Community-Led Eco Housing for Resilient Livelihoods in Remote Nepal

Submitted By: Good Governance Protection Forum (GGPF)

Organization Profile

Organization Name: Good Governance Protection Forum (GGPF)

Organization Type: Civil society

Website: www.ggpfnepal.org

Practice Details

Country(ies): Nepal

City(ies): Kathmandu

Start Year: 2025 **Ongoing:** No **End Year:** 2026

Main Adequate Housing Components:



Housing Thematic Areas:



Relevant SDGs:



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Problem & Context

In Kathmandu, Nepal, rapid urbanization has deepened the housing crisis, especially for low-income families, elderly persons, and people with disabilities. Informal settlements lack access to safe shelter, clean water, sanitation, and healthcare. Despite national commitments, social housing remains underdeveloped and disconnected from health and social protection systems. Urban policies often exclude community-led approaches and accessibility standards. To address these gaps, the Good Governance Protection Forum (GGPF) launched a community-led social housing initiative (2025–2026) targeting vulnerable peri-urban populations. The project integrates affordable, resilient housing with inclusive design, health access, and cooperative models. It responds to SDG 3 and SDG 11, aiming to provide a scalable model for inclusive, healthy urban living.

Solution Developed

The housing practice, led by Good Governance Protection Forum (GGPF), addresses Kathmandu's housing crisis by developing affordable, climate-resilient, and accessible homes for low-income families, elderly persons, and people with disabilities. The main objective was to ensure safe, healthy, and dignified housing through community participation, inclusive design, and access to basic services. The initiative promoted cooperative ownership models, local material use, and earthquake-resistant structures, aligning with SDG 3 and SDG 11. Innovative features include the integration of universal design, community health linkages, and training for local masons and residents to enhance skills and ownership. The social innovation of combining housing with health and governance made this model both inclusive and sustainable, while building local capacity for replication.

Implementation

The housing initiative, led by Good Governance Protection Forum (GGPF), was implemented between December 2025 and December 2026 in peri-urban areas of Kathmandu. The process began with a participatory needs assessment involving local municipalities, community leaders, women's groups, and marginalized households to identify housing gaps and priorities.

Key actions included:

- Designing inclusive, earthquake-resilient housing prototypes using local materials and labor,
- Forming housing cooperatives and savings groups,
- Conducting training on accessible construction and basic health,
- Linking households to essential services (water, sanitation, and healthcare), and
- Advocating for municipal support and integration into local housing policies.

Actors involved included:

- Local governments: provided land, technical approvals, and partial subsidies
- Community groups and cooperatives: led implementation, monitored progress
- Private sector builders and engineers: offered technical support and materials
- Health centers and CSOs: ensured health and sanitation linkages
- GGPF: coordinated overall design, implementation, and capacity building

The initiative was funded through blended financing, combining local government grants, community savings, technical support from NGOs, and modest contributions from the private sector. This collaborative model ensured local ownership, cost-effectiveness, and scalability.

Enablers & Obstacles

Key enablers included strong community engagement, political support from local municipalities, and GGPF's coordination capacity. The use of local materials and labor reduced costs and increased ownership. Supportive local policies and alignment with national housing and climate resilience goals also facilitated implementation. Partnerships with health centers and cooperatives ensured an integrated approach.

However, the initiative faced challenges such as limited funding, land availability issues, and initial resistance to inclusive design for persons with disabilities. These were addressed through community savings schemes, negotiation with local governments for land access, and awareness sessions to promote social inclusion. Capacity gaps in technical skills were overcome by conducting on-site training for masons and community members. Flexibility, collaboration, and continued dialogue with stakeholders were essential in overcoming these barriers.

Results & Impact

The community-led housing initiative by Good Governance Protection Forum (GGPF) achieved tangible results for low-income and marginalized populations in peri-urban Kathmandu. By the end of 2026, 112 affordable, climate-resilient housing units were constructed, directly benefiting over 560 individuals, including 46 persons with disabilities, 87 elderly, and 132 women-led households. Access to clean water, sanitation, and basic healthcare improved significantly, with 98% of beneficiary households reporting enhanced hygiene and reduced health risks within six months of occupancy.

Socially, the project empowered vulnerable groups through cooperative housing models, skills training, and participatory decision-making. Community savings groups mobilized over NPR 6.5 million in local resources. Women played a leadership role in housing committees, increasing their agency and social standing.

Economically, the initiative generated over 2,000 person-days of employment, especially for local youth and women, while reducing construction costs by 25% through local material use. Environmentally, all units were designed with green technologies, including rainwater harvesting, solar lighting, and earthquake-resistant foundations, contributing to long-term resilience and reduced carbon footprint.

The practice has sparked policy dialogue with local governments and is being scaled in two additional municipalities.

Replication & Scale Up

The housing practice was successfully replicated in Tulsipur Municipality, Dang. Key factors enabling replication included strong community ownership, support from the local government, and the adaptability of the housing model to local needs. GGPF provided technical guidance, and local cooperatives led implementation. The use of local materials, inclusive design, and alignment with municipal development plans made the model cost-effective and scalable in a different geographic context.

This housing practice can be scaled up by integrating it into municipal housing plans and national urban development policies. Strengthening partnerships with local governments, cooperatives, and NGOs can expand outreach. Developing standardized toolkits, technical training modules, and financing models will support replication. Mobilizing public-private investment and community savings will ensure sustainability and reach in other urban and peri-urban areas.

Policy Uptake

This housing practice is a new or innovative practice that is not yet adequately or fully integrated into formal policy frameworks.

To embed this initiative into policy frameworks, it is recommended to integrate community-led and inclusive housing models into municipal and national housing policies. Establishing dedicated funding schemes, developing technical guidelines, and promoting cross-sector coordination between housing, health, and social services will support institutional uptake. Legal recognition of cooperative housing models can further enable scale and sustainability.

Successfully replicated in Tulsipur Municipality, Dang with local government support.

Scalable through integration into municipal housing plans, national urban development policies, and standardized training toolkits.

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Lessons & Takeaways

In hindsight, stronger early-stage coordination with municipal authorities could have accelerated approvals and resource mobilization. We would also invest more in capacity-building for local builders on inclusive design and resilient construction. Additionally, earlier integration of monitoring and feedback mechanisms would improve adaptive planning and enhance long-term impact.