



SUCCESS STORY

Unskilled worker learns new trade to support his family

Sagar Thapa, 25, of Kailali District in Nepal's Western Region, dropped out of school and started working in construction at age 12 to help support his family. Sagar traveled to India every year from July to December where he found jobs in construction in India's hills near the western border of Nepal.



“Work in India was not easy. The construction work itself is a risky job due to the rocky sites in the hills. One of my friends died in an incident while working there,” Thapa said. **THAPA**

Looking for a safer job and one closer to home, Thapa looked to USAID's Nepal Flood Recovery Program (USAID-NFRP), which hired Thapa to help build flood control barriers in his village.

Thapa worked on a 60-meter gabion box that the village cost-shared with the program. The community was also in charge of filling in the space behind the embankment with soil and small stones after the gabion box was finished.

“This year I did not go to India. I worked in my own community on the gabion construction works carried out by [USAID-NFRP],” Thapa said.

The construction took two months to complete and generated 450 man days of labor in two months. The gabion protects the nearby village and directly benefits 50 households, including some that were only meters away from the embankment.

Thapa earned NRs 22,500 and he said it all went to support his family. During the project, Thapa became certified as a mason, which will help him get a job with construction companies in Nepal.

In fact, he has already started another job at a higher wage as the head mason on another project in a neighboring village.

“I see better employment opportunities in the future because this flood recovery program enhanced my skills,” Thapa said.



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

Sagar Thapa was hired to help build this 60-meter flood barrier in Nepal's Western Region.

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– Sagar Thapa, 25, of Kailali District in Nepal's Western Region