



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

IPC Global Strategic Programme 2023 – 2026

This brochure summarises the third IPC Global Strategic Programme (GSP) (2023-2026). Access the [full document here](#).



Photo: South Sudan, OCHA

Context

In recent years, the number of people and countries facing food and nutrition crises has consistently increased. The Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2023 reported the highest numbers of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity in the report's history, with up to 258 million people in 58 countries/territories being acutely food insecure and needing urgent assistance; and nearly 35 million children under 5 years of age suffering from wasting, thus requiring urgent treatment.¹ Partly as a result of the increasingly protracted nature of food and nutrition crises, chronic food insecurity and malnutrition remain high, far above pre-COVID-2019-pandemic levels.²

Global initiatives are underway to promote improved food security and nutrition analysis. In 2021, the G7 published a policy statement with a list of common principles for improving global food security monitoring systems.³ Simultaneously, global efforts to harmonize and systematize collective responses to food security have gained momentum, including the Global Network Against Food Crises, the Global Alliance for Food Security, and the Global Food Coalition. A number of key themes and challenges were identified by these initiatives, and will be priorities for food security and nutrition analysis in the coming years.

IPC classifications provide information on the scale and severity of food insecurity and malnutrition and play a key role in contributing to the global efforts to improve food security and nutrition analysis. Operational in over 30 countries, the IPC, together with the *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH), is the common reference for consensus-based analysis of food insecurity and acute malnutrition, informing more than six billion dollars in food crisis response decisions annually.

The profile and prominence of the IPC is on the rise. In 2021, the G7 recognized the IPC as the 'gold standard' for food security and nutrition analysis,⁴ and the IPC was included in the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit as a 'game changing' intervention. This underscores the importance placed on the IPC as a critical component of global responses to food insecurity and malnutrition.

¹ Food Security Information Network, 2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023. <https://www.fsinplatform.org/global-report-food-crises-2023>

² FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2023. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023. Urbanization, Agrifood Systems Transformation And Healthy Diets Across The Rural–Urban Continuum. <https://www.fao.org/3/cc3017en/cc3017en.pdf>

³ FCDO, 2021. G7 Principles Supporting A Vision of Improved Global Food Security Monitoring and Analysis. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1039534/g7-principles-supporting-vision-improved-global-food-security-monitoring-and-analysis.pdf

⁴ Ibid.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



US \$6 BILLION

Every year, the IPC informs around US \$6 billion in food crisis response decisions globally



OVER 30 COUNTRIES

The IPC scales are currently used in over 30 countries, some of which are experiencing the world's worst food and nutrition crises



250 ANALYSES

In the past four years, IPC teams across the globe produced over 250 analyses. In 2023 alone, 73 analyses were delivered



3,169 TRAINED

In the past four years, the IPC initiative trained 3,169 food security and nutrition practitioners. In 2023 alone, 449 analysts were certified



Photo: Afghanistan, UNICEF

Key Outstanding Challenges



Global Coverage: There are still important gaps in IPC coverage of major crises, either due to lack of data, lack of appetite among country stakeholders to engage in the IPC process, and/or lack of resources and capacity within the IPC initiative. At the same time, international actors have rising expectations about the expanded geographic scope of the IPC.



Accuracy of Forecasts: Improving the accuracy of IPC forecasts is a constant challenge while there is growing demand for the IPC to inform anticipatory action, and for greater agility, timeliness and responsiveness in IPC processes.



Governance: The governance structure of the IPC is no longer adapted to the rising challenge of providing high quality food security and nutrition information in a wide range of contexts. This will require greater attention to address issues of reputational importance.



Institutionalization and Ownership: Institutionalization and ownership of the IPC and engagement by relevant stakeholders are key to the success of the initiative and require greater investments at global, regional and country level.



Socio-demographic Determinants: While the IPC initiative has made good progress on geographic granularity, more needs to be done on the analysis of socio-demographic determinants of vulnerability to better inform decision-making.



