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USAID/NEPAL FLOOD RECOVERY PROGRAM

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT #9
JANUARY 2011 – MARCH 2011





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COVER PHOTO: Market and collection center in Dhangadhi municipality (Kailali district) constructed by USAID-NFRP for targeted producer groups in neighboring VDCs. *Photo by Fintrac Inc.*

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QUARTERLY REPORT

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CONTENT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
2. IMPLEMENTATION	3
2.1 Program Description	3
2.1.1 <i>Geographic Focus</i>	3
2.1.2 <i>Performance Indicators</i>	4
2.2 Approach and Methodology	5
2.2.1 <i>Overall Program</i>	5
2.2.2 <i>Phase II Adjustments</i>	<i>Error! Bookmark not defined.</i>
2.3 Reporting Period Activities	6
2.3.1 <i>Infrastructure</i>	6
2.3.2 <i>Livelihoods and Income Generation</i>	6
2.3.3 <i>Sanitation, Hygiene and Nutrition</i>	7
2.3.4 <i>Strengthening Local Organizations</i>	7
2.3.5 <i>Protection of Women and Children</i>	7
2.4 Challenges	7
SECTION 3: RESULTS	8
3.1 Progress to Date	8
3.2 Progress Per Program Objective	8
3.2.1 <i>Infrastructure</i>	8
3.2.2 <i>Livelihoods and Income Generation</i>	11
3.2.3 <i>Sanitation, Hygiene and Nutrition</i>	13
3.2.4 <i>Strengthening Local Organizations</i>	15
3.2.5 <i>Protection of Women and Children</i>	16
SECTION 4: PRIORITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER	19
SECTION 5: MANAGEMENT REPORT	20
5.1 Project Staffing	20
5.2 Expenditures to Date	20
5.3 Management Issues	20
ANNEX I: PERFORMANCE MONITORING PLAN	21
ANNEX II: USAID-NFRP CLIENT DISTRIBUTION MAPS BY REGION	25

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the ninth quarterly report of the USAID/Nepal Flood Recovery Program (USAID-NFRP) covering implementation and results for program components per Task Order No. EDHI-04-05-00007-00. The report summarizes activities from January 1, 2011 to March 31, 2011.

USAID-NFRP works with flood-affected communities throughout the Terai region 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 organizations by expanding participation among youth and vulnerable populations.

Project achievements this reporting period include:

- The livelihoods and income generation (LIG) program in the 16 village development committees (VDCs) of Phase II completed its training program for the third crop cycle, with current sales data indicating a 618 percent increase in the economic productivity of farmers' land.
- All Phase I and II community infrastructure improvement projects are now complete.
- 37,887 days of temporary employment were generated by infrastructure-building activities.
- 15,678 beneficiaries received training across USAID-NFRP's five program components.
- There are 853,404 beneficiaries of USAID-NFRP, of which 837,726 have received assistance from the infrastructure component, 4,435 through the LIG component, 3,701 through the sanitation, health and nutrition (SHN) component, 3,275 through the strengthening local organizations (SLO) component, and 4,267 through the protecting women and children (PWC) component.

The program's updated performance monitoring plan is attached in Annex I. This document and all other project publications are available to USAID through the password-protected USAID-NFRP intranet site: www.fintrac.com/nfrp. A public access Web site is accessible at www.usaid-nfrp.org.

2. IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

USAID-NFRP works with flood-affected communities throughout the Terai region to increase farmer productivity and income, rehabilitate and develop small-scale community infrastructure, improve awareness of sanitation, nutrition, and gender and protection issues, and strengthen local organizations by expanding participation among youth and vulnerable populations.

Initially a 24-month activity designed to respond to the 2007 floods, USAID-NFRP received 10-month extension from USAID/Nepal on October 21, 2009 to expand program operations to regions affected by the 2008 floods. Activities implemented in 2007 and 2008 flood-affected districts are referred to as Phase I and Phase II, respectively.

On March 9, 2011, recognizing USAID-NFRP's level of accomplishments over a three year timeframe and with a team that can effectively leverage local organizations and individuals to carry out all program activities, USAID extended the program for an additional 18 months, focusing all future activities on improving food security by expanding training to farmers in new food production technologies, linking producers to markets and input suppliers, and addressing infrastructure constraints including roads, bridges and irrigation access. The second extension period is referred to as Phase III.

USAID-NFRP is implemented by Fintrac Inc. in partnership with Nepal-based METCON Consultants and a diverse group of local and national-level NGOs and private contractors.

2.1.1 Geographic Focus

Under Phases I and II, USAID-NFRP operated in eight districts throughout the Terai: Sunsari in the Eastern region; Parsa, Bara and Rautahat in the Central region; and Kanchanpur, Kailali, Bardiya and Banke in the Mid/Far Western regions. Through a comprehensive process of field assessments and data analyses developed in conjunction with USAID, 76 VDCs were selected for program support based on the severity of flood damage and levels of vulnerability. Within each VDC, clusters of communities considered most affected (varying in size, population, ethnic and social composition) were prioritized for intervention.

Table 1: Original USAID-NFRP VDCs (Phase I)

Central Region		
Bara	Parsa	Rautahat
Barainiya	Amarpatti	Masedawa
Basatpur (Basantapur)	Bagahi	Bishrampur
Bhaluhi Bharwaliya	Birwaguthi	Dumariya
Dewapur	Hariharpur	Fatawa Harsaha
Dharmanagar	Jaymanglapur	Kakanpur (Kanakpur)
Hariharpur	Lahawarthakari	Katahariya
Kachorwa	Mirjapur	Karkach Karmaiya
Matiarwa	Pancharukhi	Laxminiya
Uchidiha	Sabaithawa	Maryadpur
Piparati Jabadi	Samjhauta	Purai
Mid/Far Western Regions		
Banke	Bardiya	Kailali
Bankatti	Baganaha	Bhajani
Basudevpur	Baniyabhar	Chauha
Betahani	Dhadhawar	Dansinapur

Gangapur	Magaragadi	Dododhara
Holiya	Neulapur	Joshiapur
Kamdi	Padanaha	Lalbojhi
Matahiya	Rajapur	Munuwa
Manikapur	Sivapur	Narayanpur
Phatepur	Suryapatawa	Pathariya
Udarapur	Thakurdwara	Thapapur

Table 2: New USAID-NFRP VDCs (Phase II)

Eastern Region	
Sunsari	
Paschim Kasuha	Laukhi
Shripur	Haripur
Far Western Region	
Kanchanpur	Kailali
Suda	Sadepani
Daijee	Darakh
Jhalari	Pahalmanpur
Pipaladi	Geta
Baisi Bichawa	
Kalika	
Tribhuvanbast	
Parasan	

Phase III – USAID is refocusing its economic development programming to meet the objectives of President Obama’s Feed the Future (FtF) Initiative which is designed to increase the availability, access, use and sustainability of food for families in developing countries like Nepal. USAID/Nepal’s new FtF Initiative will address food deficiencies which affect 43 out of Nepal’s 75 districts, childhood stunting and wasting that exceed some of the worst cases in Asia or Africa, and per capita income that is the lowest in all of Asia. USAID-NFRP will continue its work in the FtF target districts of Kailali, Kanchanpur and Dadeldhura to increase agriculture productivity and increase incomes, expand market linkages and trade, and improve the nutritional status of households.

2.1.2 Performance Indicators

Phase I – The program has 49 detailed indicators, of which 47 have specifically established targets. Higher level program indicators require that the program:

- Assist 384,801 beneficiaries
- Build or rehabilitate 86 community and road structures
- Train 10,784 clients under all program components
- Generate \$820,000 in net sales for beneficiary farmers
- Create 127,219 person-days of temporary employment
- Generate \$224,003 in cost-share investments by communities, local governments and donors

Phase II – Program indicators for the second phase, which began in November 2009, were approved by USAID during the previous quarter. Higher level program indicators require that the program will:

- Assist 101,260 beneficiaries
- Build or rehabilitate 35 community structures and/or road infrastructure
- Train 3,760 clients under all program components

- Generate \$1,000,000 in net sales for beneficiary farmers
- Create 52,000 person-days of temporary employment
- Generate \$117,659 in cost-share investments by communities, local governments and donors

Phase III – Began effectively on April 1, 2011 in the Far Western districts of Kailali, Kanchanpur and Dadeldhura to:

- **Improve agricultural productivity** by supporting the progress of 2,700 farmers and 800 hectares of demonstration plots for an additional three crop cycles; and strengthening the ability of VDC-based producer groups to **expand market linkages and trade** of a larger range and quantity of products. USAID-NFRP’s technical assistance will focus largely on effective planning, organizational development and improving farmers’ linkages to the wider value chain, both in terms of the supply of inputs and credit as well as coordinated deliveries to processors, traders and markets. **Anticipated results** include a sustainable 300% increase in beneficiary farmers’ annual incomes, \$3.2 million in increased net sales, and more than 125,000 days of surplus on-farm employment.
- **Improve nutrition** in targeted communities by introducing kitchen gardens and providing training on the importance of incorporating a variety of products such as leafy greens, fruits and vegetables into the diet that will address caloric, vitamin and mineral deficiencies common in Terai populations. **Anticipated results** include the installation of 2,200 kitchen gardens covering 75 hectares, and 4,900 households (30,000 people) with improved access, availability and utilization of a more diversified daily diet.
- **Improve productive infrastructure** that directly supports USAID-NFRP’s agriculture beneficiaries in targeted districts. Projects will include at least 20 market sheds for product consolidation, grading and marketing which will increase market efficiencies. The project will also rehabilitate at least five surface irrigation sites, opening up hundreds of hectares of farm land to water access which will enable year round cultivation and up to three full crop cycles in those areas during the 18 month extension period.

