



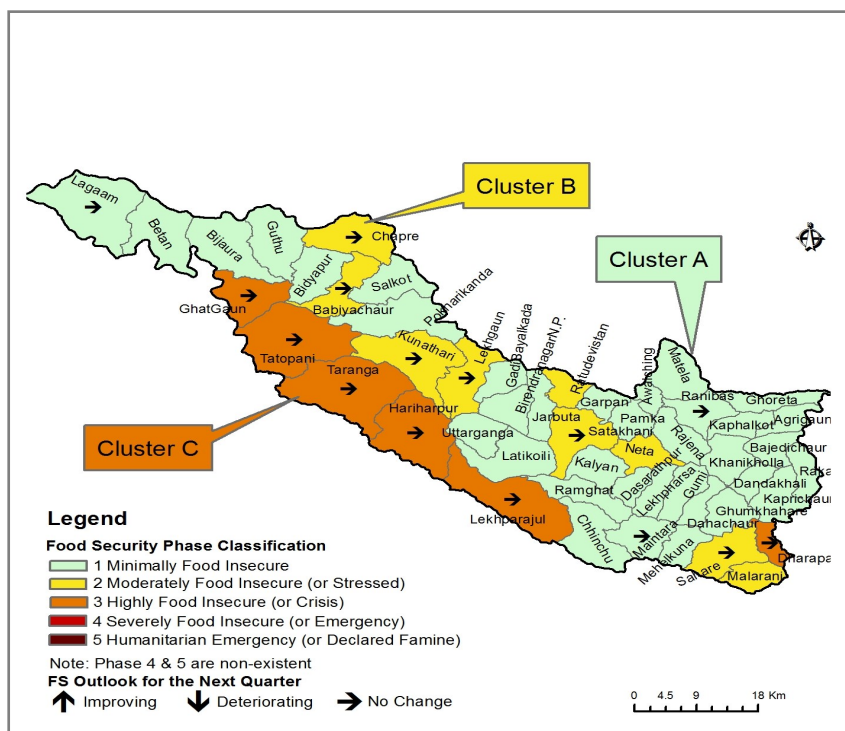
Surkhet District Food Security Bulletin
Period: 17 July to 16 November 2014
DFSN meeting date: 22 December 2014



Area Outcomes

Food Consumption	Livelihood change and coping	Acute Child Malnutrition
The District Food Security Network (DFSN) estimated that in cluster B and C only 60-80 percent and 40-60 percent respectively of households were able to meet basic food needs. Poor food consumption in cluster C was due to a poor summer crop harvest and food stock loss due to the floods and landslides. DFSNs reported a production drop of 40-60 percent due to heavy rains and landslides during August.	The DFSN reported 5,818 houses completely and/or partially destroyed and estimated summer crop losses of up to 90 percent in Phase III VDCs. Affected households were relying on external support for food and non-food items and adopting coping strategies like borrowing food and money and eating less preferred food.	Routine data on wasting is not available. According to the small area estimation study wasting in Surkhet is 10 percent, ranging from a low of 4 percent to a high of 12 percent at the ilaka level. The overall health and sanitation situation was reported as poor due to damage accrued to water supply systems and sanitation facilities.

Food Security Phase Map and Estimated Food Insecure Population



VDCs in phase III	Total Population (CBS, 2011)	Estimated population in phase III
Ghatgaun	5,004	5,004
Tatopani	5,587	5,587
Taranga	5,222	5,222
Hariharpur	4,581	4,581
Lekparajul	8,896	8,896
Dharapani	3,075	3,075
Total affected population	32,365	32,365
District's total population	350,804	350,804
Affected population (in %)	NA	9.22

Source: District Food Security Network (DFSN)

Outlook

For the mid-Nov 2014 to mid-Mar 2015 period, the DFSN has projected that the food security situation in Surkhet will remain the same. Hence, the 6 VDCs (Dharapani, Lekhparajul, Hariharpur, Taranga, Tatopani and Ghatgaun) currently classified as highly food insecure will continue to be Phase III and the other 9 VDCs currently classified as moderately food insecure will continue to be Phase II. In the Phase III VDCs, households have food stock sufficient for a month only and the households have poor purchasing power as income opportunities are also limited. The period of Nov-Mar is also a lean agricultural period and hence no crops will be harvested during this period. Moreover, income from vegetables and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) sales is also expected to be lower.

Affected households are expected to adopt coping mechanisms like selling of livestock and other assets, using seeds for consumption and other traditional coping practices.

Summary of causes, context and key issues: Torrential rain and flash floods during the second week of August hit four districts of the mid-western development region and Surkhet was among the worst affected. DFSN attributed a deterioration in the food security situation to the floods and classified **6 VDCs (Dharapani, Lekhparajul, Hariharpur, Taranga, Tatopani and Ghatgaun) as highly food insecure (Phase III)**. In those VDCs 32,365 people (9.22 percent of the population of the district) were reported in Phase III. The ad hoc DFSN conducted immediately after the flood reported 63 percent of the population in Phase IV. The situation, however, later improved with the support and coordinated efforts of the government, Red Cross, UN agencies, I/NGOs and local partners.

Likewise, **9 VDCs (Malarani, Sahara, Neta, Satakhani, Ratu, Kunathari, Lekhgaun, Babiyachaur and Chhapre)** were classified as **moderately food insecure (Phase II)**. These VDCs were reported as highly food insecure by the ad hoc DFSN. The situation later improved because of the relief assistance.

The DFSN classified the other 33 VDCs as minimally food insecure (Phase I). This is due to the summer crop harvest, sale of agricultural product (vegetables, cash crops), sale of livestock, milk and milk products. Wage income and remittances also contributed to household food security.

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DFSN affiliate members: DAO, DADO, DDC, DLSO, DFO, WCDO, DEO, DPHO, NFC, DCCI, WFP, NRCs, CEPREAD, Civil Society, Farmers Representative



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