

## Working together for disaster relief

### Working together for disaster relief conference

The Working Together for Disaster Relief conference, organised by BRE, Catholic Relief Services and Save the Children – and supported by the BRE Trust – was hosted at BRE in February.

Open to all agencies involved in post-disaster response, the conference focused on how they can collaborate more effectively. It included presentations on current and proposed initiatives, and workshops on how humanitarian, government, academic and private partners can best work together.

After a morning session of scene setting presentations, such as on the field experiences of representatives from Nepal who responded to the 2015 earthquake, delegates participated in breakout sessions on key disaster response issues:

**Research and development** – the barriers to academic and private sector technical expertise being effectively applied in humanitarian response, and how to tackle these.

**Supporting local enterprise and building capacity** – improving collaboration with disaster-affected communities, and examining how international operators can best support localisation.

**Construction and infrastructure in humanitarian action** – how can private sector technical expertise best be used in disaster response?

**Financial Services, Technology and Operations in Post-Disaster Reconstruction** – how humanitarian agencies are embracing new technology and innovations in the financial and digital spheres to improve service provision.

These sessions formed the basis of a panel discussion on potential next steps in improving



Delegates receiving first-hand accounts of disaster relief activities in the field.

collaboration between relief agencies. These include:

**A follow-up local conference** being organised by delegates from Nepal in collaboration with CRS to maintain links between the government and private sector organisations who supported the 2015 earthquake response.

**A mailing list of delegates** to stay in contact and continue the conversation. CRS is hoping to make this event the first in a series to provide updates on progress in localisation and knowledge sharing.

**Consolidation by BRE Trust** of its forward plan in the humanitarian sector. Several humanitarian sphere projects have been undertaken by different parts of BRE, which will form part of a more cohesive programme. This conference helped to map out gaps in the sector where the BRE Trust could potentially focus its efforts. It also strengthened BRE's relationship with CRS – a key partners in using QSAND and developing the demonstration shelter on the Innovation Park – and enabled BRE to showcase its current work and intentions in this sector to other potential partners.

#### QSAND case studies

Two case studies on the use of the QSAND disaster response tool – published with BRE Trust support – were launched at the conference and are freely available on the Trust's [website](#).