



Nepal Food Security Bulletin

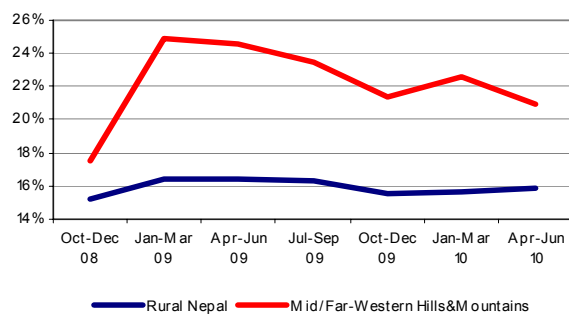
Issue 28, August 2010

Situation Summary

Nutrition bulletin will be issued as a separate product from this monitoring cycle.

- The food security situation in the Mid and Far Western Hill and Mountain (M&FWHM) districts remains of major concern: winter crop production of wheat and barley were severely affected by localized natural disasters during the pre-harvesting period in late March-April. Production losses of above 50 percent were reported in the following districts: Bajura, Achham, Humla, Mugu, and Kalikot (drought); Rukum (heavy snowfall) and Dailekh (hailstorm).
- Six VDCs in upper Dolpa became highly food insecure as households depleted their food stock and could not replenish their food supply. Households in this area were particularly affected by the death of more than 200 yaks in a snow avalanche in February 2010. In addition, the *Yarchagumba* (medicinal herb) collection was reportedly reduced by 40 percent in the district. An improved food security situation was reported in Doti and Darchula due to a normal to moderate winter crop production, collection of herbs (*Yarchagumba*) and support from development aid agencies such as WFP, FAO, PAF and Practical Action.
- The rest of the country is in general food secure due to: normal level of winter crop production of wheat, barley and potatoes; income from sale of livestock and livestock products as well as sale of cash crops including vegetables and fruits (e.g. mango, babio, banana, lichi); wage labour opportunities through government and/or non-government schemes; and income from tourism industry especially in high altitude areas of Mustang, Gorkha and Rasuwa.
- Major summer crops of paddy and maize are in the growing stage and the production outlook is overall normal across the country except pockets in Eastern, Mid- and Far-Western Hill and Mountain regions where plantation and early growing stage of summer crops have been severely affected by late and insufficient rainfall.
- Flood and landslide disasters have affected a significant number of population across the country. Emergency assistance for the affected population has been provided through local institutions. Impact of the floods on summer crop production is yet to be assessed.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC) reported that the 2009/10 winter crop production increased by 16 percent compared to last year. Following the poor summer crop production, the 2009/2010 national edible cereal balance is estimated to be 316,465MT deficit, which is 140 percent higher than last year and by far the largest deficit of the past decade.
- The NeKSAP District Food Security Networks in the Mid and Far Western and the Eastern Development Regions have identified altogether 167 VDCs in 15 districts that are highly food insecure. The estimated population of food insecure decreased by only 1.7 percent in the Mid and Far Western regions compared to the previous quarter, despite the harvest (Figure 1). Seventy-five percent of the population in Humla are facing a high level of food insecurity and 64 percent in Bajura. Other districts facing a high level of food insecurity include Mugu, Kalikot, Jumla, Dolpa, Dailekh, Rukum, Achham, Doti, Bajhang, Baitadi, Okhaldhunga, Khotang, and Udayapur.

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	Severely food insecure	→	↓	↑
2. Far-Western Hill and Mountain	Highly food insecure	→	↓	↑
3. Rapti-Bheri Hills	Moderately food insecure	→	→	↑
4. Western Terai	Moderately food insecure	→	↓	↑
5. Central & Eastern Terai	Food secure	→	↓	↑
6. Western Hill and Mountain	Moderately food insecure	→	→	↑
7. Central Hill and Mountain	Moderately food insecure	→	→	↑
8. Eastern Hill and Mountain	Moderately food insecure	→	→	↑
Food insecure population (FMWHM)	3.6 mln	→	↓	↑

Classification key See page 3 for more detailed classification explanation

- Food secure (Green circle)
- Moderately food insecure (Yellow circle)
- Highly food insecure (Orange circle)
- Severely food insecure (Red circle)
- Humanitarian emergency/ famine (Red circle with exclamation mark)

In highly food insecure areas households have already depleted, or have very small stock left (<1 month) from the 2009/10 winter harvest. People are coping with heavy borrowing of money and/or food.

