

**PAKISTAN POST-EARTHQUAKE STORY RURAL HOUSING
RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM: IMPLEMENTATION EXPERIENCE
AND LESSONS LEARNT**

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Abstract: *The presentation will take you through an eventful journey of post disaster damage assessment, strategization, donor coordination, project preparation, and rapid implementation and supervision. The journey begins right from the immediate aftermath of the October 8, 2005 earthquake, through relief and early recovery to start of reconstruction. Despite heavy odds stacked against it mainly natural, the multi-stakeholder relief operation was able to deliver better than many would have expected. To follow, a rapid Damage and Needs Assessment was completed, which paved the way for the commencement of strategy formulation and project preparation processes very early on. The World Bank approved the Earthquake Recovery Project in record time - an initiative that supports an owner-driven rural housing cash grant program. Two years down the road, this program has many achievements to report, but also many evolving challenges to routinely surmount. The presentation will take the participants through this journey to date, reporting the ground covered so far, current issues in implementation, and finally critical lessons and insights into delivering such unusually challenging programs.*