

IPC

Integrated Food Security
Phase Classification



IPC High Level Executive Committee

Terms of Reference

Background

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a global, multi-stakeholder initiative to inform food security policy and programming and, ultimately, to contribute to global food and nutrition security.

Since its first application in 2004 in Somalia, the IPC has gained international recognition as the reference for evidence and consensus-based food security and nutrition analyses, comparable across countries. The IPC has become the common currency for assessing food and nutrition crises in about 30 countries in Africa, Asia, Near East and Latin America and it is expected to progressively expand coverage.

Together with the Cadre Harmonisé, the equivalent of the IPC in West Africa and the Sahel, the IPC is the main contributor to the annual multi-stakeholder Global Report on Food Crises, that brings together food security and nutrition analyses and provides the latest annual numbers on people facing acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition in crisis-prone countries. This report has become the global reference on food crises and helps build consensus on priorities across agencies.

In 2021, the wide acceptance of the IPC was reflected in the G7's recognition of the IPC as

the 'gold standard', and its inclusion in the UN Food Systems Summit as an Action Track 5 'game changing' intervention. In May 2023, the G7 reiterated the importance of the IPC in their Action Statement for Resilient Global Food Security. The recent Global Alliance for Food Security has included the IPC as the common reference for consensus and evidence-based analysis of acute food insecurity. These global initiatives also echo an increasing demand to expand the geographical coverage of the IPC to all food and nutrition crises globally. As the influence of the IPC has grown, the need to establish governance arrangements that are commensurate with this higher profile - and make decisions that have far reaching implications for the IPC globally - has become more pressing.

Based on recommendations from the external Evaluations of the last two IPC Global Strategic Programmes (2014-2018 and 2019-2022), the IPC Global Steering Committee (GSC) has opted for the establishment of a High Level Executive Committee (HLEC) to advance partner institutions' corporate commitments to the IPC initiative at every level, and to support decision-making for IPC analysis in contexts with major global or political implications.

Purpose

The overall purpose of the IPC HLEC is to drive the positioning of the IPC on the global agenda and assist the IPC initiative to overcome challenges in countries facing or vulnerable to major food and nutrition crises, and in particular, sensitive contexts.

Functions

Regular function:

- Promote and position the IPC on global agendas. The HLEC plays a major role in advocating for evidence and consensus-based food security and nutrition analyses by positioning the IPC in international fora. It provides overall guidance on whether and how the IPC should support other global initiatives in order to optimally respond to decision makers' needs.
- Reinforce institutional commitments to the IPC at all levels. This also includes advancing the IPC initiative in forging and strengthening high-level partnerships among the IPC global partner organisations.
- Support the geographic expansion of the IPC. The HLEC provides orientations on the need and feasibility of implementing the IPC in priority countries and related political support. This also entails providing guidance on how to approach and manage interactions with key stakeholders, including in contexts where the political

environment is not conducive for IPC implementation.

- Highlight other strategic considerations, as needed, to ensure that IPC optimally responds to decision-maker needs, for the GSC to explore further.

Ad-hoc function:

- To protect the integrity and neutrality of the IPC. Triggered by the GSC when the IPC initiative faces critical issues within a given country, the HLEC is requested to help address issues when they arise and provide guidance on the way forward. This could be in situations, for example, where (i) the integrity of an IPC analysis conducted in a country is at risk, (ii) the publication of an IPC analysis' findings has major political implications, and (iii) risks to the IPC partnership are considered high.

The HLEC in the IPC governance structure

The HLEC is the highest-level entity within the overall IPC governance structure. Due to the inter-linkages between the governance bodies of the IPC, it is important to have unique representation in the HLEC and the GSC (with no overlap) to ensure accountability at both levels.

The HLEC and the GSC¹ perform different functions. While the role of the HLEC in the IPC governance structure is to support overall efforts for the IPC to fulfill its mandate as global standard for food security and nutrition analysis, the GSC provides the overall strategic direction to the IPC initiative. The GSC oversees the implementation of the IPC Global Strategic Programme and holds responsibility for the oversight and regular functioning of the IPC initiative.

The GSC defines the agenda for the HLEC regular (annual) meetings and can activate ad-hoc HLEC meetings when the IPC faces critical issues within a given country.

Membership

HLEC membership extends to all global IPC member agencies.² Global IPC member agencies represented in the HLEC include Action Against Hunger (AAH), Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), the Comité permanent Inter Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), Oxfam, Southern African Development Community (SADC), Save the Children, Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Bank, World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO).

This is based on the understanding that other IPC global partner organizations, including the Global Food Security and Nutrition Clusters, are represented by the agencies overseeing them. Each organization is represented at high political and managerial levels through one representative. The level of representation is at:

- Assistant Director General/Deputy Executive Director level within UN agencies.
- Executive Director/International Programme Director level within International Non-Governmental Organizations.
- Executive Secretary level within Regional Organizations.
- Head of Unit level/High Political level representative associated to Technical Institutions.

HLEC members have the possibility to delegate as needed to a representative who is able to decide and act on behalf of her/his organization.

The chairperson of the GSC represents the GSC in HLEC meetings and acts as the Secretariat, along with the IPC Global Programme Manager from the IPC Global Support Unit.

Coordination/Chairmanship

The Chair is the representative of the agency chairing the GSC at the time of the meeting.

¹The IPC Global Steering Committee is composed of senior officers representing the 19 partner organizations of the IPC global initiative (Action Against Hunger (AAH), Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), the Comité permanent Inter Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), Oxfam, Southern African Development Community (SADC), Save the Children, Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Bank, World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO).

²Technical member agencies can be represented by relevant senior management of their parent institutions.

Working modalities

The HLEC meets once per year for regular meetings (three-hour sessions using video-conferencing facilities). The HLEC can also be convened (shorter sessions using video-conferencing facilities) on an ad-hoc basis at the discretion of the GSC to address major issues arising.

The quorum for the HLEC meetings is set at 50 percent of the total members. Decisions are made by consensus.

IPC governance structure



The IPC Global Partners



IPC Funding Partners

