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

HUMANITARIAN FOOD ASSISTANCE
IN IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSES

IPC GUIDANCE RESOURCE 6

HUMANITARIAN FOOD ASSISTANCE IN THE IPC TECHNICAL MANUAL V3.0

Refer to pages 58 to 61 of the Manual 3.0 for parameters of accounting for humanitarian food assistance in Acute Food Insecurity analysis.

WHAT DOES THIS RESOURCE ADD TO THE MANUAL?

This resource explains:

a) how humanitarian food assistance is defined for IPC analyses

b) what constitutes '*significant*' humanitarian food assistance

c) how to conduct identification of areas that received or are likely to receive significant humanitarian food assistance

d) how to insert data in ISS and

e) communication of assistance

CONTACTS

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1. Introduction

For IPC, areas and populations are classified based on their actual food consumption and livelihood coping strategies (or, for projections, the most likely conditions) without removing the effects of any assistance, including any humanitarian food assistance. In crisis and emergency contexts, humanitarian food assistance is often a vital input to save lives and protect livelihoods. As such, it may be the case that Humanitarian Food Assistance has a positive impact on IPC phase classifications and population estimates. Such assistance can be the difference between a lower and higher phase classification; from Phase 3 to Phase 2, for instance.

Because of the importance of humanitarian food assistance, every IPC analysis should identify areas that receive, or will likely receive, significant humanitarian food assistance. This is because in these areas the severity of the situation is likely affected by the humanitarian assistance deliveries. Areas where at least 25% of households receive at least 25 percent of their monthly energy needs from humanitarian food assistance are identified as 'receiving significant humanitarian assistance'. IPC analysis therefore draws attention both to areas receiving humanitarian food assistance, and areas in which there is none.

It is important to understand and communicate how assistance is incorporated in IPC because

Analysts...

...need to understand how important humanitarian food assistance is in the analyzed area. This is necessary to 1) understand and contextualize current food security conditions, which may be less severe than one would expect; 2) conclude on future food security conditions, considering planned, funded and most likely future assistance; 3) monitor actual deliveries against assumptions on future humanitarian food assistance.

Decision Makers...

...need to be aware of areas that have received or will likely receive humanitarian assistance as this assistance likely represents a critical source of food for those most affected. With this information, decision-makers know that populations in Phase 3 or worse do not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action, and estimations refer to numbers in need of action further to the action already taken or planned.

The IPC Technical Manual v3.0 and this guidance note do NOT provide

Protocols to generate population estimates without the effects of humanitarian assistance. The IPC partnership acknowledges that such protocols are necessary to estimate total populations in need of assistance and is committed to exploring how this analysis can be conducted. Nevertheless, this falls beyond the purview of this document.

Protocols to assess the impact of humanitarian or developmental assistance on food security and nutrition, or to monitor the achievement of global or national goals. These require separate monitoring and evaluation methods which are performed by implementing agency -specific monitoring and evaluation teams.

2. Defining "Humanitarian Food" Assistance for IPC

While the IPC classification, both for current and projected periods, incorporates *all* forms of assistance (humanitarian and developmental, food and non-food assistance) that have been delivered or will be delivered, identification of areas that receive significant assistance are limited by type of assistance to "humanitarian food assistance" only. This is because: 1) humanitarian food assistance is often dynamic and scaled quickly up or down, so it is crucial to understand current levels and projected changes to classify the situation - while developmental assistance is often less dynamic and in most stable conditions is continued; and 2) IPC acute food insecurity classification informs humanitarian food assistance and so it is imperative to communicate when the need for humanitarian food assistance is likely greater than the current or projected levels of assistance.

Humanitarian food assistance was well defined by the DG ECHO Thematic Policy Document n° 1, where it is stated that '*Humanitarian food assistance aims to ensure the consumption of food in anticipation of, during, and in the aftermath of a humanitarian crisis, when food consumption would otherwise be insufficient or inadequate to avert excessive mortality, emergency rates of acute malnutrition, or detrimental coping mechanisms.1*'. In other words, while all assistance is included in the IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis as part of the mitigating factors, further analyses aiming at identifying significant assistance are limited to 'humanitarian food' types only.

For IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analyses,

Humanitarian Food Assistance refers to...

- Direct resource transfers in response to acute events
- Assistance that aims to reduce food gaps, protect and save lives and livelihoods
  - Assistance targeted at household level
  - Transfers in response to acute events
  - Transfers that have an immediate positive effect on access to food during the analysis period
  - Ad-hoc increases of inter-annual assistance in response to an acute crisis

Humanitarian Food Assistance does not refer to...

- Assistance to specific population sub-groups should not be considered (such as therapeutic feeding programmes for malnourished children without complementary interventions targeting the whole household)
- Inter-annual assistance in the form of safety nets, grants, insurances or other modes that are a reliable part of normal livelihoods
- Any development assistance that has long-term objectives such as those focusing on infrastructure development, poverty reduction, and human development (including long term social protection transfers)

Humanitarian Food Assistance usually falls within three broad categories:

- Food assistance: A food basket delivered to households or individuals.
- Cash assistance: Monetary assistance meant to cover a certain amount of households' food needs.
- Agriculture and livelihood support: Inputs given to beneficiaries for food production, often in the form of agricultural inputs, such as seeds, livestock, fishing equipment, and so on.

It may be necessary to analyze other non-food or humanitarian assistance that may also affect acute malnutrition and mortality. This is necessary especially for Phases 4 and 5 or when acute malnutrition rates and mortality are not aligned to expected acute food insecurity severity level. When acute malnutrition rates require fuller understanding, more detailed

analysis on programmes designed to prevent and to mitigate malnutrition and mortality should be conducted. This includes health and nutrition interventions such as supplementary/therapeutic feeding, and health care targeting individuals or certain population groups in order to lower/prevent elevated malnutrition and mortality rates. Although further analyses may be necessary in some cases, the tools and procedures presented with this guidance do not include those.

3. Defining "Significant" Humanitarian Food Assistance for IPC

For IPC, significant humanitarian assistance refers to assistance that reaches at least 25 percent of the population in a given area with a transfer that is enough to meet at least 25 percent of their energy requirements. Areas where less than 25% of households received humanitarian assistance or where assistance is not sufficient to meet at least 25% of the households' dietary needs cannot be potentially identified as areas that receive significant humanitarian food assistance. [1]

The objective is not to arrive at precise numbers of humanitarian food assistance recipients nor quantities, but rather to assess if the area received assistance t*o the extent that it is likely affecting the food security situation*. **IPC analysts do not need to precisely calculate the coverage and size of assistance, but rather can work on rough estimates.** Based on how much assistance is delivered in an area, the area is allocated into one of the groups as follows:

1) **Humanitarian Assistance is not significant when** less than 25% of households receive assistance and/or (2) assistance is meets less than 25% of the household's energy requirements;
2) **Humanitarian Assistance is significant when it reaches at least 25% of households with a transfer size that is:**
    a) Enough to meet between 25% and 50% of households' energy requirements; or
    b) Enough to meet at least 50% of households' energy requirements.

Convergence of Evidence: Identification of areas receiving significant humanitarian food assistance follows the standard 'convergence of evidence' and 'consensus building' approaches of IPC: data and information from a wide range of sources are used to analyse and conclude on the relevance and importance of HFA for the areas under analysis. Three main sources of data that should be considered include those identified in box one and further explained in this section.

1) Delivery reports and plans from implementing partners. Usually, the information on delivered assistance is compiled and made available by the Food Security Cluster[2], whereas information on agency-specific programmes and assistance plans can be received from individual agencies.

2) Information on received assistance from household surveys. Often household surveys include some questions on receipt of assistance, main source of food and main sources of income.

[1] The choice of the cut-off of 25% of households and 25% / 50% of the energy needs were based on the likelihood that assistance would probably have a significant effect on the severity of acute food insecurity at the area level. The choice of the cut-offs was based on field experience during implementation of IPC version 2 and has not been independently validated.
[2] In countries where the FSC is operational.

Whenever these evidence meets minimum reliability, they can provide useful information for identification of areas receiving significant assistance.

