



Monthly Update – December 2008

## USAID/Nepal Flood Recovery Program

*Build Back Better*

USAID-NFRP works with flood-affected communities and NGOs throughout 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 24-month activity started in June 2008 and is implemented by Fintrac Inc., a US agribusiness firm in partnership with METCOM Consultants and a vast group of local NGOs and subcontractors.

Visit [www.usaid-nfrp.org](http://www.usaid-nfrp.org) for more information.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

In September USAID-NFRP successfully applied bamboo netting and sandbag walls to build cost-effective river protection barriers in the Barainiya Village Development Committee (VDC) of Bara district. After verifying the quality of the end product there, USAID-NFRP facilitated an on site training in Thapapur VDC (Kailali) where 12 staff from our six partner subcontractors in Banke, Bardiya and Kailali (Western region) were introduced to this bio-engineering technology so they could take the concept and apply them at their designated VDCs. The training was done while implementing an actual community river protection activity, which will protect more than 100 homes and a school of 500 students. The first 20 meters of the project were built using voluntary labor and equipment from the subcontractor trainees.

The Infrastructure component is now fully committed with 93 prioritized projects selected and underway across the 60 program VDCs.

### AGRICULTURE

Of the 2,100 traditional staple crop farmers selected for program support, 1,899 have started nursery production of late-winter crops that will enhance the productivity of 403 hectares of land. The remaining participants will start production of early-summer crops by late January to fully establish the program's targeted 480 hectares of demonstration farms. During the course of this program, farmers will be supported with long-term training and inputs for three off-season (optimal price) production periods.

Appropriate technologies for small-to-medium scale irrigation have been developed for each program



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

**The community pitches in during a bio-engineering demonstration and training at Thapapur VDC.**

### INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AT A GLANCE

Project Type	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
Culverts	33	8	0
Flood Controls	20	1	2
Schools	17	2	0
School Bathrooms	4	0	0
Irrigation Rehab	0	3	0
Road Improvements	2	0	0
Health Post	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>

*Phase I: Engineering design & community mobilization in process (construction initiated by Jan/Feb); Phase II: Construction underway; Phase III: Project completed*

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site. Shallow-tube wells with motorized pumps or manual treadle pumps are most requested by farmers, all of whom have agreed to share 25 percent of the total cost. Well drilling started in early December and 20 of the program's 260 production/marketing groups have already completed installation. In addition, one drip irrigation system will be established in each VDC to demonstrate the appropriateness of this highly efficient technology and engender interest among Terai farmers.

In December, our Livelihoods & Income Generation implementing partners completed 37 field-based trainings for farmers covering topics such as variety selection, nursery management, composting, mulching, field preparation and irrigation management. The main crops promoted are cauliflower, chili, onion, *brinjal*, tomato and mentha, which will generate net returns that are **768 percent higher** on average than the wheat varieties traditionally cultivated during this season.



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

**Participants in an USAID-NFRP-sponsored Sanitation, Health and Nutrition training-of-trainers course.**

## SANITATION, HYGIENE & NUTRITION

The SHN component kicked off with two training-of-trainers events organized in Birgunj and Nepalgunj for the five partner NGOs selected for implementation. Twenty NGO staff and 60 community health volunteers (65 women, 15 men) were trained in extension techniques for the promotion of improved hand-washing and food preparation, disease prevention, drinking water treatment, wastewater management, solid waste management, kitchen gardening and improved cooking stoves. Immediately following the trainings, NGO staff and volunteers mobilized to their assigned communities and initiated recruitment of the targeted beneficiaries per program VDC: 25 adults and 25 schoolchildren. Before the community-based trainings begin in January, partner NGOs are conducting thorough baseline surveys to assess current conditions and hygiene practices of the targeted beneficiaries and measure their progress throughout the life of the 12-month program.

## LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS / WOMEN & CHILDREN

The terms of reference for the final two components were completed in December. Competitive selection of partner subcontractors will be completed in January and field operations will be initiated by early February.

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