

RISK OF FAMINE

Definitions, tools and procedures for analysis

IPC Technical Advisory Group & Global Support Unit, March 2023

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The IPC is recognized as the global standard for Famine classifications. The IPC partnership which is made of fifteen humanitarian agencies¹, under the coordination of the IPC Global Support Unit, has been responsible for the development of the protocols for Famine classifications. For IPC, a Famine is defined as a situation where the following are evident:

1. **Starvation**, defined as at least 20% of the population experiencing catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity;
2. **Extremely high levels of acute malnutrition**, defined as one out of three children being acutely malnourished; and
3. **Widespread mortality**, defined as at least two people dying per day for every 10,000 due to outright starvation or the interaction of malnutrition and disease.

In order for a Famine to be classified by IPC as currently occurring, all three thresholds for starvation, acute malnutrition and mortality need to have been reached. For this, analysts need to have compelling evidence that at least 20% of households have extreme food gaps, the prevalence of acute malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months is at least 30% and the crude death rate is at least 2 deaths per 10,000 people per day. The amount and quality of evidence available defines if a Famine can be confidently classified (when the classification is labelled “Famine – solid evidence”) or when evidence is limited, and confidence is lower (when the classification is labelled “Famine – reasonable evidence”).

Famine (IPC Phase 5) can only be projected when analysts assess that the thresholds for starvation, acute malnutrition, and mortality will be reached in the most-likely scenario. Famine can be projected even if the defining characteristics of Famine are below the Famine thresholds at the time the projection is made. As with the current situation, the only difference between Famine – solid evidence and Famine – reasonable evidence in the projection is the amount and quality of evidence available.

The IPC recognizes that situations may exist where there is reasonable concern Famine could occur, but it is not the most likely scenario. Existing IPC Famine protocols do not offer a common language for communicating this risk. Consequently, agencies and organisations’ communications about the risk of Famine are done without standards for achieving comparability across time or context.

IPC also recognizes that strategic decision-making, especially related to contingency planning and early action, can benefit from awareness of the most-likely scenario as well as less likely scenarios that still have a reasonable chance of occurrence. As a result, it has become clear that the IPC should develop protocols for identification of risk of Famine (Phase 5) further to the existing Famine classifications. Demand for this analysis led to initial efforts in South Sudan (2020), Ethiopia (2021), Madagascar (2021), Afghanistan (2022), Yemen (2022), Kenya (2022) and Somalia (2022) that were all published within the IPC briefs.

¹ Action Against Hunger, CARE, CILSS, EC-JRC, FEWS NET, FAO, gFSC, GNC, IGAD, Oxfam, SADC, Save the Children, SICA - PROGRESAN, UNICEF and WFP

Overview and Definition of 'Risk² of Famine'

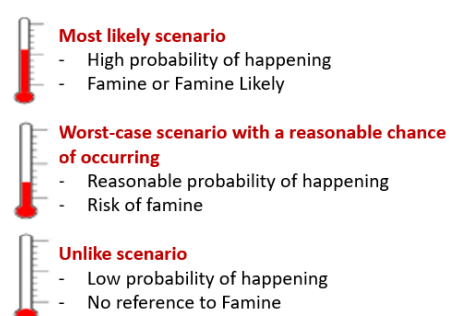
In order to fill in the information gap on the potential for Famine to occur, the IPC partnership has created a reference to 'risk of Famine' to be used to identify areas that, although are not projected to be in Famine in the most likely scenario, are still in danger of experiencing Famine.

The IPC partnership defines 'risk of Famine' as the reasonable probability of an area going into Famine (IPC Phase 5) in the projected period, when Famine is not the most likely scenario. When analysts assess that the most likely scenario would result in Famine, either Famine – solid evidence or Famine – reasonable evidence will be classified (depending on the amount and quality of evidence available). By contrast, analysts may assess that in cases where Famine is not most likely, Famine would occur in an alternative scenario that has a reasonable chance of occurrence. While Famine focuses on the most likely scenario, risk of Famine differs from that because it focuses on the worst-case scenario that has a reasonable and realistic chance of happening. Figure 2 illustrates the key difference between Famine (with solid or reasonable evidence) vs. risk of Famine.