2.2 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

2.2.1 Overall Program

USAID-NFRP’s top priority is to deliver an integrated package of quality services, inputs and training opportunities that directly respond to the immediate needs of flood-affected clients (beneficiaries) and that will also strengthen client capacity to manage future physical, economic or social threats.

USAID-NFRP uses a participatory approach to program implementation, working directly to build community capacity to coordinate and mobilize interventions. The program staff is responsible for identifying, competitively hiring, and managing local organizations and companies to implement technical assistance, training and construction activities. By implementing program activities in partnership with these grassroots Nepali organizations, many of which are based in or near the targeted VDCs, USAID-NFRP ensures that there is a constant local presence at each program worksite. This achieves more effective interventions from a broader range of community members, provides more opportunities for direct feedback regarding program impact, and builds local capacity.

USAID-NFRP’s initial strategy for the infrastructure component was to rehabilitate existing small-scale infrastructure or develop new projects (river protections, flood controls, culverts, schools, bathrooms, roads and irrigation systems) that have been identified by a targeted community as the highest priority for their overall well-being. The infrastructure component in the new areas focuses

exclusively on rehabilitating or constructing infrastructures that directly support and complement the economic development efforts of LIG beneficiaries.

USAID-NFRP's approach to livelihoods and income generation (LIG) is to provide intensive, hands-on food production and marketing training and financial assistance to selected small farmers in targeted VDCs for three off-season cropping periods. The program introduces these farmers to new technologies and approaches in crop production and postharvest handling, as well as market price information. At the end of the 18-month program intervention, each farmer will be able to sustain a farm using this new technology and replicate the model within their communities by using their farms as demonstration sites.

Components 3, 4, and 5 are as follows: sanitation, hygiene and nutrition (SHN); strengthening of local organizations (SLO); and protection of women and children (PWC). These components are implemented by local NGOs that carry out capacity-building and awareness training activities while USAID-NFRP serves as the technical leader and manager.

2.3 REPORTING PERIOD ACTIVITIES

2.3.1 Infrastructure

The 86 infrastructure projects started by USAID-NFRP in Phase I ended by January 2010. Because of USAID-NFRP, Terai communities received \$1,822,777 in rural infrastructure investment. There are 57,541 beneficiary households, and projects have generated 127,219 person-days of temporary employment, amounting to more than \$250,000 in paid wages.

Thirty-three infrastructure projects were selected for program support in Phase II. Construction via subcontracting with local firms started in February 2010 and all projects were completed by December 2010. USAID-NFRP focused Phase II infrastructure support on productive projects (bridges, roads and irrigation systems) that complement the program's investments in LIG activities. All projects were designed based on the location and markets of the 348 producer groups and the long-term economic benefits that projects can provide.

Field assessments for the selection of target VDCs and identification of productive infrastructure priorities began under Phase III in early March. Projects will mainly focus on supporting the expansion of irrigation and marketing infrastructure in key areas. Construction will begin in June.

2.3.2 Livelihoods and Income Generation

Phase II training and technical assistance activities for all three crop cycles are now complete, and the final harvest and sales information, including the March harvest, will be available by June 2011. Farmers participate in an 18-month training program that strengthens their skills and confidence in the following areas: nursery preparation and management; soil preparation and transplant; high-value crop production management; integrated pest management (IPM); compost production; pre-harvest management; postharvest handling; and marketing and commercialization.

Important new technologies and management practices that have been introduced to farmers include:

- Raising quality hybrid seed varieties in plastic tunnel nurseries
- Group management of irrigation sets; cost recovery and maintenance; selling irrigation services to neighboring farmers
- Proper land preparation: deep plowing, fine till, land sanitation, compost feeding, etc.
- Optimizing space with line sowing, raised-bed transplanting and intercropping

- Calendarization and timely crop rotation of offseason, market-oriented vegetable production
- Trellising systems to maximize productive output of available land
- Safe methods for pest control and plant disease prevention; proper use and application of organic and inorganic pesticides
- Proper application of manure, compost and micronutrients
- Cost/benefit analyses; determining production costs; selecting optimal commodities
- Preharvest and postharvest handling, manual grading and packing to reduce perishing
- Diffusion of new technologies and expansion of irrigation supply to non-beneficiary farmers

2.3.3 Sanitation, Hygiene and Nutrition

The SHN program has completed all Phase I and II activities, including 120 awareness trainings and 120 refresher trainings for 3,697 adults and children. Major achievements include the independent construction of private toilets by most participants; and the domino effect that the enhanced knowledge of trainees had on neighbors. A total of 1,715 households installed improved cooking stoves (ICSs) and trainings were conducted on the repair, maintenance and correct operation of the stoves. To ensure sustainability, one person per worksite was trained as a resource person to troubleshoot issues within their communities. Also, 2,258 demonstration kitchen gardens were established.

2.3.4 Strengthening Local Organizations

In Phase I, 60 community-based organizations (CBOs), 60 disaster preparedness and mitigation committees, and 60 youth clubs (YCs) completed USAID-NFRP's full training program by early 2010. USAID-NFRP supported each group's initiative by providing training and promotional materials, and furniture and supplies to set up offices and carry out activities. Some groups have formally registered their organization with the District Administration Office (DAO) and are organizing community development activities to generate resources. Training and technical assistance activities under Phase II began in May 2010, starting with the disaster preparedness and mitigation program in anticipation of the monsoon season. Subsequent long-term training programs for the YCs and CBOs began in early July and concluded in January 2011.

2.3.5 Protection of Women and Children

The Phase I activities under this component were completed in February 2010, at which point 60 women trainers had participated in four weeks of training-of-trainers sessions to facilitate the implementation and management of 60 Better Life Option (BLOP) and REFLECT centers in their respective communities. A total of 4,320 orientation sessions took place for 1,395 adolescent girls in subjects such as personality development, reproductive health, human trafficking and the choice for better futures. Parents of the adolescent girls were also orientated on the various subjects, and 1,403 women and 324 men attended REFLECT sessions on gender issues and literacy. Phase II activities began in March 2010 for 604 young women and 602 parents, and concluded in December 2010.

2.4 CHALLENGES

Fewer security concerns and bandhas have occurred this year in the Terai, and as a result USAID-NFRP staff movement has been largely uninterrupted.

SECTION 3: RESULTS

3.1 PROGRESS TO DATE

Table 3: Progress to Date: Higher Level, Overall Program Indicators

Activity	Target	Achieved to Date	Balance	Completion Rate
Number of direct beneficiaries of USG-funded interventions	955,867	853,467	102,400	89%
Number of community infrastructure projects constructed and/or rehabilitated	144	119	25	83%
Number of individuals who have received USG supported training (all components)	20,578	15,678	4,900	76%
Number of person-days of temporary employment generated by infrastructure activities	178,736	165,106	13,630	92%
Cost sharing leveraged by individuals, communities, local governments and other donors	\$480,843	\$370,394	\$110,449	77%

By March 2011, 853,467 beneficiaries had directly benefitted from project-funded activities. 837,726 benefitted from infrastructure projects, 4,435 benefitted from LIG activities, 3,701 benefitted from SHN trainings, 3,275 participated in trainings to strengthen local organizations, and 4,267 were trained under the PWC component. A total of 119 community infrastructure projects were also completed, and 165,106 days of temporary employment were generated by infrastructure component activities. Total beneficiary investment (cost sharing) in project activities by individuals, communities, local governments and other donors was \$370,394.

3.2 PROGRESS PER PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

3.2.1 Infrastructure

USAID-NFRP committed \$2,649,478 for 119 community infrastructure projects, all of which are complete. This has **directly benefitted 837,726 individuals** from flood-affected communities of Terai and has **generated 165,106 days of paid skilled and unskilled labor**, resulting in a cash injection of more than **\$330,000 into local economies**.

