









Nepal Food Security Bulletin Year 2015, Issue 45



HIGHLIGHTS AND SITUATION SUMMARY

This issue covers the period of mid-March to mid-July 2015, the third trimester of Nepalese Fiscal Year 2071/72. This bulletin is based on the outcomes of NeKSAP district food security network (DFSN) meetings held in 74 of 75 districts during July 2015. During this period Nepal experienced a major earthquake on 25 April and a series of aftershocks which significantly affected livelihoods and food security. This bulletin captures the impact of the earthquake, changes between May and July, seasonal changes associated with the monsoon and other events that affected food security.

In this period:

- DFSNs classified 10 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in Sindhupalchowk as severely food insecure (Phase 4) with an estimated 28,700 affected people. This situation was attributed to the 25 April earthquake and subsequent aftershocks, including the biggest one on 12 May.
- DFSNs classified an additional 224 VDCs in 11 districts as highly food insecure (Phase 3) with an estimated 500,300 affected people. DFSNs classified another 329 VDCs in 23 districts as moderately food insecure (Phase 2) and the other 3,360 VDCs and municipalities as minimally food insecure (Phase 1).
- The food security situation in the earthquake-affected districts has improved compared to the situation in mid-May and early June, when DFSNs, through ad hoc meetings, classified 372 VDCs as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and severely food insecure (Phase 4). Improvements since May were attributed to humanitarian assistance, the winter harvest (wheat and potato), resumption of market function and better road access.
- Winter crops (wheat and barley) were harvested and production was estimated by the Ministry of Agricultural Development at 2 million mt, an increase of 10.86 percent compared to the 'normal' level and 4.95 percent compared to 2013/14. Despite the earthquake, overall winter cereal production in 2014/15 was at a record high. However, the prospect for 2015 summer crop production appears unfavorable, as rainfall was reported as insufficient in many paddy and maize growing districts.
- According to Nepal Rastra Bank, the year-on-year Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 7.6 percent in July 2015 compared to 8.1 percent in the corresponding period last year. The cereal grain sub-group was 12.6 percent in July 2015.

CURRENT FOOD SECURITY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Food Security Cluster	Current period: mid-Mar to mid-Jul 2015	Change from mid-Nov 2014 to mid-Mar 2015	Outlook for mid-Jul to mid-Nov 2015
Karnali		Ψ	^
Far-Western Hill and Mountain		^	→
Rapti-Bheri Hills		^	Ψ
Western Terai		→	→
Central & Eastern Terai		→	→
Western Hill and Mountain		Ψ	^
Central Hill and Mountain		4	^
Eastern Hill and Mountain	4	Ψ	^

Minimally Food Insecure

Moderately Food Insecure

Highly Food Insecure

Severely Food Insecure

Humanitarian Emergency

Change / Outlook

Deteriorate

Stay the same

↑ Improve

In this reporting period the food security situation has significantly deteriorated since the mid-November 2014 to mid-March 2015 period, especially in the districts in the central, eastern and western regions which were worst affected by the April earthquake and subsequent aftershocks. Furthermore, in the mid-western region all VDCs in Dolpa and 14 VDCs in Humla and Mugu were classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2). The food security situation in 6 flood-affected VDCs in Surkhet and two hailstone-affected VDCs in Mugu, however, has improved to Phase 2 due to recent crop harvests and relief support. In the far western region, two VDCs in Bajhang were classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2).

