



Nepal Food Security Bulletin

Year 2016, Issue 46



नेपाल खाद्य सुरक्षा अनुगमन प्रणाली
Nepal Khadhyo Surakshya Anugaman Pranali (NeKSAP)
Nepal Food Security Monitoring System

HIGHLIGHTS AND SITUATION SUMMARY

This issue covers the period of mid-July to mid-November 2015, the first trimester of Nepalese Fiscal Year 2072/73. This bulletin is based on the outcomes of NeKSAP district food security network (DFSN) meetings held in 70 of 75 districts during November 2015. During this period the country experienced significant disruptions to cross-border trade with India, political unrest in the eastern Terai, a decrease in summer crop production, and continued earthquake impacts on food security and livelihoods. Due to the Terai unrest, DFSN meetings were not held in Dhanusa, Mahottari, Sarlahi and Rautahat.

In this period:

- DFSNs classified 120 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in 9 districts, namely Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha, Gorkha, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Ramechhap, Bajura, Mugu and Dolpa, as highly food insecure (Phase 3) with an estimated 240,000 affected people. This situation was attributed to the continued impact of the April-May earthquakes and the significant loss of summer crops. DFSNs also classified 429 VDCs in 19 districts as moderately food insecure (Phase 2).
- The food security situation in the earthquake affected districts has generally improved compared to the situation reported in the DFSNs in May and July. None of VDCs in the current period were classified as severely food insecure (Phase 4) and the number of VDCs classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) also decreased. Improvements were attributed to remittance inflow, crop harvests, humanitarian assistance, resumption of market function and better road access.
- Two significant events should be noted: first, the poor monsoon contributed to a decrease in summer crop production, and, second, disruptions to cross-border trade with India, mostly at the Birgunj-Raxual border point, led to a fuel crisis, reduced transportation services, a shortage of essential supplies, and an increase in many commodity prices.
- Summer crops (paddy, maize, millet and buckwheat) were harvested. MoAD estimated total summer crop production at 6.8 million mt, 5.6 percent less than in 2014/15. Paddy production decreased by 10.22 percent year-on-year.
- According to Nepal Rastra Bank, the year-on-year Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 10.4 percent in November 2015. The pulse sub-group had the largest year-on-year increase at 44.1 percent in November 2015.

NOTE: Ad hoc DFSN meetings in 13 earthquake affected districts were subsequently held in January 2016. The results—including the updated IPC map—are presented here as a supplement on page 7.

CURRENT FOOD SECURITY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Food Security Cluster	Current period: mid-Jul to mid-Nov 2015	Change from mid-Mar to mid-July 2015	Outlook for mid-Nov 2015 to mid-Mar 2016
Karnali		↓	↓
Far-Western Hill and Mountain		↓	↓
Rapti-Bheri Hills		↑	↓
Western Terai		→	→
Central & Eastern Terai		↓	↑
Western Hill and Mountain		→	→
Central Hill and Mountain		↑	↑
Eastern Hill and Mountain		↑	↑

DFSNs in most earthquake affected districts reported an overall improvement in the food security situation, while DFSNs in the Karnali, far-western hills and central Terai reported a deterioration. DFSNs classified 120 VDCs in 9 districts as highly food insecure (Phase 3) with an estimated affected population of 240,000. Furthermore, DFSNs in 19 districts classified an additional 429 VDCs as moderately food insecure (Phase 2).

Improvements in the earthquake affected districts were attributed to remittance inflow, crop harvests, humanitarian assistance, improved market function and better road access. The deterioration in some earthquake affected districts and the districts of the Karnali, far-western hills and eastern Terai were attributed to the summer crop losses and impact of the disruptions to cross-border trade and the political unrest in the Terai.

In the next four-month period, DFSNs forecasted that 10 VDCs in Bajura and 12 VDCs in Mugu may be classified as severely food insecure (Phase 4), 111 VDCs in 10 districts may be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and 410 VDCs in 23 districts may 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.

