



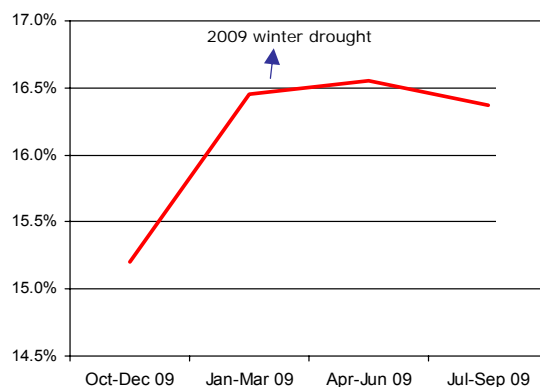
Nepal Food Security Bulletin

Issue 25, July - October 2009

Situation Summary

- The total number of food insecure people across Nepal is estimated to be 3.7 million, this represents approximately 16.4% of the rural population. WFP Nepal is feeding 1.6 million people which has had a significant impact on reducing this figure.
- July–August is typically a period of heightened food insecurity across Nepal. This year’s lean period was particularly severe in several areas of the country due to the 2008/09 winter drought which led to reduced household food stocks and in the worst affected areas household food shortages.
- During the coming months, short term food security should continue to improve across most of Nepal as the current harvest of summer crops (paddy, millet and maize) will be completed. However, the longer term outlook is that food security will decline within the next 6 months as summer crop production at a national level is expected to be generally weak. Poor summer crop production is the result of late plantation (caused by late monsoon rains) combined with erratic and generally low rainfall during the monsoon.
- Of the 476 households surveyed by WFP between July and September, summer crop losses of more than 40% of households. Of critical concern is the situation in Bajura, Achham, Darchula, Jumla, Humla, Mugu, Dailekh, Rukum, and Taplejung where the main summer crops (paddy, millet and/or maize) have failed by 30-70% across multiple VDCs. Of additional concern are VDCs within Kalikot, Dolpa, Rolpa, Makwanpur, Sindhuli, Udayapur, and Panchthar where at least one crop has failed by 30-70%. These areas will face a critical food security situation from January onwards as the population affected is very high.
- Across Nepal the current *food consumption* of 40% of households which reported a poor summer harvest or poor production outlook is already of serious concern; about half of these households have inadequate levels of consumption. In addition, 25% of surveyed households with no crop loss also have below acceptable levels of consumption.
- Rising food prices are still an issue of key concern. The current government year-on-year food price inflation figure is 16.7%. Further price spikes for staple grains are expected in early 2010 due to recent large scale crop losses in South and Central Asia.

Figure 1. Percentage of population food insecure



Hunger Overview

Food Security Cluster	Current Qtr.	Change over past	3 month outlook	6 month outlook
1. Karnali	●	→	↑	↓
2. Far-Western Hill and Mountain	●	→	↑	↓
3. Rapti-Bheri Hills	●	↑	↑	↓
4. Western Terai	●	→	→	→
5. Central & Eastern Terai	●	→	→	→
6. Western Hill and Mountain	●	→	→	→
7. Central Hill and Mountain	●	↑	→	→
8. Eastern Hill and Mountain	●	→	↑	→
Food insecure population	3.7 million	0.2% (decrease)	→	↓

Classification key See page 3 for more detailed classification explanation

- Generally food secure
- Highly food insecure
- Humanitarian emergency/ famine
- Moderately food insecure
- Severely food

The current food security situation is precarious in four Food Security Cluster regions.

Harvesting of the Summer crop, initiation of new WFP Food/Cash for Work programming and re-opening of roads after the monsoon will generally improve food security across most of Nepal in the short term.

However, due to poor summer crop production it is expected that the food security situation of many households in the most food insecure regions will diminish from January onwards.



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Nepal Food Security Monitoring System

For the latest information relating to Food Security in Nepal check out the NeKSAP Google Group: <http://groups.google.com/group/NeKSAP?hl=en>

Join the group and receive regular up to date information products.



