



## SUCCESS STORY

# USAID/Nepal Completes River Protection Barriers and Embankment Repairs in Barainiya VDC

*“Building Back Better”*

The USAID/Nepal Flood Recovery Program (USAID-NFRP) completed its first infrastructure activity – 475 meters of river protection barriers and embankment repairs. The project took 25 days from design through construction and 275 rural households in Barainiya VDC are now better protected from further flooding and erosion.

USAID-NFRP Engineer Mohan Shrestha worked with local construction partner South Consult and villagers in Kantipur village of Barainiya VDC in Bara district to build the protection barriers. Construction costs of \$16,500 were 20 percent lower than Government of Nepal approved rates and locally purchased materials including bamboo and sandbags for gabions were used. More than 1,200 person-days of temporary employment were also generated in the community.

During July-August 2007 heavy monsoon rains caused widespread flooding and landslides in 50 of Nepal’s 75 districts. More than 600,000 lives were disrupted because of losses in farm and micro/small business livelihoods. Whole villages, including schools and clinics, were displaced or destroyed.

USAID-NFRP is a two-year project designed to build back and improve small-scale infrastructure, increase incomes from agriculture, support health/nutrition activities, and strengthen organizational capacity across six districts of the Terai in direct consultation with 60 Village Development Committees (VDCs). Kantipur was selected as a USAID-NFRP site because of its extensive flood damage and because, during a project appraisal, villagers identified river protection as a top priority.

The project will soon be working with this client community on demonstration plots and training to increase income-generation from farming.

USAID-NFRP started operations in June 2008, and held its official launch on Sept. 24 in Bara district, where senior Nepalese government and USAID/Nepal officials visited the new river barriers.



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

Appropriate, low-cost construction will provide flood protection in Kantipur village of Barainiya VDC.

## USAID/Nepal Flood Recovery Program *“Building Back Better”*

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. For more information, contact:

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