



IPC Asia Update

Newsletter of the Regional Support Unit
September 2012 - Issue 03

Welcome IPC Asia is delighted to share with you our very first IPC Asia food security maps ! Nepal successfully completed the first National IPC Chronic Analysis covering the entire country on the 14th of September 2012. This was the very first successful IPC Chronic Analysis in Asia. Pakistan successfully completed the first National IPC Acute Analysis covering seven provinces on the 27th of September 2012. In this issue you will find two A4-sized IPC Analysis maps. The makings of these maps in Nepal and Pakistan are presented in this celebratory issue as special feature articles. Read on !

IPC Asia completes half of its initial phase project work

With the completion of the first rounds in Nepal and Pakistan the IPC Asia team has now completed half of its initial phase project work - in such a short period of time !

There are currently six simultaneous pilot countries; four original plus two supplementary countries. We have completed the IPC Analysis in two countries and the rest will be completed by the 1st of December.

Not all goes to plan but how we rectify is the key to success ! In **Bangladesh** during the recent data identification & collation process, the Analyst Group (AG) decided that the analysis would be more pertinent and accurate if the unit of analysis was modified from country wide so as to conduct a more effective acute analysis at the district or zonal level. This would offer decision makers greater clarity albeit for a smaller area. Conducting such analysis in the recently flooded NW area would also be an excellent example of using the IPC Acute tools to impart the best situational analysis.

The data collection template has now been refined and the planned activities re-scheduled accordingly in close consultation with the partner organizations.

The IPC pilot project in **Myanmar** progresses slowly but surely. The IPC team remains tenacious and

keeps the dialogue open despite the challenging work environment. As a consequence we have successfully started the sensitization process by working closely with the Government on the National Action Plan for Food and Nutrition. We have just successfully identified and recruited an international consultant to help with the Plan. Let the journey begin !

A six-person delegation from **Cambodia** attended the **Nepal** IPC Training and Classification. The delegation included members from the National Institute for Statistics, the Ministry of Health, Helen Keller Foundation, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, WFP and the Secretary General for the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD). A **Pakistan** delegation also joined the Nepal exercise led by the National Ministry for Food Security and Research, the National Disaster Management Authority and the Pakistan National IPC consultant.

As we go to print a delegation from the **Philippines** attend the **Bangladesh** Training and Classification. Members are from the National Nutrition Council (NNC), the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), National IPC Consultant, and WFP Philippines. These exchange visits allow country representatives to observe firsthand the IPC mapping procedure and to exchange information.

Training and Analysis Workshop – Nepal 5-13 September 2012

Nepal successfully completed the first National IPC Chronic Analysis on the 14th of September, 2012. Forty four (44) participants from 30 organisations worked together from the 5th to 13th of September in Kathmandu and Dhulikhel for this successful result. Led by the Government of Nepal; a wide variety of government departments and ministries, I/NGO's, UN Agencies, academics, as well as delegates from Cambodia and Pakistan worked hard over this intensive training and analysis to achieve this result for the entire country of Nepal.

The workshop was opened and chaired by Mr. Vijoy Kumar Mallick, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Development (MoAD) on the 5th September 2012, with remarks given by Dr. Lin Aung, FAO Representative; Mr. Rene Suter, Senior IPC Food Security Consultant, IPC Asia, FAO ; His Excellency Mr. Rath Virak, Secretary General of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development, Cambodia; Ms. Nicole Menage, Country Director, WFP and Ms. Marion Michaud, Programme Manager, EU.

The lead up to the IPC training and classification was a series of interactions with



key stakeholders and thematic groups to increase awareness on IPC and NeKSAP, the existing food security monitoring system in Nepal. The key agenda included; Introduction of IPC and IPC in Asia project; briefing about the existing food security monitoring system - NeKSAP; and Plan of Action of the IPC project. This was done by the IPC National Consultant Mr Chandra Thapa who was often accompanied by Mr Hem Raj Regmi - Under Secretary for MoAD, Agribusiness Promotion and Statistics Division; and Mr Pushpa Shrestha - Food Security Surveillance Manager WFP; and when possible members of the IPC Asia team.



Development and represented by 32 agencies (GoN, I/NGO, Networks, Academia, Donor and UN agencies). Key activities included: a) Drafting of Terms of Reference of NTWG; b) then the Draft TORs were discussed with the MoAD and WFP following which comments were incorporated and the TOR was circulated to key stakeholders - inviting comments on both the TORs and the nomination of a technical officer to represent respective organizations in the TWG; c) Formation of National Technical Working Group .