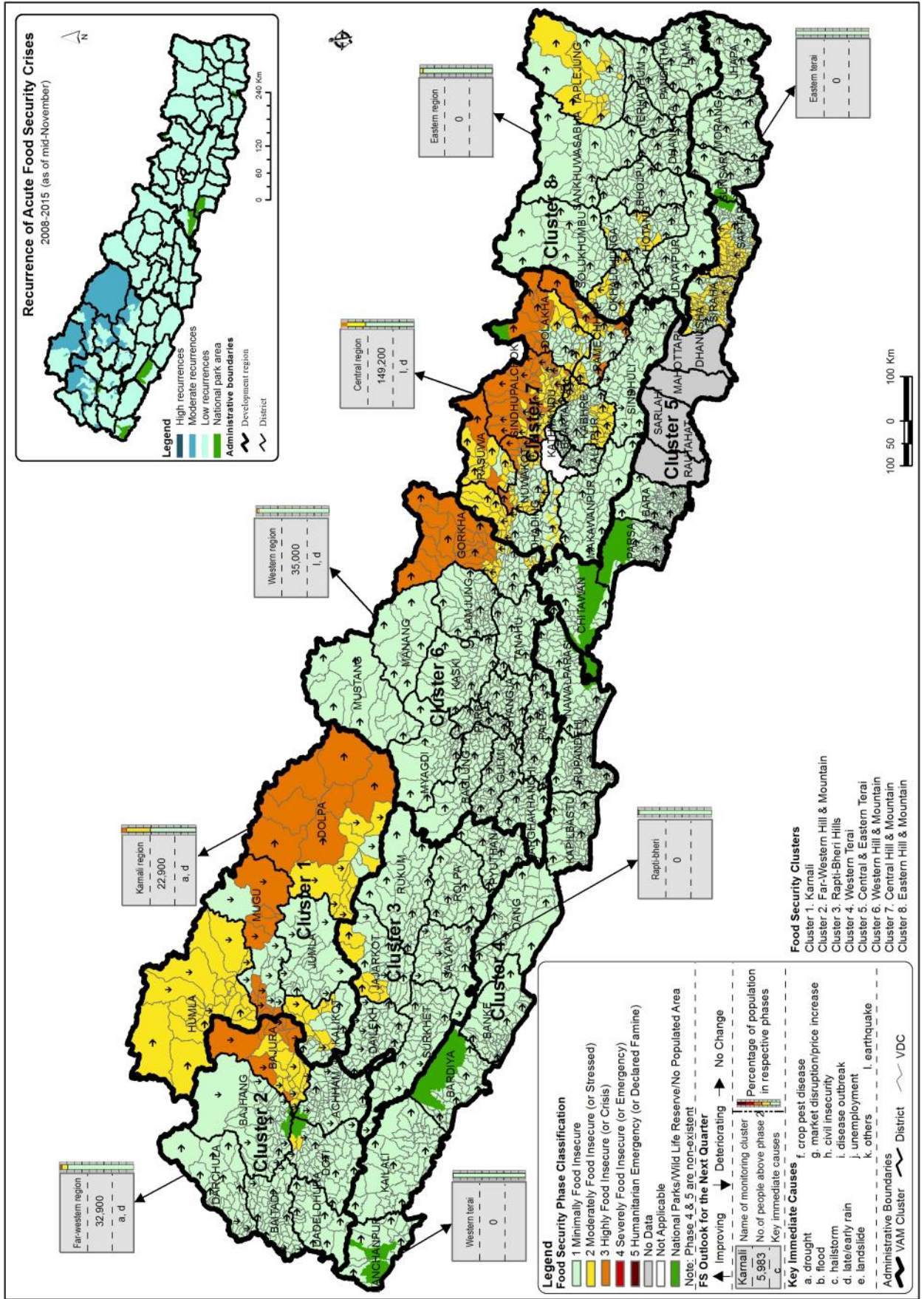
- Minimally Food Insecure
- Moderately Food Insecure
- Highly Food Insecure
- Severely Food Insecure
- Humanitarian Emergency

Change / Outlook

- ↓ Deteriorate
- Stay the same
- ↑ Improve



Map 1: Food security phase classification, mid-July to mid-November 2015
 Source: NeKSAP District Food Security Networks, November 2015





Current food insecure areas: DFSNs classified 120 VDCs in 9 districts as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and estimated that roughly 240,000 people were currently highly food insecure and required humanitarian assistance. Phase 3 is defined as a situation where household food consumption gaps are higher than normal and households are able to meet minimum food needs only through the accelerated depletion of livelihood assets. DFSNs attributed the situation to the continued impact of the earthquakes, large drops in summer crop production (maize, paddy and millet), and the effects of the disruptions to cross-border trade with India, including the shortage of fuel and other essential goods, an increase in transportation costs, and high prices of food and other commodities.

Table 1 shows the number of highly food insecure (Phase 3) VDCs and the estimated affected population requiring humanitarian assistance during mid-July to mid-November 2015. Sindhupalchowk had the largest number of VDCs (33) classified as Phase 3, with the situation attributed to the earthquakes and large production drops in maize (20 percent), paddy (22 percent), millet (10 percent) and livestock (16 percent). An increase in food prices (up to 40-80 percent) and a 20 percent decrease in remittance inflow also contributed to this situation. Five other earthquake affected districts also had VDCs classified as Phase 3. In total, roughly 185,000 people from 91 VDCs were reported as highly food insecure in six earthquake affected districts this period.

In the far-western region, the DFSN in Bajura classified 10 VDCs as Phase 3, with an estimated affected population of 33,000. The situation was attributed to large production drops in maize and millet (50 percent) and paddy (13 percent) and reduced employment opportunities (30 percent). DFSNs in the Karnali classified 12 VDCs in Mugu and 7 VDCs in Dolpa as Phase 3, with an estimated affected population of 23,000, primarily as a result of large summer crop losses.