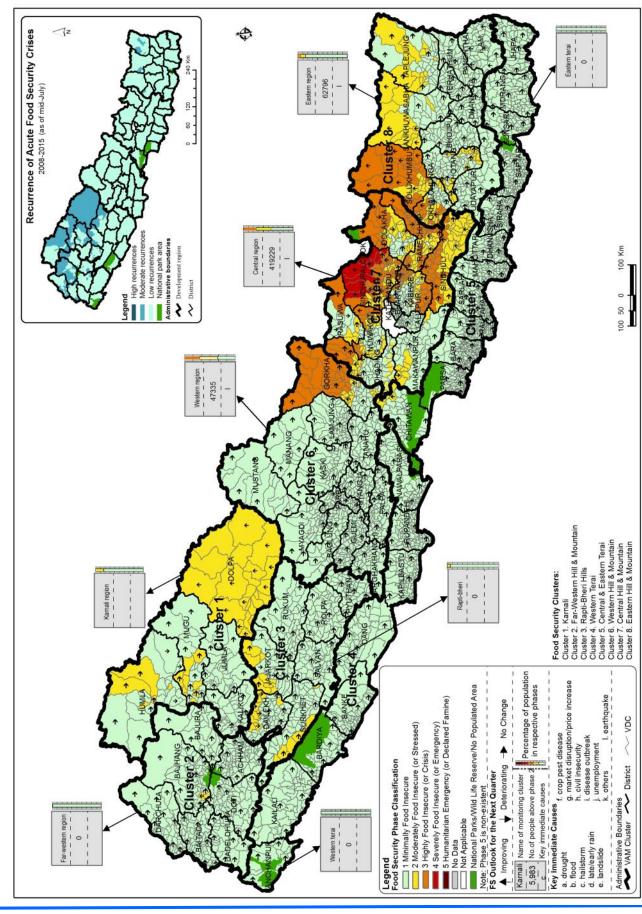
In the next four-month period (mid-July to mid-November 2015), DFSNs have forecasted that 9 VDCs in Ramechhap and 11 VDCs in Dolakha will be classified as severely food insecure (Phase 4) and 132 VDCs in 9 districts (Gorkha, Sindhupalchowk, Dhading, Makawanpur, Sindhuli, Dolakha, Ramechhap, Rasuwa and Dailekh) will be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3). DFSNs also forecast that 259 VDCs in 15 districts will 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: Food security phase classification, mid-March to mid-July 2015 Source: NeKSAP District Food Security Networks, July 2015

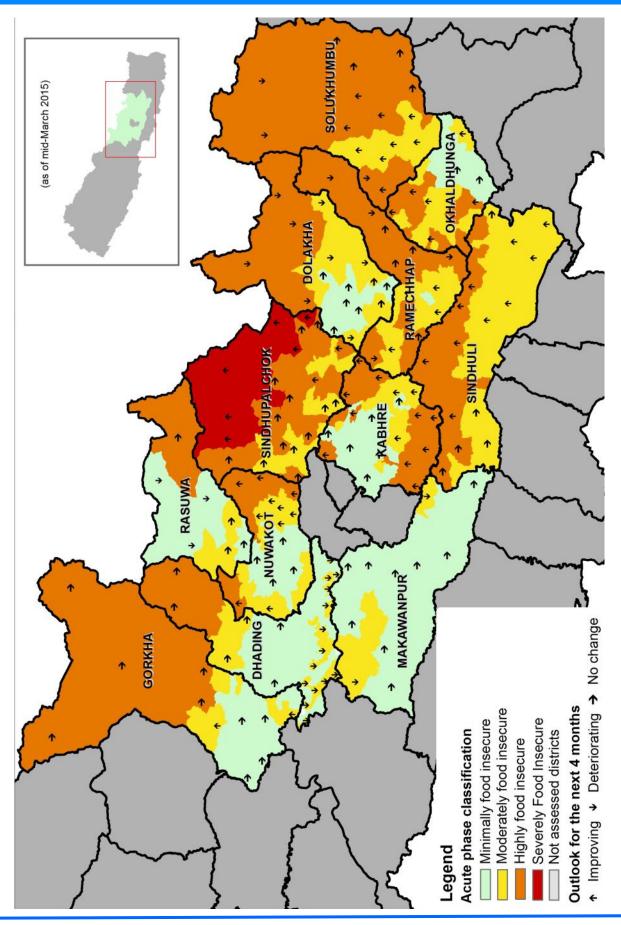


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Food security maps are available at the NeKSAP website: www.neksap.org.np/food-security-phase-classification-maps

