Various tests on soil were performed for checking the content (sand, silt and clay), fineness, binding capacity etc. Red Soil (Rato mato), White soil (Kamero mato) and local soil, all three were present in small geographical area.

With noble cause of preserving local building culture, ASF Nepal along with social partner Pourakhi Nepal, technical partner CRATerre, and financial support from Caritas Luxembourg started a reconstruction project at Magapauwa – 7, Dolakha. Dolakha is one of the most affected districts of the April 2015, Gorkha Earthquake. As many other parts of Nepal, Dolakha has its own Local Building Culture based on its topography, climate, temperature and other factors. Although the building culture varies itself within Dolakha too, the typical building typology in overall Dolakha consists of two and a half storey stone masonry houses. These distinctive features of these buildings are mud floor, four pitched thatched roof (now almost replaced by CGI sheets) and diagonal struts (tudal) supporting the roof projection on all four sides.

This reconstruction project consisted technical supervision to the new construction along with on-the-job mason training. This training conducted here at Dolakha primarily aimed in teaching the local masons on improving their prevailing skills and construction techniques to build better earthquake resistant houses preserving their originality. Judging by the response of the trained masons and the feedback from the community, this training was successful in fulfilling its goal.

Local architecture is developed from adaptation of a community to physical and environmental condition of the territory in which it is founded. Centuries of experience and practice have led to wide diversity of building culture. Thus, resulting in different kinds of building systems in different parts of the country. The Building Culture of a place can also partially be from its adaptation to natural disasters along with above mentioned aspects. Our project promotes use of local materials in the reconstruction that leads to sustainable development, employment opportunities to local people and involve disadvantages people.

CARLUX PROJECT FOR DOLAKHA

SUBMITTED BY: ASF NEPAL