



IPC Asia Update

Newsletter of the Regional Support Unit
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Welcome The month of November saw our IPC Asia project supplementary countries, Cambodia and the Philippines complete their first IPC Analysis - the IPC maps and reports will be available after the endorsement of the IPC Technical Working Group in the coming weeks. The IPC standardized approach was applied and tested in these two very different countries in Asia embracing the differences. This issue shares with you how two very different countries can speak the common language of IPC !

Supplementary countries complete their first IPC analysis

With the completion of the **Bangladesh** IPC Acute Classification, scheduled on the 7th Dec, IPC Asia will have completed its first round of IPC Analysis in all our pilot countries – with the exception of Myanmar.

The **Philippines'** first IPC Acute Analysis map and report with a focus on Mindanao are the products of the successful completion of the classification exercise in Zambales, Philippines, 26-29 November.

What is particularly favourable and valued in this scenario is the second to none solid partnership demonstrated by FAO, WFP, and National Nutrition Council (NNC) of the Philippines. This IPC classification exercise would not have been the same without the NNC's strong leadership and convening power to have authorities from numerous departments from local to national levels involved and represented in the exercise making it "their own".

Data availability was largely thanks to the ground work conducted by WFP over the past decades without which it would not have been as successful. Among many of the international organizations who participated in the exercise, a special mention goes to Action Contre la Faim (ACF) International for their hard work and dedication; three from ACF Philippines and one from ACF Pakistan completed the exercise.

Prior to the start of the exercise, an intensive series (three sleepless nights !) of preparatory sessions were led by NNC to prepare the data and preset the indicator cut-offs. This proved more time consuming than previously thought as all parties had to reach consensus which would be justifiable when sharing the results at the upcoming validation and dissemination meeting.

Three of the recommendations made by the stakeholders and resource persons of the exercise are as follows:

- Time management – indicator cut-offs to be discussed and agreed through consultation meetings and approved in advance by relevant Ministries
- Improving efficiency – lessons learned to be shared in the region in order to avoid reinventing the wheel
- Knowledge management – advocacy and communication must be ongoing to ensure correct and current knowledge of IPC as it is a living tool !

The closing ceremony was an emotional moment for us all. In particular, Stephen Anderson, Representative and Country Director, WFP Philippines thanked our donor ECHO for bringing us together and reminded us that the results would give decision makers the ability to take action based on solid evidence. A special thanks go to the GIS Specialist, WFP Philippines who worked until three in the morning on the last day !

A detailed report on the analysis and findings of this IPC Analysis will be available shortly.





Cambodia Produces Its First Acute Food Security Report & Map

Text and photographs by Botumroath Lebung,
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At the “Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Technical Workshop on Version 2.0” held in Siem Reap city in 1-8 November 2012, Cambodia produced its first pilot of nationwide assessment and map reflecting the severity and magnitude of the country’s food insecurity situation.

The main focus of this exercise was to ensure that there is a pool of qualified IPC trainers for future IPC analysis across the country. The map created from this specific training exercise is not the final IPC product per-se but rather a training tool.



The analysts covered all 23 provinces of Cambodia - with the exception of the Municipality of Phnom Penh - making use of 26 core indicators contributing to food insecurity. The analysts concluded that a high percentage of Cambodians experience moderate to high food insecurity.

HE Srun Darith, Deputy Secretary-General, Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) underlined the importance of the assessment because “it paints the big picture on the magnitude of the food insecurity problem.” CARD is the government agency that coordinates and monitors food security programmes to combat hunger and improve nutrition.

“The establishment of the IPC will inform policy-makers to better respond in emergency and development contexts in the identified target areas,” he added. “We are looking at the village, district and provincial levels.”

38 analysts from 28 organizations, including government ministries, inter-ministerial bodies, United Nations agencies, the academe, Royal University of Agriculture; and NGOs, Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), Care Cambodia, Caritas Cambodia, Farmer and Natural Net (FNN), Helen Keller International, Life With Dignity (LWD), Medicam-Cambodia, Oxfam, Plan International, Reproductive and Child Health Alliance RACHA, Save the Children International, World Vision Cambodia jointly conducted the analysis. Each participant was required to bring their organization data for the assessment and making of the map.

