

DISASTER  
RELIEF

CASE REPORT  
Nepal-Drought  
1972/1973

Agency for International Development  
Washington, D.C. 20523

## NEPAL

### Drought—1972/1973

Drought conditions in 1972, preceded by excessive rains the year before, resulted in severe food shortages in Nepal, particularly in the hill areas. An estimated 900,000 people were affected.

Value of USG Assistance .....	\$5,586,500
Value of Assistance from The International Community.....	618,750
	<u>\$6,205,250</u>



*Many farmers were unable to harvest enough crops to meet their own food needs.*

Foreign Disaster Case Reports are publications of the Office of the Foreign Disaster Relief Coordinator, Agency for International Development. This office has responsibility for coordinating U.S. Government foreign disaster relief responses and for the further coordination of such activities with those of the U.S. private and international disaster relief communities.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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*Thousands of hill dwellers such as this mother and child received food at distribution points established by the Government of Nepal.*

For part of the year, hill dwellers normally subsist on their traditional crops of corn and millet. They have little cash, and they often commit their labor for immediate food payment. Following three years of adverse weather conditions, they were unable to harvest enough crops or obtain sufficient work to meet their own food needs.

**ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL:**

The Government of Nepal (GON) sought assistance from the U. S. Government (USG), Canada and the World Food Program (WFP). The GON banned exports of foodgrains for several months from mid-June 1972, and on October 4, 1972 froze food stocks in the hands of private traders, which the Government subsequently bought. The GON obtained a loan of 10,000 metric tons of rice (approximate value \$2.3 million) from India, and through a loan from the Land Development Bank purchased from the frozen stocks approximately 20,000 metric tons of foodgrains (approximate value \$1.2 million), the latter to be distributed to the hill dwellers.

The Agricultural Marketing Corporation was given principal responsibility for the logistics of food distribution and a special food coordinator was appointed. The GON purchased and distributed 150 polyethylene tarpaulins to protect corn at distribution points. In cooperation with the WFP, food-for-work projects were initiated. Of the 20,000 metric tons of corn donated to the GON by the USG, 5,000 tons were sold and the remainder distributed free to the needy. However, recipients of free distribution were obligated by their Government to provide service at a later date on community or major work projects.

**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE U. S. GOVERNMENT:**

At the request of the Government of Nepal and the World Food Program, the USG provided the following P. L. 480 food:

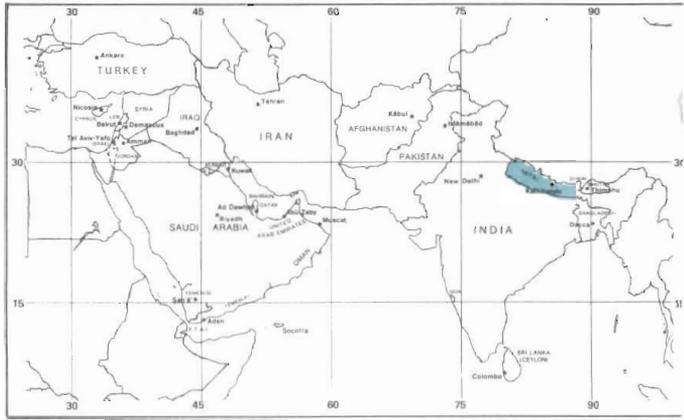
Government of Nepal—20,000 metric tons of corn and 12,500 metric tons of wheat, value including ocean freight . . .	\$4,762,500
World Food Program—6,700 metric tons of corn, value including ocean freight	824,000
	<hr/>
	\$5,586,500

**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY:**

Canada provided 3,500 metric tons of wheat, value and ocean freight estimated by FDRC at . . . . . \$450,000

The World Food Program cooperated with the Government of Nepal in a food-for-work program, obtaining 6,700 metric tons of corn from the USG to assist with these projects and, in addition, provided funds to cover transport costs in the amount of	168,750
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	\$618,750

The United Kingdom provided, for a limited time, aircraft and crews to assist in airlift and airdrops of grain to particular remote areas especially hard hit by the drought. Value of this assistance was not available.



**NEPAL**