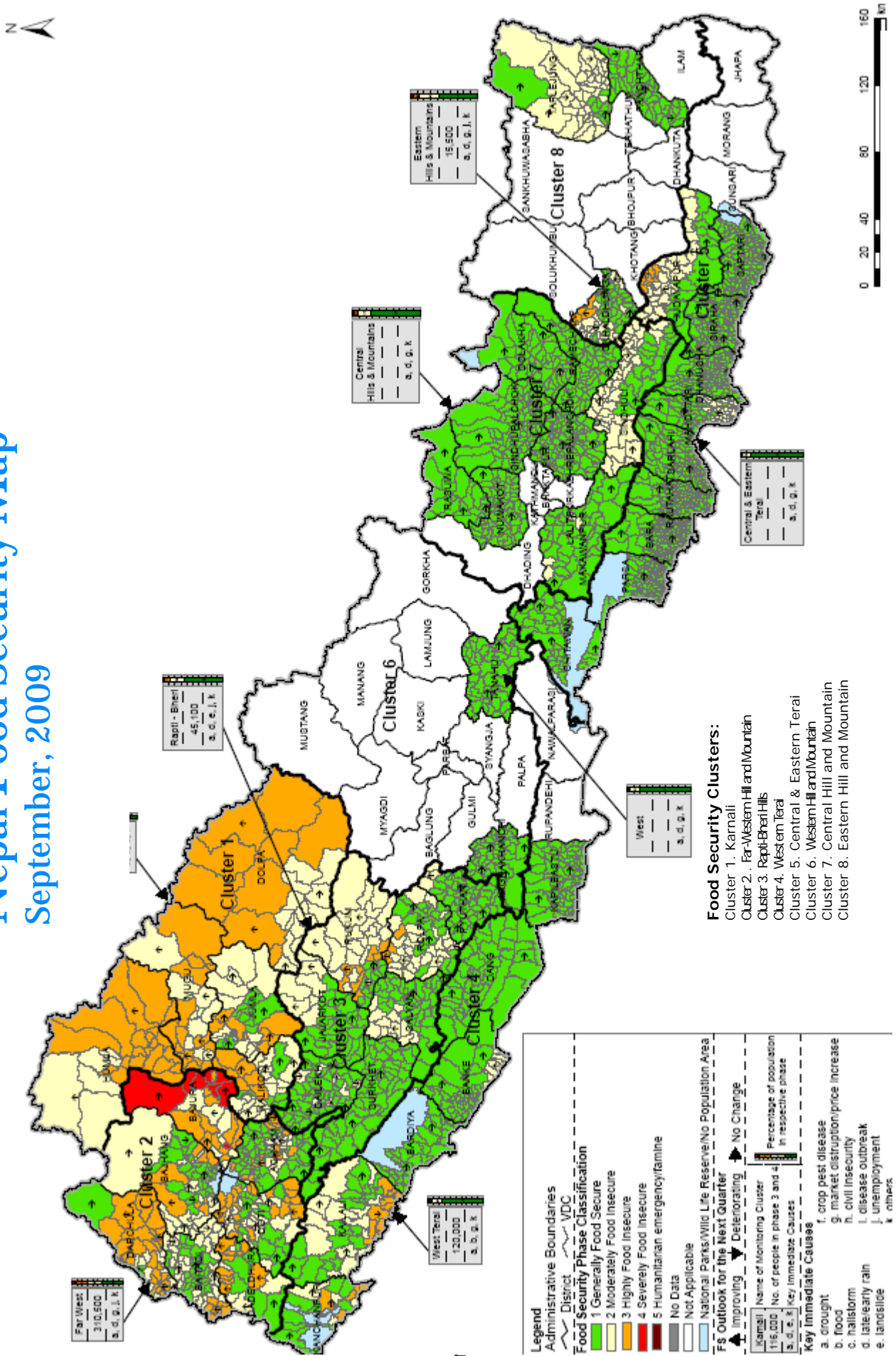
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Food Security Country Map

Nepal Food Security Map

September, 2009

Map 1.



