

FOOD SECURITY MONITORING AND ANALYSIS IN NEPAL: PROCESS AND OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION

INTRODUCTION

Nepal Khadhya Surakshya Anugaman Pranali (NeKSAP) is the comprehensive food security monitoring and analysis system in Nepal. Initiated by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in 2002, NeKSAP is now jointly operated by the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) and WFP under the guidance of the National Planning Commission (NPC) and with support from the European Union¹.

NeKSAP PROCESS

District level food security analysis

Technical Working Groups (TWGs) are comprised of technical staff or focal points from selected line agencies, local government bodies, civil society organizations, and the private sector. TWGs collect, collate, and undertake the first level of food security analysis on a trimester basis.

TWGs forward the analysis reports to the District Food Security Networks (DFSNs) for further analysis and validation.

Endorsement, validation, and communication

District Food Security Networks (DFSNs) operate in 72 districts and meet every trimester.

DFSNs undertake further analysis of the food security situation and then endorse the process and outputs.

DFSNs communicate food security information through District Food Security Bulletins and reports.

National level analysis and communication

The Food Security Monitoring Unit (FSMU) of the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) receives analysis reports forwarded by DFSNs.

Together with the Food Security Monitoring and Analysis Unit (FSMAU) of the UN World Food Programme, FSMU collects and analyzes secondary information related to availability, access, utilization, and stability of food security.

FSMU produces Food Security Bulletins on a trimester basis and disseminates food security information through electronic and printed documents.

The NeKSAP decentralized food security analysis process uses 17 indicators representing four dimensions of food security: availability, access, utilization and stability. NeKSAP uses the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) methodology to classify the severity of food insecurity into five phases¹².