3) Information from key informants and experts. Those agencies providing assistance and officers with knowledge of the areas may provide useful insights on type, size and coverage of assistance even though these may not be recorded in monitoring systems. These people may also provide valuable information on targeting, access to beneficiaries, aid diversion or logistical problems.

4. How to identify areas that received or are likely to receive significant HFA

4.1 Estimating coverage of assistance (% of hhs receiving)

The purpose of estimating coverage of assistance is to identify whether the percentage of households receiving assistance exceeds 25% in a given area. If the share of households is less than 25%, independent of the size of the assistance, the area is not to be identified as receiving significant assistance. If the share of households exceeds 25%, the area meets the criteria for coverage but will be identified as receiving significant humanitarian assistance only if the size of transfer is enough to meet at least 25% of energy needs of targeted households. Guidance for assessing the size of assistance provided to households in terms of energy requirements is further detailed in section B below.

4.2 Estimating size of assistance (amount of energy requirements met through assistance - % of cal req.)

Once areas where assistance reaches at least 25% of households are filtered as explained in section A above, analysts need to review the size of the assistance transferred to beneficiary households. Areas are to be allocated into one of the following three groups:

1. Assistance delivered is not enough to meet even 25% of households' energy needs
2. Assistance delivered is enough to meet 25% to 50% of households' energy needs
3. Assistance delivered is enough to meet more than 50% or households' energy needs

Because of the different nature of each source of evidence, guidance to identify significant humanitarian assistance is further provided for each of the key data sources below.

4.2.1 Based on delivery reports and plans from implementing partners

The cut-offs for 25% and 50% of household's energy requirements can be calculated as follows depending on type of assistance:

- **Humanitarian Food assistance:** The energy (e.g. calories) equivalent provided in the food basket is compared against the household's energy requirements.
    a. Household Energy Needs: For IPC purposes, average energy needs can be used whenever information at beneficiary level is not available. Average caloric needs can be estimated at 2,100 calories per individual per day. When the average caloric needs of 2,100 calories is being used, average household size and average food basket deliveries can also be used. When averages are being used, the cut-offs for the percentage caloric needs met from transfer are the following:
        - 25% of daily caloric needs translates into 525 calories per average person per day
        - 50% of daily caloric needs translates into 1,050 calories per average person per day
    b. Size of energy transfer of assistance: Preferably, implementing partners should report on the estimated percentage of energy needs that assistance is able to meet by household. Whenever this information is available, IPC analysts should use these directly. If implementing agencies do not provide this information, IPC analysts can roughly estimate the energy quantity of assistance by conducting some basic calculations as described below:
        1) Estimate the energy value of the food basket (Kcal provided), which can be:
            1. Obtained directly from the distributing agency, as many implementing partners report on caloric value of basket being distributed;
            2. Calculated based on the quantities of food items provided in the basket. For calculations of caloric value of the food assistance, analysts need to multiply the amount of food item provided by its caloric value using food composition tables such as those available on the FAO website (e.g. food composition table for Africa).
            3. Energy content for individuals or whole households. If quantities of calories or food items are provided by individuals but ratio is multiplied by the actual number of households members, IPC analysts should multiply it by the average household size for the area or country so that the energy value of the assistance is estimated for the whole household.
            4. For example, a basket of 10 kilos of rice (~ 36,000 calories), 5 kilos of beans (~17,000 calories), 2 kilos of sugar (~7,740 calories) and 1 liter of oil (~8,840 calories) provides approximately 69,580 calories.
        2) Calculate the average household energy needs (Kcal required) which can be:
            a) Obtained directly from the distributing agency, as many implementing partners report on caloric needs of beneficiaries;
            b) Calculated based on details of beneficiaries, including age and gender of beneficiaries. Whenever this information is available, the average caloric needs provided by reference tables for the specific gender, age and physical activities should be used, such as those available on https://www.nutval.net/.
            c) Whenever detailed information on beneficiaries is not available, and only for IPC purposes, the value of 2,100 calories per person per day can be used as the average energy needs of an individual. The value of 2,100 kcal can then be multiplied by the average household size. The average household size can be either based on an area specific value (e.g. admin level 1, 2 rural etc) or for the whole country. For example, if there is no more detailed information on average household size in Haiti, the average provided in STATCompiler of DHS surveys (mean number of household members) of 4.3 can be used with the 2,100 average caloric needs of an average person. In this case, the average household in Haiti can be estimated to need about 8,400 kcal per household per day.

