



The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC): Status & Vision (2011-2015)

Prepared by the IPC Global Support Unit, October 2010

The IPC

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), originally developed by FAO in Somalia in 2004, emerged from field-based realities to improve the **rigour**, **transparency**, **relevance**, and **comparability of food security analysis**.

The IPC is **a set of analytical protocols** to consolidate food security information for decision making on current situations and future scenarios.

The usefulness and singularity of the IPC is to **make complex food security analysis more accessible and meaningful for decision makers at country, regional and global levels**. It provides a platform for sharing information and enabling stakeholders to work together. It works within and strengthens existing information systems and institutions. Additionally, it puts national governments as the institutional drivers for developing lasting food security solutions.

The **IPC protocols** can be clustered into 6 groups:

1. Common Scale for Severity Classification and Early Warning

To enable comparability from place to place and over time;

2. Evidence-Based Analysis

To document, source and characterize evidence in support of the classification;

3. Links to Response

To provide general guidance on the appropriate response for various levels of food insecurity;

4. Communication tools

To consolidate essential conclusions for decision makers in an accessible and consistent format;

5. Promotion of Technical Consensus

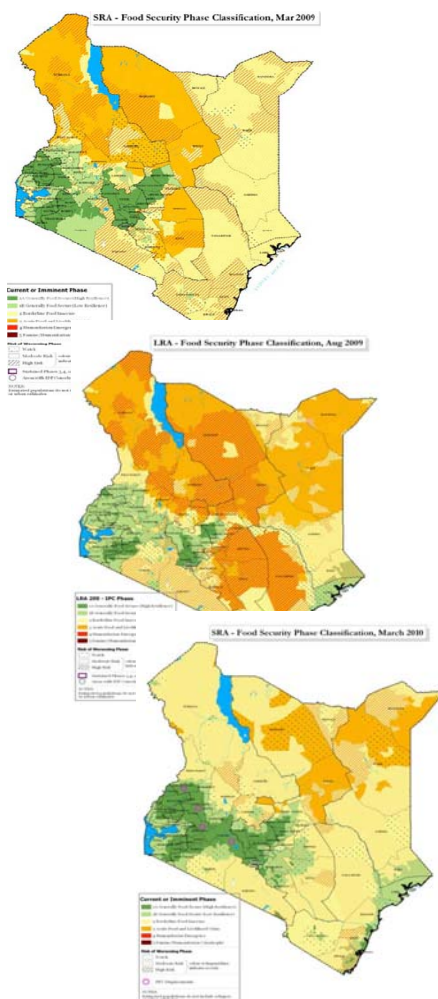
To ensure key stakeholders from government, NGO, UN, and academic agencies concur with the technical findings of the analysis;

6. Quality Control Assurance

To assure decision-makers and others of the validity and reliability of phase classification.

These standards serve as **a common language for food security professionals** on essential aspects of food security analysis. They can be followed and adhered to **in any context** and would be applicable to whatever data collection systems, methodological approaches, and institutional arrangements exist in a given country.

Comparability across space and time:
Kenya – March 2009, Aug 2009, March 2010



Contacts:

Nicholas Haan
IPC Global Programme Manager,
nicholas.haan@fao.org

Zoé Druilhe
Assistant Programme Manager
zoe.druilhe@fao.org

Vera P Weill-Halle
Senior Advisor for Funding and
Programme Development,
vera.weillhalle@fao.org

The IPC Global Partnership

Since 2007 eight major food security organizations have established **the IPC global partnership** to further develop and disseminate protocols and processes for food security analysis and classification.

These agencies are: CARE International, FAO, FEWS NET, the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC), Oxfam GB, Save the Children UK & US, and WFP.

The partnership is currently operating through:

- **A Global Support Unit (GSU)** headed by the IPC Global Programme Manager and responsible for normative development and global coordination and support of IPC activities.
- **A Steering Committee (SC)** composed of one senior representative for each of the 8 partner agencies and who is responsible for strategic management of the IPC Initiative.

IPC Today

Normative Development:

- In early 2011 the Global Support Unit will release Version 2.0 of the IPC Manual, incorporating field-based and academic recommendations for improvement.
- These will integrate the technical lessons learnt identified from 3 years of implementation of IPC, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa, and will clarify the position of IPC vis-à-vis food security information systems.

Country application:

- **East and Central Africa:** IPC application is ongoing in 9 countries.
- **Southern Africa:** IPC is being introduced in 5 countries, under the coordination of a dedicated working group established within SADC-RVAC.
- **West Africa:** IPC has been integrated within the CILSS *Cadre Harmonisé* Framework.
- **Latin America and Asia:** The IPC is currently expanding into Latin America (Central America in particular) and Asia, where there is rising interest for the IPC approach.

The current status of implementation across the world is summarized in the **IPC implementation map** (next page n. 3).