Furthermore, DFSNs in 19 districts classified an additional 429 VDCs (46 VDCs in Sindhupalchowk, 27 VDCs in Nuwakot, 12 VDCs in Rasuwa, 32 VDCs in Kavrepalanchok, 14 VDCs in Dolakha, 22 VDCs in Ramechhap, 16 VDCs in Dhading, 13 VDCs in Okhaldhunga, 15 VDCs in Taplejung, 9 VDCs in Khotang, 17 VDCs in Gorkha, 17 VDCs in Bajura, 2 VDCs in Doti, 13 VDCs in Dolpa, 27 VDCs in Humla, 10 VDCs in Kalikot, 6 VDCs in Jajarkot, 58 VDCs in Saptari and 73 VDCs in Siraha) 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.

See **Map 1** for the geographic distribution of current food insecure VDCs across Nepal.

Changes in the earthquake affected districts: NeKSAP has closely monitored the food security situation in the earthquake affected districts through regular and ad hoc DFSN meetings held in May, July and November. Since the ad hoc DFSN meetings in May to assess the immediate impact of the earthquakes, subsequent DFSN meetings have reported a general improvement in the food security situation in the earthquake affected districts over time. These improvements have been attributed to remittance inflow, humanitarian assistance, the harvests of winter (wheat and potato) and summer (maize, paddy, millet) crops, the resumption of supply chains and market function and improved access with the repair and opening of roads and trails damaged by the earthquakes. Nevertheless, there remain pockets of food insecurity where initial damage was higher and/or recovery has been slow.

Figure 1 shows the change in the food security phase classification in 12 of the earthquake affected districts^{*} based on DFSN meetings in May, July and November 2015. For comparison, the results of the DFSN meetings in March 2015—a pre-earthquake baseline—are also shown; at that time all VDCs were classified as minimally food insecure (Phase 1).

Overall, the number of food insecure VDCs, i.e., Phase 2 (yellow), Phase 3 (orange) and Phase 4 (red), has decreased over time in line with the overall recovery from May to November. Notably, in the current period, no VDCs were classified as severely food insecure (Phase 4).

Despite this overall improvement, the recovery in some VDCs in the northern districts of Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha and Gorkha, has stagnated and lagged behind. In these districts, DFSNs cited several factors for this, including the significant loss of crops (especially maize due to a dry spell and army worm infestation), limited income opportunities in trekking (due to the decreased number of tourists) and wage employment (due to damage to hydro-power projects), the inability of affected households to replenish food stocks, poor road access, the severe shortage of fuel and the subsequent reduction in transportation services and high food prices.

^{*}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)

District	# of VDCs	Est. population in Phase 3
Sindhupalchowk	33	67,300
Dolakha	11	18,400
Ramechhap	12	25,600
Gorkha	20	35,000
Nuwakot	13	33,700
Rasuwa	2	4,200
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>184,200</i>
Bajura	10	32,900
Dolpa	7	6,600
Mugu	12	16,300
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>55,800</i>
Total	120	240,000

Table 1: Number of VDCs by district classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and the estimated affected population (Source: DFSNs)

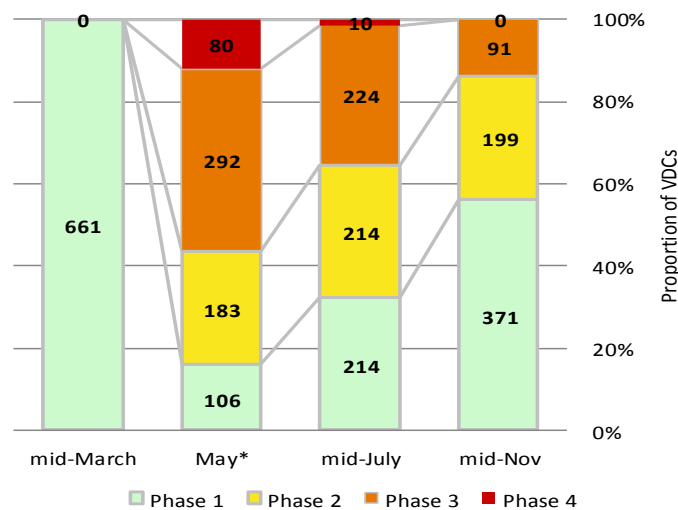


Figure 1: Changes in the food security phase classification in the 12 earthquake affected districts, Mar-Nov 2015 (Source: DFSNs)





Availability: In this period summer crops (paddy, maize, millet and buckwheat) were harvested and MoAD estimated total production at 6.8 million mt, a decrease of 5.29 percent compared to the five-year average and a decrease of 5.63 percent compared to 2014/15. Paddy is the most significant summer crop. **Figure 2** shows recent paddy production figures. This year paddy production was estimated at 4.3 million mt, a decrease of 9.96 percent compared to the five-year average and a decrease of 10.22 percent compared to 2014/15. Maize production, the most important crop of the hills, was estimated at 2.23 million mt, an increase of 4.53 percent compared to the five-year average and increase of 4.02 percent compared to last year.