Assistance programmes including WFP Food/Cash for Work have mitigated a further deterioration in food security among vulnerable populations.

Paddy plantation is ongoing and maize is at the growing stage. The production of maize is anticipated to be moderately impaired due to the late rainfall affecting the plantation and early growing stage. Harvesting of the maize in September and paddy in November is expected to improve the food security situation in the short-term.

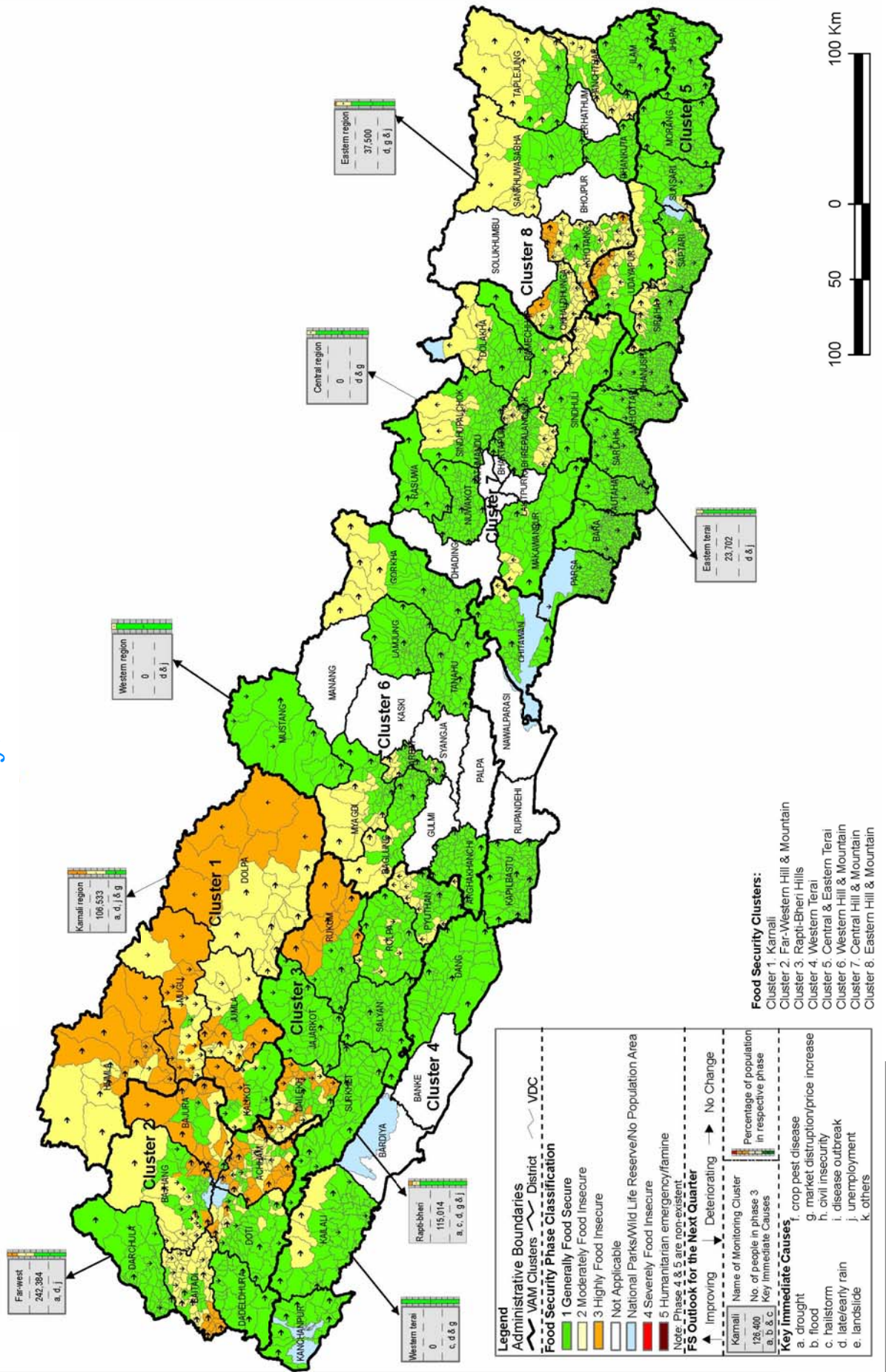




Nepal Food Security Map

July, 2010

Map 1.



