



Relocating grains and goods to a safe place using boats during 2017 flood in Bardiya Credit: Practical Action/CSDR

## Who are we?

The Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance (ZFRA) is a multi-sectoral partnership focusing on finding practical ways to help communities in developed and developing countries strengthen their resilience to flood risk.

### Our definition of resilience:

The ability of a system, community, or society to pursue its social, ecological, and economic development and growth objectives, while managing its disaster risk over time in a mutually reinforcing way.

**Vision:** Floods have no negative impact on people's and businesses' ability to thrive.

**Goal:** To increase social, political, and financial investment in community-based flood resilience-building through public, private, and third sector partnerships.



Flooded House in Bardiya during 2017 flood  
Credit: Practical Action/CSDR

## Impact of flooding in Nepal

Nepal, with its diverse topography, is susceptible to a wide range of hydro-meteorological and geophysical hazards including landslides, glacial lake outburst floods, and earthquakes. The Ganga floodplains receive all the water flowing through the mountain corridors, bringing flooding and landslides in Nepal, and causing significant material and human losses every year. Flooding has significant effects on Nepal's economy: a single flash flood in 1993 terminated half of the country's electricity production for several months. In 2017 monsoon floods across 19 Terai districts of southern Nepal resulted in a total loss of US\$584.7 million.

Donors and development agencies are working with the Government of Nepal to substantially reduce the loss and damage caused by these recurrent floods and other hazards. Yet current investment in flood resilience at the local level, where people are most affected by flooding, is inadequate. Evidence-based planning and investments in various risk reduction measures such as early warning systems, resilient infrastructures, financial protection, adaptive agricultural practices, and community capacity-building can help vulnerable populations to better prepare, mitigate, adapt, and respond to flood events.

## ZFRA partners working in Nepal

### Practical ACTION

Practical Action is a global change-making group. It consists of a UK-registered charity with community projects in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, an independent publishing company, and a technical consulting service. It combines these specialisms to multiply its impact and help to shape a world that works better for everyone. In Nepal, Practical Action is focused on putting ingenious ideas to work to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable wellbeing for all through its three areas of expertise: energy that transforms; farming that works; and resilience that protects.



Mercy Corps is a leading global organization powered by the belief that a better world is possible. It works in more than 40 countries around the world, bringing bold solutions into action – helping people triumph over adversity and build stronger communities. In Nepal, Mercy Corps leverages its expertise and strategic partnerships to implement innovative and community-led activities across the agriculture, financial inclusion, youth engagement, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation sectors through the lens of gender equity and social inclusion.

INTERNATIONAL



FEDERATION

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network that reaches 150 million people in 190 countries through the work of over 17 million volunteers. In Nepal, IFRC supports the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) to advocate for the nationwide scale-up of community resilience-building efforts through different forums such as the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Platform. As a Secretariat of the CBDRM Platform, NRCS and IFRC engage in policy dialogue with various stakeholders and support the dissemination of best practices in community programming, emphasizing the role of local actors in sustaining local development strategies that leave no one behind.



Flood resilient raised tube well in Kailali  
Credit: Archana Gurung, Practical Action

## ZFRA objectives in Nepal:

The programme aims to improve planning and investment practices across disaster risk reduction and resilience-building efforts in Nepal.

**Objective 1:** Increase flood resilience knowledge and actions of communities to make them more flood resilient.

**Objective 2:** Increase flood resilience investment by local municipal governments.

**Objective 3:** Improve plans and policies at national/sub-national level for flood resilience.

## The communities we are working with

Practical Action is working with 10 communities in the Bardiya and Kailali districts of Nepal. Within this programme, we will be working with Rajapur and Geruwa Municipalities of Bardiya District and Tikapur Municipality of Kailali District for better flood resilience planning and funding in the local budget planning cycles. The lessons learned from community programmes will then be utilized to inform provincial and national government so that they can incorporate a systemic approach and resilience framework in their plans and policies relating to disaster risk reduction and management.