The next step was the identifying of potential chronic food insecurity indicators. This was conducted through a consultative meeting of NTWG. The working group worked through the global Indicators and proposed an initial list of 110 indicators. This was further discussed and prioritized in terms of importance of proposed indicator and availability of data during the IPC technical workshop. The final number of indicators used for the Nepal analysis was reduced to a core set of 24. Apart from this basic list, participants could use other chronic indicators that they deemed suitable for their zone.





The training and analysis workshop was led by IPC Asia Regional Technical Adviser, Mr. Siddharth Krishnaswamy. The IPC Workshop on Version 2.0 for the NTWG was divided into two parts. The training incorporated both the theoretical and the practical aspects of the IPC tool using real data and exercises wherever possible. Participants jointly discussed and agreed on the level of analysis— three ecological belts X five development regions = 15 ecological zones (eco-zones). These zones were similar to the zoning prescribed by two previous health and nutrition surveys which were conducted in 2011.

The second part of the workshop consisted of the comprehensive analysis. The participants were divided into groups and over the course of 3 days completed the Chronic Food Security Analysis for the 15 eco-zones. Draft reports for each eco-zone were also produced and a GIS expert translated the information into a map. The map was presented to the group as a whole and the group ratified the chronic levels depicted across the 15 zones.

The closing ceremony was held on the 13th of September 2012— a day earlier than planned due to a country-wide strike on the 14th—and was chaired by Mr Hem Raj Regmi - Under Secretary for Ministry of Agriculture and Development (MoAD), Agribusiness Promotion and Statistics Division. A presentation of the preliminary results of the Chronic Food Insecurity Phase Classification was given by Mr. Hem Raj Regmi. Following this the following members also had an opportunity to provide feedback and comments - Ms. Basudha Gurung, National Programme Advisor, Food-first Information and Action Network, Nepal (who represented the participants in her speech); Nicolas Oberlin, Deputy Country Director, WFP; Mr. Piush Kayastha, Programme Officer, ECHO; His Excellency Mr. Rath Virak, Secretary General of the CARD, Cambodia; and Mr. Abdul Basit Khan, Additional Secretary, National Ministry of Food Security and Research, Pakistan . A vote of thanks was given by Dr. Binod Saha, Assistant FAO Representative and the closing of the workshop was conducted by Mr Vijoy Kumar Mallick, Joint Secretary, MOAD.



The following are some comments from participants of the workshop.

“This workshop was necessary for our team to learn from Nepal. Now we have experience we can use it for our analysis (Cambodian delegate).”

“Putting resources on a “as needs basis” is an issue. Now we can put resources into the right place. I expect that IPC will provide a synergetic approach for putting in resources.”

“This gives the force to the population and lessons learnt from disasters. A problem that often happens is <I need a blanket for warmth and you give me food>.”

“I’ve been engaged in food security monitoring for over eight years. We always said that if you are growing food you had food security, but now I have learnt there are many other factors.”

“With the leadership of MoAD we can present to the Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee. If we present effectively to this body we will have more significance to fit into policy and decision making. Intervention can be focused and targeted.”



A detailed report on the analysis and findings of the first IPC National Chronic FS & N analysis is available from the Ministry of Agricultural Development, Government of Nepal.

