



Proceedings of the Food Security Integrated Phase Classification National Workshop

Hotel Mercury (Dushanbe, Tajikistan)

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1. Background

The IPC (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification - www.ipcinfo.org) is a standardized tool that aims at providing a “common currency” for classifying the severity of a food security situation. To date, the IPC has been piloted or being increasingly introduced in a total of 15 countries in the Great Horn of Africa, West and Southern Africa and Southern Asia. An additional 13 national governments have been introduced to the IPC through training events and workshops.

In Tajikistan, a pilot IPC exercise was conducted by WFP and the Tajikistan Food Coordination Forum (funded by ECHO) between June and December 2007. As a result, various products including an IPC situation analysis map were released in April 2008. More than one year later, the IPC situation analysis needs to be updated in order to monitor changes of the situation since April 2008. A methodological workshop was organized on August 28th 2009 where participants¹ agreed on the geographical unit of analysis to be used (clusters of districts) and the proxy indicators with adjusted threshold levels to be considered (adapted reference table). Minutes of this workshop are available as a separate document.

2. Objectives of the workshop

This workshop represented one of the rare occasions to have key food security stakeholder from the Government, the UN agencies and NGOs sitting together to agree upon a technical analysis of the food security situation in Tajikistan. The objectives of the workshop were two-fold:

- To conduct the IPC analysis for Tajikistan based upon technical consensus
- To collectively explore the potential integration of the IPC tools within regular food security monitoring activities in Tajikistan

Expected workshop outputs were as follows:

- Food security situation is analyzed for each cluster of districts (sub-regional level of analysis) and an IPC classification is assigned based upon technical consensus

¹ List of participants is included as Annex 1

- Participants from Government, NGOs, and UN agencies are informed on the IPC and exchange views on the potential integration of the IPC tools within regular monitoring activities of the Food Security Community in Tajikistan

3. Key points from the IPC National Workshop in Tajikistan

- Participants from the Government who had not been previously introduced to the IPC found the introductory session too brief and regretted that a separate IPC awareness raising event had not been organized prior to the National Workshop.
- Participants from different ministries expressed interest in the IPC tools highlighting the fact that they are easy to use while retaining sufficient scientific criteria for a rigorous analysis.
- Participants from different ministries expressed their concern with the fact that the IPC tools and relevant literature are not available in the Russian language. For the sake of this workshop a brief presentation document of the IPC had been translated into Russian and was distributed to participants along with a description of the five Phases and a translated version of the adapted IPC reference table. Representatives of the global IPC group indicated possible support for Russian translation of the necessary material in the future.
- Participants from different ministries asked clarifications for which ministry should take the lead with regard to the IPC process in Tajikistan. Members of the government proposed that a clear institutional set-up should be devised for them to be involved within the IPC process.
- Several participants requested further modifications in the adapted reference table (e.g. the Indicator on available arable land per capita was particularly criticized) as well as with the clustering of districts. Representatives from WFP Tajikistan took note of the suggested changes and will work on possible modifications together with key stakeholders.
- One participant requested further clarifications on the terminology regarding “dietary diversity”, “non productive assets” and “manageable damages”. Next version of the adapted reference table should provide definition for those terms.
- Participants identified severe gaps with regard to the data currently available for food security monitoring purposes:
 - Most data is only available at the Regional level which does not support decision makers. More data should be collected at the District level.
 - There is little nutrition data available except for the regular Food Security Monitoring Security (FSMS) Bulletin jointly done by WFP/WHO. The last large-scale assessment in this domain was the 2005 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.

- The FSMS is one of the few sources of data for the District level but relies on a very small sample which makes any interpretation difficult at the District level.
→IPC could generate synergies with regard to data collection.
- It was proposed that Goskomstat (State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan) could use the IPC to analyze the food security situation within its quarterly poverty and food security bulletin. Support could be provided to train them in using the IPC tools. WFP and Goskomstat could sit together to analyze possible areas of cooperation and synergies to be developed. Both partners expressed interest in the idea.
- It was proposed that IPC classification could be made on a quarterly basis by a national food security group that would include representatives from Government, UN agencies, NGOs on the basis of the data collected by WFP/FSMS, Goskomstat and other partners.
- The example of Nepal was presented to participants where the IPC tools are used by the government, UN agencies, and NGOs to conduct joint analysis on the food security situation and where a technical consensus is reached every three months. IPC classification is done accordingly every quarter and used by decision makers within the country. Participants showed interest in the model.
- Participants were informed that a pilot IPC regional workshop would be organized in Gharm (DDR Region) on September 15th 2009 to test the possible development of regional food security forum which would support IPC classification in the future and could be potentially involved in data collection.
- Representatives from the global IPC group explained that there was a growing interest at the global level for a model application of the IPC in the context of chronic food insecurity. Given the interest of participants in using the IPC tools in Tajikistan, further support could be provided by the IPC global partnership. The idea could be explored to have Tajikistan as one of the focus country in terms of IPC development and therefore to request dedicated resources to that end.

4. Food Security Integrated Phase Classification

After having been introduced with the IPC tools, participants were divided into four working groups (one for every region):

- DDR
- Sughd
- GBAO
- Khatlon

Each group used the results of the secondary data review to conduct a meta-analysis. Analysis templates for each cluster of districts had been pre-filled with relevant evidence. Participants reviewed the evidence and engaged into participatory analysis using the adapted reference tables. Considering the threshold levels for the ten proxy indicators, they assigned a food security phase (1 to 5) for each cluster of districts. Later on, each group submitted its classification to peer review during a plenary session. Discussions allowed for technical consensus to develop. Final result of the integrated food security phase classification is presented in annex 3.

Annexes

Annex 1: List of participants

Annex 2: Program of the workshop

Annex 3: Tajikistan IPC Classification (Summer 2009)

Annex 4: Set of IPC maps

Annex 5: Analysis templates