OVERVIEW

After several IPC consultations and exercises in the region, the IPC took off in Asia in 2012 with a regional project funded by ECHO, which provided country level IPC trainings and capacity building support. This initiative proved successful as it demonstrated that the IPC was well suited to the Asia context and added value by assisting governments and partners in decision making to address food insecurity. As a result, government and country demand for IPC is growing in the region and new partners have come on board to support the IPC initiative.

The IPC initiative is guided by a multi-agency IPC Regional Steering Committee (RSC) consisting of eight major regional food security partners (ASEAN, ECHO, FAO, Save the Children, UNICEF, USAID, WFP, and WHO). The IPC Asia Regional Support Unit (RSU) based in Bangkok, is part of the IPC Global Support Unit (GSU) network and is providing technical coordination support to countries in the region and to the IPC Asia Regional Steering Committee.

Asia is also playing a crucial role in the implementation of the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Analysis tools and procedures. This year, the Chronic Analysis Rollout will be conducted in Nepal, Philippines and Bangladesh. Moreover, an IPC Nutrition Pilot will be conducted in Bangladesh and the lessons learned will be shared globally.

The IPC Cross-Country Exchange Programme will be implemented in the region to facilitate the IPC Certification process, allowing food security experts who are engaged in IPC activities to meet the requirements to get certified as IPC Trainers/Facilitators. Furthermore, the cross-country fertilization experiences will enable IPC practitioners to compare procedures, learn and share country practices through participation in IPC analyses and lessons learnt workshops, and gather cross border information.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS: LAUNCH OF THE ASIA IPC REGIONAL STRATEGIC PROGRAMME (2014-2016)

In February 2014, the Asia IPC Regional Strategic Programme (2014-2016) was launched and endorsed by the IPC leading partners in the region. The Programme is linked to the IPC Global Strategic Programme (2014-2016) and sets the priorities, objectives and plans for IPC activities in Asia over the next three years.

ASIA IPC REGIONAL STRATEGIC PROGRAMME (2014-2016) AND FOCUS AREAS

| IPC MULTIPARTNER OWNERSHIP AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION | > Country IPC Technical Working Groups (TWGs) plan and implement IPC activities  
> IPC is integrated in ASEAN/AFSIS framework and in other relevant regional food security institutions  
> Asia IPC Regional Steering Committee provides strategic guidance in promoting IPC institutionalization and implementation |
| --- | --- |
| CAPACITY BUILDING AND PROFESSIONALIZATION OF IPC | > IPC Country TWGs are effectively trained in IPC and actively lead, participate in and own IPC activities  
> Cross-Country Learning Exchange Programme for trainers implemented to create a regional community of IPC professionals (certified IPC Analysts, Trainers and Experts) |
| IPC TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT, QUALITY AND COMPLIANCE | > Country IPC TWGs, led by National Governments, generate IPC analyses relevant for decision making  
> IPC country analysis is strengthened in quality and compliance  
> Country and cross-country lessons learned are captured and contribute to IPC global improvements and technical developments  
> Foster partnerships with academic and research organizations to apply and link the IPC tool in emerging areas of food security analysis |
| IPC USE IN DECISION MAKING | > IPC analysis is demand driven and conducted as needed  
> Country IPC products are disseminated widely for advocacy at national, regional and global levels  
> IPC products inform decision-making, programming and policy formulation |
There are a number of typical IPC activities carried out at the country level, depending on the exposure and extent of experience in IPC in the countries. These activities include:

- **Formation of IPC National Technical Working Group**
- **IPC Awareness Raising Workshops (national and provincial levels)**
- Identification, training and certification of food security experts as IPC Analysts (Level 1) and IPC Facilitators and Trainers (Level 2)
- **Study tour** for IPC TWG members to other countries
- **IPC Analysis of Acute or Chronic Food Insecurity**

Nine countries in Asia have had IPC activities with the IPC Version 2.0, these are: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Tajikistan.

- **In Afghanistan** the IPC was introduced in 2011 thanks to an ECHO-funded project. It has been leading 3 analysis rounds and is continuing activities.
- **In Bangladesh, Cambodia, Pakistan** and **Philippines** the IPC was introduced in 2012 thanks to an ECHO-funded regional project. All countries have established and trained a TWG and completed at least one analysis round. Activities are continuing.
- **Nepal** has been using the IPC tools since 2008 under the leadership of NeKsA P and WFP, in close collaboration with the Government of Nepal. Now the system is going through a process of institutionalization into the Government of Nepal structure, under the leadership of the Ministry Agricultural Development (MoAD) at the technical level and overall policy guidance of the National Planning Commission (NPC).
- **In Tajikistan** the IPC has been introduced in 2010 with the active lead of WFP and the Government. Analysis of acute food insecurity is led three times a year at decentralized level.
- **In the Philippines** three acute analyses have been conducted. The most recent analysis focused on the provinces affected by typhoon Haiyan and provinces previously classified as Phase 3 and 4.

Other countries have expressed interested in IPC and are engaging in IPC consultations and awareness-raising activities, including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Lao PDR, and more recently India.

**GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIP**

The IPC is a multi-agency initiative and its strength lies in its partnership at global, regional and national levels. In 2012, the IPC took off thanks to a regional project funded by ECHO and implemented by FAO, in consultation with the regional and national IPC partners.

