

**Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) and World Food Programme (WFP)**  
**Nepal Food Security Monitoring System / Nepal Khadhya Surakshya Anugaman Pranali (NeKSAP)**  
**With support from the European Union and UK aid from the UK government**

## 1. Current situation: mid-November 2015 to mid-March 2016

### Overview

District Food Security Networks (DFSN) in 74 districts met in March 2016 to review the food security situation between mid-November 2015 and mid-March 2016 and provide an outlook for the food security situation between mid-March and mid-July 2016. DFSNs classified each Village Development Committee (VDC) and municipality based on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) method<sup>1</sup>. Overall, DFSNs classified 134 VDCs as highly food insecure (Phase 3), 751 VDCs and municipalities as moderately food insecure (Phase 2), and 2,646 VDCs and municipalities as minimally food insecure (Phase 1). In this round there were no VDCs classified as severely food insecure (Phase 4). See **Map 1** for the geographic distribution of food insecure areas.

Four key factors influenced the food security situation in this period: the April-May 2015 earthquakes; the production losses of 2015/16 summer crops (especially paddy and maize); the disruptions to cross-border trade with India and the subsequent fuel crisis, shortage of essential supplies, and price hikes; and the winter drought in the mid- and far-western regions. Though these key events impacted the food security situation across the country, some districts and regions were disproportionately affected.

### Highlights

In the earthquake affected districts in the western and central regions, a significant number of VDCs in Gorkha, Dhading, Rasuwa, Dolakha and Ramechhap remain highly food insecure. By and large, the situation is similar to that of the last reporting period of mid-July to mid-November 2015. However, the DFSNs reported a significant improvement in Sindhupalchowk and deterioration in Dhading. The DFSN in Sindhupalchowk attributed the improvement to the summer crop harvest and post-earthquake recovery interventions, whereas the DFSN in Dhading attributed the deterioration to the decrease of post-earthquake recovery interventions, the shortage of drinking water, poor health and sanitation conditions, and difficult connectivity and access to markets in the northern remote VDCs.

In the five districts of the Karnali (Humla, Mugu, Jumla, Dolpa and Kalikot) in the mid-western region and Bajura district in the far western region, DFSNs reported a significant deterioration in the food security situation as a result of large production losses of 2015/16 summer crops, less income from *yarchagumba*, the winter lean season, poor winter rains and the on-going drought. Additional districts in the mid- and far-western hills were also affected by the drought, though not as severely as the six districts mentioned above.

Due to the impact of the civil unrest and disruptions to cross-border trade with India from September 2015 to February 2016, DFSNs reported that the food security situation in four districts of the central Terai—namely, Dhanusa, Mahottari, Sarlahi and Rautahat—remain a concern.

