

The Earthshot Prize 2024 Finalists

• Fix Our Climate

Bricks that save lives and our planet

Build Up Nepal helps communities live safely
in earthquake-resistant, low-carbon homes.

THE
EARTHSHOT
PRIZE

Meet the Finalists

Build Up Nepal

📍 Area of impact: Nepal



After a devastating earthquake hit Nepal in 2015, Björn Söderberg and his wife Bina Shrestha founded Build Up Nepal.

Their **innovative alternative to clay-fired bricks** allows for affordable, resilient homes and sustainable income for entrepreneurs.

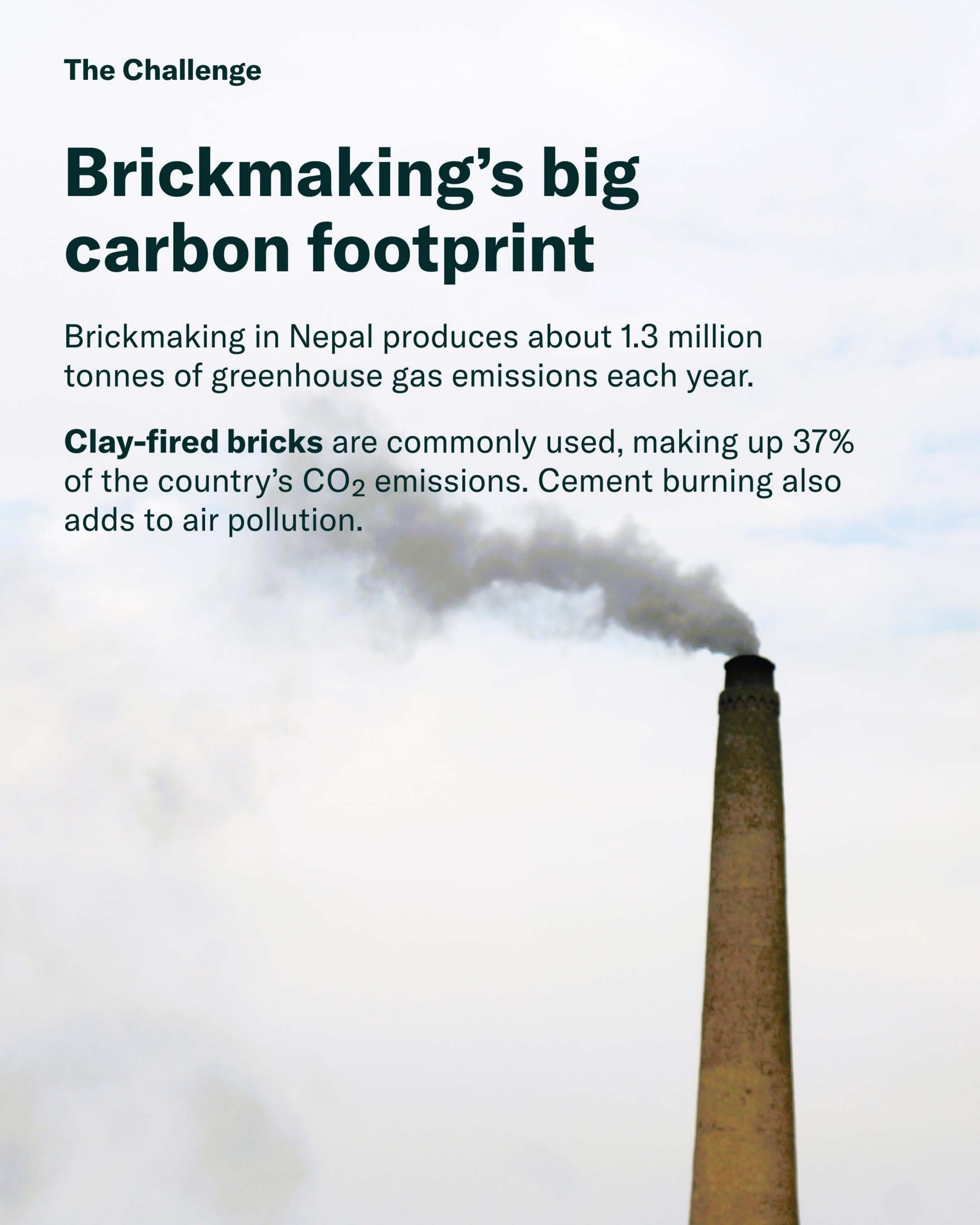
Pictured: Björn Söderberg, Managing Director, Build Up Nepal

The Challenge

Brickmaking's big carbon footprint

Brickmaking in Nepal produces about 1.3 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

Clay-fired bricks are commonly used, making up 37% of the country's CO₂ emissions. Cement burning also adds to air pollution.

