



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**Privacy Assurance Statement**  
**for the Feed the Future FEEDBACK Zones of Influence Interim Survey**  
**Public Use Dataset: Nepal 2015**

Under the terms of the Executive Order *Making Open and Machine Readable the New Default for Government Information* and the Administration's *Open Data Policy*, the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID's) Bureau for Food Security is making data from Feed the Future FEEDBACK (FTF FEEDBACK) performance monitoring surveys available as open and machine-readable public use datasets after publication of the country reports.

An essential step in the preparation of FTF FEEDBACK datasets for public use is ensuring respondent privacy and confidentiality. Respondent privacy and confidentiality are ensured and protected by removing identifying information from the datasets, including *direct identifiers* (information such as names, addresses, Global Positioning System coordinates, or any other personally identifying number or characteristic) and *indirect identifiers* (data that do not specifically identify a person or location, but that can be used to do so, one variable at a time or in combination, by uniquely describing a person or household).

FTF FEEDBACK datasets are freely available to the public without restriction. However, all personal identification information that was present in the original data was removed. In addition, variables that could potentially be used indirectly (in combination with other variables or with other data sources) to identify any particular household or respondent were recoded to prevent that disclosure.

Households with large numbers of members can potentially be identified if large households are unique or rare in the survey region. To effectively avoid revealing the identity of any large household that may be the only one or among a very few of its size in its region, a number of household members were removed from several households. The number of households affected and the number of household members removed through this procedure will not be disclosed. The members who were removed were not eligible for interview elsewhere in the questionnaire.

Because of these modifications, it may not be possible for analysts to exactly reproduce all of the results in published country reports and indicators.

FTF FEEDBACK interviewers administered the following informed consent statement at the beginning of the survey (translated, as appropriate) during the Nepal interim assessment:

“Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. We are a research team from New ERA, Kathmandu. We are conducting a survey to learn about agriculture, food security, food consumption, nutrition and wellbeing of households in this area. Your household has been selected to participate in an interview that includes questions on topics such as your family background, dwelling characteristics, household expenditures and assets, food consumption and nutrition of women and children. The survey includes questions about the household generally, and questions about individuals within your household, if applicable. The questions about the household and its characteristics will take about 30 minutes to complete. If additional questions are relevant for members of your household, the interview in total will take approximately 2-3 hours to complete.

Your participation is entirely voluntary. If you agree to participate, you can choose to stop at any time or skip any questions you do not want to answer without giving a reason and without fear of any retribution. If you do not want to participate in this study, or if you decide you want to stop the interview after it has begun, the only thing you need to do is tell me you do not want to participate.

Your answers will be completely confidential; we will not share information that identifies you with anyone. After entering the questionnaire into a database, we will destroy all information such as your name that could link these responses to you.

Do you have any questions about the survey or what I have said? If in the future you have any questions regarding the survey or the interview, or concerns or complaints we welcome you to contact New ERA office in Kathmandu, by calling 014413603. We will leave a copy of this statement and our organization’s complete contact information with you so that you may contact us at any time.

We would like to ask you to sign this paper to indicate that you understand what has been explained to you about this study, and that you are willing to participate in the interview.”

This statement is included in Module B of the USAID-approved questionnaire. At the beginning of each subsequent module of the USAID-approved questionnaire, the trained interviewer was prompted to obtain informed consent from each additional eligible respondent prior to interviewing him/her. Informed consent obtained at the start of each subsequent module was obtained electronically.