Risk of Famine is only a statement and not a classification. It complements the standard IPC projections of the most likely scenario by providing insights of a potential Famine if prospects evolve in a manner worse than anticipated. Risk of Famine statements are not made for the current situation – they are a complement to projection analysis classifications only. By mentioning that an area has a risk of Famine, analysts make a statement about the potential deterioration of the situation from what is considered most likely. As it is not a new classification, it is not an area classification nor accompanied by population estimates. It is communicated as text in the brief and as an additional mapping symbol.

Risk of Famine is assessed through an additional analysis that focuses on determining if an area of concern could realistically go into Famine during the projected period. Only areas that are not classified in Famine (with solid or reasonable evidence) but where there are concerns that the severity of the situation is dire and could turn into Famine should be analysed for risk of Famine. Analyses follow a two-stage process:

Figure 1: Different scenarios



- 1. Definition of the worst-case scenario that has a reasonable chance of happening during the projected period.** All shocks and on-going conditions that will most likely affect the projected period should be reviewed as needed to characterise the most severe evolution that still has a realistic chance of occurring during the projected period. The combination of these assumptions will form the 'worst-case scenario that has a reasonable chance of happening'. As analysts assess whether the likelihood of this scenario is reasonable, they should assess whether it is likely that all these worst-case assumptions would develop at the same time. Development of the absolute worst-case – that is, the most extreme, disastrous scenario that can be envisaged – is not constructive for RoF analysis. Analysts should strive to identify the most severe scenario which has a plausible chance of occurring in a) the analysis context and b) within the timeframe of the analysis period.
- 2. Assessment if the scenario defined above would result in Famine.** Once this scenario is pictured, analysts should conclude if a Famine would happen in these conditions. If a Famine would occur in this scenario, then the area is identified at 'risk of Famine'. If a Famine would not happen in this worst-case scenario, the area is not said to be at risk of Famine.

The key relationships and differences between risk of Famine and Famine classifications are described in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Key Relationships and differences between projections of Famine and Risk of Famine

Name	Probability	Evidence requirements	IPC Products
Famine – solid or reasonable evidence	High (most likely scenario)	Famine – solid evidence (on three outcomes of starvation, mortality and malnutrition) Famine – reasonable evidence (evidence on two outcomes out of three)	• Classification map • Population tables
Risk of Famine	Medium (reasonable chance)	Four pieces of R1 (+ or -) evidence presented with clear assumptions on forecasted trends	• Narrative in the IPC analysis brief, optionally a longer report in an annex or a separate report • Mapping symbol

² IPC definition of risk stems from the Risk = f (Hazard, Vulnerability) framework which underpins the IPC Conceptual and Analytical Frameworks. Risk is defined as the probability and magnitude of consequences after a hazard (perturbation or stress), as in Turner, B.L., Kasperson, R., Matson P. et al. 2003. A framework for vulnerability analysis in sustainability science. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. 100 (14), 8074– 8079.

Tools & Procedures for Risk of Famine

Function 1: Consensus Building for Risk of Famine

As with any IPC analysis, a neutral, multi-agency and multi-sector Analysis Team, with knowledge of the local context and IPC standards should conduct the risk of Famine analyses. The analysis team should be a merger of the food security and nutrition analyses teams and include experts from the country being analysed, including representatives from governmental and nongovernmental agencies. The analysis team can be supported by external members, especially when important sectoral expertise, such as those related to conflict, displacement, markets, nutrition, livelihoods and health, are limited in the existing analysis team.

Also, in accordance with IPC protocols for consensus building, analysis teams should be managed by the country's technical working groups (TWG).

Analyses to assess risk of Famine should be conducted in all areas where concerns were raised during IPC AFI analysis process that a Famine may happen during the projected period, if the situation deteriorates beyond what is included in the most-likely scenario of the projection analysis. It is expected that the TWG will agree on the need to conduct a RoF analysis when they are discussing and reviewing IPC analyses.