An A3 size Food Security Country Map is available for download from the NeKSAP Google group: http://www.neksap.googlegroups.com/web/FSPMAP2009_3.pdf?



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Key Food Security Factors

Highly and severely food insecure populations

Across Nepal the current food insecure population is estimated by WFP to be 3.7 million*. As WFP Nepal is providing assistance to 1.6 million people this is having a significant impact on reducing the overall food insecurity figure which does not include households who are considered food secure due to WFP food assistance but would otherwise be food insecure. The table below provides estimated figures of concentrated populations living in highly or severely levels of food insecure areas identified by the District Food Security Networks. In these areas household consumption has drastically reduced and the household is undertaking severe and unsustainable coping mechanisms such as skipping meals, removing children from school and selling assets.

District/VDCs affected	Highly Food Insecure	Severely Food Insecure	% of total district population
	Phase 3	Phase 4	
Cluster 1. Karnali			
Jumla: GhodeMahadev, Tamti, Mallikathanta, Mahabe, Patarkhola, Sanigaun, Malikabota, and Bumramadichaur	21,000	0	20.00%
Humla: Syada, Dandaphaya, Thehe, Kharpunath, Chhipra, Lali, Raya, Sarkideu, Barain, Saya, Gothi, Rodikot, Melchham, ShreeMashta, Darma, Mimi, Jaira, Shreenagar, Madana, Kalika, and Mailla	33,000	0	70.00%
Mugu: Dhainakot, Kotdanda, Bhie, Natharpu, Photu, Jima, Ruga, Hyanglu, Kimri, Pulu, Dolphu, Sukadhik, Khamale, and Shrei	25,000	0	44.76%
Dolpa: Phoksundo, Kaigaun, Rimi, Mukot, Bhijer, Tinje, Saldang, Dho, and Chharka	7,500	0	22.65%
Kalikot: Dhoulagoha, Khina, Thirpu, Ramnakot, Nanikot, and Badalkot	29,500	0	24.14%
Cluster 2. Far-Western Hills and Mountains			
Bajhang: Dahabagar, Daulichaur, Gadaraya, Kailash, Masta, Rayal, Rilun, Bhatekhola, and Bhairabnath	20,500	0	14.15%
Bajura: Bichhiya, Bandhu, Gotri, Sappata, Rugin, Jagannath, Kuldevmandu, Wai (4-9), Wai (1-3), Jukot, Manakot, Chhatara, Toli, Jayabageshwari, Kotila, Antichaur, Dahakot, Brahmatola, Gudukhati, Jugada, Kolti, and Kailashmandu	62,100	30,600	75.12%
Darchula: Rapla, Ghunsha, Khandeshwori, Sunsera, Sitola, Guljar, Dhaulakot, Huti, PipalChaur, Eyarikot, Dhulligada, RaniShikhar, HunalNath, Dandakot, Kharkada, Hikila, Dhari, Brahmadev, Latinath, Tapoban, Seri, Sipti, Gwani, Boharigaun, RithaChaupata, Malikarjun, and Shankarpur	67,400	0	47.89%
Baitadi: Amchaur, Shivanath, Udayadev, Pancheshwor, Kulau, Mahakali, and Sarmali	15,500	0	5.86%
Dadeldhura: Gangkhet, Ajayameru, Chipur, DewalDibyapur, Koteli, Manilek, Belapur, Kailpalmandu, Ganeshpur, and Bhadrapur	19,600	0	7.40%
Doti: Chappali, Girichauka, Toleni, Warpata, Lanakedareshwor, Kanachaur, Dhanglagaun/Ghangel, Simchour, Gaguda, Pokhari, Gairagaun, Kedarakhada, Wagalek, Khatiwada, Daud, Kalikasthan, Tijali, Ganjari, Mannakapadi, and Dhirkamandu	56,300	0	23.11%
Achham: Nawathana, Marku, Timelsena, Janalikot, Chandika, Ridikot, Pullatola, Kalikasthan, Ghodasain, Birpath, Janalibandali, Kalekanda, Barala, Chafamandu, Khaptad, and Pataikot	38,500	0	14.75%
Cluster 3. Rapti-Bheri Hills			
Rolpa: Pachawang, Rangkot, and Bhirul/Mirul	7,800	0	3.30%
Rukum: Chunabang, Sankh, Purtimkanda, Jhula, Magma, AthbishDandagaun, and Garayala	37,300	0	17.03%
Cluster 4. Western Terai			
Kailali: Lalbhaji, Dansinghpur, Narayanpur, Jhapapur, Tikapur Municipality, Bhajani, Khalad, Hasuliya, Pavera, and Ratanpur	75,000	0	9%
Kanchanpur: Kalika, RampurBilasapur, DekhatBhuli, Tribhuvan Bast, and Parasani	45,000	0	8.85%
Cluster 8. Eastern Hills and Mountains			
Okhaldhunga: Rawadolu, Bhusinga, Patle, and Jantarkhani	5,700	0	3.32%
Udayapur: Thanagaun, Baraha, Bansbote, Tamlichha, Jante, and Balamta	9,800	0	2.77%
Sankhuwasabha: Keemathanka, Hatiya, Chepuwa, Pawakhola, Baneshwor, Yafu, Mangtewa, Tamku, Bala, and Sisuwakhola	There was no field surveillance during July-Sept.'09, 24,000 people were classified in Phase-3 during April-June'09		
TOTAL	576,500	30,600	14.51%

