

## Box 21.4: A Nepalese tragedy inspires innovation

Recent history has demonstrated that, with the right kind of resources and political will, policies can make an impact. The period of reconstruction in the aftermath of the 2015 earthquake is rich in such stories.

Given the need to move swiftly after the earthquake, the government abandoned its traditional paper-based

surveys in favour of mobile technology to assess the population's needs.

The company Kathmandu Living Labs was enlisted to help. Some 2 500 engineers were deployed with electronic tablets to survey 1.05 million buildings and 5.1 million individuals. They collected 9.3 million pictures in a record 120 days which were stored in a 10-terabyte database.

These data formed the basis for the allocation of grants to households to enable them to rebuild their homes and are now being stored for other purposes within government departments.

*Source:* compiled by authors; see also <https://tinyurl.com/y5g9a8rd>

**UNESCO SCIENCE REPORT (2021)**