

# 1000 LIGHTS OF HOPE

## Rebuilding homes in Nepal

On April 25th, 2015, a catastrophic 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal. It was followed by more than 300 aftershocks and another 6.8 magnitude earthquake 17 days later. Lives and buildings alike were shattered; affecting an estimated 8 million people.

Half a million homes were left in ruins.

Yet, the resilience of the Nepali people is extraordinary. In the days since then, they have begun to rebuild their lives. Getting back a sense of home plays a vital role.

Using a community-driven process, this initiative is serving as a spark of hope. With an appropriate design, skill transfer, a leading role by house owners and spin-off impacts, houses are taking shape for those most in need.

The unique NGO-community-private sector partnership has lit 1000 lights of hope and continues...



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CHAUDHARY FOUNDATION

A Chaudhary Group Initiative



## **A HOUSE FOR THOSE MOST IN NEED**

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Identifying those most in need of help from among the affected communities is often a challenge. A rigorous selection process was carried out. Priority was given to those most vulnerable within the selected areas – from an economic, social, age, gender or disability viewpoint.



## CHALLENGING THE LIMITS

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The tough terrain and remote location of many of the houses compounds the difficulties of the construction process, both in access to materials and for training. Yet, working together, with long headloads and patient determination, even these have proved surmountable.





### **A SIMPLE, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE DESIGN**

The house incorporates earthquake resistance and safety features, is appropriate for the climate and is built with locally used materials. It's also simple to execute with a clear, simple progression of steps outlined in the manual.



## **FOR, WITH AND BY THE COMMUNITY**

The design, technical support and bulk of materials are provided to the families; but it is the houseowners and community themselves who take on the prime responsibility of construction!





## BEING ACCOUNTABLE

Through the Village Development Committee and the material distribution stores set up in each village, the initiative is monitored at the local level. This uses SMART cards to track the material delivery to each family and their progress on construction.



## WOMEN TAKE THE LEAD

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Across villages, women have been seen actively making a mark; both in the construction of their own houses and even in training others!





## UNIQUE TRANSFER OF BUILDING SKILLS

The power of unique cooperation at the grassroots. Masons trained in Bihar on a similar design after the devastating 2008 Kosi floods are passing on their skills across the border. At the same time, homeowners who've completed their own safe house are becoming trainers in other villages; a chance to help fellow countrymen and supplement income!





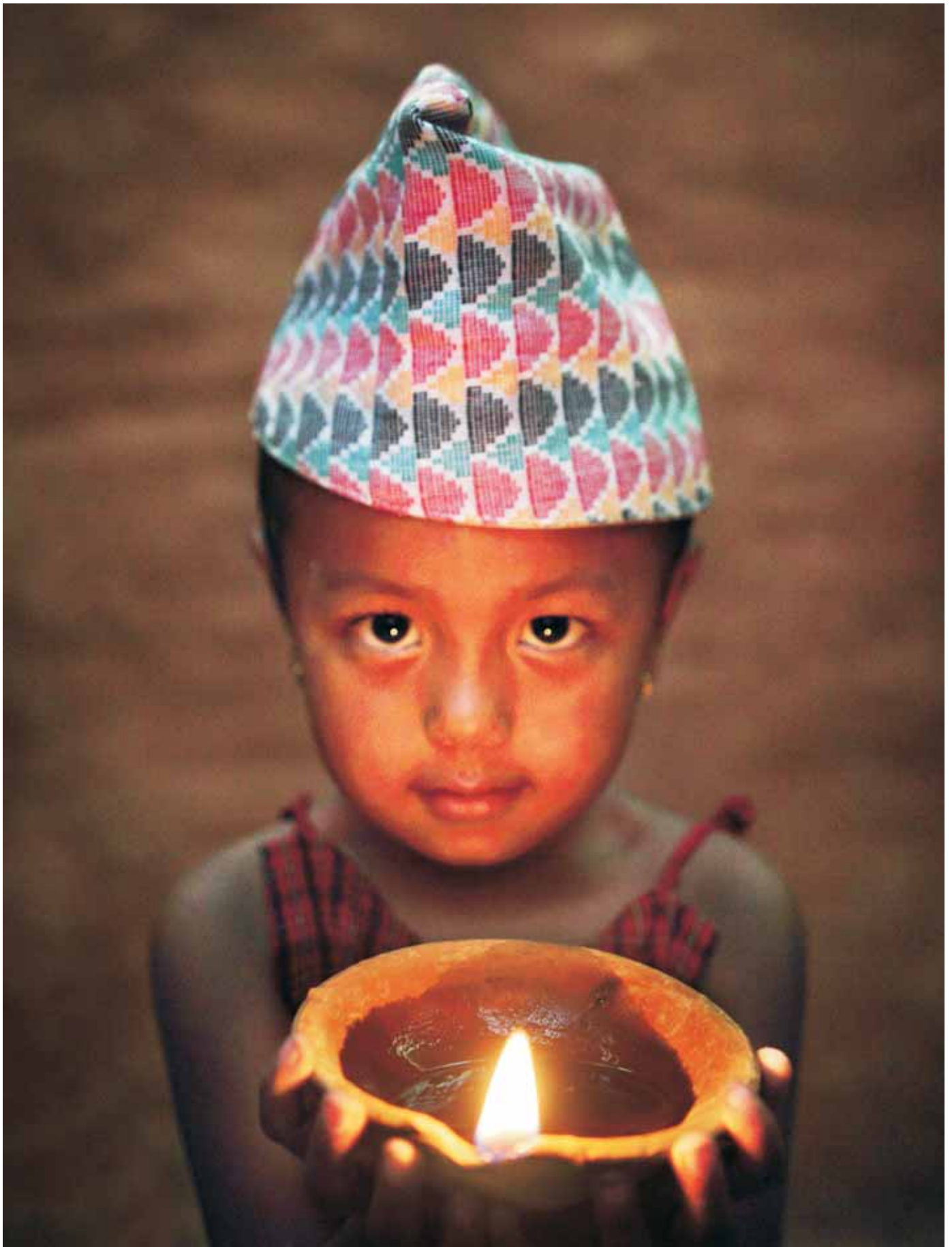


## CHILDREN LEARN AND RECOVER

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Watching the construction process is teaching children valuable skills and community spirit. Regaining the intangible spirit of home is also helping them recover.





## **NOT JUST A HOME, BUT A SENSE OF HOPE**

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The house construction itself has provided a healing path; in the feeling of taking control, in its protection and as a way to look forward. It is indeed a spark of hope!





WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE MADE THIS INITIATIVE POSSIBLE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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