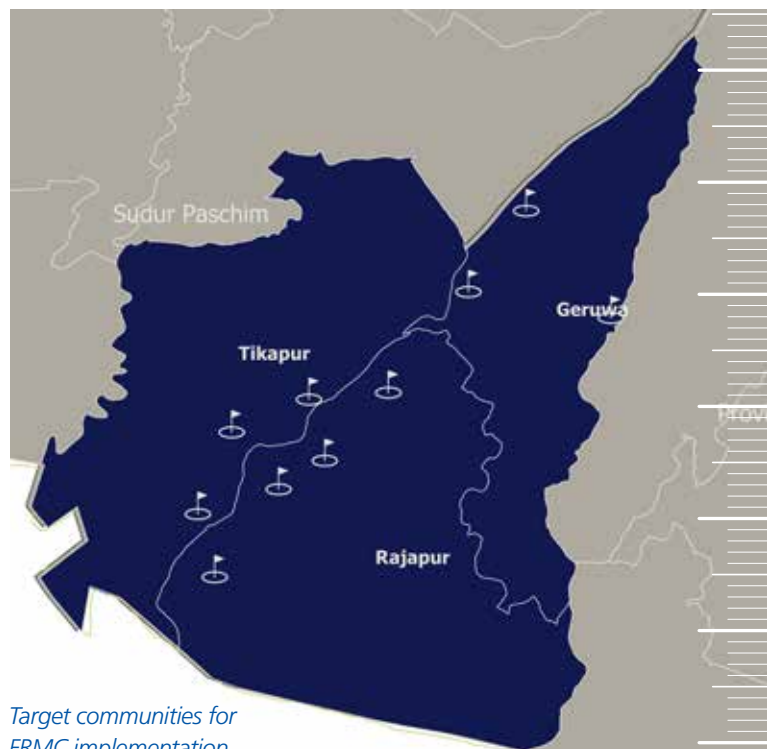
Mercy Corps will work with 11 flood-vulnerable municipalities in Kailali, Kanchanpur, Dadeldhura, and Baitadi through its ongoing Managing Risk Through Economic Development II (M-RED II) programme. The programme takes a market systems approach to strengthen resilience towards floods and other disasters by combining bio-engineering, agriculture, disaster-management training, and financial inclusion. We will leverage programme learnings to advocate for effective investment mechanisms for local municipalities. We will conduct research to encourage evidence-based policy making for national and sub-national stakeholders.

IFRC will provide policy and coordination support to the Alliance in Nepal through its role as a Secretariat of the national CBDRM Platform and strong community resilience-building programmes of NRCS in Nepal. We will also support seven flood-prone municipalities to develop local strategies and tools for effective flood risk reduction and community resilience that are aligned with nationally agreed approaches towards disaster risk reduction and management.



*Damaged house in Samsi, Mahottari during July 2019 flood  
Credit: Bhesh Parajuli, Mercy Corps*

## Duration of the Nepal ZFRA programme: July 2018–June 2023



*Target communities for FRMC implementation  
Credit: Madhab Upety, Practical Action*



*Safe shelter, Baidi Community, Tikapur, Kailali  
Credit: Archana Gurung, Practical Action*

## The Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities



Tharu women fishing in the Karnali River  
Credit: Archana Gurung, Practical Action

The Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC) framework comprises two parts: The Alliance's framework for measuring community flood resilience and an associated tool for implementing the framework in practice.

### Uses of the FRMC:

- As the first measurement of resilience to be applied on a large scale; fully integrated into community programming
- To help analyse problems before seeking solutions
- To support impact measurement
- To generate data for empirical evidence on flood resilience

## The Flood Resilience Portals

The Alliance's Flood Resilience Portals are online spaces for sharing practical knowledge about why and how to build community flood resilience. They bring together the knowledge generated and exchanged through the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance and beyond. In addition to sharing global knowledge, we have the Nepal Flood Resilience Portal for sharing specific knowledge and resources relevant to this country context.

- 🖥️ [www.floodresilience.net](http://www.floodresilience.net)
- 🖥️ [www.floodresilience.net.np](http://www.floodresilience.net.np)
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