The central hill and mountain cluster was hit hard by the 2015 April earthquake and DFSNs reported that paddy and maize production decreased by 25 and 18 percent respectively compared to last year. In Sindhupalchowk, one of the worst affected districts, paddy and maize production decreased by 29 and 23 percent respectively.

Similarly, in the Karnali, DFSNs reported that paddy and millet production decreased by 29 and 24 percent respectively compared to last year. In Humla and Kalikot, paddy and millet production decreased by 40 percent compared to last year. In the far western region, in Bajura, maize and millet decreased by 49 and 43 percent respectively compared to last year. Factors contributing to these decreases included late and erratic monsoon, pest infestation, dry spells and the fuel shortage affecting irrigation and fertilizer transportation.

Development programmes of the government and development partners contributed to food availability, especially in the earthquake affected districts. For instance, WFP supported 314,141 people (in 72,449 households) in Gorkha, Dhading, Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Dolakha and Solukhumbu with 2,872 mt of food between July and October 2015.

Household incomes: Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) reported a remittance inflow of NPR 215.39 billion (USD 2.069 billion) in the first trimester of the fiscal year 2015/16, which is an increase of 19.4 percent compared to the same period last year¹. It should be noted that this estimate is based on formal channels only and does not account for the remittances through informal channels, e.g., hand-carry remittances, which are common in the mid- and far-western regions, especially in this trimester, when migrants come home from India for festivals, summer crop harvesting and winter crop plantation and bring significant hand-carry remittances with them.

DFSNs reported significant incomes from the agriculture and livestock sectors, especially in the eastern hills and mountains (1.3 billion USD), western hills and mountains (96 million USD), central hills and mountains (94 million USD), and hills and Terai of the mid-western region (78 million USD). Agricultural commodities contributing to household incomes included seasonal vegetables, cardamom, tea, ginger, citrus, and potato. July-November is also the season for collecting *yarchagumba* and other Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), such as *kutki*, *jatamasi*, and wild garlic, especially in the mountains of mid- and far-western regions. According to the DFSNs, in the far-western region, 14,000 households earned 7 million USD from *yarchagumba* and other NTFPs, which during the same period last year was reported at 14 million USD. Similarly, in the Karnali, income from NTFPs was reported at 1 million USD. Livelihood programmes of the government and development partners also contributed to households incomes. In the Karnali, DFSNs reported that 1,400 households received 630,000 USD through DDCs and RAP-3. In Makawanpur and Sindhuli, 2,402 households received 1 million USD through the WFP cash for work programme; similarly, 3,230 households in Dailekh received 202,000 USD.

Inflation and food prices: The year-on-year Consumer Price Index (CPI), as shown in **Figure 3**, was 10.4 percent in November 2015 compared to 7.2 percent in November 2014. The food and beverage index was 12.1 percent compared to 9.9 percent in November 2014. The pulse sub-group had the highest increase year-on-year at 44.1 percent in November 2015, while the cereal grain sub-group was 9.4 percent in November 2015. **Figure 4** compares the retail price of major staples and red potato in August-November 2015 with April-July 2015 and the corresponding period last year. Compared to August-November 2014, the price of coarse rice and wheat flour increased by 0.6 percent and 2.3 percent respectively, while that of red potato decreased by 30.3 percent.

Food purchasing power: The average daily rate of unskilled wage labor and the average price (per kg) of coarse rice during August-November 2015 were used to calculate the terms of trade, an indicator of household purchasing power. The average terms of trade was 7.3, with the highest in the hills (10.1) and the lowest in the mountains (6.8). 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 48.6 percent more than in the hills and 30.6 percent more than in the Terai for coarse rice.

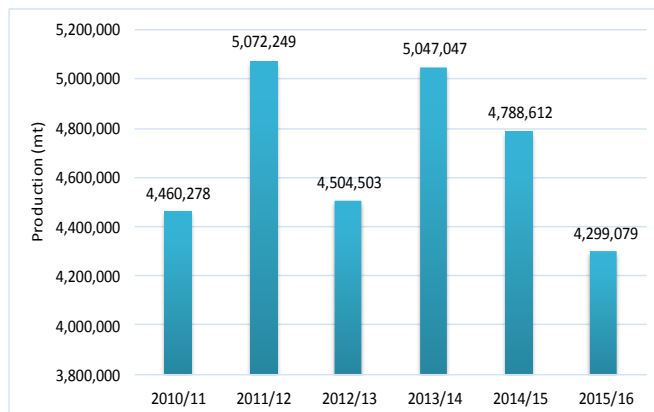


Figure 2: Paddy production, 2010/11 to 2015/16 (Source: MoAD)