3) Calculate the proportion of energy needed being provided by the assistance, which can be done in any of the ways below.

% kcal from assistance = Kcal provided / Kcal needed

a) Obtained directly from the distributing agency, as many implementing partners report on the percentage of caloric needs of beneficiaries being met from assistance provided. These do not necessarily need to be based on detailed basket sizes and beneficiary profiles and can be based on averages or other estimates.

b) Calculated based on calories provided by assistance in relation to caloric needs. In this case, the [average] energy value of the food basket delivered to households is then divided by the [average] household's energy needs. For IPC purposes, the cut-off of 25% of daily kcal needs translates into 525 kcal per average person/day, whereas the cut-off of 50% stands for 1,050 kcal per average person/day, using the generic thresholds of 2,100 kcal/person/day as the reference value.

- **Humanitarian Cash assistance:** The extent to which the monetary value of the cash transfer can purchase the household's minimum energy needs. The potential purchasing power of the cash transfer can be either obtained directly from the distributing agency or can be calculated based on the amount of cash distributed and the cost of the minimum food basket. The cost of the minimum food basket is best estimated considering local level costs and actual household sizes. However, if information is not easily available for local costs of minimum food basket or actual household size, the minimum food cost available at national level and average household size can be used as an estimate. In case of multi-purpose cash, the proportion of cash expected to be spent on food can be obtained from the implementing agency/ Food Security Cluster.

a. Household cash needs to meet energy requirements: For IPC purposes, averages can be used whenever information at beneficiary level is not available. When averages are being used, the cut-offs for the percentage of food basket met through transfer are the following:

- 25% of daily caloric needs translates into 25% of USD or local currency value of cost of basic food basket in an average household per month
- 50% of daily caloric needs translates into 50% of USD or local currency value of cost of basic food basket in an average household per month

b. Size of cash transfer: Preferably, implementing partners should report on the estimated percentage of energy needs that cash assistance is able to meet. Whenever this information is available, IPC analysts should use these directly. If implementing agencies do not provide this information, IPC analysts can roughly estimate the significance of cash assistance by performing some basic calculations as described below:

4) Estimate the amount of cash transfer provided for average households (cash provided), which can be:

1. Obtained directly from the distributing agency, as many implementing partners report on cash being distributed per household. If value is given per person, analysts can use the actual number of household members receiving assistance to multiply the amount given per member. Whenever necessary, IPC analysts can use the average household size to multiply the amount given per household (average household size can be used from lower levels or national averages). In case of multipurpose cash, verify the share of cash dedicated to food from implementing partners.

5) Estimate the cash households need to purchase their minimum energy requirements (cash required), which can be:

a) Obtained directly from the distributing agency, as many implementing partners report on cash needs of beneficiaries;

b) The cost of the minimum food basket, as provided at subnational level, or, whenever not available locally, the national averages as provided by country sources, can be used to estimate the cash needs of households to meet minimum energy requirements. When the average cost of a food basket is being used, average household size and average cash transfers can also be used.

6) Calculate the proportion of cash for food needed being provided by the assistance, which can be done in any of the ways below.

% cash from assistance = Cash provided / Cash needed

a) Obtained directly from the distributing agency, as many implementing partners report on the percentage of caloric needs of beneficiaries being met from assistance provided. These do not necessarily need to be based on detailed transfer sizes and beneficiary profiles and can be based on averages or other estimates.

b) Calculated based on cash provided in the assistance transfer in relation to the cash value needed to purchase the minimum food basket. In this case, the average cash value of the transfers delivered to households is then divided by the average household's cash needs to purchase the minimum food basket. For IPC purposes, the cut-off of % of daily kcal needs translates into % of cash needed to purchase a minimum food basket.

