



Nepal Food Security Bulletin

Year 2017, Issue 50



नेपाल खाद्य सुरक्षा अनुगमन प्रणाली
Nepal Khadiya Surakshya Anugaman Pranali (NeKSAP)
Nepal Food Security Monitoring System

HIGHLIGHTS AND SITUATION SUMMARY

This issue covers the period of mid-November 2016 to mid-March 2017, the second trimester of Nepali Fiscal Year 2073/74 (the Nepali months of *Mangsir, Paush, Magh, and Falgun*). It is based on the outcomes of NeKSAP District Food Security Network (DFSN) meetings held in 74 of 75 districts in March 2017. General factors affecting food security during this reporting period (between November and March) include the post-harvest period of summer crops (paddy, maize), the planting of winter crops (wheat, barley), the winter lean season, colder temperatures and minimal precipitation, improved road and trail access in the post-monsoon period, and increased remittance inflow from the festival season in October.

In this reporting period:

- DFSNs classified 48 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in 6 districts (5 in Dhading, 11 in Gorkha, 3 in Kalikot, 10 in Mugu, 10 in Humla, and 9 VDCs in Bajura) as highly food insecure (Phase 3). This is 1.5 percent of the 3,367 VDCs and municipalities in the 74 districts. DFSNs estimated that roughly 87,100 people in those districts were currently highly food insecure and require external assistance to meet food and non-food needs. DFSNs in those districts attributed the situation to the winter lean period, depleted household food stocks and transitory food gaps, geographic remoteness, poor incomes from the sale of livestock and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and—in Dhading and Gorkha—the lasting impacts of the April-May 2015 earthquakes.
- DFSNs classified an additional 183 VDCs in 14 districts as moderately food insecure (Phase 2). This is 5.4 percent of the 3,367 VDCs and municipalities in the 74 districts. More than three quarters of the VDCs classified as Phase 2 were in the mid-and far-western hill and mountain districts.
- The food security situation in the earthquake affected districts has generally improved compared to the situation reported by the DFSNs over the past two years. 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 and Gorkha (as described above).
- The food security situation in some districts of the mid-and far-western regions has deteriorated compared to the previous reporting period (mid-July to mid-November 2016). DFSNs attributed the situation to the winter lean period and associated transitory food gaps. Many of the hill and mountain districts in these regions had experienced successive food security crises between July 2015 to July 2016 as a result of poor summer crop production in 2015 and a subsequent severe winter drought in 2015/16.
- According to Nepal Rastra Bank, the year-on-year Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 2.9 percent in March 2017. The food and beverage index was negative at 0.4 percent compared to 10.3 percent in March 2016.

CURRENT FOOD SECURITY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Food Security Clusters	Current period: mid-Nov 2016 to mid-March 2017	Change from mid-July to mid-November 2016	Outlook for mid-March to mid-July 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	Change / Outlook
	Moderately food insecure	↓ Deteriorate
	Highly food insecure	→ Stay the same
	Severely food insecure	↑ Improve
	Humanitarian emergency	

