



IPC Asia Update

Newsletter of the Regional Support Unit
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Welcome... Activities are moving swiftly along in most countries and our team is very busy and supporting activities at country level. The time-frame is tight to get all the activities completed in such a short time frame and we are now in the middle of several countries getting the Technical Working Groups/Analyst Groups formed and trained. The plan is to have the final IPC drafts ready as follows: Nepal by end September, Pakistan by mid October, Bangladesh by end of October, and Cambodia by late November, Philippines by mid-December. In Myanmar a preparatory mission was fielded and an inception mission is scheduled in early September.

Philippines and Cambodia on track... Supplementary Countries are moving full speed ahead!

The IPC Asia Regional Support Unit (RSU) recently completed their mission to the Philippines from 12th July to 22nd August, 2012. The Chief Technical Advisor and the Senior Food Security Consultant, met with the Government of the Philippines (GoP), UN Agencies and the NGO community during this successful project inception mission. This mission achieved higher than expected results including a range of outputs including scoping of the project to adapt to the Philippines context, Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Technical Working Group (TWG), a work plan until December 2012 and other logistics.

A number of stakeholder consultations took place and were facilitated by the National Nutrition Council (NCC - the institutional home for Philippines IPC). The Senior Food Security Consultant took the opportunity to attend the Philippine Statistical Association Annual Conference (16- 17 August 2012). The meetings confirmed the interest to have IPC extended in the Philippines during 2012, and are keen to have the RSU to organize related such as trainings and IPC Classification in a selected geographic area before the end of December 2012. IPC global partners, such as WFP, Oxfam, Save the Children and others were essential during the IPC project inception mission and will continue to be crucial for the success of the initiative. We would like to welcome Ms. Beki Tenefrancia as the new National IPC coordinator for the Philippines.



Things are moving well with Cambodia as well. As we go to print, a six-person delegation of Cambodia team are part of an exchange visit to the Nepal IPC training and Classification. Members are from The National Institute for Statistics, Ministry of Health, Hellen Keller Foundation, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, WFP and The Secretary General for the Council for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD).

Other activities include consultations with the Royal Government of Cambodia, UN and NGO community during the IPC project inception mission in Cambodia (22nd July - 11th August, 2012). Similar to those of the Philippines, these consultations looked at the existing institutional framework, stakeholders' concerns, information products and assets, as well as defined the scope of project to adapt it to the Cambodia context. The RGoC formalized the agreement regarding the implementation of the IPC pilot in Cambodia for 2012. CARD organised a successful Stakeholder Meeting which confirmed interest for IPC piloted in Cambodia by end of 2012.

The IPC team met Government focal points and IPC global partners and CARD was identified as institutional home of the Cambodia IPC. The Work Plan for 2012 was endorsed. We are happy to announce that this is done in full partnership with WFP and FAO and close UNICEF cooperation. The Cambodian training and classification will be done in late October or early November.

Focus Project Countries Activities

Nepal

As mentioned in the Cambodian update, Nepal will be the first off the rank for IPC Asia to have the training and classification for IPC Version 2. This starts on the 5th of September and will go through until the 14th of September in Kathmandu. Apart from the delegation from Cambodia, there will also be a team from Pakistan including the Additional Secretary for Ministry of National Food Security and Research, His Excellency, Abdul Basit Khan. Both Cambodia and Pakistan delegates will

observe the training and classification exercise to learn and use the information when they do it in their own countries.

Other activities include the IPC Asia Regional Technical Advisor conducted IPC training for FAO's National IPC Consultant and selected programme staff from the Country Office in late July. Moreover, ToRs have been jointly agreed to for the Technical Working Group. All this means things are moving along smoothly for Nepal.



Pakistan

Pakistan will be the second cab off the rank for the analysis and training exercise from the 17th to the 27th of September near Islamabad. The training has been completed successfully. At the moment they are busily preparing for this event. After this training and classification exercise, the map and plan

will be completed. The Technical Working Group has been agreed to and IPC project has assigned the responsibility to Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) for the selection of indicators for IPC analysis – a follow up to the provincial workshops).



Myanmar

We have had good news as IPC in Myanmar was approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on 20th July, 2012. A draft Work Plan has been formulated which will be further modified on the next Mission. The recruitment of the Myanmar National IPC consultant is in process and will hopefully be on board soon.

A follow-up mission in August included briefings with WFP, global partners, and others; Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), OXFAM, ACF, Food Security Working Group (FSWG), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Thematic Group on Nutrition (TGN). These meetings gave their strong initial support for the IPC Project.

The IPC will build on the awareness raised through the EC-FAO Food Security Programme on *Linking Information and Decision-Making to Improve Food Security in Selected Countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-Region*, which has been working since 2009 and ends in September 2012. The project (which covers Myanmar apart from Cambodia and Lao PDR) worked with national governments and regional organizations to increase awareness and engagement in food security, to develop capacities to collect, analyse and manage food security data, and to improve cooperation between government agencies and between governments and development partners.



Bangladesh

Bangladesh too is moving along well. In August, the Analysts Group (AG) and the Technical Working Group (TWG) were nominated which was followed by the AG/TWG initiating the pilot IPC Acute classification, identifying indicators and data for the national and sub-national levels of the IPC analysis and plan. We are

lucky to have the strong FPMU (Food Policy Monitoring Unit) in Bangladesh which has already a large collection of data and analysis. The training in Bangladesh has been completed and will be followed by a scoping mission and data collection and preparation. The IPC classification workshop will be in October.





Update!

Nepal

Nepal successfully completed the first National IPC Chronic Analysis, covering the entire country on the 14th of September, 2012. This was led by the Government of Nepal with 44 participants from 30 organisations working together. A detailed Report will be available in the first week of October.

Pakistan

Pakistan successfully completed the first National IPC Acute Analysis on the 27th of September, 2012. Led by the Government of Pakistan, 49 participants from 35 organisations from all seven Provinces in Pakistan, were responsible for this first IPC analysis. A detailed report will be shared in the near future.



IPC Technical Manual Version 2.0 – is now released!!!

And soon the IPC website upgrade will be completed. The electronic version of the manual will soon be available on the IPC global website. The official launch of the Manual and the Website will be in Rome, Italy on the 12th of October, 2012.



The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-agency initiative involving CARE, FAO, the European Joint Research Centre, FEWSNET, Oxfam GB, Save the Children UK/US, ACF, CILSS, FSC, and WFP. The purpose of the IPC is to standardize complex analysis of food security situations (including chronic and transient features) for consensus building around evidence-based decision making at policy and programmatic levels. The IPC aims for optimal decision support, recognizing in reality there will be less than ideal data and evidence. The approach of the IPC is to make the best use of available evidence, but to do so in a rigorous and transparent manner, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

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