



Monthly Update – September/October/November 2009

USAID/Nepal Flood Recovery Program

Build Back Better

USAID-NFRP works with flood-affected communities and NGOs in the Terai to increase farmer productivity and income, rehabilitate and develop small-scale community infrastructure, improve awareness of sanitation, nutrition, gender and protection issues and strengthen local organizational capacities through enhanced participation of youth and vulnerable populations. This 36-month activity started in June 2008 and is implemented by Fintrac Inc., a US agribusiness firm in partnership with METCON Consultants and a vast group of local NGOs and subcontractors.

Visit www.usaid-nfrp.org for more information.

INFRASTRUCTURE

After the monsoon season, USAID-NFRP conducted a complete assessment of all infrastructure projects to evaluate possible damage to both completed and ongoing projects and the potential cost of repairs. Mohan Shrestha and our team of engineers found that all culverts, bridges and schools successfully survived the heavy rains; however, some flood control projects (i.e. gabions and embankment repairs) and on irrigation canal were found to be partially damaged during the flooding. In total, five projects require minor repairs and maintenance. Cost estimates are currently underway and repairs will begin in December.

During the reporting period a total of nine infrastructure projects were completed, all of them school buildings in various VDCs of the Central region and one in Bardiya district of the West. These projects generated 14,014 person-days of temporary employment to local communities and will benefit 2,278 school children. The local community contributions to these projects amounted to a total of USD 31,247 (see table).

Ninety-four percent of the 86 infrastructure projects are now completed and signed over to their respective VDCs. Only five projects remain: one school to be completed in December and three schools and one small bridge due in January 2010. By February next year, all infrastructure activities will be focused on the program extension areas of Sunsari, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts.



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

Culvert completed and visited by USAID/Nepal Mission Director, Kevin Rushing, during the first week of September 2009 in Uधारपुर VDC, Banke district.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AT A GLANCE

Project	Location	Benef.	NFRP Cost	Comm. Contrib*	Person-days
School	Hariharpur (Bara)	253	\$33,674	\$2,877	1559
School	Devapur (Bara)	258	\$33,114	\$5,274	1622
School	Jaymanglapur (Parsa)	203	\$32,185	\$6,849	1695
School	Sabaithawa (Bara)	151	\$32,888	\$5,479	1622
School	Hariharpur (Parsa)	368	\$41,939	\$2,055	1729
School	Basatpur (Parsa)	172	\$38,714	\$2,740	1730
School	Dharmanagar (Parsa)	340	\$38,714	\$2,740	1730
School	Matiwarwa (Parsa)	333	\$25,889	\$1,370	1368
School	Padanaha (Bardiya)	200	\$22,749	\$1,863	959

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LIVELIHOODS & INCOME GENERATION

Livelihoods and Income Generation (LIG) partners FORWARD and MADE completed first crop cycle activities from the period of November to June 2009. The program for the second crop cycle (July–December) followed immediately after in July and will be completed in December.

Irrigation: During the first crop cycle, groundwater irrigation sets were installed for all 479 hectares of demonstration plots, including 340 shallow tube wells with motorized pumps, 258 treadle pumps and 25 drip irrigation sets. Two local surface irrigation canals were also renovated in Udharapur and Suryapatawa VDCs in the Western region. In September, mid-program field evaluations

determined that at least 436 neighboring farmers are now purchasing irrigation services from beneficiary farmers, increasing their collective income by an additional Rs. 168,754 (\$2,312).

Seed & Nursery Management: Crop variety selection and planting for the second crop cycle has been fully completed. The LIG program's prioritized commodities include cowpea, okra, cauliflower, tomato, cabbage, chili, onion, brinjal (eggplant), menthe, radish, and improved maize and rice varieties. In total, 1,365 kilograms of seeds have been distributed to cover 480 hectares of demonstration plots in the Western and Central regions of the Terai.

The nursery management kits provided to the farmers for this cycle included germination enhancers such as systemic fungal sterilizers and localize pesticides, as well as plastic sheeting and seedling bags for the nurseries.

Production Management: Income levels for the first crop cycle were finalized in July and gross sales for participating families amounted to more than Rs. 68 million. Net sales or income (gross sales less cost of production) are estimated at Rs. 42.5 million (\$581,756), or \$269 per family.

The initial harvests of the 2nd crop cycle indicate that the program is on track to meet or exceed the results of the 1st crop cycle. To date, participant

farmers have generated more than Rs. 23 million (\$312,874) in net sales on 255 hectares of demonstration plots (averaging approximately \$271 per family).



Field Technician, Durga Kharga Thapa (standing), with Asha Ram Chaudhary who intercropped chili with long bean in Pathariya VDC, Kailali.

