Problems in this sector
Livelihoods are the means of securing the necessities of life which is a key objective in the Sustainable Development Goals, including eradicating extreme poverty, providing decent work and economic growth and improving industry, innovation and infrastructure. A primary focus is on providing income generation particularly in the aftermath of conflict or disasters where it is crucial to capitalize on people’s assets to achieve better futures.

What Field Ready is doing
Better health, education and nutrition outcomes are being achieved through improvements to the design of practical items. This is done by inventing, fixing and making useful products, training others in advanced technologies, and developing innovative skills. Repair solutions have also been made to a range of expensive items including baby incubators and dental chairs.

When cookstoves would be sent to Nepal, they often had broken control knobs making them unable to use or dangerous. Field Ready worked in partnership with World Vision to design and print cookstove knobs. The new design was not only more durable but also created local opportunities for income generation. There were 430 knobs printed and then sold for 45 rupees each (around US $1). These knobs are now in use in 18 sites and can be used anywhere.

Field Ready also teamed up with a Nepalese inventor, named Madhukar KC (pictured top left) to bring his cookstove design nearly a decade in the making to fruition. Field Ready enabled metal casting to his originally wooden pattern. This not only cut procurement time and costs, but also allows for the stove to cook more efficiently.

Impact
Significant efficiencies have been reached through our design and manufacturing. Training and capacity-building have also been a key part of our program in Nepal. In 2016, over 600 people attended training sessions carried out by Field Ready. Our activities are creating income generation and livelihood opportunities exceeding the duration of our projects. Madhakur, for instance has since won contracts to make 210,000 cookstoves ordered by the government of Nepal and other NGOs and has installed 5,000 to date which will ultimately reach approximately a million people.

For more info: www.fieldready.org, @fldrdy, or contact info@fieldready.org