Linkages: With three IPC scales now in motion, understanding and communicating the linkages between acute food insecurity, acute malnutrition and chronic food insecurity requires additional attention in order to inform relevant types of action, from short-term to long-term.

STRATEGIC FOCUS



Intermediate Outcome 1:
The IPC is a strong partnership



Intermediate Outcome 2:
The IPC is an agile system built on innovation



Intermediate Outcome 3:
The IPC is the global reference for expanded analyses of crises



Intermediate Outcome 4:
The IPC delivers high quality analyses and products



Photo: Somalia, OCHA

Geographic Scope

The third GSP (2023-2026) aims at addressing critical gaps in the coverage of food and nutrition crises and envisions a substantial geographic expansion of the IPC, born of global demand for the IPC in every region. In the most recent GRFC (2023), IPC and CH analyses covered 42 of the 58 countries listed as facing food crises.⁵

The objective of this Programme will be to produce analyses for any food and nutrition crisis, focusing on countries of immediate concern as well as emerging crises. While the strategic objective is to have IPC analyses in any country of concern, the IPC initiative will establish a decision-making process to decide which crises can or cannot be covered.

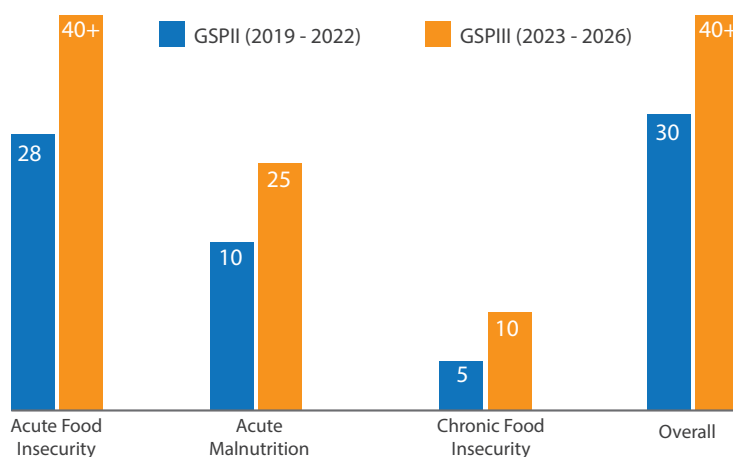
Combined IPC and CH coverage will be extended to some 60 countries in total. This expansion will build upon the existing portfolio of IPC countries (30) as well as those covered by the CH (18).

For **Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) classifications**, this GSP will cover at least 40 food crises. Of these, 28 are already implementing IPC Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) analyses regularly.

For **Acute Malnutrition classifications (AMN)**, the use of the IPC Acute Malnutrition (AMN) scale will be expanded to include 25 crises, a 47 percent increase compared to the previous GSP.

For **Chronic Food Insecurity (CFI) classifications**, at least 10 recurrent or persistent food crises will be targeted.

