



Build up Nepal is on a mission to break the vicious poverty cycle in rural Nepal through safe housing and long-term jobs. We create micro-enterprises that build affordable, climate-friendly, earthquake-resilient housing in poor communities.

Overview

A devastating earthquake hit Nepal in 2015, destroying more than 800,000 homes. Many rural families were hit hard and pushed deeper into debt and poverty. That's when Build up Nepal started, as a small team working to help poor families rebuild their homes. However, we soon realized that the only way to rebuild on the needed scale was to empower the locals to build by themselves using local material.

Millions of families in Nepal live in deep poverty and are forced to migrate from their villages to get employment. At the same time, the brick and construction industries are rapidly growing, presenting a unique opportunity to create jobs for the poor. Build up Nepal work is aimed to create jobs, build affordable and earthquake-resilient housing while greening the brick industry. The fired brick industry is responsible for poor working conditions, child labour, and 37% of Nepal's total CO² emissions ([World Bank 2020](#)). Our goal is to replace fired bricks with our Earth Bricks.

The Challenges

We are targeting three major challenges in Nepal:

- ⇒ **UNSAFE HOUSING:** Nepal is a high-risk country for earthquakes and other natural disasters. Traditional housing in rural Nepal often consists of mud, stone or bamboo and 49% of the houses do not meet the standards for safe housing.
- ⇒ **LACK OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY:** 28.6% of the population lives in poverty in Nepal, of which 95% reside in rural areas, forcing people to migrate abroad for work.
- ⇒ **CLIMATE CHANGE:** The fired brick industry poses a big climate issue. Not only a major source of CO² emissions, but also heavy air polluter with black carbon emissions, causing melting of the Himalayan glacier which supplies drinking water for 1.5 billion people

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Our solution

With a combination of sustainable technology and an innovative business model, Build up Nepal provides two integrated solutions to overcome the faced challenges:

1) Low-cost, eco-friendly technology: We specialize in CSEB (*Compressed Stabilized Earth Bricks*), a recognized disaster-resilient technology that uses local soil and sand with just 10% cement to produce bricks. Our off-grid machines are uniquely effective in rural areas. The technology reduces cost of a house by 25%.



2) Innovative micro-enterprise model: We recruit local entrepreneurs to start their own construction micro-enterprises. They invest their money in the machine and hard work into their enterprises, securing a strong incentive to build, sustain and grow over the long term. We provide them with machines, training, and technical support to ignite each enterprise as a sustainable economic engine within poor communities.

Impact and results

By empowering driven entrepreneurs to make attractive, high-quality bricks that are both *affordable* (key driver for mass adoption) and *eco-friendly*, we aim to ignite a green shift in the brick industry, while creating local jobs and building safe, affordable homes for low-income groups.



To date, we have 306 active enterprises and communities building with CSEB. On average each enterprise builds 10-20 houses per year and creates 8-10 jobs and saves 70 ton of CO₂ year-on-year. The data is collected from our enterprises once per year. [Click here](#) for more information on our impacts.

Be part of the solution

We operate in a rapidly growing market, there is a big demand for low-cost brick housing. We have a technology that is cheaper, stronger and more eco-friendly than fired brick and a business model that helps create successful entrepreneurs and a market around them.

We are looking for partners to help us scale and build safe housing for the marginalized, create jobs and support the greening of the brick industry and reduce CO₂ emissions in Nepal.

Will you join us on our mission?

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