

CONTEXT

- More than 80 percent of Nepal’s population lives in rural areas vulnerable to the impacts of environmental hazards, such as droughts, earthquakes, floods, and landslides, according to the Government of Nepal (GoN). Frequent sudden-onset events challenge nationwide efforts to strengthen resilience against natural hazards.
- Limited livelihood opportunities beyond small-scale agriculture amplify households’ vulnerability to natural disasters in Nepal. Since the onset of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in March 2020, movement restrictions and other measures intended to limit COVID-19 transmission have further reduced livelihood opportunities nationwide, especially among poor, rural households.
- While food security conditions across Nepal have improved in recent years, 2.8 million people—nearly 10 percent of the population—were experiencing food insecurity as of May 2021, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP). Additionally, 36 percent of Nepali children ages 6–59 months suffer from chronic malnutrition, a condition that can increase the risk of child mortality and cause debilitating, lifelong health conditions, such as blindness or brain damage, WFP reports.
- In 2017, the GoN established the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) to coordinate, facilitate, and support disaster risk reduction and risk management activities at the national, provincial, and local levels. Since the establishment of the NDRRMA, the GoN has continued to augment early-warning systems and the capacities of community-based mechanisms 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 Fiscal Years (FYs) 2020 and 2021, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided more than \$7.6 million to humanitarian partners implementing programs designed to build resilience and enhance disaster preparedness at the local, regional, and national levels through activities focused on agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, and risk management policy and practice.
- From FYs 2020 to 2021, USAID/BHA provided \$6 million to support a food assistance program led by Mercy Corps, which promotes building sustainable food security and resilience while meeting the food needs of vulnerable

and socially excluded households in six districts across northern Nepal’s Karnali Province. The program aims to reach thousands of individuals with assistance to improve food security outcomes through 2023.

- In addition, USAID/BHA supports early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities in Nepal to strengthen local, regional, and national disaster risk management capacities, in coordination with the GoN. With USAID/BHA funding, the International Organization for Migration and two non-governmental organizations are delivering capacity-building support, technical assistance, and trainings for emergency responders, GoN officials, and community members. Programs aim to strengthen community disaster management committees, community-based early warning systems, 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 also work with the GoN to strengthen the NDRMMA 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.

USAID/BHA Funding in Nepal ¹			
	Emergency ²	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2020	\$4,000,000	\$1,149,955	\$5,149,955
FY 2021	-	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 28, 2021.

² Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.