

IPC

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

Evidence and Standards for Better Food Security

IPC is..

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a set of **analytical tools**, and processes, **to analyse** and **classify** the severity of **acute and chronic food insecurity** situation according to **scientific international standards**.

It aims at providing decision makers with a **rigorous analysis** of food insecurity in **both emergency** and **development contexts**, and key **objectives** for response to better coordinate the interventions.

The IPC **tools and procedures** are compatible with whatever data collection systems, methodological approaches, and institutional arrangements exist in-country, and allow comparison of findings over time and across countries.

IPC is also a forum involving Government, UN, NGOs and civil society that conduct joint food security analysis **to reach technical consensus** on the nature and severity of food insecurity in their country.

By using the IPC standardized 'acute and chronic scales and 'currency', key stakeholders work together to consolidate wide-ranging evidence on food insecure populations and answer the following questions:

- **How severe** is the situation?
- **Where are the areas** that are food insecure?
- **How many** are the **food insecure people**?
- **What are the key driving factors**?



IPC Core Functions

1. Promotion of Technical Consensus

To ensure key stakeholders from government, NGOs, UN and academic agencies concur with the technical findings of the analysis.

2. Common Scale

To classify complex information and data into meaningful categories and enable comparability of results from place to place and over time.

3. Communication for Action

To consolidate essential conclusions for decision makers in an accessible and consistent format.

4. Quality Control Assurance

To assure the validity and reliability of the analysis.

IPC
Current and Projected
Situation Analysis

Response
Analysis

Response
Planning

Response
Implementation

Monitoring and
Evaluation

How is food insecurity measured with IPC?

IPC makes a distinction between **acute** and **chronic** food insecurity. The IPC-Acute scale categorizes **the severity of acute food insecurity into Five Phases**. The IPC-Chronic scale classifies **persistent food insecurity according to Four Levels**. Each of these phases and levels has important and distinct implications for where and how best to intervene and therefore influences priority response objectives.

IPC-Acute phases and IPC-Chronic levels are determined by analyzing a range of outcomes based on international standards including **food consumption levels, livelihoods changes, nutritional**

status, and mortality. These are triangulated with several contributing factors (food availability, access, utilization and stability, vulnerability and hazards) and analyzed within local contexts.

The IPC Acute and Chronic classifications are based on a **convergence** of all of this evidence and functions essentially like a thermometer that takes the 'temperature' of how the food insecurity situation is evolving. But its more than just the temperature. IPC indicates the changing of a food insecure situation and, critically, changes in the required responses.

Phase 1 - Minimal

Phase 2 - Stressed

Phase 3 - Crisis

Phase 4 - Emergency

Phase 5 - Famine

Level 1 - Minimal CFI

Level 2 - Mild CFI

Level 3 - Moderate CFI

Level 4 - Severe CFI

IPC-Acute Scale

IPC-Chronic Scale

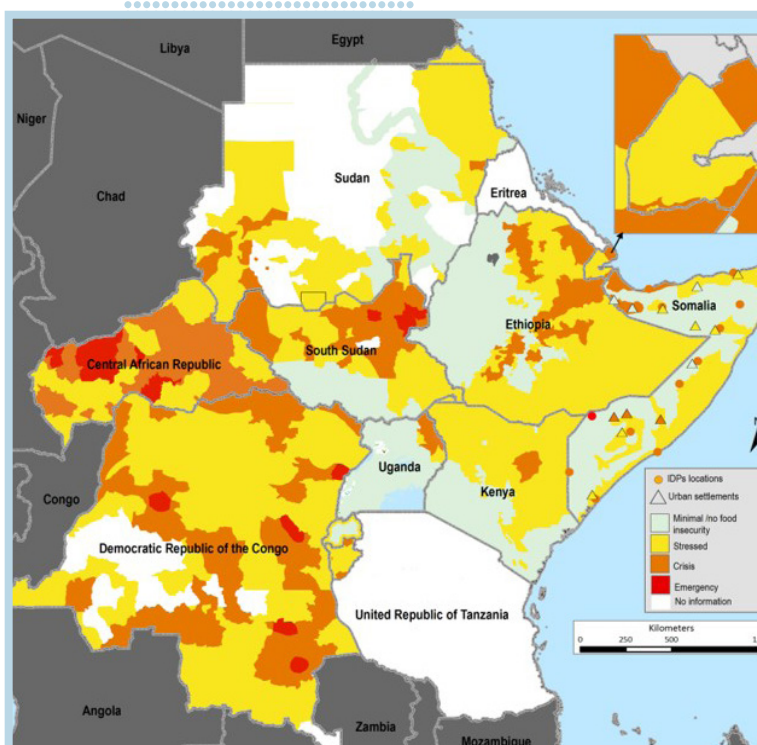
How is IPC used?

