



ZURICH FLOOD RESILIENCE ALLIANCE

Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal

MARCH 2019

The Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance program is one of Mercy Corps' Resilience Flagships: a designated subset of our resilience programs, which seek to deepen our technical excellence in resilience, allow us to test innovative models, and commit to strong M&E systems for measuring resilience impact. The Alliance is a consortium of ten organizations from the public and private sectors with a shared vision that floods have no impact on people's ability to thrive. In the five year program, Mercy Corps will spearhead the "influence and advocacy" element of the Alliance to influence government actors to improve national and sub-national policies leading to improved practice and investment for flood resilience.

CONTEXT

With natural disasters affecting hundreds of millions of people and causing tens of billions in economic losses every year, the humanitarian sector has taken great strides towards promoting disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the developing world. The Asia Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world - a person living in the region is almost twice as likely to be affected by a disaster as a person living in Africa, and 30 times more likely than in North America or Europe. Rapid population growth and urbanization, along with extreme weather and climate change, are causing catastrophic consequences for livelihoods. Floods affect more people than any other type of natural hazard and cause some of the largest economic, social, and humanitarian losses.



OBJECTIVES

The Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance has established three overarching objectives:

- › Increased funding for flood resilience;
- › Effective public policy in support of flood resilience;
- › Effective practice in support of flood resilience.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

Mercy Corps will lead influence and advocacy of the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, as well as implement flood resilience programs in Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Nepal.

Mercy Corps aims to embed the global goals in programs and advocacy strategies of the three target countries of Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Nepal, as well as international platforms.

Mercy Corps will:

- › Advocate to donors to increase more targeted funding to proven (flood) resilience approaches, and explore opportunities for innovative financing mechanisms that reach vulnerable and flood exposed groups and locations.
- › Achieve demonstrable changes in flood resilience financing and adoption, scaling and replication of proven flood resilience approaches in our target countries.
- › Adopt a systems and landscape approach to flood resilience that links stakeholders and administrative bodies across watersheds and flood risk zones, and engages communities and vulnerable groups in decision making for flood resilience.

Mercy Corps aims to generate evidence and learnings for advocacy to scale and replicate effective mechanisms and practice for flood resilience. Our country advocacy strategies focus on priorities and needs within each country.

BANGLADESH

CASE STUDY ON ROHINGYA CAMPS TO ADVOCATE FOR NEED OF RESILIENCE STRATEGY IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES



More than 700,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Myanmar since August 2017 to Bangladesh. Cox's Bazar is now host to the world's largest refugee camp - over 1 million Rohingya live in the overcrowded settlements. In addition to the traumatizing experiences and socio-economic vulnerabilities, the refugees are highly exposed to natural disasters as Bangladesh is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimated 200,000 refugees to be at high risk to landslides and flooding. Heavy rainfall in early June 2018 caused more than 100 landslides throughout the camps and damaged the structurally weak shelters.

Environmental degradation and poor water management of the camps have led to an increased risk of the population to natural disasters. The forests around the camps have been demolished as trees were cut down for housing construction and firewood.

The Zurich program in Bangladesh will build on the IOM and Mercy Corps assessments on vulnerabilities of the Rohingya camps, and continue to identify and analyze the risks of the population to natural disasters, including flooding.

Mercy Corps will also assess factors which have exacerbated the risks, such as the lack of sturdy infrastructure and mid-long-term planning.

Moreover, Mercy Corps will work in partnership with the Dhaka-based International Climate Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) to conduct research and potentially launch a platform pilot on remittances as an innovative form of forecast based financing to better prepare flood vulnerable communities, as well as mitigate damage.

INDONESIA

LOSS & DAMAGE ASSESSMENT OF FLOODING IN SEMARANG TO ADVOCATE FOR TRANSBOUNDARY GOVERNANCE & INFLUENCE NATIONAL POLICY



Indonesia is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, with nearly 300 significant natural disasters per year in the past 30 years. This has resulted in an average of 8,000 deaths and an expenditure of \$300-\$500 million per year on post-disaster reconstruction.

Rising sea levels and changing weather patterns are a key threat to the country's development. Many communities along the coast are being inundated due to human-induced environmental degradation and climate change. Rapid urbanization is also contributing to the exacerbation of drainage problems, and heavy

rainfall causes run off into nearby rivers. Both coastal and urban flooding are a pressing issue for the country.

Through the Zurich program, Mercy Corps will examine land use transformation and development in upstream areas, and its effects on downstream communities in the Garang River Basin in Semarang – a major river in Central Java prone to both urban and coastal flooding. We will also conduct a loss and damage assessment for the coastal area and demonstrate evidence on its connectivity with urban-flash flooding. This will demonstrate the need for landscape perspective and transboundary governance in river and coastal management. The potential of innovative financing scheme will also be explored and piloted to incentivize the investment in flood resilience.

The findings will be presented in the development of the National Adaptation Plan and Spatial Planning Guidelines, to influence high-level policy makers to consider resilience in urban planning and to create better governance systems.

NEPAL

INCREASED INVESTMENT & EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVELS | PILOT OF INDEX-BASED INSURANCE



Nepal is both food insecure and disaster prone, with approximately 80% of the country vulnerable to multiple natural hazards. Regular climatic events include the annual monsoon which brings flooding to major river systems and landslides in the hills and mountains. In August 2017, Central

and Western Nepal experienced several devastating flooding events, resulting in 180 deaths, 445,000 displaced households, 63,000 fully destroyed and 118,000 partially destroyed homes.

Building on the Managing Risk in Economic Development II program (M-RED II) in Nepal, we will work with 11 local governments to incorporate a market systems approach in disaster resilience policy and planning. This includes increased government investment in crops which have proven to protect land from floods, while building linkages to markets and financial services. To understand the process and enabling environment of resilience activities at the local level, we will conduct an assessment of local government investment amounts and systems in climate change and disaster risk reduction related programs, including flood related activities.

Furthermore, the program will pilot index-based insurance in the M-RED II municipalities to measure the impact of financial risk reduction interventions on livelihoods centered around agriculture. The evidence generated from both programs will be utilized to advocate to policy makers at the national and regional levels to build resilience to ecological and economic shocks with strategies that both mitigate the risk of natural disasters and provide an income generating source.

CONTACT

PROGRAM INQUIRIES

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