

BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

# Development & Disaster Risk Reduction

## South and Central Asia

Fiscal Year (FY) 2020



Populations throughout South and Central Asia are vulnerable to a range of natural disasters, including cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, floods, and landslides. These hazards compound existing vulnerabilities faced by many communities in the region. In FY 2020, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supported a range of programs to build resilience and promote enhanced emergency preparedness, supporting community members and disaster management specialists at the local, national, and regional levels.

- In FY 2020, USAID/BHA provided more than \$31.5 million to partner organizations conducting development and disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities in nine countries across South and Central Asia.
- In Bangladesh, USAID/BHA provided \$7 million in FY 2020 funding to three non-governmental organization (NGO) partners to continue to implement multi-year food security activities designed to build resilience among vulnerable populations by supporting agriculture, DRR, livelihoods, and maternal and child health, as well as women’s empowerment.
- In response to the suspension of many in-person development and DRR activities due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, USAID/BHA partners across the region have increased virtual engagement and adapted programs so that activities can continue whenever possible. In Afghanistan, USAID/BHA partners also shifted DRR activities to deliver critical information on COVID-19 transmission and prevention to health actors and vulnerable communities across the country.

**USAID/BHA DEVELOPMENT & DRR FUNDING FOR SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA<sup>1</sup> IN FY 2020**

Development	\$7,000,000
Standalone DRR	\$18,339,093
Integrated DRR	\$6,193,648

**Total: \$31,532,741**

*In South and Central Asia in FY 2020, USAID/BHA supported development and DRR activities in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.*

<sup>1</sup> These numbers reflect a combination of development food security activities funded through USAID’s Office of Food for Peace and DRR and integrated DRR with response programs funded through USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### *Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Risk Management for Central Asia Red Crescent Societies*

USAID/BHA provided \$250,000 in FY 2020 funding to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to strengthen local capacity to mitigate the impact of earthquakes and other natural disasters on vulnerable populations in Central Asia. IFRC administered trainings on adapting to climate-related risks, DRR, and emergency preparedness to community volunteers and national Red Crescent society staff in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to support early action and emergency preparedness, as well as improve coordination with government-led disaster response frameworks. In addition, USAID/BHA supported the distribution of first aid kits, folding stretchers, and other basic response equipment for partner Red Crescent societies in the three countries, strengthening their capacity to provide urgent assistance to those in need.

### *Supporting Specialized Training to Improve Response Preparedness in South Asia*

Since 1998, USAID has funded the Program for the Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER), promoting disaster preparedness through professional development activities for emergency responders across South Asia in partnership with the American Red Cross (AmCross), the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), and the National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET).

In FY 2020, as part of ongoing USAID/BHA-supported PEER activities, NSET continued critical work to support local communities, as well as municipal, regional, and national disaster management authorities, in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic's disruption of in-person training opportunities, NSET staff rapidly developed online community disaster response, hospital preparedness, and medical first responder refresher courses to continue supporting disaster management professionals and strengthen local capacity to respond to sudden-onset emergencies.

During FY 2020, ADPC continued to support countries in South Asia to further integrate PEER's approach and capacity-building activities into national and sub-national budgets and programs, in line with country disaster management strategies. ADPC worked to engage additional stakeholders, continue training responders in first aid and search and rescue, and develop linkages between national, regional, and global DRR frameworks. Since 2013, ADPC has also supported additional capacity-building activities to help emergency responders in Bangladesh meet heightened needs following a natural disaster through another USAID/BHA-supported program, Strengthening Earthquake Resilience in Bangladesh.

### *Broadening Public Awareness of Disaster Risks in Afghanistan*

USAID/BHA provided more than \$1.7 million in FY 2020 funding to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to conduct disaster risk management activities in areas of Afghanistan susceptible to droughts, landslides, and other recurrent natural disasters. In partnership with community members, local leaders, and the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, IOM supported community-, district-, and provincial-level authorities in preparing hazard maps and vulnerability assessments to identify and provide targeted support to at-risk communities, in addition to organizing an advocacy campaign to broaden public awareness of risk mitigation measures.

### *Building Resilience in Afghanistan Through Integrated Emergency Response*

In FY 2020, USAID/BHA continued to support an NGO partner working to provide health; nutrition; protection; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); and a range of other integrated emergency services to support disaster- and conflict-affected Afghan households as they sustainably rebuild livelihoods. As the COVID-19 pandemic worsened in 2020, the NGO adjusted its DRR programming to support COVID-19 risk mitigation, delivering key messages on COVID-19 transmission and prevention to community-based emergency response team members

responsible for disseminating health information throughout their respective communities and reporting suspected COVID-19 cases to Government of Afghanistan (GoA) officials to help track the spread of the disease.

### *Strengthening Information Management for Afghan Emergency Preparedness*

With more than \$3 million in FY 2020 funding, a USAID/BHA NGO partner continued to work with humanitarian organizations, local community leaders, and GoA officials to develop hazard maps and other information resources focused on accessibility, humanitarian operations, and natural hazards to strengthen local capacity to prepare for recurrent natural disasters. The NGO also provided monitoring services and training on information management for Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority staff to enhance national-, provincial-, and district-level coordination and information sharing, with the objective of improving preparedness and increasing the effectiveness of disaster response operations.