The IPC approach is designed to be **applicable in any context** irrespective of the type of food insecurity, hazard, socio-economic, livelihood, institutional or data context.

Once fully implemented, it has a very modest and efficient cost, and plays a unique and crucial role. Each IPC Acute Phase and IPC Chronic Level is linked to **priority strategic response objectives** and indicates how severe the situation is, the exact area that is affected, what part of the population is acutely and/or chronically food insecure, and the basic characteristics.

The results are consolidated into the **IPC Acute/Chronic Food Insecurity Overviews** which include the key findings of the analysis, the IPC map communicating the food insecurity situation and all the evidence in support of the classification.

Overall, the IPC process is also used to strengthen existing institutions and provides a platform for sharing information and enabling diverse stakeholders to work together.



IPC Regional Food Security and Nutrition Outlook, September 2015

Trend Analysis to improve interventions programming and allocation of resources.

Comparability over space...: Using international - standardized criteria to classify acute and chronic food insecurity, the IPC will ultimately make possible to compare the situation in one place with the other. Thus, decision makers can allocate the resources to the populations in most need.

...and comparability over time: IPC also helps to track the severity of the situations over the time. Thus enabling decision makers to widen, reduce or change strategically the area of the interventions.

What is the IPC contribution to decision-making?

IPC contributes to greater **transparency** and **coordination of interventions** and to accountability of decision makers.

Often decision-makers are forced to respond quickly to food security crises without enough information about the situation or the most appropriate actions in a country.

IPC-Acute is an innovative and vital approach that fills a crucial gap in this regard by providing accurate and accessible analysis

of the developing stages of **food insecurity crises**.

IPC-Chronic informs decision making for resolving **more long-term**, structural hindrances to achieving sustainable food security.

Additionally, at regional level the IPC offers the opportunity to **look at cross-border dynamics** of food insecurity and gives a broad perspective on how the severity of food insecurity in one country affects the severity in another country.

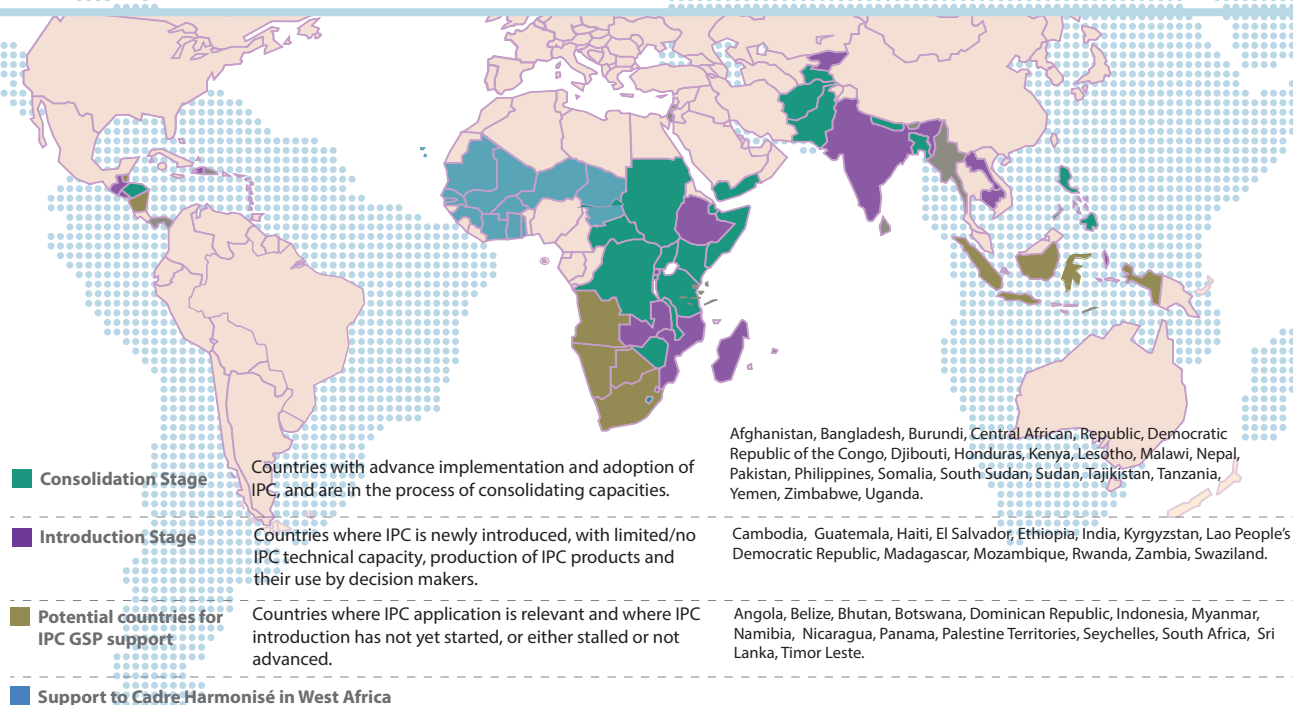
In countries such as Somalia, South Sudan, Central Africa Republic, IPC is regularly used by Partners as a scientific reference to state the severity of the food insecurity in a common voice. IPC ensured good coordination and targeting of humanitarian assistance, and a joint monitoring of the situation in several cases such as:

