

OVERVIEW

After many years of use in crisis situations, the *IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification* scale is now being complemented with a new IPC scale that measures chronic food insecurity in non-crisis and development contexts.

Many countries have successfully implemented and used the IPC to inform emergency and humanitarian response ever since its inception in 2004. Over time and as the IPC was rolled out to other countries around the world, governments and country teams identified a need for additional information and analysis on chronic food insecurity caused by structural inefficiencies and poverty, which continues to be a serious impediment to ending hunger. Countries communicated that they required, not only tools for acute and transitory food insecurity, but better information and measurements on the extent and severity of country chronic food insecurity to be able to more effectively develop medium and long-term programmes and policies and meet the global food security challenge of ending hunger.

In exploring how to respond to this request, it quickly became apparent to food security agencies and institutions that there is a **global gap in terms of conceptualization of and tools for the analysis of chronic food insecurity**. This posed a considerable challenge to the food security community, and action was required to tackle it. The IPC Global Steering Committee, with global partners and stakeholders, concluded that the IPC would be the right platform for the initiative, and initial plans for the development process of the *IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Phase Classification* were made in 2010.

FOCUS AND OUTPUTS OF CHRONIC FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

The *IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Phase Classification* increases our understanding of structural and underlying food insecurity, and provides the tools for its analysis.

The benefits of the *IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Phase Classification* include:

- Evidence based measurement and analysis of the extent and severity of country chronic food insecurity
- Informs medium and long-term programmes and policies to address chronic food insecurity
- Multi-agency and partner approach that builds technical consensus
- Clarifies differences between the causes, outcomes and character of acute and chronic food insecurity
- Focuses on the analysis of structural and underlying causes of food insecurity
- Disentangling chronic food insecurity from poverty



IPC Chronic Working Group Meeting held in Rome in May 2013

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The development process of the *IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Phase Classification* started in 2011 with the development of an initial prototype. The prototype was piloted with IPC Country Working Groups and was further refined based on learning from this process. The last phase of refinement and country piloting began in earnest in autumn 2012, and the final V1.0 will be officially released and rolled out in early 2014.

The development process is led by a multi-agency **IPC Global Working Group for Classifying Chronic Food Insecurity**. The working group includes led technical experts from the different IPC global partners (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, Oxfam, Save the Children, CARE, and EC-JRC) and this group was joined by other leading technical experts from other institutions, including the World Bank, SICA-PRESANCA, ICFI and FANTA.

This multi-partner working group with technical experts from the traditional food security agencies and the development sector has been crucial in focusing the attention on the long-term and structural character of chronic food insecurity, and in designing the right tools for its analysis.

The *IPC Working Group on Classifying Chronic Food Insecurity* functions under the IPC Global Technical Advisory Group, which consists of representatives of IPC partner organizations, and oversees all technical development activities of the IPC. The IPC Technical Advisory Group (TAG) reports directly to the *IPC Global Steering Committee*, which strategically directs and leads the IPC. This committee is responsible for reviewing and endorsing the chronic classification tools and procedures before it is released globally for use.



IPC Chronic Working Group Meeting held in Rome in May 2013

WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFYING CHRONIC FOOD INSECURITY

The following institutions are represented in the IPC Working Group on Classifying Chronic Food Insecurity:

- ◇ **CARE**
- ◇ **FAO** (UN Food and Agriculture Organization)
- ◇ **FANTA** (Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance)
- ◇ **FEWS NET** (Famine Early Warning Systems Network)
- ◇ **ICFI** (Inner City Fund International)
- ◇ **JRC** (Joint Research Centre of the European Commission)
- ◇ **Oxfam** (Oxford Committee for Famine Relief)
- ◇ **PRESANCA (SICA - Programa Regional de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional)**
- ◇ **Save the Children**
- ◇ **WFP** (UN World Food Programme)
- ◇ **World Bank**

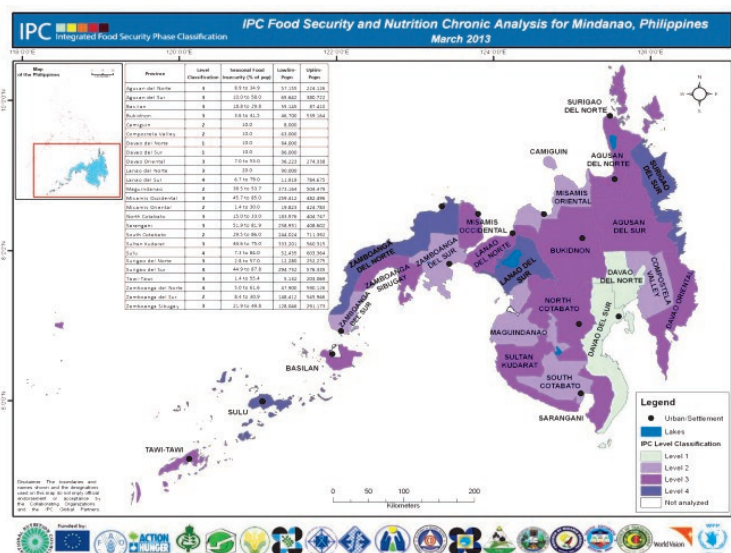
IPC CHRONIC FOOD INSECURITY CLASSIFICATION PILOTS

