



Editorial

The ongoing drought and adverse weather conditions continue to affect the food security situation across the country. In its latest crop and food security assessment report, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives estimates a food grain shortage of almost 190,000 Mt for the year 2006/2007. It calls for food aid requirements of around 40.5 thousand Mt to be targeted to the neediest communities in order to assist them in overcoming the lean period before harvesting the main winter crops in May/June 2007. The assessment recommends for WFP to continue and expand its Emergency Operation to cover the areas where crop production is most affected.

Section 1 of this bulletin provides an update on the current food security hotspots. Targeted relief interventions and the harvesting of the summer crop in areas previously identified as highly food insecure (see Food Security Bulletin, Issue 15) have resulted in several changes to communities classified as phase 3 (warning level) and 4 (acute crisis).

Section 2 provides details on WFP's targeting plan for the extensions of the current emergency operation in the Far- and Mid-West. As soon as the political situation allows, the most severely drought-affected communities in Saptari, Siraha and Udayapur in the

Eastern Terai will be included in the operation.

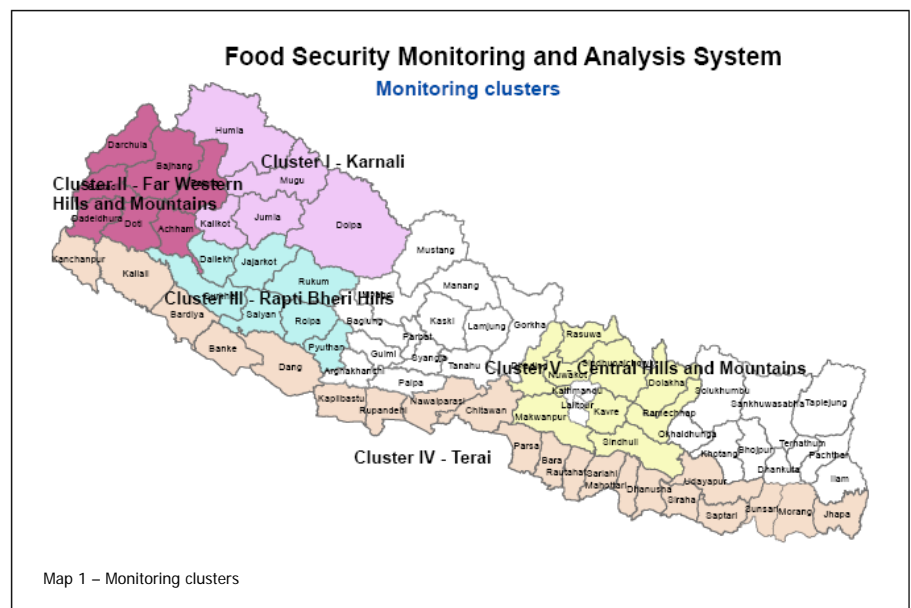
During the monitoring cycle November – December 2006, WFP field monitors collected household level information regarding food availability, livelihoods, food access, consumption and vulnerability from a sample of 1,230 households across WFP's 5 monitoring clusters (Map 1). The outcome of this monitoring survey is presented in Section 3-6. When interpreting the outcomes, please note that not all districts in the Terai (cluster 4) and the Central Hills and Mountains (cluster 5) are currently covered under the WFP Food Security Monitoring and Analysis System. Conclusions drawn are

therefore restricted to the following districts in these clusters:

Terai – Bardiya, Banke, Rupandehi, Nawalparasi, Parsa, Bara, Mahottari, Dhanusha, Siraha and Saptari.

Central Hills and Mountains – Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha, Kavre, Ramechhap and Makwanpur.

The latest information with regard to the crop situation and market developments will be presented in separate field updates in the coming weeks.



Food Security Hot Spots

FOOD SECURITY PHASE MAP

The food security phase classification map for the period November 2006 – January 2007 is presented on page 4 and 5. It is based on the latest information collected by WFP field monitors in 34 districts covered under the Food Security Monitoring and Analysis System. Classification of the food security status is based upon a set

of reference characteristics. A description of these characteristics and the alert level definitions are provided on the last page of this bulletin. Classifications are made by WFP field monitors who have been trained to ensure consistency in data recording. Verification is done through consultation with local and international

NGOs and triangulation with other data sources.

HUNGER HOTSPOTS

By comparing the updated food security phase classification map covering the period November 2006 – January 2007 with the previous one (see Food Security Bulletin, Issue 15), we can observe that in general the food

security situation in the Karnali and the Far-Western Region has deteriorated with more areas currently in a state of seasonal or chronic food insecurity. In many of these areas food stocks will not last until the harvesting of the winter crops and people have started to engage in traditional coping strategies. In addition, the situation in the Eastern Terai has become worse. Unfortunately, with the rising tension in this area, provision of immediate food assistance is not feasible.

It is too early to make an accurate prediction on the outlook of the wheat and barley production. However, in many areas, there has been no rainfall since mid-December. Despite good germination of the seeds, if there's no rainfall in the immediate future in rain fed agricultural areas, the outlook for a substantive wheat harvest is bleak. There are already reports from several upland areas where crop growth has failed and this will no doubt lead to a further decline in the food security status of many poor farmers.

The drought and other adverse weather conditions have resulted in a food security situation in certain VDCs in the Far- and Mid-West reaching warning levels of deteriorating food insecurity. In the Eastern Terai districts of Saptari, Siraha and Udayapur the food security situation has become acute.

Fortunately, the overall number of people estimated at risk in areas classified as having a deteriorating (phase 3) or acute (phase 4) food security situation during this monitoring cycle has declined from 900,000 in the previous monitoring cycle to an estimated 413,368 people. On the other hand, as mentioned above the number of people experiencing seasonal food insecurity has noticeably increased. The breakdown by district for phase 3 and 4 areas is presented in Table 1.

I. THE KARNALI

The number of communities experiencing chronic/seasonal food insecurity has increased in the Karnali zone. In certain areas such as in the southern parts of Dolpa and Humla, WFP's programmes including the emergency operation and food for work activities have secured communities'

rice stocks for 2-4 months. In Kalikot, most households have sufficient paddy/millet stocks for 2-4 months. However, in the VDCs of Nanikot, Odanaku and Bharta, hailstorms caused severe damage to the summer crop (60-70% loss) and household food stocks in these VDCs are running out. The central part of Jumla was also heavily affected by a hailstorm back in October. Communities have completely run out of food stocks in this area. The situation in the western part of Jumla improved due to WFP's emergency support and normal summer crop harvest.