- Somalia Famine, 2011
- Central Africa Republic Emergency, 2014
- South Sudan Emergency, 2015

By following the IPC protocols, complex food security analysis is made more accessible and meaningful for decision makers at national, regional, and global levels; providing a common basis for resource prioritization, intervention design, and advocacy.

Where is the IPC now?

The IPC is now being used in over 20 countries in Latin America, Africa, and Asia that are at different degree of IPC implementation and adoption.



...where is it heading?

Following the launch and implementation of the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification, the current major technical area is the development of the **IPC Acute Malnutrition Classification** tools and procedures to better integrate nutrition analysis into the IPC acute food insecurity analysis. This will lead to the preparation of a consolidated, articulated, and harmonized **Integrated Food and Nutrition Security Phase Classification System** consisting of the three IPC Classification scales.

...Increasing Quality and Capacity

Other important focuses are the implementation of the **IPC Certification Programme** to professionalize IPC practitioners and build a pool of IPC Experts at all levels, as well as the **IPC Quality and Compliance Review Policy** and **IPC Strategic Engagement Plan**. Also important the promotion of **IPC Information Support System (ISS)**, a web-based application designed to efficiently create, store, and disseminate the IPC analyses and information.

Who is behind the IPC?

The IPC is a **multi agency initiative** globally led by twelve partners: Action Contre la Faim (ACF), CARE International, the Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS), the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa, the Joint Research Centre

of the European Commission, OXFAM, Save the Children, and the the United Nations World Food Programme.

The IPC works **at the global level** through the Steering Committee (responsible for strategic management), the Technically Advisory Group (responsible for technical developments) and the Global Support Unit (responsible for normative development and global coordination of IPC activities).

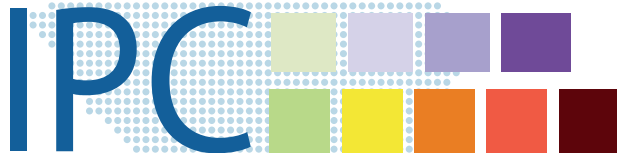
At the regional level the IPC is overseen by Regional Steering Committees composed of agency food security advisors and linked with existing regional food security networks or entities.

At country level, inter-ministerial and multi-agency working groups support the introduction and implementation of the IPC by institutionalized Technical Working Groups.



The IPC Global Strategic Programme (2014-2018)

To build on the successes achieved to-date, the IPC Partnership has developed and is implementing a multi-year and results-based IPC Global Strategic Programme (2014-2018) that ensures that the IPC is adequately supported as an international global standard in the food security field, effectively informing food security policies.



Evidence and Standards for Better Food Security Decisions

For Further Information
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The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Global Partners



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER
Strengthening humanitarian response



Save the Children



wfp.org

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The IPC has also benefited from the support of the governments of Australia, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden.