



Nepal Food Security Bulletin

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नेपाल खाद्य सुरक्षा अनुगमन प्रणाली
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HIGHLIGHTS AND SITUATION SUMMARY

This issue covers the period of mid-March to mid-July 2016, the third trimester of Nepali Fiscal Year 2072/73. This bulletin is based on the outcomes of NeKSAP district food security network (DFSN) meetings held in 74 of 75 districts during July and August 2016. The food security situation in this period was affected by the winter lean period, the severe drought in the mid-and far-western hills and mountains, production decreases in summer and winter crops, and the continuing impacts of the April-May 2015 earthquakes. Furthermore, landslides, road closures, disruptions to supply chains, and associated price hikes were a recurring phenomenon in the hills and mountains during the early monsoon period in June and July which affected food security. On the other hand, the resumption of cross-border trade with India from January/February onwards and the harvest of winter crops, especially wheat, in April/May improved food availability and access in many areas. In this period:

- DFSNs classified 212 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in 13 districts, namely Achham, Baitadi, Bajhang, Bajura, Doti, Dolpa, Humla, Kalikot, Mugu, Dhading, Gorkha, Nuwakot and Sindhupalchowk, as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and reported that roughly 432,100 people were affected. This situation was attributed to the depletion of household food stocks in the winter lean period, a substantial decrease in winter crop production, monsoon induced landslides and road closures and associated supply chain offsets and price hikes, and the lasting impacts of the April-May 2015 earthquakes. DFSNs also classified an additional 376 VDCs (including 5 municipalities) in 26 districts as moderately food insecure (Phase 2).
- The food security situation in the earthquake affected districts has improved compared to the situation reported by the DFSNs in July 2015, November 2015 and March 2016. None of VDCs in these areas in the current period were classified as severely food insecure (Phase 4) and the number of VDCs classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) has decreased. Improvements were attributed to crop harvests, remittances, reconstruction assistance, resumption of market function and better road access.
- According to Nepal Rastra Bank, the year-on-year Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 10.4 percent in July 2016. The pulse sub-group had the largest year-on-year increase at 22.5 percent in July 2016. Compared to April-July 2015, the price of coarse rice and wheat flour increased by 2.7 percent and 9.9 percent respectively, while that of red potato decreased by 8.2 percent.
- DFSNs reported normal maize crop growth in most areas. Conditions for the paddy crop are also favourable, with the timely arrival of monsoon and sufficient rainfall during transplantation. The CCAFS Regional Agricultural Forecasting Tool (CRAFT) projected 2016 paddy production at 4,542,578 mt, an increase of 5.66 percent compared to last year.

CURRENT FOOD SECURITY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Food Security Cluster	Current period: mid-March to mid-July 2016	Change from mid-Nov 2015 to mid-March 2016	Outlook for mid-July to mid-Nov 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		→	→

- Minimally food insecure
- Moderately food insecure
- Highly food insecure
- Severely food insecure
- Humanitarian emergency

