



IPC Asia Update

Newsletter of the Regional Support Unit
October 2012 - Issue 04

Welcome With less than two months left till the end of the initial phase, IPC Asia is reaching out wider and deeper (and faster !). In a region as diverse as Asia, outreach tools must also be tailored accordingly. This issue will guide you through our recent activities with impact at country, regional and global levels ! The IPC Version 2 Analysts Training Philippines is also featured in this issue.

IPC Asia within reach for many

Due to the recent refinement of the IPC data collection template in **Bangladesh** as reported in the previous newsletter, the work plan has been revised accordingly in close consultation with the IPC Bangladesh leader, Director General, Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU) as follows: IPC Acute classification exercise 3-6 December & IPC Chronic classification exercise 7-10 January. FPMU and IPC Asia have, in the process, identified a need for further data preparation –also to capture the latest information on the NW flooding.

To this end IPC Asia has agreed to provide support services for data preparation for two months which will be outsourced. A Letter of Agreement (LoA) with an appropriate service provider has been prepared and is expected to be signed in early November.

As we go to print **Cambodia** is conducting the IPC Classification exercise. Prior to this exercise a few preparatory steps were taken including a series of national stakeholders meetings. At the most recent meeting on the 1st October lessons learned from other countries were shared in order for Cambodia to be better equipped for the exercise.

At **IPC Asia** we ensure feeding the lessons learned into future planning – sometimes immediate future ! One specific issue that our national IPC coordinators and other stakeholders have noted repeatedly is the issue of time management in terms of preparation. In particular the following three recommendations have been put forward:

- Prepare well in advance the requirements for analysis
- The requirements are clearly communicated & followed-up
- The commitment includes ensuring data availability & reliability

With a view to facilitating implementation IPC Asia has initiated

a process to create a practical and user-friendly tool, “**IPC Asia Implementation Guidelines**” which will include what to do, how to do it, pitfalls to avoid, institutional sensitivities, hints & tips.

IPC Asia was presented at the Consultation Meeting on ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Mechanism, 22-24 October 2012. The Chief Technical Advisor (CTA), IPC Asia, presented an overview of the IPC with emphasis on its applicability to this region. The Secretariat and some country representatives expressed keen interests whether the IPC could be a tool to enhance the AFSIS products and services. They were particularly interested to find out more about the country experiences of current IPC pilot countries. In response to the request the CTA extended the invitation to join the IPC regional events, where IPC country experiences will be shared.

The CTA, IPC Asia, also presented an overview of IPC Asia at the launch of the **IPC Technical Manual Version 2** in Rome, Italy on the 12th of October. From this region AFSIS, Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Myanmar representatives attended the event among others.

The IPC global website is now up and running ! <http://www.ipcinfo.org/> It is a comprehensive website which contains a wide range of resources from factsheets to technical materials. More IPC Asia products will be available on this website as the project progresses.

The recent IPC Training and Analysis Workshop, Islamabad, **Pakistan** is featured on the Sustainable Development Policy Institute website: <http://www.sdpi.tv/play/index.php?cat=fs#.UJDliqzsOTY>

In the pipeline: IPC products to be featured in future national **Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Bulletins**.



IPC Version 2.0 Analysts Training - Manila, The Philippines, 22-25 October 2012

Text and photographs by Ms. Maria Buena Victoria Tenefrancia,
Philippines National IPC Coordinator

The Philippines successfully completed its Training on IPC Version 2.0 for Analysts, 22-25 October at Astoria Plaza, Manila, a group of 33 analysts were trained.

True to the spirit of multi-sectoral engagement, the IPC trainees represented a wide range of organizations and institutions from the public and private sectors, including five participants from sub-national level representing the Mindanao island group. Twenty-eight participants represented ten national government agencies, the academe and six international and local development partners.



No less than the heads of the three partner institutions led the official opening of the three-day training. Maria-Bernardita T. Flores, Assistant Secretary of Health and Executive Director of the National Nutrition Council (NNC), welcomed the participants and noted the importance of the IPC in the country's pursuit of food and nutrition security in the country. Mr. Kazuyuki Tsurumi, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Representative in the Philippines in his message underscored the need for the active participation of the analysts and of the commitment of the organizations/institutions they represent in ensuring the analysts' attendance in all the activities of the IPC as well as in providing and sharing of all the data they have with the IPC analysts for the successful classification of the target areas for IPC Philippines. Also addressing the participants was Mr. Stephen L. Anderson, Representative and Country Director of UN World Food Programme-Philippines who further motivated the analysts by expressing that there is a big possibility of expanding and complementing the pilot IPC areas as there will be more funding for the project to cover activities for the entire year of 2013. As an added input, Hygeia Ceres Catalina B. Gawe, Chief of the Nutrition and Surveillance Division, NNC, gave a brief presentation of the IPC Version 1.0 modelling in an area in Mindanao, an initiative of the NNC in cooperation with WFP Philippines in 2010.

