



Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
Evidence and Standards for Better Food Security and Nutrition Decisions



IPC Strategic Priorities

Updated as of February 2026

REFOCUSING EFFORTS FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-stakeholder global initiative aimed at enhancing food security and nutrition analysis to inform decisions. In response to the abrupt changes to the humanitarian system in 2025, the IPC Initiative evaluated its priorities, in line with its current Global Strategic Programme (GSP) for 2023-2026, to ensure that it continues to provide high-quality analysis of food and nutrition crises. The following is a summary of how four key priorities will drive the IPC's work, simultaneous to the development of its new GSP for 2027-2030.



Priority Area 1

The IPC continues to deliver high quality analyses and products for the worst food and nutrition crises



Priority Area 2

The IPC enhances its agility by leveraging innovations



Priority Area 3

The IPC maintains its role as the global reference for analyses of food and nutrition crises



Priority Area 4

The IPC Initiative strengthens strategic partnerships

Cover: UNICEF Sudan, November 2025

A health worker measures a child for signs of malnutrition in Khartoum, Sudan. Around the world, conflicts and climate-related shocks are driving rising hunger, leaving families struggling to access food, care and stability.

Priority Area 1

The IPC continues to deliver high quality analyses and products for the worst food and nutrition crises

This area of work is the top priority of the IPC Initiative. This encompasses the provision of **technical support, quality assurance including Famine Reviews and Quality Reviews as well as facilitation and communication support** to country IPC Technical Working Groups for the implementation of IPC analyses.

While country-led analyses will remain the core priority, the IPC Initiative will continue to conduct globally-led analyses in contexts where a country-led IPC process is not feasible—ensuring the sustained delivery of timely and reliable analyses, even in the most challenging environments.

In terms of **geographical coverage**, priority will be given to the most severe crises including: Afghanistan, Haiti, the Gaza Strip, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Yemen. The following nutrition crises will also be prioritised: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger and Nigeria.

The IPC Initiative will maintain continuous monitoring of major food and nutrition crises, with a focus on volatile contexts and those facing Famine or at risk of Famine.

In countries facing less severe crises, the IPC Initiative will progressively transition toward greater **autonomy and localisation** of the IPC process, thereby reducing the overall reliance on direct support from the IPC Global Support Unit.

Recognising that the value of IPC analysis lies in its understanding and use, the IPC Initiative will **pursue targeted communication and outreach efforts** to enhance the understanding of IPC methodologies and findings among key decision-makers and the media.

In a context where two-thirds of food and nutrition crises are protracted, the rollout of the new IPC classification for analysing **Protracted Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition crises** marks a significant step forward. These analyses will enable a clear distinction between persistent and transitory conditions; help identify both immediate and root causes of these crises; and provide a robust evidence base to guide strategic decisions.

Priority Area 2

The IPC enhances its agility leveraging innovations

The IPC Initiative will conclude the roll-out and expand functionalities of the **IPC Analysis Platform** to systematically introduce process innovations and more efficient and agile IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition analyses processes.

As food and nutrition crises evolve rapidly and the availability of conventional data gradually declines, the IPC will explore solutions such as the use of **non-traditional data sources** in support of IPC analyses, while ensuring the technical rigour and robustness of the analytical findings.

Additionally, the IPC initiative will adopt advanced technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and modeling techniques—in close collaboration with partners such as the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and Tilburg University—to **expand the use of partner-generated model-based data, as well as co-create new data pipelines**.

Further attention will be devoted to strengthening the **early warning** function of the IPC through enhanced situation monitoring and the development and roll-out of the **IPC Risk Analysis Approach**. This will support IPC analysis teams in the systematic and timely detection of deteriorating food and nutrition conditions. By improving the anticipation of **IPC analysis updates** or the need for new analyses, this tool will help guide **timely and informed action in response to emerging risks**.

All innovations will be shaped by the needs of decision-makers, identified through consultations, and implemented in collaboration with technical partners to ensure their relevance and sustainability.

Priority Area 3

The IPC maintains its role as the global reference for analyses of food and nutrition crises

With regards to normative technical work, the IPC Initiative will pursue efforts to **adapt the IPC protocols** based on learning and in response to evolving food and nutrition crises contexts, and the need to **adapt to data-constrained environments**.

In relation to acute malnutrition analyses, reliance of non-traditional data sources such as the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening data is increasing. The IPC Initiative will develop guidance to **improve the analytical application and interpretation of MUAC data** in acute malnutrition analyses to ensure **robust analytical outcomes**.

Additionally, guidance and methods to support **systematic use of historical evidence** in data-constrained environments will be developed.

The stronger emphasis on **risk monitoring and early warning** mentioned in Priority Area 2 will be supported by developing protocols and guidance that improve how IPC country teams build projection assumptions and select risk indicators to monitor in order to inform early detection of emerging or escalating crises.

Additional areas of focus also include **improving the detection and classification of Famine** by identifying and improving indicators for Famine classification such as mortality, as well as **finalising and rolling out new IPC protocols to provide more granular information** to inform resource allocation and strategic design of response by **disentangling transitory from protracted acute food insecurity and malnutrition**.

Priority Area 4

The IPC Initiative strengthens strategic partnerships

The close collaboration between the 21 partner organisations that constitute the IPC Initiative is a cornerstone of its effectiveness. Building on this foundation, as the IPC continues to endeavour to support evidence-based decisions across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, the initiative will rely on the recently established **IPC High Level Executive Committee** to further strengthen the IPC Partnership, achieve strategic objectives, and secure political support to safeguard the integrity of the IPC in sensitive contexts.

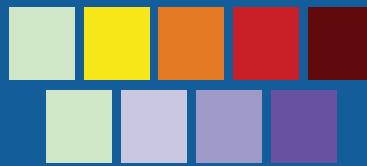
The IPC Initiative will also continue to foster strategic **collaboration with partners** across key areas, including:

- Enhancing **coordination and communication on data collection needs and priorities**, working with partners to optimise available resources to provide the best possible evidence base essential to continue producing robust IPC analyses, particularly in the most severe contexts.
- Pursuing strong collaboration with Cadre Harmonisé (CH) partners to align efforts on joint priority areas and maintain comparability between IPC and CH analysis findings.

Continued IPC contributions to **flagship global products** such as the **Global Report on Food Crises**, Hunger Hotspots Reports, and UN Security Council briefings will remain central to IPC's strategic commitment to informing decisions and advocacy efforts on food and nutrition crises.

IPC

Integrated Food Security
Phase Classification



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