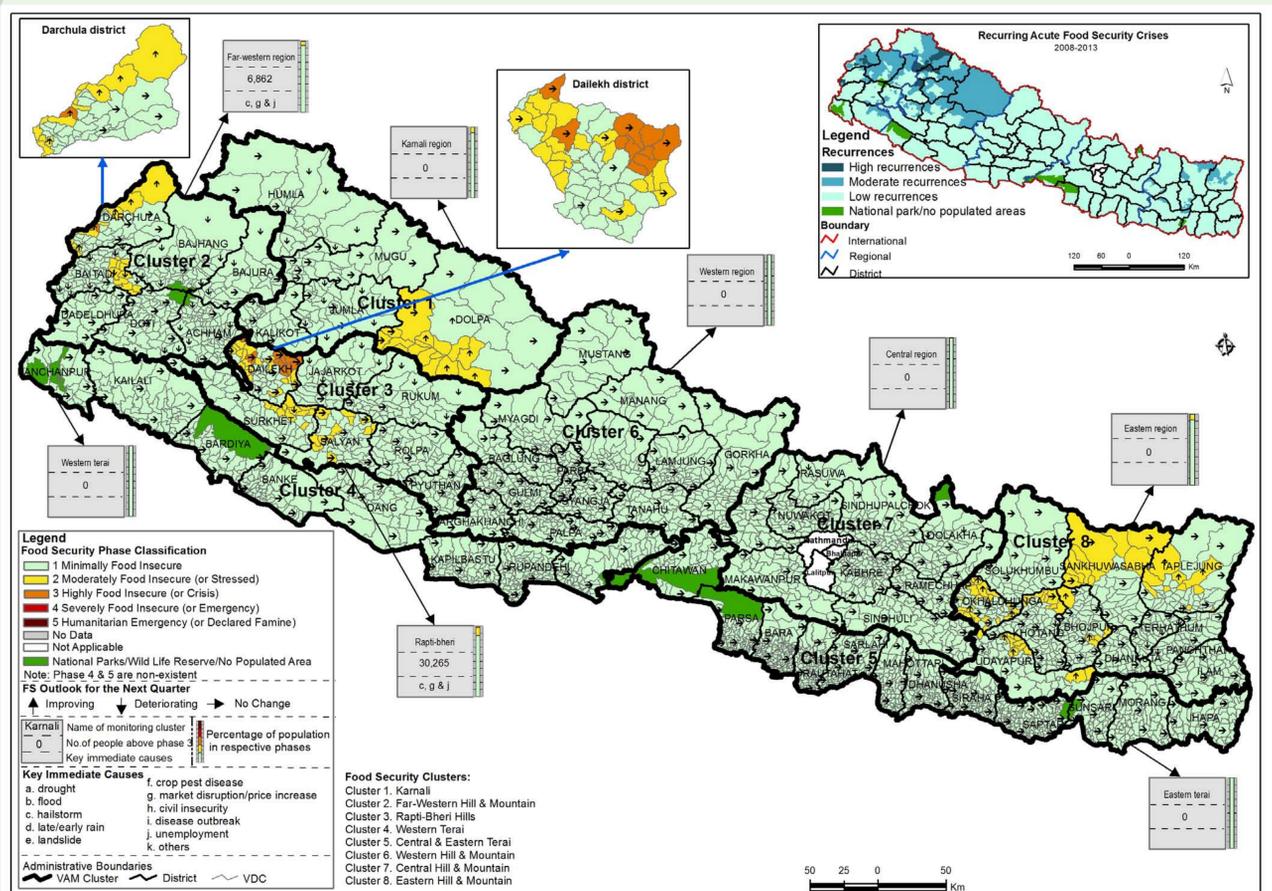
RESULTS

Based on the latest integrated food security phase classification exercise (the period from April – June 2013, with updates on the impact of floods and landslides in July) there has been an overall seasonal improvement in the food security situation throughout Nepal. Factors contributing to food security in this period included the recent harvest of winter crops (wheat and barley), income from seasonal and off-seasonal vegetables, livestock products, daily wages, and remittances.

Some districts in the Rapti-Bheri Hills and Eastern Hill and Mountain areas experienced a deterioration. For instance, 11 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in Dailekh and Darchula districts were classified as Phase 3 highly food insecure (or crisis) as a result of severe crop loss and heavy flooding. In addition, 147 VDCs in 12 districts were classified as Phase 2 moderately food insecure (or stressed).

A transient deterioration in the food security situation is expected in July-August in 21 VDCs in Siraha, 53 VDCs in Saptari, 11 VDCs in Rasuwa, 14 VDCs in Dolakha, and the entire Far Western Hill and Mountain districts. The situation, however, should improve with the start of the maize and paddy harvest (September-October)

NEPAL FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION MAP (APRIL-JUNE, 2013)



NeKSAP IPC PHASE DESCRIPTION

Phase	NeKSAP Phase names	Description
I	Minimally Food Insecure	Households with secure food and non-food needs without shifting or changing livelihood strategies. These households are capable of adjusting to small scale stresses caused by hazards, disasters, shocks, epidemics and conflicts or violence by means of existing social, natural and economic capital.
II	Moderately Food Insecure (or Stressed)	Households meet minimal food needs with traditional coping strategies, but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies.
III	Highly Food Insecure (or Crisis)	Households experience food consumption gaps and high or above usual acute malnutrition, or meet minimal food needs only with accelerated depletion of livelihood assets - leading to food consumption gaps.
IV	Severely Food Insecure (or Emergency)	Households unable to meet food and non-food needs without losing livelihood assets. This induces very high acute malnutrition leading to high morbidity, mortality and shortened life expectancy. Probable high level of violence and movement restriction due to conflict. Some immediate interventions and assistance required.
V	Humanitarian Emergency (or Declared Famine)	Almost all households have an extreme lack of food and other basic needs where starvation, destitution, irreversible loss of capital resources and loss of life are evident. Households of the whole areas are challenged by acute shortage of food and other basic needs - hazards, disasters, epidemics or destruction of infrastructure, disturbances of services. Immediate humanitarian assistance required.

CONCLUSIONS

NeKSAP food security phase classification provides a nationwide update of the food security situation at the sub-district level on a quarterly basis. To date 39 Nepal Food Security Bulletins have been published.

From July 2013, DFSNs will conduct food security phase classification on a trimester basis (every four months) to align with the Government of Nepal's reporting cycle.

In addition to providing a quarterly update, the results of the food security phase classification over time can help document and identify those areas with recurring acute food security crises (See the map inset above).

The Government of Nepal and development partners (donors, I/NGOs, and UN agencies) use NeKSAP information products, including food security phase classification maps, to review the food security situation and target their programmes to food insecure and vulnerable geographic areas.

Currently, NeKSAP is developing a methodology to better link food security monitoring and analysis to food security response analysis, planning and implementation and integrate this into the regular planning processes of the Government of Nepal.

REFERENCES

- Government of Nepal, UN World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization 2010. Nepal Food Security Monitoring System, Framework document for institutionalizing national food security monitoring in Nepal. Kathmandu. NeKSAP.
- FAO/FSNAU 2006. Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification: Technical Manual Version 1. Nairobi. FAO/FSNAU Technical Series.
- IPC Global Partners. 2012. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Technical Manual Version 2.0. Evidence and Standards for Better Food Security Decisions.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Ministry of Agricultural Development
Food Security Monitoring Unit
National Planning Commission
National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat
UN World Food Programme
Food Security Monitoring and Analysis Unit
European Union

FURTHER INFORMATION
<https://sites.google.com/site/nefoodsec/home>
<https://www.neksap.org.np/index.php>



नेपाल खाद्य सुरक्षा अनुगमन प्रणाली
Nepal Khadhya Surakshya Anugaman Pranali (NeKSAP)
Nepal Food Security Monitoring System



World Food Programme