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



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Highly & Severely Food Insecure Populations

Highly and severely food insecure populations

Across Nepal, the population of moderately, highly and severely food insecure is estimated by WFP to be 3.6 million, out of which the food insecure population in the M&FWHM districts account for 0.6 million. The number has been slightly decreased in the MFWHM districts due to the winter crop harvest being mostly normal.

The table below provides estimated figures of concentrated populations experiencing a high/severe level of food insecurity in the food insecure districts across Nepal (reported by the District Food Security Networks). At these levels of food insecurity households consume a poor and inadequate diet and are undertaking severe and often irreversible coping strategies such as reducing the size of the meals, preferring less preferred food, heavy borrowing and selling of assets. The District Food Security Networks identified a total of 442,000 people (409,200 in the M&FWHM districts) as highly food insecure residing in areas classified as phase 3. The 0.6 million food insecure estimated by WFP includes people living in areas classified as phase 1 or 2.

District/VDCs affected	Highly Food Insecure	Severely Food Insecure	% of total district population
	Phase 3	Phase 4	
Cluster 1. Karnali			
Jumla: MahabePatarkhola (1, 6-9), Narakot (5-9), GhodeMahadev, Malikatanta, Tamti, BumraMadichaur, Malikabota, Shanigaun, and Kalikakhetu	23,000	0	21.9%
Humla: Barain, Saya, Gothi, Rodikot, Melchham, ShreeMashta, Darma, Mimi, Jaira, Shreenagar, Madana, Kalika, Maila, Lali, Chhipra, Kharpunath, Thehe, Syada, and Dandaphaya	37,300	0	74.9%
Mugu: Dhainakot, Bhie, Natharpu, Photu, Jima, Ruga, Hyanglu, Kimri, Pulu, Dolphu, Khamale, Mangri (5-9), Shari (1-5), and Shreekot (6-9)	24,300	0	43.6%
Kalikot: Dhoulagoha, Khina, Thirpu, Ramnakot, Nanikot, and Badalkot (3-9)	24,700	0	20.2%
Dolpa: Saldang, Tinje, Bhijer, Chharka, Mukot, and Dho	6,700		19.7%
Cluster 2. Far-Western Hills and Mountains			
Bajhang: Sunikot (1-9), Kotdewal (1-8), Maulali, Kailash, Gadaraya, Mashta, Parakatne, and Dangaji	21,500	0	11.2%
Bajura: Sappata, Rugin, Jagannath, Wai, Bichhiya, Bandhu (1-5), Jukot, Manakot, Chhatara, Jayabageshwari, Antichaur, Dahakot, Gudukhati, Kailashmandu, Dogadi, and Kanda	79,500	0	64.4%
Baitadi: Amchaur, Shivanath, Udayadev, Pancheshwor, Kulau, Bilashpur, Melauli, Sharmali, and Mahakali	25,200	0	9.5%
Doti: Chappali, Girichauka, and Wagalek	8,100	0	3.3%
Achham: Kalekanda, Khaptad, Patakot, Devasthan, Kuskot, Thanti, Rishidaha, Dhungachalna, Payal, Seudi, Balata, Warala, Sutar, Bindhyabasini, Babla, Bhairabsthan, Bhatakatya, Sodashadevi, Basti, Hichma, Nandegada, Saukat, Layanti, Raniban, Budakot, and Dhakari	69,100	0	26.5%
Cluster 3. Rapti-Bheri Hills			
Dailekh: Badalamji, Salleri, Baluwatar, ChhiudiPusakot (6-9), Rum, Piladi, Badabhairab, Singhasain, Lakanadra, Pipalkot, Lalikanda, Jambukandh, Pagnath, Chauratha, Awalparajul, and Naumule	53,100	0	20.4%
Rukum: Sisne, Hukam, RanmaMaikot, Gotamkot, Syalakhadi, Rangsi, Chunbang, Mahat, Kol, Pwang, Jang, and Taksera	36,700	0	16.8%
Cluster 8. Eastern Hills and Mountains			
Okhaldhunga: Rawadolu, Bhusinga, Patle, and Jantarkhani	4,400	0	2.5%
Khotang: Jaleshwori, Bakachaul, Rakhabel, Sungdel, Dipsung, Aiselukharka, Sapteshwor, Chyasmitar, Dikuwa, and Bopung	23,900	0	9.7%
Udayapur: Thanagaun (6,8), Baraha (2,3, 5-7), Banskote (4-7, 9), Tamlichha (3,5, 7-9), Jante (2,5), Laphagaun (1-3, 7), Balamta (1, 7-9)	4,500	0	1.3%
TOTAL THIS QUARTER ACROSS NEPAL	442,000	0	
Far and Mid Western Hill and Mountain THIS QUARTER	409,200	0	
Far and Mid Western Hill and Mountain LAST QUARTER	445,400	14,100	
DIFFERENCE	-8.1%	-100%	