- **Humanitarian agriculture and livelihood support:** With livelihood assistance, it is often difficult and thus not necessary to calculate the energy equivalent of the assistance. Nevertheless, analysts should estimate whether the assistance will facilitate households' access to food or help to preserve their livelihoods. With some livelihood support, such as seed distribution, it is necessary to consider the timing of distribution and the time-lag for the effects on food security to be noted, such as the growth period of the crop in relation to the current and projected periods of analysis (typically at least three months for cereal).

The Tool for Data Compilation from Implementing Agencies:

The Humanitarian Food Assistance Sheet 1 & 2: Assistance information from partner agencies:

For tool on actual distributed with reference to previous month(s) for current classification click here

For tool on planned assistance with reference to month(s) in the future for projected classification click here

This tool has been developed to help IPC analysts to gather the minimally needed information directly from implementing partners. It follows the global Food Security Cluster 5 w's. If implementing partners are able to complete the minimum information needed in this form, IPC analysts can upload this tool in ISS version 2 (upcoming) and automated analyses will be conducted to identify significance of humanitarian assistance for analysis areas following the parameters stipulated above. Implementing partners should note that they do not need to complete all the information asked (i.e. columns) as space is being provided for different types of reporting. For example, while one implementing partner may report food assistance in terms of kilos of items included in the household food basket, others may provide the actual percentage of households' energy needs met from assistance. As such, options for entering information in different ways are provided but information is only needed for one of them.

The Humanitarian Food Assistance Sheet 3: Summary Assistance information from coordinating agency:

For tool on both actual and planned assistance for current and projected classification click here)

This tool has been developed to help coordinating agencies, such as the food security cluster or the TWG to report on summarized humanitarian assistance per area. It assumes that another tool, designed at country level if different from Tool 1, has been completed as an intermediate step. If the summarized tool is completed, and even if tool 1 is not completed, IPC

analysts are able to upload this tool to ISS version 2 (upcoming) and automated analyses will be conducted to identify significance of humanitarian assistance for analysis areas following the parameters stipulated above.

4.2.2 Based on Information from household surveys

Surveys typically include questions on assistance received by households, and this information can be compared against information on assistance programmes. Sampling also needs to be triangulated against data on deliveries. If households do not report on assistance, potential reasons could be the inaccessibility of the aid distribution point to sampled households, or delivery of assistance after data collection. Relating to this, another useful triangulation method is to verify the GPS codes of assistance distribution locations, if available, against reports of assistance deliveries and household data. At times assistance distributed reaches only a part of a wider area and hence the food security situation may vary considerably within the analysis area, depending on assistance deliveries. It should also be noted that data from beneficiary monitoring systems cannot be used to estimate the proportion of beneficiaries out of the total population as the sample is usually split between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. Data from monitoring systems can, however, be useful for other objectives such as to assess differences in food consumption between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, among others.

The most common, and somewhat standard, ways of collecting information on receipt of assistance include the following three:

1). Questioning if respondent received any kind of assistance in the near past

Some surveys directly ask if households have received assistance and if so, what type of assistance. Sometimes questionnaires go further and question the size of transfers, although this is less often seen. The most common indicators providing information on receipt of assistance are detailed below:

- *% of households stating that they have received food, cash or humanitarian assistance in the previous months*. If more than 25% of households have received assistance then this finding supports the information on assistance deliveries, although the size of assistance cannot be defined through household surveys unless quantitative follow-up questions are included in the survey.
- While recall period can vary between surveyed households, for IPC the most appropriate recall period is the previous month, or up to 3 months if assistance is not delivered monthly.

2). Questioning main source of food from food consumption recalls

Food consumption modules, and in particular the Food Consumption Score, typically also includes questions on the main source of the consumed food item. While this indicator was not designed to estimate the proportion of households receiving assistance, and much less to estimate the size of transfers, its wide availability and value as indirect and contributing evidence to assess presence of assistance deliveries, warrants further analysis. As the food assistance basket normally includes cereals, pulses and vegetable oil, the recorded sources of these foods can provide useful information on whether the household is meeting at least a part of their food needs through assistance. The most common indicators providing information on receipt of assistance are detailed below:

- *% of households identifying "Food Assistance" as a main source of cereals, pulses or oil*
- *% of households who consumed cereals 6-7 days with main source as food assistance*