It was evident that the participants were all enthusiastic throughout the three-day training as mentioned by Aristeo Portugal, Assistant FAO Representative, who graced the closing ceremony. Describing how passionate the discussions were, he said that IPC finally gave clarity to the analysts and gave them the opportunity to speak one language and to understand what food security is all about from different perspectives. Noting though that for now the classification will be conducted on the provincial level, Mr. Portugal challenged the participants to bring it down to the municipal level.

The 33 analysts shall get together once again on 26-29 November 2012 for the Acute Analysis Workshop covering 20-26 provinces of the Philippines' Mindanao island group making use of 33 indicators of food security. The 33 indicators were identified following the painstaking discussions among the analysts during the training. After lengthy discussions on the data availability, value as well as limitation of the indicators for the phase classification, and with the guide of the IPC Framework that was time and again referred to, the analysts finally agreed upon the indicators and identified the corresponding persons responsible for ensuring that the data on the indicators are available before the analysis workshop in November. Talk about technical consensus building coming into play in this process!



The training would not have been a success without the patient and open-minded trainer, Mr. Siddarth Krishnaswamy, Regional Technical Adviser, IPC Asia. Mr. Krishnaswamy allowed the participants to ask questions to clarify processes and terminologies.



He stressed that the result of the training and analysis later would be the product of the whole team who are committed to share their data and to actively participate in the entire process and protocols of the IPC. Throughout the training, Mr. Krishnaswamy would always be heard saying “there is no such thing as a wrong answer”. The participants were encouraged to express themselves thus resulting in an active exchange of ideas and wholesome interaction.

Another factor that came into play to ensure the attendance of the 33 analysts was the previously conducted Technical Working Group (TWG) Organizational meeting which was attended by “bosses” of the 33 analysts. The TWG meeting started off with the overview of the IPC and the updates of IPC Asia Project implementation in the other five (5) countries namely: Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Cambodia by Mr. Rene Suter, Senior IPC Food Security Consultant, IPC Asia. Throughout the other discussions on the Terms of Reference, Work Plan and Complementary Activities during the meeting, emphasis by the discussants Hygeia Ceres Catalina B. Gawe, NNC; Alberto Aduna, FAO and Maria Buena Victoria Tenefrancia, National IPC Coordinator was on the commitment of the participating agencies and institutions and active participation of the technical staff who would be the future IPC analysts. Roles and other expectations were clarified in this meeting as well. After this meeting, the number of participants to the training grew from 12 to 33!

As the 33 analysts head back to their respective offices to check on their data and to report to their “bosses” on the forthcoming activities of the IPC, fingers are crossed hoping that the November analysis workshop will equally be a big success. Of course, the final IPC map will come out by December. Let us all wait and see!!! As the saying goes, the test of the pudding is in the eating. It is indeed hoped that the resulting IPC map will reflect the true picture of Mindanao and will be utilized for future decisions on food security concerns.

As the 33 analysts head back to their respective offices to check on their data and to report to their “bosses” on the forthcoming activities of the IPC, fingers are crossed hoping that the November analysis workshop will equally be a big success. Of course, the final IPC map will come out by December. Let us all wait and see!!! As the saying goes, the test of the pudding is in the eating. It is indeed hoped that the resulting IPC map will reflect the true picture of Mindanao and will be utilized for future decisions on food security concerns.



Evidence and Standards for Better Food Security Decisions

Upcoming events 2012

November 2012

IPC Classification, Siem Reap, Cambodia,
5-8 Nov

IPC presentation at FAO Sub-regional Workshop
on Sex-disaggregated Data in Agriculture and
Rural Development for Southeast Asian
Countries, Bangkok, Thailand, 13-16 Nov

IPC Food Security Network Group Meeting,
Bangkok, Thailand, 19 Nov

IPC Classification Exercise, (Venue TBC),
Philippines, 26-29 Nov

IPC Open Day Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh,
8 Dec

Cambodia National Stakeholders Workshop - IPC
validation, Phnom Penh, 17 Dec (TBC) & IPC
Open Day Cambodia

IPC November Newsletter, 7 Dec

Sustainable Development in South Asia: Shaping
the Future, Islamabad, Pakistan, 11-13 Dec:
IPC Panel on 11 Dec

Philippines National Stakeholders Workshop - IPC
Validation, Manila, 18 Dec (TBC) & IPC Open
Day Philippines

December 2012

IPC Acute Classification, Dhaka, Bangladesh,
3-7 Dec



Behind the IPC scenes

Ms. Apirada Sirigaya has been with the IPC Asia project since the establishment of the IPC Asia Regional Support Unit and six years with FAO. A real IPC gem, she tirelessly handles hundreds of administration and logistics requests - always with a smile ! Especially during missions and country exchange visits when modification requests pour in around the clock she makes herself available while remaining composed, efficient and flexible. Apirada is what makes the IPC Asia project operation possible !

She holds a Master of Business Administration, Mahidol University, Thailand.

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.

Funded by:



Humanitarian Aid
and Civil Protection

IPC Asia Regional Support Unit

39 Phra Atit Road, Bangkok 10200 THAILAND

Ph: +66 2 697 4178 Fax +66 2 697 4445

IPCasia-info@fao.org

www.ipcinfo.org

If you would like to be added or deleted to the mailing list for this newsletter, please contact IPCasia-info@fao.org