

Real-Time Quality Review of the IPC Analysis in Yemen - June 2015 & Piloting of a New IPC Protocol “*Indicative IPC Analysis*”

IPC GSU Information note, June, 2015

KEY FACTS:

- The **IPC Global Support Unit (IPC GSU)** successfully concluded an external Real-Time IPC Quality Review of the current (June 2015) IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis in Yemen, which was conducted by the National IPC Technical Working Group (IPC TWG) from 25 May to 02 June, 2015.
- The results of the Real-time IPC Quality Review show that the **Yemen IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification is mostly plausible** based on well-articulated analysis of trends and contributing factors to support the inference of the current situation, updating the IPC Analysis of February 2015. However, it should be considered only as an “**Indicative IPC Analysis**”, because it is not substantiated by the minimum evidence required for a rigorous IPC analysis, mainly due to the lack of access to reliable and up to date outcome data.
- Because of the missing evidence, the **Real-time IPC Quality Review could not corroborate the IPC Population estimates**, therefore these should be considered produced outside of the IPC analysis process.
- The **Yemen IPC TWG effectively engaged in a full IPC Process and followed IPC Protocols**. They adopted **most of the recommendations made by the IPC GSU-led Quality Review Team**, and released the results as “Indicative IPC Analysis” officially on 17 June, 2015.
- Learning from this experience, the **IPC GSU has launched the piloting of a new IPC protocol for *Indicative IPC Analysis***, precisely to allow IPC classification in exceptional contexts, like Yemen, where conditions of conflict, civil insecurity or humanitarian access lead to the absence of or access to reliable and up to date outcome evidence, which are necessary to conduct high quality IPC analysis.

Insights from the Real-Time Quality Review of the IPC Analysis in Yemen (June 2015)

The Yemen IPC Technical Working Group (TWG) requested the IPC GSU to carry out a Real-Time IPC Quality Review as an added quality assurance step in the validation process of the IPC analysis of the acute food insecurity situation in Yemen as for June 2015. This support was required in light of indications of rising levels of acute food insecurity and decision maker’s need for an updated IPC acute food insecurity situation analysis in the country.

The *IPC GSU-led Quality Review team* including the IPC GSU pool of food security experts and two additional experts from global partners, WFP and FEWS NET, took up the call and conducted an external real-time quality review from 4 to 8 June 2015, immediately following the finalization of the IPC Analysis by the Yemen IPC TWG.



IPC GSU Piloting New Prototype IPC Protocol “Indicative IPC Analysis”

Although there is currently no formal IPC protocol for an “Indicative IPC Analysis”, the IPC GSU acknowledges the need for IPC Analyses in exceptional situations when conditions of conflict, civil insecurity or humanitarian access prevent updates to Country IPC analyses due to absence of reliable outcome evidence. Nevertheless, there are cases where a Country IPC TWG may need to update past IPC analysis and make credible projections based on current contributing factor analysis. In this case and where the Country IPC TWG analysis goes through an IPC GSU-led Real Time IPC Quality Review, the analysis may be considered and released as an “Indicative IPC Analysis”. This new protocol is under discussion and review for inclusion as an exceptional IPC protocol.

“Given the urgency and severity of the situation and the need for an IPC analysis by decision makers, the IPC GSU recommends the piloting of this new protocol in this Yemen specific case”

(Cindy Holleman, IPC Global Programme Manager)

The Real-Time IPC Quality Review showed that the **Yemen IPC TWG made the best use of the available data** and presented well-articulated evidence on contributing factors, including trends on insecurity, displacement, price increases, lack of fuel, and decreases in employment. Although evidence included is often qualitative, analyses of trends of contributing factors were successfully used to support inference of *current* food insecurity situation in the country, updating the IPC Analysis of February 2015.

The Yemen IPC TWG effectively engaged in a full IPC process and followed IPC Protocols, but given the absence of outcome indicator data and **the minimum evidence base required for a rigorous IPC Analysis** the findings cannot be said to be an IPC Acute Classification Product. However, the IPC GSU recommended the release of the results as an IPC GSU cleared **“Indicative IPC Analysis”**.

An **“Indicative IPC Analysis”** is a new prototype IPC Protocol that the IPC GSU is piloting specifically to address the needs of cases like presented by the current case of Yemen. An “Indicative IPC Analysis” means that the findings are indeed plausible but lacking a degree of confidence to meet the minimum acceptable confidence level for an IPC Product.

Further, the **IPC GSU-led Quality Review Team could not corroborate the number of the people** that the National IPC TWG estimated at the different IPC Phases because of the lack of reliable and up to date evidence supporting the National IPC TWG’s assumptions.

The difficulty of gathering household and individual level data in Yemen in the context of the ongoing conflict and civil insecurity was the main reason for lack of evidence. **Partners are urged to use creative and out-reach data collection efforts to collect up to date and reliable evidence** on food consumption, livelihood change, nutrition and mortality which are indispensable for high quality IPC Classification of acute food insecurity situations.

Despite these key technical considerations, the IPC GSU-led Quality Review team confirmed that the *Indicative IPC Analysis for Yemen* provides **invaluable information and will be useful to:**

- respond to Yemen’s decision makers and stakeholders need for information on the food insecurity situation in order to inform their emergency response;
- lobby for evidence collection in order to update the IPC analysis as soon as possible.

Most of the key recommendations made by the IPC Quality Review team were incorporated by the Yemen IPC TWG that updated the analysis accordingly and released it on 17 June, 2015.

To request the full IPC GSU Quality Review Report: IPC@fao.org

For more information, visit the IPC Website: www.ipcinfo.org

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