OVERVIEW

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), developed in 2004 to guide response to the food security crisis in Somalia, has evolved to be applicable in different country contexts, focusing not only on acute food insecurity but also on chronic food insecurity and nutrition analysis. As of 2017, the IPC is used in over 25 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to help decision makers better address the food insecurity challenge.

The IPC initiative is managed by the IPC Global Steering Committee, currently composed of thirteen representatives: Action Against Hunger CARE International, CILSS (West Africa), EC-JRC, FAO, FEWS NET, Global Food Security Cluster, IGAD, Oxfam, Save the Children, SICA-PRESANCA (Central America), UNICEF and WFP. The IPC Global Support Unit, reporting to the IPC Global Steering Committee, guides the implementation of IPC through Global experts and a network of IPC Coordinators who are linked to regional governmental and partner platforms and provide technical training and coordination support to countries implementing IPC.

IPC is developed and implemented within the framework of the IPC Global Strategic Programme (2014-2018), which ensures that the IPC is adequately supported as an international global standard in the food security field, effectively informing food security policies.

Initially designed to be used in crisis contexts, the IPC scale has been expanded to also measure chronic food insecurity in non-crisis contexts. The IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification was launched in July 2014 and, since then, has been implemented in 13 countries.

Moreover, with the expansion of IPC, a new interest has risen also to complement the IPC analysis also with a comprehensive nutrition component. In response to this demand, the IPC Acute Malnutrition Classification has been developed to provide decision makers with a full nutrition situation overview that considers non-food related factors.

Other important focuses of the IPC initiative are the application of the IPC Certification Programme to professionalize IPC Analysts and build a pool of IPC Trainers at country level, as well as the development of the IPC Quality and Compliance Review Policy and IPC Strategic Engagement Plan. Also important the promotion of IPC Information Support System (ISS), a web-based application designed to efficiently create, store, and disseminate the IPC analyses and information.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ 25 countries over 5 Regions lead regular IPC activities through the multi-stakeholders IPC Country Technical Working Groups, chaired by Governments.

◆ 3 current Global Resource Partners: DFID, European Union and USAID. Since its inception, the IPC has also benefited from the support of the governments of Australia, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Spain.

◆ 462 IPC Level I Certified Analysts and 48 IPC Level II Certified Trainers within the 5 Regions and 23 IPC Cross-Country Learning Exchanges from 4 IPC sub-regions (Asia, ECA, LAC and SA)

◆ Over 130 Acute Food Insecurity Analyses conducted by countries and supported by the IPC GSU since 2012.

◆ The IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification rolled out in 13 countries, from September 2014 to January 2017.

◆ The IPC Acute Malnutrition Classification to be integrated in the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis and so far successfully rolled out in 10 countries from 2014 to 2017.
WHAT IS HAPPENING AND WHERE?

Over 40 countries worldwide have implemented IPC activities, ranging from awareness-raising to analysis, while over 25 countries are conducting IPC analysis:

- **ASIA**: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Tajikistan
- **CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN**: El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras
- **EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA**: Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda
- **MIDDLE EAST**: Yemen
- **SOUTHERN AFRICA**: Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Swaziland, Zimbabwe
- **WEST AFRICA**: In the Sahel and West Africa, the IPC Global Partnership supports the technical development and implementation of the Cadre Harmonisé (CH), which is led by the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). CILSS have implemented the CH in 17 countries in 2017.

HOW TO SET UP IPC IN A NEW COUNTRY

- **Awareness-raising**: before introducing IPC in a country, awareness-raising events and consultations are held with technical officers and decision-makers from a variety of stakeholders.
- **Capacity-building**: IPC Level 1 and Level 2 Trainings can be led at national and subnational levels. Establishment of the IPC Country Technical Working Group (TWG).
- **Analysis**: The IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition analyses are usually conducted on a regular basis after each main assessment, as well as upon need, and informs short-term interventions. The IPC-Chronic Analysis is conducted every 5 years, focusing on mid- and long-term objectives.
- **Validation and dissemination**: Once the IPC analysis is completed, results can be first discussed with a core group of decision-makers, and then widely disseminated through specific events and/or communication channels.
- **Lessons-learnt**: the TWGs critically review their achievements and challenges regularly, and develop lessons learnt, which also feed into the strategic development of the IPC at regional and global levels.
- **Institutionalization**: to ensure sustainability and impact on decision-making, the TWGs work towards integrating the IPC into Government and partners’ policies and programmes.