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.



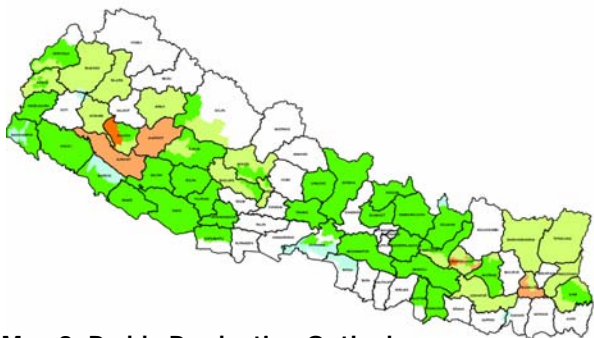


Crop production

Table 1. Winter Crop Production

	2009/2010		2008/2009	2007/2008
	Production (MT)	% Change from Last Year	Production (MT)	Production (MT)
Wheat	1,556,539	15.8%	1,343,862	1,572,065
Barley	27,587	18.8%	23,224	28,082

Map 2. Maize Production Outlook



Map 3. Paddy Production Outlook

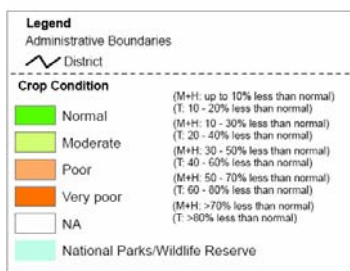
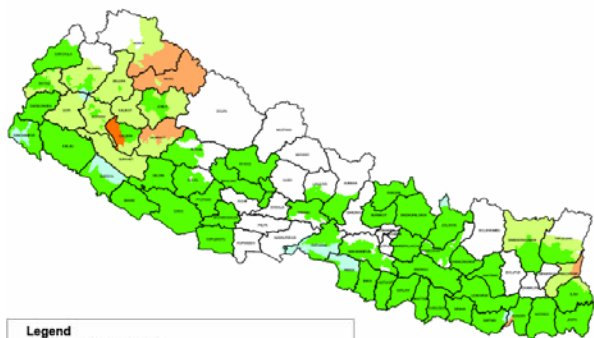
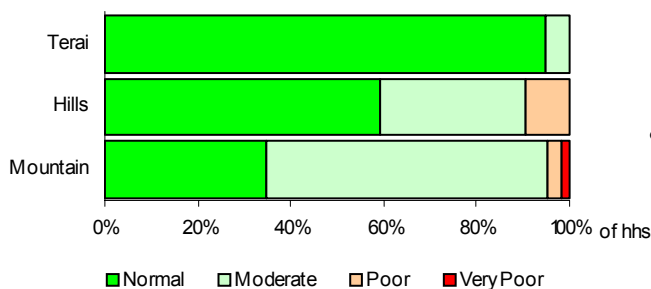