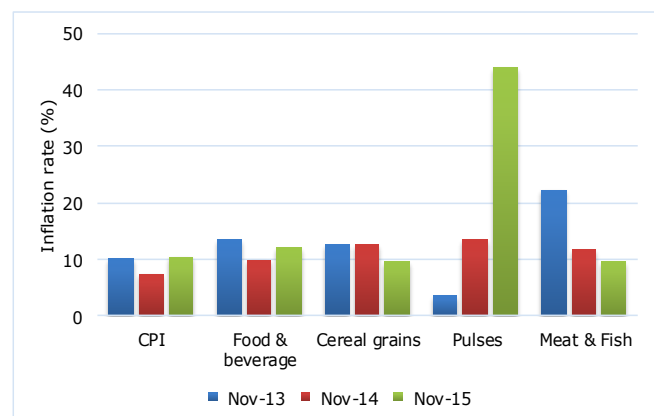


Figure 3: Year-on-year inflation rate (Source: Nepal Rastra Bank)

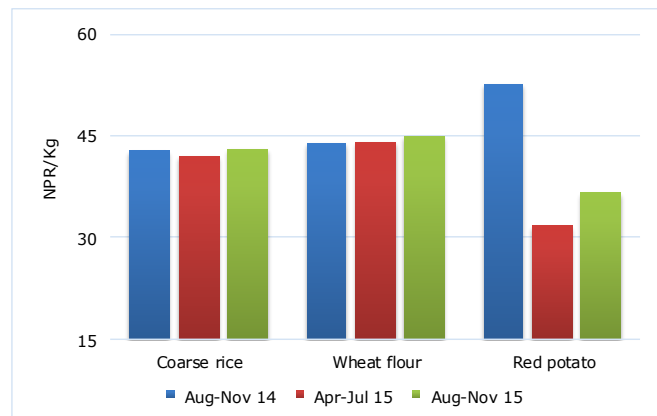


Figure 4: Retail price of major staples & red potato (Source: MoAD)



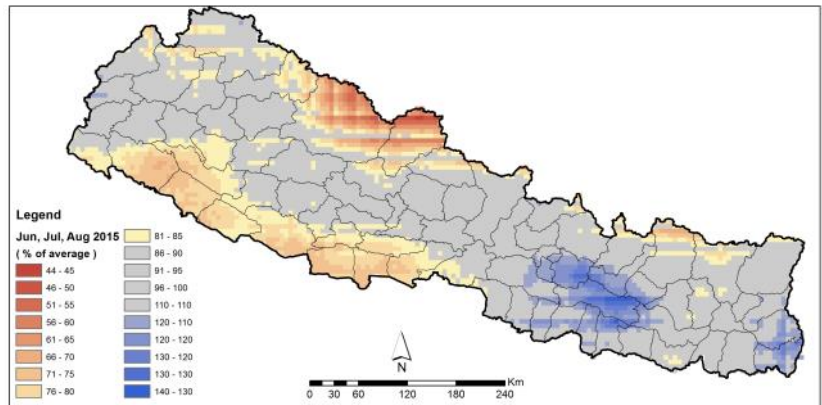
¹ Nepal Rasta Bank, Current macro economic and financial situation of Nepal (Based on four month's data of 2015/16)



Utilization: DFSNs did not report any significant health and nutrition issues—i.e., acute shocks—impacting the food security situation in this period. However, OCHA estimated that in 14 earthquake affected districts there were 81,000 households (400,000 people) living in high altitude areas who required proper shelter to protect them from the winter cold. As reported in “Reaching the Unreached Nepal Earthquake: Six Months Review”, Unicef reported a number of interventions by development partners in the nutrition cluster to promote nutrition, health and sanitation in the earthquake affected districts.

Stability: The monsoon was delayed and weak throughout the paddy transplanting period from June to August. **Map 2** shows the rainfall during June to August as a percentage of the thirty-year average. Most areas received below average rainfall this year, especially the mountains and Terai districts of the mid- and far-western region and some mountain districts in the eastern region. A few hill districts in the eastern and central regions received above average rainfall.

The disruptions to cross-border with India and the political unrest in the Terai that started in August impacted livelihoods across the country: the lack of fuel led to reduced and more costly transportation services, the shortage of essential goods, and price hikes. Some eastern Terai districts, notably Siraha and Saptari, were particularly affected, and the Birgunj-Raxual border point was the focus of the agitation.



Map 2: Rainfall during June-August (2015) as percent of normal (Source: ICIMOD)

A study by Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) in November revealed that the economic cost of the ‘unofficial blockade’ is likely to reduce the growth rate of the agricultural sector by 0.5 percent, industrial sector by 2.5 percent, service sector by 0.5 percent and Gross Domestic Product by 1.1 percent if the blockade continues till mid-January 2016. NRB also warned that the ongoing crisis may push 3 percent (800,000) of Nepal’s population under the poverty line.

