

IMPROVED COMMUNITY FLOOD RESILIENCE

2022 Annual Snapshot

SUMMARY

Practical Action is working with communities to make resilience a way of life, finding ways to adapt to and prepare for flood events. We share our knowledge and experience of what works with communities, practitioners, and decision-makers.

Title: Flood Resilience Programme

Project dates: 2013 – 2024

Locations: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Nepal, Peru, Senegal and Zimbabwe, with global advocacy from the UK

Participants: We're working with over 120,000 people in more than 70 communities.

Funding: £8,325,889

Donors: Z Zurich Foundation, The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), Bristol University and InsuResilience Solutions Fund (ISF)

Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance Partners: Concern Worldwide, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), the Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET-International), London School of Economics (LSE), Mercy Corps, Plan International, Practical Action and Zurich Insurance Group.



BACKGROUND

Floods affect more people globally than any other natural hazard and cause the largest economic, social, and humanitarian losses. Climate change combined with population growth, urbanisation, and economic development will only make flooding worse (IPCC, 2018).

Practical Action has been a member of the award-winning Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance since 2013. The Alliance is a multi-sector partnership with a shared vision that floods should have no negative impact on the ability of people and businesses to thrive.

Between 2010-2019,
floods impacted more than

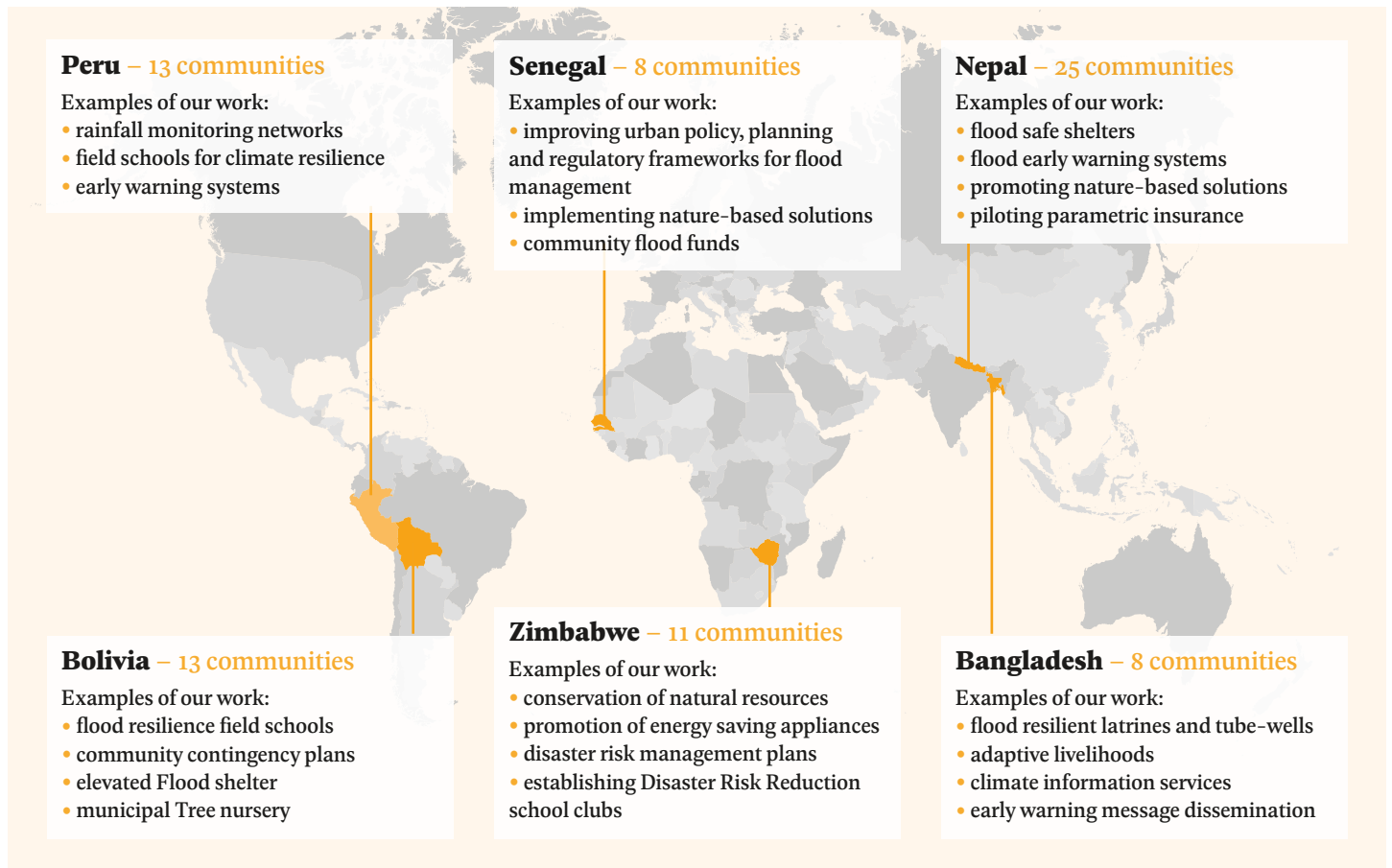
**673M
PEOPLE**

(EM-DAT, 2020)



APPROACH

Since 2020 Practical Action's Flood Resilience Programme has been working with 77 communities across six countries



PROGRAMME IMPACT

People supported

The Alliance aims to improve the flood resilience of 2 million people by the end of 2024. We will do this by working directly with communities, advocating for better policies and more investments in flood resilience, and by encouraging others to implement programmes based on our approach.