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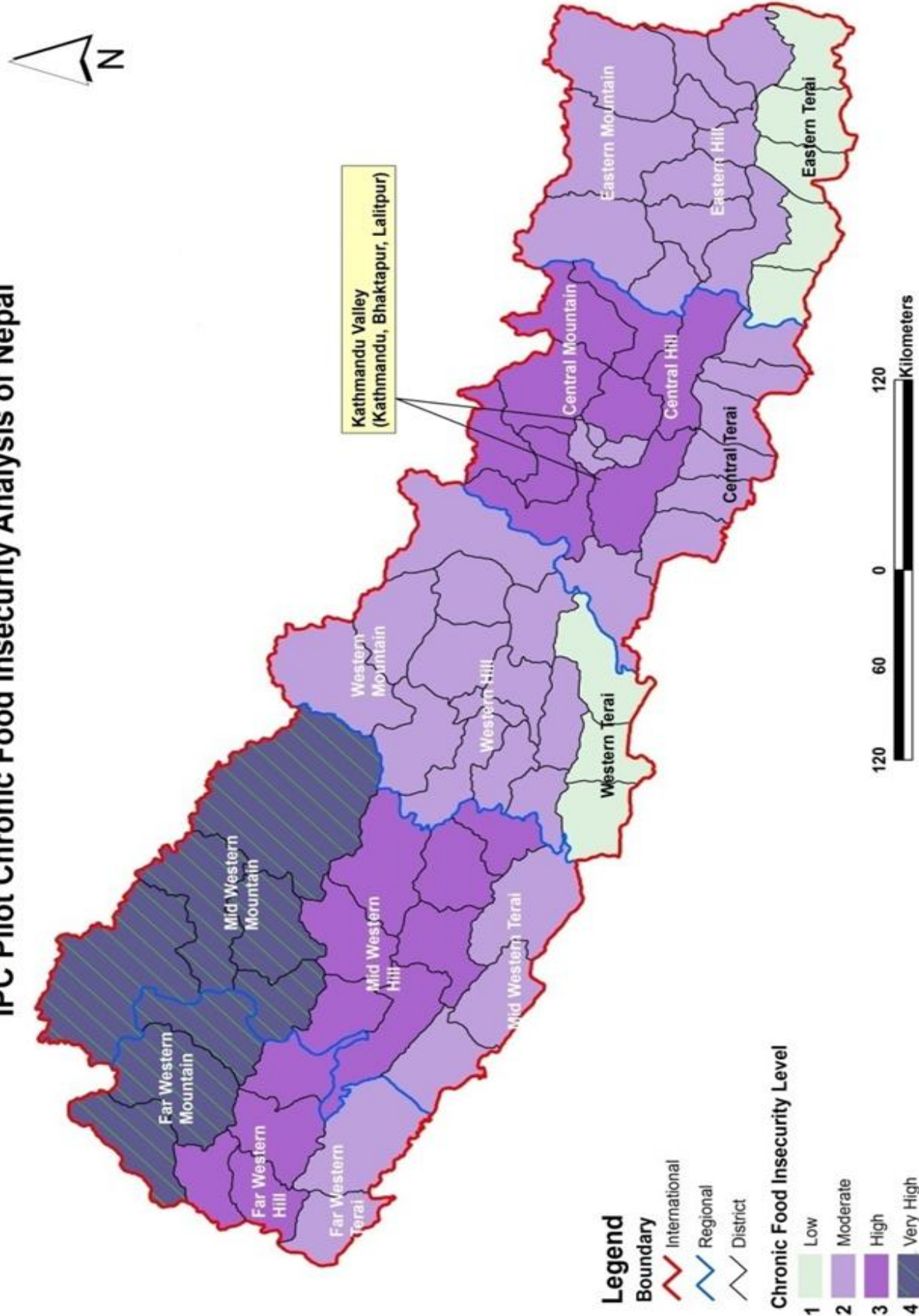


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IPC Pilot Chronic Food Insecurity Analysis of Nepal



Training and Analysis Workshop – Pakistan 17—27 September 2012

Pakistan successfully completed the first National IPC Acute Analysis on the 27th of September, 2012. Forty (40) participants from 35 organisations worked together from the 17th to 27th of September in Bhurban just north of Islamabad. Led by the Government of Pakistan (GoP); a wide variety of government departments and ministries, I/NGO's, UN Agencies and academics, worked solidly over this intensive training and analysis to achieve an IPC Analysis map and report for Pakistan.



The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Baseer Achakzai, Director National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on the 18th September 2012. In his welcome remarks he expressed that outputs from IPC could provide an important basis for the decision-makers to formulate evidence based policies and programmes. His remarks were followed by Mr. Jean Luc Siblot, WFP Country Director, Mr. Rajendra Aryal, FAO Senior Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordinator, Mr. Krishna Pahari, WFP Head of VAM Unit, Dr. Abid Suleri, Executive Director SDPI & Mr. Siddharth Krishnaswamy, Regional Technical Advisor for IPC Asia from FAO Bangkok. For the opening of the formal session, the State Minister His Excellency Mr. Moazam Ali Jatoi, National Ministry for Food Security and Research (NMFSR) graced the occasion with his presence on the 19th September 2012. Mr. Jatoi welcomed the IPC project and emphasized on the need of updated data and figures from the agriculture sector in the country.



The lead up to the IPC training and classification was a series of interactions with key stakeholders and thematic groups to increase the awareness on IPC and foods security monitoring systems in Pakistan. Key agenda included; the introduction of IPC and IPC programmes in Pakistan; briefings about the existing food security monitoring system; and plan of action of the IPC project. The training module also included an indicator review; in-depth trainings on how to conduct an IPC analysis; data reliability and availability; and mapping. The participants were orientated with the role, structure, formation and workings

of an IPC National Technical Working Group (NTWG).

This was followed with the formation of NTWG under the leadership of the Government of Pakistan and represented by 27 agencies and/or ministries (GoP, I/NGO, Networks, Academia, Donor and UN agencies).

Following the formation of the NTWG, potential acute food security monitoring indicators were jointly discussed and selected. This was conducted through brainstorming and consultation sessions amongst the newly formed seven (7) area working groups - Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Gilgat Baltistan and FATA.

The working groups worked through a wide list of global indicators which were then prioritized in terms of importance of the proposed indicator and availability of data. The final number of core indicators used for the Pakistan analysis was shortlisted to 23.