Food security outlook (mid-November 2015 to mid-March 2016)

District food security networks, based on current conditions and likely scenarios, have forecasted whether the food security situation will improve, remain stable or deteriorate during the period of mid-November 2015 to mid-March 2016. As a result of the large production drops in summer crops, the winter lean season, the persistent impact of the earthquakes on food security and livelihoods, the fuel crisis, road blockades, and high market prices, DFSNs anticipated that a significant number of VDCs will be classified as moderately food insecure or worse in this upcoming period.

Central Hills and Mountains: DFSNs in the earthquake affected districts of the central hills and mountains anticipated an improvement in the food security situation, with the number of highly food insecure (Phase 3) VDCs decreasing to 28 during mid-November 2015 to mid-March 2016 as compared to 71 in the current cycle. DFSNs, however, anticipated an increase in the number of moderately food insecure (Phase 2) VDCs from 169 in the current period to 178 during the next period. DFSNs report that the summer crop harvest (maize, paddy, millet and potato), remittance inflow, post-earthquake recovery interventions, and income from on-farm and off-farm activities were the key factors contributing to the likely positive outlook. The district-wise distribution of VDCs forecasted to be highly food insecure (Phase 3) during mid-November 2015 to mid-March 2016 include the following: Dolakha (11), Ramechhap (12), Rasuwa (2) and Nuwakot (3). DFSNs also forecasted that the following districts would have VDCs classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2): Dhading (5), Sindhuli (23), Dolakha (23), Ramechhap (22), Rasuwa (12), Nuwakot (28), Kavre (32), Sindhupalchowk (33).

Western Hills and Mountains: Except for Gorkha, where the DFSN anticipated that 20 VDCs currently classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) will continue in the same classification during mid-November 2015 to mid-March 2016, all other VDCs will likely be classified as minimally food insecure (Phase 1) mainly due to crop harvests and livelihood interventions.

Eastern Hills and Mountains: DFSNs in this cluster anticipated an improvement in the food security situation, with the number of moderately food insecure (Phase 2) VDCs decreasing from 37 in the current period to 24 in the next period. DFSNs also forecasted that 15 VDCs in Taplejung and 9 VDCs in Khotang may be classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2) as a result of the poor paddy harvest and limited on-farm and off-farm income during the winter period.

Rapti-Bheri: The food security situation in this cluster is likely to deteriorate, with the number of moderately food insecure (Phase 2) VDCs increasing from 6 in the current period to 49 in the next period. DFSNs anticipated that 18 VDCs in Salyan, 11 VDCs in Jajarkot, 10 VDCs in Dailekh and 10 VDCs in Surkhet may be classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2) due to production drops in summer crops, geographic remoteness, transportation problems and high market prices.

Karnali: With the current winter drought, DFSNs in Karnali forecasted that the food security situation might further worsen if action is not taken, especially in Mugu, where the DFSN concluded that the 12 VDCs currently classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) might become severely food insecure (Phase 4) during November 2015 to March 2016. An additional 46 VDCs (7 in Dolpa, 17 in Humla, 12 in Mugu and 10 in Kalikot) are likely to be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and 62 VDCs (16 in Dolpa, 10 in Humla, 16 in Jumla and 20 in Kalikot) are likely to be classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2). DFSNs attributed the poor outlook to summer crop production losses, the winter lean season, lower income from *yarchagumba*, reduced road and air traffic due to snowfall, limited market supplies and high prices. Affected households are expected to adopt crisis and distressed coping strategies, such as forced migration and selling of productive assets.

Far western Hills and Mountains: The DFSN in Bajura forecasted a possible deterioration in the food security situation, with 10 VDCs likely to be classified as severely food insecure (Phase 4) and 17 VDCs likely to be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3). The poor outlook is due to production drops in summer crops, the winter lean season, high market prices and fewer livelihood activities. DFSNs anticipated that an additional 97 VDCs may be classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2) in the following districts: Achham (19), Baitadi (13), Bajhang (27), Darchula (20) and Doti (18).

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, a majority of households are expected to have increased food stocks. Regular income through wage labour, the sale of agricultural and livestock products and remittances will continue to contribute to food access. The supply of goods and overall functioning of markets, however, are highly dependent on the resumption of normal cross-border trade with India.



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 4,181,298 mt of paddy from 1,370,212 ha of planted land.

The area estimate was obtained from MoAD (as of 29 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, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) climate data to 2009 was used; from 2009 onwards, this data was supplemented by RFe2.0 estimates.

The CRAFT results were disseminated at a meeting at MoAD on 5 November 2015, with representatives from MoAD, Department of Agriculture, NARC, ICIMOD, CIMMYT, IRRI and WFP.