The IPC Famine Review Committee plays an extensive role in reviewing all IPC Famine classifications. Their role is, however, more limited in RoF analyses as the FRC does not need to review them. Nevertheless, the FRC can be activated to review analyses conducted by TWGs if there is a break in consensus on (i) the need to conduct a risk of Famine analysis, (ii) the results of a risk of Famine analysis, or (iii) if the FRC is already reviewing Famine classification(s) in the same country. In the event that the TWG does not conduct a risk of Famine analysis but there are concerns from partners that there is a reasonable chance that a Famine can happen, the IPC Global Support Unit can activate the FRC to conduct the RoF analysis.³

Although not recommended, risk of Famine analyses may be done through an "IPC compatible process" where all protocols are followed except Function 1 Consensus Building.

Function 2: Classifying Severity and Identifying Drivers

2.1 Key Parameters

Analyses of risk of Famine will be guided by the following parameters:

2.1.1 RoF analyses are based on the worst-case scenario that has a reasonable chance of happening during the projection period. While 'reasonable chance' is not quantified in probabilistic terms, it calls for qualitative judgement that there is a considerable and realistic chance that this scenario can happen during the projected period.

2.1.2 Assumptions for risk of Famine should be built based on current conditions and how different prospects would impact future trends. In other words, analysts should consider how actual access to and availability of food, acute malnutrition and mortality would progress and reach Famine thresholds if conditions would evolve as defined in the worst-case scenario that has a reasonable chance of happening.

2.1.3 RoF analyses should only be conducted for areas where there are concerns that forecasts may evolve in a manner that is worse than anticipated and that, under these conditions, the situation could evolve into a Famine.

2.1.4 Minimum analysis requirements for RoF are the same as those defined for any IPC projections and as such include documentation of at least four pieces of R1 (+ or -) evidence presented with clear assumptions on forecasted trends.

2.1.5 The RoF analysis needs to be done in conjunction with a regular IPC analysis and optimally be aligned to the projection period. As such, the risk of Famine should be done as an additional analysis which should accompany the standard IPC projection of the most likely scenario. Occasionally there may be a need to extend the RoF analysis to further periods than existing IPC projections.

2.1.6 Projection period for RoF will depend on local context and should preferably, but not necessarily, align to the existing projection period and not extend over 6 months. Analysts should assess the situation, including especially but not limited to the seasonal calendar, extent of shocks, data availability, decision-makers' needs and volatility of the situation to decide on the period that the risk of Famine analysis will cover. Given the typically volatile context in areas likely to go through the RoF analysis, a shorter projection period of for example 3 to 6 months may be the most appropriate. Although not preferably, the RoF analysis period can extend beyond the IPC projection analysis. In these situations, great care needs to be taken to communicate the different analysis period for the RoF analysis.⁴

³ It this could happen for example in case some partner(s) collect new data after the release of IPC analysis that raises concerns of a rapidly deteriorating situation, but the rest of the partners have doubts on the quality of new data and are unwilling to reopen the IPC analysis and to conduct the RoF analysis. In this kind of a situation the partner(s) in question can contact the IPC GSU and ask for a review and a potential RoF analysis by FRC.

⁴ See for example the Yemen RoF [analysis findings](#) from Mar 2022, where for some areas no RoF was found during the projection period, but RoF was identified for the season after the projection period in case of a protracted worst-case scenario.



2.1.5 Risk of Famine outputs are limited to text and added symbology in the standard IPC classification map. As such, no population tables or separate classification maps are to be produced.

2.2 Selection of areas to be analysed for RoF

All areas where there are concerns that a Famine might happen during the coming months should undergo an analysis of RoF. It is preferable to analyse more areas and conclude that there is no RoF than to miss areas that are at RoF. Therefore, while three key parameters are provided to assist analysts in identifying areas of concern, the last parameter is also included to assess all other factors that may be unique to an area. The intention is that all areas that fall within the three key parameters are analysed plus any other areas where there are concerns that a Famine might happen. Characteristics that will help analysts decide whether an area should be the subject of a risk of Famine analysis include, but are not limited to:

- **2.2.1 Severity of current and projected situation** - e.g. elevated percentage of population in Phase 4 (or indicators), or populations in Phase 5 (or indicators), food consumption or livelihood change indicators currently displaying a prevalence above 50% in IPC Phase 4 cut-off and/or a prevalence above 5% in IPC Phase 5 cut-off; or
- **2.2.2 Recent Famine classification, or risk of Famine statement.** Recovery from extreme acute food insecurity can take a considerable amount of time and the affected population may face a lack of resilience to new or additional shocks in the short and medium term. As such, concern about the potential impact of new or additional shocks leading to renewed, severe acute food and nutrition insecurity may be warranted; or
- **2.2.3 Potential severe shock** that despite not being most likely to happen, has a reasonable chance of happening and is/are of a severity that would take populations into Famine - e.g. a significant drop in humanitarian food assistance, increased conflict, or lack of humanitarian access

While this guidance is an attempt to highlight areas which should be considered for risk of Famine analysis, they should extend to any other areas where there are concerns that a Famine may occur if prospects evolve differently than anticipated.

Areas to undergo RoF should have a population of at least 10,000. Larger areas can be broken into smaller areas for analysis purposes if needed.⁵

2.3 Overview of Analytical Process

Analyses of risk of Famine are based on two steps: 1. Profile the worst-case scenario that has a reasonable chance of happening during the projected period; and 2. Assess if a Famine would happen in this scenario.

Before the RoF analysis starts, it is important to identify the reference period for risk of Famine analysis. Preferably, analyses should refer to the next peak of lean or hunger season if seasonality exists.

2.4 Guidance on Analysis Steps

The following steps should be conducted for all areas being analysed for risk of Famine. The text below provides guidance on how to complete the two steps while figure 3 provides the example of a completed tool. For more in-depth discussions and examples of conditions to be analysed when making assumptions for risk of Famine see Annex 2.

Step 1: Profile the worst-case scenario that has a reasonable chance of happening during the projected period. Analysts should develop assumptions for the worst-case scenario that has a reasonable chance of happening:

- **If assumptions for key factors are available for the most-likely scenario, assess what would be, if any, the worst-case scenario for the same key factors that could happen with a reasonable chance.** For those, develop forecasts of what would be the worst prospects that could still realistically happen during the projected period. Analysts should start by identifying the critical acute events (i.e. hazards) that have a reasonable chance of happening during the projected period. From there, analysts should build a logical narrative of the scenario assessing the impact of the potential acute event on the different food security and nutrition dimensions and outcomes. For example, if the critical assumption is that conflict will increase, analysts should assess what would be the impacts of that increase on the conditions, considering for example how the increased conflict would affect availability of food in the markets, mobility of people and goods, food production, income sources, displacement and so on.⁶ Analyses should be based on past trends, current conditions and future evolutions and preferably, whenever possible, to analog times when similar shocks have occurred. Figure 3 provides examples of the assumptions that could be made for the 'most likely' and for the potential 'worst-case scenario that has a reasonable chance of happening'.
- **Key elements for RoF analysis usually include** conflict, humanitarian access, expected levels of humanitarian food assistance, mobility of population, levels of displacement, food sources and access to markets, among others. For examples of conditions to be analysed when making assumptions for risk of Famine see Figure 3.

³ See for example the South Sudan [FRC Famine Review report](#) from Nov 2020, where the central part of Pibor county was analysed separately and identified to be at risk of Famine.

⁶ Analysts may refer to [IPC guidance on projection analysis](#), or e.g. to [FEWS NET guidance on scenario development](#) for further information on projection scenarios.

- **Multiple scenarios can be developed for risk of Famine.** This is especially useful in very volatile situations where analysts may have difficulties in selecting only one scenario. In this situation it is preferable to prepare several scenarios, and to assess if Famine would happen in any one of them. If analysts select to assess the risk of famine in multiple scenarios, they should add columns for each different scenario to the tool presented in Annex 1. An example table of the conclusions drawn by the IPC Famine Review Committee, by using the categories of low-medium-high to indicate both the likelihood of the scenario and the risk of famine in each, is available in Table 2 of the FRC report on Tigray, Ethiopia, accessible [here](#). As communication of multiple scenarios is likely to be challenging, only one (the worst-case) scenario should be highlighted in the analysis brief, whereas other scenarios, if warranted, can be included in the annex of the brief.

