

# REBUILDING LIVES AFTER THE 2015 EARTHQUAKE IN NEPAL

**REALL HAS BEEN WORKING IN NEPAL TO BUILD A COMMERCIALLY VIABLE AFFORDABLE HOMES MOVEMENT SINCE 2011, PARTNERING WITH LUMANTI.**



**AFTER YEARS OF LIVING IN TEMPORARY SHELTERS, NAMRATA WAS ABLE TO CONSTRUCT A PERMANENT HOME AND FIND STABILITY.**

## BEFORE THE EARTHQUAKE

Prior to purchasing her own home Namrata lived with her husband and son in a small, traditional house made of sun-dried bricks. They had no household water or sanitation, which meant they had to walk for up to an hour every day to collect water.

On the day the earthquake struck, Namrata and her husband were both at work and their son had gone to the community bathing point. Fortunately, none of them were injured, but they came home to devastation with their home completely destroyed.

## IN THE AFTERMATH

Initially, Namrata and her family took refuge on their neighbour's land with other community members in a makeshift shelter made from old sacks.

After two months there, the local cooperative supported them in building a temporary shelter on their own land and they lived there for a further three years. Life was very hard. With very limited access to water and sanitation Namrata would have to wait for

darkness before she could leave the house to go to the toilet in private, and although she was able to find work as a housemaid, her husband struggled to find employment. Namrata, as the only earning member of the family, took on two jobs to earn enough for the family to live on.

**"I'M REALLY THANKFUL FOR THE SUPPORT FROM THE COOPERATIVE! NOW WE HAVE A SPACE TO CALL MY OWN HOME."**

## A NEW POSSIBILITY

Lumanti identified Namrata as a potential client for their housing project, [Patan - Thecho Mahila Jagaran SACCOS](#), due to her family's dire need.

Namrata earned too little to save, which meant that she was unable to apply for a loan. However, the cooperative recognised her level of need and one of the leaders guaranteed a loan of \$2,500 USD on Namrata's behalf. Namrata was then able to receive a

second loan from the cooperative at a later date, with both being used to construct her house.

Later she received an extra grant of \$400 to install windows downstairs for increased light and ventilation. The new house has a toilet installed underneath the staircase and a water tap that is shared with their neighbour.

## THE IMPACT

As a direct result of Lumanti's housing project, Namrata and her family are now living a life of stability, far removed from the dire situation before. The new house is more secure, and Namrata can go to work without the fear of burglary. She no longer has to undertake the dangerous trips outside to go to the toilet at night, or travel as far to collect water.

With her extra time, she has been able to take on additional work in her job as a housemaid, and her son is now working as a salesman in a shop. Once they have repaid the loans, Namrata plans to save and then take out another loan to add some final finishing touches to the house.