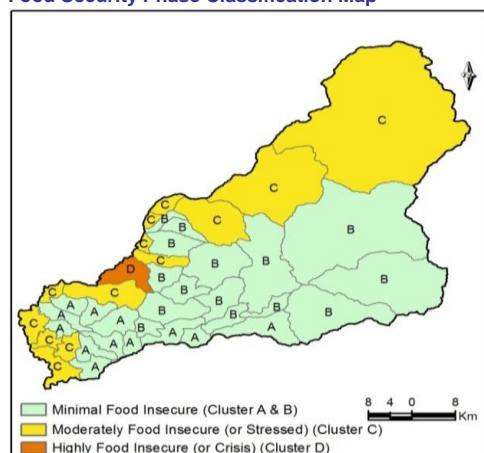


Food Security Phase Classification Map



Estimated number of food insecure

| Food insecure VDCs (Phase 3) | Estimated population (Phase 3) |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Khalanga (1-9) (80 percent of the VDC's population) | 6,860 |
| Total population at risk** | 6,860 |
| Total population in the district (Census, 2011) | 133,274 |

** Source: DADO/DFSN/Field observation

Phase classification indicators*

| Indicator | VDC Cluster | | | |
|--|-------------|---|---|---|
| | A | B | C | D |
| Availability | | | | |
| Winter Crop: | | | | |
| Wheat (Harvested) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Summer Crop: | | | | |
| 1 st main crop (Maize- Growing) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 nd main crop (Paddy- Planting) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Household stock | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Market stock | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Accessibility | | | | |
| Food prices | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Employment | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Non Timber Forest Products | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Natural disasters | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Civil unrest | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Migration trends | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Coping strategies | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Utilization | | | | |
| Acute malnutrition | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Disease | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Overall classification | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 months outlook | ▶ | ▶ | ▲ | ▲ |

Food security statements

Current food security situation

* Flooding from the Mahakali River followed by incessant rainfall during 17-18 June severely affected Khalanga VDC (including the District headquarters). As a result, it is classified as Phase 3 highly food insecure (or crisis); an additional 13 VDCs are classified as Phase 2 moderately food insecure (or stressed). The DFSN estimated that 6,860 people (80% of the population) of Khalanga VDC are in a highly food insecure (Phase 3) situation. This is a condition whereby food consumption gaps are higher than normal and households are only able to meet minimal food needs with accelerated depletion of livelihood assets.

* Current situation reflects an exceptional deterioration in the food security situation as compared to the last cycle (January- March 2013) and same cycle last year (April- June 2012). The swollen Mahakali River displaced some 3, 500 people, swept away 13 government offices including the District Health Post, damaged roads, bridges, and other infrastructure (including 185 private houses), and disrupted the supply of food.

* Affected districts experienced market disruptions and a reduced supply of food and other essential commodities. Market prices of food commodities soared upto 60-70 percent in Khalanga VDC and 10-20 percent in Cluster B.

* Although wheat was harvested normally across the district, more than 50 percent of households in Cluster B and C VDCs had food stock sufficient for 2-3 months only, whereas in Khalanga, most of the households were left with stock sufficient for 1-2 months only.

* Affected people in Khalanga are coping with the situation by selling livestock and other assets, skipping meals, and starting untimely out-migration. Whereas people in 13 moderately food insecure VDCs (Cluster C) are coping by eating less preferred food, relying on relatives, and borrowing food and cash at higher interest rates.

Food security outlook

* The situation is expected to improve in the next trimester as summer crops (paddy and maize) are harvested, markets resume normal operation with the end of the monsoon season, and road networks are open. At the household-level food stocks should be replenished. Market prices of food commodities are expected to remain stable. Currently, crops are growing well, with similar acreage as that of last year.

* Households' income is expected to improve from the sale of vegetables, cash crops, livestock and livestock products. Income from *Yarchagumba* and *Satuwa* will be instrumental to improving the purchasing power of households in the northern VDCs.

* Development activities will resume, which will create wage employment opportunities.

* Relief packages by the government and non-government organizations are expected to address immediate food, and non-food needs, including shelter.

* VDCs are clustered based on general similarities in food security characteristics. Classification of each indicator is based on agreed thresholds of the reference indicator. See the food security classification key below.

Food security classification:

- Phase 1. Minimal Food Insecure – Households with secure food and non-food needs without shifting or changing livelihood strategies. These households are capable of adjusting small scale stresses caused by hazards, disasters, shocks, epidemics and conflicts or violence by means of existing social, natural and economic capital.
- Phase 2. Moderately Food Insecure (or Stressed) – Households meet minimal food with traditional coping, but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies.
- Phase 3. Highly Food Insecure (or Crisis) – Households with food consumption gaps high or above usual acute malnutrition. Or meet minimal food needs only with accelerated depletion of livelihood assets - lead to food consumption gaps.
- Phase 4. 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.
- Phase 5. Humanitarian Emergency (or Famine) - Almost all households have an extreme lack of food and other basic needs where starvation, destitutions, irreversible loss of capital resources and loss of lives 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.

Outlook: improve, stay the same, decline

District Food Security Network (FS Network) affiliated members: DAO, DDC, DADO, DHO, WCDO, DLSO, DFO, District Irrigation Office, DCCI, NRCS, RVWRMP, DLGSP, REDP, CARE Nepal, and WFP. (Present:- DAO, DDC, DADO, DLSO, DFO, WCDO, DPO, DTO, DCCI, Irrigation office, and WFP)

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

<http://groups.google.com/group/NeKSAF?hl=en>



This product is funded by the European Union. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.