Table 4: Phase I Results of Infrastructure Program

Project Type	No. Projects	No. Complete	Beneficiaries (households)	Employment (person-days)	USAID-NFRP Assistance	Counterpart Contribution
Culverts and Bridges	35	35	44,159	35,468	\$668,896	\$34,077
Flood Controls	28	28	4,822	52,138	\$584,462	\$50,045
Schools	14	14	3,564	30,385	\$448,149	\$46,100
Public Bathrooms	2	2	0	490	\$5,807	\$133
Irrigation Rehab	4	4	209	4,233	\$65,951	\$2,882
Road Improvements	2	2	3,369	3,795	\$41,255	\$2,503
Health Post	1	1	1,418	710	\$8,256	\$2,023
TOTAL	86	86	57,541	127,219	\$1,822,777	\$137,763

The second phase of USAID-NFRP's infrastructure program began in the extension areas of Sunsari, Kailali and Kanchanpur in January 2010. Of the 26 bridge and road rehabilitation projects selected for support, all are now completed. USAID-NFRP has also made an in-kind provision of essential furniture and supplies to 14 schools constructed by the program in the original six Phase I districts.

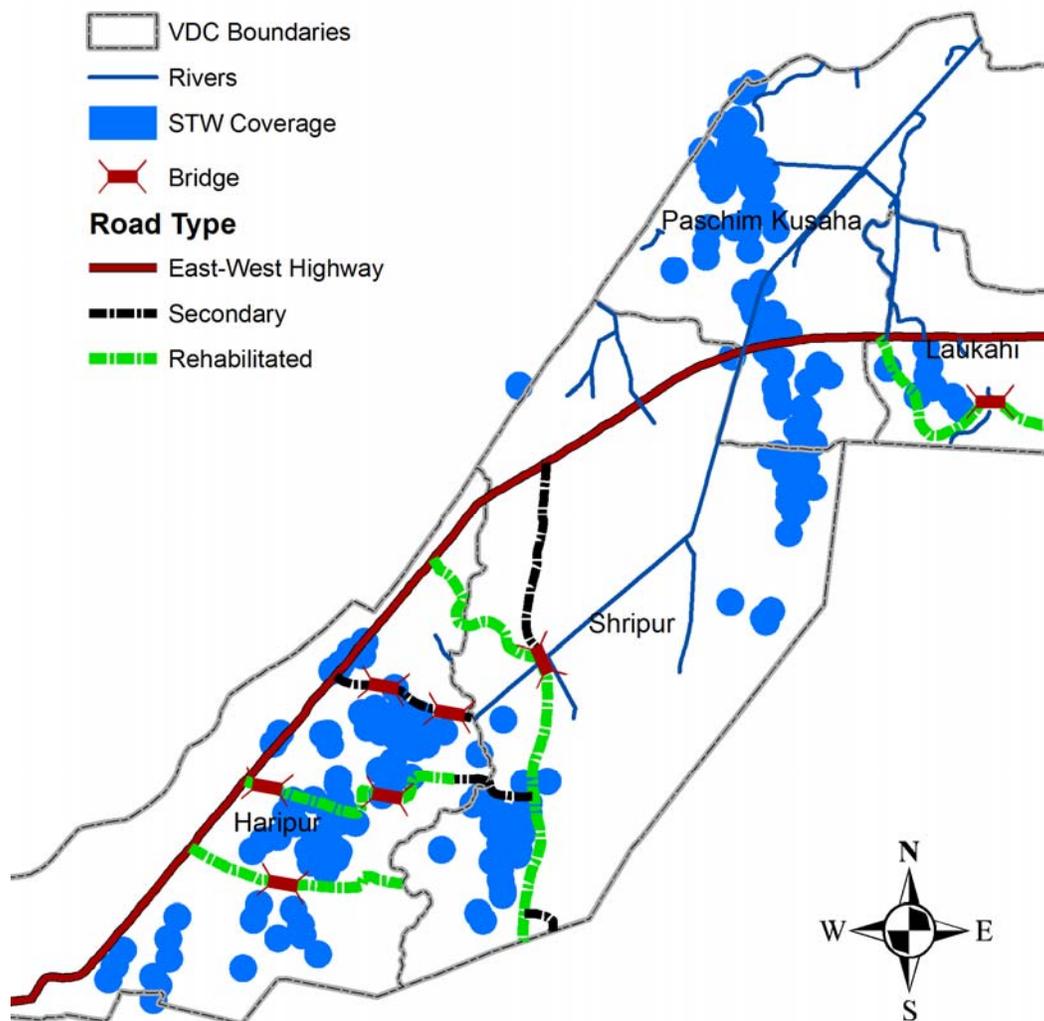
Table 5: Status of Infrastructure program - Phase II

Project Type	No. Projects	No. Completed	Beneficiaries (households)	Employment (person-days)	USAID-NFRP Assistance	Counterpart Contribution
Bridges and Culverts	18	18	36,641	25,606	\$499,423	\$6,403
Road improvements	8	8	10,668	10,575	\$252,954	\$5,231
School desks and equipment	1	1	3,564	0	\$28,499	\$0
Phase I improvements	3	3	N/A	516	\$13,847	\$0
Markets	3	3	28,758	1,190	\$31,977	\$1,409
TOTAL	33	33	71,340	37,887	\$826,701	\$13,043

The infrastructure component has benefited 128,881 households – 178 percent more than the target proposed in the approved Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP). This is largely because of the program’s emphasis on cost-effective, high-impact projects that addressed common needs of communities and required considerable amounts of unskilled labor. This includes the building of bridges, large culverts, irrigation structures and schools.

USAID-NFRP built seven bridges and culverts and rehabilitated five roads in Sunsari. These projects directly benefit an estimated 7,364 households and improve the quality and accessibility of more than eight kilometers of local roads, 32 percent of the approximately 25 kilometers of local roads damaged by floods, as seen in the following map:

Map 1: NFRP interventions in Sunsari district



Details of results to date are shown in Table 6, which is an excerpt from USAID-NFRP's PMP.

Table 6: Excerpt from Infrastructure PMP

No.	Activity	Phase I & II Results	Phase III Targets	Total Targets	Results To Date	Completion Rate
2. Objective 1: Rehabilitation and Rebuilding of Productive Infrastructure						
2.1	Number of community infrastructures constructed a/o rehabilitated	119	25	144	119	83%
2.1.1	Number of classrooms constructed with USG assistance (Program Element IIP – 2.1 Basic Education)	52	0	52	52	100%
2.1.2	Number of classrooms repaired with USG assistance (Program Element IIP – 2.1 Basic Education)	4	0	4	4	100%
2.1.3	Number of model latrines in community schools	2	0	2	2	100%
2.1.5	Number of community irrigation systems rehabilitated	5	0	5	5	100%
2.1.6	Number of river protection projects (e.g. embankment protections, gabions, spurs, check dams)	30	0	30	30	100%

2.1.7	Kilometers of transportation infrastructure constructed or repaired through USG assistance (Program Element EG 4.3 Transport Services)	17	0	17	17	100%
2.1.8	Number of transportation infrastructure projects such as culverts and small bridges constructed or repaired	53	0	53	53	100%
2.3	Number of people benefiting from USG sponsored transportation infrastructure projects (Program Element EG 4.3 Transport Services)	562,549	0	562,549	562,549	100%
2.4	Number of households benefited by community infrastructure projects (assumes an average of 150 benefiting HHs per VDC)	128,881	15,000	143,881	128,881	90%
2.5	Number of person-days of temporary employment generated by infrastructure activities (estimated at 15% of construction costs)	165,106	13,630	178,736	165,106	92%
2.6	Subcontract funds disbursed (in USD)	\$2,665,027	\$220,000	\$2,885,027	\$2,665,027	92%
2.7	Cost sharing leveraged from communities, local governments a/o other donor programs (in USD)	\$150,806	\$12,449	\$163,255	\$150,806	92%

3.2.2 Livelihoods and Income Generation

By the end of March 2010, partner subcontractors MADE and FORWARD completed the full set of activities for the third crop cycle for all 2,164 participants under Phase I. USAID-NFRP continued to monitor the production and sales of each participant throughout the third crop cycle. A comprehensive assessment of the LIG program in Phase I has now been completed, yielding impressive results and a high degree of sustainable impact, demonstrated by the progressively higher incomes achieved by farmers in each successive crop cycle.

Increased incomes: Based on the final data collected from all farmers on yields, production costs, gross sales and incomes over three program-supported crop cycles, farmers generated a value of **\$2.4 million in net sales (income)** during Phase I. With an investment of \$409,000, this means that in less than 18 months farmers earned six dollars in income for every dollar invested by the program. This translates to a sevenfold increase in the economic productivity of their land, represented by a 686 percent increase in net sales per hectare. Since farmers contributed an average of 0.22 hectares to the demonstration program, the average income earned by each farmer during the 18 months was \$1,111.

