

OVERVIEW

Countries in the East and Central Africa Region are leading in the implementation of the IPC worldwide. The IPC was originally developed in 2004 in Somalia by the *Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU)* and based on the success of its use to inform decision making, the IPC spread to neighboring countries. Since 2007, countries in the region have received support in implementing the IPC, and today ten countries lead acute analysis two to four times a year: Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Building on years of implementation, the IPC has become a reference in the region for evidence-based and comparable food security analysis. This has been achieved through a true partnership between government, humanitarian and development actors in building technical consensus. IPC products form an essential component of country early warning systems; they are used by national Governments, donors and the humanitarian community including UN and NGOs, for both emergency interventions and development policies.

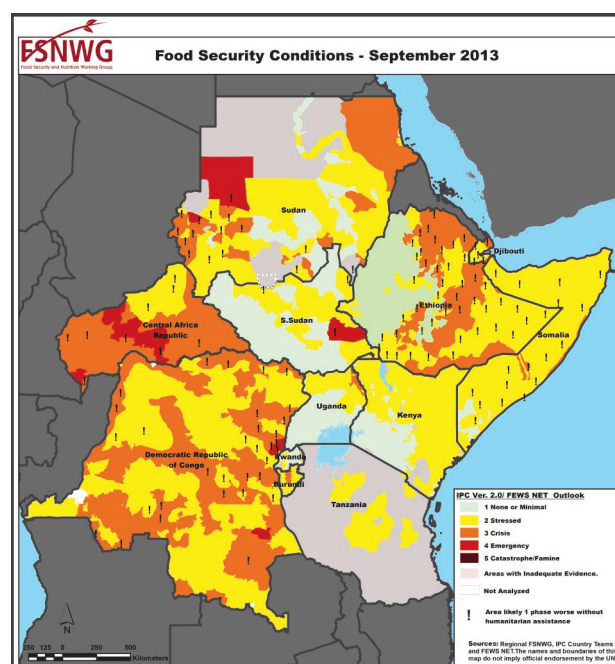
IPC activities in countries are led by multi-partner IPC Technical Working Groups, chaired by government, and technically supported by regional technical coordinators. The IPC initiative in the region is guided by a multi-agency *IPC Regional Steering Committee* embedded in the regional *Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG)*, and chaired by the *Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)*, who will also soon be representing the region in the *IPC Global Steering Committee*.

After two regional projects funded by ECHO, the IPC has proved its relevance and sustainability as it continues to be implemented thanks to the contributions from national and regional partners and is increasingly institutionalized within Governments. The IPC Version 2.0 has been successfully introduced in all countries in 2012, and the IPC certification is proceeding to build a sustainable pool of IPC analysts and trainers-facilitators. This is part of a strategic orientation, together with continuous progress in strengthening the partnership and leadership of the Government, and increasing impact on decision-making both at national and regional levels.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

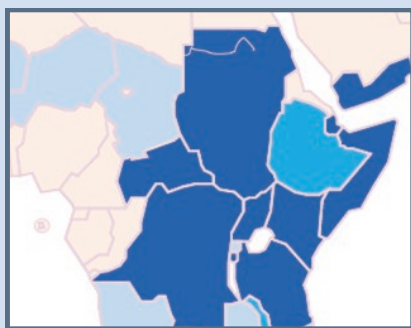
- The regional **Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG)** uses the IPC to monitor the evolution of the food security situation and outlook and identify priority areas in the region every month, consolidating country products into a regional map.
- **The IPC was used in July 2011 as a scientific reference to declare famine for some parts of Somalia in a common voice.** It ensured good coordination and targeting of humanitarian assistance, and a joint monitoring of the situation, saving thousands of lives.
- The **Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)**, chairing the FSNWG IPC Regional Steering Committee, will soon join as an official member of the IPC Global Steering Committee to represent the region in the IPC Global Partnership.
- **Ethiopia and Rwanda have expressed interest to conduct IPC analysis exercises** and consultations are being led with the Government and national partners.
- **Achievements to date:**

- ◇ 10 countries conducting regular IPC analysis 2 to 4 times a year
- ◇ 6 years of continuous implementation and consolidated progress
- ◇ 400 persons from 10 countries trained in IPC Level 1 (Analyst) at national and sub-national levels since 2012
- ◇ 10 major regional partners in the IPC regional Steering Committee: ACF, CARE, EC-JRC, FAO, FEWSNet, IGAD, Oxfam, Save the Children and WFP.



IPC Regional Map - East and Central Africa, September 2013

WHAT IS HAPPENING AND WHERE?



IPC Implementation Map - ECA 2013

In addition to **Somalia** where it was developed, the IPC was introduced in **Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda** in a first phase in 2007-2008 thanks to financial support from ECHO, DFID and CIDA. During a second phase in 2009-2011 funded by ECHO, the IPC was consolidated in these countries, introduced in **Central African Republic** and in **Sudan** and now **South Sudan**, and piloted in **Ethiopia**. Progress in the implementation has been ongoing since then, while **Djibouti** introduced the IPC at the end of 2011. **Ethiopia** and **Rwanda** have also expressed interest and participate in regional activities.