Number of countries/Crises covered by the IPC



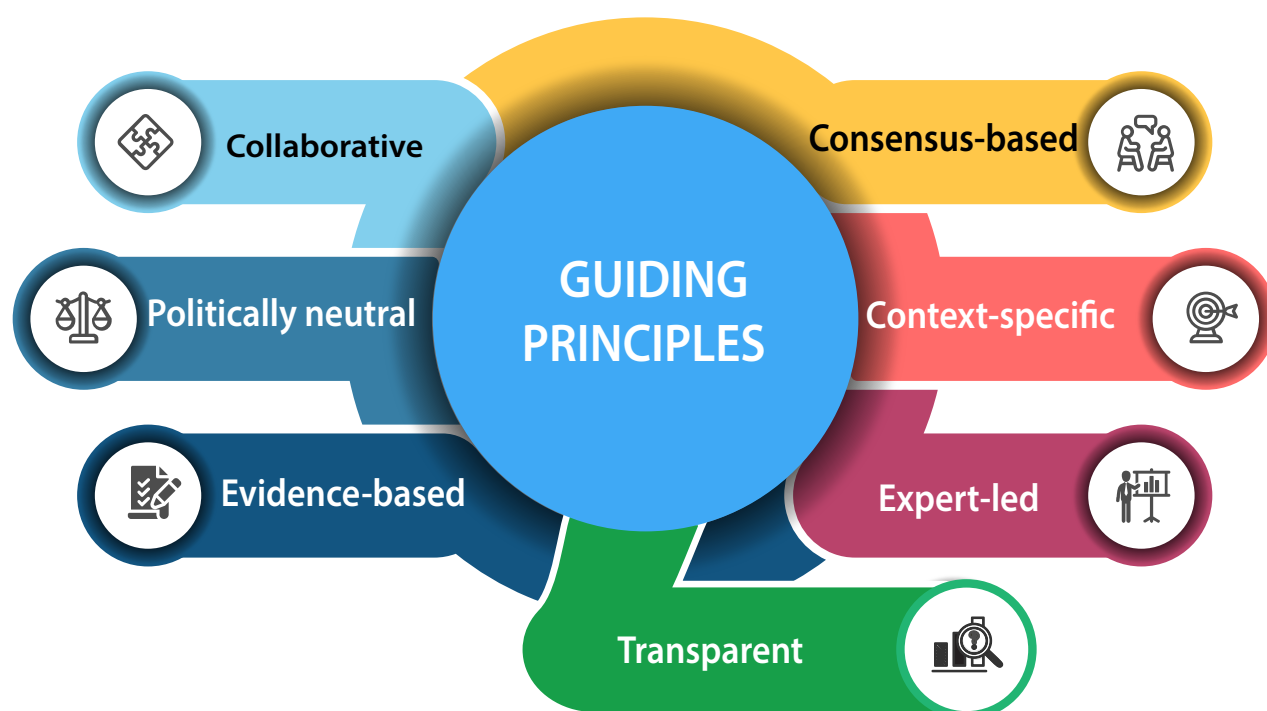
⁵ Food Security Information Network, 2023. Global Report on Food Crises 2023. <https://www.fsinplatform.org/global-report-food-crises-2023>



