

"Surakshit Ghar" app officially launched, information on reconstruction now available through mobile phones

Biz Khabar, 10 May 2017

Surakshit Ghar, a mobile application developed by Build Change for the Nepal National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) has been officially launched. Prof. Dr. Govinda Raj Pokharel, CEO of National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) officially launched the app on Tuesday. The app contains official NRA messages, audio clips and videos on how to build earthquake resistant houses. The app also contains information, suggestions and solutions on building earthquake resistant houses. Officially launching the app, the NRA CEO said that the app will be quite useful to those who are rebuilding or planning to rebuild their houses in future. He said that NRA is preparing to deploy 140 more engineers right after the election due to lack of engineers in the field. He also said that everyday around 500 homeowners are receiving the second tranche from the government. He said that this process will further speed up after there will be locally elected representatives following the election.

Sharing his experience about the lack of technical and skilled human resource in the field, he said that approximately 10,000 people are participating in different levels of technical trainings in order to resolve this issue.

Noll Tufani, Country Director, Build Change said that the app has been developed in order to help the earthquake affected through NRA. The app contains information on government approved house designs as well as contact details of trained masons and engineers. The app also consists of audio and video information, suggestion and procedures on obtaining government subsidies, with an objective to reach even those who cannot read or write. In addition, the app also contains information on construction practices, site safety, contact details of technical staff as well as messenger and toll free hotline service to receive free technical assistance. According to Build Change, the app has been developed to help homeowners rebuild safely by providing technical assistance and awareness. The app is available for free and can be used offline after downloading.