Although the LIG program had already made significant gains in the first and second crop cycles, the outstanding results of the third cycle beat all expectations. Farmers were able to more than triple the incomes they earned in the first two cycles, despite not receiving any of the subsidized inputs that were previously provided. This was a built-in requirement by USAID-NFRP to test the sustainability of its intervention: If, by the third cycle, farmers used their own financial resources to purchase the inputs promoted by the LIG program, USAID-NFRP would be able to demonstrate that it had sustainable, lasting impacts on HVC production in the region.

The impressive results of the third crop cycle can be attributed to three key factors:

- **Reliable, year-round irrigation** – The provision of shallow tube wells with motorized pumps has had the greatest impact on enhancing agricultural productivity, and it was not until the third crop cycle that the equipment was fully utilized by all farmers because of delays in installation in the first crop cycle and a limited need for irrigation in the second cycle (during the 2009 monsoon season).

- **Consolidation of commodities** –The LIG program was designed to support farmers in consolidating the HVCs they produce so as to achieve the highest net returns on commodities with the greatest potential in local markets. Optimal commodities varied from district to district and even from VDC to VDC. It was critical to support farmers with training and technical assistance over three consecutive crop cycles so that USAID-NFRP field technicians could determine what products had the highest economic potential for their farmers.
- **Enhanced crop planning** – Equally important to selecting the right commodity is properly timing its production. By the third cycle, both trainers and farmers had become experts on the demands and price trends of the local markets and could identify the peak periods when products would fetch the best returns. After two cycles of trial and error, farmers adjusted their production accordingly and achieved sales and profits in the third cycle that were substantially higher than before.

Increased demand for local labor: USAID-NFRP conducted a field survey of more than 900 participating households to assess the program’s impact on increasing local demands for unskilled farm labor. On average, 66 percent of all participating households utilized paid labor for the transplanting, harvesting and transportation of their products. By the end of the 18-month implementation period, the program had generated an estimated 76,781 person-days of temporary employment (52 percent women), equal to \$153,000 of cash injected into local economies. The increased demand for local labor also had a modest impact on reducing seasonal migration to India.

Improved food security: The radical improvements in farmers’ incomes, as well as the increased productivity of high-value and highly nutritious food, have had a dramatic impact on improving the food security of beneficiary households. Families are now producing nutritious vegetables and what is not grown on the farm can be purchased with the greater financial resources earned by farmers. Discussions with beneficiaries and local authorities indicate that the general public also benefits as nutritious food becomes more abundantly available in local communities and markets. USAID-NFRP is designing a study that will evaluate the program’s direct impact on improving the local availability of nutritious food and how it translates to improved consumption and nutrition by the general public.

Diffusion effect: USAID-NFRP’s strategy for improving agricultural productivity and increasing incomes through demonstration farming and linkages with important local value chain actors will diffuse benefits to farmers not directly supported by the program. Participating farmers are trained to become effective promoters of HVC production within their communities and serve as a resource for those interested in adopting new practices and improved technologies. The 2,164 farmers supported under Phase I increased their land under production by an average of 20 percent without USAID-NFRP assistance. Another 1,538 unassisted farmers on 183 hectares of land have also adopted the practices, technologies and commodities of their neighbors and are now HVC producers.

Table 7: Phase I Results in LIG program

No.	Indicator/Activity	Target	Results To-Date	Completion Rate
1	Long-term participants over 3 crop cycles (18-months)	1,200	2,164	180%
2	Hectares of productive land directly assisted by LIG	480	479	100%
3	Shallow tube wells and motorized pumps installed	300	362	121%
4	Treadle pumps installed	300	240	80%
5	Drip irrigation sets installed	0	25	n/a
6	Net sales for participants in first crop cycle	\$273,333	\$581,756	213%
7	Net sales for participants in second crop cycle	\$273,333	\$438,744	161%
8	Net sales for participants in third crop cycle	\$273,333	\$1,383,238	506%

9	Total net sales over three crop cycles (i.e. income)	\$820,000	\$2,403,738	293%
10	Percentage increase in net sales per hectare of land (3 crop cycles)	300%	686%	229%

In the Phase II districts of Sunsari, Kailali and Kanchanpur, USAID-NFRP has now concluded its work with the 2,271 farmers (348 producer groups) on 490 hectares of demonstration plots. Farmers from each of the 16 targeted VDCs completed the training syllabus for the third crop cycle in March 2011 and harvesting will begin in April 2011. During each of the three crop cycles supported by USAID-NFRP, farmers complete six days of field trainings, attend one interactive field day and receive approximately 20 monitoring visits from LIG technicians.

In the first crop cycle, participating farmers' production yielded a \$710,757 value in net sales on 489 hectares of demonstration plots and a subsequent \$575,821 in the second cycle, which averages to a 618 percent increase in the economic productivity of their land.

Table 8: Progress in LIG program - Phase II

No.	Indicator/Activity	Target	Results To-Date	Completion Rate
1	Long-term participants over 3 crop cycles (18-months)	2,200	2,271	103%
2	Hectares of productive land directly assisted by LIG	490	490	100%
3	Shallow tube wells and motorized pumps installed	348	324	93%
4	Net sales for participants in first crop cycle	\$273,333	\$710,757	260%
5	Net sales for participants in second crop cycle	\$273,333	\$575,821	211%
6	Net sales for participants in third crop cycle	\$273,333	<i>in progress</i>	<i>in progress</i>
7	Total net sales over three crop cycles (i.e. income)	\$820,000	\$1,286,578	235%
8	Percentage increase in net sales per hectare of land	300%	618%	206%

3.2.3 Sanitation, Hygiene and Nutrition

SHN activities under Phase I ended in late 2009, with 3,061 beneficiaries trained, including 1,078 women and 1,521 children. USAID-NFRP field technicians are conducting a survey to evaluate the program's effectiveness at engendering positive changes to improve hygiene and nutrition.

Table 9: Phase I Results for SHN Awareness Trainings

Indicator	Adult			Children		
	Men	Women	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Trained participants	462	1,078	1,540	678	843	1,521
Progress in 1st round of training (3 days)	100%			100%		
Progress in 2nd round of training (3 days)	100%			100%		

Phase II training began in March 2010 for 640 beneficiaries and concluded in September 2010.

Table 10: Progress in SHN awareness trainings - Phase II

Indicator	Adult			Children		
	Men	Women	Total	Male	Female	Total
Target for Trained Participants	120	180	300	120	180	300
Results To Date	116	212	328	117	195	312
Percent Progress	97%	118%	109%	98%	108%	104%

Under Phase I, USAID-NFRP installed 1,229 ICSs and trained each household how to use and maintain the stoves. ICSs keep homes clean and smoke-free, reduce cooking time, and use less firewood. In some villages, households not involved in the program have built their own ICSs.

Table 11: Phase I Results in Improved Cooking Stoves

No.	Activity	Target	Results To-Date	Completion Rate
1	Community-level promoters trained	60	60	100%
2	Households trained and assisted with ICSs	600	1,229	205%

Under Phase II, 12 community-level promoters and 649 individuals have been trained in ICS construction, operation and maintenance. USAID-NFRP completed the installation of 486 ICSs in the 12 VDC worksites, surpassing the original target by 246 stoves.

Table 12: Progress in Improved Cooking Stoves and Household Latrines - Phase II

No.	Indicator/Activity	Target	Results To-Date	Completion Rate
1	Community-level promoters trained	12	12	100%
2	Households trained in ICS construction and maintenance	240	649	270%
3	Households assisted with ICSs	240	486	203%
4	Households assisted with Private Latrines	240	240	100%

All 1,237 kitchen gardens under Phase I were established in the first quarter of 2009 and USAID-NFRP finished its oversight and technical assistance in February 2010. Surveys conducted by the social inclusion team indicate that 65 percent of kitchen garden beneficiaries used their entire harvests for household consumption. The remaining 35 percent used the majority of their harvests for consumption and sold the surplus for additional household income.