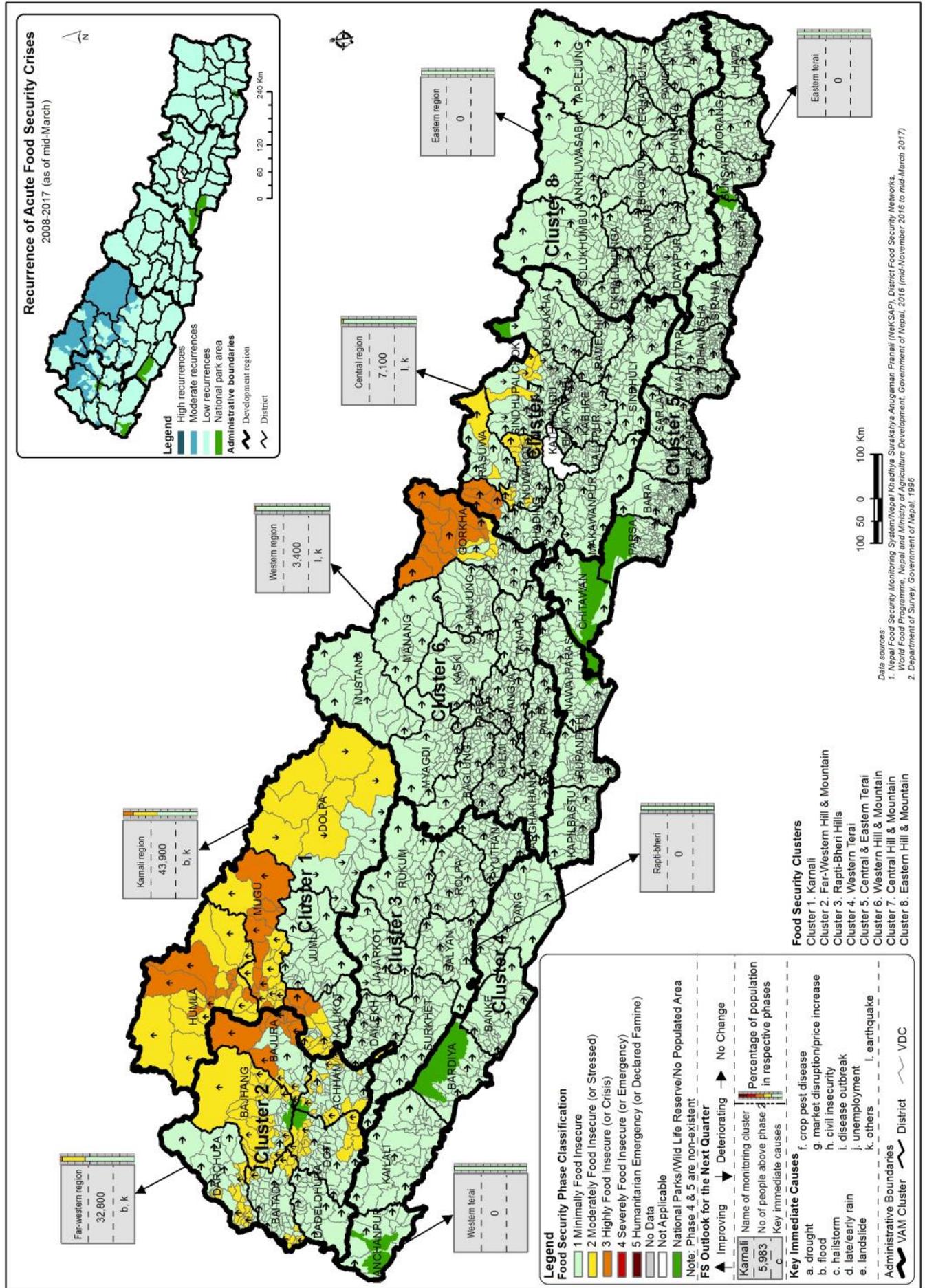
The food security situation in many districts of the mid- and far-western hills and mountains has deteriorated as compared to the mid-July to mid-November 2016 period. The situation, however, has improved compared to the same period last year (mid-November 2015 to mid-March 2016). DFSNs attributed the current deterioration to the winter lean period and localized production decreases of summer crops. The food security situation in the earthquake affected districts, on the other hand, has improved because of the summer crop harvests, reconstruction assistance, better road access and improved market function.

Overall, DFSNs classified 48 VDCs in 6 districts as highly food insecure (Phase 3) with an estimated affected population of approximately 87,100. Furthermore, DFSNs in 14 districts classified an additional 183 VDCs as moderately food insecure (Phase 2).

The food security situation in the next four months (mid-March to mid-July 2017) is likely to improve because of the winter crop harvests in March/April. Nevertheless, DFSNs forecasted that 31 VDCs (5 in Dhading, 5 in Sindhupalchowk, 11 in Gorkha, 3 in Kalikot, and 7 in Dolpa) will likely be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and an additional 169 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-November 2016 to mid-March 2017
 Source: 74 NeKSAP District Food Security Networks, March 2017



Current food insecure areas

The recent round of District Food Security Network meetings in March 2017 classified 48 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in 6 districts as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and estimated that roughly 87,100 people in those areas were affected and require external 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 also classified an additional 183 VDCs in 14 districts as moderately food insecure (Phase 2). Phase 2 is defined as 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. **Map 1** shows the location of current food insecure areas in 74 districts.

Overall, the food security situation in this period has deteriorated as compared to the previous reporting period (mid-July to mid-November 2016), particularly in the hill and mountain districts of the mid- and far-western regions, but compared to the same period last year (mid-November 2015 to mid-March 2016) it has improved. **Figure 1** shows the number of VDCs in each food security phase classification over the past year (March 2016–March 2017).