Step 2: Assess if a Famine would happen in the described scenario. Conclude if an area would likely go into Famine in the projected period if the assumptions agreed on for the worst-case scenario(s) that has a reasonable chance of happening come true.

- **Assess how assumed changes in conditions would be likely to impact households' food consumption, nutrition and mortality.** To what degree would the resulting food consumption and livelihood change outcomes lead to starvation, death, and destitution?
- **Refer to past trends in recent years, especially to those periods that were similar to what is expected in the scenario (if possible).** In those times, what was the severity of food insecurity? Was a Famine seen? How would the scenario described compare to the episodes of most severe acute food insecurity previously seen in this country? Could the situation in the future be worse than ever witnessed? How much difference was there between different periods in the past?
- **Refer to current levels of indicators on food consumption, livelihoods, acute malnutrition, and mortality and how sharply they would need to move to pass the Famine thresholds.** Follow the IPC Acute Reference Table to assess the likelihood that at least 20% of the population would have extremely inadequate food consumption, at least 20% of the population would have near complete collapse of livelihood strategies and assets, at least 30% of children would be acutely malnourished and crude death rates would reach at least 2 deaths per 10,000 people per day in the scenario.
- **Make conclusions on the likelihood of a Famine in this worst-case scenario that has a reasonable chance of happening.** Conclusion can be either: (a) There is a reasonable chance that the situation evolves in a worse manner than anticipated and will lead to Famine in the area, or (b) There is no reasonable chance that situation evolves in a manner worse than anticipated such that the area would go into Famine in the projected period.

Figure 3: Examples of assumptions for the most likely scenario and the worst-case scenario that has a reasonable chance of happening

	Key Drivers/ Factors	Key assumptions for the most-likely scenario for the period of October to January	Key assumptions for the worst-case scenario that has a reasonable chance of happening for the period of October to January
Key Drivers	Conflict	Remains similar to current Localised insecurity and cattle-raiding events are likely to persist from October to January during the first projection period as flood waters recede, resulting in loss of lives and livestock and disruptions to livelihoods and assistance delivery. However, flood waters are likely to limit communities from waging attacks as ground movement may be inhibited in this period.	Increases substantially Increased mobilisation of armed groups as current attempts to integrate new members from neighbouring areas and countries are successful. Based on conflict patterns in recent years and reports of increased availability of weapons in the area, it is likely that a large-scale offensive linked to cattle raiding will increase by January. This is likely especially if weather conditions are drier than historical average and as such there is lower level of flooding and armed groups can move more freely. Conflict would lead to loss of lives and livestock, and disruptions to livelihoods and assistance delivery.
	Drought	Low chance of happening Rainfall so far has been average, albeit with intermittent dry spells and uneven distribution. As such, the most likely scenario assumes that rainfall will be adequate for food production and harvest is expected to start in Oct as per the typical seasonal calendar.	Below average Rainfall deficits at crucial points of crop production cycle and uneven distribution can lead to poor crop performance and lower food availability.
Impact on food security and nutrition dimensions	Food production	Reasonable The projection period coincides with the main harvest. Below-average harvest is, however, expected due to displacement caused by intermittent conflict. Inputs were distributed, and this may improve harvests in areas with less displacement and better access to land. Upcoming harvest will also mean casual labour opportunities for the poorest especially towards the end of the projection period. Livestock production will be below average due to previous, large-scale cattle raiding.	Poor to reasonable With increased conflict, looting and lower rainfall production will be low. Inadequate rainfall will also mean no or little casual labour for the poorest. Increase in conflict will also reduce access to livestock products as remaining cattle is likely to be raided by attackers.