In 2012 the Version 2.0 of the IPC was successfully introduced in all countries, resulting in increased technical capacity and quality of products. Typical activities of the National Technical Working Groups (TWG) usually include:

- **Awareness Raising** events and consultations (at national and subnational levels)
- IPC Level 1 training for **IPC Analysts** (at national and subnational levels) and Level 2 training for **IPC Facilitators and Trainers**
- **IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis** (at national and subnational levels) on a regular basis (2 to 4 times a year) and updated as needed
- Presentation and **discussion of results of IPC analysis with decision-makers**
- Participation in **regional technical workshops** to harmonize the regional map with cross-border analysis, share lessons and discuss strategic orientations

GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIP

The IPC is led at regional level by the *East and Central Africa Regional Support Unit* (RSU) and the *IPC Regional Steering Committee* (RSC) embedded within the FSNWG, both based in Nairobi, and at national level by the *IPC Technical Working Groups* (TWG). They are all working in partnership to meet the goal of the IPC: influencing decision makers, improving policies and programmes and promoting food security across the region.

The national IPC TWG is a group of food security analysts from a variety of sectors and organizations, including Government, UN agencies, national and international NGOs, Academics and technical agencies. It is usually chaired by the Government and embedded in relevant existing institutions and networks.

At regional level, the **IPC Regional Support Unit** based in FAO premises in Nairobi and composed of two technical coordinators is responsible for supporting the implementation of IPC activities in countries, building capacity at national and regional levels and linking with the *IPC Global Support Unit* (GSU) in Rome. It also contributes to the dissemination of IPC products and advocacy, and to the strategic orientation together with partners.

The IPC RSC is embedded since 2007 in the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG), a regional platform for sharing information on food Security and nutrition and bringing together a broad



IPC Analysis in Bangui Boukoko, CAR, May 2012

number of stakeholders for advocacy and response, and co-chaired by IGAD since December 2011. The RSC is currently **composed of 10 major regional stakeholders: ACF, CARE, EC-JRC, FAO, FewsNet, IGAD, Oxfam, Save the Children and WFP**. The main objectives of the RSC are high-level strategic advice, oversight and advocacy in order to ensure accountability, programme quality, sustainability, institutional ownership and participation.

At global level, the regional initiative is represented by IGAD who will soon join as an official member of the *IPC Global Steering Committee*. This link and membership at the global level will help ensure that specificities of the East and Central Africa context and interests of the regional and national partners contribute in the ongoing normative development and strategic direction of the IPC globally.

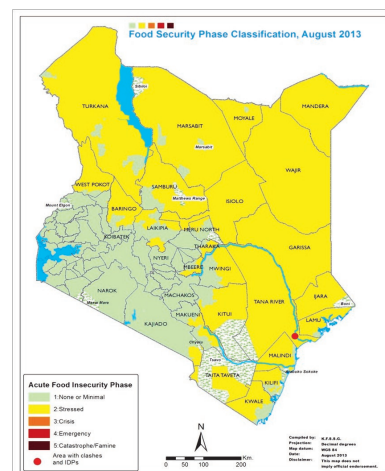
SUCCESS STORIES

IPC in Kenya

The IPC was adopted in 2007 and since then has been applied consistently. The country has a food security information system which incorporates early-warning systems and bi-annual assessments, and in addition has a well organized institutional structure to oversee IPC application under the Kenya Food Security Steering Group.

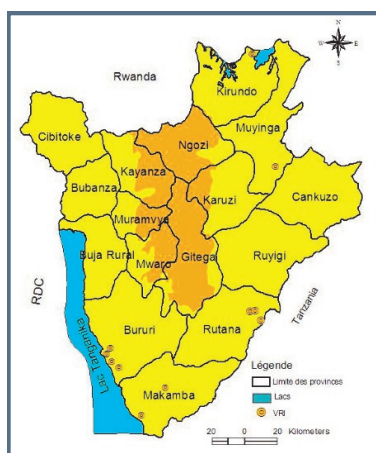
The IPC has availed a quick and effective communication means to decision makers. It has also reduced conflict between politicians and technical staff within Government about food security situation in different geographical areas, as well as the exposure to personal, government, agency, and donor biases. It has also improved allocation of resources and targeting of assistance based on needs. It has helped the Government to link analysis to timely strategic response, and to advocate for timely assistance from international donors.

For instance in 2011 the Government declared a disaster due to a drought based on IPC results, and prompted the Ministry of Agriculture to provide drought tolerant seeds, and the Ministry of livestock to provide funds for livestock off-take. All schools in the affected area were exempted from fees payment for the period.