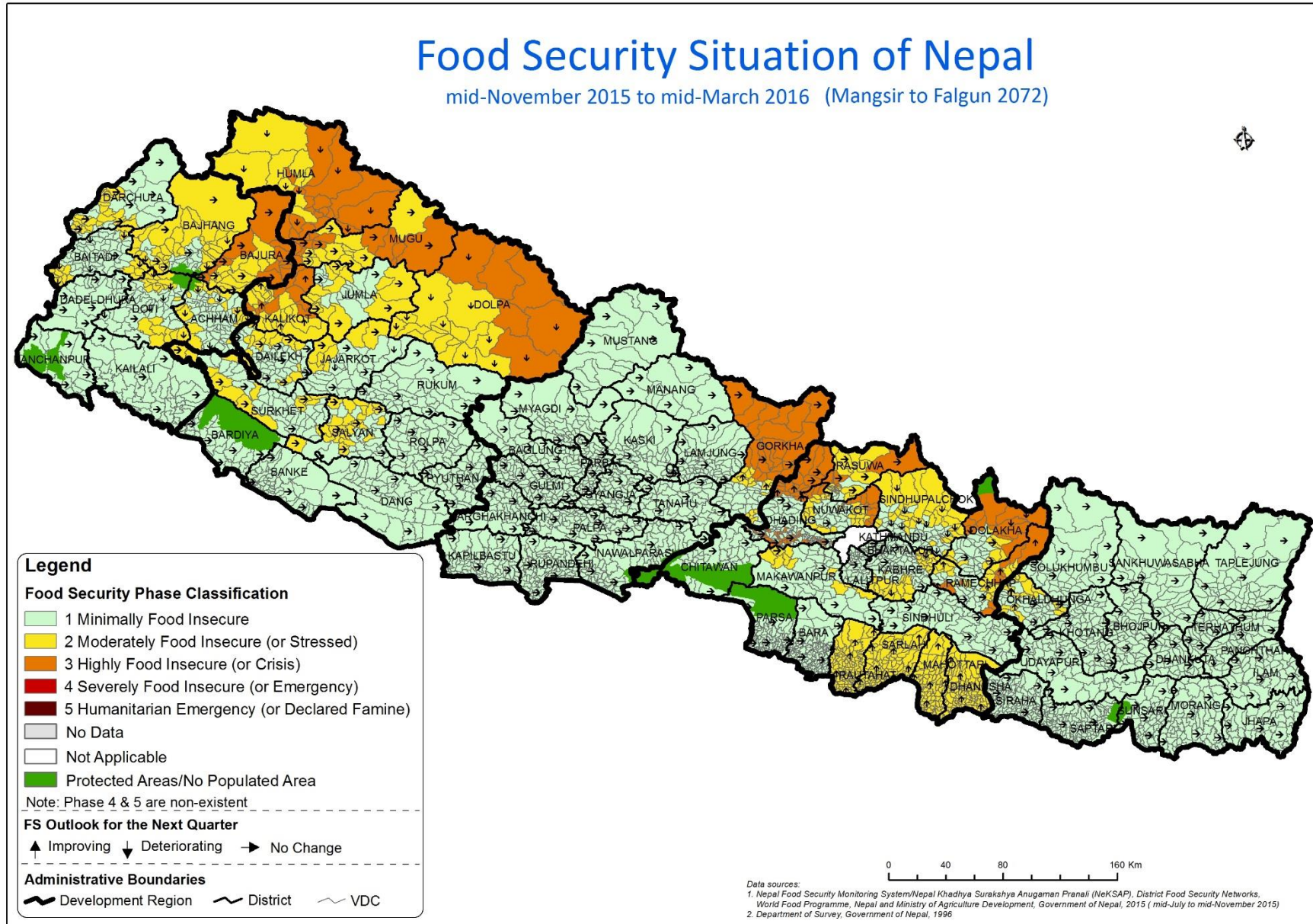
---

<sup>1</sup> District Food Security Networks (DFSN) use the NeKSAP food security phase classification method to classify the severity and causes of acute food insecurity in Nepal. By adopting the phase classification method, DFSNs use a set of standard procedures and tools to reach a consensus and classify the food security situation into five phases: **Minimally food insecure (Phase 1)**: where households can secure food and non-food needs without shifting livelihood strategies; **Moderately food insecure (or Stressed) (Phase 2)**: 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; **Highly food insecure (or Crisis) (Phase 3)**: where food consumption gaps are higher and households can meet minimum food needs only with accelerated depletion of livelihood assets; **Severely food insecure (or Emergency) (Phase 4)**: where households are unable to meet food and non-food needs without losing livelihood assets; and **Humanitarian emergency (or Declared Famine) (Phase 5)**: where almost all households have an extreme lack of food and other basic needs and starvation, destitution, irreversible loss of capital resources and loss of life are evident.

**Map 1: Food security situation of Nepal (mid-November 2015 to mid-March 2016)**

# Food Security Situation of Nepal

mid-November 2015 to mid-March 2016 (Mangsir to Falgun 7072)



## Results

- DFSNs classified 134 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in 11 districts (13 in Bajura, 18 in Humla, 12 in Mugu, 10 in Kalikot, 6 in Dolpa, 20 in Gorkha, 16 in Dhading, 12 in Dolakha, 12 in Ramechhap, 13 in Nuwakot, and 2 in Rasuwa) as **highly food insecure (Phase 3)** and estimated that nearly 300,000 people in those districts were currently highly food insecure and require humanitarian assistance. Phase 3 is defined as a situation where household food consumption gaps are higher than normal and households are able to meet minimum food needs only through the accelerated depletion of livelihood assets. DFSNs attributed the situation to the continued impact of the April-May 2015 earthquakes, the subsequent production drops in summer crops (maize, paddy and millet), the depletion of household food stocks in the winter lean season period and the high food prices linked to the fuel crisis and disruption to cross-border trade with India. In the mid- and far-western regions, however, DFSNs reported that the food security situation, which had already deteriorated last year due to summer crop losses and poor *yarchagumba* collection, had worsened further because of the winter lean season and on-going drought. In some of these districts, DFSNs also reported that insufficient supply of food commodities and high food prices in the markets and limited Nepal Food Corporation (NFC) supplies also contributed to the deterioration in the food security situation.
- DFSNs also classified a large number of VDCs (751) in 28 districts as **moderately food insecure (Phase 2)**. Phase 2 is 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. Due to the impact of the civil unrest and disruptions to cross-border trade with India from September 2015 to February 2016, DFSNs classified all VDCs and municipalities (329) in four districts of the central Terai—namely, Dhanusa, Mahottari, Sarlahi and Rautahat—as moderately food insecure (Phase 2). The geographical distribution of other moderately food insecure (Phase 2) VDCs is as follows: 16 in Okhaldhunga, 17 in Gorkha, 10 in Makwanpur, 10 in Dolakha, 22 in Ramechhap, 12 in Rasuwa, 26 in Nuwakot, 32 in Kavrepalanchowk, 33 in Sindhupalchowk, 20 in Achham, 14 in Baitadi, 30 in Bajhang, 14 in Bajura, 25 in Darchula, 18 in Doti, 17 in Dolpa, 9 in Humla, 12 in Mugu, 14 in Jumla, 20 in Kalikot, 18 in Salyan, 13 in Dailekh, 14 in Surkhet and 6 in Jajarkot.
- DFSNs classified all other VDCs (2,646) as **minimally food insecure (Phase 1)**, a situation where households can 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. In these areas, the food security situation was reported as normal because of sufficient stocks of summer crops (maize, paddy and millet) and income from on-farm and off-farm activities which contributed to household food availability and access and limited the impact of natural disasters and man-made shocks on utilization and stability.