Vision for the medium-term 2011-2015

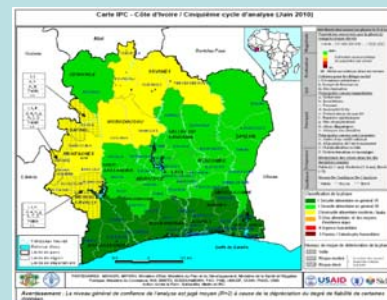
The IPC vision for the medium-term is to establish the IPC as a **widely-used common language** and **point of reference for food security analysis** amongst governments, donors, UN and NGO agencies.

There will be effective adoption of the IPC in countries with significant food insecurity, including continents of Africa Latin America, and Asia.

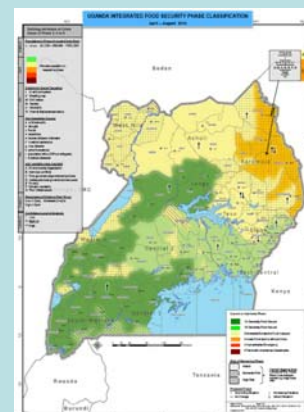
By 2015, there will be 25-30 countries worldwide with strengthened capacity to use the IPC processes and protocols that allow country and regional comparability.

This will be achieved through institutionalization in focus countries; integration of IPC into the corporate strategies and processes of partner organizations, mainstreaming in the larger humanitarian and food security architecture, and through strategic partnerships with the (forthcoming) global food security cluster and national food security clusters, or other IPC-related activities. See Page 4 for some of the proposed results.

