

Impact of reconstruction: increasing vulnerability (1993–2011)

In relocated villages, people have undertaken extensions to their houses, but very few extensions have been carried out using the materials and technology that were originally promoted in the reconstructed houses because they are neither affordable nor available.³ Wall materials include tin sheets, thatch, ferro-cement sometimes with bamboo posts, and stone and brick in cement mortar.

While stone was the predominant building material of traditional houses in the region before the earthquake, it is now used only to a very limited extent, mainly for the construction of boundary walls. This is because of a perceived fear of stone as an unsafe building material (Figures 7-10).⁴

Figure 7. The local people have made additions to the relocated houses using locally-available materials, such as thatch.



Figure 8. Stone in random rubble masonry is only used for making boundary walls.