Map 2: Food security phase classification in earthquake-affected districts, mid-July* 2015 (Source: NeKSAP District Food Security Networks, July 2015)

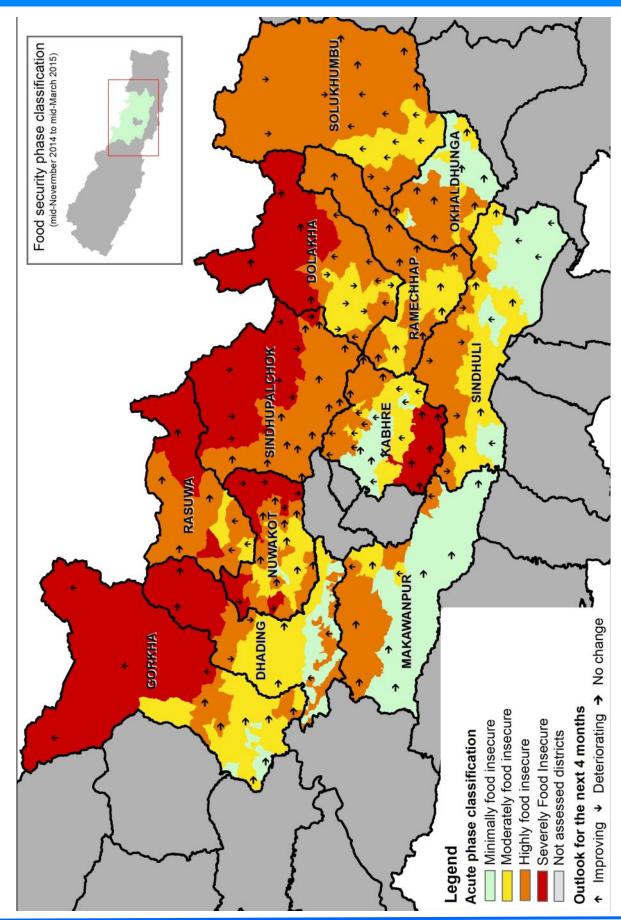


* Note: DFSN meetings were held between 8-29 July in the 12 earthquake-affected districts pictured above.





Map 3: Food security phase classification in earthquake-affected districts, mid-May* 2015 (Source: Ad hoc NeKSAP District Food Security Networks, May 2015)



* Note: Ad hoc DFSN meetings were held between 8-20 May in 11 districts. In Solukhumbu the DFSN was held on 4 June.





Nepal Food Security Bulletin — Issue 45 Incidence of acute food insecurity





Ad hoc DFSN meetings (May 2015): Immediately after the 25 April earthquake, NeKSAP activated district food security networks (DFSN) in the worst affected districts to undertake ad hoc meetings to assess the impact of the earthquake on food security. MoAD and WFP organized DFSN meetings in Gorkha, Sindhupalchowk, Dhading, Makawanpur, Okhaldhunga, Ramechhap, Sindhuli, Dolakha, Kavre, Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Solukhumbu during 8-20 May and 4 June. DFSNs classified 80 VDCs as severely food insecure (Phase 4), 292 VDCs as highly food insecure (Phase 3), 183 VDCs as moderately food insecure (Phase 2) and 106 VDCs as minimally food insecure (Phase 1)*. NeKSAP also supported the Food Security Cluster to undertake a household survey and market assessment in those districts. The findings were presented in the publication "A report on the food security impact of the 2015 earthquake".