Figure 2. Household Perception of Maize Crop Production Outlook by Eco-Belt



Domestic situation

- According to MOAC preliminary estimates, the 2009/2010 winter crop production increased by 16 percent for wheat and 19 percent for barley compared to last year (Table 1). It is worth mentioning that last year's winter harvest was one of the worst on record due to severe drought and that the 2009/2010 winter production was slightly lower than the 2007/2008 season. Winter crops account for about 20 percent of annual national cereal production. Following the poor summer crop production, the FY 2009/2010 national edible cereal food balance is estimated to be a deficit of 316,465 MT (MOAC preliminary estimate as of May 2010), by far the largest over the past decade.
- Despite the reasonable national winter crop production, pocket areas experienced a high level of crop loss. Fifty to seventy percent losses were reported in 13 VDCs in southern and eastern Humla as well as VDCs in north-western Mugu and 30 percent losses were reported in VDCs in north-eastern Bajura.
- Paddy and maize are the main summer crops in Nepal. Paddy plantation is generally completed and maize is in the growing stage. According to the District Agriculture Development Offices (DADOs), the production outlook of these two crops are thought to be generally normal across most of the country but moderately to severely impaired in some pockets. Harvest is expected to take place in September for maize and November for paddy across most of Nepal.
- The household survey conducted across rural Nepal for the purpose of this report confirms the data from the DADO. Maize crop production outlook as perceived by households are normal or moderate overall, except small proportion of households in hill and mountain eco-belts anticipate poor or very poor production (Figure 2).
- The areas expecting significant summer crop losses are in Eastern, Mid and Far Western Hill and Mountain districts. Late and insufficient rainfall severely affected the plantation and the early stage of growing of maize in these areas. Maize plantation was delayed by more than one month in Jajarkot and Surkhet as well as parts of Dailekh, Okhaldhunga and Dhankuta. In Bajura, maize was planted in only 80 percent of the cultivable area due to lack of rain.
- In addition to late rains, heavy rains and related flood and landslides have damaged paddy seed-beds in Jumla (Mahabepatakhola and Kalikakhetu VDCs), paddy field in Jhapa, Udayapur (Tapeshwari, Sundarpur, Hadiya, and Jogidaha) and Kailali (Lalbhoji, Fulbari, and RamShikharpur). Strong wind affected standing maize crop in the northern part of Dailekh.

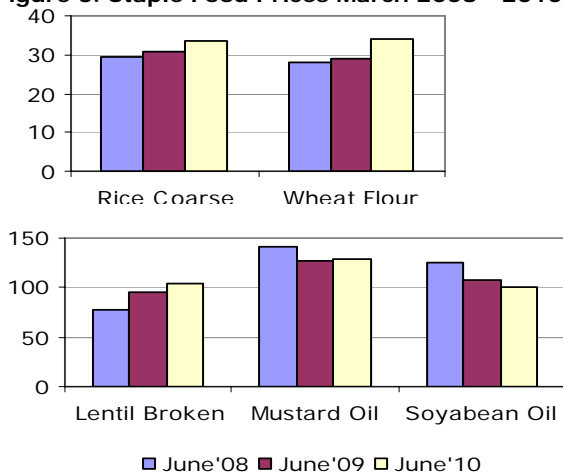
Regional/International Situation

- India food grain production in FY 2009-2010 is estimated to be 218.2 million MT, a reduction of 16 million MT from the record-high production in FY 2008-2009. The country experienced a severe drought during the summer of 2009, which resulted in a low production of kharif rice, groundnuts and coarse cereals. The 2009-2010 winter season hit a record of 80.71 million MT wheat production, marginally higher than the earlier best of 80.68 million MT in 2008-2009 season.
- The Government of India (GoI) has approved exporting a total of 300,000MT of rice and wheat to Bangladesh and Nepal to meet its diplomatic commitments, according to media report in July 2010. Earlier in February 2010, the GoI allowed shipment of 50,000MT of wheat to Nepal. Although the GoI has not decided to lift its ongoing export ban of wheat and rice, high levels of domestic food stocks and expectations of a bumper harvest this year (2010-2011) have now given the GoI more leeway to consider exports.