3). Questioning main income sources

If a household receives or sells cash assistance, this should be captured in sections on income sources. Income modules in questionnaires can be either quantitative modules, where all income is identified and quantified, or ordinal modules, where households are asked to only identify the three most important income sources (sometimes in order of importance). The most common indicators providing information on receipt of assistance are detailed below:

% of households identifying "Cash Assistance" or "Sale of assistance" as one of the three main sources of income: Analysts can use "cash assistance" and "selling of assistance" as an indication of households that "received assistance". Because the module focuses on the three main sources of income, it is likely that if received cash assistance or sold assistance

is low compared to other income sources (depending on size of transfer), these may not be identified by the data. Therefore, it is likely that for households stating that assistance is one of the most important sources of income rely on assistance for their access to food, assistance is a significant source of income.

% of income from "cash assistance" and "sale of assistance". Although rarely found in an acute context, if the actual income amount is being documented such as in income and expenditure surveys, the income from humanitarian assistance from direct transfers and sale of assistance can be computed and its importance can be assessed. If the cost of the minimum food basket is known, analysts can also compare the income from assistance with the cost of food to estimate what proportion of their needs could be met through purchases.

The Humanitarian Food Assistance Sheet 4: Assistance information from household surveys:

For tool on assistance received for current classification click here

This tool has been developed to help data analysts who have access to household survey datasets to report on indicators often included in food security surveys. Analysts should note that they do not need to complete all the information asked (i.e. columns) as space is being provided for different indicators. For example, while one survey might include the source of food in the Food Consumption Score, other surveys might include the main source of income. As such, options for entering information in different ways are provided but analysts should only report on what information they have.

4.2.3 Based on information from key informants and other sources

Information is also typically available from key informants and other sources, such as reports, on potential issues affecting assistance deliveries. These issues can range from targeting to logistics and from inaccessibility of certain areas to information on funding streams and likelihood of assistance being delivered at expected level. Understanding of the cultural context may also help in understanding how beneficiaries use the type of assistance they receive, and if there are any cultural or other barriers to use of assistance. Analysts should discuss with staff members of agencies providing assistance to find out any information that is relevant for assessing whether all delivered assistance reaches beneficiaries, and if potential ruptures or deviations in assistance are likely to have an impact on the analysis of assistance in Steps 3, 5, 9 and 11.

4.3 Assessing Delivery Challenges and Beneficiary Profiles

Once the coverage of humanitarian food assistance has been identified, analysts should assess if there is (or will likely be) sufficient humanitarian access to the analysis area for delivery of aid. If access is likely to be hampered for any reason, aid that has been pipelined and 'delivered', may not be reaching the intended recipients. In order to consider this issue, analysts should have discussions with aid providers and key informants with local knowledge. They should assess if there is evidence of large-scale diversion of aid, through theft, raids, selling of aid in bulk at the markets, or through any other means. Even if the assistance provided meets the criteria for significant humanitarian food assistance outlined above, further analysis of the assistance is required to confirm if the assistance provided is reaching its intended recipients.

It is also important to understand who the beneficiaries are, especially if they are refugees or internally displaced populations, host populations or general communities.

Reference Period for Humanitarian Food Assistance Deliveries

Current classifications

The current IPC classification is a snapshot of a current or recent past situation with a validity period, during which the situation is expected to be relatively similar in terms of severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. Analysts need to decide if evidence will be included as observed during the time of collection or as nowcasted to current conditions. For this, analysts need to consider how long ago the data was collected and how much the situation has changed since. Depending on the situation at hand, analysts may decide that the evidence collected reflects current conditions and as such may be used directly without inference, or they may think the situation has changed, and consequently they need to infer the evidence for current conditions. Reliability issues apart, nowcasted evidence is less preferred than actual evidence. As with all evidence, data on humanitarian food assistance should be either used directly as reported or nowcasted with preference for evidence collected with sound methods and high time relevance. As evidence coming from surveys tends to be older, their time relevance and the need to nowcast should be especially considered.