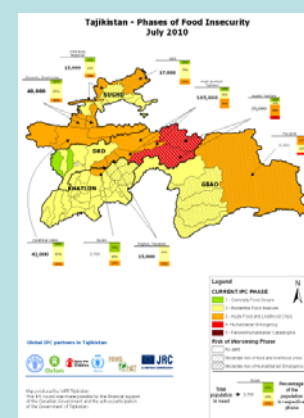
Ivory Coast – 2010



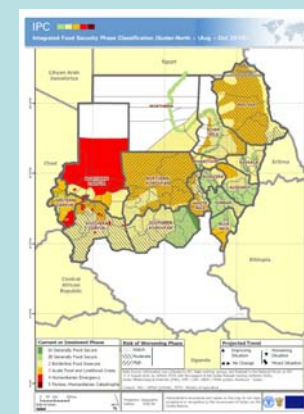
Uganda - 2010



Tajikistan - 2010



Sudan - 2010

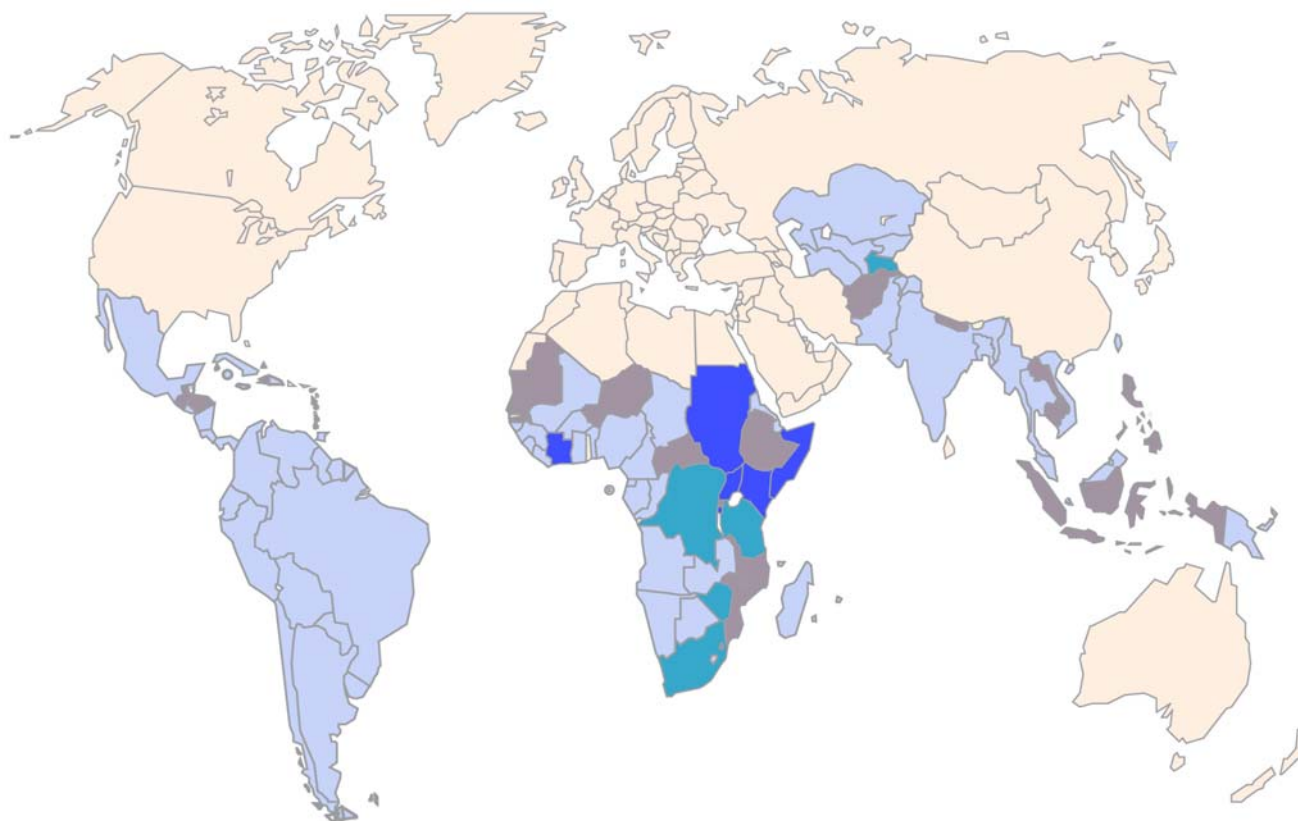


IPC





WORLD MAP 2010



Integrated Food Security Phase Classification



Map Legend and Explanation

Stage	Description	Countries
 1. Consolidation stage	Countries where the IPC has been adopted by the government or by national IPC technical working group since more than 3 seasons.	Burundi; Côte d'Ivoire; Kenya; Somalia; North Sudan; South Sudan; Uganda.
 2. Intermediate Stage	Countries where technical training and/or IPC analyses are ongoing.	DRC; South Africa; Tajikistan; Tanzania; Zimbabwe.
 3. Introduction stage	Countries where significant awareness raising as well as institutional set-up activities are being led, without leading to subsequent adoption of the IPC process as of yet.	Afghanistan, Cambodia, CAR, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Mozambique, Philippines, Rwanda, Swaziland and countries of the <i>Cadre Harmonisé</i> - Mauritania, Niger, Sénégal
 4. Potential Areas for IPC application	Areas where IPC application would be relevant and where Informal interest from national stakeholders could have been expressed.	

The Cadre Harmonisé in West Africa

The Cadre Harmonisé, the standardized framework for food security analysis developed in the Sahel with the support of CILSS (The Inter-State Committee against Drought in the Sahel) has recently been updated and upgraded using key elements from the IPC analytical approach. This revised framework was tested with real data from 3 countries (Niger, Mauritania and Senegal) in 2009. Based on this experience, an updated Methodological Note for the Cadre Harmonisé (integrating IPC elements) has been finalized by the Regional technical working group.

Further information on IPC ...

IPC General Info:

- **IPC In Brief :**
http://www.ipcinfo.org/attachments/02_IPCBrief_EN.pdf
- **IPC Stage of Implementation 2010:**
http://www.ipcinfo.org/attachments/IPC%20Mapping%20Activities_final.pdf
- **IPC Calendar of Country Activities 2010**
http://www.ipcinfo.org/attachments/Calendar_Country_Activites_Final.pdf

IPC Core Resources:

- **IPC Technical Manual Version 1.1 (EN-FR-PT Version)**
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/i0275e/i0275e.pdf>
- **IPC User Guide Version 1.0 (EN-FR-SP-PT Version)**
http://www.ipcinfo.org/attachments/IPC%20UserGuide_Low.pdf

IPC Core Tools:

- **IPC Reference Table:**
<http://www.ipcinfo.org/attachments/ReferenceTableEN.pdf>
- **IPC Analysis Templates:**
<http://www.ipcinfo.org/attachments/AnalysisTemplates.pdf>

Recent Publications/Studies:

- **Study on Review of Nutrition and Mortality Indicators for the IPC - Reference Levels and Decision-making**
http://www.ipcinfo.org/attachments/IPC_NutMortalityIndicatorsReview.pdf
- **IPC External Links and Relationships Study**
http://www.ipcinfo.org/attachments/IPC_External%20Links%20and%20Relationships%20Study.pdf

Stay up to date!

IPC on line:

- **IPC website:** www.ipcinfo.org

The IPC website is an information portal where information on IPC products is easily accessible. As of today, the IPC website has published over 800 news and events at global, regional and country levels, and has made available and easily downloadable over 40 IPC maps.

- **IPC Newsletter:** *request subscription by email to* IPC@fao.org

IPC Newsletter regularly provides updates on new publications and reports, global, regional and country activities, recent and forthcoming events, resources for trainers, readings etc..

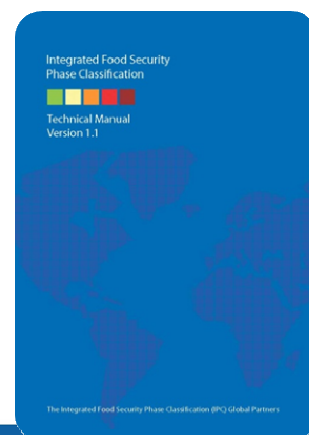
Contacts:

Nicholas Haan
IPC Global Programme Manager,
nicholas.haan@fao.org

Zoé Druilhe
Assistant Programme Manager
zoe.druilhe@fao.org

Vera P Weill-Halle
Senior Advisor for Funding and
Programme Development,
vera.weillhalle@fao.org

Rachele Santini
Communication Officer
Rachele.santini@fao.org



IPC Multi-Agency Partnership



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