Food security classification:

- Phase 1. Food Secure – household has secure access to food.
- Phase 2. Moderately Food Insecure – household members have reduced their consumption, calorie and nutrient intake of household members is borderline sufficient. In addition, the household is undertaking coping mechanisms such as borrowing money and selling non productive assets.
- Phase 3. Highly Food Insecure – household members have significantly reduced their consumption, calorie and nutrient intake is highly deficient. In addition the household is undertaking irreversible coping mechanisms such as selling productive assets and taking children out of school.
- Phase 4. Severely Food Insecure – household members have significantly reduced their consumption, calorie and nutrient intake is highly deficient. The household has limited coping mechanisms left and is likely to be selling final assets/ land.
- Phase 5. Humanitarian Emergency - there is no opportunity for the household to gain access to food, leading to starvation if no intervention is made.

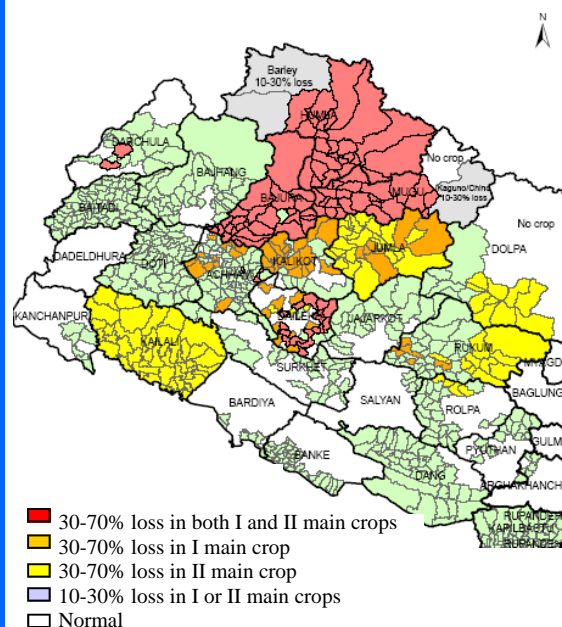
* A detailed description of methodology used by WFP to calculate food insecure is provided on the NeKSAP google group: http://neksap.googlegroups.com/web/Population_Tracking.pdf?hl=en&hl=en





Crop production

Map 2. Major failings in the summer crop



Source: WFP Food Security Monitoring Unit; household questionnaires and District Network meetings.