The first round of piloting took place between September 2012 and February 2013, after initial consultations and development of the first prototype of the IPC chronic food insecurity reference table and tools. The pilots were conducted in **Nepal, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Lesotho, the Philippines, and Honduras.**

The pilots were organized with the assistance of the *IPC Global Support Unit*, who technically supports the IPC globally, and the *IPC Global Chronic Working Group*, and implemented by the *IPC Technical Working Groups* in the pilot countries. The pilots gave valuable feedback on the technical details and also on the analysis

process, which was reviewed by the working group and helped inform the revisions of the draft tools.

Countries responded positively and with enthusiasm to the IPC chronic pilots. Even though the pilots provide only tentative information on the chronic food insecurity situation, government-led food security teams in many countries have opted for already using the results for programming as they have felt that the pilot results are more informative than their current systems.



Pilot of the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Scale in Honduras. March 2013

PUBLIC ACCESS TO IPC ANALYSES

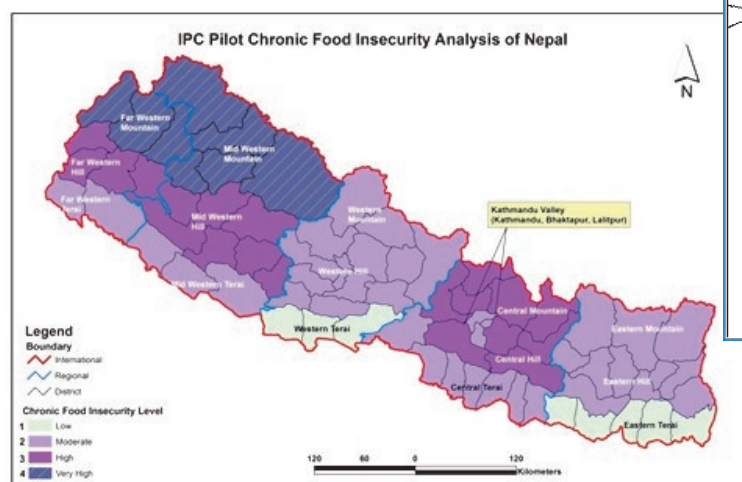
The development process will continue until the end of 2013, with a second round of piloting and finalisation of the chronic analysis tools and procedures. The countries selected for the second round of piloting are Kenya, Malawi, Bangladesh, and Guatemala (tbc). In addition training materials will be developed, including a Manual for chronic food insecurity analysis and an online course.

In early 2014 the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Reference Table 1.0 and associated tools and protocols will be rolled out. Country demand for the IPC Chronic Phase Classification is high, and already many countries have requested IPC Chronic Training in 2014. The roll-out plan includes chronic food insecurity analysis workshops in 12 countries across the world (four in Africa, four in Asia

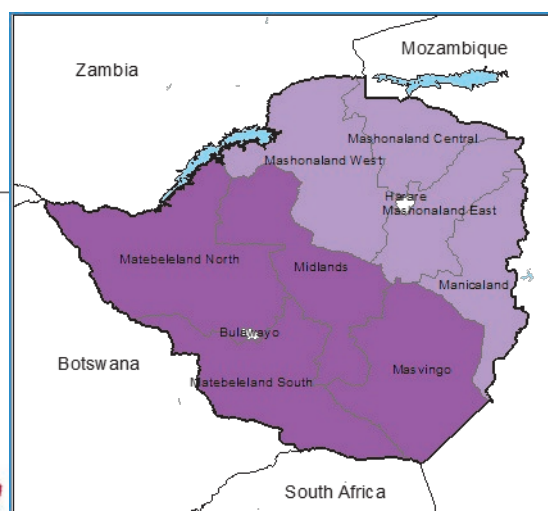
and four in Central and Latin America).

As part of this rollout, in a few selected countries the IPC team will be working with the government and development partners to more effectively link the results of the IPC chronic analysis – with a review of how they can be used to help inform medium and long term programming and policy to more effectively address chronic food insecurity.

News and updates on the chronic development process, as well as results of the past and upcoming pilots, are available at the IPC website: www.ipcinfo.org.



IPC Pilot Chronic Food Insecurity Analysis of Nepal, September 2012



IPC Pilot Chronic Food Insecurity Analysis of Zimbabwe, November 2012

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 has been, and is, made possible by the support of:



IPC GLOBAL SUPPORT UNIT

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy
Tel. +39 06 76 54899
E-mail: ipcinfo@fao.org
Skype: [ipc.initiative](https://www.skype.com/en/contacts/ipc/initiative)
www.ipcinfo.org