OVERVIEW

The IPC was originally developed in 2004 by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) to better guide interventions and resource allocations for response in Somalia. Since 2008, IPC has evolved, led by a global partnership of leading food security organizations, to be applicable in different country contexts focusing not only on acute food insecurity, but also chronic food insecurity and nutrition analysis. As of 2014, the IPC is regularly used in 29 countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia to help decision makers better address the food insecurity challenge.

The IPC initiative is strategically managed by the IPC Global Steering Committee (IPC GSC), currently composed of eleven representatives from the IPC Global partners: ACF, CARE, CILSS (West Africa), EC-JRC, FAO, FEWS NET, Global Food Security Cluster, Oxfam, Save the Children, SICA-PRESANCA (Central America) and WFP. The IPC Global Support Unit, reporting to the IPC GSC, supports the implementation of the IPC through a network of IPC Coordinators seconded to the regions, who are linked to regional governmental and partner platforms and who provide direct technical training and coordination support to countries implementing IPC.

To build on the successes achieved to-date and to respond to the increasing demand for the application of the IPC worldwide, the IPC Partnership has developed a multi-year and results-based Global Strategic Programme for a three-year period (2014-2016). This strategic programme approach ensures that the IPC is adequately supported as an international global standard in the food security field, effectively informing improved food security programming and policy.

Learning from years of implementation, the Version 2.0 of the IPC technical guidance was released in 2012, leading to greater rigor and quality of products. Since then, the IPC scale has been expanded to measure chronic food insecurity in non-crisis and development contexts, through an iterative learning and prototype application process. The version 1.0 of the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification was endorsed by the IPC Global Steering Committee in February 2014 and will be rolled out during this year. Moreover, with the constant expansion of IPC, a new interest has risen to finding ways to complement the IPC analysis also with a comprehensive nutrition component. In response to this demand, the IPC Global Partnership has committed to developing Acute Nutrition Classification tools and procedures. The resulting fully integrated IPC Food and Nutrition Security Phase Classification will include the analysis of acute malnutrition caused by food and non-food related factors.

Other important focuses of the GSU have been the application of the IPC Certification Programme to professionalize food security analysis and build an autonomous pool of IPC analysts and facilitators at country level, as well as the development of the IPC Information Support System (ISS), an innovative web-based application designed to efficiently create, store, and disseminate the IPC analyses and information.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 11 major partners in the IPC Global Steering Committee, complemented by additional regional partners in the Regional IPC Steering Committees, and national partners in the Country IPC Technical Working Groups.

- It is a multi-funded initiative with 4 current resource partners - AECID, European Union, DFID, and USAID - contributing to the global development of the IPC. Since its inception, the IPC has also benefited from the support of the governments of Australia, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United States of America.

- The IPC Global Strategic Programme (2014-2016), developed through partner and donor consultations at the global, regional and country levels, was launched in February 2014. It defines the strategic direction over the next three years and is based on four pillars: 1) Governance and institutionalization, 2) Technical development and standards, 3) Technical capacity development and support, 4) Impact on decision-making.

- 29 countries over 5 regions lead regular IPC activities through the multi-stakeholders IPC National Technical Working Group (TWG) chaired by Government.

- Implementation of a professionalized IPC Certification Programme with three levels of certification (IPC Analyst, IPC Trainer & Facilitator, and IPC Expert).

- Rollout of the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification, complementing the Acute Food Insecurity scale, in 2014.
Over 40 countries worldwide have implemented IPC activities, ranging from awareness-raising to analysis, while the following 29 countries are leading regular IPC analysis:

- **ASIA**: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Tajikistan
- **CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN**: El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua
- **EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA**: Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda
- **MIDDLE EAST**: Yemen
- **SOUTHERN AFRICA**: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe
- **WEST AFRICA**: The IPC Global Partnership supports the technical development and implementation of the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) which is led by the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) in the Sahel and West Africa. CILSS plans for 12 countries to implement the CH in 2014-2016.

**WHAT IS HAPPENING AND WHERE?**

The map provides the current picture of the countries that have started to introduce or are producing IPC food security analyses and information.

Introducing the IPC in a new country starts with raising awareness and consulting with national partners, identifying the institutional home, and establishing the Technical Working Group (TWG). Then, in a country regularly implementing the IPC, typical activities include:

- **Awareness-raising**: before introducing the IPC in a new country and along the implementation process, awareness-raising events and consultations are held with technical officers and decision-makers from a variety of stakeholders.
- **Planning**: Afterwards planning is part of the continuous implementation process with developing the annual work plan and calendar of activities, and securing financial resources.
- **Capacity-building**: Level 1 (IPC analyst) and 2 (IPC trainer/facilitator) trainings can be led at national and subnational levels.
- **Analysis**: The acute analysis is usually led on a regular basis after each main assessment, as well as upon need (e.g. after a shock or disaster). It includes a number of activities to be led before, during and after the analysis itself.
- **Validation and dissemination**: Once the analysis is completed, results can be first discussed with a core group of decision-makers, and then widely disseminated through specific event and/or communication channels.

- **Lessons-learnt**: the TWGs critically review their achievements and challenges regularly, and develop lessons-learnt both in terms of process and technically, which also feed into the strategic development of the IPC at regional and global levels.
- **Institutionalization**: to ensure sustainability and impact on decision-making, the TWGs work towards integrating the IPC into Government and partners’ policies and programmes, and securing long-term financial resources.