Table 13: Phase I Results for Kitchen Gardens

No.	Activity	Target	Results To Date	Completion Rate
1	Households assisted and trained during 2 crop cycles	600	1,290	215%
2	Hectares of productive land directly assisted by the kitchen garden program	20	41	205%
3	Percent of kitchen garden beneficiaries that continue to eat a minimum of five meals per week with green/leafy vegetables	80%	TBD	TBD

Table 14: Progress in Kitchen Gardens - Phase II

No.	Indicator/Activity	Target	Results To-Date	Completion Rate
1	Households assisted and trained in kitchen gardening	480	968	202%
2	Community vegetable nurseries established	24	24	100%
3	Hectares of productive land directly assisted by kitchen garden program	16	32.3	202%
4	Fruit saplings planted (lemon, litchi, guava, papaya, pomegranate)	6,000	6,000	100%
5	Percent of kitchen garden beneficiaries that continue to eat a minimum of five meals per week with green/leafy vegetables	80%	TBD	TBD

3.2.4 Strengthening Local Organizations

February 2010 marked the end of Phase I's comprehensive 10-month training program in community development, youth leadership and disaster preparedness and management for 60 CBOs and 60 YCs. 1,218 adults and 1,218 youths were trained in organizational planning, leadership development, conflict resolution, community planning and assistance leveraging, networking and teamwork skills development, and development of community-based change agents. The YCs also organized and completed 60 community service projects. CBOs and YCs received basic supplies and equipment to establish offices and prepare for future floods.

Table 15: Phase I Results in Strengthening Local Organizations

No.	Indicator/Activity	Target	Results To-Date	Completion Rate
1	Participants trained in community development program	1,200	1,218	102%
2	Community-based organizations trained and assisted	60	60	100%
3	Participants trained in youth leadership program	1,200	1,218	102%
4	Youth clubs trained and assisted	60	60	100%
5	Community service projects implemented	60	30	50%
6	Participants trained in disaster management and prevention	1,200	1,227	102%
7	Disaster preparedness committees organized	60	60	100%
8	Basic disaster response and first aid supplies distributed	60	60	100%

Disaster preparedness and management training under Phase II started in March 2010 for 326 members of the 12 targeted CBOs. Each group received an in-kind donation of critical first aid and early response supplies to effectively respond to local crises caused by flooding. The trainings in youth leadership and community development started in July 2010 and will continue through January 2011 with the completion of community service projects by each participating youth club.

USAID-NFRP has also initiated a young women's football program in the 12 VDCs of Kailali and Kanchanpur. 264 young women participated in the four month program which culminated in an inter-VDC tournament in January 2011 with teams from each of the 12 VDCs.

Table 16: Progress in Strengthening Local Organizations - Phase II

No.	Indicator/Activity	Target	Results To-Date	Completion Rate
1	Participants trainees in community development program	240	254	106%
2	Community-based organizations trained and assisted	12	12	100%
3	Participants trainees in youth leadership program	240	249	104%
4	Youth clubs trained and assisted	12	12	100%
5	Community service projects implemented	12	12	100%
6	Participants trained in disaster mgmt/prevention program	240	326	136%
7	Disaster preparedness/mgmt committees organized	12	12	100%
8	Basic disaster response and first aid supplies distributed	12	12	100%
9	Formation of Young Women's Football Teams	12	12	100%
10	Training/coaching of Young Women's Football Teams	192	264	138%

Details of results to date are shown in Table 17, which is an excerpt from USAID-NFRP's PMP.

Table 17: Excerpt from NFRP PMP

No.	Activity	Phase I & II Results	Phase III Targets	Total Targets	Results To Date	Completion Rate
5. Objective 4: Strengthening of Local Peace Committees or Other Local Groups						
5.1	Number of groups receiving institutional strengthening and organizational development technical assistance and training	144	0	144	144	100%
5.2	Number of community members trained	3,275	0	3,275	3,275	100%
	Number of women trained	1,773	0	1,773	1,773	100%
	Number of youth trained	1,767	0	1,767	1,767	100%
5.3	Subcontract funds disbursed (in USD)	\$147,002	\$0	\$147,002	\$147,002	100%
5.4	Cost sharing leveraged (10% minimum, in USD)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A

3.2.5 Protection of Women and Children

PWC activities under Phase I ended in February 2010. Trainings emphasized the promotion of gender rights and equality, and the prevention and control of human trafficking and discriminatory practices toward youth, women and vulnerable castes and ethnic groups.

Table 18: Progress in Protection of Women and Children - Phase I

No.	Indicator/Activity	Target	Results To-Date	Completion Rate
1	Young women trained in Basic Life Options methodology	1,200	1,333	111%
2	BLOP sessions completed per VDC (average)	72	33	46%
3	Adults trained in REFLECT methodology	1,800	1,728	96%
4	REFLECT sessions completed per VDC (average)	60	28	46%

Phase II training activities started in March 2010 for 604 young women from the 12 target VDCs in Kailali and Kanchanpur and concluded in December 2010. 602 parents were also oriented on the objectives and modalities of the program.

Table 19: Progress in Protection of Women and Children - Phase II

No.	Indicator/Activity	Target	Results To-Date	Completion Rate
1	Young women participating in Basic Life Options methodology	480	604	126%
2	Adults oriented on BLOP contents and objectives	240	602	251%

Details of results to date are shown in Table 20, which is an excerpt from USAID-NFRP's PMP.

Table 20: Excerpt from NFRP PMP

No.	Activity	Phase I & II Results	Phase III Targets	Total Targets	Results To Date	Completion Rate
6. Objective 5: Protection of Women and Children						
6.1	Number of people trained	4,267	0	4,267	4,267	100%
	Number of women trained	3,641	0	3,641	3,641	100%
	Number of youth trained	1,937	0	1,937	1,937	100%
6.2	Number of women and youth organizations strengthened (assumes one group per VDC)	72	0	72	72	100%
6.3	Number of people trained in Trafficking-in-person related issues with USG assistance (Program Element PS5.3 – Trafficking-in-Persons and Migrant Smuggling)	4,329	0	4,329	4,329	100%
6.4	Subcontract funds disbursed (in USD)	\$26,746	\$0	\$26,746	\$26,746	100%
6.5	Cost sharing leveraged (10% minimum, in USD)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A

SECTION 4: PRIORITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

Program activities follow USAID-NFRP's FY11 annual work plan. Highlighted activities include:

Infrastructure Component

- Selection of new projects in Phase III districts of Kailali, Kanchanpur and Dadeldhura
- Identify viable subcontractors in the three districts
- Initiate implementation of infrastructure projects and all shallow tube well installations

Livelihood and Income Generation Component

- Monitor and report harvests and commercialization of Phase II beneficiaries
- Select new worksites and farmers for Phase III
- Mobilize new NFRP staff into new offices in Dhangadhi and Dadeldhura
- Develop plan for program coordination with district agriculture offices (DADOs)

Sanitation, Hygiene and Nutrition

- Initiate nutrition program in selected Phase III worksites
- Develop effective nutrition and home economics training module for commercial farmer beneficiaries
- Coordinate field activities in Kailali with ongoing USAID program implemented by Hellen Keller International

SECTION 5: MANAGEMENT REPORT

5.1 PROJECT STAFFING

No changes in personnel or other staffing issues this quarter.

5.2 EXPENDITURES TO DATE

On March 18th USAID-NFRP received an 18 month extension, until August 31, 2012, and a budget increase from \$6,506,377 to \$8, 506,377. From program start to March 31, 2011, the program has used \$6,387,358, or 75 percent of the USAID-NFRP contract budget. The following table summarizes cumulative expenditures through March 2011. The allowances budget has been fully spent, primarily because of increased costs of living and local per diem expenses.

5.3 MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Nothing to report.

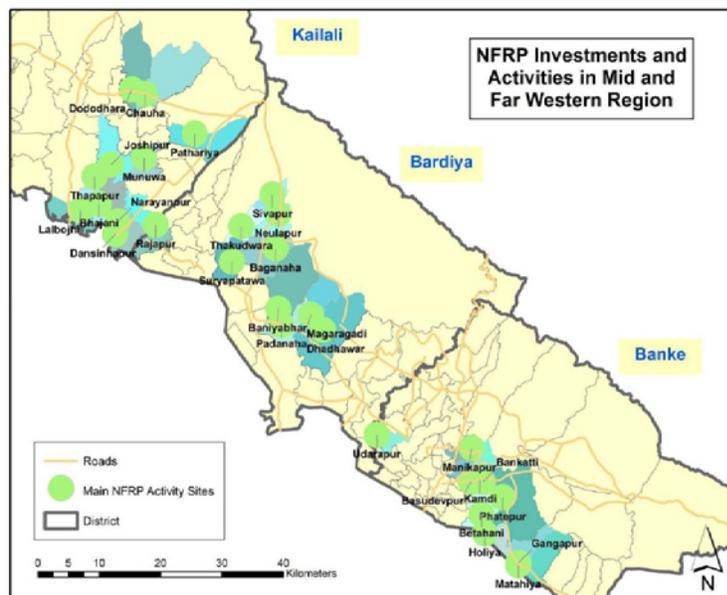
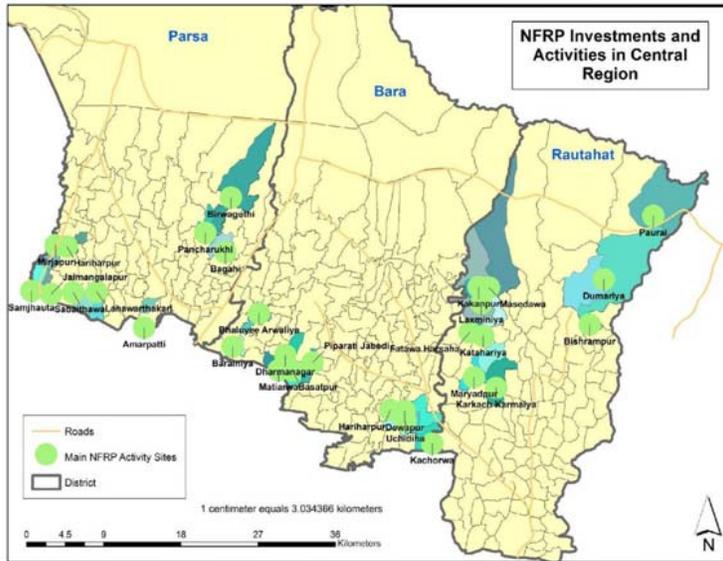
ANNEX I: PERFORMANCE MONITORING PLAN