Markets

Figure 3. Staple Food Prices March 2008 - 2010



- Year on year (y-o-y) food price inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, moderated to 11.3 percent in mid-June 2010 compared to 19 percent in the corresponding period last year. However, the sustained rate of food price inflation is still of high concern, particularly as y-o-y food price increases are highest for staple food items, such as grains and cereal products (14.1 percent, compared to an increase of 6.6 percent last year).
- During the monitoring cycle (April-June 2010), market prices for staple winter crop food items, such as wheat and barley, declined following the winter harvest which took place in bulk between end of March and April.
- A six day nation wide strike wreaked havoc on markets across Nepal in May. Market opening hours were restricted to 6-8pm and closure of markets including small shops were observed by WFP field monitors in all the districts monitored. The hills and mountains were the most affected by supply constraints, on the final day of the strike the worst affected districts reportedly had only 3-7 days food supply left in stock for key food items. These were typically the remote districts of: Humla, Mugu, Jumla, Bajura, Accham, Doti, Jajarkot, Bajhang. This was of significant concern as the transportation lag time to some of these areas is many days.

Household food security

Figure 4. Wheat Production Outcome

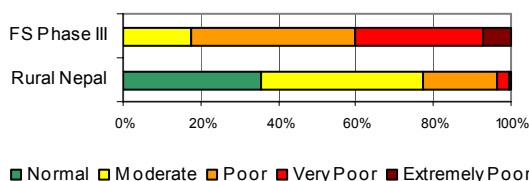
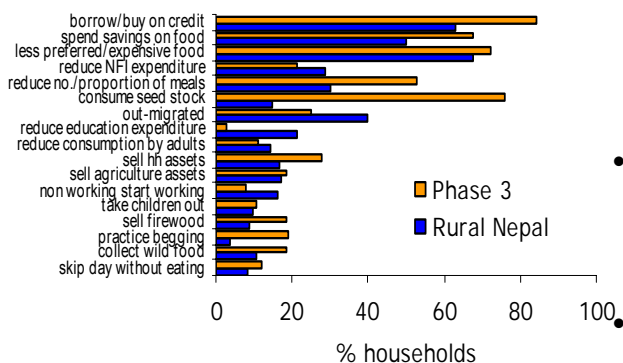


Figure 4. Main Coping Strategies (Apr-Jun 2010)

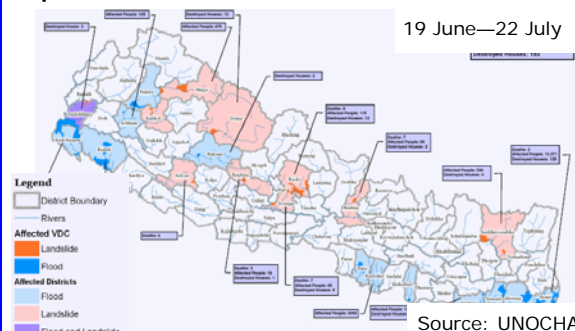


- The major cause of household food insecurity during the monitoring cycle was attributed to poor winter crop production caused by drought or irregular rainfall. The majority of the households in Phase 3 VDCs reportedly had extremely/very poor or poor wheat production (Figure 4). Drought or irregular rainfall was cited as the major shock experienced by households in food insecure VDCs, followed by crop pest and food price increase.
- When faced with the food shock caused by poor production, households cope through heavy borrowing, consuming seed stock, eating less preferred/expensive food, reducing the number or portion of meals and spend savings on food (Figure 5). It is worth mentioning that the contribution of income generated through external assistance including development aid work and cash/food for work is as high as 15 percent among the households in Phase 3 VDCs compared to 2 percent across rural Nepal. This is to say that external assistance has contributed to mitigating a further deterioration of the food security situation among the food insecure communities.
- Household major cash income sources during the April-June cycle were: wage labor, sale of crops, remittances and sale of livestock. There is no notable change in the sources of income compared to the January-March cycle across rural Nepal except an increase of wage labor in the mountain region: the proportion of households participated in wage labor was increased by 13 percent.

