and goes away before 2 o'clock in the afternoon in winter. And we were working in here at the peak of winter which made it very difficult for all the workers to work as it was severely cold almost all day. Because of this challenging environment, we decided to start the work in the morning 30 minutes later than the usual time.

As there was no cultural restriction for Sarke's family, they wanted one door towards north side and one towards west side of their house and we designed and built the house accordingly.

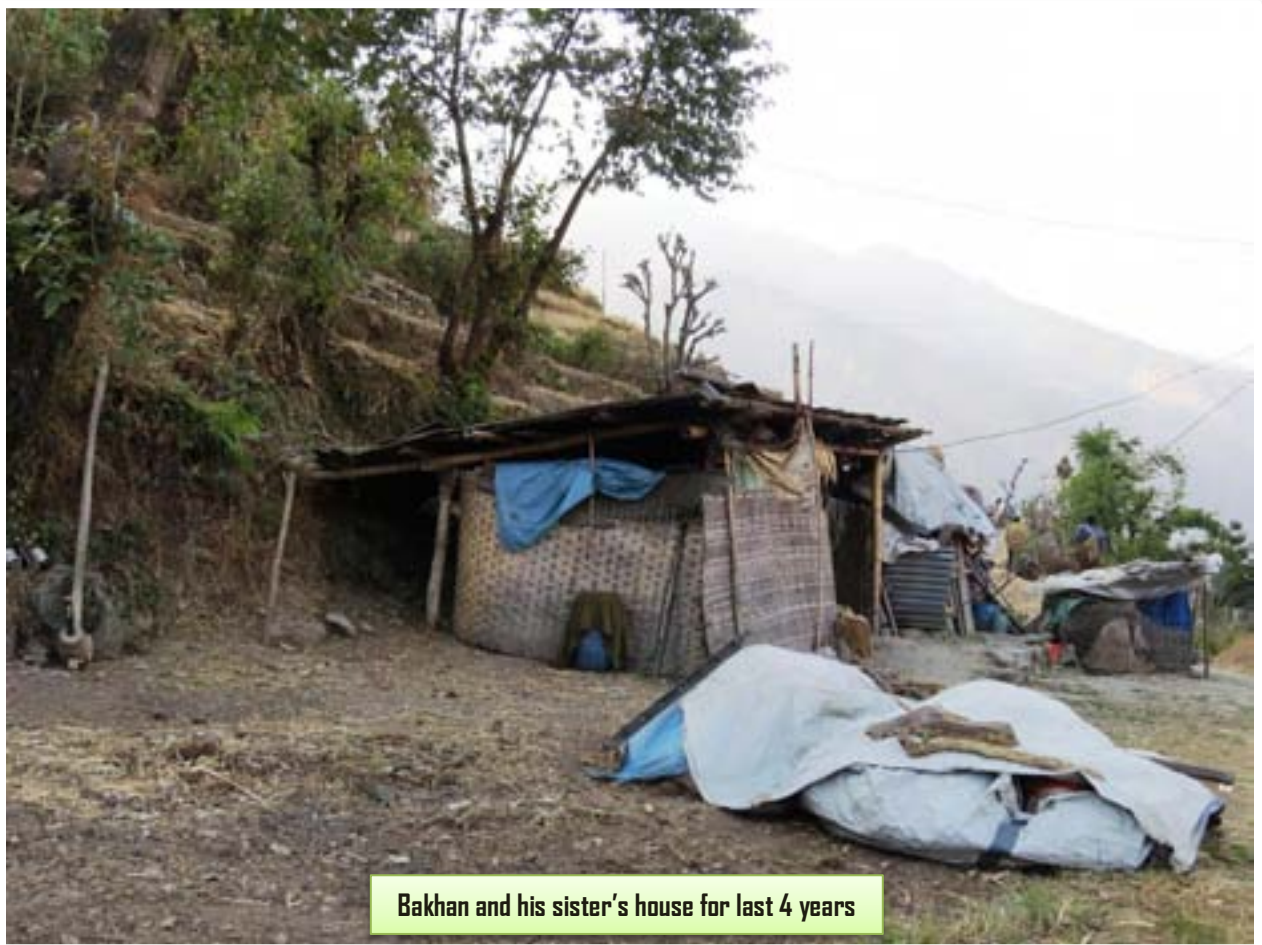
Two of the previous workers left as they had to engage in some other work and so only 13 workers worked in Sarke's house. The house was completed in 17 days and 195 workers were required to complete it.



