Overview

IPC is a set standardized protocols (tools & procedures) to classify the severity of food insecurity situations for evidence-based strategic decision-making. It provides information on the situation (How bad); the most affected geographical areas and populations within those areas (Where, Who and How many); the duration and timeframe (When), and the driving factors (Why).

After many years of use of the IPC approach to inform interventions with short-term objectives to address crisis situations, the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification, also abbreviated as IPC-Chronic Classification*, has been developed to complement the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Classification and provides invaluable information for decision makers that focus on medium and long-term objectives. It makes IPC an inclusive classification system to inform both crisis mitigation and prevention as well as structural and developmental policies and programs.

Thanks to over two years of preparation, piloting and development of different prototypes, the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification key parameters, tools and procedures were launched in July 2014 and successively rolled out starting from September 2014 in 8 countries: Bangladesh, Burundi, El Salvador, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. A lessons learning process is embedded in the roll-out to gather feedback and inputs from the 8 countries and refine the key parameters, tools and procedures.

A multi-partner technical working group including experts from EC-JRC, FAO, FEWS-NET, ICFI, WFP, USAID-FANTA, Save the Children, SICA-PRESANCA and the World Bank was crucial all along the development process in achieving the finalized parameters, tools and procedures, and engaging in the lesson learning process.

FOCUS and BENEFITS

⇒ Measures the extent, severity and underlying factors of persistent food insecurity.
⇒ Clarifies differences between the causes, outcomes and characteristics of acute and chronic food insecurity.
⇒ Focuses on the analysis of structural and underlying causes of food insecurity.
⇒ Detangles chronic food insecurity from poverty.
⇒ Informs medium and long-term programmes and policies to address structural inefficiencies and poverty.

NEW TOOLS

The IPC chronic food insecurity analysis follows the IPC core principles of consensus building and convergence of evidence, and is conducted according to the four IPC core functions.

Specific tools and procedures are featured to classify and communicate the chronic food insecurity conditions:

- IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Reference Table, a four-level scale to classify the severity of chronic food insecurity of population groups based on common reference indicators to provide key implications for response;
- The Analysis Worksheets for the analysis of evidence and underlying factors of chronic food insecurity; and
- The Communication Template and Mapping Protocols to reflect the final overview of chronic food insecurity situation analysis, main conclusions and key implications for medium and long-term response planning and decision-making.

*For easy reference, abbreviations can be used to refer to the IPC Acute and/or Chronic Food Insecurity Classification, specifically: IPC-Acute classification (or analysis); IPC-Chronic classification (or analysis).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Chronic</th>
<th>Acute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relevance</strong></td>
<td>To inform actions that focus on improving quality and quantity of food consumption through strengthening and rebuilding livelihoods and resilience.</td>
<td>To inform actions that focus on preventing, mitigating, and decreasing severe food insecurity that threatens lives or livelihoods.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Definition</strong></td>
<td>Food insecurity that persists due to structural causes.</td>
<td>Food insecurity found in a specified area at a specific point in time and of a severity that threatens lives and/or livelihoods regardless of the causes, context or duration.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose</strong></td>
<td>To inform medium and long term strategic objectives</td>
<td>To inform short term objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scale</strong></td>
<td>4 Levels of Chronic Food Insecurity – (1) Minimal/No, (2) Mild, (3) Moderate, (4) Severe.</td>
<td>5 Phases of Acute Food Insecurity – (1) Minimal/None, (2) Stressed, (3) Crisis, (4) Emergency, (5) Catastrophe/Famine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Susceptibility to change</strong></td>
<td>Low: changes are slow and happen gradually</td>
<td>High: dynamic, degree of Acute Food insecurity can and often does change quickly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Validity period</strong></td>
<td>Long-term (3/5 years)</td>
<td>Short-Term (days /weeks/ months)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indicators</strong></td>
<td>Persistence is determined based on analysis of conditions under non-exceptional circumstances. ♦ Quick-changing indicators ♦ Slow-changing indicators</td>
<td>Quick-changing indicators analyzed for current or projected situation through “snap-shots”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus on food consumption</strong></td>
<td>Food consumption quality and quantity</td>
<td>Mainly food consumption quantity</td>
</tr>
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</table>
AN ALL INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The development process of the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification started in 2011 with the development of an initial prototype, which was included in the version 2.0 of the IPC Technical Manual in 2012. To ensure global applicability, the IPC Global Steering Committee prioritized the further development of tools and procedures for chronic food insecurity analysis and, in line with the IPC inclusive and consultative approach, the IPC Chronic Working Group was established in 2012 and engaged in a two-year long process involving more than 200 professionals from 10 different countries in Asia, Southern Africa, East and Central Africa, and Latin America.

Two rounds of pilots of the IPC prototype for chronic food insecurity classification took place in 2012 and 2013. The pilots gave valuable feedback on the technical details and also on the analysis process, which was reviewed by the working group and helped improve the prototype and finalize tools.

As a result, the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification was finalized. The IPC Steering Committee endorsed it and officially launched it in July 2014 in the context of the IPC Global Event on “Use and Impact of IPC”. The launch event also kick-started the roll-out of the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification in 8 target countries in 2014.

In line with the IPC technical development approach, a lessons learning process is integral part of the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity roll-out, in order to refine the tools and procedures on the basis of the feedback from countries, Global Partners and GSU staff who supported country level activities.

The IPC Chronic Working Group is engaged in updating the IPC Chronic tools and procedures based on the learning from country application in preparation for the next phase of the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification Roll-out.

IPC CHRONIC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

The working group includes technical experts from the different IPC global partners (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, Save the Children and EC-JRC) and from other institutions, including the ICFI, FANTA-USAID, SICA-PRESANCA, and the World Bank.
ROLL-OUT and LEARNING from COUNTRY APPLICATION

Country demand for the IPC Chronic Classification is high. The roll-out process consists of 6 Steps from introduction to actual production and dissemination of IPC-Chronic analysis findings. It also includes a lessons learning process as well as quality assurance activities supported by the IPC GSU throughout the overall roll-out process.

8 countries already initiated the roll-out in 2014. These include: Bangladesh, Burundi, El Salvador, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

From 2015 to 2018, the roll-out is planned to be expanded to approximately 40 countries. In addition to the country application, an addendum on the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification—key parameters, tools and procedures – has been developed together with several supporting training material which are used as reference during the implementation process including IPC Chronic Awareness Raising and Training activities supported by IPC GSU at country level.

6 STEPS for the Implementation of the IPC-Chronic Classification at Country Level

For updates and additional information, visit the IPC web site at: http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-technical-development/ipc-chronic-scale/en/

Preliminary Results of IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification Mindanao region of the Philippines, January 2015

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