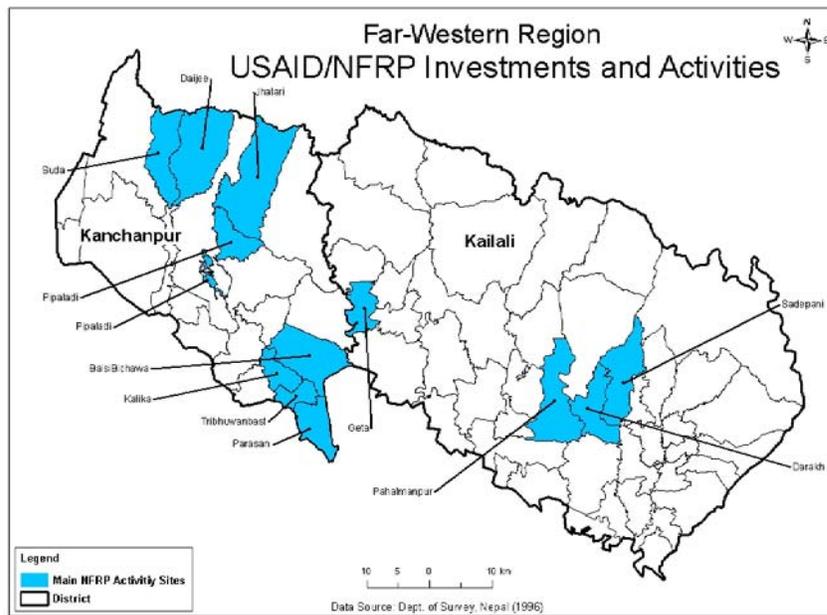
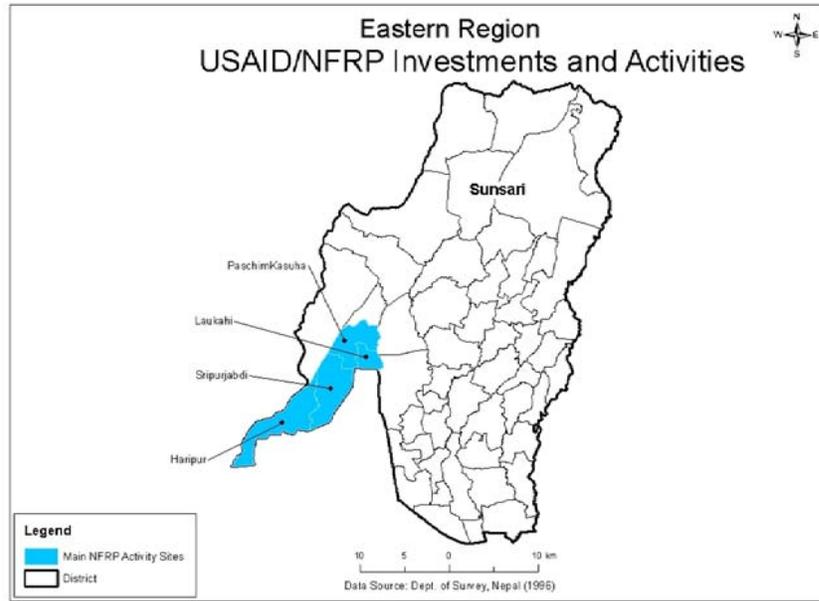
No.	Activity	Phase I & II Results	Phase III Targets	Total Targets	Results To Date	Completion Rate
1. Program Level Objective						
1.1	Number of beneficiaries assisted by USG-supported protection and solutions activities	853,467	102,400	955,867	853,467	89%
2. Objective 1: Rehabilitation and Rebuilding of Productive Infrastructure						
2.1	Number of community infrastructures constructed a/o rehabilitated	119	25	144	119	83%
2.1.1	Number of classrooms constructed with USG assistance (Program Element IIP – 2.1 Basic Education)	52	0	52	52	100%
2.1.2	Number of classrooms repaired with USG assistance (Program Element IIP – 2.1 Basic Education)	4	0	4	4	100%
2.1.3	Number of model latrines in community schools	2	0	2	2	100%
2.1.4	Number of drinking water sources installed or improved	0	0	0	0	N/A
2.1.5	Number of community irrigation systems rehabilitated	5	0	5	5	100%
2.1.6	Number of river protection projects (e.g. embankment protections, gabions, spurs, check dams)	30	0	30	30	100%
2.1.7	Kilometers of transportation infrastructure constructed or repaired through USG assistance (Program Element EG 4.3 Transport Services)	17	0	17	17	100%
2.1.8	Number of transportation infrastructure projects such as culverts and small bridges constructed or repaired	53	0	53	53	100%
2.2	Number of people in target areas with access to improved drinking water supply as a result of USG assistance (Program Element IIP – 1.8 Clean Water and Sanitation Services)	0	0	0	0	N/A
2.3	Number of people benefiting from USG sponsored transportation infrastructure projects (Program Element EG 4.3 Transport Services)	562,549	0	562,549	562,549	100%
2.4	Number of households benefited by community infrastructure projects (assumes an average of 150 benefiting HHs per VDC)	128,881	15,000	143,881	128,881	90%
2.5	Number of person-days of temporary employment generated by infrastructure activities (estimated at 15% of construction costs)	165,106	13,630	178,736	165,106	92%
2.6	Subcontract funds disbursed (in USD)	\$2,665,027	\$220,000	\$2,885,027	\$2,665,027	92%
2.7	Cost sharing leveraged from communities, local governments a/o other donor programs (in USD)	\$150,806	\$12,449	\$163,255	\$150,806	92%
3. Objective 2: Provision of Income Generation Activities						
3.1	Number of individuals who have received USG supported long term agricultural sector productivity training (EG 5.2 Agricultural Sector Productivity)	4,435	2,700	7,135	4,435	62%

	Number of women trained	1,330	945	2,275	1,330	58%
3.2	Number of rural households benefiting directly from USG interventions (EG 5.2 Agricultural Sector Productivity)	4,435	2,700	7,135	4,435	62%
3.3	Number of vulnerable households benefiting directly from USG interventions (EG 5.2 Agricultural Sector Productivity)	2,335	540	2,875	2,335	81%
3.4	Number of producers organizations, water users associations, trade and business associations receiving USG assistance (EG 5.2 Agricultural Sector Productivity)	92	30	122	92	75%
3.5	Number of new technologies or management practices made available for transfer as a result of USG assistance (EG 5.2 Agricultural Sector Productivity)	4,435	2,700	7,135	4,435	62%
3.6	Implementation funds disbursed (in USD)	\$739,027	\$490,000	\$1,229,027	\$739,027	60%
3.7	Cost sharing leveraged by beneficiary farmers (25% of in-kind investment)	\$182,848	\$98,000	\$280,848	\$182,848	65%
4. Objective 3: Improved Sanitation, Hygiene and Nutrition (SHN)						
4.1	Number of people in target areas with access to improved sanitation facilities as a result of USG assistance (Program Element IIP – 1.8 Clean Water and Sanitation Services)	1,648	0	1,648	1,648	100%
4.2	Number of people trained in improved sanitation, hygiene and nutrition	3,701	2,200	5,901	3,701	63%
4.3	Number of households with improved nutrition due to demonstration kitchen gardens	2,258	2,200	4,458	2,258	51%
4.4	Number of households with improved sanitation due to improved cooking stoves	1,715	0	1,715	1,715	100%
4.6	% increase in the incidence of hand-washing of SHN trainees	80%	80%	85%	1	94%
4.7	% of kitchen garden beneficiaries that continue to eat a minimum of five meals per week with green/leafy vegetables	80%	80%	80%	1	100%
4.8	Subcontract funds disbursed (in USD)	\$258,695	\$80,000	\$338,695	\$258,695	76%
4.9	Cost sharing leveraged (15% minimum, in USD)	\$36,740	\$0	\$36,740	\$36,740	100%
5. Objective 4: Strengthening of Local Peace Committees or Other Local Groups						
5.1	Number of groups receiving institutional strengthening and organizational development technical assistance and training	144	0	144	144	100%
5.2	Number of community members trained	3,275	0	3,275	3,275	100%
	Number of women trained	1,773	0	1,773	1,773	100%
	Number of youth trained	1,767	0	1,767	1,767	100%
5.3	Subcontract funds disbursed (in USD)	\$147,002	\$0	\$147,002	\$147,002	100%
5.4	Cost sharing leveraged (10% minimum, in USD)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
6. Objective 5: Protection of Women and Children						
6.1	Number of people trained	4,267	0	4,267	4,267	100%
	Number of women trained	3,641	0	3,641	3,641	100%
	Number of youth trained	1,937	0	1,937	1,937	100%
6.2	Number of women and youth organizations strengthened (assumes one group per VDC)	72	0	72	72	100%

