



## Food Security Alert: Far- and Mid-West Hills and Mountains

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The food security situation for many communities living in the Mid- and Far-West is very worrying.
- More than 300,000 people in Achham Bajura, Dailekh, Dolpa, Humla, Jajarkot, Kailkot, Mugu and Rukum are facing a precarious food situation due to significant localized crop failures of between 20-70%.
- For many of the affected, this is the fifth consecutive season of significantly poor crop yields, leaving many with few coping mechanisms as they enter the traditional three-month lean period.
- The high cost of food items could quickly plunge affected families into severe food insecurity as their cash resources will be too small to purchase the food they need.

Severe drought, hail-storms and heavy snowfall have left many communities in Mid- and Far-Western Nepal in a precarious food security situation. The poor growing conditions resulted in decreased yields for wheat and barley by 20 to 40% compared to normal production levels. Crop production in some VDCs decreased by as much as 70%.

Information collected by WFP field monitors during January to May 2008, indicates that nearly 50,000 people in Bajura, Dailekh, and Jajarkot are already in an acute food security situation. As the traditional lean season approaches this June, an estimated 252,000 people living in Kalikot, Humla, Mugu, Dolpa, Bajura, Achham<sup>1</sup>, Dailekh, Rukum, and Jajarkot are facing deteriorating food insecurity with little

possibility of recovery. Considering the negative crop outlook and impact of rising food prices, it is likely that the situation for many of these families could quickly develop into acute food security threatening their overall health and nutritional status.

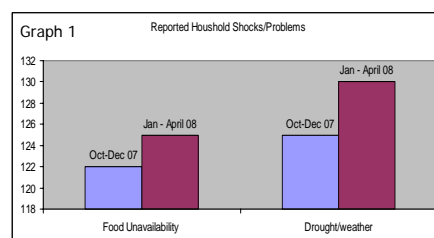
Map 1 provides details on the most affected VDCs in the Far- and Mid-West Hills and Mountains.

Table-1 on page 2 provides details on the estimated number of people at risk by VDC.

### INDICATORS

**Rainfall:** 93% of farm households indicated that rainfall was worse than normal in these areas. In some cases it was reported worse than that experienced during the most recent drought years.

**Main shocks:** Over the past 4 months, households reported that their two major problems were food unavailability and drought. This is a significant increase from the previous 4 months as shown in Graph 1, and particularly worrying considering that nationally there was bumper summer crop.

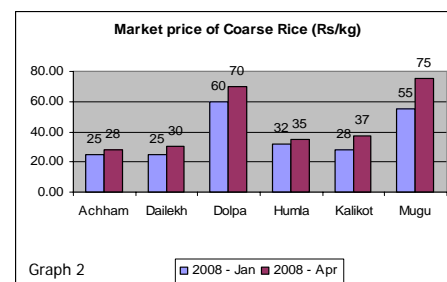


**Crop conditions:** 80% of households reported poor crop conditions over the last four months as compared to only 67% in the four months prior.

### RISING PRICES

Market prices have risen significantly since the beginning of 2008. Graph 2 highlights the price increases for coarse rice for several districts in the Mid- and Far-West. With failing crops people become more dependent on markets for food. Price increases in staple foods of this

magnitude will exacerbate a rapidly worsening food security situation as many families will be unable to afford enough food to meet their requirements.



### RECOMMENDATIONS

The most critical period is mid-June to August, when households will run out of their meager food stocks and become more dependent on markets for their food supply.

Ongoing WFP food assistance programmes along with NFC provided rice deliveries will provide a safety net for some of the affected communities. However, given the potential for rapid deterioration in food security for over 300,000 people, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in collaboration with WFP will undertake a rapid food security assessment mission in June in the affected areas to further assess the situation and determine required action.

### Emergency Updates

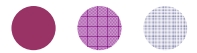
Emergency Updates are produced by WFP Nepal as part of its Food Security Monitoring and Analysis System (FSMAS).