“The workshop is designed for participants to gain a better understanding of requirements, constraints, methods and applications of food insecurity mapping, and supporting technologies,” said Siddharth Krishnaswamy, Regional Technical Advisor (RTA), IPC Asia. “IPC is a set of standardized tools that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of the food insecurity.”



On the first three days, the RTA introduced key concepts of IPC analytical framework including hazard mapping and risk and vulnerability assessment of food insecurity through PowerPoint slides, lectures and discussions, and applied these concepts during the individual and group activities. A country case study of Nepal was presented by the delegation representative showing examples of indicators in real-life situations.



“We are here to learn from the Cambodia experience. The findings [of Cambodia assessments] will help to improve our indicators, with more participation and gain more reliability,” explained the head of the Nepalese delegation, Hem Raj Regmi, Senior Statistical Officer of the Nepal Ministry of Agriculture and Development. “The results will help in response analysis as well.”

A participant from the World Food Programme, Para Hunza said the workshop sounded complicated at first, but that all changed after more training took place. “I had seen IPC maps [developed] in other countries and it

seemed a highly technical and complicated framework to understand,” she said. “However, as the days went on, the analytical framework began to make more sense much to the credit of the trainer who laid down each step with simplicity and patience.”

Another participant from Care, Samnang Yim, said she came into the workshop with a set of data collected from her organization with limited knowledge about IPC. Two days passed and Yim said “IPC framework is still unclear and I don’t know what IPC means in the context of Cambodia.” On the fifth day, she said she understood the framework and how it works.

Bunly Chorn of World Vision said that the practice exercise helped him to better understand the theories when using real scenarios of a country like Indonesia. “I hope to learn the tools for designing an effective programme on food security for my organization,” he said.

Yim acknowledged the report contributes to her organization in decision making when it comes to funding community based organizations to improve nutrition among women and children. “First, the analysis helps save time and money on research activities related to food security and nutrition,” said Yim. “When CARE implements a community-based programme to scale-up FSN activities, we are confident we can show reliable data to our donors.”

“Overall, I thought the workshop was organized and presented in a way that ensured food security practitioners and those working in other fields in development can leave with a good understanding of the basic IPC analytical framework,” Hunza added.

The workshop provided the participants like Yim, Hunza and Chorn with the means to conduct assessments of food security situation utilizing data collected from different years in different areas.

“I learnt the process of taking different sets of data which could be from different years or for different areas yet still being able to triangulate and substitute information to conduct some sort of an assessment of the food security situation. This is very important, not just for the IPC but for other monitoring and reporting assignment I have to carry out as part of my job,” Hunza said.

FAO food security expert Kosal Oum said the assessment contributes to the improvement of malnutrition in Cambodia. “In future, when an IPC report is endorsed by the Government, the document will be used for effective programming and policy design” he said.

Funding for the workshop was provided by ECHO, IPC Asia donor. This workshop was jointly organized by FAO, WFP and CARD with cooperation from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia.





Upcoming events December 2012

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| IPC Acute Classification, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 3-7 Dec | Sustainable Development in South Asia: Shaping the Future, Islamabad, Pakistan, 11-13 Dec: IPC Panel on 11 Dec |
| IPC Open Day Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 8 Dec | Philippines National Stakeholders Workshop - IPC Validation & IPC Open Day Philippines, Manila, 18 Dec |
| WFP VAM Regional Meeting: IPC Session, Pattaya, Thailand, 14 Dec | |

Behind the IPC scenes

Ms. Emi Yamada is the Operations Officer of the IPC Asia project, FAO RAP. With her immaculate project management skills, she oversees and helps us implement our IPC Asia project activities. Not only is she excellent at monitoring project activities and budget lines, she takes the initiative to go one step further so that IPC Asia can achieve more. IPC Asia is grateful for her courage to keep pushing when the going gets tough !

A newlywed, she holds an MA in Conflict Resolution, Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford, UK. Congratulations, Emi !



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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