6.3	Number of people trained in Trafficking-in-person related issues with USG assistance (Program Element PS5.3 – Trafficking-in-Persons and Migrant Smuggling)	4,329	0	4,329	4,329	100%
6.4	Subcontract funds disbursed (in USD)	\$26,746	\$0	\$26,746	\$26,746	100%
6.5	Cost sharing leveraged (10% minimum, in USD)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
7. Objective 6: Windows of Opportunities						
7.1	Number of special studies (Program Design and Learning Element)	0	0	0	0	N/A
7.2	Number of Baseline or Feasibility Studies (Program Design and Learning Element)	0	0	0	0	N/A
7.3	Subcontract funds disbursed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
7.4	10% cost sharing target (in USD)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A

ANNEX II: USAID-NFRP CLIENT DISTRIBUTION MAPS BY REGION





ANNEX III: NFRP IN THE NEWS

अमोलजगि

एउटा सामान्य मान्छे, सवार त्यागेर किन जोगी बन्छ ? घर, परिवार, नाता र छरिछमेक घट्टाके बिस्तर किन बनवाम लाग्छ ? गरिखान छाडेर 'अस्व निरन्जन' गाउँदै किन व्यथं सहर-गल्ली चलाउँ ? जोगी हुनुअघि नूनसरी हरिपुरका हरिनारायण यादवको मनमा यस्ता प्रश्न आइरन्थे । जोगी बन्दा उनलाई लाग्यो, गरिखानको अन्धिले जोगी भएक, भोगहरू ।

अधम, दम बर्षअघिको एउटा किस्मिले विहाल उनी अर्को जोगी बनेर घरबाट बूढुङ्ग निस्किए । १२ सन्तानका ५० वर्षे किन वैरागिए ? खान नपाएर सबैभन्दा आस भई गएपछि मान्छे जोगी बन्यो रहेछ, हरिपुरको खेतमा केही किसान छिमेकीका साथ भेटिएका उनले सुनाए, 'म जोगी भएको पेटका लागि हजुर । गरिखाने ठाउँ भएको भए किन जोगी हुने ? दुई छक खान पाए कोही जोगी बन्दैन ।'

उनलाई लाग्यो, गरिखान दुई पाउ जमिन भएन भने जति दुःख गरे पनि आफू यो संसारको नबानेन रहेछ । त्यसपछि उनलाई अर्कै सवार जाउजाउ लाग्यो । 'त्यके त्यही संसारबाट विनलाई (सन्तान) हेर्ना नसके भगवानको भरणमा' भन्ने ठानेर उनले भन्ने धाम मीनिक्यिको विहाल घर छाडिदिए । उनीमिन हिन्दनका लागि फराकिलो घाटो वियो र हेर्नलाई खुता आकाश । आफ्नो नाममा

पाएर पेट भरे । दुई छक खान कुनै समस्या भएन । टाउकामा रामनामो बेरियो । गातामा ऋषक शरी, जीउमा गेरुबन्ध । हातमा सानो कमीडी, काखीमा फुटे भोला । कमेका टोका अगाडि पूगेर अंठ सजिले बल्न थाल्यो, 'अस्व निरन्जन !' बस् दुई-चार पैसो र केही गेठो अन्य जोतो भइगयो ।

हरिनारायणको जीवन यतिपरी चल्दै बियो, एउटा छक पेटभरि खाएर मस्तराम । 'जोगी भएके दिनसँधैँ सले आनन्दले खान पाएँ, उनले बिगत सम्भो, 'जुन दिन बँध पोडेर कोही साईं साईं पनिन् भन्ने सुनें, त्यो दिन मलाई मित्रा लागेन ।'

चार धाम यात्रामा रहेका बेला भदौको एक दिन उनले यो खबर सुने । यता हुनुनाएर बगेको कोसी सुनसरी मोरङका गाउँबस्ती नित्ये बियो । उजनी हुने खेतमा बालुमा परेको बियो । घरमा कोसीको खेत । मान्छेको बिचल्ली । खानको कुरा त पर, बन्ने ठाउँ दिएन, पिउने पाती दिएन । अमेरिका अन्वेषण सहयोग विभाग (यूएसएड) को अग्रयनअनुसार जाडिले करिब ७ हजार ५ सय घर प्रभावित भएका थिए । सयौंको ज्यान गयो । ताबोको घरखेत सकियो । पुनपुनैसा भन्ने । जमिन र मान्छेका आँखा दुबै रूकेका थिए । अधिजली दिनसम्मका साह्र एकाएक सुकुम्बासी भए । हरिनारायणले मनमनै सम्भो, 'हे भगवान्, त्यही मानि भए पनि छापामा केटाकेटी न दिए, त्यो पनि बचाएर के बिचल्ली पायो नि ।'

माटोको के भर ?



बस्ती बगेपछि उनको घर कसरी टिक्यो ? सम्भेर उनी भक्यालिप । 'जोगी भए पनि घरको माया लाग्यो रहेछ, संसारमा आफन्त बिर्सिन सजिलो रहेछ, संसारमा आफन्त बिर्सिन सजिलो रहेछ,' उनले ठले ।

बस्ती बगेपछि उनको घर कसरी टिक्यो ? सम्भेर उनी भक्यालिप । राम्रर निदाएनन् । धौमसी केटाकेटी के भए होलान् सुनिरहे । 'जोगी भए पनि घरको माया लाग्यो रहेछ, संसारमा आफन्त बिर्सिन सजिलो रहेछ,' टाउकोमा रामनामी, जोगी हेलाको पहेंलो कछ्छट र मैलो गन्धीमा भेटिएका साउने ज्यानका यादवले भूकूटी सुम्प्याएर मातृभाषा मैथिलीमा भने, 'सरकारले राहत दिँदै छ भने सुनें । किन किन भलाई घर किन मन लाग्यो । म आएँ ।' उनका लागि कोसी घाटी गृह फिर्ताको संयोगमात्रै भएन, साधु धोला छाडेर किसानमा दिन-रात पोटेने अवसर पनि बन्यो । सरकारी वेत्सरकारी सन्धाले बाडीपीडिनको पुनस्थापनामा काम गरिरहेका थिए । कुनैले छाडो बनाउन सघाए । कुनैले पाती पुऱ्याए । कुनैले खाधान । यूएसएडले पुनस्थापितको आय आर्जन र आत्मनिर्भरताका लागि तरकारी खेतीको अवधारणा ल्यायो ।

एनजीओको काम भनेर कोही नमानेपछि उनलाई समाएको स्थानीय जेटिए फिजोर सुट्टेजले भने, 'आफ्नो जग्गा नभएक उनलाई भाडाको जग्गा मिलाइदिएर नमान्दा नमान्दै लोका गेउन लगाए । बीउ औषधि किनै पैसा आफूले दिएर फसी, खुसीनी र काउनी फलाउन सिकाए । बेच्ने बजार चिनाए । जोगी पनि धारी साउने किसान बन्थो भनेपछि अरूले पनि खेतीमा बल्ल थाल्यो देखाए ।'

हरिनारायण अहिले भेटेरहेरुमिल भन्छन्, 'मिने सुट्टेजले मलाई साउबाट फेरि किसान बनाइदिए । म जोगी रहिन अब किसान भइगएँ ।' उनीजस्तै ७ जना किसान हरिपुर गाविसका पुर्बकयब साधुनाल यादवको ४५ कट्टा खेतमा तरकारी खेती गरेर सुकुम्बासीबाट आफूलाई आत्मनिर्भर बनाउँदै छन् । उनीहरू प्रतिकट्टा बर्षको १० हजार भाडा तिर्दैन । कमाइ प्रतिक्टा छ, महिनामा ७ देखि १३ हजार खैगुंभसम ।

