



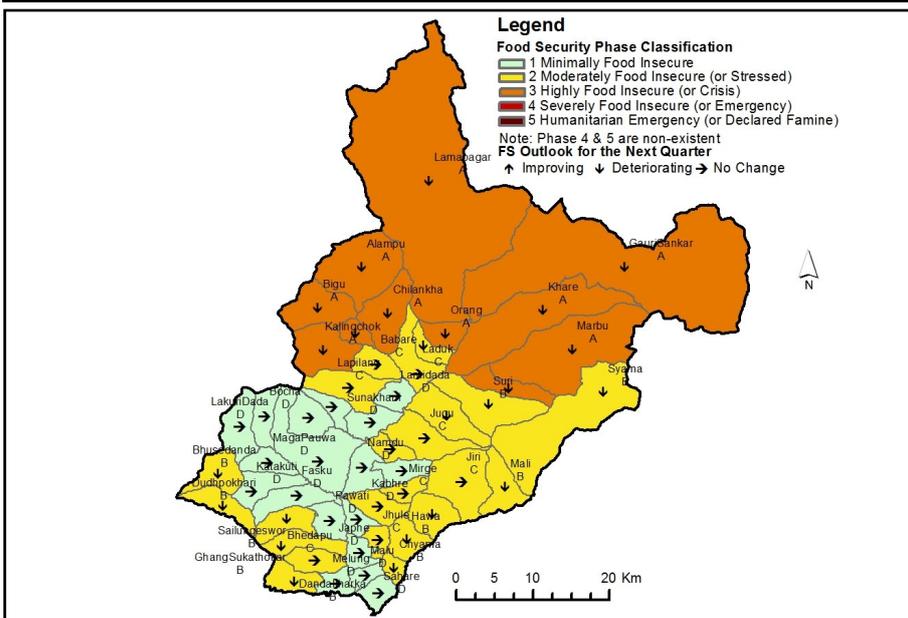
**Dolakha District Food Security Bulletin**  
**Period: 16 March to 15 July 2015**  
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**Area Outcomes**

Food Consumption	Livelihood change and coping	Acute Child Malnutrition
The District Food Security Network (DFSN) estimated that 40-60 percent of households (HHs) in Cluster A, 60-80 percent of HHs in cluster B and C, and more than 80 percent of HHs in cluster D were able to meet their basic food needs. DFSNs attributed poor consumption to the lean season of summer crops, food stock loss of almost 70 percent because of the earthquake and intermittent relief distribution because of road disruptions.	The DFSN reported that 50,284 houses (of 57,956) were completely destroyed and major livelihoods, like agriculture, livestock and tourism, were severely affected. Affected households relied on external support for food and non-food needs and adopted coping strategies like borrowing money and food and reducing the size and frequency of meals.	The District Public Health Office (DPHO) reported that regular data on wasting was not available. However, according to a mass MUAC screening, global acute malnutrition was 2.8% of children under five (out of 14,795 children). The overall health and sanitation situation was poor due to the damage to water supply systems and sanitation facilities.

**Food Security Phase Map and Estimated Food Insecure Population**



VDCs in Phase 3	Projected population in 2015	Estimated population in Phase 3
Lamabagar	2,248	1,800
Gaurishankar	1,045	800
Marbu	1,510	1,200
Chankhu	1,363	1,100
Kalinchok	3,007	2,400
Khopachagu	2,355	1,900
Bigu	1,727	1,400
Aalampu	1,932	1,500
Chilankha	3,081	2,500
Orang	2,312	1,900
Khare	1,964	1,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,544</b>	<b>18,100</b>

**Summary of causes, context and key issues**

The district was affected by the 25 April earthquake and major aftershock on 12 May (with the epicenter in Dolakha), with severe impact on livelihood activities, like agriculture, livestock, tourism, and infrastructure (hydropower/road construction). The DFSN reported a loss of roughly NPR 20 million in livestock, 4.9 million in agriculture and an income decrease of more than 60 percent from the tourism sector.

Because of the impact on food security and livelihoods, the DFSN classified 11 northern VDCs in cluster A (see the map above) as highly food insecure (Phase 3), a situation where food consumption gaps are higher than normal and households are able to meet minimum food needs only through the accelerated depletion of livelihood assets. In those VDCs, 90 percent of houses were damaged and out of those roughly 50 percent lost almost 70 percent of their food stock. Because of the district's remoteness and difficult geographic terrain, the provision of timely relief support was challenging. Added to this, income from Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), tourism and wage employment, particularly in the Upper Tamakoshi hydropower project, was also significantly affected.

Likewise, the DFSN classified an additional 23 VDCs in cluster B and C (see the map above) as moderately food insecure (Phase 2), a situation where households are able to meet minimum food needs with traditional coping strategies but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies. In those VDCs, some 50 percent of HHs lost 60 percent of their food stock and employment opportunities were reduced by 25-30 percent.

The DFSN classified the remaining areas in cluster D as minimally food insecure (Phase 1). The DFSN attributed the situation to the wheat harvest, increased remittance inflow and income through agricultural and livestock products and wage employment created through local construction activities.

Affected population (in percent of district's total population) 9%

Source: District Food Security Network (DFSN)

**Outlook:** For the mid-July to mid-Nov 2015 period, the DFSN anticipates a deteriorating food security situation, particularly in the 11 northern VDCs in cluster A currently classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and 13 VDCs in cluster B currently classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2).

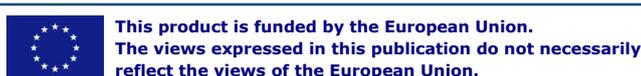
The DFSN reported that VDCs in cluster A and B will remain fully or partially disconnected, thereby posing challenges in food availability and access. This is likely to exacerbated due to a potential production drop in maize due to the dry spell and army worm. The DFSN forecast possible displacement in these VDCs due to landslides during the monsoon. The DFSN anticipated a potential price hike in local markets due to disrupted supply and road access.

Affected households will likely adopt coping mechanisms like reducing the size and frequency of meals, increase borrowing of food and money and adopting other traditional coping practices.

The DFSN forecasted that the other areas will be classified as minimally food insecure (Phase 1) due to the upcoming maize and potato harvest, regular income sources and remittance inflow.

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