Change / Outlook

- ↓ Deteriorate
- Stay the same
- ↑ Improve

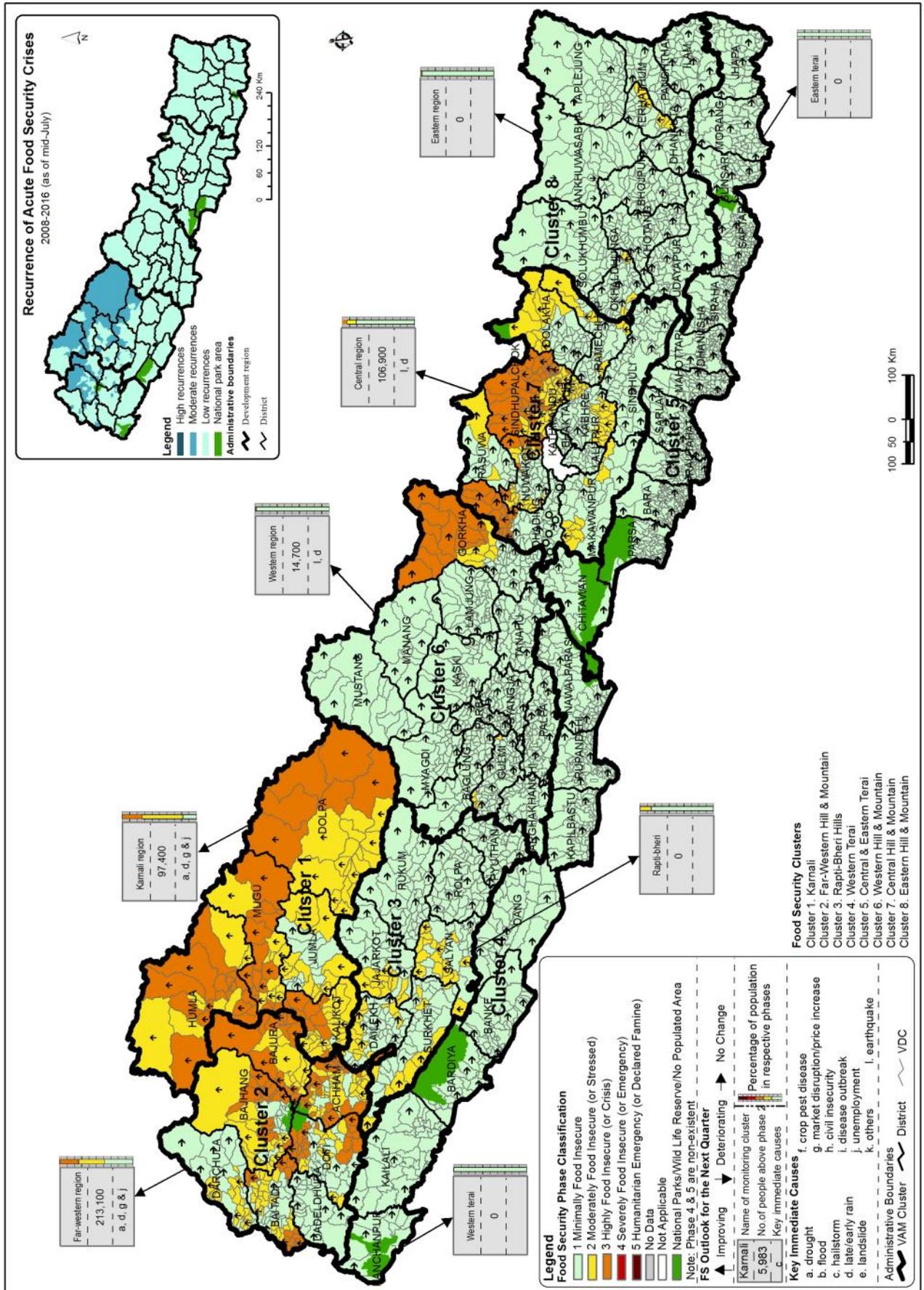
DFSNs reported a significant deterioration in the food security situation, particularly in the mid-and far-western hills and mountains where the winter drought led to a substantial decrease in production of winter crops. The food security situation in the earthquake affected districts has remained similar to the last reporting period of mid-November 2015 to mid-March 2016. However, some earthquake affected districts have experienced a significant improvement in the food security situation over time.

DFSNs classified 212 VDCs in 13 districts as highly food insecure (Phase 3) with an estimated affected population of approximately 432,100. Furthermore, DFSNs in 26 districts classified an additional 376 VDCs (including 5 municipalities) as moderately food insecure (Phase 2).

In the next four-month period, DFSNs forecasted an improvement in the food security situation, largely due to the upcoming maize and paddy crop harvests. DFSNs forecasted that during mid-July to mid-November 2016 no VDCs are likely to be classified as severely food insecure (Phase 4) and the number of VDCs likely to be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and moderately food insecure (Phase 2) will decrease significantly. Nevertheless, DFSNs forecasted that 13 VDCs in Gorkha, 9 VDCs in Nuwakot and 5 VDCs in Dhading are likely to be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) during mid-July to mid-November 2016.

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: NeKSAP integrated food security phase classification, mid-March to mid-July 2016
 Source: 74 NeKSAP District Food Security Networks, July 2016



Current food insecure areas (mid-March to mid-July 2016)

DFSNs classified 212 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in 13 districts as highly food insecure (Phase 3) and estimated that 432,100 people in those areas were affected and require humanitarian assistance (see **Table 1**). 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 depletion of household food stocks in the winter lean period; a substantial decrease in winter crop production; monsoon induced landslides and road closures and associated supply chain offsets leading to price hikes; and the lasting impacts of the April-May 2015 earthquakes.

