OVERVIEW

Since its inception, the IPC has focused primarily on the analysis and classification of food insecurity situations and related outcomes. Although nutrition elements are integrated within the IPC analysis, currently the IPC does not incorporate a full nutrition situation overview in terms of considering malnutrition caused by other factors than food insecurity.

With the constant expansion of IPC, a new interest has risen to complement the standard IPC analysis with a comprehensive nutrition component. In response to this demand from countries and governments, the IPC Global Partnership has committed to developing IPC Nutrition Classification tools and procedures based on the Nutrition Classification tool used by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) in Somalia. The FSNAU’s tool will be reviewed and a prototype IPC Nutrition Phase Classification will be developed.

The new IPC Nutrition tools and procedures will be compatible with whatever nutrition data collection systems, methodological approaches, and institutional arrangements exist in-country, allowing comparison of findings over time and across countries.

The piloting and adaptation of a complementary IPC Nutrition Phase Classification to be integrated in the IPC approach is one key component of the IPC Global Strategic Programme (2014-2016). The development process started in February 2014 with the establishment of an IPC Nutrition Working Group (IPC NWG), which includes experts from IPC Global Partnership, CDC, FSNAU, Institute of Child Health/University of London, Standing Committee on Nutrition (WHO), UNICEF, FANTA, WHO, and the World Bank.

PURPOSE AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

The resulting fully integrated IPC Food and Nutrition Security Phase Classification will include both the analysis of malnutrition caused by non-food related factors, such as inadequate caring practices and disease-related causal factors, as well as food related factors.

Inclusion of a separate but complementary classification for nutrition situations equips the decision-makers with a full understanding of both underlying and direct factors that affect nutritional vulnerability, which will facilitate:

- Better targeting of interventions
- Increasing coordination between humanitarian and development response, and
- Integrated response for achieving food and nutrition security

The IPC Food & Nutrition Security Phase Classification has a potential to bring together different global groups of stakeholders: the food security community and the public health community, and the humanitarian and development actors.

It will contribute to meeting the global challenge of addressing malnutrition and achieving nutrition security by informing comprehensive programming which includes investments in nutrition and food security.
THE CURRENT PROTOTYPE

SAME ANALYTICAL APPROACH

⇒ Focus on severity and causes
⇒ Evidence-based analysis and convergence of evidence
⇒ Thresholds linked to international standards
⇒ Technical consensus sought among multi-sectoral experts
⇒ Links to response
⇒ Quality assurance for technical rigor and neutrality
⇒ Communication for action in consistent and effective manner
⇒ Use of Reference Tables, Analysis Worksheets, and Mapping Protocols for standardized analysis

FSNAU Nutrition Classification Tool

The FSNAU Nutrition Classification tool was developed in Somalia in 2007 based on the UNICEF and Lancet Conceptual Frameworks. The purpose of the prototype is to classify the severity of acute malnutrition caused by non-food security factors such as disease, water, sanitation, and social and care environment, access to health care and the overall health environment.

NUTRITION IN IPC

In the IPC Acute Food Security Classification, nutrition is captured in the analysis in two ways: nutrition is examined in terms of inadequate quality and/or quantity of consumption of food which leads to malnutrition); and it is also an input to food security (nutritional status affects human capital and for example labor productivity, which has an impact on vulnerability aspects and livelihood strategies).

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The IPC Nutrition Working Group (IPC NWG) has been established in February 2014 to lead technical development and piloting of the prototype of the IPC Nutrition Classification. As of today, it includes experts from the IPC Partner Agencies, CDC, FSNAU, Institute of Child Health/University of London, Standing Committee on Nutrition (WHO), UNICEF, FANTA, WHO, and the World Bank.

In 2014, the development process will include five country pilots, respectively in East and Central Africa (with the support of IGAD/FSNWG), Southern Africa (with SADC), West Africa (with CILSS), Central and Latin America (with SICA-PRESANCA and INCAP) and in Asia (with SAARC/ASEAN). The first pilot will be conducted in Kenya, in early August.

The IPC NWG will also hold three technical development workshops and several consultative meetings during 2014. The process is expected to continue in 2015 with further pilots and technical consultations. The version 1.0 of the Nutrition Classification is expected to be presented to the IPC Global Steering Committee for endorsement in the first quarter of 2016.

For updates and additional information, visit the IPC web site www.ipcinfo.org