In most of Mugu district the food insecurity situation remains chronic. Signs of widespread malnutrition were observed by the WFP field monitor in northern Rowa where 45 households have lost their crops and are surviving on begging and heavily borrowing. In central Humla, the harvest of millet and buckwheat was disappointing and households have already run out of stocks. With no food in the markets, the Nepal Food Corporation has become the only source of food grains for many poor households. The situation in the

East of Humla has also deteriorated due to loss in oat and buckwheat harvest between 20-30%.

II. FAR WESTERN HILLS AND MOUNTAINS

The food security situation in many areas declined from generally food secure to seasonally food insecure status. Particularly worrisome is the situation in Bajura where the consequences of the continuing drought, especially in the northern un-irrigated parts of the districts have severely impacted the livelihoods of the people. In Achham district, the food security situation has not improved in the landslide affected VDCs of Khaptad and Devasthan. Farmers have left their land fallow and are demanding re-settlement to a safer place. In Baitadi district, the WFP PLIC programme has supported households in obtaining sufficient food supplies, thereby improving the food security status in the northern part of the district.

Number of people at risk

SN	District	Warning of deteriorating food insecurity	Acute food and livelihoods crisis	Total
		Phase 3	Phase 4	
I. Karnali belt				
1	Kalikot	17,448		17,448
2	Jumla	22,376		22,376
3	Humla	15,328		15,328
Sub-Total		55,152	-	55,152
II. Far Western Hills and Mountains				
4	Bajura	35,556		35,556
5	Achham	771		771
Sub-Total		36,328	-	36,328
III. Rapti Bheri Hills				
6	Dailekh	7,379	2,987	10,366
7	Rukum	6,787		6,787
8	Jajarkot	24,267		24,267
Sub-Total		38,434	2,987	41,421
V. Central and Eastern Terai				
9	Saptari	16,029	111,074	127,103
10	Siraha	16,478	67,184	83,662
11	Udayapur	39,509	16,660	56,169
Sub-Total		72,016	194,918	266,934
VI. Central Hills and Mountains				
12	Sindhupalchok	10,773		10,773
13	Kavre	2,760		2,760
Sub-Total		13,533	-	13,533
Grand Total		215,463	197,905	413,368

Table 1 – Number of people at risk



III. THE RAPTI BHERI HILLS

A substantial part of Dailekh district, particularly the northern half, is experiencing a deterioration in the overall food security situation. Livelihoods in these areas are under strain due to limited market access, depleted food stocks and extensive summer crop losses. Current coping strategies include sale of livestock and household assets and extensive borrowing. The WFP field monitor reported signs of widespread malnutrition in these parts of the district.

The north-western part of Rukum remains in a warning phase despite some food provided through the WFP PLIC programme. On the other side of the district border in Jajarkot, a warning situation was declared for the VDCs of Bhagawatitol, Ragda and Nayakbada after reports of very high market prices, depleted food stocks, increased migration levels and the local population resorting to gathering wild food.

IV. THE TERAI

The districts Banke and Bardiya have more or less recovered from the devastating floods of last August. Several VDCs however remain in phase 2 due to lack of irrigation and adverse weather conditions.

The situation in the Eastern Terai remains critical, especially in Saptari and Siraha. Exacerbating the situation is the current political instability in these areas with ongoing bandhs and curfews, affecting the supply of food and other essentials to these areas. An ongoing deterioration in the food security status may further contribute to the civil unrest in this area. In the worst affected district, Saptari, a food crisis is looming with reports of people selling land, livestock and household assets. Many vulnerable people have migrated in the hope of finding short-term employment in India, Biratnagar and Kathmandu. Fortunately, the situation in the eastern part of Saptari is good due to availability of irrigation facilities. Here households have sufficient food stocks for 3-5 months and the area under wheat production has increased. A similar situation can be observed in Siraha.

V. CENTRAL AND EASTERN HILLS AND MOUNTAINS

The situation in the northern parts of Udayapur has further deteriorated and become acute. Commodity prices are very high and the chance of finding employment at this time of the year is extremely low. People have left the area due to food scarcity and households are selling tools and seeds and are forced to take out loans for the purchase of food.

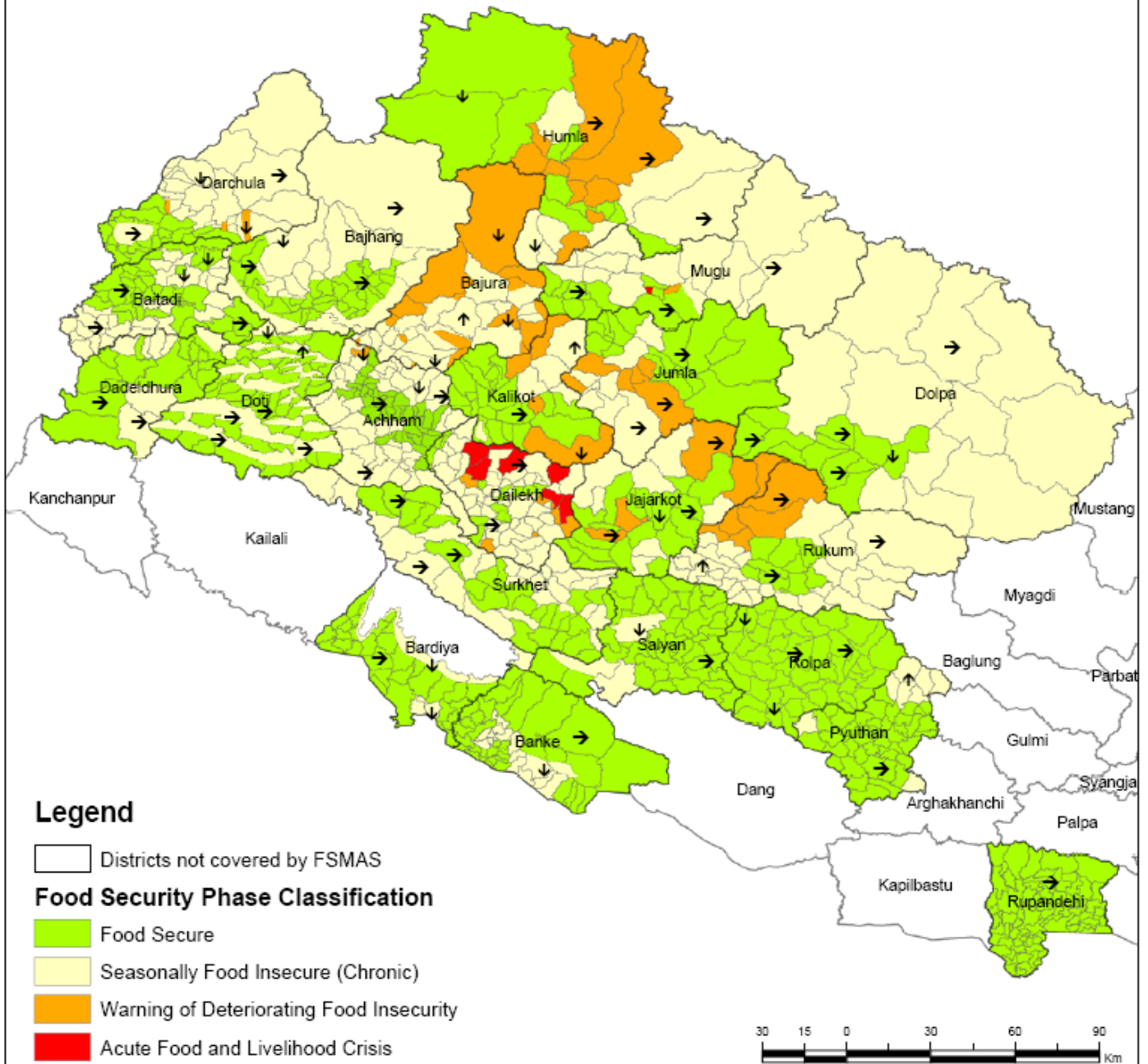
In Sindhupalchowk several VDCs (Syaule, Kubhinde, Mangkha, Ramche and Pedku) were affected by heavy hailstorms which caused paddy crop losses between 30-50%. The food security situation in these 5 VDCs needs to be closely monitored in the coming months.