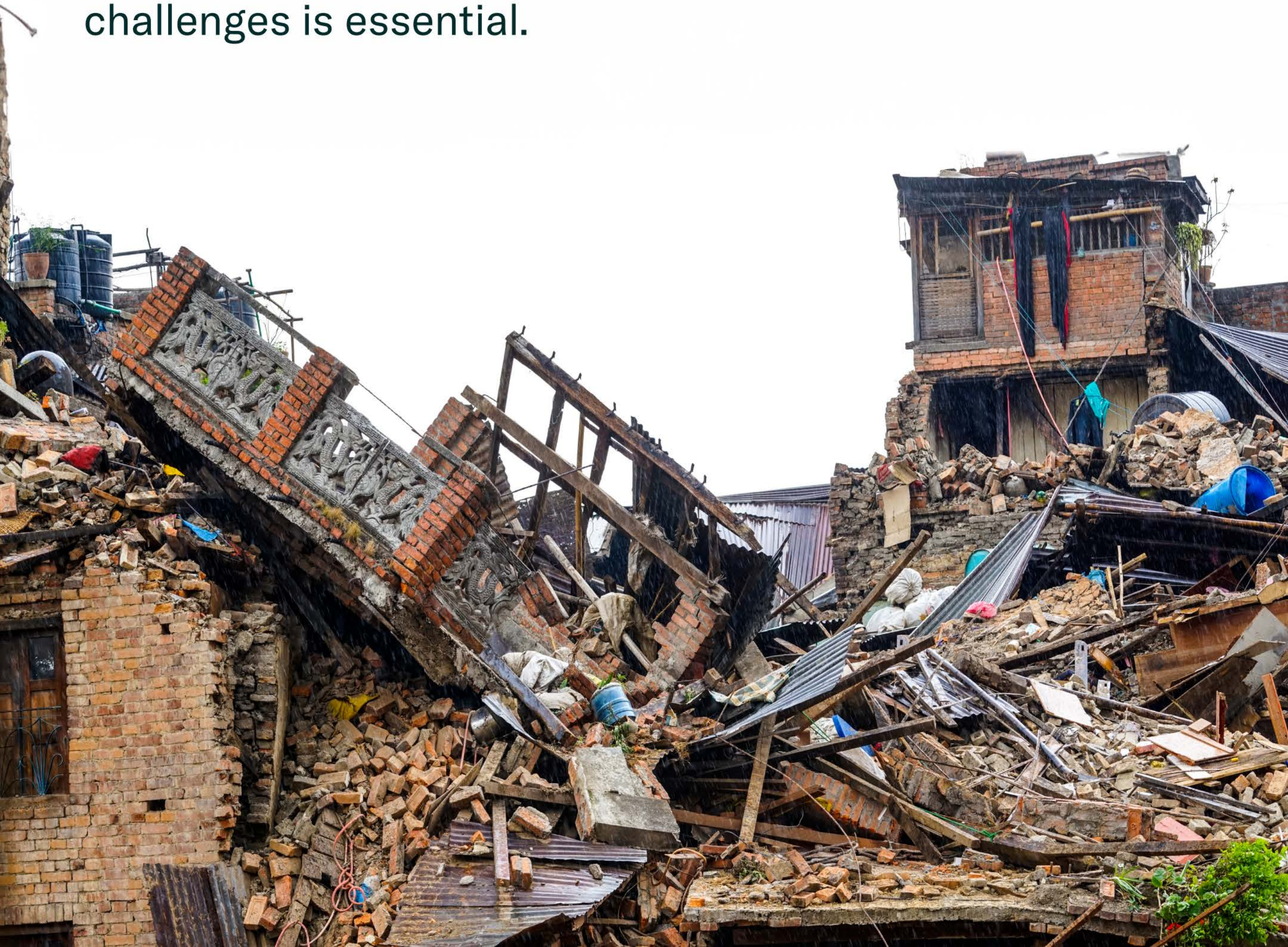


The Challenge

Vulnerable to natural disasters, climate change

Floods and earthquakes have destroyed over a million homes across Nepal in the past decade. The rebuilding costs are enormous.

Building affordable homes that can withstand these challenges is essential.



Their Solution and Impact

Building greener, stronger homes

Build Up Nepal's eco-interlocking bricks are **compressed** instead of fired, reducing CO₂ emissions by 75% and air pollution by 90%.



Their Solution and Impact



Made from **local materials** like stone dust, the eco-bricks are much cheaper than fired bricks.

They also **interlock** — making them easy and quick to build and reinforce, as well as earthquake-resistant.

Their Solution and Impact

Supporting local entrepreneurs

Build Up Nepal sells brick-making equipment to entrepreneurs and trains them to build with local materials and steel reinforcements.

This **micro-enterprise** model creates jobs, safe housing, and resilient communities.



Their Solution and Impact

Far-reaching, lasting change



11,000

houses built using
Build Up Nepal's
technology



2,232

jobs created by
307 entrepreneurs



100,000

tonnes of CO₂e
emissions saved



124

schools and public
buildings built



The Future

Toward a cement-free solution

The eco-bricks contain just 6–7% cement, but Build Up Nepal is working to reduce the cement content further.

Their ultimate goal? **0% cement, 100% carbon-neutral bricks.**



The Future

Scaling for global impact

Looking ahead, Build Up Nepal is aiming to expand into Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, China, and Africa.

They are targeting to build **100,000 houses by 2030**, saving around 1 million tonnes of CO₂e emissions.