In addition to the core set, participants also used other indicators relevant to their particular agro ecological zone(s) during the analysis.

The training and analysis workshop was led by IPC Asia Regional Technical Adviser, Mr Siddharth Krishnaswamy with the support from Mr Justus Liku, Food Security Analysis from Care International Kenya, Mr Hem Raj Regmi from the Under-Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture and Development Nepal and Ms Nichola Hungerford, IPC Asia Communication Consultant. The NTWG jointly decided the level of analysis for all 7 provinces in Pakistan.



The second part of the workshop consisted of the analysis. Draft reports for each eco-zone were also produced and a GIS expert translated the information into a map. The IPC Acute Analysis was presented to the group as a whole, and following discussions and clarification, the analysis was ratified by all the participants.

The feedback from the participants was extremely favourable. Many participants were actually very surprised at the participatory and practical approach of the training with very real outcomes. The following are some comments from participants of the workshop.

“It helped point out some of the deficiencies in food security, for example, we have food available but it’s not nutritious.”

“I wasn’t optimistic about the training when I came – especially with so many government people invited, but the training was very applicable for my work and this is very applicable.”

“Very productive and good training; we are facing food insecurity in many parts of the country as most people live below the poverty line. The training will help us manage our existing resources and utilise the existing mechanisms of the government by giving us a better picture of the situation.”

“This was a good opportunity for me, Now I know how to collect data, how to analyse it and I now know the gaps in the data. When I get back I will try and find the data and I will do the IPC Analysis myself.”

“Personally I don’t really like training and I was forced by my boss to go to this. I find trainings are nearly always the same and the duration for 10 days seemed too long. My boss said just see how it goes and if it’s not good then come back. BUT it was completely opposite to what I thought – it was not like a training it was more like a workshop. It was really good – I rang my boss and said it was really worth it to stay.”

“We’ve learnt a lot and gathered information and put it into a few pages which will help donors; like where, how, when and where to put the money. Looking at the Phases shows where the priorities are.”

“This has been a very new concept for me and very useful for Pakistan – we need this sort of thing.”



The closing ceremony was held on 27th September 2012 in Islamabad and was chaired by Mr Shabaz Bokhari, the IPC National Consultant for Pakistan with welcome remarks by Mr Kevin Gallagher the FAO Representative for Pakistan. Participants were awarded a certificate of

Completion from the IPC project. A presentation of the preliminary results of the Acute Food Security Phase Classification was shared as well as the first draft of the IPC Map. The Chief Guest, His Excellency, Abdul Basit Khan, Additional Secretary, National Ministry of Food Security and Research, Pakistan in his closing remarks lauded the results and extended full support from the Ministry for the institutionalisation of IPC for Pakistan. The closing remarks of the workshop were given by Mr Jean-Luc Siblot, Country Director for WFP with a vote of thanks from Mr Shabaz Bokhari.

A detailed report on the analysis and findings of the IPC National Acute Food Security and Nutrition analysis will be available by the end of October.



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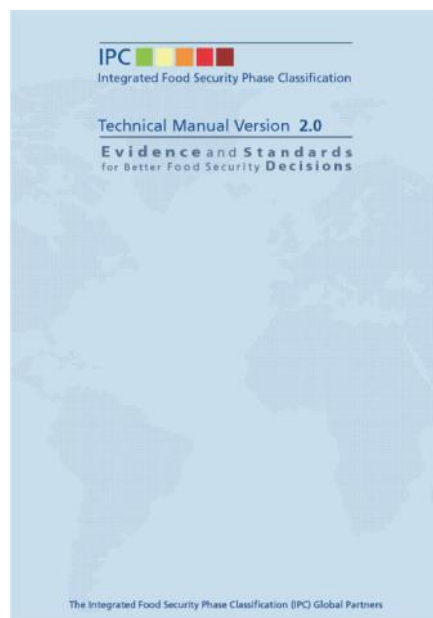
Upcoming events 2012

The IPC Global Support Unit (GSU) will launch the **IPC Technical Manual Version 2.0** in Rome, Italy on the 12th of October. IPC Asia will be presented at this exciting event. The electronic version of the manual will be available on the IPC global website shortly.

The IPC Asia Regional Support Unit (RSU) will host its first “**IPC Asia Open Day**” in Bangkok, Thailand on the 21st of November in connection with the FAO Subregional Workshop on Sex-disaggregated Data in Agriculture and Rural Development for Southeast Asian Countries.

The **IPC side event** at the South Asia Economic Forum Islamabad will take place during the meeting from the 11th - 13th December.

Let's not forget our ongoing and continuous consultation meetings with IPC stakeholders throughout the year ! Please feel free to drop us a line to get in touch with us if you have any questions.



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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