For each district covered by the WFP Food Security Monitoring and Analysis System, more detailed information is available on the food security, livelihood, market, crop and vulnerability situation at the VDC, community and household level. If you require more detailed information on a particular district, please contact the WFP Food Security Monitoring and Analysis Unit.



Food Security Phase Classification Map

Period November 2006 - January 2007
West Nepal

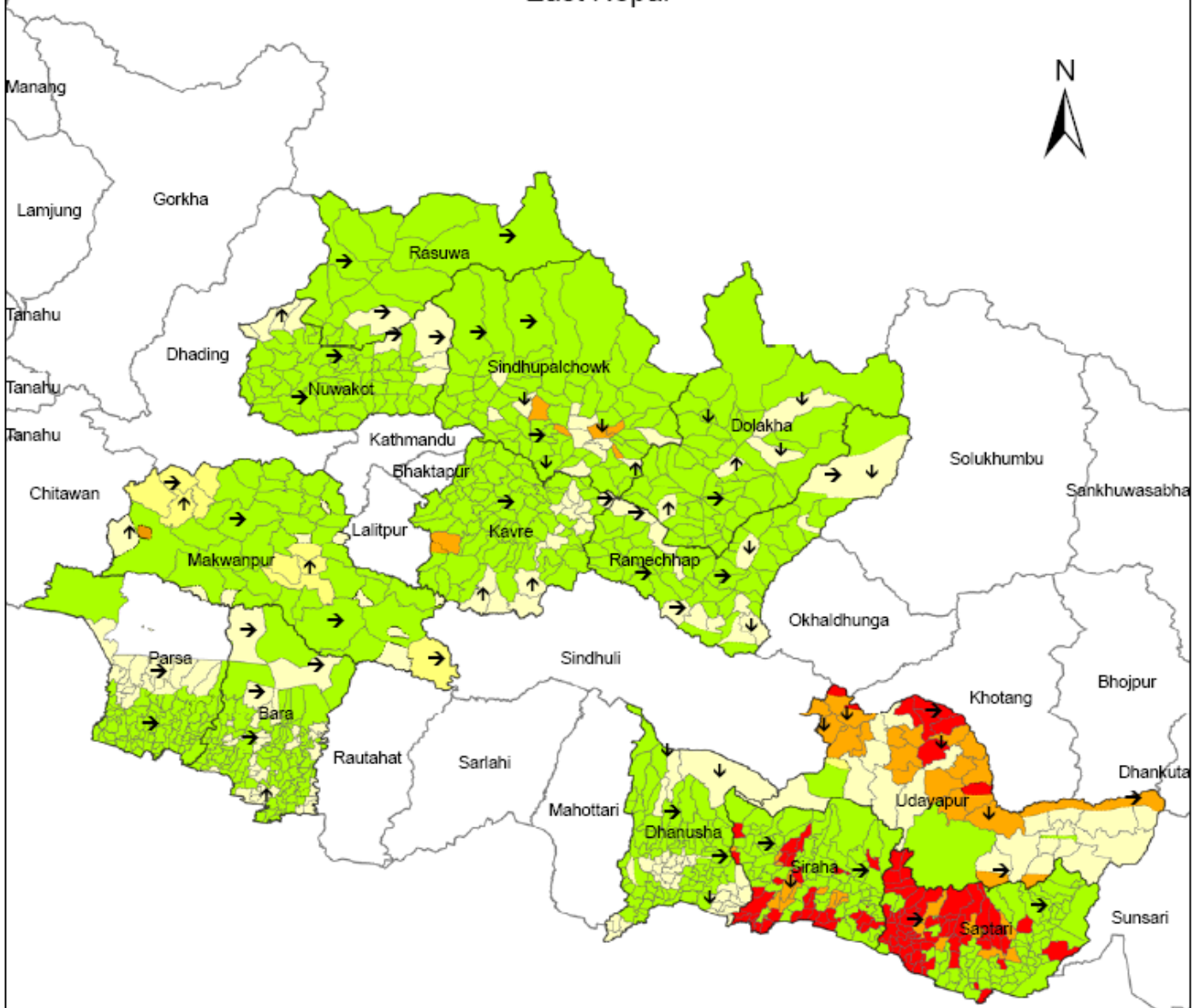


Map 2 – Food Security Phase Classification, West Nepal



Food Security Phase Classification Map

Period November 2006 - January 2007
East Nepal



Legend

Districts not covered by FSMAS

Food Security Phase Classification

- Food Secure
- Seasonally Food Insecure (Chronic)
- Warning of Deteriorating Food Insecurity
- Acute Food and Livelihoods Crisis

Outlook

- Likely that the food security situation will improve in the next season
- Likely that the food security situation will remain similar in the next season
- Likely that the food security situation will deteriorate in the next season