In order to be included, humanitarian assistance should have been delivered shortly before and during the validity period of the analysis (i.e. 1-3 months). The appropriate time frame of analysis can be decided based on the amount and regularity of assistance: the key principle is that assistance should be mitigating food insecurity during the current analysis period. In cases where assistance is regularly delivered each month, a one month recall period may be the most appropriate and simple.

Depending on the pattern of food assistance delivery in the area of analysis, this reference period may be extended to a maximum of three months. For example, if emergency rations are provided every other month, it may make sense to define 'current humanitarian food assistance' as the average of the last *two* months. In these cases, analysts should calculate the average percentage of households that have received assistance per month while attempting to avoid double counting to the extent possible.

Projected Classifications

Similarly to current analyses, projections also include all most likely attenuating and mitigating factors, including mitigating effects of humanitarian food assistance. As such, during Steps 5 and 11, all effects of humanitarian assistance that are likely to be received by populations are to be included in the *most likely* projected scenario.

Assistance to be included in the analysis should be planned, funded or likely to be funded and delivered. Specifically:

1. **Planned assistance**: a written and approved plan should be available.

2. **Funded, pledged or committed**: assistance is either already funded or funds for it have been pledged or committed.

Newly planned or appealed assistance should not be included in the analysis. If agencies have made formal pleas and, although they believe they will receive at least some funding, the funding has not been confirmed, the assistance should not be incorporated in the analyses. This is because the analysts cannot be certain of the amount to be funded and the timeframe of the assistance to be delivered. Based on the OECD definitions only the following should be considered in IPC projections:

- **Pledged assistance** (def. usually a political announcement of intent on behalf of a donor to contribute a certain amount to a certain area)
- **Commitments** (def. a firm obligation, expressed in writing and backed by the necessary funds, undertaken by an official donor to provide specified assistance to a recipient country or a multilateral organisation)
- **Disbursed** (def. released funds to or the purchase of goods or services for a recipient; by extension, the amount thus spent)

3. **Likely to be delivered**: assistance is likely to reach beneficiaries based on historical trends and delivery plans, as well as logistics and agreements with field partners on HFA targeting and deliveries. In areas where delivery of assistance has been below plans historically, analysts should consider those past patterns to estimate how much assistance is likely to reach beneficiaries. For example, if based on historical performance 70% of planned aid is normally delivered to 80% of planned beneficiaries, it may be best to apply the same percentages to planned assistance in order to get to 'likely' amount and scale of assistance to be delivered.

There is one major exception to points 1 and 2 above that is applied only to areas where funding for assistance has not been secured, pledged or committed, but humanitarian assistance has historically been a major source of food for households. This only applies to situations where assistance has been delivered consistently over an extended period of time and the analysts have a reason to expect that assistance will be funded also for the projection period. This exception allows humanitarian assistance to be included based on historical trends even if the funds have not been yet allocated for the projected period. For example, in some areas of South Sudan, assistance has historically been consistent and reached a relatively stable number of beneficiaries in the past 3-5 years and can therefore be used to project assistance.

Data for assessing the amount and coverage of humanitarian food assistance in the projection period is derived from partner agencies. As the plans for assistance are not compiled by any one agency (the FSC reports only delivered assistance), analysts need to discuss with staff members of different humanitarian agencies to find out about the plans for the projection period. Staff members and other key informants can also provide useful information on potential challenges related to future assistance, and trends regarding typical assistance flows during the months covered by the projection analysis. This information (and any supporting evidence e.g. in form of tables or graphs) can be included in Steps 9 and 11 to conduct analysis of humanitarian food assistance.

5. The Humanitarian Food Assistance tool

Standard information on humanitarian food assistance should be imported into ISS using the MS Excel worksheet. This will support the automated production of evidence statements on HFA. The IPC ISS input tool for HFA is based on tools and information from partners, including forms used for reporting by partner agencies, questions included in typical household surveys and a summarized form.

1) **Sheet 1: The partners' reporting tool** is based on the forms developed by the global Food Security Cluster, an IPC Steering Committee partner mandated to coordinate the activities of food security agencies at country level. The gFSC uses a tool that promotes a standard and timely collection of data that monitors delivery of assistance through the '5ws'. While ISS is built upon this tool, it also acknowledged that this tool can have locally adapted versions, may be incompletely completed, or submitted late.