Updates

- **NeKSAP district food security network meetings:** MoAD and WFP organized district food security network meetings in 70 of 75 districts in November 2015. Due to the ongoing unrest in the eastern Terai, DFSN meetings were not held in Dhanusa, Mahottari, Sarlahi and Rautahat.
- **NeKSAP regional debriefing meetings:** MoAD and WFP organized NeKSAP regional debriefing meetings in each development region in December 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 MoAD and the Department of Agriculture 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-July to mid-November 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.
- **NeKSAP National Capacity Index:** WFP, MoAD and NPC organized a National Capacity Index workshop for NeKSAP to assess the current capacities of NeKSAP and identify key gaps. Prior to the national-level workshop, regional- and district-level consultations were undertaken during the debriefing meetings. The national workshop took place in Kathmandu on December 24. Participants assessed several key indicators, including policies and legislation, institutional capacity, programme and resource allocation, programme design and management, and stakeholder participation, and assigned scores to each of these areas and an overall index score.
- **Food Security Response Analysis:** To institutionalize the use of food security information generated by NeKSAP for annual development planning, the roll-out of the food security response analysis training and response plan development continued in this trimester. DFSN members and key stakeholders in 16 districts participated in the training and are contributing to the development of district food security response plans, which will be endorsed by District Development Councils and integrated in the annual 14-step planning process of the respective districts.

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
Doti

Cluster 3. Rapti-Bheri Hills

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

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

Cluster 7. Central Hill and Mountain

Sindhuli
Ramechhap
Dolakha
Sindhupalchok
Kavrepalanchok
Nuwakot
Rasuwa
Makwanpur
Dhading

Cluster 8. Eastern Hill and Mountain

Taplejung
Panchthar
Sankhuwasabha
Ilam
Okhaldhunga
Khotang
Dhankuta
Udayapur
Solukhumbu
Bhojpur
Terhathum

Contacts and further information: NeKSAP website: www.neksap.org.np | NeKSAP email: info@neksap.org.np

Food Security Monitoring Unit Ministry of Agricultural Development Singh Durbar, Kathmandu www.moad.gov.np	National Nutrition and Food Security Secretariat National Planning Commission Singh Durbar, Kathmandu www.npc.gov.np/new/eng/index.php	Food Security Monitoring and Analysis Unit United Nations World Food Programme Box No 107, Chakupat, Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur www.wfp.org/countries/nepal
--	---	--



This product is funded by the European Union. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



This material has been funded by UK aid from the UK government; however the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the UK government's official policies.