*Note: The Government of Nepal categorized Gorkha, Dhading, Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha and Ramechhap as 'severely hit', Makawanpur, Sindhuli, Okhaldhunga, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur and Kathmandu as 'crisis hit' and Solukhumbu, Khotang, Lamjung, Tanahun and Chitwan as 'hit with heavy loss'. (Nepal Earthquake 2015: Post Disaster Needs Assessment)













Current food insecure areas (July 2015): DFSNs classified 234 VDCs in 11 districts as highly and severely food insecure, with an estimated 529,000 affected people. See Table 1 for the number of food insecure VDCs and affected population by district.

The DFSN in Sindhupalchowk classified 10 Village Development Committees (VDCs), namely Baruwa, Bhotang, Gumba, Golche, Taatopaani, Listi, Fulpingkatti, Maarming, Gaati and Ghorthali, as severely food insecure (Phase 4), with an estimated 28,700 affected people. Phase 4 is a situation where households are unable to meet food and non-food needs without losing livelihood assets and hence some immediate assistance is required. Overall, according to the DFSN, the earthquake claimed 3,532 lives and damaged or destroyed 67,383 houses. The DFSN reported that roughly 90 percent of food stock was damaged in more than 60 percent of households in the district.

Furthermore, DFSNs in 11 districts classified an additional 224 VDCs in Sindhupalchowk (45), Nuwakot (13), Rasuwa (1), Kavre (36), Dolakha (11), Ramechhap (34), Sindhuli (25), Dhading (5), Solukhumbu (21), Okhaldhunga (13), and Gorkha (20) as highly food insecure (Phase 3) with an estimated 500,300 affected people. Phase 3 is a situation where food consumption gaps are higher than normal and households are able to meet minimum food needs only through the accelerated depletion of livelihood assets.

Districts	Severely food insecure		Highly food insecure		Estimated
	VDCs	Population	VDCs	Population	affected population
Dhading	0	0	5	16,500	16,500
Dolakha	0	0	11	18,100	18,100
Gorkha	0	0	20	47,300	47,300
Kavre	0	0	36	74,800	74,800
Nuwakot	0	0	13	33,600	33,600
Okhaldhunga	0	0	13	27,100	27,100
Ramechhap	0	0	34	75,900	75,900
Rasuwa	0	0	1	400	400
Sindhuli	0	0	25	57,800	57,800
Sindhupalchowk	10	28,700	45	113,400	142,100
Solukhumbu	0	0	21	35,400	35,400
Total	10	28,700	224	500,300	529,000

Table 1: Number of current food insecure VDCs and affected population (Source: DFSN)

DFSNs classified another 329 VDCs in 23 districts as moderately food insecure (Phase 2), 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. The number of moderately food insecure VDCs by district is as follows: Rasuwa (5), Sindhupalchowk (24), Nuwakot (27), Kavre (18), Dolakaha (23), Ramechhap (20), Sindhuli (29), Dhading (11), Makwanpur (8), Solukhumbu (13), Okhaldhunga (19), Chitwan (5), Khotang (23), Taplejung (15), Sankhuwasabha (11), Gorkha (17), Bajhang (2), Jajarkot (7), Dailekh (9), Surkhet (6), Dolpa (23), Mugu (9) and Humla (5).

See Map 1 for the geographic distribution of current food insecure areas across Nepal and Map 2 for a more detailed map of the current food security situation in the earthquake-affected districts.

Changes since May: It should be noted that since the ad hoc DFSN meetings in mid-May and early June, the food security situation in the earthquake-affected districts has improved, especially in Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Makawanpur. Improvements were attributed to humanitarian assistance, the winter harvest (wheat and potato), resumption of market function and better road access. Notable exceptions are Sindhuli, where the DFSN reported that the situation has deteriorated, and Solukhumbu, where the situation is reported as the same.

Overall, in the earthquake-affected districts, the number of severely food insecure (Phase 4) and highly food insecure (Phase 3) VDCs decreased by 70 and 68 respectively since mid-May and early June, while the number of moderately food insecure (Phase 2) and minimally food insecure (Phase 1) VDCs increased by 30 and 108 respectively.

