

OVERVIEW

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), developed in 2004 to guide response to the food security crisis in Somalia, has evolved to be applicable in different country contexts, focusing not only on acute food insecurity but also on chronic food insecurity and nutrition analysis. As of 2015, the IPC is regularly used in **26 countries** in Africa, Asia and Latin America to help decision makers better address the food insecurity challenge.

The IPC initiative is managed by the **IPC Global Steering Committee**, currently composed of eleven representatives: ACF, CARE, CILSS (West Africa), EC-JRC, FAO, FEWS NET, Global Food Security Cluster, IGAD, Oxfam, Save the Children, SICA-PRESANCA (Central America) and WFP. The **IPC Global Support Unit**, reporting to the IPC Global Steering Committee, guides the implementation of IPC through a network of IPC Coordinators seconded to the regions. **IPC Regional Coordinators** are linked to regional governmental and partner platforms and provide technical training and coordination support to countries implementing IPC.

To build on the successes achieved to-date, the IPC Partnership has developed a multi-year and results-based **Global Strategic Programme**, whose duration has been recently extended from 3 to 5 years, until 2018. The IPC Global Strategic Programme (2014-2018) ensures that the IPC is adequately supported as an international global standard in the food security field, effectively informing food security policies.

Learning from years of country application, the **Version 2.0** of the IPC Technical Manual was released in 2012, leading to greater rigor and quality of products. Initially designed to be used in crisis contexts, the IPC scale has been expanded to also measure chronic food insecurity in non-crisis contexts. The **IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification** was launched in July 2014 and rolled out in 8 countries, from September 2014 to January 2015.

Moreover, with the expansion of IPC, a new interest has risen also to **complement** the IPC analysis also with a comprehensive nutrition component. In response to this demand, the IPC Global Partnership has committed to developing the **IPC Nutrition Phase Classification**.

Other important focuses of the IPC initiative are the application of the **IPC Certification Programme** to professionalize IPC Analysts and build a pool of IPC Trainers at country level, as well as the development of the **IPC Quality and Compliance Review Policy** and **IPC Strategic Engagement Plan**. Also important the promotion of **IPC Information Support System (ISS)**, a web-based application designed to efficiently create, store, and disseminate the IPC analyses and information.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ♦ **26 countries over 5 Regions lead regular IPC activities** through the multi-stakeholders IPC Country Technical Working Groups, chaired by Governments.
- ♦ **3 current Global Resource Partners:** DFID, European Union and USAID. Since its inception, the IPC has also benefited from the support of the governments of Australia, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Spain.
- ♦ 199 certified **IPC Analysts** and 20 certified **IPC Trainers & Facilitators** within the 5 Regions.
- ♦ The **IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification** endorsed by the IPC Global Steering Committee in February 2014 and rolled out in 8 countries, from September 2014 to January 2015.
- ♦ **Prototype of the IPC Nutrition Phase Classification** to be integrated in the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis and so far successfully piloted in 3 countries in 2014 and a 3rd round will be carried out in 2015.
- ♦ **IPC Quality and Compliance Review Policy** in Afghanistan and Nepal.

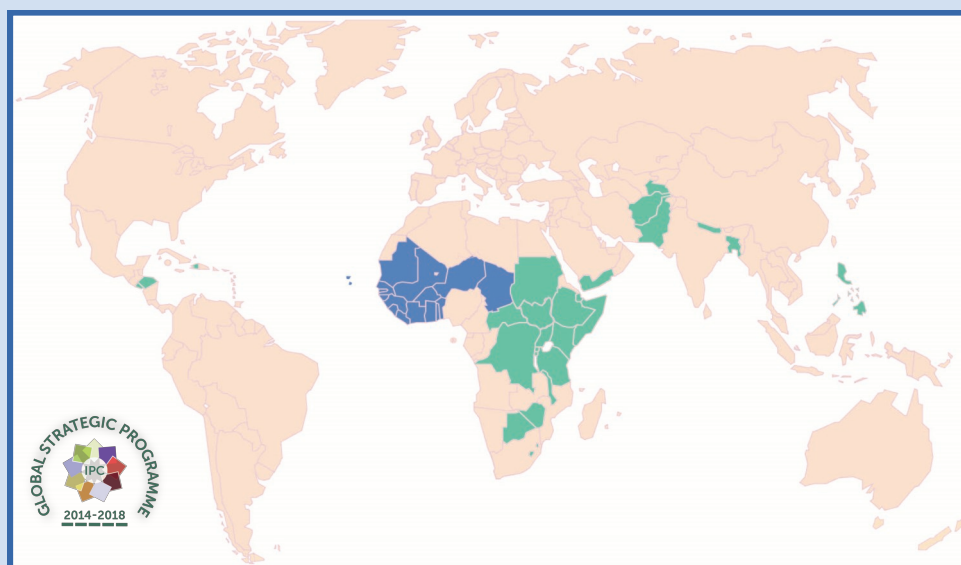


IPC Level 2 Training in Bangladesh
March 2014

WHAT IS HAPPENING AND WHERE?

Over 40 countries worldwide have implemented IPC activities, ranging from awareness-raising to analysis, while around **26 countries** are conducting IPC analysis:

- **ASIA:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Tajikistan
- **CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN:** El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras
- **EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA:** Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda
- **MIDDLE EAST:** Yemen
- **SOUTHERN AFRICA:** Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Zimbabwe
- **WEST AFRICA:** In the Sahel and West Africa, the IPC Global Partnership supports the technical development and implementation of the *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH), which is led by the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). CILSS have implemented the CH in 16 countries in 2014.



Support to *Cadre Harmonisé* in West Africa.

Countries are using or have introduced the IPC Acute and Chronic Food Insecurity Classifications, in the framework of the IPC Global Strategic Programme (2014-2018).

HOW TO SET UP IPC IN A NEW COUNTRY

- ◇ **Awareness-raising:** before introducing IPC in a country, awareness-raising events and consultations are held with technical officers and decision-makers from a variety of stakeholders.
- ◇ **Capacity-building:** IPC Level 1 and Level 2 Trainings can be led at national and subnational levels. Establishment of the IPC Country Technical Working Group (TWG).
- ◇ **Analysis:** The IPC-Acute analysis is usually conducted on a regular basis after each main assessment, as well as upon need, and informs short-term interventions. The IPC-Chronic Analysis is conducted every 5 years, focusing on mid- and long-term objectives.
- ◇ **Validation and dissemination:** Once the IPC analysis is completed, results can be first discussed with a core group of decision-makers, and then

widely disseminated through specific events and/or communication channels.

- ◇ **Lessons-learnt:** the TWGs critically review their achievements and challenges regularly, and develop lessons learnt, which also feed into the strategic development of the IPC at regional and global levels.
- ◇ **Institutionalization:** to ensure sustainability and impact on decision-making, the TWGs work towards integrating the IPC into Government and partners' policies and programmes.

Sharing experiences between IPC TWGs is crucial for the continuous and harmonious development of the IPC implementation among the community of users. This is done by involving participants from national TWGs into regional activities, such as trainings, technical workshops with cross-border analysis and lessons learning.

GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIP

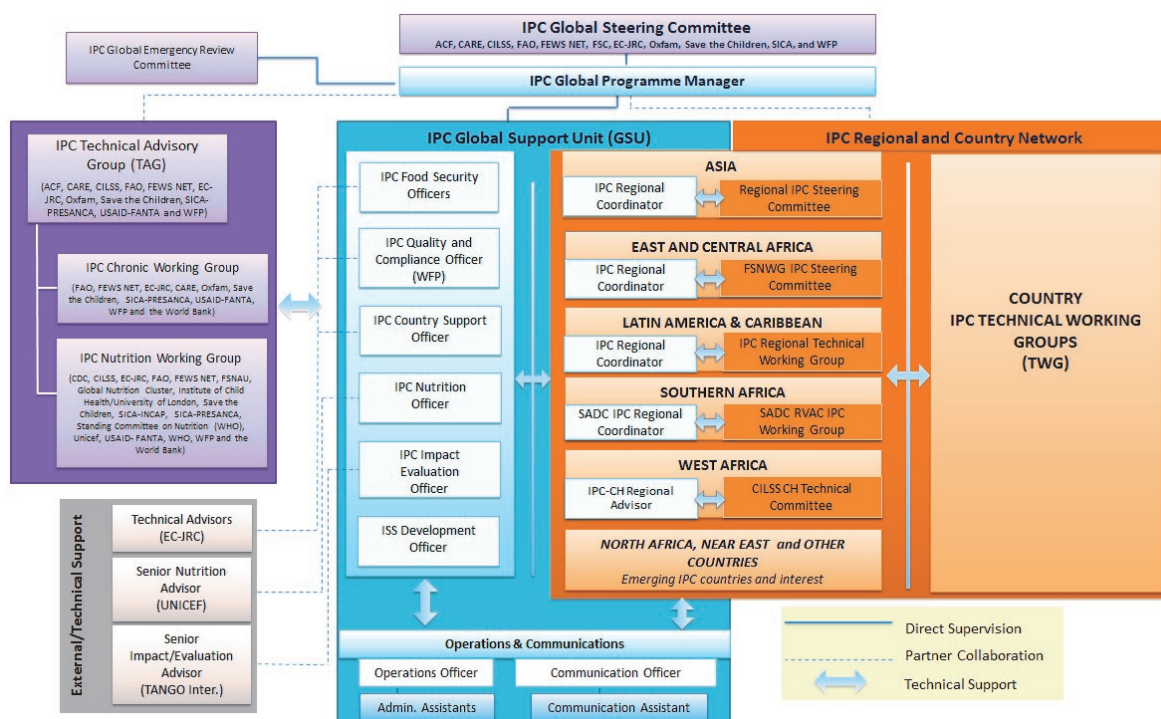
At **global level**, the IPC is governed by three structures:

- the **IPC Global Steering Committee** is responsible for strategic management of the global IPC Initiative;
- the **IPC Global Support Unit (IPC GSU)**, led by the **IPC Global Programme Manager**, is responsible for normative development and global coordination of IPC activities. The IPC Global Support Unit links with regional initiatives, as well as with countries when no regional structure exists;
- the **IPC Global Technical Advisory Group**, composed of technical experts, is responsible for technical developments of the IPC.

