



## LWR IN NEPAL

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Nepal's marginalized populations are extremely vulnerable to frequent natural disasters, including flooding, landslides and earthquakes. In both urban and rural areas, vulnerable communities have few resources to prepare for or mitigate the impacts of natural disasters. Following the onset of a disaster, these communities often struggle to recover, and many development gains are destroyed. To better prepare for and respond to disasters in Nepal, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) supports climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs in marginalized communities.

## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

Nepal is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to the country's fragile ecosystem and diverse topography. Intense rainfall and unpredictable weather patterns have the potential to lead to frequent and severe flooding and landslides, destroying lives and livelihoods, while rising temperatures, prolonged droughts and erratic rainfall may negatively impact agriculture. Despite decades of reforestation efforts, deforestation continues and compounds the effects of climate change in Nepal. Dependence on lumber for energy and heating with limited alternative energy sources, as well as the sale of wood for fuel, further contribute to deforestation.

Since 2010, LWR has worked to promote Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and community-led CCA in Nepal's rural communities to build the adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers to climate change, while also improving the quality, quantity and marketability of their crops.

### LWR's CSA approach is aimed at three interrelated targets:

- Increasing production, incomes and food security
- Preserving and improving natural resources
- Developing the capacity of farmers and their organizations for active engagement with value chains that produce sustainable and just outcomes.

### LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF NEPAL

Ward 1, Kupondole Height  
Lalitpur, Nepal

Visit [lwr.org/contact](http://lwr.org/contact) for contact information for LWR's Nepal country office.



Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Lutheran World Relief works to improve the lives of millions of smallholder farmers and people experiencing poverty in Africa, Asia and Latin America, both in times of emergencies and for the long term. LWR builds and maximizes community assets to develop strong local economies and resilient communities, toward our mission of an end to poverty, injustice and human suffering.

With the goal of achieving more resilient and productive rural livelihoods in Nepal, LWR's CSA and CCA projects include activities such as:

- Crop diversification
- Improved water and soil management and conservation practices
- Integrated disease and pest management
- Utilization of alternative energy sources
- Training in natural resource management

## ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

LWR To increase community resilience to the impacts of climate change, LWR has been implementing CSA and CCA projects in Lamjung and Nawalparasi Districts, which aim to:

- Reach nearly **5,795 households** with alternative sources of energy and livelihood opportunities
- Support approximately **3,040 families** in alternative livelihoods, such as bee keeping, goat-raising and vegetable cultivation
- Save approximately **11,350 trees** annually among more than **2,800 households** through the adoption of alternative energy sources that help eliminate the need to cut down trees for fuel
- Plant approximately **123,900 trees** on **20 hectares** of land as a part of reforestation efforts

## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

LWR is committed to building communities' resilience in the face of natural hazards through an ethic of prevention to ensure that communities are strengthened against future disasters. LWR prioritizes Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) to harness local capacities and resources to reduce underlying risk factors, increase community awareness of hazards and build a culture of safety and resilience. LWR's programs address the distinct vulnerabilities of women, youth, elderly and the disabled, and work closely with government agencies, as well as local community systems, structures and organizations, to sustain these initiatives.

In Nepal, climate change has increased the frequency and severity of flooding in many of its districts. LWR combines both DRR and CCA in Nawalparasi District to both better prepare its communities and improve the resiliency of their rural livelihoods against increased incidences of flooding. For example, in Nawalparasi, LWR has helped communities develop their own disaster risk management plans and has held trainings on disaster mitigation and coping skills. In conjunction with these activities, LWR has implemented livelihood recovery programs for flood-affected families, such as cash-for-work, cultivation of fast growing, high value cash crops and technical capacity building, especially for women, children, Dalits and Janajatis.

Rivers and floods are not bound by country borders, so LWR is leading the charge to address the DRR and CCA needs of flood-vulnerable communities across such boundaries. LWR's unique Nepal-India Trans-boundary Resilience Project works with 53 communities in the Narayani/Gandak and Koshi River Basins to improve their ability to prepare for as well as to recovery quickly from floods. This project's activities have included:

- Establishing a trans-boundary community-based early warning system (EWS)
- Developing community sensitization campaigns
- Conducting capacity building trainings in DRR, EWS, and Gender and Livelihoods
- Identifying and advocating trans-boundary DRR issues with local governments
- Building linkages and institutional support between the District Emergency Operation Center (DEOC) and Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM)
- Developing gender and disability-sensitive emergency shelters
- Increasing communities' access to calamity insurance
- Establishing grain banks
- Increasing market linkages and trainings for access to financial services
- Developing Disaster Risk Management Plans



Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

[lwr.org](http://lwr.org)