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IPC Steering Committee under the FSNWG

Purpose

- To outline the role and scope of a steering committee to support the field implementation and the development of the Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification (IPC) approach.

Background & Rationale

- Central and East Africa has been identified as a region for the roll out of the IPC owing to a strong humanitarian imperative and the possibilities to roll out the IPC based on existing national capacities, and institutional frameworks.
- The regional roll out of the IPC is part of a global process to improve protocols for food security assessment, analysis and response. The global roll out involves (i) technical refinement of the IPC approach and supporting tools (ii) country level and regional adaptation (iii) awareness raising (iv) technical capacity for future global initiatives (v) strategic partnerships.
- At country level the implementation of the IPC approach will build on existing institutional capacities and information availability in target countries, to be determined¹. While the expected activities within each country will vary according to capacity the main set of activities at country level should include include: (i) awareness raising and buy in (ii) identifying / establishing technical committees (iii) technical training (iv) application of IPC (v) review of lessons learned.
- At regional level the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) based in Nairobi is an important institutional mechanism to coordinate and achieve technical consensus amongst food security, nutrition and humanitarian situation analysis practitioners². The FSNWG has proposed forming a steering committee to support IPC development and field implementation at regional level.

Objectives of IPC Steering Committee

- The IPC Steering Committee will:
 - ⇒ Enable coordination and technical consensus around IPC development at regional level
 - ⇒ Facilitate and support country level coordination systems to allow dialogue on the process for the use of the IPC.
 - ⇒ Provide technical and managerial assistance to practitioners engaged in country level implementation
 - ⇒ Contribute to global level developments on IPC.

¹ The estimated project duration will be for an initial period of 12-18 months depending on funding. Follow up activities are then envisaged beyond the countries selected in the initial period.

² The FSNWG is a field-driven coordination 'working committee' established since 2005 within the East-Central Africa. The objectives of the FSNWG are (i) creation of consensus and information sharing (ii) development of joint food security and nutrition tools (iii) advocacy. The FSNWG focuses on 11 countries within the Central and East Africa region.

Activities

Under the direction of a small secretariat the IPC Regional Steering Committee will:

Regional activities:

- Assist in selection of target countries for IPC development.
- Facilitate Regional Outlook events with the objective of elaborating regional analysis and ensuring consistency of IPC approach. (Frequency of events to be agreed)
- Ensure the delivery and technical quality of analytical materials arising from Regional Outlook events, including a Regional Outlook Map and technical briefing paper.
- Distill and disseminate joint statements regarding IPC analysis at regional level. Promote the strategic dissemination of regional and country level analysis within the networks of the FSNWG.

Country level related activities:

- In collaboration with country coordination systems identify and support the processes required to facilitate the roll out of the IPC at country level.
- Provide a technical forum for debate and cross learning on the application of the IPC in the varying context's across the region
- Provide periodic expertise on managerial and operational issues for initial country level implementation e.g. identification of analysts to support IPC approach at national level.
- Ensure country level coordination mechanisms (IPC Technical Committees) feed into FSNWG activities and vice versa.

Global level related activities:

- Ensure regional contribution into IPC Development initiatives at global level, including IPC Online Forum for technical review and user support.

Miscellaneous

- Participate in training activities related to IPC
- Feedback regularly to wider FSNWG.

Membership of IPC Steering Committee

Membership of the IPC Steering Committee is on a voluntary basis and is open to individuals representing agencies from within the FSNWG. Currently this includes: ACF, FAO-REOA, FAO-FSAU, FEWS NET, OXFAM, Save the Children, Terra Nuova, UNICEF, WFP. ICRC and IFRC participate at the works of the Steering Committee as observers. New members of the FSNWG are also encouraged to participate.

- The Steering Committee will be served by a small secretariat provided by the FAO Regional Emergency Office for Africa (Nairobi).