Sharing experiences between IPC TWGs is crucial for the continuous and harmonious development of the IPC implementation among the community of users. This is done by involving participants from national TWGs into regional activities, such as trainings, technical workshops with cross-border analysis and lessons learning.
GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIP

At global level, the IPC is governed by three structures:

- the IPC Global Steering Committee is responsible for strategic management of the global IPC Initiative;
- the IPC Global Support Unit (IPC GSU), led by the IPC Global Programme Manager, is responsible for normative development and global coordination of IPC activities. The IPC Global Support Unit links with regional initiatives, as well as with countries when no regional structure exists;
- the IPC Global Technical Advisory Group, composed of technical experts, is responsible for technical developments of the IPC.

At regional level, the initiative is led by two structures:

- an IPC Regional Steering Committee or IPC Regional Working Group composed of representatives from regional partner agencies and usually chaired by a Regional Governmental Agency, responsible for high-level strategic advice, oversight and advocacy;
- an IPC Regional Coordinator who is responsible for supporting the implementation of IPC activities in countries, building capacity at national and regional level and linking with the IPC GSU. The Regional Coordinator also contributes to the strategic orientation together with partners.

The IPC is financed by multiple resource partners that can be also associated as technical partners contributing to the development of the tool and as decision-makers using IPC products. As such, they provide inputs for the strategic development of the IPC and financial contribution to the IPC Strategic Programme (2014-2018).

COMMUNICATION

The IPC Global Support Unit through its IPC Communication Team guides and harmonizes IPC GSU HQs and regional staff’s communication efforts and support the dissemination and sharing of IPC analysis in order to meet IPC Global Strategic Programme goal. Main communication tools are: the IPC Global Website, the IPC Global Brief Series, IPC Info-Flash, IPC Global Alerts, IPC technical publications such as Guidance Notes, research studies etc.

In this framework, the IPC Communication Team also supports countries in the implementation and improvement of Function 3 of the IPC approach: Communication of IPC Analysis for Action.
TECHNICAL CAPACITY

Building capacity in IPC processes and analysis is a key outcome of the IPC Global Strategic Programme. The aim is building and professionalizing national technical capacities in IPC.

Capacity building support in IPC focuses on the following areas:

- **IPC Certification Programme** that aims at qualifying IPC practitioners professionally, building an autonomous pool of IPC analysts and trainers at country level. The role-based certification process consists of three proficiency levels: Level 1 for IPC Analysts, Level 2 for IPC Trainers & Facilitators, and Level 3 for IPC Experts, including Cross-Country Learning Exchange for trainers of trainers (TOT).

- **Support to conduct national and sub-national IPC analysis** in new countries and in countries with inadequate availability of IPC certified trainers.

- **IPC Course Curriculum** to be integrated into University and Center of Excellence Programmes (under development).

The IPC Information Support System (ISS)
The IPC ISS is a web-based application designed to efficiently create, store, and disseminate the IPC Acute and Chronic analyses. The ISS simplifies the IPC analysis process by digitizing the IPC core functions, procedures and templates. Completed in 2013, the ISS is now being used by over 19 countries that conduct IPC acute and chronic food insecurity analysis.

FUTURE PERSPECTIVES: A fully Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Classification System

Over the years, important lessons have been learnt from the application of the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Classification. Various technical issues have also emerged from the implementation of the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification and from piloting and roll-out of the IPC Acute Malnutrition. This process is laying the foundation for the consolidation of a fully Integrated Food and Nutrition Security Phase Classification System, which will articulate the three IPC Classification systems (IPC Acute Food Insecurity, IPC Acute Malnutrition, and IPC Chronic Food Insecurity) in order to provide countries with a comprehensive IPC framework to analyse the most important types of food insecurity.

The IPC development and implementation is made possible by the support of:

The IPC has also benefited from the support of the governments of Australia, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden.