Bangladesh Call for Action to Decrease Food Insecurity and Chronic Malnutrition

3.6 million people need support to improve their quantity and quality of food consumption and reduce chronic child malnutrition.

The present findings are based on the IPC chronic food insecurity analysis which was conducted by the multi-stakeholder IPC Bangladesh Technical Working Group (TWG) in November 2014 with recommendations of the IPC GSU Real-Time Quality Review, and officially endorsed by the Director General of the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU), Ministry of Food and FAO.

Key Findings:

**HOW MANY & WHEN**

- Currently, 10.3 million people are chronically food insecure of which 6.7 million are in moderate chronic food insecurity (IPC Level 3) and, of major concern, 3.6 million are in severe chronic food insecurity (IPC Level 4) requiring action from the government and development community.
- This is the persistent food insecurity situation in Bangladesh as depicted in November 2014 and is likely to endure for 3 to 5 years, in the absence of major structural changes.

**WHERE**

- The most affected district is Kurigram which is suffering of severe chronic food insecurity. The situation is aggravated by the fact that the district also experienced an Emergency situation according to the IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis of August 2014.
- The other districts with higher proportion of chronically food insecure population are Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Rangpur, Jhalokathi, Pirojpur and Patuakhali.

**WHO**

The most impacted populations are those who depend on low valued livelihoods like marginal farmers, agriculture wage laborers and marginal fishermen.

**WHY**

This high chronic food insecurity is caused by seasonal scarcity of work, high poverty rates, unsustainable coping strategy and loss of livelihoods, assets and displacement, due to regular flood, river bank erosion and, cyclone, compounded by limited interventions for recovery and restoration of livelihoods.

Implications for Response

- Integrate food security and nutrition interventions with food-based and economic empowerment programs targeting the poor and vulnerable and to those districts with a large share of malnourished children.
- Sustain social protection programmes integrated with local production.
- Expand market driven initiatives into social safety-net programmes with a gender-sensitive component to generate sustainable income opportunities, empower women and improve nutritional outcomes.

The Bangladeshi Process and next steps

- **IPC Bangladesh Analysis:** Bangladesh IPC Technical Working Group (TWG) led the IPC analysis and consultations involving more than 20 TWG members from government, UN agencies and I/NGOs.
- **IPC GSU Real Time Quality Review:** IPC Global Support Unit (GSU) conducted a real time quality review of their preliminary findings review and provided feedback to the Bangladesh IPC TWG. The analysis was improved based on the recommendations.
- **Validation of IPC Results:** The results were presented and validated at various food security and nutrition forums and meetings and, finally endorsed by the Government.
- The next round of IPC Chronic analysis will be conducted in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and Haor districts in first half of December 2015.

Analysis Partners and Supporting Organization

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