Countries in the East and Central Africa Region were the starting point for the worldwide implementation of the IPC. The IPC was originally developed in 2004 in Somalia by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and, based on the success of its use to inform decision-making, the IPC spread to neighboring countries. Today 10 countries lead acute analysis two to four times a year: Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. In May 2014, Rwanda took the first steps to implement IPC (awareness raising and Technical Working Group composition, Level 1 Training and Acute Analysis prototypes).

Building on years of implementation, the IPC has become a reference in the region for evidence-based and comparable food security analysis. This has been achieved through a partnership among government, humanitarian and development actors in building technical consensus. IPC products form an essential component of country early warning systems and are used by national Governments, donors and the humanitarian community for both emergency interventions and development policies.

IPC activities in countries are led by multi-partner IPC Technical Working Groups, chaired by governments, and technically supported by IPC Regional Coordinators. The IPC initiative in the region is guided by a multi-agency IPC Regional Steering Committee, embedded in the regional Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG), and chaired by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

After two regional projects funded by ECHO, the IPC has proved its relevance and sustainability as it continues to be implemented and institutionalized within Governments, thanks to the contributions from national and regional partners. The IPC Certification is proceeding to build a sustainable pool of IPC analysts and trainer-facilitators. This is part of a strategic orientation, together with continuous progress in strengthening the partnership and leadership of the Government, and increasing impact on decision-making both at national and regional levels.

In May 2014 the IPC played an active role in building evidence-based technical consensus on the severity of the food insecurity crisis in South Sudan and Central African Republic. This is critical as coordinated and unified messages help decision makers move forward and respond strategically, in a timely way.

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

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

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

- **IPC Multipartner Ownership and Institutionalization**: IPC is integrated in FSNWG, IGAD and other relevant regional institutions frameworks
- **ECA IPC Regional Steering Committee (IPC RSC) provides strategic guidance in promoting IPC institutionalization and implementation**
- **IPC RSC, FSNWG, IGAD and other regional institutions focal points are trained in IPC and support country activities**

- **Capacity Building and Professionalization of IPC**: Country Technical Working Groups (TWGs) are effectively trained in Acute and Chronic Analysis and IPC Information Support System (ISS)
- **A regional technical team is set up with certified Level 3 Experts**
- **In line with the IPC Certification process, IPC Analyses and Level 1 Trainings are facilitated by national TWGs and technical capacity is strengthened at decentralized level by national Level 2 certified Trainers**
- **Country TWGs share experiences through cross-country exchange trainings**

- **IPC Technical Development, Quality and Compliance**: IPC TWGs generate comprehensive IPC analyses, led at decentralized level using the ISS and ensuring compliance with IPC protocols
- **Lessons learned are captured and contribute to IPC global improvements and technical developments**
- **Contribute to the piloting of IPC prototype tools, such as the IPC Nutrition scale**
- **Linkages with regional technical development initiatives relevant to IPC (e.g. Response analysis)**

- **IPC Use in Decision Making**: IPC analysis is demand driven and conducted on a needs basis
- **IPC products inform decision-making, programming and policy formulation at sub-national, national and regional level**
- **Country IPC products are disseminated widely for advocacy for coordinated response at regional level through FSNWIGIPC**
- **IPC results are effectively linked to response analysis and resilience frameworks**
WHAT IS HAPPENING AND WHERE?

In addition to Somalia where it was developed, the IPC was introduced in Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda in a first phase in 2007-2008 thanks to financial support from ECHO, DFID and CIDA. During a second phase in 2009-2011 funded by ECHO, the IPC was consolidated in these countries, introduced in Central African Republic and in Sudan and now South Sudan, and piloted in Ethiopia. Progress in the implementation has been ongoing since then, and Djibouti introduced the IPC at the end of 2011. Rwanda made the first steps of implementing IPC in May 2014 by constituting and training at IPC level 1 the national TWG. Ethiopia has also expressed interest and participates in regional activities.

In 2012 the Version 2.0 of the IPC was successfully introduced in all countries, resulting in increased technical capacity and quality of products. Typical activities of the National Technical Working Groups (TWG) usually include:

- **Awareness Raising** events and consultations (at national and subnational levels)
- IPC Level 1 training for **IPC Analysts** (at national and subnational levels) and Level 2 training for **IPC Facilitators and Trainers**
- **IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis** (at national and subnational levels) on a regular basis (2 to 4 times a year) and updated as needed
- Presentation and discussion of results of IPC analysis with decision-makers
- Cross-country exchange on IPC activities such as IPC (Level 1 and 2) trainings facilitation and acute analysis training support
- Contribution on improvement of IPC product use for response analysis pilots.

GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIP

The IPC is led at regional level by the East and Central Africa Regional Support Unit (RSU) and the IPC Regional Steering Committee (RSC) embedded within the FSNWG based in Nairobi, and at national level by the IPC Technical Working Groups (TWG). These three bodies are all working in partnership to meet the goal of the IPC: influencing decision makers, improving policies and programmes and promoting food security across the region.

