



Monthly Update – November 2008

## USAID/Nepal Flood Recovery Program

*Build Back Better*

### NOTE FROM THE PROJECT DIRECTOR

November signifies USAID-NFRP’s transition from assessment and program development to full-scale implementation of our key components in Infrastructure, Livelihoods and Sanitation. The program is now an established *ground operation* improving the lives and living conditions of Terai households seriously affected by the floods of 2007 and, in many cases, the floods of 2008.

Joe Sanders, Chief of Party  
USAID/Nepal Flood Recovery Program

### INFRASTRUCTURE

The rapid implementation of our infrastructure component is an effective “rallying point” for engendering community enthusiasm and mobilizing support for the program’s broader objectives. Projects in river protection, flood control, culverts, irrigation repairs, schools and road protection are in highest demand. Final designs for the prioritized projects in 20 VDCs were completed in November and construction is underway. An additional 30 preliminary designs were prepared for projects slated for December and January. USAID-NFRP has identified 66 project sites that have been inspected and designed by our 12 partner subcontractors. The local firms and NGOs selected for implementation are working to organize community-based user groups at each work site and identify locally available sources of skilled and unskilled labor, equipment and materials.

It was originally envisioned that \$30,000 would be allocated to each of the program’s 60 VDCs (totaling \$1.8 million) for priority infrastructure projects. As the team grows more and more aware of the situation on the ground, however, it is apparent that some VDCs are more affected than others. The hardest hit tend to be in Kailali, Rautahat and Bardiya districts. USAID-NFRP is therefore adapting to address this situation and focus on the highest priorities selected by each VDC. Most projects will cost less than \$30,000, leaving a balance estimated at about 30 percent of the \$1.8 million that will be used for larger, higher impact projects in more affected current program VDCs or in new ones with vital flood-related infrastructure needs. Projects from this final phase scheduled to begin in March will likely include bridges, culverts, primary irrigation structures and road repairs.

### AGRICULTURE

The two organizations selected to implement the Livelihoods & Income Generation (LIG) program, FORWARD and MADE, have fully scaled up field operations. The LIG program kicked off with a five-day training-of-trainers (ToT) event in Bharatpur designed to bring the NGOs’ technical teams up-to-speed with Fintrac’s methodology for high value crop production and demonstration farming. Participants included the four mid-level managers and 20



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

**USAID-NFRP improved a river embankment in Bhaluhi VDC, Bara district.**

### USAID/Nepal Flood Recovery Program

This project is implemented by Fintrac Inc., a US agribusiness firm, in partnership with METCON Consultants. USAID-NFRP works with flood-affected communities and NGOs throughout the Terai to increase farmer productivity and incomes, 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.

For more information, contact USAID-NFRP at:

PO Box 4412 | SMR House | 43/15 Dandibaba Marg, Tangal

Kathmandu – 2, Nepal

Tel: +977 1 4412902 | Fax: +977 1 4418478 |

[nfrp@fintrac.com](mailto:nfrp@fintrac.com)

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.

junior agronomists that have been assigned to implement activities across the six program districts. These technicians were thoroughly trained in appropriate applications for rural extension, demonstration farming, group formation, irrigation clustering, nursery and soil management, integrated pest management (IPM), postharvest handling, marketing and micro-credit. Immediately following the ToT, teams started mobilizing in the program districts and staff members have taken residence in their assigned VDC.

More than 2,000 farmers have been selected to participate in the program and their land will reach the 480 hectares targeted for technical assistance for the next three cropping seasons. Farmers across the 60 VDCs have been clustered into more than 260 production and marketing groups based on their commonalities in crop promotion, market access, water sources and irrigation distribution. More than 85 percent of these groups have already started training and established nurseries for the selected high value crops and non-forest timber products that are being promoted. The remaining 15 percent of farmers will begin training in December and all crops will be transplanted to the demonstration plots by the end of January. Irrigation sources for most sites have also been identified and the appropriate technologies for supplying water are currently being developed. The most common will be portable motorized diesel pumps that can effectively serve group needs and also be rented out to other communities members.



**Program staff learn integrated pest management techniques during a training-of-trainers event.**

## SANITATION, HYGIENE & NUTRITION

The competitive selection of partner NGOs for this component was completed in mid-November. Of the 13 proposals received from our shortlisted organizations, five were awarded subcontracts to cover the six program districts. By the end of November, subcontractors had completed their staff recruitment and were preparing for the training-of-trainers events scheduled for early December in Nepalgunj and Birgunj. The SHN component will be implemented over 15 months and will target its technical and training assistance to two unique groups: school children between ages 8 and 14 and prequalified adults, 60 percent of whom must be women. The principle objectives are to: 1) provide an integrated training program that will improve the sanitation, hygiene and nutrition practices of 3,000 flood-affected Terai families, 2) establish 1,200 demonstration kitchen gardens for improved nutrition and incomes, and 3) install 1,200 improved cooking stoves that will enhance fuel efficiency and reduce smoke inhalation.

## LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS / WOMEN & CHILDREN

The final two components are scheduled for competitive selection and initiation of field activities in January. Because their terms of reference require similar qualifications from our shortlisted local NGOs, awards for both components will go to the same organization within each district.

### USAID-NFRP STAFF LIST

#### Kathmandu Office

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

#### Regional Offices

Shiv Narayan Rana Tharu  
 Regional Coordinator – Mid/Far West  
[sntharu@fintrac.com](mailto:sntharu@fintrac.com)  
 Ramananda Prasad Gupta  
 Regional Coordinator – Central  
[rgupta@fintrac.com](mailto:rgupta@fintrac.com)

#### Technical Specialists

Brahmaram B. Mathema  
 DCOP/Livelihoods & Income Gen. Specialist  
[bbmathema@fintrac.com](mailto:bbmathema@fintrac.com)  
 Kamal Bahadur Shrestha  
 Monitoring & Outreach Specialist  
[kshrestha@fintrac.com](mailto:kshrestha@fintrac.com)  
 Mohan Krishna Shrestha  
 Engineering Specialist  
[mshrestha@fintrac.com](mailto:mshrestha@fintrac.com)  
 Geeta Lama  
 Social Inclusion Specialist  
[glama@fintrac.com](mailto:glama@fintrac.com)