	Key Drivers/ Factors	Key assumptions for the most-likely scenario for the period of October to January	Key assumptions for the worst-case scenario that has a reasonable chance of happening for the period of October to January
Impact on food security and nutrition dimensions	Fish and wild foods	Similar or improved access Households' access to fish will improve due to on-going and planned delivery of fishing inputs. Limited conflict will allow movement to gather wild foods and to fish. Overharvesting of certain areas and species is a concern.	Less access Household access to natural food sources such as fish and wild foods is likely to be significantly below normal if conflict increases as people will be less able to move. Lack of fishing gears can limit fishing especially if planned assistance of fishing inputs is not delivered.
	Prices	Increase: following trend Staple food prices are expected to remain high during the projected period, in line with trends from recent years, due to below-average harvest and disrupted markets and trade flows. However, market functionality is likely to improve during the dry season as flood waters recede, which will allow heavy trucks to move supplies	Sharp increase – worse than trend Staple food prices can further increase during the projected period and reach record heights if conflict increases which, as previously seen two years ago, stops supplies from being moved into the area. Price increases will be especially drastic as previous harvests have also been hampered by conflict, displacement and lack of inputs leading to current very high levels.
	Income	Remains similar at very low level Although income is already limited in the region, with virtually no formal employment (less than 5% have employment) and limited casual labour (10-15% received any income from casual labour), there is no expectation of decrease of employment nor casual labour. Remittances should continue to be available with about 10% of households benefiting from those. Below-average harvest and low levels of livestock will, however, limit the incomes of the majority of the population albeit high food prices may increase the incomes of those households who have a large surplus to sell.	Deteriorates further to remains similar No drastic changes are expected as income levels are already low. However, with increased conflict access to casual labour opportunities would decrease further, as well as any income from potential sale of crops and livestock products.
	Humanitarian food assistance	Remains similar Plans have been made to continue the delivery of food parcels to about 50% of the population. Further, 20% of households are expected to receive either fishing or agricultural inputs during the current analysis period. Humanitarian access to deliver assistance is assumed to continue.	Significant decrease due to limited humanitarian access If conflict increases, it is likely that humanitarian access to deliver assistance will be restricted. Two years ago, when conflict was at its peak, the humanitarian actors could not enter the area for 5 months. If conflict increases again, humanitarian assistance would be minimal or non-existent.
	Diseases	No cholera outbreak It is assumed that there will be no major concentration of displaced populations and as such no cholera outbreaks	Cholera outbreak Increase in conflicts leading to population displacement and crowded IDP camp conditions with inadequate services can lead to cholera and other disease outbreaks.

Function 3: Communication for Action

Communication language for Famine and risk of Famine is detailed in Figure 4 below. As per the IPC Technical Manual version 3.1, no alternative classification maps nor population tables should be produced (Protocol 2.3.j) for risk of Famine. A mapping symbol for RoF, however, should be included in the IPC projection map for areas identified to be at risk of Famine. The symbol should be accompanied by a legend stating, "Risk of Famine". The results of the RoF analysis should be communicated together with the findings of the regular IPC analysis, i.e. as a section or a box in the IPC Analysis Brief. In addition, a longer report on RoF analysis and findings should be included in the annex of the Analysis Brief or as a separate product especially when risk of Famine is positively identified. Given that for RoF analysis evidence requirements are very limited, no evidence level as such can be allocated. It is advisable, however, to state the type and amount of evidence used for the analysis.

Figure 4: Communication messages for famine classification and risk of famine statements

	Current	Projected	Mapping
Famine – solid evidence	Famine is currently occurring and [‘000] people are facing catastrophic conditions	Famine is projected to occur during the projected period and [‘000] people are likely to face catastrophic conditions	
Famine – reasonable evidence	Famine is likely occurring, but limited evidence does not allow confirmation. [‘000] people are likely to be facing catastrophic conditions.	Famine will likely occur during the projected period, but limited evidence does not allow confirmation. [‘000] people are likely to face catastrophic conditions.	
Risk of Famine	Not applicable	Despite Famine not being projected, there is still a reasonable chance that Famine might occur in the projected period if prospects evolve in a worse manner than is anticipated. Famine would become likely in a situation where X, Y, and Z happen.	

Given that risk of Famine is a statement and not a classification, the recommended wording is 'risk of Famine' with a lower-case r. In addition, in order to emphasise the risk of a Famine materialising, it is recommended to refer to IPC Phase 5 in parentheses after risk of Famine, i.e. "risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5)".