Map 3 – Food Security Phase Classification, East Nepal



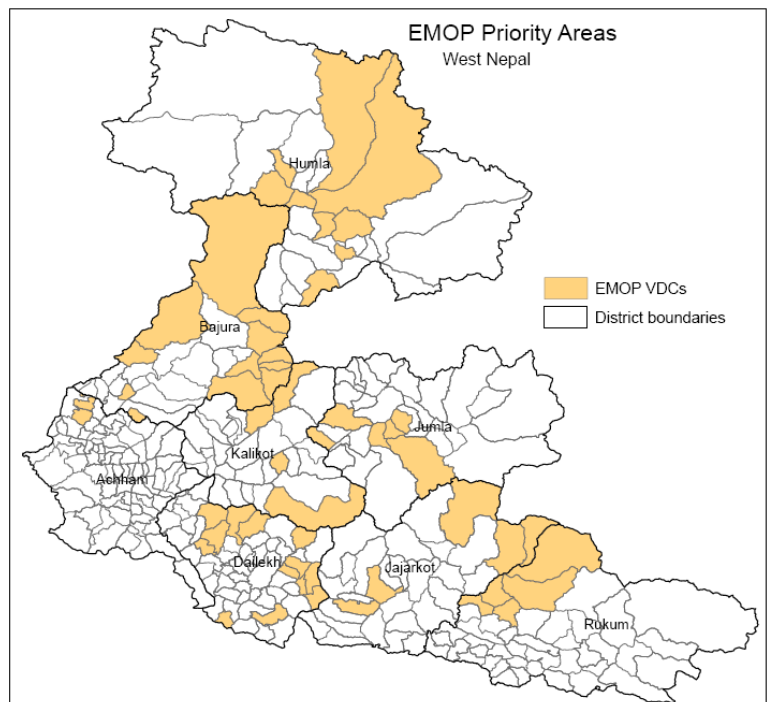
Targeting WFP's Emergency Operation

EMOP priority areas

SN	District	VDCs and Wards	Total Affected Households
I. Karnali belt			
1	Kalikot	Nanikot 1-9	887
		Odanaku 1, and 4-9	539
		Chhapre 1-6	324
		Dhoulagoh 1-9	1,101
		Sub-Total	2,851
2	Jumla	Talium 1-9	931
		Lamra 1-9	557
		Haku 1-9	380
		Tatopani 1, 2, and 5-9	1,006
		MahabaiPaterkhola 1, 4, and 6-9	500
		Badki 1-6, and 9	343
	Sub-Total	3,717	
3	Humla	Dandaphaya 1-9	289
		Thehe 1-9	311
		Syada 1-9	240
		Shreenagar 1-9	486
		Lali	262
		Chhipra 1-9	197
		Rodikot 4-6, and 9	250
		Kharpunath 1-9	233
		Saya 1-9	165
		Sub-Total	2,433
II. Far Western Hills and Mountains			
4	Bajura	Bichhiya 1-9	419
		Sappata 1-9	920
		Rugin 1-9	483
		Dahakot 1-9	682
		Jagannath 1-9	651
		Manakot 1-9	465
		Chhatara 1,2,7, and 8	416
		Jukot 4-6	201
		Wai 1,4,5,8, and 9	300
		Bandhu 1-6	700
		Gotri 1, and 5	185
		Kuldevmandu 1-3, 5, 8, and 9	805
			Sub-Total
5	Achham	Khaptad	138
		Devasthan	
		Sub-Total	138
III. Rapti Bheri Hills			
6	Dailekh	Bisalla 1-9	592
		Kusapani 1-3, 5, and 6	259
		Kasikandh 1-9	644
		Dwari 4, and 6-9	202
		Salleri 4-9	409
		Mehaltoli 1-9	338
		Chamunda 1,4, 5, and 9	543
		Chauratha 5, 6, 8, and 9	210
		Rum 3-6, 8, and 9	112
		Jagannath 1-5, 8, and 9	278
		Awalparajul 1-3, and 7	212
		Seri 5-7, and 9	164
		Jambukandh 1, 6, 7, and 9	279
	Sub-Total	4,242	
7	Rukum	Gotamkot 5, and 6	310
		Syalakhadi 9	100
		Athbiskot 1, and 8	340
		Magma 5, 7, and 8	220
		AthbisDandagaun 7-9	150
	Sub-Total	1,120	
8	Jajarkot	Bhagawati 1, 2, 4, and 7-9	427
		Ragda 1-8	689
		Nayakbada 1-9	979
		Dasera 1-9	1,245
		Pajaru 1-4, 8, and 9	798
		Sub-Total	4,138
	Grand Total	24,866	

Table 2 – Targeted VDCs and Wards

Based on field reports and the outcome of the National Crop and Food Security Assessment led by the MoAC, WFP has extended its emergency operation to provide support to the most affected areas in the Far and Mid West as well



Map 4 – EMOP priority areas

as exploring the possibility of including the most severely drought affected areas in the Eastern Terai (Saptari, Siraha and Udayapur).

To verify the field level information received from WFP field monitors regarding EMOP priority areas and the number of households in need of food assistance, WFP organized a series of consultation sessions at district headquarters in eight districts in the Far-and Mid-West during the last week of January 2007. Participants in the consultation sessions included staff from GOs and (I)NGOs, and representatives from political parties and local communities.

Map 4 shows the outcome of the consultation sessions with regard to the areas to be prioritized under the extended EMOP. Table 2

shows in more detail the total number of households requiring assistance by ward. The total number of beneficiary households is estimated at 24,866. A further 266,934 people are estimated to

need support in the Eastern Terai districts of Udayapur, Saptari and Siraha. Unfortunately, with the rising tension in the Terai it has not yet been possible to provide assistance to these severely affected areas.

The consultation sessions also identified a list of VDCs that require close monitoring over the next couple of months due to likely failure of the winter crop, if no immediate rain is forthcoming. These include:

Kalikot: Khin, Ramnakot, Thirpu and PhoiMahadev

Jumla: Sanigaun and Dhapa

Dailekh: Kalika, Badakhola, Baluwater and Sigaudi

Rukum: Ranmamaikot and Hukam

Jajarkot: Kortnag and Rokayagaun

As part of the Food Security Monitoring and Analysis System, WFP field monitors are currently undertaking a household survey in communities targeted under the EMOP. The survey involves 320 randomly selected households in 32 wards. Results will be available by Mid March.

Vulnerability

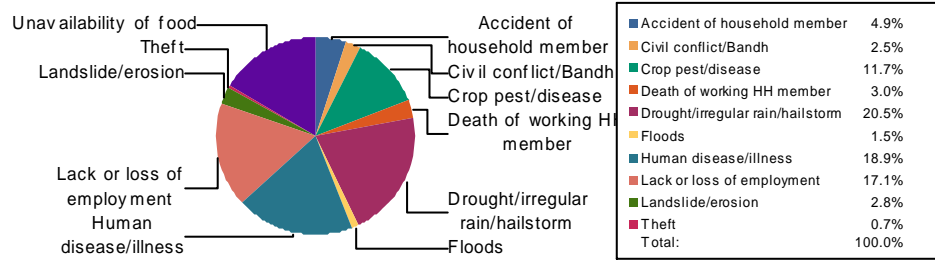
Households were asked to report on the three main shocks/problems they were confronted with during the monitoring cycle November-December 2006. Pie chart 1 shows that the main problems households faced were drought and other adverse weather conditions (20.5%), followed by human illness (18.9%), unavailability of food (16.3%) and lack or loss of employment (17.1%).

