



# Resiliency Grant Program

The Resiliency Grant Program supports projects that ensure readiness of local communities to deploy, maintain, and repair Internet infrastructure, and re-establish connectivity in communities affected by natural disasters.

When a disaster like an earthquake or cyclone strikes, Internet connectivity becomes vital – both for impacted communities and those responding to the emergency.

By increasing network resiliency, deploying Internet equipment, and building local capacity, communities are better able to prepare for and withstand the effects of natural disasters on Internet connectivity.

## 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

# \$2.6 MM.

**USD awarded to six grantees** to support projects that strengthen Internet resiliency

# 6

**grantee partnerships with ISOC Chapters** to engage in training workshops

# 41

**Countries** where Resiliency grantees deployed equipment, established connectivity, or provided training to communities



CREDIT: NETHOPE



# Impact:

In 2023, the Resiliency Grant Program saw a continuation of work on active grants from previous years and welcomed more new grantees than ever before.

The Resiliency Grant program was formerly one of two components of the RARE (Resiliency & Responding to Emergencies) program. It became the primary funding source for projects related to disaster response after the Responding to Emergencies funding, introduced to address the challenges faced by the COVID-19 pandemic, came to a close at the end of 2023.



## Deploying Resilient Internet Infrastructure

Without resilient Internet infrastructure and networks, communities can be left without access to important communications in the aftermath of natural disasters. Ensuring that Internet infrastructure is resilient and pre-positioned means communities can be more prepared for possible emergencies. Deploying, maintaining, and repairing equipment is vital to ensuring connectivity is maintained if disaster strikes.

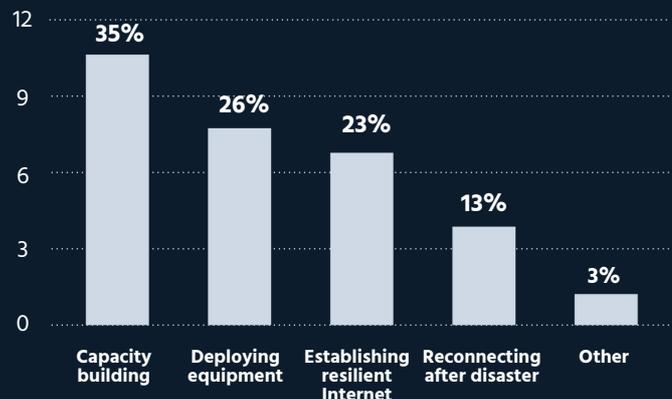
## Strengthening Capacity within Communities

Resilient Internet infrastructure and connectivity are made stronger through the knowledge and experience of local communities who maintain and repair Internet infrastructure. Through in-person and online trainings, hands-on capacity-building workshops, creation of manuals, and local stakeholder and partnership development, affected communities get the knowledge, tools, equipment, and skills to keep them connected.

## Ensuring Readiness and Re-establishing Connectivity

Internet connectivity during emergencies helps save lives. Resilient Internet connections (VSAT, point-to-point, community networks etc.) are foundational to recovery after a natural disaster. Resiliency grantees provide connectivity solutions to affected communities that address not only their immediate post-disaster needs, but also work to ensure longer-term resilient connectivity.

**ACTIVE GRANTEEES BY PROJECT FOCUS\***



\*Projects with more than one area of focus are counted in all the corresponding categories.



# Grantee Spotlight: significant outcomes



**“[It was an] absolute lifesaver to have that hardwired, gigabit fiber connection to this super remote location.”**

**CHRIS SHERWOOD**

Volunteer - ITDRC - United States



CREDIT: ITDRC

## Emergency connectivity hotspot trailers deployed when they're needed

The Information Technology Disaster Resource Center (ITDRC) is a trusted leader in non-profit disaster management across the United States, where they provide emergency connectivity in the aftermath of disasters.

Their Resiliency Grant project focused on procuring and deploying 10 self-sustaining emergency hotspot trailers near major urban centers across the country to enhance emergency preparedness. In between June and October 2023, trailers were deployed during multiple wildfires in the Pacific Northwest. Within just weeks of deployment at the Bedrock fire in Oregon, the network supported by the trailer had 1,000 users. In some areas, trailers provide ongoing connectivity for weeks or months after a disaster at no cost to the community.



CREDIT: NETHOPE

## Disaster Preparedness programming across the globe

NetHope Inc. is a global consortium of over 60 nongovernmental organizations that specializes in improving information technology and connectivity among humanitarian organizations in areas affected by disaster.

As part of their Resiliency Grant project, they worked alongside partners, including Internet Society chapters in Ghana, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Panama to deliver emergency and disaster telecommunications trainings. NetHope organized three in-person trainings with both participant and Train-the-Trainer components.

Over 250 participants from academic, government, private, nongovernmental and international organizations joined trainings over the course of their project.



# Countries Where Our Grantees Worked in 2023



- |                     |                |                     |                       |                          |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Anguilla            | Cayman Islands | India               | Myanmar               | Thailand                 |
| Antigua and Barbuda | Dominica       | Indonesia           | Panama                | Trinidad & Tobago        |
| Argentina           | El Salvador    | Jamaica             | Philippines           | Turks and Caicos Islands |
| Bahamas             | Fiji           | Kenya               | Saint Lucia           | Uganda                   |
| Barbados            | Ghana          | Lao People's        | Saint Kitts and Nevis | United States of America |
| Belize              | Grenada        | Democratic Republic | Saint Vincent and     | Vietnam                  |
| Brazil              | Guatemala      | Malaysia            | the Grenadines        | Virgin Islands           |
| Brunei              | Guyana         | Mexico              | Singapore             |                          |
| Cambodia            | Haiti          | Montserrat          | Suriname              |                          |

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