

**CONTEXT**

- Approximately 80 percent of Nepal's population lives in rural areas vulnerable to environmental hazards, including droughts, earthquakes, floods, and landslides, according to the Government of Nepal (GoN). From 2013 to 2022, more than 29,100 sudden-onset disasters led to an estimated 14,000 deaths and $312 million in economic losses. These frequent sudden-onset events challenge efforts at the local, provincial, and national levels to strengthen resilience against natural hazards.

- Widespread poverty, structural underdevelopment, and limited livelihood opportunities beyond small-scale agriculture amplify households' vulnerability to natural disasters in Nepal, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP). These vulnerabilities are compounded by high inflation, rising food prices, and the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic that have further reduced livelihood opportunities nationwide, especially among poor, rural households.

- While food security conditions across Nepal have improved in recent years, nearly 3.9 million people—approximately 13 percent of the country’s population—were experiencing food insecurity as of June 2022, WFP reports. Additionally, an estimated 33 percent of Nepali children ages 6–23 months did not meet the recommended minimum standards for dietary diversity and nutrient intake, which can increase the risk of illness and child mortality.

- Since the 2015 earthquake, the GoN has made significant progress in developing its disaster response capacity, including the establishment of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) in 2017, which coordinates, facilitates, and supports disaster risk reduction and risk management activities at the national, provincial, and local levels. The GoN is also investing in early-warning systems and building local community capacity to reduce risks from, build resilience against, and respond to natural disasters, in accordance with the GoN’s 2018–2030 Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Plan of Action.

**ASSISTANCE**

- For nearly two decades, USAID has supported the GoN and humanitarian partners to strengthen natural hazard preparedness, mitigate disaster risks, and respond to humanitarian emergencies in Nepal. In Fiscal Years (FYs) 2021 and 2022, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided nearly $7.3 million in early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) funding to humanitarian partners to build resilience and enhance disaster preparedness at the national, provincial, and local levels through activities focused on agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, and risk management policy and practice.

Additional information on USAID/BHA’s activities can be found at: usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work
FYs 2021 and 2022 funding includes USAID/BHA’s continued support of Mercy Corps and Lutheran World Relief (LWR) programming. From FYs 2020 to 2022, USAID/BHA provided $10.6 million to Mercy Corps to implement a food assistance program promoting sustainable food security and community resilience in six districts of Karnali Province. With USAID/BHA support, Mercy Corps has reached approximately 118,000 individuals since 2020 through agriculture, disaster risk reduction, and water, sanitation, and hygiene support to increase resilience to natural hazards and improve food security. In addition, USAID/BHA provided $750,000 to LWR from FYs 2020 to 2022 to bolster agricultural production, livelihood opportunities, and disaster preparedness among vulnerable communities in Nepal’s Madhesh Province. With USAID/BHA support, the non-governmental organization (NGO) is supporting local communities to identify the most appropriate crops and technologies for use and conducting skills-based livelihood trainings for poor and marginalized households in the district.

In addition, USAID/BHA supports activities in Nepal to strengthen local, provincial, and national disaster risk management capacities in coordination with the GoN. With USAID/BHA funding, the International Organization for Migration, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and NGOs—such as Practical Action and the National Society for Earthquake Technology—are delivering capacity-building support, technical assistance, and trainings for community members, emergency responders, and GoN officials. USAID/BHA-funded programs aimed to strengthen community-based early warning systems, community disaster management committees, and information management platforms, as well as bolster systems for safe and resilient building construction in rural areas prone to natural hazards. USAID/BHA partners have also worked with the GoN to strengthen the NDRRMA by developing enhanced early warning and information management systems and by supporting the implementation of policy frameworks for effective disaster management legislation across all levels of government.

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<th>USAID/BHA Funding in Nepal¹</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>Emergency²</td>
<td>ER4</td>
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<td>FY 2021</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>FY 2022</td>
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¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of November 15, 2022.
² Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.