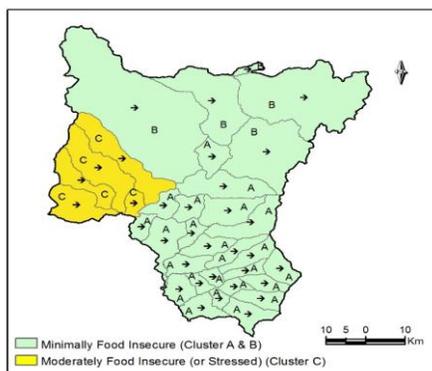


Food Security Phase Classification Map



Estimated number of food insecure

Food insecure VDCs (Phase 3 and 4)	Estimated population (Phase 3 and 4)
None	n/a
Total population at risk	
Total population in district (2011 census)	158,742

Phase classification indicators*

Indicator	VDC Cluster		
	A	B	C
Area Outcomes			
Food Consumption (Food and dietary diversity, food groups)	1	1	2
Livelihood Change (and Coping strategies)	1	1	2
Acute child malnutrition (6-59m) - Wasting	1	1	1
Contributing Factors			
Availability			
Production: 1 st main crop -Wheat growing (A, B & C)	1	1	1
2 nd main crop - Potato growing (B,C), Maize planting (A)	1	1	1
3 rd main crop - Maize planting (B & C), Potato growing (A)	1	1	1
Household food stock	1	2	3
Market stock	1	1	1
Accessibility			
Food prices of main staples (rice, wheat flour, and others)	1	2	2
Employment opportunities within and neighboring districts	1	1	2
Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP), Cash/high value crops, and small enterprises	1	1	1
Income from meat, milk, egg, fish, honey	1	1	1
Remittances	1	1	1
Utilisation			
Human disease incidence and epidemics	1	1	1
Water supply for drinking, sanitation	1	1	2
Stability			
Out-migration (stress induced)	1	1	1
Civil security (social violence, and bandh/blockade)	1	1	1
Hazards and Vulnerability			
Climatic hazards: floods, landslides, dry spell, snowfall, hailstorm, and strong wind	1	1	1
Disaster: Earthquake, Fire	1	1	1
Overall classification	1	1	2
4-month outlook	▶	▶	▶

* VDCs are clustered based on general similarities in livelihood/food security. Classification of each indicator is based on agreed thresholds of the reference indicator.

Food security classification:

- Phase 1. Minimally Food Insecure – Households can meet 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, conflicts and/or violence by means of existing social, natural and economic capital.
- Phase 2. Moderately Food Insecure (or Stressed) – Households can meet minimal food needs with traditional coping strategies, but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies.
- Phase 3. Highly Food Insecure (or Crisis) – Households have high food consumption gaps, have above usual levels of acute malnutrition, or can meet minimal food needs only with accelerated depletion of livelihood assets, leading to food consumption gaps.
- Phase 4. Severely Food Insecure (or Emergency) – Households are unable to meet food and non-food needs without losing livelihood assets. This induces very high levels of 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.
- Phase 5. Humanitarian Emergency (or Famine) – Almost all households have an extreme lack of food and other basic needs where starvation, destitution, irreversible loss of capital resources and/or loss of lives are evident. Households of the whole areas are challenged by acute shortage of food and other basic needs, hazards, disasters, epidemics, destruction of infrastructure, or disturbances of services. Immediate humanitarian assistance is required.

Outlook: ▲ improve, ▶ stay the same, ▼ decline

District Food Security Network affiliated members: GOs: DAO, DADO, DDC, DLSO, DFO, DEO, DPHO, NFC, CCI, INGOs -Suaahara, NRCS, NGO Federation, and WFP (participated in the meeting: All member agencies participated in the meeting).

This District Food Security Bulletin and other publications relating to food security can be accessed through the Nepal Food Security Monitoring System website:

www.neksap.org.np/

Food security statements

Current food security situation: Mangsir - Falgun (mid Nov 2013 - mid Mar 2014)

The District Food Security Network (DFSN) Sankhuwasabha classified **five VDCs in Cluster C (Yafu, Tamku, Bala, Sisuwakhola and Mantewa) as moderately food insecure (Phase 2)**. The DFSN reported poor food consumption in those 5 VDCs. Some 25 percent households were not able to consume sufficient food, largely because of low household food stocks (sufficient for 2-3 months only) arising from poor cereal (maize and millet) production. The situation was exacerbated as the Nepal Food Corporation (NFC) didn't supply any food during this period. NFC had supplied 50 mt rice last year. The purchasing capacity also deteriorated as wage opportunities were not readily available and income from NTFPs (Cardamom, *Chiraito* and *Allo*) was also low. The price of coarse rice increased by 10 – 15% compared to last year. As part of coping, households consumed less preferred food, borrowed food and money, sold off small livestock and reduced expenses on non-food items.

The DFSN classified the rest of the district as minimally food insecure (Phase 1), where more than 80 percent of households were reported to have consumed adequate food (rice, maize, millet, legumes, grains, seasonal vegetables, etc.) through traditional livelihoods. Households' own production, food supplies by NFC (especially in the five northern VDCs) and smooth market operations eased food availability in the district.

The District Public Health Office (DPHO) reported the prevalence of acute malnutrition at less than 5 percent in this period. However, the record was based on reported cases of children below five years of age and was not representative of the whole district. The ongoing health and nutrition related programmes by DPHO and SUA AHARA are reported to have improved the nutritional status of targeted groups.

Income from agriculture, livestock and forest products, which increased by 5 – 10 percent compared to last year, was reported at NPR 1.11 billion. Key commodities contributing to household incomes included citrus, ginger, chili, cardamom, *rudraksha*, *chiraito* and timber. The income distribution, however, was uneven, with more than 60 percent of the income flowing to the VDCs in cluster A.

Remittances have been a regular and reliable source of income since the last few years. As reported by the financial service providers (e.g. banks and remittance agencies), some 10,000 households received remittances valued at approximately 4 million in this period.

Food security outlook: Chaitra 2070 - Ashadh 2071 (mid Mar - mid Jul 2014)

The district is expected to follow a similar food security situation over the next four months. Hence, Cluster A and B are likely to be classified as minimally food insecure situation while cluster C is expected to be classified as moderately food insecure.

Households in cluster C are expected to continue inadequate food consumption and coping by consuming less preferred food, reducing food intake, borrowing money and reducing expenditures on non-food items. In these VDCs, household food stock will be reduced to 1- 2 months and income from wage opportunities, agriculture and livestock products sales and remittances will also be relatively lower.

In cluster A and B, food stocks will be replenished by wheat and potato, and income opportunities will also continue as normal. Income from NTFPs (*rudraksha*, *allo*, and medicinal and aromatic plants), vegetables and livestock products will continue normally. Wage opportunities created through agricultural and developmental activities will help increase households' sources of income as mid March- mid July is a period of increased developmental activities and larger activities in the agriculture sector. The continuous inflow of remittances will maintain the purchasing power of households.



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