Figure 1 presents the results by monitoring cluster. The unavailability of food at the household level is predominantly a concern in the Far and Mid West of the country, where unavailability of food varies from 18% in the Rapti Bheri Hills (cluster 3), 20% in the Hills and Mountains of the Far West (cluster 2) and 21% in the Karnali (cluster 1), compared to only 10% in the Terai (cluster 4) and Central Hills and Mountains (cluster 5).

Drought and other adverse weather conditions affecting agricultural production were reported as serious concerns by 29% and 27% of households in the Terai and Central Hills and Mountains, respectively. One fifth of households in the Karnali reported this as one of the main problems affecting their livelihood. Lack of employment was reported as one of the main problems by 25% of the households in the Far-West (cluster 2).

Table 3 shows the affect that different external events had on household food security by wealth category and whether the households were worse off compared to the same season last year.

Across all households, external events led to a food shortage in almost 63% of the sampled households. Better off households were more resilient against external shocks while in more than 90% of households classified as extremely poor, the events led to an immediate reduction in their food security status. Almost 38% of households reported that their food security condition was more severely affected than during the same period last year.



Pie chart 1 – Main hazards

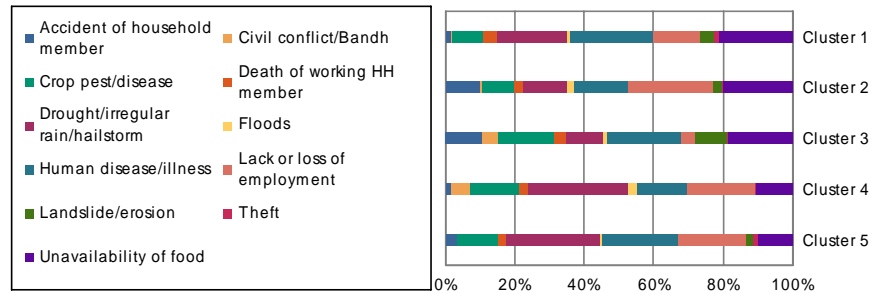
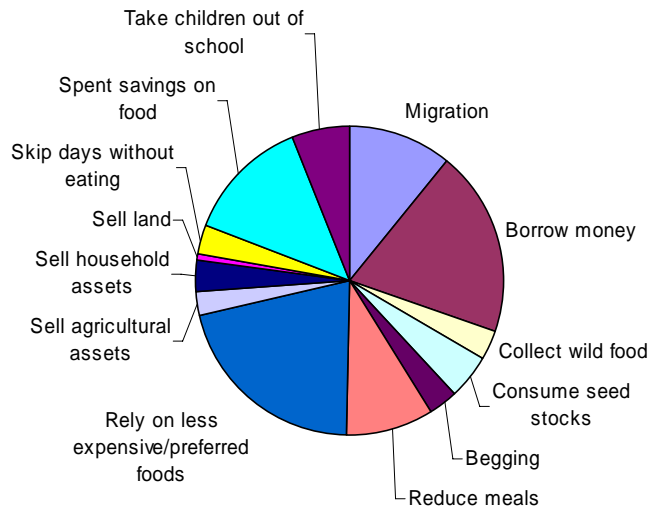


Figure 1 – Main hazards by monitoring cluster

Wealth category	Food crisis (%)	More severe compared to last year (%)
Extreme poor	93.8	59.6
Poor	67.7	37.0
Lower middle	57.6	34.2
Upper middle	41.6	25.4
Well-off	17.9	18.8
All	62.7	37.8

Table 3 – Affect on household food security by wealth category



Pie chart 2 – Coping strategies

COPING STRATEGIES

Household responses to a food crisis caused by external events are presented below in Pie chart 2.

The most practiced coping strategies are consuming less preferred and cheaper food items and borrowing money. Migration and reduction in food intake as well as using savings are also widely practiced coping mechanisms. Damaging coping strategies, such as

sale of land or agricultural assets were not widely practiced during the monitoring period of November-December.



Food Availability

CROP SITUATION

Figure 2 provides an overview by monitoring cluster on the rainfall situation as reported by sample households during the period November – December 2006. Reports on insufficient rainfall were especially high in the Terai where 77% of households reported insufficient rainfall (cluster 4).

Figure 3 shows the main crops which were cultivated during the period November – December. Wheat is the most extensively cultivated winter crop. As Pie chart 3 shows below, the majority of the wheat crop was planted on time. In only 15% of the cases planting took place later than usually.



Figure 2 – Rainfall situation by monitoring cluster

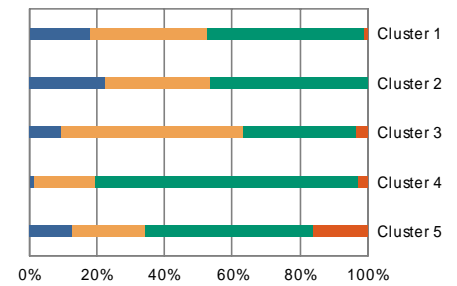


Figure 3 – Main crops by monitoring cluster

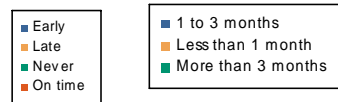
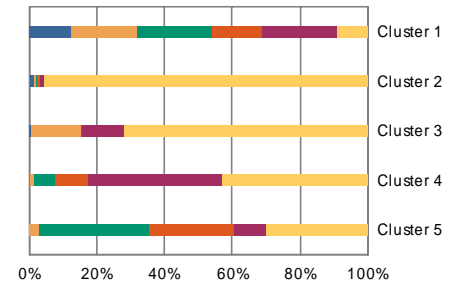
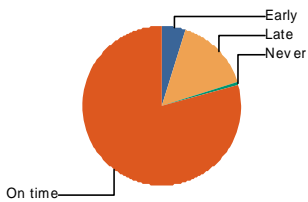
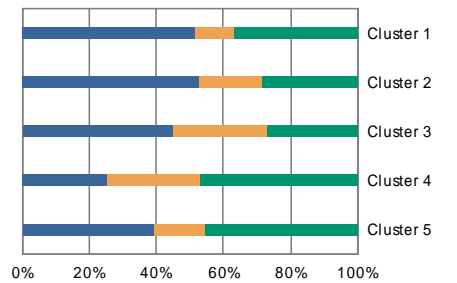
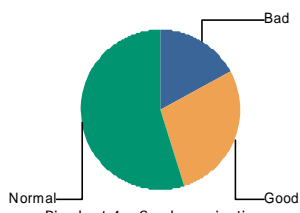


Figure 4 – Household food stocks by monitoring cluster



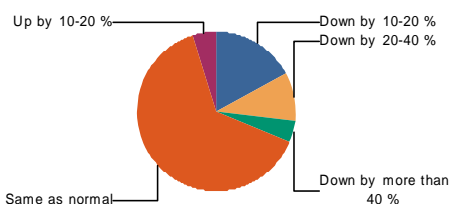
Pie chart 3 –planting time

In most cases, seeds germination was normal to good. Across the country, 17% of farmers reported that seeds germination was below normal. In the Far-West and Terai Regions bad germination occurred in 21% and 28% respectively (Pie chart 4).



