



Update – March-May 2009

USAID/Nepal Flood Recovery Program

Build Back Better

USAID-NFRP works with flood-affected communities 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 METCON Consultants and local NGOs and subcontractors.

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

INFRASTRUCTURE

The infrastructure component is now fully booked with 50 projects currently under construction and 35 completed, benefitting more than 9,000 households. By the estimated time of completion in December 2009, this program will benefit 24,468 flood-affected families across the six program districts. USAID-NFRP is currently on schedule to finish 84 percent of its projects by July 2009, before the start of the monsoon season.

In March, USAID-NFRP initiated construction of its largest infrastructure project to-date: a 32-meter vented culvert in Jaymanglapur VDC (Parsa district) that will improve transportation and support local economic development for more than 5,000 neighboring households. The District Development Committee (DDC) of Parsa has recognized the importance and high demand for this project by committing \$13,500 to co-finance the construction of this large culvert.

AGRICULTURE

Livelihoods and income generation (LIG) partners, FORWARD and MADE, completed trainings on production and postharvest management, integrated pest management (IPM) and product marketing for 2,144 participant farmers from 330 different production associations this period. During the first series of marketing training, farmers learned to apply basic analytical skills that will enhance their ability to make effective and strategic decisions for future crop cycles. Trainings included visits to local and regional markets to engage important buyers and middlemen; analysis of production costs, price fixation and production timing; mapping of



Photos by Fintrac, Inc.

This latrine was built by a beneficiary of USAID-NFRP's sanitation, hygiene and nutrition training program. Dozens of other beneficiaries also built latrines, which greatly improve household sanitation and hygiene.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AT A GLANCE

| Project Type | Ongoing | Completed |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Culverts and Bridges | 17 | 17 |
| Flood Controls | 16 | 12 |
| Schools | 13 | 1 |
| Public Bathrooms | 1 | 1 |
| Irrigation Rehabilitation | 2 | 2 |
| Road Improvements | 0 | 2 |
| Health Post | 1 | |
| TOTAL | 50 | 35 |

This report is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of this report are the sole responsibility of Fintrac and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

accessible wholesale and export markets; and establishing grassroots market information systems. The program's preliminary income data will be presented in the coming month as beneficiaries report their initial harvests and sales of program supported crops.

Substantial progress was also made in the distribution and application of program inputs, including seeds, nursery materials, IPM kits and irrigation sets. To date, all 2,144 participant farmers have received inputs and irrigation sets (330 motorized and 284 treadle pumps) and the program has achieved coverage of 473 of the targeted 480 hectares of productive land. The remaining seven hectares will be supported by the second crop cycle beginning in June.

Participatory irrigation management plans have been developed for all 330 production associations that outline the sustainable use and delivery of the improved irrigation sets. Many groups have already reported a full recovery of the counterpart contributions they made to pay for the sets by leasing their services to neighboring farmers not directly supported by the program. Seven demonstration drip irrigation sets were also installed this period; by August there will be a drip system in each of the 60 program VDCs.

SANITATION, HYGIENE & NUTRITION

SHN partners have completed the first cycle of awareness trainings for 2,213 community beneficiaries, including 791 women and 990 children. Local community health volunteers will coordinate with USAID-NFRP to monitor all 3,000 targeted beneficiaries and assess the trainings' effectiveness in engendering positive behavior changes that improve family hygiene and nutrition. An immediate indicator of the program's impact has been the voluntary construction of improved latrines that are based on the hygiene standards and low-cost construction techniques promoted by our trainers. One group of trainees in Bardiya district immediately built 32 new latrines after completion of its three-day SHN training. Twenty-four trainees in Pathariya VDC of Kailali did the same. After seeing the impact on household sanitation, an additional 20 villagers of Pathariya (not directly supported by the program) built latrines in their homes with the support and guidance of program trainees.

The first round of training for family kitchen gardening was also completed this period. A total of 1,221 beneficiaries participated in the two-day workshops. Upon completion they were provided in-kind assistance for quality seeds and materials to establish nutritionally balanced 330 m² kitchen gardens in each of their homes. First harvests



USAID-NFRP built this erosion and river control gabion in Pathariya VDC, Kailali district.



The program is improving irrigation by rehabilitating aqueducts such as this one in Thakurdwara VDC, Bardiya district.



A USAID-NFRP demonstration farmer (right) shows his long bean crop to LIG Specialist Dr. BB Mathema.

started in May and families will continue to receive household-level assistance in food selection, preparation, storage and handling.

In early May, USAID-NFRP rolled out its improved cooking stove (ICS) program that will help prevent smoke inhalation and reduce dependency on fuel wood for 1,200 families. ICS promoters have been selected and trained in each of the 60 program VDCs and are now working with target beneficiaries to install household ICSs and train their families on proper construction, usage and maintenance.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS / WOMEN & CHILDREN

Partner NGOs for the SLO and PWC components were selected in March after completion of a competitive screening and evaluation process in the six districts. The programs kicked off with a six-day training-of-trainers event in April that oriented 30 partner staff on USAID-NFRP’s approach, methodologies and expected outcomes for both components, which will be implemented over a nine-month period. By January 2010, 5,400 people from 60 community-based organizations (CBOs) and 60 youth clubs will be capacitated in community development, youth leadership, disaster preparedness, protection and awareness issues, and gender rights and equality.

Field activities and CBO/YC formation started in May. Due to the impending monsoon season, beneficiary communities have requested that we start with disaster preparedness and management training first, given the high risk of flooding that Terai families face during the rainy season. As CBOs complete the four-day trainings, USAID-NFRP will provide in-kind donations of vital equipment, tools and supplies that will support the implementation of their recently developed disaster management plans.



A farmer packs cucumbers in the field.



Men and women participate in a training-of-trainers on integrated pest management conducted by agronomists from partners FORWARD and MADE.

USAID-NFRP STAFF

Main office

Joe Sanders
 Chief of Party
joesanders@fintrac.com
 Subarna Bajracharya
 Finance & Contracts Specialist
sbajracharya@fintrac.com
 Suresh Manandhar
 Administrative & Procurement Officer
smanandhar@fintrac.com
 Shudipa Shrestha
 Administrative Assistant
sshrestha@fintrac.com

Regional Coordinators

Shiv Narayan Tharu
 Regional Coordinator – Mid/Far West
lshah@fintrac.com
 Ramananda Prasad Gupta
 Regional Coordinator – Central Region
rgupta@fintrac.com

Technical Specialists

Brahmaram B. Mathema
 DCOP/Livelihood & Income Generation Specialist
bbmathema@fintrac.com
 Kamal Bahadur Shrestha
 Monitoring and Outreach Specialist
kshrestha@fintrac.com
 Mohan Krishna Shrestha
 Engineering Specialist
mshrestha@fintrac.com