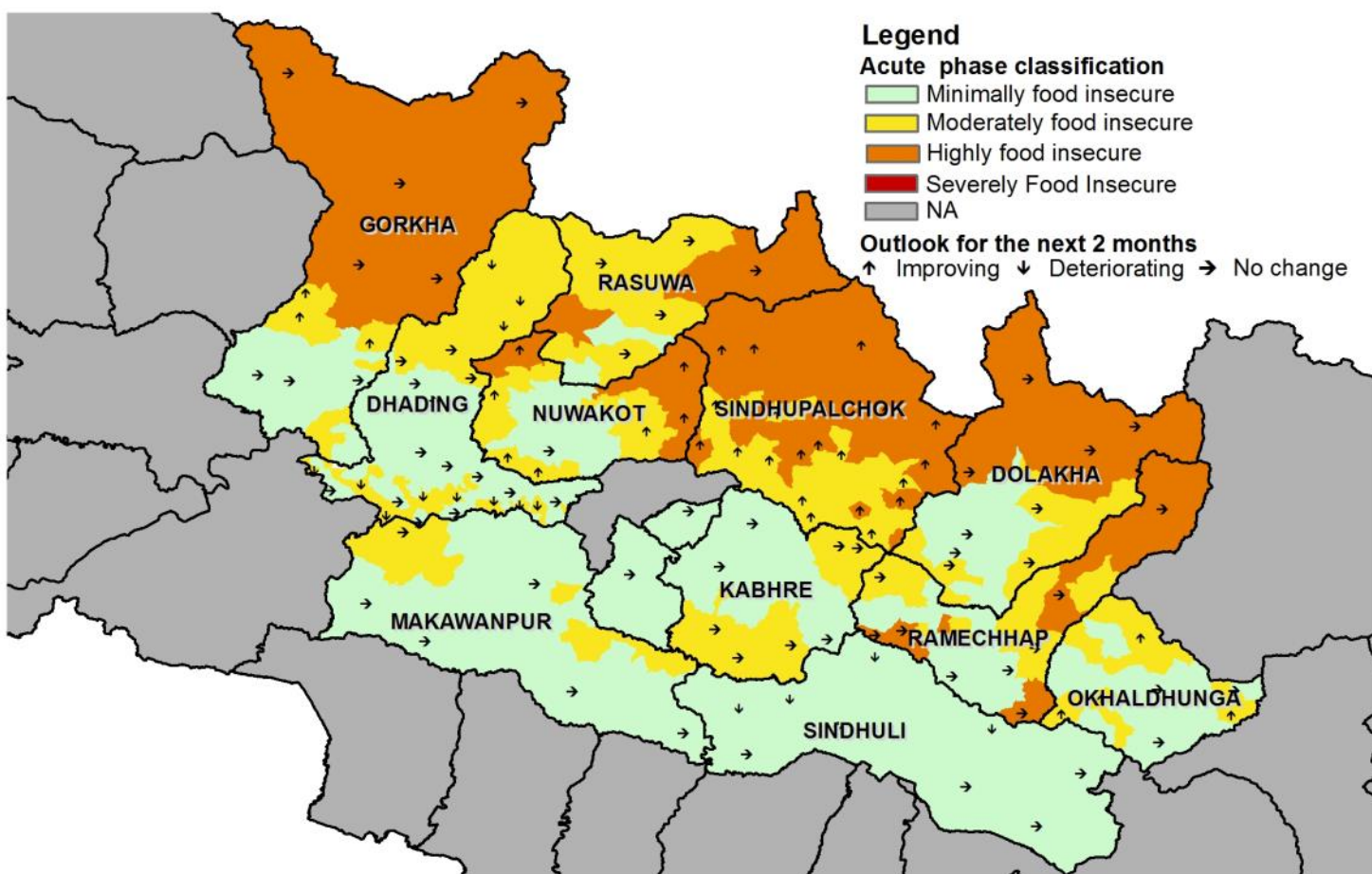


Situation update (as of January 2016): NeKSAP district food security networks (DFSN) met in mid-January 2016 in 13 earthquake affected districts in the central and western development regions (Dhading, Dolakha, Gorkha, Kavre, Makawanpur, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Okhaldhunga, Ramechhap, Sindhuli, Sindhupalchowk, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur) to review the food security situation between mid-November 2015 and mid-January 2016 and provide an outlook for the food security situation between mid-January to mid-March 2016.

DFSNs classified 91 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in six districts (33 in Sindhupalchowk, 2 in Rasuwa, 12 in Ramechhap, 13 in Nuwakot, 20 in Gorkha and 11 in Dolakha) as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and estimated that 170,000 people in those six districts were currently highly food insecure and require humanitarian assistance (see **Map 3**). DFSNs attributed the situation to the continued severe impact of the April and May earthquakes, subsequent production drops in summer crops (maize, paddy and millet) and the high food prices linked to the ongoing fuel crisis and disruption to cross-border trade with India. Given the large number of people still residing in temporary shelters, the winter season has also contributed to hardships in these areas.

Overall, the food security situation in these districts in this period remained similar to that of the previous period from mid-July to mid-November 2015, except for Makawanpur and Okhaldhunga districts, where DFSNs reported an increase in the number of moderately food insecure (Phase 2) VDCs. In those districts, DFSNs attributed the deterioration to depleted household food stocks, reduced employment opportunities arising from limited construction and development activities, high food prices and increased morbidity arising from the winter season and residing in temporary shelters.

DFSNs classified all other VDCs in the 13 districts as minimally food insecure (Phase 1), a situation where households can secure food and non-food needs without shifting or changing livelihood strategies. In these areas, the food security situation was reported as normal because of sufficient stocks of summer crops (maize, paddy and millet) and income from on-farm and off-farm activities which contributed to household food availability and access and limited the impact of natural disasters and man-made shocks on utilization and stability.



Map 3: Food security situation in 13 earthquake affected districts (mid-November 2015 to mid-January 2016) (Source: DFSNs)

Outlook: Due to production drops in summer crops, the winter lean season effect and the persistent impact of the earthquakes on food security and livelihoods, DFSNs anticipate that the situation might not significantly improve in the earthquake affected districts if the current disruptions to cross-border trade and fuel crisis continue. As such, DFSNs forecasted that out of 687 VDCs in these 13 earthquake affected districts the situation would remain similar in 505 VDCs, improve in 152 VDCs and deteriorate in 30 VDCs.

The DFSN in Dhading forecasted a deterioration in 5 northern VDCs (namely, Lapa, Sertung, Tipling, Jharlang and Ree) which are currently classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2) because of production drops in maize and millet, reduced employment opportunities due to fewer development activities and continuing disruptions to transportation services, supply chains and price increases due to the shortage of fuel. Similarly, the DFSN in Sindhuli projected that the food security situation in 25 VDCs may deteriorate from the current classification of minimally food insecure (Phase 1) due to insufficient grain storage and reduced employment opportunities (up to 60 percent).

In other districts, DFSNs forecasted that the food security situation will improve throughout the district in Sindhupalchowk, in 40 VDCs in Nuwakot, in 17 VDCs in Gorkha and in 16 VDCs in Okhaldhunga. This is attributed to the potential improvement in recent harvests of paddy and millet, an increase in wage labour income through government and non-governmental development activities, and income from regular sources like remittances and on-farm and off-farm employment.