Pie chart 4 – Seed germination

Farmers' early expectations regarding the winter wheat harvest are presented in Pie chart 5.



Pie chart 5 – outlook for winter crop production

Almost 70% of farmers expect normal to good wheat production during the 2006/07 winter season. However, note that these household interviews took place in the period November – December 2006. With no rainfall in the month of January, there have already been reports of poor wheat crops from upland areas which are mostly un-irrigated. Many rain fed areas are currently at a critical stage and if they receive no immediate rainfall in the next 10 days or so, the outlook for the winter crop harvest is grim.

FOOD STOCKS

Figure 4 shows the food stock situation at the household level. Food stocks are expressed in number of months that the household has sufficient food available to feed all household members. Food stocks are at the lowest in the Far-West, Karnali zone and Rapti Beri Hills (cluster 2, 1 and 3 respectively) where more than 63% of the sampled households have food supplies lasting less than three months. The Terai

(Cluster 4) shows the highest percentage of households having food stocks lasting more than 3 months (47%), it also has one of the highest percentage of households with food stocks less than 1 month (28%).

More than 75% of households with food supplies less than 1 month belong to the extreme poor. Most of the households classified as poor have food stocks lasting on average 1 to 3 months (Figure 5).

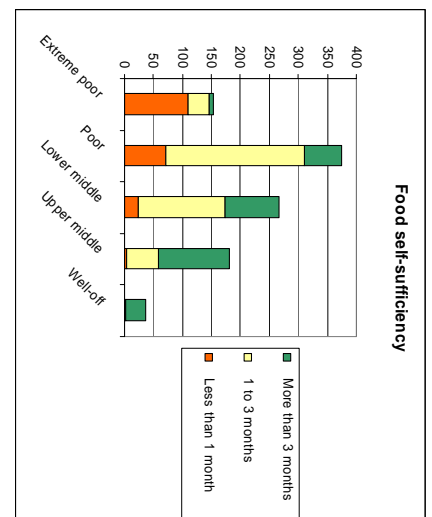


Figure 5 – Food stock by wealth category

Food Access

LIVELIHOODS

The main household livelihood strategies in Nepal are crop farming and casual wage labour. Reliance on remittances are especially common in the Far West (cluster 2), where 25% of households reported remittances as one of the principal means of maintaining their livelihood. In the Terai (cluster 4), 10% of households rely on remittances as a primary source of income. Livestock farming is another principal means of livelihood in particular in the Far-West (14%) and the Karnali zone (8%). In the Karnali zone, collecting natural resources was reported by 12% of the households as one of their principal means of livelihood during the November-December monitoring cycle (Figure 6).

Figure 7 shows the key means of livelihood by wealth category. Almost 50% of the extreme poor depend on casual wage labour as one of their main livelihood strategies. Remittances are important across the wealth groups with the lower middle having the highest share of households depending on remittances as a key income source. Assistance programmes provide a similar contribution to livelihoods across the different wealth groups.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Figure 8 shows how external shocks, such as drought and other adverse weather conditions affected household income across five monitoring clusters. Household income was most affected in the Terai districts (cluster 4), mainly due to drought conditions and lack of employment opportunities. 67% of households in the Terai reported that household income was less than normal during the period November-December 2006. The districts Saptari, Siraha and Udayapur were most affected with more than 90% of the sampled households in these districts indicated that their income was compromised.

In the Karnali (cluster 1), Far West (cluster 2), Rapti Beri Hills (cluster 3) and Central Hills and Mountains (cluster 5) monitoring clusters, 23%, 45%, 43%, and 38% of households respectively responded that their income was less than normal for this