Since the April-May 2015 earthquakes, DFSN meetings in the worst affected districts 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 markets and improved access with the repair of roads and trails damaged by the earthquakes. Nevertheless, pockets of food insecurity remain, which are geographically remote and where initial damage was higher and/or recovery has been slower. In the VDCs currently classified as Phase 3, DFSNs reported that low household food stocks, remoteness, and poor access to adequate shelter, drinking water and sanitation and hygiene were key contributing factors to the current situation.

The food security situation in many hill and mountain districts of the mid- and far-western development regions has deteriorated in this reporting period. DFSNs classified 32 VDCs in Humla, Mugu, Kalikot and Bajura as highly food insecure (Phase 3). Additionally, 149 VDCs in Kalikot, Humla, Dolpa, Mugu, Achham, Baitadi, Bajhang, Bajura, Darchula and Doti were classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2). DFSNs attributed the situation to the winter lean period, poor summer crop production and rapidly depleting household food stocks, fewer development programme activities during the winter, and a relatively lower level of remittance inflow because of the seasonal out-migration. It should be recalled that many of these districts had poor summer crop production in 2015 and experienced a winter drought in 2015/16 which resulted in many VDCs being classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) between November 2015 to July 2016.

Food security outlook (mid-March to mid-July 2017)

District Food Security Networks, based on current conditions and future scenarios, have forecasted the likely food security situation for the period of mid-March to mid-July 2017 (the Nepali months of *Chaitra*, *Baisakh*, *Jestha*, and *Asar*). Overall, DFSNs anticipate that the food security situation will improve during this period. With the winter crop (wheat and barley) harvest in April-May, households will be able to replenish their food stocks through their own production. The 2016/17 wheat production appears promising because of timely and sufficient rainfall and the availability of inputs. The second advance estimate of 2016/17 wheat production projected total wheat production for the 2016/17 season at 1,834,212 mt, a 5.6 percent increase compared to last year's production level.

DFSNs forecasted that during mid-March to mid-July 2017 no VDCs will be classified as severely food insecure (Phase 4). The number of VDCs likely to be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) will decrease to 31 (from 48 currently), and the number of VDCs likely to be classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2) will also decrease to 169 (from 183 currently). The breakdown is as follows:

- DFSNs projected that 31 VDCs (5 in Dhading, 5 in Sindhupalchowk, 11 in Gorkha, 3 in Kalikot, 7 in Dolpa) may be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3). Most of these VDCs are high altitude areas where winter cereal crops are sparsely grown and harvested later (end of June) and do not contribute significantly to household food stocks. With the onset of monsoon, many earthen roads and trails in the hills and mountains can be damaged, landslides can occur and transportation and supply chains disrupted.
- DFSNs predicted that 169 VDCs in 14 districts (12 in Dolakha, 10 in Kavrepalanchowk, 10 in Makwanpur, 20 in Nuwakot, 13 in Ramechhap, 2 in Rasuwa, 31 in Sindhupalchowk, 11 in Udayapur, 7 in Gorkha, 11 in Kalikot, 10 in Humla, 16 in Dolpa, 10 in Mugu, and 6 in Jajarkot) are likely to be classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2).
- DFSNs forecasted that all other VDCs/municipalities in the 74 districts will be classified as minimally food insecure (Phase 1). In those areas, households will have sufficient food stocks from the winter crop harvest and will continue to receive income through on-farm and off-farm sources. DFSNs do not anticipate any major shocks or disasters that would affect the food security situation except for the possibility of heavy rainfall during monsoon that could impact road access and supply chains in more remote areas.

Districts	PHASE 3		
	Number and name of VDCs classified as Phase 3		Estimated affected population
Humla	10	Dandafaya, Thehe, Kharpunath, Chhipra, Lali, Saya, Gothi, Melchham, Barain, and Shreemastha	15,300
Mugu	10	Dolphu, Jima, Hyanglu, Mangri, Pulu, Bhiyee, Natharpu, Kalai, Kimri, and Ruga	15,600
Kalikot	3	Thirpu, Dholagohe, and Kheen	13,000
Bajura	9	Bichhya, Rugin, Sappata, Wai, Jukot, Gotri, Jagannath, Bandhu, and Dahakot	32,800
Gorkha	11	Bihi, Chhekampar, Chumchet, Kashigaun, Kerauja, Lapu, Lho, Prok, Samagaun, Sirdibas, and Uhiya	3,400
Dhading	5	Tipling, Sertung, Lapa, ReeGaun, and Jharlang	7,000
TOTAL	48		87,100