In the earthquake affected districts of the western and central development regions, 78 VDCs in Gorkha, Dhading, Nuwakot and Sindhupalchowk still remain highly food insecure (Phase 3). Many of these VDCs in Phase 3 are remote high altitude areas with poor road connection and poor crop production potential. DFSNs reported that seasonal roads and trails, which were damaged by the earthquakes last year, were further affected by monsoon rains; as result, the supply of essential goods and market stocks have decreased and food prices have risen in remote markets. Although winter crops were harvested in this period production was reported as poor. DFSNs also reported problems with grain storage and the drinking water supply due to the damage to houses and water supply systems which in some cases have not been repaired yet.

In the hill and mountain districts of the mid-and far-western development regions, DFSNs attributed the deterioration to a significant decrease in the production of winter crops—wheat, barley and naked barley—due to the winter drought. According to DADOs, production of winter crops in VDCs classified as Phase 3 decreased by an estimated 50-60 percent in Baitadi, 40-60 percent in Achham, 30-50 percent in Doti, 50-70 percent in Mugu, 65-80 percent in Humla and 70 percent in Kalikot. Although the Nepal Food Corporation (NFC) supplied subsidized rice to improve food access in many of these districts, DFSNs reported that NFC supplies were either not reaching some areas (e.g., Dolpa) or not sufficient (e.g., Bajura). Furthermore, DFSNs also reported a decrease in the collection of *yarchagumba*, which is a major source of cash income in those districts, especially Dolpa, and a key seasonal livelihood.

Furthermore, DFSNs classified 376 VDCs (including 5 municipalities) in 26 districts as moderately food insecure (Phase 2). Phase 2 is 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. Although wheat, the main winter crop, was harvested in this period, many districts reported a moderate decrease in production and hence, DFSNs attributed the decrease in wheat production to the current food security situation. The distribution of moderately food insecure (Phase 2) VDCs is as follows: 30 in Achham (including 2 municipalities), 23 in Baitadi, 14 in Bajhang, 11 in Bajura (including 1 municipality), 13 in Dailekh, 20 in Darchula, 12 in Dolakha, 17 in Dolpa, 12 in Doti, 7 in Gorkha, 5 in Gulmi, 8 in Humla, 9 in Jajarkot, 14 in Jumla, 21 in Kalikot, 33 in Kavre, 10 in Makwanpur, 10 in Mugu, 23 in Nuwakot, 5 in Okhaldhunga, 12 in Ramechhap, 2 in Rasuwa, 18 in Salyan, 30 in Sindhupalchowk (including 2 municipalities), 10 in Surkhet, and 7 in Terhathum.

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

Districts	# of VDCs in Phase 3	Estimated population in Phase 3
Dolpa	6	4,300
Humla	19	39,200
Kalikot	8	26,200
Mugu	14	27,700
Sub-total (Karnali)	47	97,400
Achham	25	71,000
Baitadi	14	26,300
Bajhang	16	37,900
Bajura	14	47,300
Doti	18	30,600
Sub-total (Far-west)	87	213,100
Sindhupalchowk	40	68,100
Dhading	16	24,700
Nuwakot	9	14,100
Gorkha	13	14,700
Sub-total (EQ districts)	78	121,600
TOTAL	212	432,100

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

Food security outlook (mid-July to mid-November 2016)

District food security networks, based on current conditions and likely future scenarios, have forecasted the food security situation for the period of mid-July to mid-November 2016 (the Nepali months of *Shrawan*, *Bhadra*, *Ashwin*, *Kartik*). Maize will be harvested in August/September and the paddy harvest will start from October onwards. With timely monsoon rains, the paddy transplantation rate has been high and the prospects for summer crop production appear good.

