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नेपाल खाद्य सुरक्षा अनुगमन प्रणाली
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Nepal Food Security Monitoring System

HIGHLIGHTS AND SITUATION SUMMARY

This issue covers the period of mid-July to mid-November 2016, the first trimester of Nepali Fiscal Year 2073/74 (the Nepali months of *Shrawan*, *Bhadra*, *Asoj*, and *Kartik*). This bulletin is based on the outcomes of NeKSAP district food security network (DFS) meetings held in 74 of 75 districts during November and December 2016. The food security situation in this period has improved largely because of the crop harvests (maize in August/September and paddy in October/November) and larger remittance inflow during the festival season. In this period:

- DFSNs classified 31 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in 4 earthquake affected districts (5 in Dhading, 11 in Gorkha, 9 in Nuwakot and 6 in Sindhupalchowk) as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and estimated that roughly 34,000 people in those districts were currently highly food insecure and require humanitarian assistance. DFSNs in those districts attributed the situation to geographic remoteness, poor road access during the monsoon, production drops in maize, lower incomes from agriculture and livestock, and poor health and sanitation in the post-earthquake period.
- DFSNs classified an additional 175 VDCs in 15 districts as moderately food insecure (Phase 2). Nearly all of these VDCs are in the hills and mountains of the mid-western and central development regions.
- The food security situation in the earthquake affected districts has generally improved compared to the situation reported by the DFSNs in July 2015, November 2015, March 2016 and July 2016. None of the VDCs in the current period were classified as severely food insecure (Phase 4) and the number of VDCs classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) has also decreased. Nevertheless, there remain pockets of food insecurity in Dhading, Gorkha, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchowk (as described above).
- In many districts of the mid-and far-western regions the food security situation, which had deteriorated from November 2015 to July 2016 as a result of poor summer crop production in 2015 and a subsequent winter drought in 2015/16, has now improved mainly because of the crop harvests and increased remittance inflow during the festival period. DFSNs in those districts did not classify any VDCs as highly food insecure (Phase 3) in this period.
- According to Nepal Rastra Bank, the year-on-year Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 4.8 percent in November 2016. The vegetables sub-group had the largest year-on-year increase at 10.5 percent in November 2016. Compared to August-November 2015, the price of coarse rice and wheat flour increased by 1.9 percent and 1.8 percent respectively.
- The Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) estimated the total production of summer crops (paddy, maize, millet and buckwheat) at 7,807,834 mt. Production of paddy and maize, the two most important summer crops, was estimated at 5,230,327 mt and 2,259,445 mt respectively, an increase of 21.66 and 1.25 percent respectively compared to last year.

CURRENT FOOD SECURITY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Food Security Clusters	Current period: mid-July to mid-Nov 2016	Change from mid-March to mid-July 2016	Outlook for mid-Nov 2016 to mid-March 2017
Karnali		↑	↓
Far-Western Hill and Mountain		↑	↓
Rapti-Bheri Hills		↑	→
Western Terai		→	→
Central & Eastern Terai		→	→
Western Hill and Mountain		↑	↑
Central Hill and Mountain		↑	↑
Eastern Hill and Mountain		→	→

- Minimally food insecure
- Moderately food insecure
- Highly food insecure
- Severely food insecure
- Humanitarian emergency