## Bakhan Rai's House

Building Bakhan's house was both very rewarding as well as challenging. The house owner; Bakhan is a handicapped man who cannot walk or even do normal household chores. The family consists of two, Bakhan himself and his younger sister who is more than 40 years of age and unmarried.

All the families selected by MIC/FEILSS and being helped by ANUVAM in building their houses are absolutely deserving families to have this 'gift' of a new and safer house, and one of the most deserving families is of Bakhan's family! There is no way Bakhan and his sister could build a house for themselves, and they have been living in a ramshackle house for the last 4 years.



Fortunately, Bakhan and his sister have a nice flat land to build their house. One can have a good view from the construction site and it gets plenty of sun during the day.

It is not part of the project plan but since these two people could not afford to construct a toilet on their own, we made a decision to build one for them. It was a lot of extra work

and expense but it was necessary to build them this toilet. So we built them a proper (clean and beautiful also) water seal toilet.



Apart from the toilet, we also decided to buy heavy duty wooden ply to put as a ceiling beneath the roof. This was also not included in the original plan and the ceiling is usually the owners' responsibility but then Bakhan and his sister would not be able to put a ceiling by themselves. So we had to do it. But we cannot do it for the other houses in future due to restriction of the budget.



In addition to toilet and ply, we also purchased electric wire worth 44 euro to bring electricity for this family from the main electric line which is 95 meter away from the house. This being a new site for their house, there was no toilet or electricity line brought in previously.

For this year, this was the last house to be constructed and workers had lots of fun working here because the site itself was wide open with beautiful view and it was sunny and much warmer than Sarke's house area.





Tea/chhyang time at Bakhan's house

14 workers had worked in this house and it took 210 workers to complete the house.



Bakhan's house from the northern side

## **ANUVAM Golden Jubilee Grant**

As per ANUVAM's decision to award six graduates from Basakhali Secondary School with ANUVAM Golden Jubilee Grant each year from now on, the teachers of the School chose six graduates for this first year and they are:

1. Bhabindra BK - Bodu
2. Dev Kumari Bhujel - Damku
3. Dev Magar - Galame
4. Devikala Rai - Keth
5. Milan Rai - Helku
6. Sabina Rai - Bodu

Four of these awardees received €100 each at the Jubilee occasion but Bhabindra BK and Sabina Rai were in Kathmandu so the School Principal Kumarraj Shrestha had handed over these two with €100 each in Kathmandu.

We will soon arrange for all six to join together and take a picture so that we can send it to ANUVAM.

## **Display of Old Pictures**

We; FEILSS and Basakhali Secondary School family, thank ANUVAM for sending the precious old pictures of Basakhali School. After seeing these pictures, the School Management Committee and teachers suggested that these pictures be printed in large size and displayed at a proper room in the School for all to see it.

Printing and framing arrangements of these pictures will be done in the next few weeks. When ready, these pictures will be sent and hung in the School.

## **Family Selection for the Next Year**

As three more houses have been just recently completed, it is time we discuss and decide how many more families we are going to award with earthquake resistant house for the year 2019 – 20.

And we would like ANUVAM to give us update on how many houses it could finance to build for the next year. Based on ANUVAM's decision, we will choose the neediest families from the remaining families.

## Tables

Below are the people who worked in three houses for this year. We are going to hire same people for the next year and year after as our masons and carpenters as they are all qualified workers and the group has a good professional and personal camaraderie.

<b>SN</b>	<b>Name</b>
1	Bhakta Rai, Mason
2	Bir Bahadur Rai, Carpenter
3	Bishal Rai, Mason
4	Janak Rai, Mason
5	Jas Bahadur Rai, Carpenter leader
6	Kamana Rai, Carpenter
7	Kansule Rai, Carpenter
8	Krishna Rai (A), Mason
9	Krishna Rai (B), Carpenter
10	Laxman Rai (A), Mason leader
11	Laxman Rai (B), Mason
12	Naina Rai, Cook
13	Nanda Rai, Mud Mixing
14	Padam Rai, Carpenter
15	Ram Bahadur Rai, Carpenter leader
16	Ruche Rai, Mason
17	Sakal Rai, Mason
18	Shyam Kumar Rai, Mason
19	Yam Bahadur Magar, Mason leader