Table 1: Number of VDCs classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and estimated affected population (Source: DFSNs)

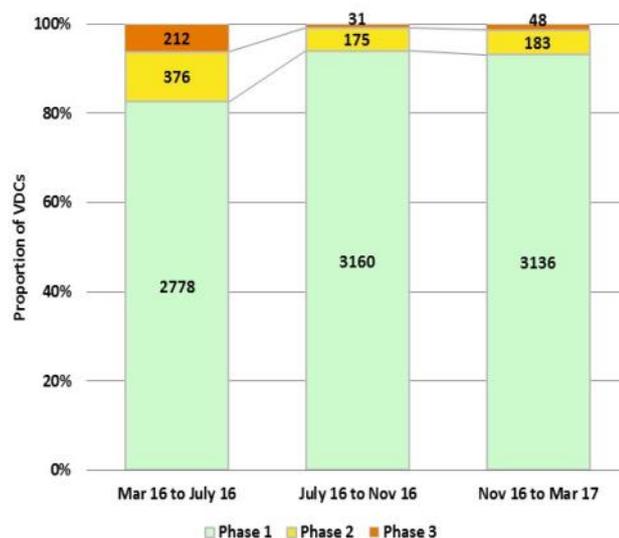


Figure 1: Number of VDCs by food security phase classification, March 2016 to March 2017 (Source: DFSNs)

Updates

- **NeKSAP District Food Security Network meetings:** MoAD organized District Food Security Network (DFSN) meetings in 74 of 75 districts in March 2017. Each DFSN analysed the food security situation in their district based on the NeKSAP integrated food security phase classification method (see below). Generally, DFSN phase classification outputs are validated and endorsed through MoAD's regular regional review workshops; however, due to the enforcement of the code of conduct for the local level election, these were not organized.
- **Food security response analysis (FSRA) events:** FSRA workshops were organized in Okhaldhunga (18-19 January), Panchthar (1-2 February), and Bhojpur (22-23 February) to review the status of food security response plans and integration in the respective District Development Plans. The full FSRA training was also organized in Sarlahi and Lalitpur, bringing the total number of districts where this has been done to 68 districts. A Training of Trainers workshop on NeKSAP IPC-acute and FSRA methods was organized (26 February-1 March) for government officials who will be mobilized to facilitate regional and district level refresher trainings from June onwards.
- **NeKSAP final evaluation:** In May and June, the European Union has commissioned an independent evaluation of the earlier NeKSAP project (2012-2016).

Background

The Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) operates nationwide, including District Food Security Networks in 74 of 75 districts (only Kathmandu district is not included). NeKSAP is implemented by the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) with the strategic guidance of the National Planning Commission (NPC). The World Food Programme (WFP) currently provides technical assistance for NeKSAP with funding from UK aid from the UK government. Additional partners include the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), FAO, UNICEF, the National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat (NNFSS), 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 use the NeKSAP integrated food security phase classification method to classify the severity and causes of acute food insecurity in Nepal every four months (March, July, November) and on an ad hoc basis in the event of a large-scale disaster, such as the April-May 2015 earthquakes.

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 2016 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 Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, should be consulted in conjunction with information from NeKSAP.

District food security information

The Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) monitors 74 districts across Nepal. The analytical outputs of the most recent round of DFSN meetings 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
Rusuwa
Makwanpur
Dhading
Lalitpur
Bhaktapur

Cluster 8. Eastern Hill and Mountain

Taplejung
Panchthar
Sankhuwasabha
Ilam
Okhaldhunga
Khotang
Dhankuta
Udayapur
Solukhumbu
Bhojpur
Terhathum



नेपाल खाद्य सुरक्षा अनुगमन प्रणाली
Nepal Khadhyo Surakshya Anugaman Pranali (NeKSAP)
Nepal Food Security Monitoring System



World Food Programme
wfp.org

Contacts and further information: NeKSAP website: www.neksap.org.np | NeKSAP email: info@neksap.org.np

Ministry of Agricultural Development
Food Security Monitoring Unit
Singh Durbar, Kathmandu
www.moad.gov.np

National Planning Commission
National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat
Singh Durbar, Kathmandu
www.npc.gov.np/new/eng/index.php

United Nations World Food Programme
Food Security Monitoring and Analysis Unit
Box 107, Chakupat, Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur
www.wfp.org/countries/nepal



This material has been funded by UK aid from the UK government; however the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the UK government's official policies.