Change / Outlook

- ↓ Deteriorate
- Stay the same
- ↑ Improve

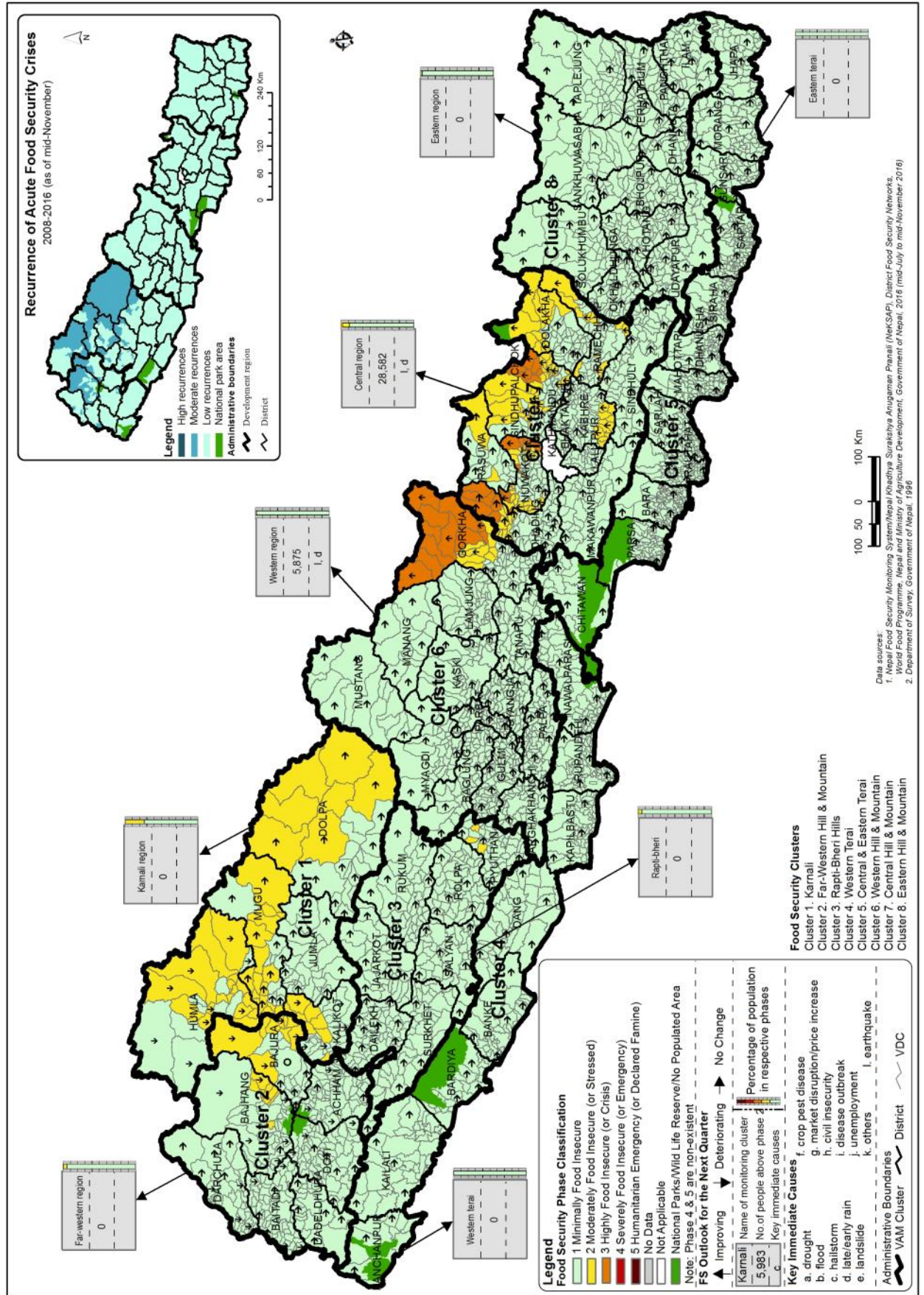
The food security situation in many districts of the mid- and far-western hills and mountains that had deteriorated during November 2015 to July 2016 has now significantly improved. Similarly, the food security situation in earthquake affected districts of the central, eastern and western regions has also improved. DFSNs in the mid- and far-western regions attributed crop harvests and remittance inflow to the improvement, whereas in the earthquake affected districts additional factors contributing to the improvement were reconstruction assistance, better road access and improved market function.

DFSNs classified 31 VDCs in 4 districts as highly food insecure (Phase 3) with an estimated affected population of approximately 34,000. Furthermore, DFSNs in 15 districts classified an additional 175 VDCs as moderately food insecure (Phase 2).

The food security situation in the next four months (mid-November 2016 to mid-March 2017) is likely to deteriorate because of transitory food gaps during the winter lean period (February-April). DFSNs forecasted that during mid-November 2016 to mid-March 2017 no VDCs are likely to be classified as severely food insecure (Phase 4). DFSNs anticipated that 46 VDCs in 5 districts (7 in Bajhang, 9 in Bajura, 5 in Dhading, 18 in Humla, and 7 in Kalikot) are likely to be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and an additional 179 VDCs in 14 districts are likely to be classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2).

The Nepal Food Security Bulletin is jointly produced by the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) Food Security Monitoring Unit and the World Food Programme (WFP) Food Security Monitoring and Analysis Unit.

Map 1: NeKSAP integrated food security phase classification, mid-July to mid-November 2016
 Source: 74 NeKSAP District Food Security Networks, December 2016



Current food insecure areas

DFSNs classified 31 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in 4 earthquake affected districts of the central and western regions as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and estimated that roughly 34,000 people in those areas were affected and require humanitarian assistance (see **Table 1**). 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 classified an additional 175 VDCs in 15 districts as moderately food insecure (Phase 2)¹. 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. See **Map 1** for the geographic distribution of current food insecure areas across Nepal.

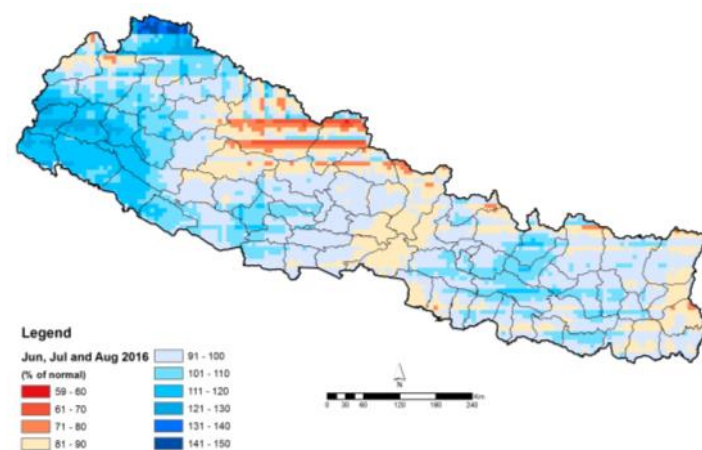
Since the April-May 2015 earthquakes, DFSN meetings in the affected districts in the central, eastern and western regions have reported a gradual improvement in the food security situation over time. These improvements have been attributed to remittance inflow, humanitarian assistance, crop harvests, the resumption of supply chains and market function and improved access with the repair and opening of roads and trails damaged by the earthquakes. Nevertheless, there remain pockets of food insecurity, which are geographically remote and where initial damage was higher and/or recovery has been slower. In the VDCs currently classified as highly food insecure, DFSNs reported that poor road connectivity during the monsoon, supply chain disruptions, maize crop loss, poor access to drinking water and poor sanitation and hygiene were the key contributing factors to the current situation.

In the hill and mountain districts of the mid-and far-western development regions, the poor summer crop production and winter drought in 2015/16 had resulted in many VDCs being classified as highly food insecure between November 2015 to July 2016. However, with the harvest of maize in August-September and paddy in October-November, the latest DFSN meetings reported an improvement in the food security situation. Other factors included an increase in remittance inflow during the festival season, income from temperate fruits like apple and walnut, non-timber forest products like *yarchagumba*, and other seasonal and off-season vegetables, and the wheat and barley harvests (in Humla, Dolpa, Jumla and Darchula).

MoAD has estimated total summer crop production (paddy, maize, millet and buckwheat) at 7,807,834 mt. Production of paddy and maize, the two major cereal crops, was estimated at 5,230,327 mt and 2,259,445 mt respectively. Compared to last year, paddy and maize production increased by 21.66 and 1.25 percent respectively. MoAD attributed production gains to better availability of fertilizers, improved seeds and timely and adequate rainfall (refer to **Map 2**).