Sharing experiences between IPC TWGs is important for the continuous and harmonious development of the IPC implementation among the community of users. This is done by involving participants from national TWGs into regional activities, such as trainings, technical workshops with cross-border analysis and regional harmonization, lessons learning and strategic consultations. This is also achieved by encouraging the participation of TWG members in IPC activities in other countries.
GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIP

The IPC is defined by its partnership; this is illustrated by the multi-partner nature of the governing and implementing structures at global, regional and national levels, and by the linkages and cooperation between these three levels.

At global level, the IPC is governed by three structures:
- the **IPC Global Steering Committee (IPC GSC)**, composed of representatives from the IPC Global Partners, is responsible for strategic management of the Global IPC initiative;
- the **IPC Global Technical Advisory Group (IPC TAG)**, composed of technical experts and chaired by the IPC Global Manager, is responsible for technical developments of the IPC;
- the **IPC Global Support Unit (IPC GSU)**, responsible for normative development and global coordination of IPC activities. The **IPC Global Support Unit** links with regional initiatives, as well as with countries when no regional structure exists.

At regional level, where an IPC regional partnership has been established, the initiative is led by two structures:
- an **IPC Regional Steering Committee or IPC Regional Working Group** composed of representatives from regional partner agencies and usually chaired by a Regional Governmental Agency, responsible for high-level strategic advice, oversight and advocacy.
- an **IPC Regional Support Unit** composed at least of the IPC Coordinator who is responsible for supporting the implementation of IPC activities in countries, building capacity at national and regional levels and linking with the GSU. It also contributes to the dissemination of IPC products and advocacy, and to the strategic orientation together with partners.

At national level, IPC activities are led by an **IPC Technical Working Group (TWG)** composed of food security analysts from a variety of sectors and organizations, including Government, UN agencies, national and international NGOs, Academics and technical agencies. It is usually chaired by the Government and embedded in relevant existing institutions and networks.

The IPC is an initiative financed by multiple resource partners. At all levels, resource partners are also associated as partners contributing to the development of the tool, and as decision-makers using the IPC products. As such they provide inputs and recommendations for the strategic development of the IPC, and financial contribution to the elements of the IPC programme most relevant to their mandates and areas of interest.

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

The roll-out of tools and procedures for analysis and classification of chronic food insecurity is currently one of the most prominent technical tasks. These tools will complement the acute food insecurity analysis and classification tools, and ensure that the two sides of food insecurity are properly taken into account for the development of appropriate response. The development process involved a broad variety of stakeholders beyond the IPC global partners, including the World Bank, the EU Joint Research Centre (JRC), FAO, WFP, FEWS NET, Save the Children, Oxfam, ICF International, SICA/PRESANCA, and FANTA/USAID. The final tools will be released in July 2014 and many countries have already included them in their annual work plan.

Another major area for technical development is better integration of nutrition analysis into the IPC food security analysis. The **examination of the impact of IPC on decision-making** is also one of the priorities of IPC. The impact of IPC has been identified at three levels (global, regional and country) through a baseline study, which will be followed by subsequent monitoring surveys at frequent intervals, and eventually a monitoring system will be established as a part of the global IPC programme.
Together with the version 2.0, in 2012 the IPC also launched the IPC Certification Programme that aims at qualifying IPC practitioners professionally. The Programme is relevant for food security experts involved in IPC activities at global, regional and country levels. The role-based certification process consists of three proficiency levels: Level 1 for IPC analysts, Level 2 for IPC trainers and facilitators, and Level 3 for IPC experts. Regional Coordinators are actively involved in identification of IPC practitioners at each level and in guiding them towards certification.

A new set of training materials has been developed in line with the Version 2.0 of the IPC Technical Manuel. The final package of Level 1 training materials was released in December 2012, and the Level 2 materials were finalized in October 2013 and have since been used for regional and national Level 2 trainings in all regions.

The IPC Information Support System (ISS) is an innovative web-based application which has been designed to efficiently create, store, and disseminate the IPC Acute and Chronic analyses and information. The ISS simplifies the IPC analysis process by the digitization of the IPC core functions, procedures and templates. The ISS Acute version was completed in March 2013 and piloted in several countries. Currently, 5 countries around the globe are using the system: Tanzania, Sudan, Haiti, Honduras, and Lesotho. The Chronic ISS is being developed and will be online in early July 2014. The Chronic ISS will be fully integrated into the country portals, making the use of both Acute and Chronic seamless for users.

COMMUNICATION

IPC Brief Series: These are 4 page briefs and there are currently 21 issues in the series. Topics vary and currently include: What is IPC, What is new in IPC V 2.0, IPC for Decision Making in Developmental Contexts, IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification, IPC Certification Programme 2014, IPC Information System Support (ISS) 2014; plus five updated regional briefs (Asia 2014, Central America and Caribbean 2014, Eastern and Central Africa 2014, Southern Africa 2014, IPC support to West Africa 2014) and the present brief, IPC Global Initiative 2014.

IPC Newsletter - IPC Worldwide Quarterly News, Views and Information: This publication contains a regular section on the latest IPC Global News and Features covering the latest updates on IPC technical developments, partner collaboration. There is also a regular section for each region with updates and information on upcoming IPC events, IPC resources and feature stories.

IPC Website (www.ipcinfo.org): The IPC website provides latest IPC information from the different regions and countries, including latest IPC events, IPC country maps and publications. One can also access various IPC training resources, IPC publications, and news on latest updates on IPC Technical developments and new global IPC initiatives.

The IPC development and implementation is made possible by the support of:

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