For comparison sake, Map 3 provides the food security situation in the earthquake-affected districts in mid-May.







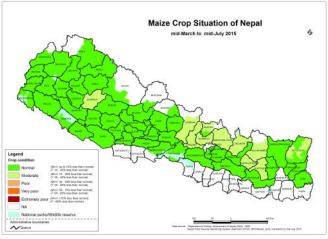
Nepal Food Security Bulletin — Issue 45 Food availability and access



Availability: In this period winter crops (wheat and barley) were harvested and MoAD has reported production at 2.0 million mt, which is an increase of 10.86 percent compared to the 'normal' level and 4.95 percent compared to 2013/14. Production of wheat was 1.97 million mt, which is an increase of 4.9 percent compared to last year. It should be noted that the 14 districts worst affected by the earthquake only cover 8.3 percent of wheat planted area and contribute 7.6 percent of wheat production (of the entire country). Hence, despite the earthquake, the overall winter cereal production in 2014/15 was at a record high.

One of the most immediate food security impacts of the earthquake was the significant loss of stored food stock: according to MoAD an estimated 135,000 mt was lost, primarily as a result of collapsed houses (note that this figure also includes loss of standing crops, which was minimal).

The period of mid-June to July is the ideal time for paddy transplantation in Nepal. This year, however, with the poor monsoon, paddy transplantation was delayed in most areas. According to MoAD, paddy transplantation had reached only 74 percent by mid-August. The situation was even worse in many districts in the central region where only 56 percent Map 4: Crop map (Maize), March-July 2015 (Source: DFSNs) of paddy transplantation was completed by mid-August.



Maize is the second most important cereal crop in Nepal. DFSNs reported that maize was affected by dry spells and pests (army worm) in some districts. DFSNs have projected a 15 percent maize production drop in the districts in the central hills and in other districts, including Jajarkot, Gorkha, Solukhumbu, Khotang, Okhaldhunga and Taplejung.

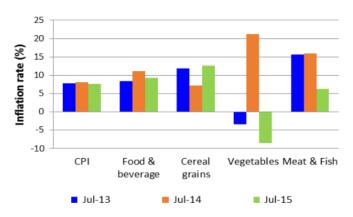
Map 4 shows maize crop growth as reported by DFSNs. Overall, the prospect for 2015 summer crop production appears unfavorable.

Household incomes: Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) reported an annual remittance inflow of NPR 617.28 billion (USD 6.19 billion) in the fiscal year 2071/72, with NPR 246.28 billion in the last trimester of that period¹. Remittances received in the last trimester account for 40 percent of the annual total. NRB, with caution, attributes the larger remittance inflow in the last trimester to the increase in post-disaster household expenses, with the remittance inflow between mid-April to mid-May and mid-May to mid-June increasing by 35 percent year-on-year². It is to be noted that these estimates are based on formal channels only and do not account for the remittances through informal channels, e.g., hand-carry remittances, which is common in the mid- and far-western regions, especially during April when migrants come home from India for summer crop cultivation and bring hand-carry remittances with them.

Income from agriculture and livestock was also high in this period, particularly in the central Terai (NPR 30 billion), eastern Terai (NPR 13 billion), and eastern hills and mountains (NPR 10 billion). In the earthquake-affected central hill and mountain districts, income from the agriculture and livestock sectors has been highly affected. Although income from productive sectors has resumed in some areas, this is generally not the case in VDCs currently classified as Phase 3 and 4. Development programmes of the government and non-governmental agencies also contributed to household income and food security in earthquake-affected districts and other districts in the mid-western and far-western hills and mountains. For example, WFP's cash for work intervention provided NPR 69.65 million to 9,472 households in Makawanpur and Sindhuli districts.