Summer crop situation

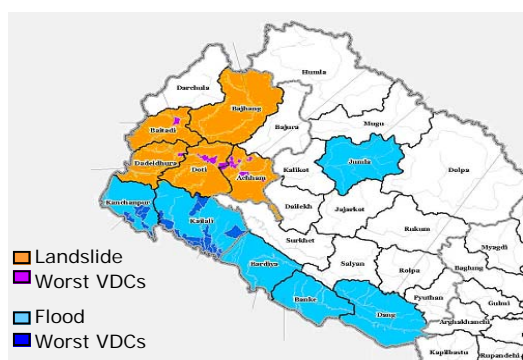
- Across much of Nepal the plantation of the major 2009 summer crops (paddy, millet and/or maize) were delayed due to the late arrival of required monsoon rains. Of almost 476 households surveyed by WFP during this cycle only 25% planted their primary crop on time and nearly 65% reported poor seed germination.
- The production outlook for the summer crop is generally below average across much of Nepal — due both to the late plantation and also generally poor and erratic rainfall levels. WFP household surveying during this cycle revealed that crop losses of more than 30% were expected by more than 40% of households. In addition, severe localised agricultural losses, particularly in the Western Terai, were caused by late monsoon flooding and landslides (see natural disaster section below).
- More than half of all households who had harvested maize during the survey period reported that their production was reduced by 30-70%.

Areas of critical concern

- Areas which have experienced serious crop losses include Bajura, Achham, Darchula, Jumla, Humla, Mugu, Dailekh, Rukum, and Taplejung where both of the main crops have failed by 30-70% across multiple VDCs. Once a crop is reduced by 30% or more it is likely to cause a major problem to household food security, depending on what other livelihood opportunities households have available. Of additional concern are VDCs within Kalikot, Dolpa, Rolpa, Makwanpur, Sindhuli, Udayapur, and Panchthar where at least one crop has failed by 30-70%.
- The affected districts in the Mid to Far Western Hills and Mountains, Karnali and Rapti-Bheri Hills are of most concern. The food security situation in these regions is generally weak and therefore there are limited coping mechanisms and livelihood opportunities available. It is expected that without food assistance the households which have faced crop losses will face a critical food security situation from January onwards as the summer harvest will not be sufficient to adequately replenish seriously depleted household stocks. In addition, the coverage and percentage of the population affected is very high in these regions.

Natural disasters

Map 3. Early October flooding and landslides



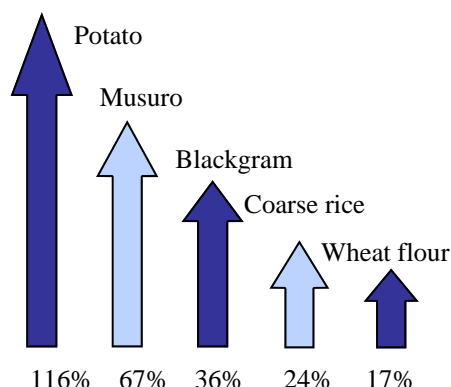
Source: OCHA Natural Disaster Update October 2009

- Intense rainfall during the final week of July caused significant landslides and flooding that impacted nearly 800 households. This included the loss of 13 lives and displacement of 180 people from Sankhuwasabha.
- Heavy rainfall during the 4th-6th August caused problems in most of the districts in the Far-Western region. More than 12,000 households were displaced and 2 people died in Kailali, 2,500 households were displaced and 3 people died in Kanchanpur, and more than 2,500 households were displaced in Banke. Paddy crop was also badly damaged in these districts.
- Heavy rainfall during the 14th -17th August caused major problems in Mahottari in the Eastern Terai. An estimated 35 hectares of paddy field was damaged in KihuwaBagiya and KhuttaPipradi VDCs.
- Late and unexpected monsoon rainfall in the West of Nepal caused landslides and flooding that impacted over 18,000 households and caused over 60 deaths. In Kailali and Kanchanpur 43,000 people have been left highly and severely food insecure due to crop losses and destruction of livelihoods.



