

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

June 4, 2015

Nepal: Building Resilience to Climate Related Hazards (Additional Financing, BRCH-AF)
(PPCR) (IBRD)
Responses submitted by the World Bank

Dear CIF AU,

We thank the UK colleagues for the comments and the productive phone conversation.

As discussed, the submitted documents are at a concept stage, and were submitted to the Sub-Committee for their review and endorsement. In the coming months, the team will work towards developing the concept further and present a complete package to the committee for its approval. The project component details, targets and higher level goals will be elaborated and strengthened in the approval package. Below brief responses to the comments on the project components:

On Component A –The AF will provide targeted training and capacity building, including related to design of a proposed national level agency for managing disaster risks, technical studies, monitoring and evaluation and to fulfill the gaps where the present financing through BRCH is inadequate. Specific details will be added following in-country missions and consultations with the country counter parts.

Component B –Funds from additional financing will help expand the current hydro met network and forecasting capacity. The funding would contribute towards setting up new hydrological stations and would upgrade additional weather stations than those targeted in the initial project. At present, the parent project aims to upgrade only 5 of the existing glacier monitoring stations and there is a need to design and extend ground based snow, glacier and permafrost monitoring in Nepal. There is also a need to enhance forecasting capacity beyond regular weather services to a range of severe weather events. Funds from additional financing will help scale up gaps in activities being funded through the BRCH project. Specific area and scale of intervention will be determined upon further development of the component.

The earthquake on April 25, 2015 has substantially increased the vulnerability of Nepal to further catastrophes such as landslides, flooding and other hazards. In this challenging situation, the project maintains its flexibility to work with the existing institutions to build their capacity to respond to disaster risks and climate change and also to deliver on modernization of climate observation, and improved forecasting and early warning systems. Given the conditions, the project will undertake assessments of the status of these infrastructures post the earthquake and continue to work with counterparts and partners in addressing key needs, including financing.

We look forward to the Sub-Committee's endorsement of the concept. The comments will be addressed as we develop the project further.