IPC Acute Analysis in Kenya, August 2013

IPC in Burundi



IPC Acute Analysis in Burundi, August 2013

The IPC was introduced in 2007 and the TWG conducts acute food insecurity analysis twice a year after each main agricultural season. The IPC has earned the confidence of national decision makers and has proved useful in guiding interventions, for example to build resilience to rain shortfalls in “Plaine de l’Imbo” and “Bugesera” regions, between 2009 and 2011.

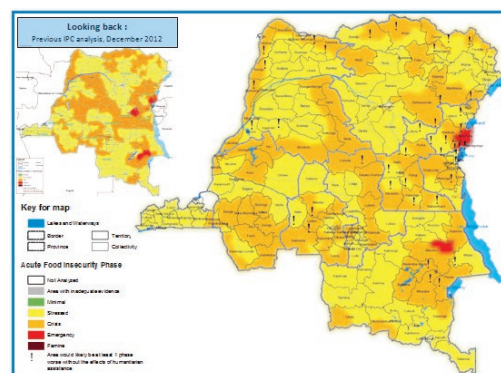
IPC products are now informing development planning within the Government Investment Plan, as well as interventions focused on most food insecure areas in IPC Phase 3 “crisis” with donor-funded projects such as the Belgian Fund Project for food security in the “Dépression du Moso”.

The IPC has become a reference and strategic documents and projects on food security, implemented by Government and its partners, use information provided by the IPC.

IPC in Democratic Republic of Congo

The IPC has been introduced in 2007 and the TWG conducts acute food insecurity analysis twice a year. Overcoming many challenges including the data availability, size of the country and unstable context, IPC products have become the reference for food security decision making for the Government, Humanitarian community and other stakeholders.

The Food Security Cluster uses IPC its core tool for vulnerability assessment, for instance the annual “Common Humanitarian Action Plan” refers to IPC products, and the “Pooled fund” uses the IPC classification to allocate funds to priority areas. The IPC has proved its reactivity and timeliness to provide early-warning information in a changing context. After the events that took place in Kivu in November 2012, the analysis was promptly updated in December.



IPC Acute Analysis in DRC, June 2013

The IPC analysis is done at decentralized level and consolidated in a national workshop. This allows both to ensure inclusion of all relevant local information and expertise, and to build ownership and influence decision-making at decentralized level.

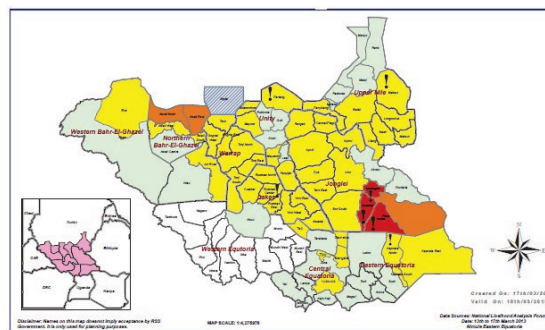
The next objective of the TWG is to conduct an analysis of chronic food insecurity, to highlight the relations between acute and chronic food insecurity and advocate for appropriate and complementary interventions.

SUCCESS STORIES

South Sudan

The IPC has been introduced in 2007 and the TWG conducts acute food insecurity analysis four times a year, at the national and state levels. The IPC implementation and inherent capacity-building at decentralized level has improved the overall knowledge of the TWG members on food security and nutrition. IPC is institutionalized and adopted by the Government as a reliable tool for early warning and decision making.

IPC products are used regularly for response analysis and coordination by FAO, WFP, Government and other NGOs, especially to target food aid, seeds and tools distribution. IPC products feed into the weekly bulletin edited by the Food security and Livelihoods Cluster and UNOCHA and it was included in the Humanitarian appeal in October 2012.



IPC Acute Analysis in South Sudan, March 2013

LOOKING FORWARD

Over years of implementation, the IPC has proved its relevance in different national contexts, becoming a strong regional initiative. The IPC national and regional partners are developing a regional strategic programme to design the continuous development of the IPC over the next three years (2014-2016), meet ongoing challenges and seize new opportunities. This will include in particular:

- Further institutionalization and integration of the IPC into existing institutions and frameworks
- Introduction of the new IPC tools for chronic food insecurity analysis, to contribute to a better linkage of relief and development interventions
- Link with Response analysis tools and initiatives and strengthening engagement with decision makers in increase impact of the IPC products
- Roll-out the IPC certification process to establish a sustainable and autonomous capacity-building mechanism in countries
- Encourage decentralization of the analysis process and use of the IPC Information Support System (ISS) to facilitate both analytical process and dissemination of results
- Further reduction and sharing of the costs among national partners to ensure full sustainability of the IPC
- Explore further opportunities to engage with decision-makers, to increase impact on both emergency and development decisions.

In addition to the support received through the global level, the region has received direct financial support from the European Commission and the Governments of Belgium, Finland, France and of the United States of America.



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:



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