Food price and markets: The year-on-year Consumer Price Index (CPI), as shown in Figure 1, was 7.6 percent in July 2015 compared to 8.1 percent in July 2014. The food and beverage index was 9.2 percent compared to 11.1 percent in July 2014. The cereal grain group had a relatively higher increase at 12.6 percent in July 2015, while the vegetable sub-group had a lower change at minus 8.5 percent. Figure 2 compares the retail price of major staples and potato in April-July 2014, December 2014-March 2015 and April-July 2015. Compared to December-March 2014/15, the price of coarse rice increased by 1.8 percent, while that of wheat flour and red potato went down by 1.3 and 18.6 percent respectively. It is to be noted that the price change in red potato is seasonal.

Food purchasing power: The average daily rate of unskilled wage laborers and the average price of coarse rice during April-July 2015 were used to calculate terms of trade, an indicator of household purchasing power. The average terms of trade was 9.1, with the highest in the hills (10.2) and similar figures in the Terai (8.7) and mountains (8.5). Despite higher wages in the mountains, the terms of trade is lower because of the higher price of coarse rice. Laborers in the mountains, on average, paid 18 percent more than in the hills and 1.7 percent more than in the Terai for coarse rice.



25 20 Inflation rate (%) 15 10 0 -5 -10 CPI Food & Cereal Vegetables Meat & Fish beverage grains Jul-13 Jul-14 Jul-15

Figure 1: Year-on-year inflation rate (Source: Nepal Rastra Bank)

Figure 2: Retail price of major staples and red potato (Source: MoAD)



Phepal Rasta Bank, Current macro economic situation of Nepal (Based on annual data of 2014/15)





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Utilization, stability and food security outlook

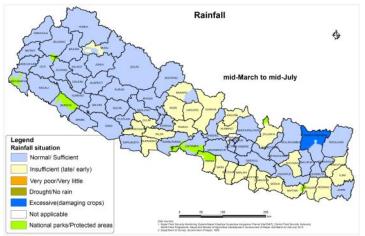
Utilization: The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster estimated that 1.1 million people lacked access to protected water sources and an equal number of people were without safe, hygienic and dignified means to access sanitation facilities in the 14 earth-quake affected districts. Furthermore, 1,570 water supply systems sustained major damage and 3,663 were partially damaged and 220,000 toilets were damaged and rendered unusable³. Unicef, in May, estimated that 70,000 children were at risk of malnutrition, with 15,000 in need of therapeutic feeding and 55,000 children with moderate acute malnutrition⁴. Hence, challenges in food utilization and nutrition are evident in the earthquake affected districts. Outside of the earthquake affected districts, DFSNs did not report any major health and sanitation issues impacting the food security situation in other districts.

Stability: According to the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC), the April earthquake and aftershocks killed 8,857 people and injured 22,579 and nearly 900,000 houses were damaged or destroyed. The impact on livelihoods and food security has been significant, with many VDCs in central, eastern and western hill and mountain districts classified as highly and severely food insecure, which, in earlier periods, were reported as minimally food insecure. The affected households in those areas experienced significant

loss of assets and livelihoods; many were displaced and forced to live in temporary shelters. In these areas the food system, including production, distribution and markets, was adversely affected, compromising the ability to recover to a stable situation.

Other districts experienced extreme climate-related events. For instance, monsoon-induced landslides killed 59 people and damaged 452 houses and 79 ha of cardamom plantation land in Taplejung. In Khotang, Jajarkot and Ilam landslides caused damage to irrigation systems, crops and livestock. In Sankhuwasabha, landslides swept away 100 houses and 10 VDCs were reported as at high risk for future landslides.

According to the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), the monsoon entered Nepal from the east on 13 June, a delay of 3 days from the expected start date. The monsoon was weak at the onset and this is reported to have adversely affected paddy transplantation. **Map 5** shows the adequacy of rainfall for summer crops as reported by DFSNs. Rainfall was reported as insufficient in many paddy and maize growing districts.