Between 2018 and 2021 the Alliance has supported 602,000 people to become more flood resilient. Practical Action Peru's work with the National Meteorological Services (SENAHMI) is contributing significantly to this reach by providing around 550,000 people with forecasts and flood early warnings. Practical Action teams are aiming to work directly with 341,769 people to enhance their flood resilience by the end of our programme in 2024, and so far we have reached 245,177 people. We expect the numbers of people who will benefit from our policy, advocacy and work to scale the Resilience Measurement for Communities to continue to grow.

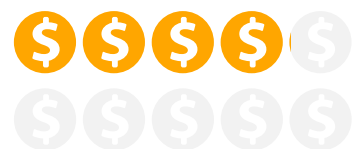
Spending Influenced

The Alliance is aiming to influence the investment of 1 billion US dollars for flood resilience by 2024, at the end of 2021 we had reached 42% of this target.



602K PEOPLE

became more flood resilient with the support of the Alliance between 2018 and 2021.



42%

of the 1 billion US dollars investment goal reached at the end of 2021.



Discussing Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities results with the community, Nepal

Building community flood resilience in rural Nepal

Every year on the 5th June Practical Action and local partners in the Lower Karnali Basin in Nepal conduct flood response exercises to mark World Environment Day and prepare for the Monsoon season. These exercises which we've helped design are now being replicated in Kamala and Kankai river basins and in Gandak, Narayani, Koshi, Babai and Mahakali by Mercy Corps and Lutheran World Relief.

Practical Action Nepal fundraised an additional 500,000 USD to pilot an index-based flood insurance project in the Lower Karnali Basin, co-funded by the InsuResilience Solutions Fund (ISF).

“ We have been conducting mock flood exercises with Practical Action and CSDR for many years now. It is good to see the level of dedication and diligence with which these communities participated in today's mock flood exercise. Now, communities know how to communicate early warning messages, how to prioritise vulnerable groups during evacuation, conduct search and rescue and how to provide first aid trainings. In Tikapur municipality the loss of human lives is 0 - which is a big achievement for us. This is all due to communities practicing mock flood exercises ever year.

– Nirmala Chaudhary, DRR focal Point, Tikapur Municipality, Kailali, Nepal



Explaining the national regulations and their municipal application process to the community, Bolivia

Expanding flood early warning systems in South America

Through a significant regional initiative, Practical Action Peru and Bolivia fundraised USD 660,000 from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Regional Hub for Latin America for a 3-year programme to strengthen sub-national and national Early Warning-Early Action in the Andes.

The Peruvian Weather Service and Practical Action are collaborating on a government funded project to expand and improve early warning systems. Activities include the development of tools for meteorological forecasting of extreme rainfall, determination of thresholds, soil loss and green infrastructure feasibility, and the deployment of monitoring stations. Monitoring by the Weather Service is complemented by rainfall monitoring twice a day by volunteers who use low-cost manual rain gauges to fill critical data gaps.

“ It is important to look at how these mechanisms can be activated on a local scale with small-scale disasters that do not trigger a national emergency decree, but which have a significant impact on the people who experience them and see their livelihoods affected.

– Vladimir Ferro, Senior Management Advisor to the Executive Presidency of SenamhiOruro, Peru



DRR Training in Bolivia

Delivering disaster risk reduction training to Bolivian municipalities





In Bolivia, the team has developed a virtual course on risk management for municipal planning to help municipalities integrate community resilience, hazard monitoring and risk scenarios into their plans. In 2021, the course was attended by 111 municipal technicians and carried out by staff in various bodies including the Humanitarian Country Team (EHP) and the National Weather Service.

“ These courses are important because they help us and provide us with the basic tools to apply in our municipalities and in other cases to improve the institutional framework and operation of the municipal risk management unit.

– Iver Poma past DRR responsible GAM Mecapaca, La Paz, Bolivia

Using targeted knowledge for influencing policy and practice

Practical Action is having an impact not only directly in the communities we work with, but also by sharing the knowledge we gain through our work and the research we conduct. Some of our most influential and most widely read publications in 2021 include:

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 - A [blog](#)¹ based on Practical Action's early warning systems expertise was spotted by the team behind the ABC Australian Radio show 'Pacific Prepared', which is broadcast across the Pacific region, allowing us to share our knowledge with a new audience.
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 - Studies on assessing and addressing climate related loss and damage in [Bangladesh](#)² and [Nepal](#)³ which were used by the Bangladeshi and Nepali delegations to COP26.
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 - We continue to share best practice through our global [Flood Resilience Portal](#)⁴ and interconnected regional and national portals in local languages. Our five portals have had almost 130,000 visits in 2021. More than 15,000 knowledge products have been accessed in 2021, and we've had almost 66,000 blog views.
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 - Research on [gender transformative early warning systems](#)⁵ published by PAC UK in 2019 continues to influence programme design and research in the sector, for example in the Philippines.

1 <https://floodresilience.net/blogs/how-do-you-build-an-effective-early-warning-system/>

2 <https://floodresilience.net/resources/item/assessing-and-addressing-climate-induced-loss-and-damage-in-bangladesh/>

3 <https://floodresilience.net/resources/item/assessing-and-addressing-climate-induced-loss-and-damage-in-nepal/>

4 www.floodresilience.net

5 <https://floodresilience.net/resources/item/gender-transformative-early-warning-systems-experiences-from-nepal-and-peru/>

For more information, visit:

practicalaction.org/our-work/projects/flood-resilience-programme/

www.floodresilience.net

See also: [The Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance \(2022\). Progress Report Year 4. Colorado, USA: ISET-International.](#)



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