Overall, DFSNs anticipate that the food security situation will improve during the period of mid-July to mid-November 2016 largely due to the upcoming maize and paddy crop harvests (see the forecast of 2016 paddy production on page 4). DFSNs forecasted that during mid-July to mid-November 2016: (a) no VDCs are likely to be classified as severely food insecure (Phase 4); (b) the number of VDCs likely to be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3) will decrease to 27 (from 212 currently); and (c) the number of VDCs likely to be classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2) will decrease to 216 (from 376 currently).

DFSNs projected that 27 VDCs (13 in Gorkha, 5 in Dhading and 9 in Nuwakot) may be classified as highly food insecure (Phase 3). DFSNs attributed this outlook to the continued impacts of the April-May 2015 earthquakes. These VDCs are remote with poor road and market infrastructure and marginal agricultural land. Moreover, household food stocks from April/May winter crops will likely be depleted early and maize will not be harvested until later in the summer, which may lead to household food gaps in July/August.

DFSNs predicted that 216 VDCs and municipalities in 15 districts (25 in Achham, 16 in Bajhang, 13 in Dailekh, 11 in Dhading, 12 in Dolakha, 6 in Dolpa, 7 in Gorkha, 19 in Humla, 8 in Kalikot, 14 in Mugu, 23 in Nuwakot, 2 in Rasuwa, 10 in Sankhuwasabha, 40 in Sindhupalchowk, and 10 in Surkhet) may be classified as moderately food insecure (Phase 2).

DFSNs forecasted that all other areas of the country will be classified as minimally food insecure (Phase 1). In those areas, households will replenish food stocks through summer crop harvests and will continue to receive income through on-farm and off-farm sources. Furthermore, DFSNs do not anticipate any major shocks or disasters that would affect the food security situation except for the possibility of small scale landslides and floods during the late monsoon period that would impact road access and supply chains.

In November/December 2016, district food security network meetings and joint crop assessment missions will provide the latest information on the food security situation in the post-monsoon, post-festival and post-harvest period.

Forecast of 2016 paddy production

The CCAFS Regional Agricultural Forecasting Tool (CRAFT) forecasted total production of paddy at 4,542,578 mt from 1,425,346 hectares of planted land. The forecasted production is an increase of 5.66 percent compared to last year.

The area estimate was adopted from the 2014 paddy season assuming analogous growing conditions of normal to slightly below normal rainfall and the following cultivars (varieties) were used: *Jumli Marshy*, *Chandanath 1* and *Chhomrong* for the mountains, *Khumal-4*, *Chhinug 242*, *Sabitri*, *Chandanath 2*, *Makwanpur 1* 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.

Updates

- **NeKSAP district food security network meetings:** MoAD organized district food security network (DFSN) meetings in 74 of 75 districts between July and August. Each DFSN conducted an integrated food security phase classification exercise.
- **NeKSAP regional debriefing meetings:** MoAD and the Regional Agriculture Directorates organized five regional review meetings between 5 and 11 August. Senior Agriculture Development Officers (SADO) from each district presented the analytical results from the latest DFSN meetings.
- **NeKSAP presentations at national meetings:** MoAD and/or WFP presented the latest food security information at the Food Security Cluster meeting, Food Security Donor Group meeting, and Humanitarian Country Team meeting in July and August.
- **Food security response analysis training:** MoAD and WFP organized trainings in 14 districts to draft food security response plans as part of the 14-step annual planning process. To support this, MoAD and WFP produced the revised district-level food security monitoring reference book and the food security response analysis guidebook and reference book, which will be disseminated to all districts and national-level stakeholders.
- **Technical collaboration between MoAD and WFP:** MoAD and WFP agreed to continue technical collaboration on food security monitoring and analysis in 2016/17.
- **In-service training to Government officials on food sovereignty and food security monitoring:** MoAD and WFP provided training on food sovereignty and food security monitoring to MoAD and Department of Agriculture officials on 9 September. The training was organized by the Department of Agriculture, Directorate of Agricultural Training.

District food security information

The Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) monitors 74 districts across Nepal. The information collected forms the basis for this bulletin. 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
Rusuwa
Makwanpur
Dhading
Lalitpur
Bhaktapur

Cluster 8. Eastern Hill and Mountain

Taplejung
Panchthar
Sankhuwasabha
Ilam
Okhaldhunga
Khotang
Dhankuta
Udayapur
Solukhumbu
Bhojpur
Terhathum



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