Map 5: Rainfall situation, mid-March to mid-July 2015 (Source: DFSNs)

Food security outlook (mid-July to mid-November 2015)

For the next four-month period (mid-July to mid-November 2015), NeKSAP district food security networks, based on current conditions and likely scenarios, have forecasted an overall improvement in the food security situation, with the number of VDCs classified as Phase 2 or worse expected to decrease from 563 in this period to 411 during mid-July to mid-November 2015.

Central Hills and Mountains: The food security situation is expected to improve: the number of VDCs classified as Phase 2 or worse is forecasted to decrease from 345 in the current period to 280 during mid-July to mid-November. Nevertheless, DFSNs in Ramechhap and Dolakha forecasted that the situation could deteriorate to severely food insecure (Phase 4) in 9 VDCs in Ramechhap (Gumdel, Chuchure, Those, Bamtibhandar, Gupteswar, Duragaun, Bhuji, Lakhanpur and Himganga) and 11 VDCs in Dolakha (Gaurishankar, Lamabagar, Chankhu, Marbu, Orang, Bigu, Alampu, Kalinchowk, Khopachagu, Chilankha and Khare). DFSNs reported that the impact of the earthquake on livelihoods and food security will be further exacerbated because of likely monsoon-induced landslides and road network disruptions, a potential production drop in maize due to pest infestation (army worm) and limited recovery activities after the earthquake. Another 103 VDCs in 7 districts, including 36 in Sindhupalchowk, 5 in Dhading, 8 in Makawanpur, 8 in Sindhuli, 13 in Dolakha, 25 in Ramechhap and 8 in Rasuwa, are likely to be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and 157 VDCs in 7 districts, including 13 in Nuwakot, 36 in Kavre, 43 in Sindhupalchowk, 24 in Dhading, 26 in Sindhuli, 10 in Dolakha and 5 in Rasuwa, might be classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2). The potential for VDCs being classified as Phase 2 or worse in these districts is attributed to the April earthquake and subsequent aftershocks coupled with an anticipated production drop in maize, supply offsets during monsoon and limited development programmes to provide employment and other benefits to earthquake-affected families.

Western Hills and Mountains: Except for Gorkha, where the DFSN anticipates that 20 VDCs will be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) during mid-July to mid-November, all other VDCs will likely be classified as minimally food insecure (Phase 1).

Eastern Hills and Mountains: In this cluster, the food security situation in the two earthquake affected districts, Okhaldhunga and Solukhumbu, is expected to improve. DFSNs anticipate that only 13 VDCs in each district will be classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2). The reasons for potential improvement include increased household food stock with the potato and maize harvest, income from high value commodities, remittance inflow and post-earthquake livelihood recovery interventions. The food security situation is expected to improve in Sankhuwasabha and remain similar in Taplejung and Khotang, with 38 VDCs (15 in Taplejung and 23 in Khotang) expected to be classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2).

Rapti-Bheri: The food security situation in this cluster is likely to deteriorate, especially in Dailkeh where the DFSN has forecasted that 9 VDCs will be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3). The outlook is attributed to a 50-60 percent production drop in winter crops and anticipated road network disruptions and a food supply shortfall in rural markets. The 6 VDCs of Surkhet and 7 VDCs of Jajarkot currently classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2) are likely to continue to be in a similar situation. In Surkhet, the situation is attributed to the continued impact of last year's flood; in Jajarkot, crop loss and market access are the key reasons.

Karnali: The entire district of Dolpa is currently classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2) but is expected to be classified as minimally food insecure (Phase 1) during mid-July to mid-November. The expected improvement is attributed to increased household food stocks with the winter and summer crop harvest, opening of seasonal markets in upper Dolpa and income from *yarchagumba*. In Mugu, the situation will remain similar, with 9 VDCs continuing in Phase 2; in Humla, the situation is expected to deteriorate, with the number of moderately food insecure VDCs expected to increase to 16.

