



Monthly update – October 2008

## USAID/Nepal Flood Recovery Program (USAID-NFRP) “Build Back Better”

### NOTE FROM THE PROJECT DIRECTOR

USAID-NFRP initiated the Livelihoods and Income Generation component of the program in October. We completed the design of a Training-of-Trainers course on improved agricultural practices, inclusive of material for vegetables and other crops (e.g. IPM, irrigation, post-harvest handling, and marketing logistics). We also introduced the bioengineering technology, applied to flood protection barriers Barainiya, to the western region. If determined feasible by our construction partners and adapted we will realize significant cost savings for our flood control activities in both regions.

Joe Sanders, Chief of Party,  
Nepal Flood Recovery Program

### INFRASTRUCTURE

USAID-NFRP’s infrastructure component continues to progress ahead of schedule. In October, 44 projects and sites were identified for implementation and 30 preliminary designs and cost estimates were completed. Partner firms and NGOs are now working to organize community user groups and determine the matching contributions that will be made by beneficiaries and other sources, such as local government agencies. To the greatest extent possible, USAID-NFRP, through its partner subcontractors, will work to procure human and physical resources directly from beneficiary communities. This not only ensures maximum financial investment in those communities, but it also helps to reduce the cost of infrastructure activities as resources provided locally are almost always cheaper than standard market prices. During November and December, USAID-NFRP will complete its remaining project designs and all 60 VDCs will have projects underway or completed by early January 2009.

### AGRICULTURE

USAID-NFRP’s livelihoods and income generation (LIG) component was initiated in October after the completion of a rigorous competitive selection process. Seven NGOs were preselected for bidding which involved the standard submission of technical and cost proposals, as well as interactive oral presentations that allowed the USAID-NFRP team to assess the organizations’ leadership better and make direct inquiries regarding



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

**A USAID-NFRP staff member collects information from villagers.**

### USAID/Nepal Flood Recovery Program

This project is implemented by Fintrac Inc., a US agribusiness firm, in partnership with METCON Consultants. USAID-NFRP collaborates with village development committees and local NGOs in the Terai to increase incomes from agriculture, support small-scale infrastructure and health/nutrition activities and strengthen organizational capacity, especially among vulnerable populations.

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their proposed activities and methodologies. Two Terai-based NGOs were selected for subcontracting to implement in the two program regions: the Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for Development (FORWARD) in the Mid/Far West and Multidimensional Agriculture for Development (MADE) in the Central region. The total financial commitment made through these subcontracts is approximately \$399,000. The remaining funding available under the LIG component will be programmed during the next four months as additional livelihoods activities are identified for support in flood-affected communities (fish ponds, animal husbandry and agricultural processing).

During the month of October, both NGOs have fully staffed their teams with two senior-level coordinators and 10 mid-level agronomist/extension workers for each region. Both teams have already started the process of identifying farmers and landholdings that meet USAID-NFRP's criteria for demonstration plots and HVC promotion. A joint training-of-trainers that will officially kick-off the LIG program is being organized for early November. Through the program, flood-affected and other vulnerable families of the target districts will gain medium-term support by receiving quality seeds, nursery management kits, IPM kits, irrigation kits, on-farm trainings in improved production practices of high value crops (HVC), pre- and postharvest handling management training and marketing management training for growing nutritious and commercial crops with linkages to micro-credit and local development organizations. LIG activities will demonstrate increased output of quality products and sales. By the end of this project, at least 1,200 families will have new or improved skills to manage the production and marketing of HVCs from 480 hectares of land for increased incomes with an aggregate value of at least USD \$820,000 in net sales.

## SANITATION, HYGIENE & NUTRITION

Fourteen local NGOs from the six program districts have been shortlisted for potential implementation of this component. The terms of reference were completed in October and the document was vetted with local communities and government health workers to ensure responsiveness to real local demands in terms of improved sanitation, hygiene and nutrition. Competitive bidding will be conducted in early November. USAID-NFRP anticipates selecting one partner NGO (subcontractor) per program district. Implementation will kick off in late November with a training-of-trainers event held in each region.

## LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

In response to the government of Nepal's recent announcement that it will re-energize Local Peace Committees (LPCs) throughout the country's 75 districts, USAID-NFRP has held a number of coordination and information-gathering meetings with key stakeholders at the national and local levels. As a result, the program is working to develop a strategy for this component that will enable it to effectively address institutional and organizational needs at the community level while still being in a position to adapt to new changes in the case that LPCs become functional and more active in program districts. Competitive bidding with the 15 preselected local NGOs for this component will be conducted in December.

## WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Fifteen local NGOs from the six program districts have been shortlisted for potential implementation of this component. Competitive bidding will be held in January 2009.

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