



# NEPAL

Despite recent declines in poverty, Nepal remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Food insecurity, strained water resources and reductions in agricultural production are only a few of the devastating impacts of climate change that place millions at risk. Although women account for over half of Nepal's agriculture workforce, significant gender barriers remain when it comes to health care, nutrition, education and decision-making. To foster inclusive growth in Nepal, long-term investment is required in rural livelihoods, health systems and disaster risk reduction.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has been working in Nepal since 2009, reaching indigenous, Dalit and marginalized communities with programs in agriculture, food security, entrepreneurship, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance. Our holistic approach prioritizes women and youth and helps communities to build the resilience they need to thrive. By partnering with local non-governmental organizations, farmers' organizations, and private sector actors, LWR continues to strengthen agricultural enterprises while enhancing climate adaptive systems.

## Project Highlights

### Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (Baal Swasthya)

LWR partnered with fellow Corus International organization IMA World Health to implement a maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) project. Utilizing IMA World Health's expertise in MNCH programming, the project is designed to reduce maternal and child mortality through the improved use of evidence-based practices, enhanced capacity of health institutions and increased community awareness.

Implemented in five birthing centers of Nepalgunj Sub Metropolitan City in Banke District, the project focuses on two main objectives: firstly, it seeks to raise community awareness about the accessibility and quality of MNCH services at the

## OUR GLOBAL APPROACHES

### Agriculture

Lutheran World Relief supports rural communities develop productive, resilient and stable economies through a market systems enterprise development approach that engages the private sector at multiple levels, creating profitable partnerships that benefit families and promote rural livelihoods and agriculture value chains. We train farmers in climate smart agricultural practices, post-harvest processing and storage as well as in other value-adding skills. We strengthen the capacity of cooperatives and unions that serve these farmers through training in governance and financial management, facilitating joint negotiation of credit and other services, and boosting collective marketing and sales.

### Climate Resilience

Lutheran World Relief works with rural communities to adapt to and mitigate the effects of a changing climate on their agriculture-based livelihoods. We emphasize environmental rehabilitation through the implementation of soil and water conservation works and watershed management on community land, as well as tree seedling production for community-led reforestation.

### Humanitarian Assistance

Lutheran World Relief meets the immediate needs of households, IDPs, and refugees affected by conflict, natural disasters, and food and water crises through food, material resources, and cash assistance as well as shelter and WASH support. As immediate needs are met, we seamlessly transition to providing the knowledge and resources they need to start, diversify, and strengthen livelihoods and reduce their vulnerabilities in the future.



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local level; and secondly, it aims to strengthen the health system at the ward level to overcome obstacles in providing quality MNCH services at birthing centers. The project expects to reach 1,800 participants directly and 5,000 participants indirectly.

### **Youth and Women Entrepreneurship Development**

The Youth and Women Entrepreneurship Development project improves the economic prospects of young people and women in Nepal by fostering entrepreneurial skills. The project is centered around three main pillars. Firstly, it aims to either kickstart resilient startups or enhance the profitability of current enterprises. Secondly, it seeks to create opportunities for integration into downstream value chain activities by fostering partnerships with private sector firms. Lastly, it focuses on increasing access to financial services. The project is implemented in four municipalities within Nepal's Kailali and Bardiya Districts through LWR's local partners, the National Environment and Equity Development Society (NEEDS Nepal) and the Dalit Feminist Upliftment Organization (DAFUO). The project directly benefits 500 participants and indirectly supports 2,500 community members.

### **Earthquake Emergency Response in Jajarkot, Karnali Province**

A catastrophic earthquake hit Karnali Province on November 3, 2023, claiming the lives of over 157 individuals, leaving hundreds injured, and destroying thousands of homes. In response to the earthquake, LWR provided transitional shelter to 175 vulnerable families and psychosocial services to more than 2,000 impacted community members. The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation funded these efforts that were implemented in partnership with the NEEDS Nepal.

### **Disaster Resilient Youth and Women Entrepreneurship**

The project boosts self-employment and creates job opportunities for youth and women in disaster-prone regions by strengthening disaster-resilient enterprises. By supporting small enterprises led by youth, women, and marginalized groups, the project enhances competitiveness and fosters business relationships with financial institutions. Implemented in the districts of Gorkha, Nawalparasi West, and Saptari, the project targets 600 participants and works closely with the local government, the private sector and institutions of technical education.

### **Market-led Enterprise Promotion Through Access to Finance and Partnership with Private Sector (Uddhyami)**

The Uddhyami project promotes rural enterprises by enhancing economic opportunities and entrepreneurship of youth and women, particularly Dalits and individuals from marginalized communities. The project focuses on improving program participants' knowledge and skills for enterprise development, market assessment, business planning and

financial literacy. The project is implemented in Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur Districts through LWR's local partners, the Backward Society Education (BASE), Community Development Center (CDC) and NEEDS Nepal.

### **Transboundary Flood Resilience**

Through the Transboundary Flood Resilience (TBR) project, LWR and our local partners assisted communities located along the India-Nepal border to strengthen their resilience to the devastating effects of annual flooding. Launched in 2013, TBR organized community members into community disaster risk management committees (CDMCs) as well as into transboundary citizen forums to prepare for and adapt to recurrent flooding by enhancing community capacities on early warning, first aid, search and rescue and rehabilitation services. LWR also advanced community adaptation through climate-smart agriculture practices and livelihoods diversification, including riverbed farming, portable vegetable nurseries, raised nurseries, and hanging vegetable farming. LWR implemented the project through a market systems approach that engaged private sector actors, as well as local cooperatives and savings and loan associations to support rural livelihoods and ensure more robust linkages to local and national government institutions.

## **The Corus Effect**

Lutheran World Relief is part of Corus International, an international development organization that unites an array of nonprofit organizations and businesses, each with specialized expertise — from health to technology to economic development to emergency response. Alongside communities and local partners in fragile settings, our traditional and nontraditional approaches bring together the multi-dimensional, holistic solutions needed to truly achieve lasting change.

Corus features global public health leader IMA World Health, international development and aid organization Lutheran World Relief, technology for development consultancy CGA Technologies, impact investing firm Ground Up Investing, and direct-trade company Farmers Market Brands.