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All information products produced by the FSMAS are available on the UN Nepal Information platform ([www.un.org.np](http://www.un.org.np)) or on the following WFP website: <http://vam.wfp.org/country/docs?country=524>

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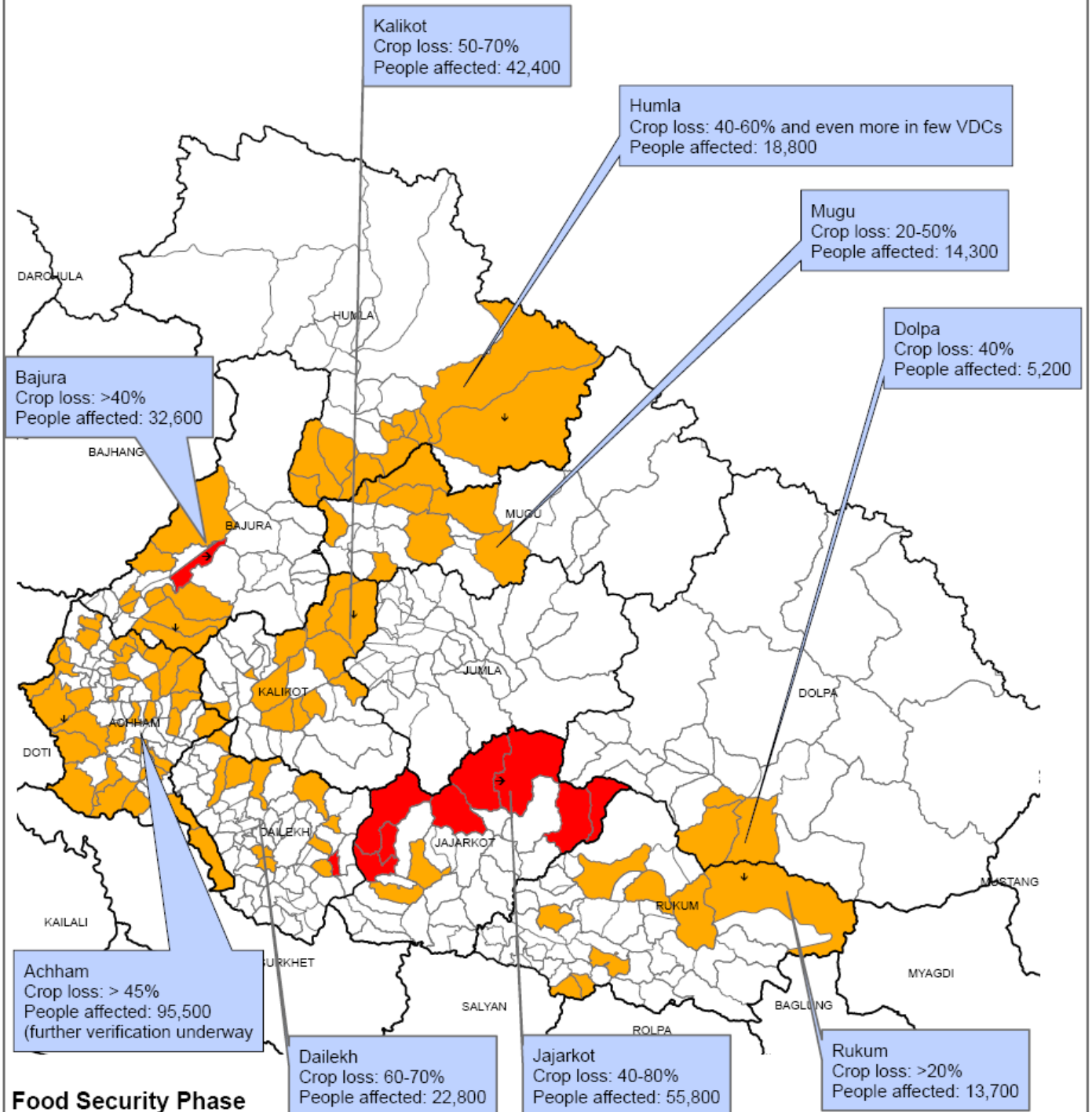
<sup>1</sup> Information for Achham is based on District Disaster Committee and is currently being verified by our field monitor. Data presented in this alert is based on reports from District Disaster Committees, verified to the extent possible by WFP field monitors.