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, Academics and technical agencies. It is usually chaired by the Government and embedded in relevant existing institutions and networks.

At regional level, the **IPC Regional Support Unit** based in FAO premises in Nairobi and composed of two technical coordinators 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 RSC is embedded since 2007 in the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG), a regional platform for sharing information and bringing together a broad number of stakeholders for advocacy and response, and co-chaired by IGAD since December 2011. The RSC is currently composed of 9 major regional stakeholders: ACF, CARE, EC-JRC, FAO, FEWSNET, IGAD, Oxfam, Save the Children and WFP. The main objectives of the RSC are high-level strategic advice, oversight and advocacy in order to ensure accountability, programme quality, sustainability, institutional ownership and participation.

At global level, the regional initiative is represented by IGAD. The collaboration between IGAD and the IPC Global Partnership helps ensure that specificities of the East and Central Africa context and interests of the regional and national partners contribute to the ongoing normative development and strategic direction of the IPC globally.
SUCCESS STORIES

IPC in Tanzania

The IPC was adopted in Tanzania in 2008 and, since then, has been applied consistently. The country has a food security information system (MUCHALI - Swahili abbreviation), which incorporates early-warning systems and bi-annual assessments. Currently, MUCHALI secretariat is hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives. The IPC is overseen by the Tanzania National Disaster and Relief Committee (TANDREC), chaired by the Permanent Secretary – Prime Minister’s Office. TANDREC approves and endorses the IPC results.

The IPC has proved to be an effective tool in classifying complex information into meaningful categories and in consolidation of essential conclusions for decision makers in an accessible and consistent format. Moreover, the IPC is helping the Tanzania Government representatives and technical staff reach technical consensus when classifying food insecurity scenarios and their impact on human lives and livelihoods. It thus makes it easier to identify priorities and facilitates the coordination of response efforts and the allocation of resources.

IPC in Uganda

The IPC was introduced in Uganda in 2007. The TWG conducts acute food insecurity analysis twice a year, or when required. The IPC implementation and the related capacity-building at decentralized levels have improved the overall knowledge of food security and nutrition within the TWG members. IPC is institutionalized and adopted by the Government as a reliable tool for early warning and decision making.

The decentralization process started in Karamoja region, where food security is especially volatile. Four analyses have been conducted in this region to better orient decision makers.

Two pilots of Response Analyses linked to IPC have been conducted in the country. These pilots showed the comparative advantages of structuring the response analysis based on IPC results, which makes it easier to identify priorities and facilitate the coordination of strategic response efforts.

IPC in Central African Republic

The IPC has been introduced in CAR in 2008. The TWG conducts acute food insecurity analyses twice a year. Overcoming many challenges, including data availability and volatility of security situation, IPC products have become the reference for food security decision making for the Government, the humanitarian community and other stakeholders.

The Food Security Cluster uses IPC as its core tool for vulnerability assessment and several partners are using IPC products as a common language to respond to acute food insecurity issues. The IPC has proved its importance in providing timely early-warning information in a changing context.

Due to sharply deteriorating food security situation in CAR, decision makers requested to update the IPC analysis conducted in November 2013. IPC allowed best use of available information - but data gaps limited the confidence level of analysis and population estimates and led to the inability to classify certain areas. However, deterioration of the situation was clearly measurable and agreed by IPC National Partners.
IPC in Djibouti

The IPC was introduced in Djibouti in 2011. Since then, the TWG has conducted acute food insecurity analyses once a year. The IPC has earned the confidence of national decision makers and has proved useful in guiding interventions. IPC food security analyses showed the impact of more than 5 years of drought on livestock, the main livelihood for rural areas in the country.

The IPC urban analysis conducted in 2013 highlighted the extension of food insecurity from rural to urban areas: households, who have lost their livestock due to the drought, migrated to the Djibouti-Ville area and are the most food insecure.

A response analysis (including long-term strategies) is on the agenda of the Food Security Cluster, targeting the most affected segments of population in rural and urban areas.

Looking Forward

Over years of implementation, the IPC has proved its relevance in different national contexts, becoming a strong regional initiative. The IPC national and regional partners have developed a Regional Strategic Programme to guide the development of the IPC over the next three years (2014-2016). This includes in particular:

- **Further institutionalization and integration** of the IPC into existing institutions
- **Roll-out of the new IPC tools for chronic food insecurity analysis**, to contribute to a better linkage of relief and development interventions
- **Introduction of pilots on response analysis tools** linked to IPC and strengthening of the engagement with decision makers in increase the impact and use of IPC products
- **Strengthen the IPC Certification regional campaign** to establish a sustainable and autonomous capacity-building mechanism in countries
- **Encourage decentralization of the analysis process and use of the IPC Information Support System (ISS)** to facilitate both analytical process and dissemination of results
- **Further reduction and sharing of the costs** among national partners to ensure full sustainability of the IPC
- **Explore further opportunities to engage with decision-makers**, to increase impact on both emergency and development decisions.

In addition to the support received through the global level, the region has received direct financial support from the European Commission and the Governments of Belgium, Finland, France and of the United States of America.