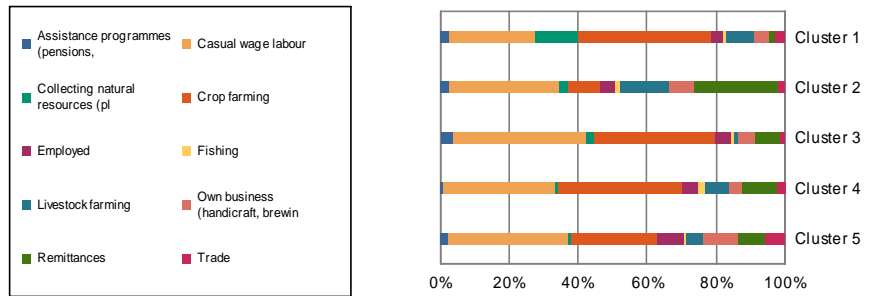


Figure 6 – Means of livelihood by monitoring cluster

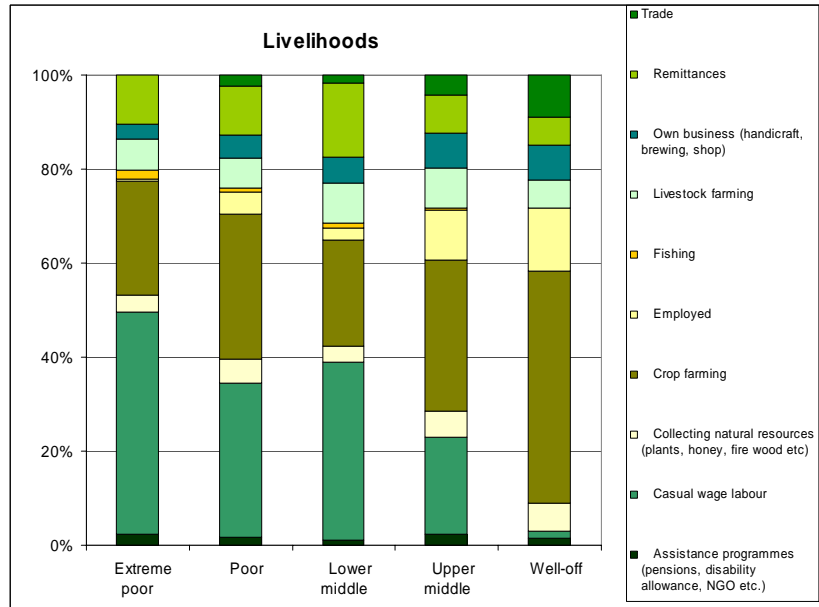


Figure 7 – Means of livelihood by wealth category

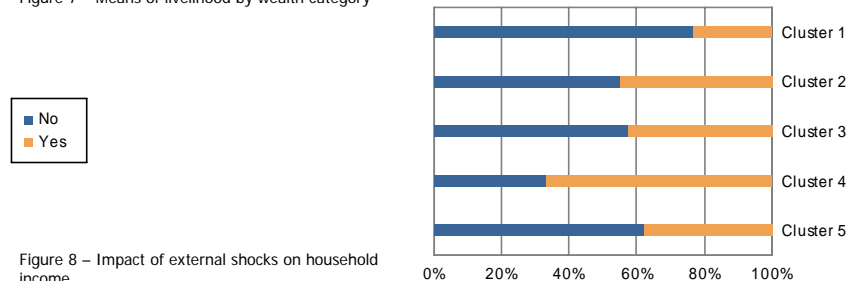


Figure 8 – Impact of external shocks on household income

Source of income	Percentage of households reported constraint in source of income (%)	Average reduction in contribution to overall household income (%)
Crop sales	18.3	15
Livestock	17.4	13
Forest products	4.8	4
Fish/hunting sales	2.5	3
Herbal sales	3.4	4
Wages	31.2	26
Remittances	11.6	12
Business/Trade	4.4	4
Development aid projects	4.8	5

Table 4 – Source of income reduction

monitoring period. Districts where more than 50% of households indicated a decrease in income include, Dolpa, Baitadi, Bajhang, Dailekh and Puythan.

The key factor behind the reduction in income was a lack in employment opportunities. 31.2% of households

reported a reduction in wage earnings and their household income decreased on average by 26%. A little more than 18% of households reported a reduction in crop sales which constrained their household income an average of 15% (see Table 4).

HOUSEHOLD ACCESS TO FOOD

Access to food reduced most sharply in the Terai (cluster 4) and the Far-West (cluster 2), where 66% and 63% of households responded that their access to food was less than in a normal year (Figure 9).

Table 5 analyses decreases in income and access to food across wealth categories. Almost 70% of the extreme poor reported that their income was constrained compared to a normal year. This led to a decline in access to food by 75% of households within this wealth category. Overall, 42.5% of households responded that their income was less than normal and access to food was compromised in 55.75% of all sampled households.

Pie chart 6 shows that the decrease in own production due to drought and other adverse weather conditions were predominantly responsible for a decline in access to food.

HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE

Almost 75% of all households interviewed during this monitoring cycle responded that household expenditure had increased compared to normal expenditure during this period of the year.

The predominant factors behind this increase in household expenditure was increased food prices (25.7%), health cost (22.8%) and debt repayment (15.4%) (see Pie chart 7).

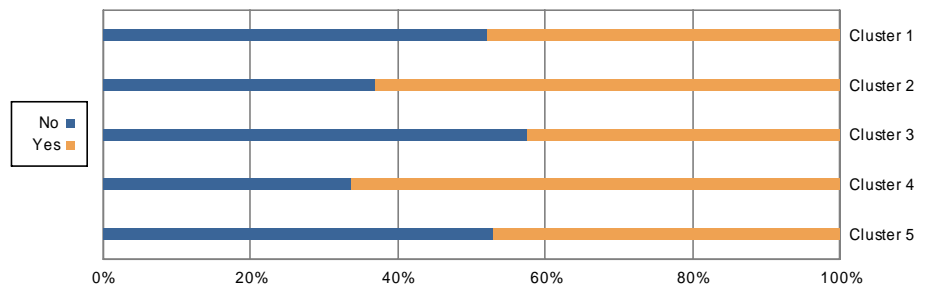
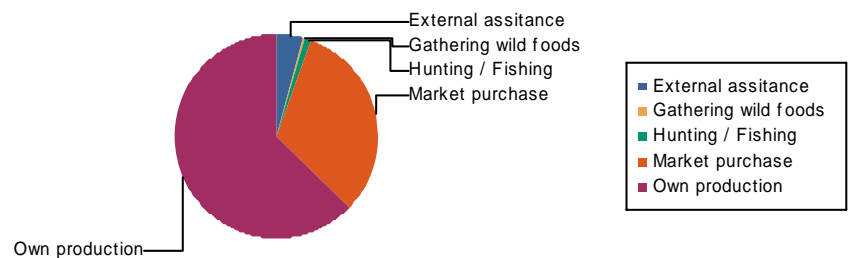


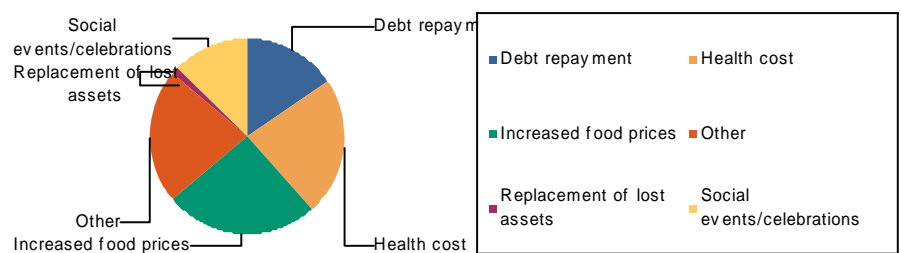
Figure 9 – Impact on household access to food

Wealth category	Households with decrease in income (% compared to normal)	Households with decrease in access to food (% compared to normal)
Extreme poor	68.6	75.2
Poor	41.5	58.6
Lower middle	39.8	52.6
Upper middle	30.0	45.8
Well-off	22.2	14.3
All	42.5	55.7

Table 5 – Decrease in income and access to food by wealth category



Pie chart 6 – Sources of decline in access to food



Pie chart 7 – Factors contributing to increase in household expenditure



Food Consumption

The Figures (10 to 12) on the right provide a selected overview of food intake variety by looking at vegetable, meat and fruit consumption during the period of one week. In terms of variety, the Karnali (cluster 1) is worst off. 46%, 78% and 95% of households in the Karnali did not consume green vegetables, meat and fresh fruit respectively during the period of one week. Meat is generally scarce and most households do not consume it regularly. Food intake variety is highest in the Central Hills and Mountains area (cluster 5) where 74% of households responded that they eat green vegetables on a daily basis and meat weekly. In all but the Central Hills and Mountains monitoring clusters, fresh fruit consumption is practiced by less than 25% of the sample households.