Districts	PHASE 3		
	# of VDCs	Name of VDCs	Estimated affected population
Sindhupalchowk	6	Dhumthang, Fulpinkatti, Gatti, Listikot, Marming, and Tatopani	8,500
Dhading	5	Jharlang, Lapa, Ree Gaun, Serthung, and Tipling	7,100
Nuwakot	9	Barsunchet, Betini, Bhalche, Chhap, Gaunkharkha, Ghyangfesi, Lachyang, Salme, and Talakhu	12,900
Gorkha	11	Bihi, Chekkampar, Chumchet, Kashigaun, Kerauja, Lapu, Lho, Prok, Sama-gaun, Sirdibas, and Uhiya	5,900
TOTAL	31		34,400

Table 1: VDCs classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) by district and the estimated affected population (Source: DFSNs, Dec-2016)



Map 2: Rainfall during June-August 2016 as a percent of the normal level (Data source: CHIRPS, 1981-2016)

Food security outlook (mid-November 2016 to mid-March 2017)

District Food Security Networks, based on current conditions and likely future scenarios, have forecasted the food security situation for the period of mid-November 2016 to mid-March 2017 (the Nepali months of *Mangsir, Paush, Magh, Falgun*).

Overall, DFSNs anticipate that the food security situation will deteriorate during the period of mid-November 2016 to mid-March 2017. Because winter crops (wheat and barley) will only be harvested in April-May households may experience a transitory food gap during the months of February to April as household stocks of paddy will have been depleted by then. DFSNs forecasted that during mid-November 2016 to mid-March 2017 no VDCs are likely to be classified as severely food insecure (Phase 4); the number of VDCs likely to be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) will increase to 46 (from 31 currently); and the number of VDCs likely to be classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2) will also increase to 179 (from 175 currently).

DFSNs projected that 46 VDCs (7 in Bajhang, 9 in Bajura, 5 in Dhading, 18 in Humla, and 7 in Kalikot) may be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3). DFSNs attributed this outlook to the lean period during February to April when household stocks of paddy will have declined and no new crops will have been harvested. In the mid- and far-western hills and mountains, this period coincides with the traditional seasonal out-migration and hence remittance inflow is also expected to be low.

DFSNs predicted that 179 VDCs in 14 districts (15 in Achham, 14 in Baitadi, 20 in Bajhang, 19 in Darchula, 11 in Dhading, 7 in Dolpa, 18 in Doti, 11 in Gorkha, 9 in Humla, 23 in Kalikot, 15 in Mugu, 9 in Nuwakot, 2 in Rasuwa, and 6 in Sindhupalchowk) may be classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2). In addition to the lean season effect, the food security situation in many mountain districts of the mid-and far-western regions might be affected by snow, which would affect the air-lifting of food commodities to remote districts, e.g. Dolpa, Mugu, Humla. Income from NTFPs, a key seasonal livelihood activity, will also be low during the winter season.

DFSNs forecasted that the rest of the country will be classified as minimally food insecure (Phase 1). In those areas, households will have remaining food stocks (from the paddy harvest) and will continue to receive income through on-farm and off-farm sources. Furthermore, DFSNs do not anticipate any major shocks or disasters that would affect the food security situation except for the possibility of snowfall that would impact road access and supply chains in more remote areas. Snowfall, on the other hand, is also a potential source of irrigation for the winter crops in many of the mountain districts.

¹ The number of VDCs classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2) in the current round in each district is follows: 7 in Bajhang, 9 in Bajura, 11 in Dhading, 12 in Dolakha, 7 in Dolpa, 9 in Gorkha, 18 in Humla, 7 in Kalikot, 10 in Kavre, 15 in Mugu, 21 in Nuwakot, 3 in Pyuthan, 13 in Ramechhap, 2 in Rasuwa, and 31 in Sindhupalchowk.