Markets

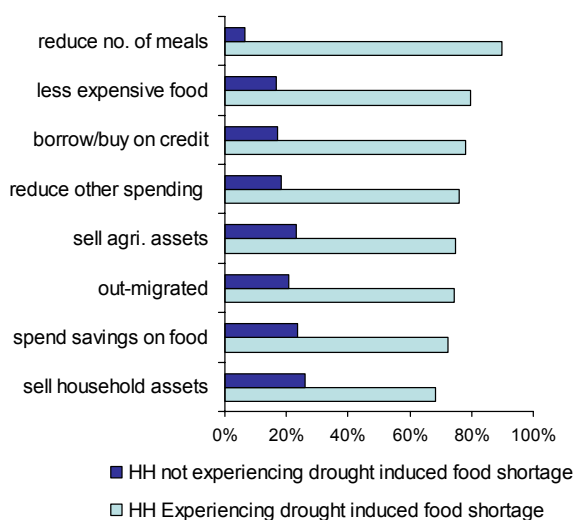
Figure 2. 18 month national price increase April 2008— October 2009



- During the current monitoring period supply to many hill and mountain markets was blocked by heavy rainfall, flooding and land-slides. The supply situation in the Mid to Far Western Hills and Mountains and Karnali was particularly bad. Poor local crop production drastically increased reliance on markets in these regions, and supply has not been sufficient to meet demand in many areas. During October 60% of mountain markets surveyed by WFP reported having insufficient supply of staple food items.
- During the past 18 month period, since the peak of the major international food crisis, the price of key commodities has continued to increase in Nepal: potato is up by 116%, musuro (broken lentil) by 67%, blackgram by 36%, coarse rice by 24% and wheat flour by 17%.
- Natural disasters have caused substantial regional crop losses in India, Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines. The consequence of such losses means that the price of imported grains, especially rice, is likely to increase significantly in early 2010 compared to prior year prices.

Household food security

Figure 3. Coping strategies employed by surveyed households



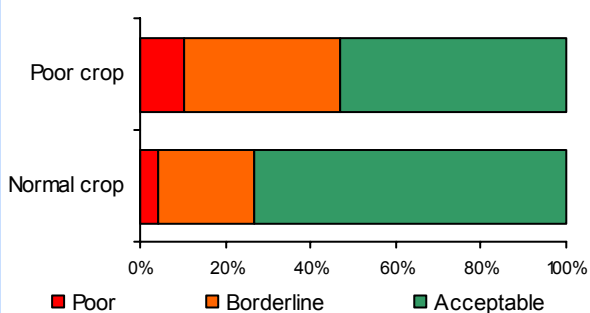
Household vulnerability

- Between July—October drought caused the greatest shock to household food security and affected 47% of households. Eighty-five percent of households affected by drought subsequently experienced a household food shortage (this represents approximately 40% of the rural/regional households surveyed by WFP).

Household coping

- The winter drought caused a large percentage of affected households to undertake severe levels of coping. Of households surveyed by WFP, 60% had shifted to less expensive—and typically less nutritious food, almost 40% of households were selling assets and around 5% of households had removed a child from school to work. A comparison of coping mechanisms employed by households who had experienced a food shortage due to drought compared to those who had not is provided in Figure 3.
- In the worst drought affected districts of the Karnali, Western Hills and Mountains and Rapti-Bheri Hills where the food security situation is typically weak already, household food stocks were largely depleted prior to the start of the summer harvest across multiple VDCs. Households in these areas were largely relying on borrowing money to purchase food or buying food on credit. Of serious concern is that these districts also face the bleakest summer crop production outlook.

Figure 4. Food consumption status for households with poor and normal crop harvest



40% of households surveyed are affected by poor summer crop production.

Household consumption

- Across Nepal the *food consumption score* of the 40% of households which reported a poor summer harvest and/or production outlook indicates that almost 50% of these households already have below acceptable levels of consumption. This level of consumption is not enough to meet the basic nutritional needs of adults and if sustained can result in malnutrition, stunting and wasting amongst children.
- Of critical concern are the 15% of households surveyed (both drought and non drought affected) who have *poor* consumption; this indicates a diet limited to basic grains and with very limited or no regular intake of pulses, vegetables or oils.

