

Koshi Disaster Risk Reduction Knowledge Hub

Australian Aid 

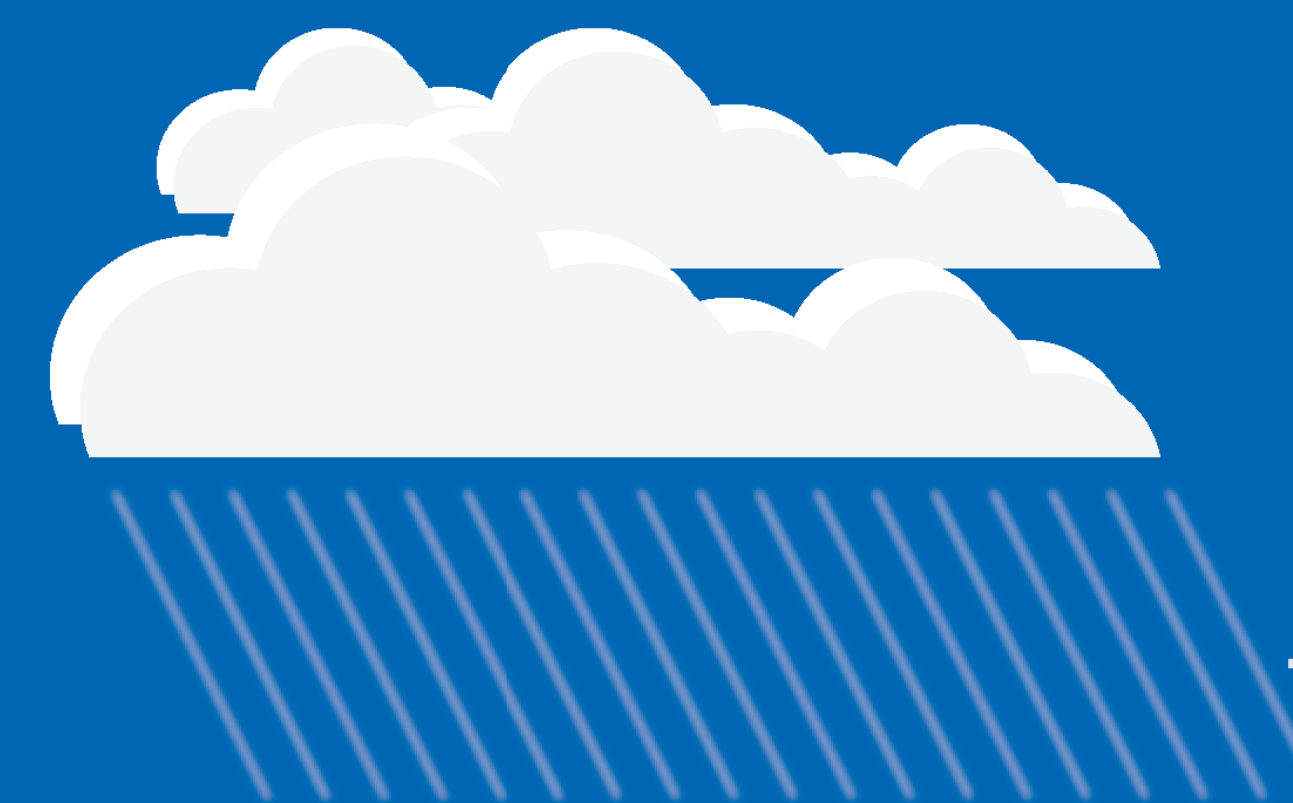
ICIMOD

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

Context

In the Koshi River basin, extreme weather events upstream lead to disasters downstream, affecting millions of people, destroying infrastructure, and disrupting development. These upstream-downstream linkages and shared disaster risk can form the basis for cooperation and provide opportunities for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilient livelihoods in the basin. Effective cooperation can be achieved by sharing knowledge and fostering practices that address the transboundary nature and scale of disaster.

The Koshi DRR Knowledge Hub is a platform that aims to foster regional cooperation by encouraging the sharing of knowledge and information on transboundary issues related to water. These issues range from water-induced disasters to research and policy on water and the potential shared benefits of such work. Through the hub, stakeholders can collaborate at the interface of research, policy, and practice. Such informed decision making will help improve the overall management of the Koshi basin.