Updates

- **NeKSAP district food security network meetings:** MoAD organized district food security network (DFSN) meetings in 74 of 75 districts between November and December. Each DFSN analysed the food security situation in their district based on the integrated food security phase classification (IPC-acute) method.
- **NeKSAP regional debriefing meetings:** MoAD and the Regional Agriculture Directorates organized five regional review meetings between 29 November and 4 December 2016. Senior Agriculture Development Officers (SADO) from each district presented the analytical results from the latest DFSN meetings and Regional Agricultural Directors presented the overall food security situation of their respective regions.
- The National Planning Commission and Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) issued planning directives to all 75 districts for FY 2074/75. The directives stipulated that the districts refer to the food security response plans developed by the DFSNs while formulating food security related plans/activities.
- NeKSAP is mentioned in the 14th National Plan (2016/17-2018/19) Approach Paper, published by the National Planning Commission. The document states that NeKSAP will be institutionalized at the federal state and district levels, and be utilized to monitor the food security and nutrition situation.
- **District updates on NeKSAP:** Refresher sessions on the NeKSAP IPC process were conducted in nine districts (Bajura, Achham, Sindhupalchowk, Parbat, Gorkha, Dhading, Mugu, Jumla and Kalikot). Briefing sessions on food security response analysis were organized for senior officials in Achham, Morang and Sarlahi, where the full fledged training has yet to be organized.
- **Food security response analysis guidebook and reference books published and disseminated:** Guidebooks and reference books were published and e-copies shared with key stakeholders. The electronic copies are now available on the NPC website: http://www.npc.gov.np/en/category/agriculture_forestry
- **Capacity development on crop yield forecasting:** WFP, MoAD and the CGIAR research program on climate change, agriculture and food security (CCAFS) organized four training sessions on crop yield forecasting during August-November 2016 for the research, academic, policy and development sectors. Training sessions were organized at the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science, Agriculture and Forestry University and Himalayan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (HICAST) for faculty and graduate students on food security monitoring and crop yield forecasting using CRAFT. Similarly, a five-day training was organized in Kathmandu for MoAD and DoA officials, scientists from NARC and DHM and other professionals from the Central Bureau of Statistics, FAO, LI-BIRD, NDRI, and RIMES. Steps to incorporate crop modeling modules in graduate courses at agriculture universities in Nepal will be explored in 2017.

District food security information

The Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) monitors 74 districts across Nepal. The information collected forms the basis for this bulletin. District food security bulletins are available upon request in English and Nepali.

Cluster 1. Karnali

Dolpa
Humla
Jumla
Kalikot
Mugu

Cluster 2. Far-Western Hill & Mountain

Achham
Bajhang
Bajura
Baitadi
Dadeldhura
Darchula
Doti

Cluster 3. Rapti-Bheri Hills

Dailekh
Jajarkot
Pyuthan
Rolpa
Rukum
Salyan
Surkhet

Cluster 4. Western Terai

Kanchanpur
Kailali
Bardiya
Banke
Dang
Kapilbastu
Rupandehi

Cluster 5. Central and Eastern Terai

Nawalparasi
Chitwan
Parsa
Bara
Rautahat
Sarlahi
Mahottari
Dhanusha
Saptari
Siraha
Sunsari
Morang
Jhapa

Cluster 6. Western Hill and Mountain

Gorkha
Lamjung
Tanahu
Arghakhanchi
Gulmi
Palpa
Syangja
Parbat
Baglung
Myagdi
Mustang
Manang
Kaski

Cluster 7. Central Hill and Mountain

Sindhuli
Ramechhap
Dolakha
Sindhupalchok
Kavrepalanchok
Nuwakot
Rasuwa
Makwanpur
Dhading
Lalitpur
Bhaktapur

Cluster 8. Eastern Hill and Mountain

Taplejung
Panchthar
Sankhuwasabha
Ilam
Okhaldhunga
Khotang
Dhankuta
Udayapur
Solukhumbu
Bhojpur
Terhathum



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