District food security networks forecast that the rest of the country will be classified as minimally food insecure (Phase 1). With the summer crop harvest the majority of households are expected to have increased food stocks while other factors affecting food security are expected to remain stable. Markets are expected to meet the demand for food with adequate stockpiles, and price fluctuations are expected to be normal. In addition, regular income through wage labour, agriculture and livestock product sales and remittances will continue to contribute to food access. The earthquake response has now shifted from immediate humanitarian response to livelihood recovery and this will contribute to improvements in the food security situation in affected districts.





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Updates, district information and contacts

Advance estimate of 2015 rice production

The CCAFS Regional Agricultural Forecasting Tool (CRAFT), a crop modeling tool developed for South Asia, was used to estimate a preliminary outlook for 2015 rice production. The modeling exercise forecasted production of 3,194,774 mt of paddy from 1,046,928 ha of planted land.

The area estimate was obtained from MoAD (as of 5 August 2015) and the following cultivars (varieties) were used: *Jumli Marshy* for the mountains, *Khumal-4* for the hills and *Mansuli* for the Terai. The cultivar coefficient, an essential parameter for the model, was obtained from the Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC). For precipitation, DHM climate data to 2009 was used; for 2009 onwards, this was supplemented by RFe2.0 estimates.

It should be noted that this is a preliminary estimate based on the best available data and is subject to change with the availability of new information. Hence, the estimate will be revised with updated data, particularly on weather and acreage. The revised estimates will be available through the NeKSAP website.

Updates

- NeKSAP district food security network meetings: MoAD and WFP organized district food security network (DFSN) meetings in 74 of 75 districts in July 2015.
- NeKSAP regional debriefing meetings: MoAD and WFP organized NeKSAP regional debriefing meetings in each development region in August 2015. The meetings were aligned with Regional Agriculture Directorate's review workshops in all five development regions, where the Regional Agriculture Director, Senior Agriculture Development Officers (SADOs) and representatives from Department of Agriculture (DoA) and MoAD participated. At the meetings, food security focal points from District Agriculture Development Offices (DADOs) presented the food security situation in their respective districts from mid-March to mid-July 2015 and the outlook for the upcoming trimester. Regional Agriculture Directorates also presented the overall food security situation, issues, and challenges in their respective regions.
- **Food security response analysis**: Following the field testing and piloting of the food security response analysis (FSRA) prototype, it was rolled out in 2 districts (Dhanusa and Partbat) in July and August 2015. The plan is to complete the rollout in 50 districts by December 2015.
- Refresher training on NeKSAPinfo: A refresher training on NeKSAPInfo, the information system for NeKSAP, was conducted on 10-11 August 2015 for NeKSAP focal persons from DADOs in 16 districts in the eastern region. The training focused on the use of NeKSAPInfo to enter NeKSAP data in the NeKSAPInfo software and produce maps and other graphic outputs.
- Training on market and price analysis: WFP provided a one-day market and price analysis training for 24 DFSN focal persons from the central region and Agri-Business Promotion and Market Development Directorate (ABPMDD) staff on 7 August 2015. The training covered market price collection and analysis in relation to food security.

District food security information

The Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) currently monitors 74 districts across Nepal. The information collected forms the basis for this bulletin. Detailed 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

Cluster 3. Rapti-Bheri

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

Lamjung Tanahu Arghakhanchi Gulmi Palpa Syangja Parbat Baglung Myagdi Mustang Manang Kaski

Gorkha

Cluster 7. Central Hill and Mountain

Sindhuli Ramechhap Dolakha Sindhupalchok Kavrepalanchok Nuwakot Rusuwa Makwanpur Dhading

Cluster 8. Eastern Hill and Mountain

Panchthar
Sankhuwasabha
Ilam
Okhaldunga
Khotang
Dhankuta
Udayapur
Solukhumbu
Bhojpur
Terhathum

Taplejung

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