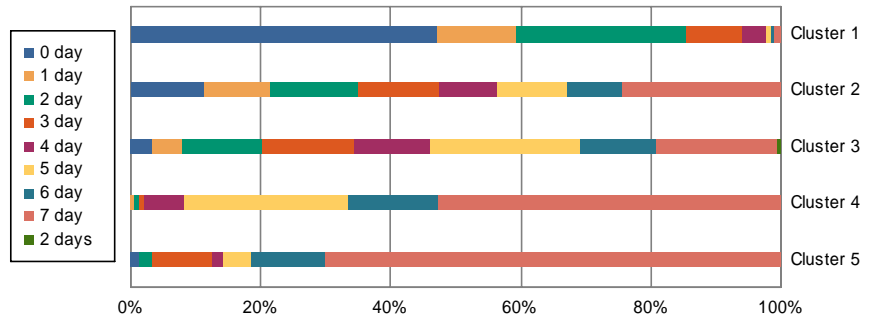


Figure 10 – Green vegetable consumption

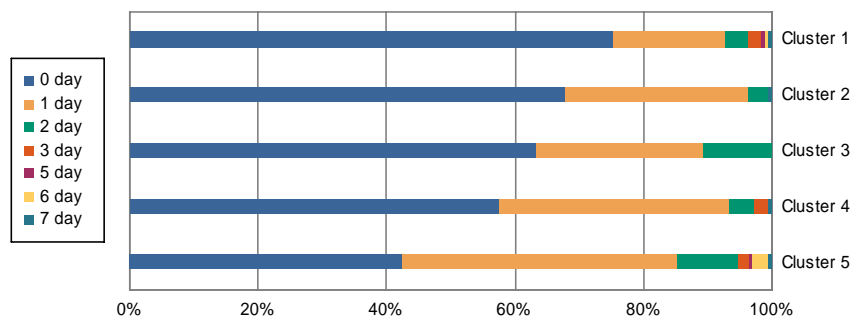


Figure 11 – Meat consumption

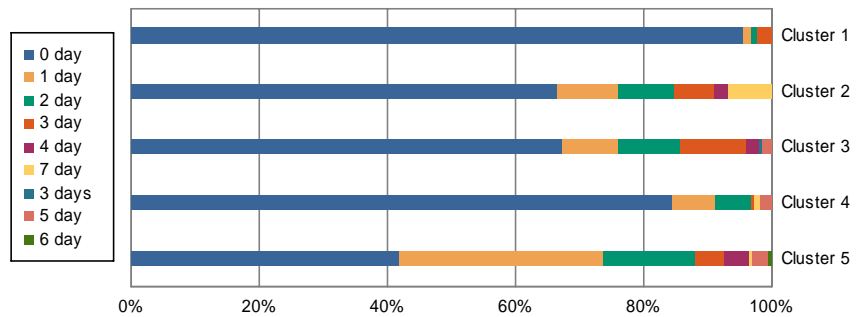


Figure 12 – Fresh fruit consumption

Food Security Bulletins are produced by WFP Nepal as part of the Food Security Monitoring and Analysis System, supported by DFID and OFDA.

For more information please contact the Food Security Monitoring and Analysis Unit
 United Nations World Food Programme
 Patan Dhoka Road, Lalitpur
 PO Box 107
 Tel 5542607 ext 2420-5



Food Security Phase Classification

Phase classification		Alert Level Definitions and Reference Characteristics	
1. Food Secure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Food Availability Food Access Nutrition and Health Hazards Civil Security Coping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no indications of global food security problems. Poverty levels are low/moderate. • Crop situation is favourable/normal. • There has been sufficient rainfall. • There are sufficient food commodities in the markets. • Households have sufficient food stocks to last until the next harvest. • Markets are functioning and are accessible. • Prices of main staples are stable. • The employment situation is normal. • No excessive in or out migration patterns. • Incidence of wasting is very low. • No major diarrhea outbreaks / or epidemics. • No natural disasters. • General peaceful situation – no enduring bandhs / roadblocks. • No unsustainable coping strategies employed by households. 	
2. Seasonally food insecure (Chronic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Food Availability Food Access Nutrition and Health Hazards Civil Security Coping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area is experiencing seasonal food insecurity during the normal lean periods. Poverty levels are high. • Crop harvests are low to normal. However, current crop is not sufficient to feed the population until next harvest. • Rainfall has been intermittent but acceptable. • The markets are functioning and accessible but are less well stocked. • Households have insufficient food stocks to last until next harvest, but this is generally considered as normal. • Prices of main staples are higher than normal. • There are limited employment opportunities during this time of the year. • Out-migration is increasing. • Incidence of wasting is low. • Indication of diarrhea outbreaks / or epidemics. • Occurrence of natural disaster with resulting crop, stock and asset losses. • General peaceful situation. Bandhs and roadblocks may cause additional hardship. • Indications of intensified HH coping behaviour (asset selling, borrowing, migration etc) 	
3. Warning of deteriorating food insecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Food Availability Food Access Nutrition and Health Hazards Civil Security Coping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The food security situation is deteriorating in the area; food shortages are much more than acceptable/normal for the time of the year. Poverty levels are high. • Crop harvests are low. More than 50% of the crop is lost. • Rainfall has been insufficient/late/non-existent for consecutive years. • Markets are non-existent due to no or limited supply. • Households have depleted or very low food stocks. • Prices of main staples are increasing rapidly and are unstable. • There are very limited employment opportunities during this time of the year. • Levels of out-migration are high. • Incidence of wasting is moderate to high. • Evidence of malnutrition in women and children is easily observable. • Indication of severe diarrhea outbreaks / or epidemics. • Occurrence of large impact natural disaster with resulting crop, stock and asset losses. • Limited conflict situation with increasing civil security incidences. • HHs adopt irreversible coping behaviour (productive asset selling -tools, seeds, land-, large amounts of borrowing, etc). 	
4. Acute food and livelihood crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Food Availability Food Access Nutrition and Health Hazards Civil Security Coping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There's an acute food crisis in the area. Extreme food shortages occur. Poverty levels are very high. • Crop harvests are very low or have been lost. More than 80-100% of the crop is lost. • Rainfall has been insufficient/late/non-existent for several consecutive years. • Markets are non-existent due to no food supply. • Households have depleted their food stocks. • Prices of main staples are very high and unaffordable for a large portion of the population. • No employment opportunities. • People are out-migrating due to food scarcity. • Incidence of wasting is high. Underweight levels of children are above 75%. • Evidence of malnutrition in women and children is widespread. • Occurrence of severe diarrhea or epidemic outbreaks. • Occurrence of large scale impact natural disaster with resulting crop, stock and asset losses. • Extended conflict situation – no agricultural activities possible. • HH adopt crisis coping strategies (productive asset selling -tools, seeds, land-, large amounts of borrowing, etc). 	