If analyses of risk of Famine are conducted and the conclusion is that there is no risk of Famine, the report should specify that "the risk of Famine analysis was conducted and the analysis team did not identify a reasonable chance of Famine occurring during the projected period" and provide a brief overview of the food and nutrition security situation, the scenario and assumptions assessed and the justification for the conclusion.

The following information should be included further to the traditional IPC outputs:

- Details on the criteria used for selecting areas that undergo risk of Famine analysis.
- A detailed scenario and the assumptions used to conclude on risk of Famine (e.g. scale of conflict, humanitarian access, market ruptures, price hikes and low food availability). This should include a narrative description of the expected sequence of events in the selected scenario leading to Famine, being as specific and clear as possible. Moreover, the narrative should specify the areas and population groups affected. The more specific and coherent the narrative, the higher the uptake of the analysis findings by decision-makers.
- Risk factors to monitor - linked to assumptions.

Strategic response objectives for areas identified at risk of Famine should include:

- Activities to mitigate the potential future driver(s) of the worst-case scenario. For example, if one of the key factors even in the most likely scenario is the sustained level of humanitarian food assistance, analysts can highlight this as a key issue to be promoted.
- Have contingency planning to be quickly triggered if assumptions evolve in the way that could lead to Famine.
- Implement risk mitigation measures that might effectively prevent a Famine in case that forecasts evolve as foreseen in the risk of Famine scenario.
- Have an effective monitoring system for early warning.



Function 4: Quality Assurance

The IPC Global Support Unit, through the Quality Assurance team, will provide support to the country TWGs. Support will include training and facilitation of analyses. Members of the IPC Technical Advisory Group may also be invited to support the GSU quality assurance team. Furthermore, a Real Time Quality Review (RTQR) is not a compulsory step for RoF analyses, especially when the RoF analysis process gets support from the GSU.

After the RoF analysis is conducted, the TWG has the responsibility to monitor the situation. If the situation evolves as specified in the worst-case scenario rather than according to the most likely scenario, the TWG should promote new data collection and convene to assess the situation, and to conduct an update of the original IPC analysis.

IPC RoF analysis process

To prepare for the risk of Famine analysis, it is advisable to give a presentation on key aspects of risk of Famine and the analytical steps to the team conducting the analysis. The session should also cover the differences between and characteristics of Famine (with solid or reasonable evidence) and risk of Famine to mitigate any potential confusion on the three. The team should have access to all relevant data and expertise available, including external experts if necessary. The RoF analysis should start with a plenary session where overall key assumptions for the selected scenario are first discussed and agreed on. Consequently, the large team can be split into smaller teams focusing on individual areas. The small teams use the jointly agreed key assumptions as their starting point for developing more detailed and contextualised assumptions for their own analysis areas, and for conducting the RoF analysis.

Division of the larger team into smaller groups will depend on the number of analysts and analysis areas. Experience has shown that typically the number of areas in RoF analysis varies but is normally less than ten. A team of at least 3-4 analysts (with relevant expertise and contextual knowledge) should be envisaged for every analysis area. It is strongly recommended that the analyses are reviewed and validated in a plenary session at the end of the RoF analysis.

Annex 1: Risk of Famine analysis tool⁷

	Factor/element	Most likely scenario	RoF scenario
Key drivers	Conflict		
	Rainfall		
	Etc.		
Impact on food security and nutrition dimensions	Food production		
	Food prices		
	Sources of income		
	Humanitarian Food Assistance		
	Displacement		
	Malnutrition treatment		
	Health care...		
	Etc.		
Conclusion and justification	Current levels and projected evolution of outcomes in the worst-case scenario based on analysis of assumptions, assessing whether outcomes would likely exceed Phase 5 cut-offs: Food security (food consumption and livelihood change): Nutrition: Mortality: Conclusion: Yes/No Critical rationale of when, how and why a Famine would or would not occur considering the impact of shocks on the dimensions of food security and the resulting food security outcomes.		

⁷ Whereas this example tool is a text table, analysts can also use an Excel or similar table for the analysis.