Researching safer self-recovery
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(Self-) Recovery

The Build Back Safer (BBS) principles are founded on the idea that “Governments, donors and aid agencies must recognize that families and communities drive their own recovery” (Build Back Better principles, 2005)
Typhoon Haiyan, Philippines, 2013
Fieldwork in Nepal and Philippines – urban and rural

*Transect Walks*

*Observation and visual documentation*

*Building Survey Forms*

*Small focus groups*

*Semi-structured interviews*

*Observation and visual documentation*
Promoting Safer Building is a project as a Global Shelter Activity aims to:

- Review of library of existing technical and IEC materials, guidelines and manuals; referenced by country, hazard, building typology, context, climate etc. (Note that work is already underway on compiling this library, so the Working Group will have limited input on this, but it is hoped that the Working Group will review it and it will be of use to the shelter cluster).
- Develop a cluster protocol for appropriately rigorous and evidence-based identification, review and selection of key build-back-safer messages for endorsement by national clusters, to be integrated with national cluster technical working groups.
- Produce a Global Shelter Cluster report highlighting key technical areas where there is uncertainty or lack of knowledge, or a lack of effective intervention, to help guide (the resourcing of) future research and development.
- Disseminate findings through the workshops and events of the Promoting Safer Building project and future Global Shelter Cluster meeting(s).

This group is managed by CARE International UK shelter team. The partnership also includes the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), University College London (UCL) and British Geological Survey (BGS).
The case for self-recovery

Bill Flinn, Holly Schofield and Luisa Miranda Morel

Most families recovering from the catastrophe of a disaster rebuild their own homes. This practice of self-recovery by non-displaced communities has potential for displaced populations too.

Along with over half a million Filipino families, Erica and John Rey and their twelve children saw their house blown away by Typhoon Haiyan. Two years on, they had designed and rebuilt their house. They received some materials, a small amount of cash and technical assistance from an international NGO working with a local partner, but essentially the control, the decision making, the day-to-day building house. Although the process is currently little understood, the shelter sector is beginning to develop effective and appropriate approaches to supporting the practice.

The Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan highlights many of the advantages, and some of the pitfalls, of a self-recovery programme. First among the positives is the control, agency and choice exercised by the family. The most striking visual evidence.

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#SaferSelfRecovery
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Promoting Safer Building – future directions

1. Build on current partnerships – research partners; and also wider community of practice.
2. Practice research. Support to cluster and CARE programmes in immediate aftermath of a disaster. This is already happening – eg Tonga, Vanuatu,
3. Self-recovery programmes already happening, but lacking:
   • Theory to practice.
   • Develop tools and guidance.
5. Geographic reach (Caribbean, Africa, LA)
6. Conflict and forced displacement
7. Core funding would allow for possibility of doing evaluations, case-studies eg Nepal, Pakistan, Indonesia (Pide Jaya).
8. Support to GCRF projects – ie Bristol and Bath.