# Food Security Phase Classification Map

Selected Mid and Far Western Districts

June 03, 2008



## Food Security Phase

- Not reported as critical
- Phase III - Warning of Deteriorating Food Insecurity
- Phase IV - Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis
- District Boundary

## Outlook

- ➔ Food security situation likely to remain same
- ⚡ Food security situation likely to deteriorate





Number of people at Risk of Food Insecurity (VDC_wise)						
SN	District	VDCs	Warning of deteriorating food insecurity Phase 3	Acute food and livelihoods crisis Phase 4	Total Population at Risk	Remarks
<b>II. Karnali</b>						
1	Kailikot	Pakra	4,200	-	4,200	Critical period mid June--August
	Kailikot	Chhapre	3,200	-	3,200	-
	Kailikot	Mehaimudi (1,3,4)	1,100	-	1,100	-
	Kailikot	Namikot (1-9)	5,300	-	5,300	-
	Kailikot	Dhoulagaha (1-9)	6,700	-	6,700	-
	Kailikot	Khira (1-9)	3,800	-	3,800	-
	Kailikot	Thripu (1-9)	4,100	-	4,100	-
	Kailikot	Rammakot (1-5 & 7-9)	3,500	-	3,500	-
	Kailikot	Badalkot (3-9)	2,400	-	2,400	-
	Kailikot	Daha (8, 9)	700	-	700	-
	Kailikot	Lalu (1-9)	5,200	-	5,200	-
	Kailikot	Phoolmahadev (5-9)	2,200	-	2,200	-
		<b>Kailikot Total</b>	<b>42,400</b>	-	<b>42,400</b>	
2	Humla	Shrinagar (1-9)	3,600	-	3,600	Likely to deteriorate further (Critical period June--August)
	Humla	Majia (1-9)	4,300	-	4,300	-
	Humla	Madana (1-9)	1,600	-	1,600	-
	Humla	Kailika (1-9)	2,900	-	2,900	-
	Humla	Jaira (1-9)	2,200	-	2,200	Critical period mid June--August
	Humla	Mimi (1-7)	1,000	-	1,000	-
	Humla	Malchham (1-9)	900	-	900	-
	Humla	Saya (1-9)	100	-	100	-
	Humla	Gohi (1-9)	1,100	-	1,100	-
	Humla	Shrimasta (1-9)	1,100	-	1,100	-
		<b>Humla Total</b>	<b>18,800</b>	-	<b>18,800</b>	
3	Mugu	Bhle	1,800	-	1,800	Critical period mid June--August
	Mugu	Natharu	1,600	-	1,600	-
	Mugu	Photu	1,200	-	1,200	-
	Mugu	Jima	2,500	-	2,500	-
	Mugu	Ruga	3,400	-	3,400	-
	Mugu	Rowa (1-5)	-	-	-	-
	Mugu	Hyanglu (1-9)	1,800	-	1,800	Now changed to phase 2
	Mugu	Khamale (1-9)	1,600	-	1,600	Critical period June--August
	Mugu	Rara (8,9)	400	-	400	-
		<b>Mugu Total</b>	<b>14,300</b>	-	<b>14,300</b>	
4	Dolpa	Dumai (2,3, & 6-9)	2,300	-	2,300	Critical period mid June--August
	Dolpa	Juphal (1-9)	2,500	-	2,500	-
	Dolpa	Majhpal (1,2)	400	-	400	-
		<b>Dolpa Total</b>	<b>5,200</b>	-	<b>5,200</b>	
		<b>Sub-Total I.</b>	<b>80,700</b>	-	<b>80,700</b>	
<b>III. Far Western Hills and Mountains</b>						
	Bajura	Jugada (1-9)	-	5,600	5,600	Critical period mid June--August
	Bajura	Kalashmandu (1-4, 9)	5,400	-	5,400	Critical period July--August
	Bajura	Brahmatola (1-6)	3,200	-	3,200	-
	Bajura	Gudukhati (1,5)	4,100	-	4,100	-
	Bajura	Dahaot (1-9)	4,200	-	4,200	-
	Bajura	Manakot (1-9)	2,500	-	2,500	-
	Bajura	Toli (1-9)	4,100	-	4,100	-
	Bajura	Budhiganga (1-9)	3,500	-	3,500	-
		<b>Bajura Total</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>32,600</b>	

