



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Building Disaster Resilient Communities in Nepal (UTTHANSHIL)

PROJECT GOAL

To strengthen community self-reliance and the capacity of local community leaders (including from marginalized groups), government, and the private sector in three districts to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters.

Project Duration: June 6, 2024 – June 5, 2026 (24 months)

Total Estimated Cost: \$1,185,754

Funded by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), Lutheran World Relief is implementing the Building Disaster Resilient Communities in Nepal Project, known as UTTHANSHIL, which means "resilience" in Nepali. This two-year initiative empowers communities and local governments to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, ultimately saving lives, alleviating suffering, and mitigating the negative impacts on livelihoods and the environment.

In partnership with Nepal's Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), UTTHANSHIL focuses on three vulnerable districts in Sudurpaschim Province prone to floods, landslides, earthquakes, fires, and other disasters. Given the remoteness of many of these locations, it is essential for communities to rely on local resources before, during, and immediately after a disaster. This project is implemented in collaboration with Lutheran World Relief's local partner, the Community Development Center – Doti (CDC).

Since 2009, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has been active in Nepal, reaching indigenous, Dalit, and marginalized communities through programs in agriculture, food security, climate change mitigation, entrepreneurship, disaster risk reduction, and humanitarian assistance. Our holistic approach prioritizes women and youth, empowering communities to

build the resilience necessary for sustainable growth. By partnering with local non-governmental organizations, farmers' groups, and private sector stakeholders, LWR is committed to strengthening agricultural enterprises while enhancing climate-adaptive systems.

TARGET AREAS

Acham District

- Sanfebagar Municipality
- Mangalsen Municipality
- Panchadewal Binayak Municipality

Bajura District

- Budhiganga Municipality
- Tribeni Municipality
- Badimalika Municipality

Bajhang District

- Jaya Prithvi Municipality
- Talkot Rural Municipality
- Masta Rural Municipality

EXPECTED RESULTS

- **12,263 individuals** will directly benefit from advancements in disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM).
- **90 Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMCs) and 270 youth-focused task forces** will undergo training, establish operational procedures, and connect with ward and municipal offices as they engage in local multi-hazard DRRM planning, policy development, and strengthening of community preparedness and response capacities.

- **9 municipalities** will establish Local Emergency Operation Centers (LEOCs) that ensure early warnings, alerts, and advisories issued by the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) reach last-mile households. .
- **45 municipal wards** will benefit from pre-positioned light search and rescue equipment, along with essential relief supplies such as shelter and WASH supplies. They will be equipped to leverage information effectively to support life-saving local responses before outside help arrives.
- **180 Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) champions and focal points** in local government and communities, alongside youth volunteers, will be established to ensure that the needs of vulnerable groups—including the elderly, children, women, people with disabilities (PwDs), and isolated households—are prioritized before, during, and after emergencies.
- **6,750 individuals** will benefit from awareness programs, audiovisuals about specific local hazards, and partnerships between local government and media, connecting even the most remote and hard-to-reach populations with timely early warnings, alerts, and advisories.
- **1,530 individuals** will be trained in disaster preparedness and/or DRRM.
- **450 individuals** will receive training in First Aid, Search and Rescue, and health-related disaster risk reduction interventions.
- **555 individuals** will receive support through livelihood restoration initiatives and cash-for-work activities.
- **81 disaster risk reduction strategies, policies and contingency response plans** will be adopted or implemented by communities and governments.



The Corus Effect

Founded in 1945, Lutheran World Relief is an international development and aid organization working across Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East. We collaborate with local partners to grow inclusive and climate resilient rural economies, reduce poverty, and we respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

Lutheran World Relief leads rural economic development programming at Corus International, an organization that unites an array of world-class nonprofits and businesses, each with specialized expertise. Our reach and capabilities are amplified by the other global leaders in our Corus family, including IMA World Health, CGA Technologies and Ground Up Investing. Together, we bring the multi-dimensional, holistic solutions needed to truly achieve lasting change.