एक पाइलो माटो नभएर आफैंसँध वैरागिएका हरिनारायण अहिले १५ कट्टाको 'मानिक' भएका छन् । उनले ५ कट्टा जग्गा बाडीपीडिन राहतमा पाए । अरू दस कट्टा वस्ती खेतीको कमाइले जोडे । जोगी जीवन त्यागेको १८ महिनामा उनले ११ बटा गाईबेसी जग्गा गरे । विहाल सकेसँध साँक अचेरसम्म उनी हातमा फोखा, हँसिया, मल, बिपारी, बोकेर माटोमिन खोरहेका हुन्छन् । श्रीमती, माइनेसीको स्याहारमा । छोरीको विहाली भयो । एउटा छोरो भबैरे ट्याक्टर चलाउने भएको छ ।

'म जोगीलाई यो सबै माटोले दिएको शक्ति हो,' उनले भने, 'माटोमा शक्ति छ इज्जर । मान्छेलाई अघाउने र अडुवाइएको दुबै शक्ति । हिजो यही माटोमा खान नपाएर जोगी भएँ, आज यही माटोले मलाई आफ्नै पैसामा तीर्थ जान सक्ने बनाएको छ । त्यसो भए अर्को उनलाई जोगी हुने सोह छ । 'अब नहुने, उनी एपुछिउ पोसिए, 'र भगवान् को के भर, जीवनमा अरे थोक आज छ भोति छैन । अधिर माटो पनि त्यही हो आज छ भोति छैन ।'

एक पाइलो जमिन दिएन । साह्रका खेत सन्धै, सारी बोके यादवले सन्तानको नाम अक्काइरेका थिए । नब्याएर पनि छक टुटेके बियो । छोराछोरी बढ्दै गए एकतो कमाइ अणु हुन थाल्यो ।

'मनभन्दा बहलउन निको,' उनको आभासे भयो । त्यसपछि एउटा सामान्य नाम हरिनारायण यादव साधु हरिनारायणमा बदलियो । हरिनारायणले गृह त्यागे, छोराछोरी ल्यागे, साह्रको काम ल्यागे । त्यानलाई यमचाहेक केही थिएन । दुःखको सुक्केरा कोसीको सुसाइसंग बन्थ्यो, कुनैले सुन्ने : काम गर्न श्रुच कुनैले पत्याएन । जोगी बन्नुको बिकल्प उनले केही देखेनन् ।

'त्यसपछि म चार धाम गएँ, भबैरे फसी र खुसीनी पोडेर हातमा फोखा बोकेर उत्रिएस उनले भने, 'कशो माएँ । साधा पूजा । रत्न चढेँ । बस चढेँ । कतै पैसा तिनूँ पनिन् । साधु न परेँ । त्यसपछि उनलाई लाग्यो, 'जोगी हुनु सजिलै खान पाउनुन पनि हो ।

सयारसँध अेरामिएका उर्मित सगत बढ्यो । 'भगवानको प्रसाद' भन्दै कतिपयट दिनले उनलाई गाजा खुवाएर नट्ट बनाइदिए । सत्यम भोजमा

– TRANSLATION –

Kantipur

Saturday, April 23, 2011

How Reliable Is the Soil?

Anmol Mani

“Why would a person abandon his family, relatives and society to become a sadhu (religious ascetic or mendicant)? Why would a person stop working to earn his living and start begging door-to-door for food?” Before becoming a sadhu, Hari Narayan Yadav of Haripur VDC (Sunsari district) was curious and used to think about these things. He thought “All these sadhus are lazy people not capable of doing anything to make a living”.

Later, to his surprise, ten years ago at the age of 50, he himself abandoned his wife and 12 children and became a sadhu. What was the reason behind this farmer escaping from his responsibilities? He disclosed his story: “I became a sadhu to feed my hungry stomach because I was not able to feed my family. It was the last option. Otherwise, why become a sadhu if I have a means to earn two meals a day for my family”.

He felt: “if one does not have land for feeding, it is very difficult to survive in this world no matter how hard you work”. Then he focused on going to another world. “If possible, I’ll take care of my children from another world and, if not, I’ll offer myself to God”. He left his home early in the morning before sunrise, with a wide road and open sky before him.

He did not have land. He used to earn daily wages either by working on others’ land or as a porter. His family often had to struggle to survive on hungry stomachs. As his sons and daughters started growing up, he knew his earnings would be inadequate.

“Better to be mad than to die”, he felt. Then he made himself into “Sadhu Harinarayan”. He abandoned his home, his sons and daughters, and the work he was doing. He had nothing left to abandon. “Nobody trusted me for a loan. There was no alternative but to become a sadhu”. “Then I visited four pious temples on pilgrimages in India. I travelled by train and bus free of cost. I was a sadhu so nobody charged me. Becoming a sadhu is an easy way to live and feed oneself, although not the whole family. I met a lot of other sadhus who also abandoned their home and families for the same reasons as mine. Many times they used to take drugs (ganja) in the name of God’s blessings. I had no problem satisfying my every day hunger. Just needed to tie a yellow cloth in the name of God around my head, grow a beard, cover my body in yellow cloth, carry a small bowl and a bag on my shoulder. I was given the food and money required to survive. I used to even save some”.

Hari Narayan’s life passed this way, filling the hungry stomach with two meals a day and no more worries. “From the day I became a sadhu, I have had a full stomach.” He spoke of his past memories. “When I heard the news that the Koshi River had flooded our village, I could not sleep the entire night.” He heard that due to the flood there was no place to live and nothing to eat.

According to USAID, 7500 houses were affected by the flood. Hundreds of people died. Thousands of people became homeless. Bridges broke down. Lands were flooded. Villagers’ eyes were full of sorrow. Landowners turned to landless. Hari Narayan thought, “Oh God, my sons and daughters had at least a shed for basic shelter. Now this is gone too. How bad the situation has been to them.” Hari Narayan was filled with sadness and he could not sleep at night. He knew he had to return home.

Hari Narayan continued his story, “I heard that the government and other agencies are giving relief materials and aid to flood-affected”. I returned home.

The Koshi flood not only got Hari Narayan to return home, but it allowed him to become the productive farmer he is today. Many different NGOs and INGOs supported the rehabilitation efforts of flood victims. Some assisted in housing, some in potable drinking water and others in food relief. But only USAID brought an integrated recovery and development program to flood victims.

When USAID-NFRP staff, Kishor Luitel, tried to mobilize the villagers to participate in the agricultural program, nobody took interest and was willing to participate (having already been spoiled by the free handouts provided by other donor programs and NGOs in the area). Luitel helped Hari Narayan lease a piece of land and initiate cultivation of bottlegourd (squash). With support in improved technologies, seeds and other inputs, he was also taught to cultivate chili, cauliflower and pumpkin. The program then helped improve his access to local markets and traders. In observing his rapid progress

and transition from mendicant sadhu to productive high value crop farmer, neighboring villagers also took interest and are now participating in the program.

Hari Narayan used to say to the people, "Luitel has made a farmer out of a sadhu. I am no longer a sadhu. I am a farmer." Another seven landless farmers have also joined the program with him by leasing an additional 45 kattha (1.5 hectares) of land from the ex-VDC chairperson, Sadhu Lal Yadav. They pay Rs. 10,000 per year to the landowner and are earning Rs. 13,000 per kattha in just six months... on a steady path towards self-reliance. Hari Narayan, previously landless, is now owner of 15 katthas of land. He was given an initial lot of 5 katthas by the government in compensation for the flood, and then bought 10 additional katthas with the profits earned in selling high value vegetables. Within 18 months of vegetable farming, he now also owns 11 head of cattle. Now he is occupied fulltime by his farm. One of his daughters recently married and a son is now employed as a tractor operator.

"This has all been granted by the soil. Soil has great power, both the power to give and to take away. I became a sadhu because this soil did not feed. Now I can afford all the expenses of visiting the temples I used to visit as a sadhu." When asked if he still wants to be a sadhu, he took a long breath and said: "No, I will never be a sadhu again. But the future is unknown and God cannot always be relied upon. But the soil is there. Today it is on my side, but not sure what will happen tomorrow."



USAID/NEPAL FLOOD RECOVERY PROGRAM

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT #9
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PHOTO: Player participants from the 12 VDCs represented in the Young Women's Football Tournament organized by USAID-NFRP in Mahendranagar municipality (Kanchanpur district). Photo by Fintrac Inc.