



#### What is PAHAL?

PAHAL stands for Promoting Agriculture, Health and Alternative Livelihoods. It is a five-year USAID initiative designed to achieve food security among vulnerable populations in 14 districts in the middle and high hills of Mid and Far Western Nepal. PAHAL is a Food for Peace (FFP) Development Food Assistance Project (DFAP) within the USAID/Nepal's Community Resilience Program. Resilience is defined as the capacity of communities in complex socio-ecological systems to learn, cope, adapt and transform in the face of shocks and stresses.

**PAHAL** increases food security of vulnerable communities through building resilience strategies and capacities.



## **Program Outcomes**

The program identified six technical areas that builds the absorptive and adaptive capacities of communities. The two cross-cutting components of improved Governance, and increased Gender Equity and Social Inclusion build transformative capacities. PAHAL uses an adaptive management approach to increase access to:

- 1. Improved Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Services, Strategies, and Technologies
- 2. Effective Disaster Risk Management Services, Strategies and Technologies
- Appropriate and Diverse Financial Services and Products
- **4.** Dynamic and Responsive Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Markets
- Productive Natural Resources and Management Systems
- 6. Quality Health and Nutrition Services and Information (in line with SUAAHARA Program)

## **Resilience Pathways**

PAHAL takes a multi-dimensional, systems approach to address the underlying socio-political, economic and ecological constraints, and the related shock and stress exposure that drive food insecurity in Nepal. The program's goal is: Vulnerable populations in the middle and high hills of Far-Western and Mid-Western Nepal are food secure.

# **Intended Impacts**

Through a facilitative approach with local user groups and government planning committees, the program seeks to achieve the impacts over the course of five years:

- Household, community and institutional-level absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities are strengthened, and overall resiliency enhanced;
- Improved knowledge and skills to manage and respond to the social and ecological hazards to household food security;
- Natural resource management and disaster risk practices adopted that mitigate long-term stressors and reduce the impact of urgent crises;
- Improved productivity and nutritional content of crops, fruits and livestock;
- Increased market access through improved planning, coordination and strengthening of local collection centers;
- Diversified livelihoods through improved access to financial services, financial and business skills and vocational training; and
- Incorporated nutrition behavior change strategies in natural resource management, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and livelihood activities.

PAHAL Theory of Change: If vulnerable women, men, girls and boys have increased capacities and are able to act within an equitable and inclusive enabling environment, then individuals and their communities will be more resilient to the shocks and stresses that negatively affect their food security and development.

# PAHAL at a Glance

## **Project Area**

## Fourteen districts in Nepal's Mid and Far West Regions

<u>Mid-West:</u> Dailekh, Jajarkot, Pyuthan, Rolpa, Rukum, Salyan, Surkhet

<u>Far-West:</u> Achham, Baitadi, Bajhang, Bajura, Dadeldhura,

Darchula, Doti

**Estimated Participants:** 160,000 households

Period: October 2014 - October 2019

Funding: USD \$37 million (USAID)



Visual representation of the PAHAL Theory of Change illustrating that transformative elements undergird the ability to absorb and adapt to shocks and stresses that impact food security.



#### **Program Inquiries:**

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#### **Implementing Partners**

## **International Partners**

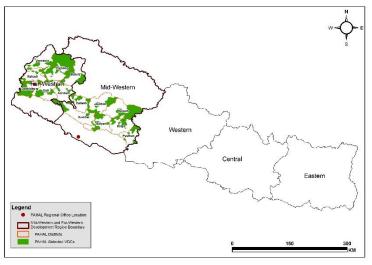
- Mercy Corps Nepal (lead)
- Plan International
- Tufts University's Feinstein International Center

#### **National Partners**

- Rupantaran
- Support Activities for Poor Producers in Nepal (SAPPROS)
- Resource Identification and Management Society (RIMS)
- Nepali Technical Assistance Group (NTAG)

## **District Partners**

- Dailekh: Sustainable Agriculture for Environment and Water Source Conservation Centre
- Jajarkot: Hilly Region Development Campaign
- Pyuthan: Fulvari Integrated Rural Development Organization
- Rolpa: Development Concern Society
- Rukum: Rukumeli Social Development Centre
- Salyan: Dalit Development Society
- Surkhet: Sundar Nepal Sanstha
- Accham: Working for Access and Creation Nepal
- Baitadi: Social Awareness and Development Association
- Bajhang: Group for Social and Technical Development Service
- Bajura: Generating Income to Foster Transformation
- Dadeldhura: Rural Women Development and Unity Center
- Darchula: Community Rural Development Society Nepal
- Doti: Community Development Center



PAHAL is a program funded by USAID and implemented by Mercy Corps and the following international and national consortium partners.