6	Achham	Bhairabsthan	2,800	-	2,800	Critical period mid June--August
	Achham	Rahap	2,800	-	2,800	-
	Achham	Nada	2,200	-	2,200	-
	Achham	Malaitkot	1,800	-	1,800	-
	Achham	Duni	3,700	-	3,700	-
	Achham	Dhakari	2,800	-	2,800	-
	Achham	Pataikot	2,800	-	2,800	-
	Achham	Nandegada	2,700	-	2,700	-
	Achham	Toli	2,000	-	2,000	-
	Achham	Dhaku	1,300	-	1,300	-
	Achham	Dnamali	3,300	-	3,300	-
	Achham	Payal	4,000	-	4,000	-
	Achham	Thanti	1,900	-	1,900	-
	Achham	Kuskot	3,300	-	3,300	-
	Achham	Kuntibandali	2,100	-	2,100	-
	Achham	Janalbandali	2,400	-	2,400	-
	Achham	Bamatoli	2,300	-	2,300	-
	Achham	Timilsen	1,600	-	1,600	-
	Achham	Shodashadevi	2,700	-	2,700	-
	Achham	Bindhyabasin	2,400	-	2,400	-
	Achham	Marku	1,600	-	1,600	-
	Achham	Ramaroshan	3,700	-	3,700	-
	Achham	Baulasen	2,800	-	2,800	-
	Achham	Babla	2,400	-	2,400	-
	Achham	Dhungechahna	3,700	-	3,700	-
	Achham	Balanta	2,900	-	2,900	-
	Achham	Khaptad	1,400	-	1,400	-
	Achham	Soukat	4,700	-	4,700	-
	Achham	Rishidaha	2,900	-	2,900	-
	Achham	Bhatakatiya	3,000	-	3,000	-
	Achham	Sutar	2,400	-	2,400	-
	Achham	Studi	3,600	-	3,600	-
	Achham	Kalekanda	2,100	-	2,100	-
	Achham	Basti	2,900	-	2,900	-
	Achham	Devishan	1,700	-	1,700	-
	Achham	Boyala	2,800	-	2,800	-
		<b>Achham Total</b>	<b>95,500</b>	-	<b>95,500</b>	File is verifying the situation
		<b>Sub-Total II.</b>	<b>122,500</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>128,100</b>	
<b>III. Rapti Bheri Hills</b>						
7	Dalekh	Ruma	-	1,800	1,800	Critical period June--August
	Dalekh	Chauratha (1-3, 5,8,9)	1,600	-	1,600	-
	Dalekh	Gamaudi (1-9)	2,700	-	2,700	-
	Dalekh	Kusapani (1-3)	1,300	-	1,300	-
	Dalekh	Naumule (1-3)	700	-	700	-
	Dalekh	Bhairikalkathum (1-9)	3,800	-	3,800	-
	Dalekh	Pagnath (6,7)	400	-	400	-
	Dalekh	Bisalla (1-9)	4,700	-	4,700	-
	Dalekh	Baluwatar (1,2)	700	-	700	-
	Dalekh	Pipaikot (1-9)	2,400	-	2,400	-
	Dalekh	Lakandra (1-3, 6,8,9)	2,700	-	2,700	-
		<b>Dalekh Total</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>22,800</b>	
8	Rukum	Syalakhadi (8,9)	3,100	-	3,100	Critical period mid June--August
	Rukum	Sisne (1-9)	1,900	-	1,900	-
	Rukum	Duli (3)	1,200	-	1,200	-
	Rukum	RanmaMaikot (3,4,6,7)	1,200	-	1,200	-
	Rukum	Jang (8,9)	1,000	-	1,000	-
	Rukum	Khara (2,3,5,6,8,9)	2,300	-	2,300	-
	Rukum	Shankh (4,5)	1,800	-	1,800	-
	Rukum	Rungtha (5,6)	1,200	-	1,200	-
		<b>Rukum Total</b>	<b>13,700</b>	-	<b>13,700</b>	
9	Jajarkot	Bhagawati	-	3,600	3,600	Critical period June--August
	Jajarkot	Daha	-	6,000	6,000	-
	Jajarkot	Dasera	7,200	-	7,200	-
	Jajarkot	Kortang	-	4,200	4,200	-
	Jajarkot	Majhkot	-	8,400	8,400	-
	Jajarkot	Nayakbada	-	7,200	7,200	-
	Jajarkot	Paink	-	4,200	4,200	-
	Jajarkot	Pajaru	-	6,600	6,600	-
	Jajarkot	Ragda	-	4,200	4,200	-
	Jajarkot	Rokysagaun	-	4,200	4,200	-
		<b>Jajarkot Total</b>	<b>13,800</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>50,800</b>	
		<b>Sub-Total III.</b>	<b>48,500</b>	<b>43,800</b>	<b>92,300</b>	
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>251,700</b>	<b>49,400</b>	<b>301,100</b>	