



Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

Evidence and Standards for Better Food Security and Nutrition Decisions



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IPC Technical Guidance Note

Data Sources
for IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analyses

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IPC AFI analyses can rely on different types of data sources. Multi-sectoral needs assessments or food security surveys conducted in person or remotely, Household Economy Analysis and data sourced from representative monitoring systems are assessed in their reliability based on the method (M2 'good' or M1 'limited') and timeliness (T2 'good' and T1 'Limited'). Under specific conditions hindering data collection, historical evidence, data from similar nearby areas and suboptimal data informing situation in areas with limited or no humanitarian access can also be used to carry out IPC analyses. For detailed information, please refer to pages 46-48 of the [IPC Manual](#).



DATA SOURCES	MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS
FOOD SECURITY SURVEY (M2) Surveys that are representative at the unit of analysis or population group coinciding with IPC unit of analysis. Outcomes: FCS, HDDS, HHS, rCSI, FIES, LCS. ¹	* Design: Simple/systematic surveys. * At least 150 cases or probabilistic multi-stage surveys with at least 25 clusters. Type of surveys: CFSVA, EFSA, FSMS, FSNMS, or food security module of MSNA and RNA.
COMPUTER-ASSISTED TELEPHONE INTERVIEWING (CATI) (M2) Random surveys conducted remotely by trained specialized operators from a call center. Design: simple (one-stage cluster) random sampling. Outcomes: FCS, HDDS, HHS, rCSI, FIES, LCS.	* Design: simple (one-stage cluster) random sampling. * At least 150 cases and minimum of 75 percent phone penetration. * Sample size increase by 1.5x should be applied in case selection bias. * Tested and approved questionnaire modules.
HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY ANALYSIS (HEA) (M2) Estimations of livelihood and survival deficits (Outcome analysis - OA) carried out using either the Livelihood Impact Analysis Spreadsheet (LIAS) or the HEA Dashboard. Full analysis and assumptions documented and made available.	* OA based on full baseline with problem specification supported by at least 4 pieces of reliable evidence on contributing factors. * Baseline or profiles up to 10 years where there have not been significant changes in livelihoods (up to 5 years if significant - T2) or older than 10 years if no significant changes in livelihoods (T1).
FOOD SECURITY SURVEY (M1) All requirements applicable to Food Security Surveys (M2) with lower sample size and cluster number criteria.	* Minimum number of 5 clusters and 90 observations.
COMPUTER-ASSISTED TELEPHONE INTERVIEWING (CATI) (M1) All requirements applicable to CATI (M2) with lower size and phone penetration criteria.	* At least 90 cases and minimum 60 percent phone penetration.
HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY ANALYSIS (HEA) (M1) Estimations of OA carried out by trained professionals using a less complete analysis system, such as the Scenario-Building Tool or the Dashboard. Both rapid baselines and rapid profiles belong to this category.	* OA based on rapid baseline or detailed profiles with problem specification supported by at least 4 pieces of reliable evidence on contributing factors. * Baseline or profiles up to 10 years with no significant changes in livelihoods (up to 5 years if significant - T2) or older than 10 years if no significant changes in livelihoods (T1).
MONITORING SYSTEMS (M1) Estimations collected routinely from community-based (e.g. IDP camps). Prevalence statistics produced through pooled analysis for surveillance and monitoring purposes.	* Observations are selected either randomly or purposively depending on access and scope. * Estimates from at least 5 sites with at least 200 randomly selected cases in total (100 cases in total for pastoral areas).
IPC AFI analysis can also be conducted when recent and representative data collection could not occur. In this case, under specific conditions, historical evidence and data from similar nearby areas can also be used to classify.	
HISTORICAL EVIDENCE Historical food security outcome indicators from the same season, representative at the unit of the analysis and collected in a recent nonexceptional year.	* Outcome indicator data from at least one year over past 5 years. * Data collected in the same season of the analysis period, in absence of unusual shocks.
SIMILAR NEARBY AREAS Representative surveys (M1/M2) from similar areas can be used to classify a given unit of analysis when the area is relatively small and when no evidence on the same indicator is available through other methods.	* Data from the same livelihood zone, seasonality and pattern. * Previous surveys indicated comparable estimates. * Data collected in the same season of the analysis period, in absence of unusual shocks.

In humanitarian situations where access to affected populations is limited or non-existent, information required for IPC analysis is often unavailable, or the available information does not meet the IPC minimum criteria. Classification can still be completed under specific conditions, as described in the [IPC Guidance for data collection in these areas](#). Considering that this data requires contextualization, it is recommended to contact the IPC Global Support Unit for further guidance.

¹ Food Consumption Score (FCS), Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), reduced Coping Strategies index (rCSI), Household Hunger Scale (HHS), Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), Livelihood Coping Strategy index (LCS).