

## CONTEXT

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- As one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, India is regularly exposed to recurrent natural hazards, including droughts, earthquakes, floods, landslides, and tropical cyclones. These disasters often result in widespread casualties, crop losses, damage to infrastructure, increased transmission of vector- and waterborne diseases, as well as adversely impact the livelihoods of local communities. Moreover, in recent decades climate change has amplified risks associated with climatic events, contributing to the increased frequency and intensity of severe weather events, according to an assessment by the Indian Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- Historic levels of monsoon rainfall across India from June to October caused severe flooding and landslides that resulted in at least 890 deaths, displaced approximately 220,000 people, and adversely affected more than 14.8 million people. The flooding and landslides also severely damaged agricultural fields and infrastructure, including houses and roadways, reducing access to markets and decreasing food availability among affected populations.
- Following a sharp increase in new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases—largely due to the spread of the highly transmissible COVID-19 Delta variant—in late April, India became the first country in the world to record more than 350,000 new COVID-19 cases in a single day, nearly 50 percent of new daily cases reported in the world at the time. The rise in cases temporarily overwhelmed India's health care system due to an inadequate number of hospital beds and ventilators, as well as a lack of medical personnel. Through widespread international support, including from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA), cases returned to pre-surge levels by early June, and by early November health authorities administered more than 1 billion vaccines in India.



## ASSISTANCE

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- USAID/BHA provided approximately \$1.2 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 funding to support emergency COVID-19 relief efforts. USAID/BHA additionally provided \$700,000 in early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) funding between FY 2020 and 2021 to improve humanitarian emergency response capacities and strengthen disaster preparedness.
- In response to the growing number of COVID-19 cases and related deaths in South Asia in early 2021, USAID/BHA established an Elevated Bureau Response in April to combat COVID-19 outbreaks and support health systems across the region. In conjunction with other U.S. Government (USG) agencies, USAID/BHA provided \$1.2 million in assistance and facilitated the transportation of 1,100 oxygen cylinders to India and provided N95 masks,

rapid diagnostic kits, and medicine through seven USAID-supported air shipments. Additionally, USAID/BHA deployed life-saving medical commodities to the neighboring countries of Bangladesh, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka to help local health actors combat respective COVID-19 outbreaks and reduce cross-border transmission risks in the region.

- With \$350,000 in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA, in partnership with USAID/India, is supporting international non-governmental organization the Asia Foundation’s efforts to identify disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities, provide technical assistance for trainings and DRR capacity-building, and improve program management. Moreover, in partnership with USAID/India, BHA provided approximately \$350,000 in FY20 funding to support the UN Development Program (UNDP) to reduce the risk of disaster in urban areas and increase the capacity of urban communities to manage climate-related disasters. USAID-supported UNDP activities include integrating hazard mapping and risk analysis into city planning, mainstreaming DRR and climate-related hazards into urban development programs, and training community members and officials in disaster preparedness and response techniques.



At the request of the Government of India, USAID/BHA provided urgently needed lifesaving supplies to New Delhi and mobilized its partners in India to immediately surge support supplies to the Indian Red Cross Society, ensuring they reach those in need.

- USAID/BHA continues to support the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center in its work with local, regional, and national disaster management authorities as part of the South Asia regional Program for the Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER). Through PEER, USAID/BHA partners are strengthening local capacity to prepare for and respond to mass casualty incidents by training volunteers—including individuals from at-risk communities—in basic life support, first aid, search-and-rescue, and water rescue to effectively respond during emergencies.
- To further promote resilience and disaster preparedness in India, USAID/BHA is working with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to support India’s National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)—the world’s largest dedicated disaster response corps, comprised of nearly 13,800 personnel. Specifically, USFS and USAID/BHA are working with NDRF and other disaster management professionals in India to integrate principles from the Incident Command System—a standardized, multi-hazard response management mechanism—into their disaster response mechanisms, improving their ability to respond to sudden-onset emergencies. Additionally, in partnership with USAID/BHA, NOAA is developing the capacity of national meteorological and hydrological services and disaster management agencies to improve impact-based forecasting and better inform emergency managers, first responders, and government officials.

USAID/BHA Funding in India <sup>1</sup>			
	Emergency <sup>2</sup>	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2020	–	\$350,000	\$350,000
FY 2021	\$1,200,000	\$350,000	\$1,550,000

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of November 18, 2021. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

<sup>2</sup> Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.