2) **The IPC Humanitarian Food Assistance tool (IPC HFA Tool) has been developed to capture indispensable data in an array of modes.** The tool focuses on minimum information on type of assistance, size of transfer and coverage with flexibility being provided for different metrics and reporting formats.

3) The IPC Tool for Humanitarian Food Assistance is available in Google Sheet and can be found here. The tool includes five sheets to cater for different contexts:

a) Sheet 1. Implementing Partners/FSC Recent Deliveries
b) Sheet 2. Implementing Partner Future Delivery Plans
c) Sheet 3. Summary Sheet (from any source from recent deliveries and future plans)
d) Sheet 4. Survey data

Once the IPC HFA Tool is completed, automatic identification of areas that received - or will receive - significant humanitarian assistance will be conducted. Automatic analyses will identify all areas where humanitarian food assistance is likely significant based on food and cash assistance. Because of the difficulties in standardisation of analyses of livelihood assistance, while information on this assistance can and should be uploaded, no automated analyses can yet be done. Analysts should go through the list of assistance programmes and review them, as necessary.

The IPC HFA Tool can be directly uploaded to ISS using robotic process automation technology. Once uploaded to ISS, areas where significant humanitarian assistance exists or is likely to exist will be highlighted in Steps 5 and 11. Evidence statements will also be automatically built to be included in Steps 3, 5, 9 and 11.

As much as possible, evidence to be used on humanitarian food assistance in IPC analyses should come from existing monitoring activities and be as standard as possible. If the Food Security Cluster exists in the country and is functional and able to complete key information in their 5Ws tool, this can be directly used in IPC if quantity of transfer (either in kilos, tonnes or in cash value) and the number of beneficiaries is available. It is advisable to start collecting data on humanitarian food assistance weeks before the analysis workshop. Optimally a focal point or a few focal points are nominated to gather the evidence on assistance, and to complete the Excel tool prior to the analysis. Much of the information required can be received from the Food Security Cluster, if operational in the country, and/or from other IPC partner agencies that have humanitarian aid operations in the analysis areas. The IPC HFA Tool needs to be shared with all analysts so that they can use the information included in it.

Finally, it should be noted that information on HFA, delivered or planned, is frequently unavailable or incomplete. This can sometimes be because HFA agencies are themselves waiting for IPC results in order to plan their assistance. If the information is unavailable, **IPC analysis should be conducted as if no assistance will be delivered in the projection period and no mapping protocol is applied.**

6. Communicating that Areas Receive Significant Humanitarian Food Assistance

If the conclusion of the assessment conducted through Step 5 (for current) or Step 11 (for projection) is that there is significant presence of humanitarian assistance in the area, **a cereal bag symbol is added on the map for the area.** The colour of the bag is determined based on the scale of the assistance as displayed in table 1 below.

Example statement on HFA: "*In total 35% of the population has received a full ration of food over the previous 3 months (Jan-Mar). Ration consisted of cereals 7.5 kg/pppm, pulses 1.5 kg/pppm, vegetable oil 0.745 kg/pppm, and supercereal 6 kg/pppm. No concerns on large scale divergence of aid were noted" or, "In total between 20 and 40% of households are believed to have benefitted from food assistance. Although ration sizes varied between agencies, on average ration met between 25 and 50% of energy needs of average households".*

During analysis, if it is determined that aid being distributed to beneficiaries is too low in terms of volume or the number of beneficiaries, the mapping protocol for highlighting significant presence of aid is not used. The conclusion of these findings, however, should be recorded in the section of humanitarian food assistance in the IPC Analysis Report for decision-makers' information.

Table 1: Categories, criteria and communication for identification of areas that receive significant humanitarian food assistance

	Mapping symbol

Less than 25% of households received/will receive assistance and/or assistance was /will be smaller than the equivalent to 25% of the household's energy needs.	[no mapping symbol to be added]
At least 25% of households received/will receive assistance that was/will be enough to meet 25 - 50% of a household's energy needs.	
At least 25% of households received/will receive assistance that was/will be enough to meet at least half of a household's energy needs.