## 2. Outlook: mid-March to mid-July 2016

### Overview

District Food Security Networks (DFSNs), based on current conditions and likely future scenarios, have forecasted whether the food security situation will improve, remain stable or deteriorate during the period of mid-March to mid-July 2016. Wheat, the major winter crop of the country, particularly in the hills and Terai, will be harvested in this period (April/May). However, wheat and other winter cereals do not make a significant contribution to household food security in the mountain areas. With most of the areas in the mid- and far-western regions experiencing a severe winter drought this year, wheat production is expected to significantly drop in those areas and hence the food security situation during mid-March to mid-July will be adversely affected by the expected poor winter crop production.

### Results

Overall, DFSNs anticipate the food security situation to deteriorate during the period of mid-March to mid-July 2016. DFSNs forecasted that 36 VDCs are likely to be classified as severely food insecure (Phase 4), 225 VDCs are likely to be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and 437 VDCs are likely to be classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2).

- DFSNs projected that 36 VDCs (12 in Dolakha, 6 in Dolpa and 18 VDCs in Humla) might be classified as **severely food insecure (Phase 4)**. Phase 4 is a situation where households are unable to meet food and non-food needs without losing livelihood assets and hence some immediate assistance is required. In Humla and Dolpa, the DFSNs attributed the potential outlook to severe production drops in winter crops (up to 70 percent) and poor income from agriculture, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and livestock. In Dolakha, the DFSN attributed the outlook to poor winter crop production, lower wage income opportunities, and expected food price increases, especially in the *Singati* area where the rehabilitation of market infrastructure has not been completed.
- Because of the anticipated production drops in winter cereals, poor incomes from agriculture, NTFPs and wage labor, and food price increases, the DFSNs in 14 districts forecasted that 225 VDCs (20 in Achham, 14 in Baitadi, 17 in Bajhang, 13 in Bajura, 18 in Doti, 17 in Dolpa, 9 in Humla, 12 in Mugu, 5 in Dhading, 2 in Rasuwa, 13 in Nuwakot, 32 in Kavre, 33 in Sindhupalchok and 20 in Gorkha) may be classified as **highly food insecure (Phase 3)** during mid-March to mid-July 2016.
- DFSNs predicted that 437 VDCs in 25 districts may be classified as **moderately food insecure (Phase 2)**.
- DFSNs forecasted that all other areas of the country will be classified as **minimally food insecure (Phase 1)**. In those areas, households will replenish food stocks through fresh winter crop harvests and will continue to receive income through on-farm and off-farm sources. Furthermore, DFSNs did not anticipate any natural and human induced disasters that might affect the food security situation. However, with the onset of the monsoon from June/July, disruptions to the road networks, transportation services and market supply chain can be expected in the mountain areas.

### 3. Background

The Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) operates nationwide, including District Food Security Networks in 74 of 75 districts (only Kathmandu is not included). NeKSAP is implemented by the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) and World Food Programme (WFP) with the strategic guidance of the National Planning Commission (NPC) and with funding from the European Union and UK aid from the UK government. Additional partners include the Central Bureau of Statistics, FAO, Unicef, the National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS).

District Food Security Networks (DFSN) use the NeKSAP food security phase classification method to classify the severity and causes of acute food insecurity in Nepal (see Footnote 1) every four months (March, July and November) and on an ad hoc basis in the event of a large-scale disaster, such as the earthquakes in April-May 2015. For a comprehensive picture of the food security situation in Nepal, additional information on chronic food insecurity, undernutrition and poverty from other sources, including the 2011 Nepal Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), 2010/11 Nepal Living Standards Survey (NLSS), 2014 Small Area Estimation of Food Insecurity and Undernutrition in Nepal, 2014 IPC Chronic Food Security Analysis, and 2014 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, should be consulted in conjunction with information from NeKSAP.