The IPC is led at regional level by the **IPC Asia Regional Support Unit (RSU)** and the **IPC Asia Regional Steering Committee**, and at national level by the **IPC Country Technical Working Groups (TWG)**. They are all working in partnership to meet the goal of the IPC: influencing decision makers, improving policies and programmes and promoting food security across Asia.

The national IPC TWG is a group of food security analysts from a variety of sectors and organizations, including Government, UN agencies, national and international NGOs, academic and technical agencies. It is usually chaired by the Government and embedded in relevant existing institutions and networks.

At regional level the IPC Asia RSU, hosted by FAO in Bangkok, is responsible for supporting the implementation of IPC activities in countries, building capacity at national and regional levels and linking with the **IPC Global Support Unit (GSU)** in Rome. It also contributes to the dissemination of IPC products and advocacy, and to the strategic orientation together with partners.

The **IPC Asia Regional Steering Committee** (IPC RSC) is currently composed of eight major regional stakeholders: ASEAN/AFSIS, FAO, ECHO, Save the Children, UNICEF, USAID, WFP and WHO. The core objective of the **IPC Asia RSC** is to address the need for high-level strategic advice, endorsement, oversight, support and advocacy in order to ensure accountability, programme quality, sustainability, institutional ownership and participation.

At global level, ASEAN closely collaborates with the IPC Global Partnership. This link at the global level will help ensure that specificities of the Asian context and interests of the regional and national partners contribute to the ongoing global normative development and strategic direction of the IPC.
SUCCESS STORIES

IPC in Nepal

The NeKSAP (Nepal Food Security Monitoring System) jointly developed by WFP and the Government of Nepal is up and running in the country; the system is already well established across Nepal up to the district level. The NeKSAP phase classification has been streamlined vis-à-vis IPC Version 2.0 through an extensive review process in 2012-2013 under the leadership of the Government of Nepal (Ministry of Agricultural Development), and with the active participation of the IPC Asia Regional Project and WFP Asia Regional Bureau.

An IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Analysis for the whole country was conducted for the first time in September 2012 under leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture Development. The results have provided feedback and lessons learned to further develop the IPC chronic food insecurity scale and tools.

IPC in Bangladesh

The first IPC Acute pilot analysis was conducted in December 2012. It was a pilot project so there were some challenges regarding the methodology, data collection, and number of participants. However, the second IPC Acute Analysis conducted in August 2013 was more robust and number of analysts increased substantially. After the successful completion of Acute analysis, the first IPC Chronic analysis was conducted in November 2013. Five resource persons from Global and Regional support unit facilitated the analysis workshop. The first In-Country Level 2 training was held in Bangladesh 7-10 June 2014. Twenty potential IPC analysts took part in the training. In total, Bangladesh has now over fifty analysts from 29 agencies.

IPC in Pakistan

In Pakistan, IPC has created coordination forums at national and sub-national level, bringing together governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to discuss and analyze food insecurity situations. IPC has played an important role in facilitating the food security analysis work at country level on secondary data sources obtained from the various food security stakeholders.

With the ownership and collaboration of federal and provincial government, IPC global partners and other relevant stakeholders, need-based IPC analyses were carried out at provincial level, covering the food security situation from Oct 2013 to Apr 2014. IPC provincial maps were prepared, covering the percentage of population affected/exposed to each phase.
IPC in Philippines

IPC in the Philippines is led by the National IPC Steering Committee, with the collaboration of the TWG, and overseen by the National Nutrition Council, which serves as the institutional home of IPC.

Since the adoption of IPC, the Philippines have conducted 3 trainings back-to-back with acute analysis and a chronic analysis pilot. The first workshop was successfully conducted in November 2012, starting with 25 of the most at-risk provinces located in Mindanao, in the south of the Philippines. This workshop was immediately followed by another analysis in February 2013 as typhoon Bopha severely hit some of the provinces of Mindanao.

After Typhoon Haiyan hit 3 of the 17 regions of the country in November 2013, IPC again provided the platform for objective food security analysis aiding identification of the most at-risk provinces. Due to the widespread destruction of assets, resources and the effect on agricultural production and water and sanitation in some provinces, the IPC analysts opined that the situation could have reached IPC Phase 5. Famine was avoided thanks to the quick and efficient response provided by the Philippine Government, UN agencies, NGOs and the donor community. The IPC analysis also highlighted the impact of humanitarian aid and response across various geographic areas in emergency situation and the consequences of any change in assistance levels. The IPC analysis and findings were utilized by government agencies as well as development organizations and donors in the development of their disaster assessment reports, and helped design responses toward recovery and reconstruction.

Next Steps

The IPC has established strong linkages between various government ministries, agencies, country and regional level organizations, and academic institutions which are part of the country level Technical Working Groups or the Regional Steering Committee.

Various country governments are utilising IPC analysis in response and programme planning; while also working to ensure the IPC tool becomes an integral part of existing national frameworks.

The Asia IPC Regional Strategic Programme (2014-2016) includes objectives for the institutionalization and integration of the IPC into existing institutions and frameworks, contribution to the technical development initiatives at global level, continuous and autonomous strengthening of technical capacity at national and decentralized levels, and direct engagement with decision makers to ensure impact on decisions and policy development.

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

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