At **regional level**, the initiative is led by two structures:

- an **IPC Regional Steering Committee** or **IPC Regional Working Group** composed of representatives from regional partner agencies and usually chaired by a Regional Governmental Agency, responsible for high-level strategic advice, oversight and advocacy.
- an **IPC Regional Coordinator** who is responsible for supporting the implementation of IPC activities in countries, building capacity at national and regional level and linking with the IPC GSU. The Regional Coordinator also contributes to the strategic orientation together with partners.

At **national level**, IPC activities are led by an **IPC Technical Working Group (TWG)** composed of food security analysts from a variety of sectors and organizations, including Government, UN agencies, NGOs, academic and technical agencies. The TWG is usually chaired by the Government and embedded in relevant existing institutions and networks.



The IPC is financed by **multiple resource partners** that can be also associated as technical partners contributing to the development of the tool and as decision-makers using IPC products. As such, they provide inputs for the strategic development of the IPC and financial contribution to the IPC Strategic Programme (2014-2018).

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

The roll-out of tools and procedures for the analysis of **chronic food insecurity** is currently one of the most prominent technical task.

These tools will complement the acute food insecurity classification tools and will ensure that the two sides of food insecurity are properly taken into account for the response implementation. The development process involved a broad variety of stakeholders including IPC

Global Partners (ACF International, CARE, the EC Joint Research Centre, FAO, FEWS NET, Oxfam, Save the Children, SICA-PRESANCA, WFP) and other partner institutions (FANTA/USAID and the World Bank).

Another major area for technical development is a better integration of **nutrition analysis** into the IPC food security analysis.

TECHNICAL CAPACITY

In 2012 the IPC launched the **IPC Certification Programme**, that aims at qualifying IPC practitioners professionally, building an autonomous pool of IPC analysts and trainers at country level. The role-based certification process consists of three proficiency levels: Level 1 for *IPC Analysts*, Level 2 for *IPC Trainers & Facilitators*, and Level 3 for *IPC Experts*.

The **IPC Information Support System (ISS)** is a web-based application which has been designed to efficiently create, store, and disseminate the IPC Acute and Chronic analyses. The ISS simplifies the IPC analysis process by digitizing the IPC core functions, procedures and templates. The ISS Acute version was completed in March 2013 and is being used in several countries. The ISS for Chronic Analysis is under development and will be integrated into the country portals.

LEVEL 1	IPC QUALIFIED ANALYST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the IPC Tools and procedures
LEVEL 2	IPC TRAINER & FACILITATOR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead IPC Level 1 Training • Lead IPC Country Analysis Workshop
LEVEL 3	IPC EXPERT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead IPC Level 1 and Level 2 Trainings • Lead IPC Country Analysis Workshop and Regional Synthesis • Be part of the IPC International Roster of IPC EXPERTS

COMMUNICATION

The IPC Global Support Unit through its **IPC Communication Team** guides and harmonizes IPC GSU HQs and regional staff's communication efforts and support the dissemination and sharing of IPC analysis in order to meet IPC Global Strategic Programme goal. In this framework, it also supports the implementation and improvement of Function 3 of the IPC approach: Communication of IPC Analysis for Action.

Main Communication Tools:

- ♦ **IPC Global Brief Series:** 4-page briefs that focus on IPC technical developments and success stories at global and regional level. Each brief can be read as a standalone. The series is updated every year.
- ♦ **IPC Newsletter:** This quarterly publication contains IPC global news and features, covering the latest updates on IPC technical developments and partner collaboration. There is also a section for each region, including upcoming events, resources and feature stories.
- ♦ **IPC Website** (www.ipcinfo.org): communicates and advocates on a common vision for food security analysis and a common approach to implement the IPC framework. It provides IPC latest information, country maps, training resources and publications. The website is undergoing a renewal process. The resulting integrated platform will be more user friendly and will include the ISS and all the other IPC information access portals.

These communication tools will be revised and improved in the framework of the new IPC GSU Communication Strategy that will be finalized by the end of 2015.

IPC Global Steering Committee Members:



*The EC in the global partnership is represented by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

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



The IPC has also benefited from the support of the governments of Australia, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden.

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