Soil testing: A total of 235 of a targeted 290 soil samples have been completed, covering all demonstration plots in the Central region and about 85% in the Western region. As samples are collected and analyzed, farmers are informed of the status of their fields and provided with recommendations for treatments to improve soil quality and fertility. Farmers are trained in soil conservation, fertilizer application, composting and incorporating organic materials into soils. In addition, field staff provide regular follow up visits to reinforce farmers' skills in soil preparation, transplanting, application of manure and fertilizers, staking, hoeing, weeding, etc.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM): Field staff continue to provide support to farmers on the identification, treatment and prevention of pests. Training topics include plant protection measures, pest population monitoring, installation and use of IPM kits, and identifying and establishing linkages

with local agro-vet providers. Such support will reduce the dependence of Terai farmers on chemical pesticides, thus lowering production costs and reducing exposure to hazardous materials.

Marketing: In September, USAID-NFRP held a meeting in the Western region with representatives of the Agriculture Production and Market Center (APMC) Kohalpur, the USAID-EIG program, and local NGOs Dalit Sewa Sang and Rural Reconstruction Nepal. The purpose was to discuss methods by which APMC could improve the public's access to timely information on price and demand changes within the Kohalpur market. APMC agreed to manage daily price collections and coordinate with local radio station Kohalpur FM to provide regular updates on local market trends. Wholesale prices, disseminated daily, and retailer prices, three times a week, are now scheduled for broadcasting every morning from 7:15 to 7:30 by Kohalpur FM radio.

SANITATION, HYGIENE, NUTRITION

Overall Summary during the reporting period:

- SHN trainings: target 240; achieved 240
 - Adult participants: target 1500; achieved 1536 (1074 women, 462 men)
 - Children participants: target 1500, achieved 1536 (843 girls, 678 boys)
- Kitchen Gardens (KG)
 - Summer KGs completed: target 1200; achieved 1243
 - Winter KGs completed: target 1200; achieved 1290
- Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS)
 - ICS installation: target 1200; achieved 1229
 - 58 maintenance and operations trainings



Top: Irrigation pump distributed to farmers.

Bottom: Tejman Chaudhary sold 250 kilograms of cauliflower for Rs. 10,000 in Joshipur VDC, Kailali.

conducted during the reporting period.

The sanitation, hygiene and nutrition trainings have had a noticeable impact on the quality of participants' lives and on village life in general. Although the final impact assessment is not yet complete, participants have already demonstrated that greater awareness in subjects such as latrine usage and construction has a direct effect on reducing contamination from fecal-borne diseases and other sources. In addition, many families have taken the initiative to build their own outhouse using the advice of USAID-NFRP technicians who visit the villages regularly. Hand-washing has also been an important and popular topic that is expected to reduce the incidence of water and fecal-borne diseases from patron to client (in kitchens), mother to family, and generally among

school children.

The ICSs have proven highly useful for women that cook for their families. Three positive findings among those interviewed are (1) the stoves keep the house clean and smokeless; (2) their ergonomic designs require less time for cooking than traditional stoves; (3) many women recognize that the stoves use less firewood/fuel. In certain villages, households not involved in the program have gone as far as to install ICSs in their homes with moderate supervision from the project.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS / WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Overall summary during the reporting period for Strengthening Local Organizations:

- Community Development trainings for 60 CBOs: target 240, achieved 240
 - Adult participants: target 1200; achieved 1218 (662 women, 556 men)
- Youth Leadership trainings for 60 youth clubs: target 240; achieved 240
 - Youth participants: target 1200; achieved 1218 (609 women, 609 men)
- Disaster Preparedness & Mitigation Committees formed and trained: target 60; achieved 60
 - Adult participants: target 1200; achieved 1227 (634 women, 593 men)



Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Committee presents materials used in a four day training event on disaster mapping, mitigation planning and use of rescue and relief materials.



Girls attending a BLOP session in Pathariya VDC, Kailali.

By the time the SLO program is completed, the 60 targeted CBOs, YCs and DPMCs will have the required skills, financial and material resources to effectively operate in their communities without the need for program supervision. USAID-NFRP has also provided basic promotional materials, furniture and supplies to each group to help get started; many of whom will become formally registered with their district governments. Empowered by their achievements, CBOs are now working to present small-scale development initiatives to their Village Development Committee governments. Similarly, Youth Clubs are preparing to implement community service projects that will be receive nominal financial assistance from USAID-NFRP. Many clubs, on their own initiative, have already started cleaning streets, organizing sporting activities and promoting progressive social issues within their communities.

Overall summary during the reporting period for Protection of Women and Children:

- Better Life Option Program (BLOP) facilitator trainings: 2 sessions with 72 facilitators-in-training completed
- BLOP centers formed: target 60; achieved 60
- BLOP sessions conducted to date: target 4320 (life-of-program); achieved 1980
- BLOP participants enrolled (all female): target 1200; achieved 1395



From Left: Manju Tharu, Pushpa Chaudhary and Dan Devi Tharu are BLOP trainers in Banke district.

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