

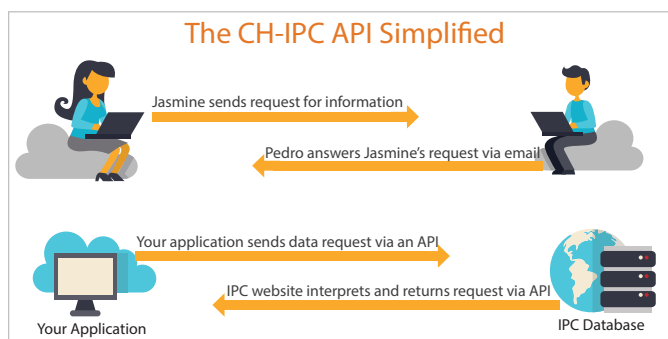
The Cadre Harmonisé (CH)-Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Application Programming Interface (API)

What the CH-IPC API is

In a bid to make food security analysis data from West Africa and the Sahel more accessible to a wide range of users, the IPC has collaborated with the CH partners to integrate CH data into a common API – allowing applications and websites to receive data in real-time. Partners can access and display information in various formats, including detailed population tables, and maps in two geographic data formats – GeoJSON and Vector Tiles. The data include classification figures based upon the country units of analysis (i.e., administrative areas) and geographical information such as urban areas, areas receiving Humanitarian Food Assistance and more. The CH-IPC API offers acute food insecurity data from more than 45 countries facing food crises.

How the API Works

The CH-IPC API is an intermediary between an application and a web server. It processes data transfer between systems. To access CH-IPC API data, a partner can initiate a request to the IPC via an online form. After validating the request internally and in collaboration with CH partners, the IPC initiative will share an API key with the requestor to access the API endpoints. Once furnished with a key, the API allows the user to make a request to the server and in return automatically receives the desired information.



Getting started

Developers will have access to technical documentation and best practices to test and implement the API. After successful activation, partners and decision-makers will have real-time access to acute food insecurity data from CH and IPC analyses to support response decisions in countries facing food crises. If you have any questions about using and accessing the CH-IPC API, please do not hesitate to email ipc-tech-support@fao.org.

The CH-IPC Collaboration - enhanced comparability for greater coverage

Since 1999, the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) along with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), United Nations agencies (FAO, WFP and UNICEF), non-governmental organisations (Action Against Hunger, Save the Children, Oxfam) and other international organisations such as the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), have been engaged in the development and implementation of the CH for the analysis and identification of areas at risk and populations affected by food and nutrition insecurity in the Sahel and West Africa.

Within national and regional food crisis prevention and management systems, the CH is a comprehensive analytical framework that takes into account various indicators of food and nutrition security outcomes and the inference of contributing factors. In addition, the CH improves the understanding of concepts, enhances the process for estimating vulnerable populations, and strengthens the framework for synergy among local agents in different countries and at regional level for more effective food crisis management.

Using the CH helps strengthen the technical skills of national officials and other actors in multidimensional analyses of food and nutrition security. Similarly, to the IPC, the strength of the CH is to rely on the existing food security and nutrition information systems already in place in most Sahel countries since 1985, and in other coastal countries of West Africa.

In recent years, technical developments on both sides have led to increased similarities and convergence between the CH and the IPC, that have resulted in comparable analyses findings in over 45 countries.