Photo: Madagascar. UN NEWS

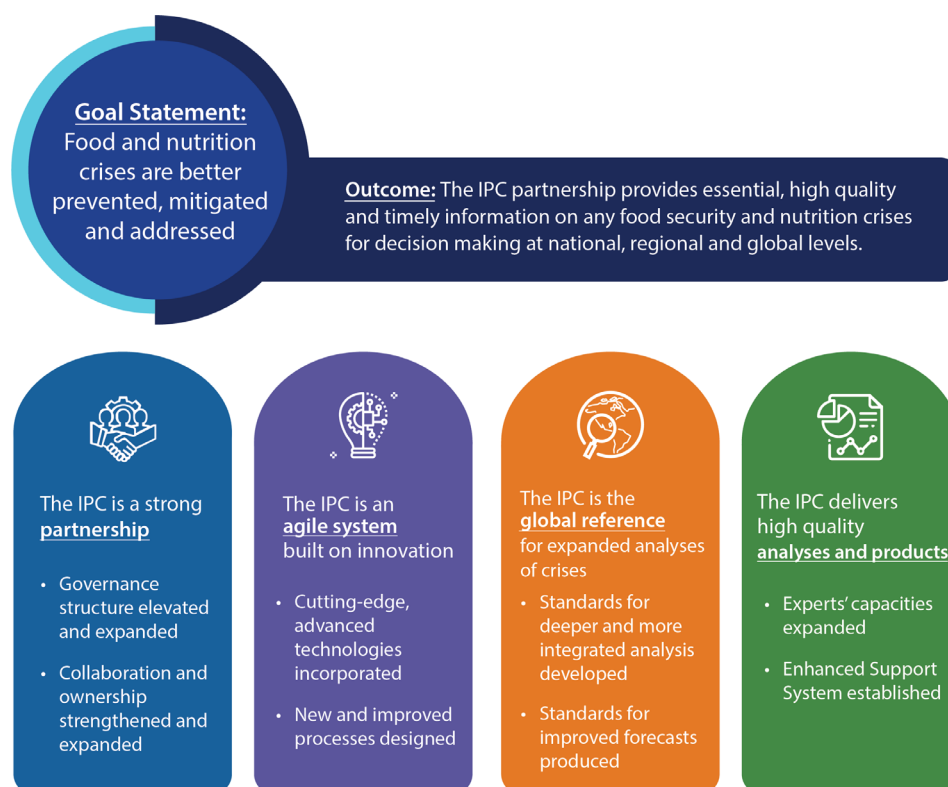
Guiding Principles

In designing this GSP, a number of key components of the IPC approach were identified as overarching factors which are both intrinsic to and indivisible from the IPC as a whole. As these components underlie everything that is done by and for the IPC, these have been described here as Principles, in that they guide all aspects of the work to be carried out under the GSP. The key principles of the IPC are:



Programme Overview

The figure below provides an overview of the IPC GSP (2023 – 2026), including the goal, the overall expected outcome, the four intermediate outcomes and related outputs.



The **goal** statement is formulated to reflect the IPC's specific contributions to the goal of eliminating hunger. **Prevention** applies to the importance of the IPC for early warning and informing anticipatory action, linkages that will be further strengthened over the next four years. **Mitigation** refers to the core business of the IPC, in which humanitarian response is informed by high quality IPC analysis. **Addressing** food and nutrition crises pertains to providing a better understanding of food insecurity conditions, including the root causes of acute food insecurity. This will inform longer-term solutions to crises which enhance resilience, putting the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus into action.

The overall **outcome** reflects key elements of the GSP. First, the IPC has grown in both relevance and importance as the agencies involved have invested in the **partnership**. As a shared public good, the IPC itself will flourish if that partnership is further nurtured and strengthened. Second, the IPC is only as valuable as the analyses it produces. Accordingly, the IPC will be organized to provide essential information which decision makers at all levels require, of the highest possible **quality**, based on the best data available. Third, actionable information on food and nutrition crises is time-sensitive: for decision making to be effective, **timely information** is essential. More efficient processes, procedures and tools that will leverage innovations will be introduced, to make IPC analysis available in as close to real-time as possible. Finally, the primary focus for the IPC remains to inform **decision making** at all levels, from the local to the global level. The IPC will strive to continue addressing the needs of these users, without losing sight of the requirements of other users routinely using IPC findings for their work, including academics and the media.

In order to attain this overall outcome, **four intermediate outcomes** have been identified. These constitute the four major areas of endeavor that will be pursued over the course of the next GSP: 1) The IPC is a strong partnership; 2) The IPC is an agile system built on innovation; 3) The IPC is the global reference for expanded analyses of crises; 4) The IPC delivers high quality analyses and products.

Key Deliverables

The implementation of the proposed Programme is expected to result in a number of key deliverables, which are listed below, according to each intermediate outcome.

1

Intermediate Outcome 1: The IPC is a strong partnership



Output 1.1. Governance structure elevated and expanded

- High Level Executive Committee established and effective
- New governance structure for the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity scale functioning
- 4 regional and 20 country level strategies developed to strengthen governance structures
- IPC Senior Management Groups established and functioning in 15 countries
- 15 regional consultations and peer exchanges with country IPC Technical Working Groups (TWG)

Output 1.2. Collaboration and ownership strengthened and expanded

- 90% of partners participating in IPC activities at global, regional and country level
- Collaboration with partners pursued for the development of flagship information products (e.g. GRFC, Hunger Hotspots report, United Nations Security Council reporting)
- 4 data sharing agreements signed
- 16 briefings/training events held with the IPC Communications Network at global/regional level
- 8 new products (e.g. strategic and/or guidance documents, tools) developed based on new partnerships

2

Intermediate Outcome 2: The IPC is an agile system built on innovation



Output 2.1. Cutting-edge, advanced technologies incorporated

- 3 versions of the IPC analysis Platform developed for roll-out
- 5 advanced technologies, machine learning and/or AI features tested for potential integration into IPC processes
- New data sources incorporated into the IPC Analysis Platform