### *Bolstering Community-Led DRR Efforts in Bangladesh*

In Bangladesh's Bandarban and Cox's Bazar districts, natural disasters have damaged or destroyed houses, degraded environmental resources, and reduced livelihood opportunities, compounding existing needs among low-income households. In response, USAID/BHA partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is working to strengthen host communities' resilience to cyclones, flash floods, and other hazards. With nearly \$4.2 million in FY 2020 funding, CRS coordinated with community members and local government officials to develop climate adaptation and disaster risk management plans that mitigate the impact of natural disasters on their community and reduce local food insecurity. CRS also incorporated hygiene promotion activities into its DRR programming to reduce the risk of water-borne illness transmission among host community members following a sudden-onset emergency.

### *Improving Food Security and Nutrition Outcomes in Bangladesh*

USAID/BHA provided \$2.5 million to World Vision in FY 2020 to complete the five year *Nobo Jatra*, or "New Beginning" program, which worked to improve gender-equitable food security, nutrition, and resilience in southwestern Bangladesh. World Vision's approach integrated agriculture, gender, good governance, health, livelihood, nutrition, and WASH interventions to achieve sustainable change. For example, the NGO distributed cash assistance to pregnant and lactating women, as well as nutrition supplements to children aged 6–23 months; provided technical assistance to smallholder farmers to expand crop yields and enhance local livelihoods; and supported public awareness campaigns to reduce instances of adolescent pregnancy and early forced marriage. Following the conclusion of *Nobo Jatra*, the Government of Bangladesh is seeking to replicate the program's successful model in other areas of the country.



Two participants in the USAID/BHA-funded *Nobo Jatra* program feed their children. Photo credit: World Vision.

### *Enhancing Nepal's Disaster Risk Management Capacity*

In FY 2020, USAID/BHA provided nearly \$400,000 in additional funding to IOM to enhance disaster risk management governance at the federal, provincial, and local levels in Nepal. Building on the work of previous DRR capacity-building programs, IOM worked to strengthen the legal framework authorizing provincial and local authorities to conduct disaster prevention, preparedness, and recovery activities. In addition, IOM organized capacity-building activities to improve interagency coordination among Nepalese disaster management organizations and expand the response capabilities of the Government of Nepal's National Disaster Risk

Reduction and Management Authority.

### *Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning in Sri Lanka*

With \$550,000 in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) supported Government of Sri Lanka disaster management authorities—including the Disaster Management Center and National Disaster Relief Services Center—to improve communications, coordination, and information management during emergency responses and support the implementation of the National Emergency Operations Plan, a blueprint outlining roles and responsibilities within the country’s emergency response apparatus. USAID/BHA-supported disaster preparedness programs proved critical during the 2020 cyclone and monsoon season, helping Sri Lankan emergency response personnel provide life-saving assistance to storm survivors.

#### **USAID/BHA DEVELOPMENT AND DRR ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA IN FY 2020<sup>1</sup>**

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	AMOUNT
<b>Development</b>			
Bangladesh	Agriculture, Civil Society, Coordination and Capacity Building Support, Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition, Private Sector Productivity, WASH	CARE	\$1,917,865
	Agriculture; Capacity Building, Preparedness, and Planning; Civil Society; Environment; Maternal and Child Health; Nutrition; Private Sector Productivity; Water Supply and Sanitation	Helen Keller International (HKI)	\$2,582,135
	Other - Complementary Services	World Vision	\$2,500,000
<b>TOTAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING</b>			<b>\$7,000,000</b>
<b>DRR</b>			
Central Asia Regional	Risk Management Policy and Practice	IFRC	\$250,000
	Risk Management Policy and Practice	UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	\$261,000
South Asia Regional	Risk Management Policy and Practice	U.S. Forest Service (USFS)	\$435,000
	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	CARE	\$3,500,000
Bangladesh	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	CRS	\$4,194,628
	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	IOM	\$3,500,000
	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	WFP	\$1,000,000
	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	World Vision	\$800,000
India	Risk Management Policy and Practice	UN Development Program (UNDP)	\$350,000
	Risk Management Policy and Practice	IOM	\$399,955
Nepal	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Risk Management Policy and Practice	Lutheran World Relief, Inc. (LWR)	\$750,000
Sri Lanka	Natural and Technological Risks, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Sarvodaya	\$1,499,703

	Risk Management Policy and Practice	WFP	\$550,000
	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Risk Management Policy and Practice	World Vision	\$848,807
<b>TOTAL DRR FUNDING</b>			<b>\$18,339,093</b>
<b>Integrated DRR With Response</b>			
	Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	IFRC	\$750,000
Afghanistan	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Risk Management Policy and Practice	IOM	\$1,771,713
	HCIM, Natural and Technological Risks, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Implementing Partners	\$3,671,935
<b>TOTAL INTEGRATED DRR WITH RESPONSE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$6,193,648</b>
<b>TOTAL DEVELOPMENT AND DRR FUNDING IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$31,532,741</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2020.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](http://interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](http://cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](http://reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](http://usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)