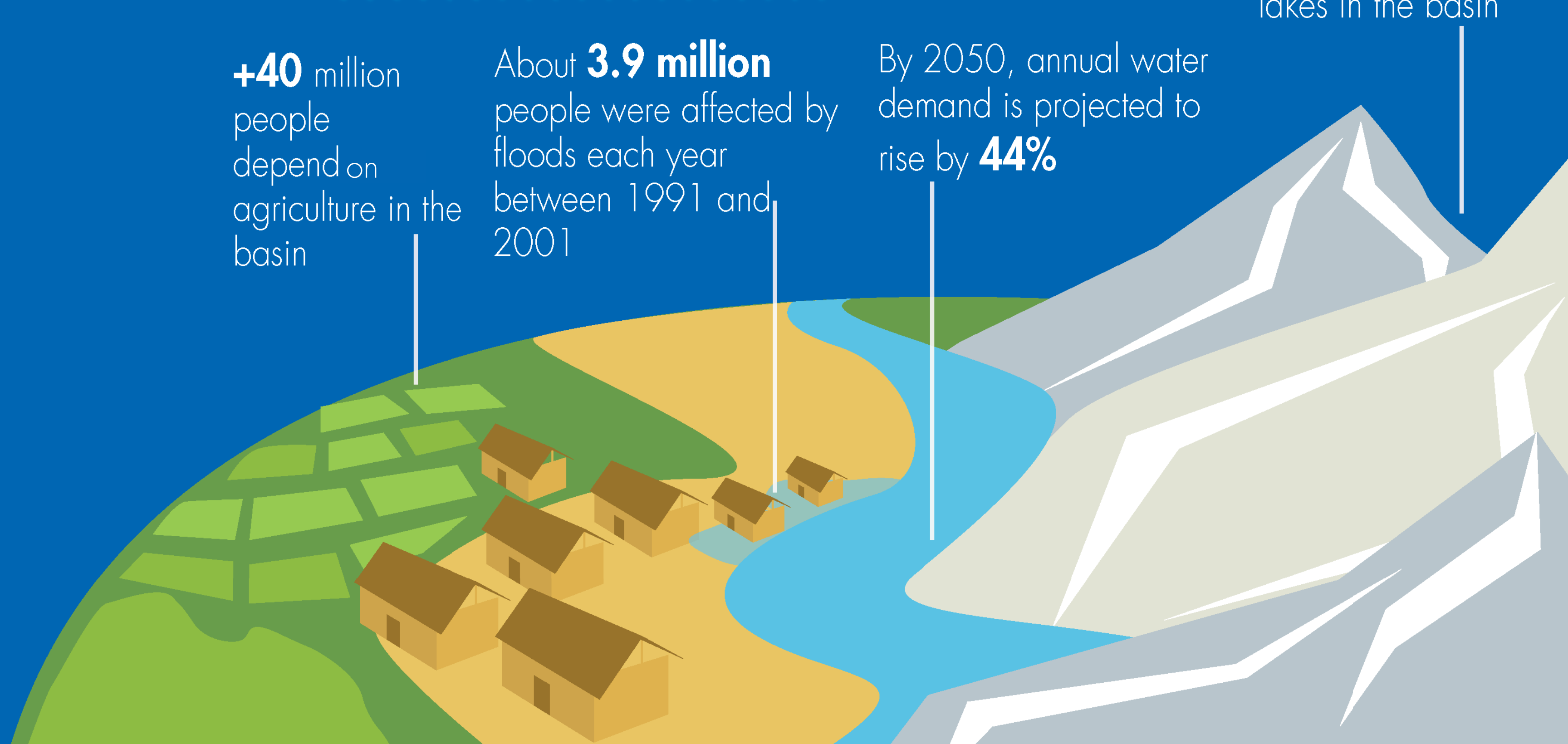
Future projections show a **14%** increase in summer rainfall by **2050**

79 potentially dangerous glacial lakes in the basin

+40 million people depend on agriculture in the basin

About **3.9 million** people were affected by floods each year between 1991 and 2001

By 2050, annual water demand is projected to rise by **44%**



The Hub

The Koshi is a disaster-prone basin, now at greater risk because of the impacts of climate change. Socio-economic development of communities has been hampered by these impacts and recurrent disasters. The transboundary nature of disasters means that upstream conditions and interventions affect downstream regions and vice versa.

The Koshi DRR Knowledge Hub recognizes the need to:

- Share available knowledge on addressing water-related disasters
- Build common understanding of the issues and possible solutions
- Pull in multiple stakeholders across boundaries to work together to identify priority areas

Why the Koshi DRR Knowledge Hub was developed

- To address lack of opportunities to co-develop knowledge and synergize existing opportunities for transboundary cooperation

What are the key building blocks of the good practice

- Implement a partnership approach – scoping, common interest, contributions and responsibilities
- Establish 'friends and family circle' around common issues to counter constant change in political systems and maintain momentum
- Enable members to drive detailed strategies and activities

How its success can be measured

- Joint projects and ideas developed by members of the hub
- Improved communication and collaboration at a transboundary scale

What it offers practitioners within SDIP

- Improved transboundary collaboration approached at different levels through a learning process
- Space for those interested to contribute to efforts addressing challenges in the Koshi basin



How it Works

Expected Outcomes

- Improved common understanding among key stakeholders of priority areas for transboundary water-related issues in the basin
- Identification of areas for transboundary collaboration between researchers, practitioners, and decision makers

Objectives

- Building on their experience in the Koshi basin, members of the hub define its strategies and activities, and carry these forward
- The hub creates a research-policy-practice interface, encouraging members to share knowledge through online platforms and annual dialogues
- Members of the hub identify areas for joint research, and share, propose, and showcase solutions
- Transboundary thematic working groups (TTWGs) and country chapters (CCs) are self-guided groups that propose and showcase solutions together, ultimately using their own networks and the platform provided by the hub to influence practice, research, and policy in the Koshi river basin and beyond