Output 2.2. New and improved processes designed

- Guidance and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for faster IPC deployment developed, tested and rolled out
- Guidance for non-TWG led analysis developed and approved
- Guidance and SOPs for integration of IPC into early warning and anticipatory action mechanisms developed, tested and rolled out
- Famine detection and classification protocols/guidance revised, tested and rolled out

3

Intermediate Outcome 3: The IPC is the global reference for expanded analyses of crises



Output 3.1. Standards for deeper and more integrated analysis developed

- 4 updates/new protocols resulting from new technical developments and standards
- 8 updated/new guidance notes covering technical development
- 6 position papers/technical studies/academic research supported by the IPC initiative

Output 3.2. Standards for improved forecasts produced

- 4 protocols and/or guidance notes on projection analysis produced/updated
- 2 guidance notes/technical papers produced on linking early warning signals to the triggering of IPC analyses
- 1 guidance note/technical paper produced on linking IPC projections to the triggering of anticipatory action mechanisms

4

Intermediate Outcome 4: The IPC delivers high quality analyses and products



Output 4.1. Experts' capacities expanded

- 30% increase in the number of certified IPC practitioners (level 1, 2 and 3)
- 136 IPC normative trainings (IPC level 1, 2 and 3) conducted
- 12 non-normative trainings (on new protocols, technical guidance and/or processes) conducted
- 100% increase in the number of people trained on IPC communication
- 44 learning events and/or peer exchanges conducted within the IPC Community of Practice

Output 4.2. Enhanced support system established

- At least 40 countries using IPC scales
- 310 IPC analyses delivered (including 210 acute food insecurity, 90 acute malnutrition, and 10 chronic food insecurity analyses)
- Risk of Famine analyses and Famine Reviews conducted where and when relevant
- Quality assessment completed for 75% of analyses
- 28 lessons learning exercises conducted at country level
- 10 workshops conducted to unpack the relationships between acute and chronic food insecurity conditions
- 60 IPC products featuring the complementarity and linkages between acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition analyses findings
- IPC Communication Strategy (2023 – 2026) produced
- 14 products aimed at increasing the understanding of the IPC, including among non-technical audiences
- 96 IPC country/regional/thematic products aimed at increasing the understanding of IPC analysis findings
- 12 upgrades or new tools produced for enhanced access to IPC analysis findings
- 80% of media articles related to famine correctly depict IPC findings and guidance

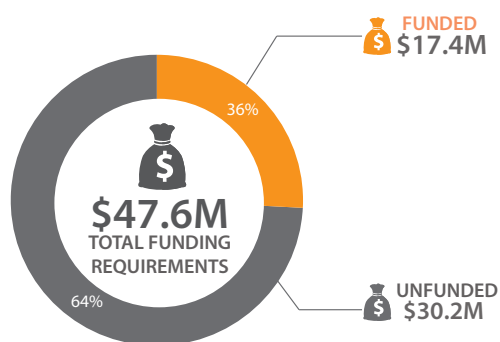


Photo: Yemen: UN OCHA

Funding Requirements

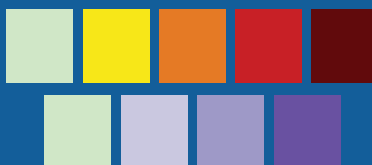
The overall cost of the IPC Global Strategic Programme 2023-2026 is presently estimated at USD 47.6 million. This Programme reflects a significant increase in resource requirements, largely driven by the expansion of country coverage, an increase in capacities, with a particular focus on decentralization, coupled with the continuous development of tools, protocols and systems to enable a faster, more robust deployment of IPC where and when needed.

Funding Status as of January 2024



IPC

Integrated Food Security
Phase Classification



Scan QR code to subscribe
to the IPC mailing list
and receive information
products

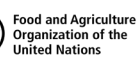
Email: ipc@fao.org

Website: www.ipcinfo.org

theIPCinfo



The IPC Global Partners



IPC Funding Partners

