

Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG)

### IPC Learning Workshop

April 23- 26, 2007

Nairobi, Kenya

## 1. Introduction

**The Government of Kenya is committed, through the Kenya Food Security Meeting (KFSM) structure, to implement the IPC** as part of its on-going food security information system, incorporating primarily the ALRMP Early Warning System (EWS) and the bi-annual assessments. The short rains assessment of 2007 utilised the IPC tool as the analytical framework for the national level report.

**Kenya is the first country to have applied the IPC tool outside the context of its original development in Somalia.** As part of the process, a learning workshop was convened by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) to inform the next stage – the long rains assessment in July/August.

**The workshop gathered 20 participants**, including technical officers from the Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock, Health, Water and Education; UNICEF, WFP (Kenya/Regional); FAO (Kenya/Somalia/HQ); FEWSNet, LINKS/ILRI and World Vision Kenya (see ANNEX 1 for a detailed list of participants).

## 2. Objectives

The overall objective of informing the next stage in the process:

1. Review and streamline data collection instruments and start the planning process for the next long rains assessment.
2. Initiate development of a new phase in the classification and expansion of the chronically food insecure phase.
3. Start the process of fully integrating the EWS into the IPC framework.
4. Review the institutional arrangements.

In addition, the workshop aimed to feed into the global process of developing the IPC tool in Kenya, and share experience with the Regional Food Security and Nutrition working group and other countries involved in the IPC roll out process.

## 3. Lessons Learned

Key technical, institutional and process lessons learnt for the IPC global development are the following.

### A. Technical issues

**Data collection and data analysis:** Following the short rains assessment, the IPC framework highlighted a number of 'upstream issues' related to the use of data:

- **Data collection.** There is great underutilisation of data - i.e. data is being collected by different partners, but it is either not readily available, or is not being analysed in an integrated way.
- **Data gaps.** There are important data gaps. In most cases, it is to be noted however that the relevant Sector Working Group of the KFSM structure can be requested by the KFSSG

to provide required data prior to the assessment. Main data gaps concern food security (market prices, livestock holdings, cross border information) but also health and nutrition information (morbidity; wasting).

- **Additional variables** that were relevant in the Kenyan context and not explicit in the reference table include education and water quality.
- For some indicators, the issue of **lack of harmonization** was underlined (dietary diversity, coping strategies)

There is a need to better estimate the **magnitude** of food security situations (possibly based on livelihood zones)

**IPC scale:** The workshop recommended removing the Chronically Food Insecure phase so that the scale follows a linear progression.

- **Substituting phase 2 'Chronically Food Insecurity' with another phase 'Borderline Food Insecure', and dividing phase 1 'Generally Food Secure into two parts to reflect high and low resilience to shocks.** The additional/replacement phase maintain the same outcome indicator thresholds as the original phase, while the divided 1st phase would include literacy levels, poverty levels market integration and gender development index.
- **The removed Chronically Food Insecure Phase be disaggregated into 3 sub-phases representing high, medium and low levels of chronic food insecurity.** It is proposed that the number of years that a livelihood zone has faced acute episodes of acute food security be the basis for classification. Other indicators such as income, poverty levels, chronic malnutrition and dietary diversity could also be developed. Response protocols could be usefully developed for each sub-category.

## **B. Process issues**

**Response analysis:** The IPC framework was used for developing a situation analysis at the national level but the analysis team also used the 'Strategic Response Framework' to develop a response analysis based on the situation analysis and the contextual knowledge of the ASAL areas of the country.

The situation analysis needs to be insulated from any pressures associated with response planning. **It is important that the response planning component be conducted separately to the response analysis** - but that consensus on a response portfolio should be aspired to through dialogue. To enable this, a response planning meeting, which would seek both consensus and multi-sectoral aspects of responses that would enhance impact could become an institutional part of the assessment process.

## **4. Next Steps**

In developing plans for the next assessment, the workshop agreed on the following institutional arrangements:

**Adopt decentralization, train district steering groups.** Decentralizing implementation to the district level with hands-on guidance and verification/support from HQ should be the long-term vision, achievable within perhaps two years. The KFSSG would work towards this vision in a gradual way, emphasising building capacity of the District Steering Groups (DSGs).

**Develop stronger links between DISK and line ministries, train senior level officials.** The Data and Information Sub-committee of the KFSM (DISK), the technical working group for rolling out IPC in Kenya, remains the most appropriate group to continue with the roll-out and development of the tool. However, strong links should be developed with the relevant government line ministries in order to integrate the IPC into the wider food security system. Introductory training of more senior line ministry staff (Director level and above) should be prioritised

Annex1  
List of participants

**IPC Learning Workshop Participants**

**23rd - 26th April, 2007.**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
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