Food security outlook

Household food production

- Short term food security should generally improve across much of Nepal as the main summer crops of paddy, maize and millet will continue to be harvested over the coming months. Supply to rural and remote hill and mountain areas is likely to also improve following the re-opening of major roads which were closed due to monsoon damage.
- However, summer crop production across much of Nepal was affected by late and erratic monsoon rains and is expected to be reduced by between 10-30% nationally. The worst affected areas are the Western Hills and Mountains, the Karnali, the Rapti-Bheri Hills and the Eastern Hills and Mountains. In these areas multiple districts have experienced crop losses of over 30%.
- Summer crop production in the Terai was generally within the range of normal. However, the districts of Saptari, Siraha, Kapilbastu, Dang, Kailali and Kanchinpur experienced crop losses in the range of 10-30% across multiple VDCs. Kailali and Kanchinpur were particularly affected by late monsoon flooding which caused significant damage to crops and has weakened the food security outlook in these districts.
- Of critical concern is the situation in Bajura, Achham, Darchula, Jumla, Humla, Mugu, Dailekh, Rukum and Taplejung where both of the main crops have failed by 30-70% across multiple VDCs. Once a crop is reduced by 30% or more it causes major problems to food security. Of additional concern, are VDCs within Kalikot, Dolpa, Rolpa, Makwanpur, Sindhuli, Udayapur, and Panchtharone where at least one crop has failed by 30-70%.
- These areas will be facing a critical food security situation from January onwards as the coverage and people affected are very high. As these areas have been affected by multiple periods of drought the ability for households to cope with the situation has been significantly reduced. Many households are already facing high or severe levels of food insecurity despite it currently being harvest season.

Market functioning & food prices

- Rising food prices are still an issue of key concern. The current government year-on-year food price inflation figure is 16.7%. Following the end of the Monsoon period market functioning and supply should generally improve and this will lead to lower food transportation costs. However, increased demand on markets in areas affected by summer crop losses will likely keep prices higher than during a good harvest year.
- Natural disasters have caused substantial regional crop losses in India, Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines. The consequence of such losses means that the price of imported grains, especially rice, is likely to increase significantly in early 2010 compared to prior year prices. If domestic fuel prices increase (due to rising international prices) this will likely lead to further price increases in regional and remote areas due to increased transportation costs.

Detailed district food security information

The Nepal Food Security and Monitoring System (NeKSAP) regularly monitors 54 districts across Nepal. This information forms the basis for this bulletin. Detailed food security bulletins are available in English and Nepalese for all districts noted by an asterisk, these are available for download from the NeKSAP google group <http://groups.google.com/group/NeKSAP/web/food-security-bulletin-2?hl=en>. Reports for some of the most food insecure districts (where over 40% of the district is highly or severely food insecure) are provided as an appendix to this report.

Cluster 1. Karnali

Dolpa*
Humla*
Jumla*
Kalikot*
Mugu*

Cluster 2. 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

Banke*
Bardiya*
Dang*
Kailali*
Kanchanpur*
Kapilbastu*

Cluster 5. Eastern Terai

Bara*
Chitwan*
Dhanusa*
Mahottari*
Parsa*
Rautahat*
Saptari*
Sarlahi*
Siraha*
Udayapur*

6. Western Hill and Mountain

Gorkha
Lamjung
Tanahu
Arghakhanchi*
Parbat
Baglung
Myagdi

7. Central Hill and Mountain

Sindhuli*
Ramechhap*
Dolakha*
Sindhupalchok*
Kabrepalanchok*
Nuwakot*
Rusuwa*
Makawanpur*

8. Eastern Hill and Mountain

Taplejung*
Panchthar*
Sankhuwasabha
Okhaldunga*

This Food Security Bulletin is based on (i) data collected from 476 households (Hill: 166 households, Mountain: 195 households, Terai: 115 households) during July-early October 2009 as a part of the Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP), (ii) District Food Security Network Meetings across 54 districts of Nepal held by NeKSAP, and (iii) other information sources as referenced.



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