Yarchagumba (medicinal herb) collection was at its peak during May-June in high altitude areas. The herb collection was decreased by 40 percent and 30 percent compared to last year in Dolpa and Dalchula respectively, among the foremost areas for collecting the herb. Peak of sale is expected to take place in August when the Tibetan border opens for locals to trade commodities.

Natural Disasters

Map 4. Flood/Landslide Affected Area



- Flood and landslide disasters affected a total of 22,086 people in 22 districts between the period of 19th June—22nd July (UNOCHA, July 2010, Map 4). Emergency assistants for the affected population has been provided through local institutions including the Nepal Red Cross Society.
- Hailstorm occurred in April reportedly caused winter crop loss in Dailekh, Jumla and Mugu.





Food security outlook

- **Bajura and Humla** continue to be of high concern, high levels of food insecurity is experienced by 79,500 people in Bajura and 37,300 people in Humla (64 percent and 75 percent of respective district populations). WFP food/cash for work programmes and support from other development agencies have mitigated a further deterioration of food security among the vulnerable population. Other districts of concern are: Dolpa, Mugu, Kalikot, Jumla, Dailekh, Achham, Doti, Bajhang, Baitadi, Rukum, Okhaldhunga, Khotang, and Udayapur. The food security situation in these districts will remain critical until the next harvest.
- **Summer crops** will be harvested in September (maize) and November (paddy and millet) and the production outlook is normal to moderate overall. However, in the Eastern, Mid and Far Western Hill and Mountain regions the summer crop production outlook is poor due to late and insufficient rainfall and/or localized natural disasters. Production loss of 30-50 percent are anticipated in Humla, Mugu, Dailekh, Jajarkot, Surkhet, Bajura, Okhaldhunga and Dhankuta.
- The period July to September is the traditional **hunger season** across Nepal. In food insecure areas household food stock will be depleted, income generating opportunities are limited and physical access to market will be hampered during monsoon. Traditional coping strategies during the period include: **seasonal out-migration** and **sale of livestock**.
- **Wage employment** will remain the main income source during the next quarter as this is the peak season for paddy plantation and other local crops. **Sale of NTFP** (Non-Timber Forest Product) continues over the next cycle: households in Darchula, Bajhang, Dolpa, Mugu, Jumla, Rukum, Jajarkot) are expecting to earn some income from the sale of *Yarchagumba*.
- During monsoon, many major supply roads and trails leading into the hill and mountain areas will continue to be hindered due to landslides caused by rain. The **road impassability** is particularly bad in the Mid and the Far West of Nepal: the Karnali highway to Jumla, the only major road that serves the remote districts of the Karnali, has become completely blocked. It is expected that **food prices** in remote mountain areas will continue to increase until after the monsoon is over.
- **Political instability** may cause market disruption over the coming months as the political deadlock persists following the Prime Minister's resignation.
- **India** is expecting a record rice production of 100 million MT in 2010-2011 crop year. According to media reports, the ample cereal stock and the expected bumper harvest may encourage the government of India to ease the cereal export ban.
- Cases of **water-borne diseases** including dysentery, cholera, typhoid, giardia etc. are expected to rise further over the coming months. **Child acute malnutrition** is anticipated to increase as the hunger season progresses and water-borne diseases become more prominent.

Detailed district food security information

The Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) currently monitors 53 districts across Nepal. This information forms the basis for this bulletin. Detailed food security bulletins are available in English* and Nepalese 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 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
Sarlaha
Siraha
Sunsari

6. Western Hill and Mountain

Gorkha
Lamjung
Tanahu
Arghakhanchi
Gulmi
Parbat
Baglung
Myagdi

7. Central Hill and Mountain

Sindhuli
Ramechhap
Dolakha*
Sindhupalchok
Kabrepalanchok
Nuwakot
Rusuwa
Makawanpur

8. Eastern Hill and Mountain

Taplejung
Panchthar
Sankhuwasabha
Ilam
Okhaldunga*
Khotang*
Dhankuta
Udayapur*

This Food Security Bulletin is based on (i) data collected from 1,094 households (Hill: 493 households, Mountain: 370 households, Terai: 231 households) during April-June 2010 as a part of the Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP), (ii) NeKSAP District Food Security Network Meetings across 53 districts of Nepal, and (iii) other information sources as referenced.



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