



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



What the IPC is

19 YEARS OF IMPACT

The IPC is a global authority on food security and nutrition analysis.



Over 30 Countries:

The IPC scales are currently used in over 30 countries, some of which are experiencing the world's worst food and nutrition crises.



US \$6 billion:

Every year, the IPC informs around \$6 billion in food crisis response decisions globally.



600 Trained:

Every year, the IPC trains around 600 food security and nutrition analysts on different scales and at various levels.

Cover: UNICEF Afghanistan, 2020

Afghanistan's protracted food crisis deepened and widened with a record high of nearly 19 million people experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity, (IPC Phase 3 or above), between September and October 2021.

The IPC has been working with Afghanistan since 2013.



Photo: WHO Somalia, 2021

What the IPC is

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is an innovative multi-stakeholder initiative to improve analysis and decision-making on food security and nutrition.

Using the IPC classification and analytical approach, governments, UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders work together to determine the severity and extent of acute and chronic food insecurity and acute malnutrition situations within countries, according to internationally recognised standards.

In short, the IPC is:

- a process to build evidence-based technical consensus among key stakeholders;
- an approach to consolidate wide-ranging evidence to classify the severity and magnitude and to identify the key drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition;
- a path to provide actionable knowledge for strategic decision-making;
- a platform to ensure a rigorous, neutral analysis.



Photo: WFP Sudan, 2020

Informing Decisions

Every year, the IPC informs around \$6 billion in food crisis response globally. IPC information products provide a snapshot of the current situation for immediate response and projections for early actions. In an independent evaluation of the IPC Global Strategic Programme 2014-18, some donors described the IPC as the 'gold standard' in food insecurity and malnutrition analysis. The primary way decision-makers use the IPC is to inform resource allocation at global and country levels, particularly humanitarian resources associated with food security and nutrition. Here are a few examples:

- The IPC is a significant contributor to the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) global document produced to support the Humanitarian Country Teams (HCT) in developing a shared understanding of the impact of a crisis and its evolution and informing response planning.
- The annual Global Report on Food Crises uses the IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition classifications as the primary resource to provide an overview of food and nutrition crises worldwide and consolidated country-by-country analysis.
- The European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) uses the IPC in its annual humanitarian response plan for food crises.
- The US Government uses the IPC and other sources to inform resource allocation within its *Food for Peace* programme.



Photo: IPC, 2019

The IPC Analysis Cycle

The IPC Analysis Cycle consists of four interrelated steps that must be followed for each IPC analysis to achieve high quality products and to communicate the results effectively: Plan, Prepare, Analyse and Communicate, and Learn. From planning to publication, the analysis cycle typically takes between one and three months.

The IPC Global Partnership

The IPC global partnership is comprised of organisations and intergovernmental institutions, including Action Against Hunger (AAH), CARE International, *Comité permanent inter-Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse au Sahel* (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel) (CILSS), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (Oxfam), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Save the Children, *Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana* [Central American Integration System] (SICA), World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Program (WHO), World Bank, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

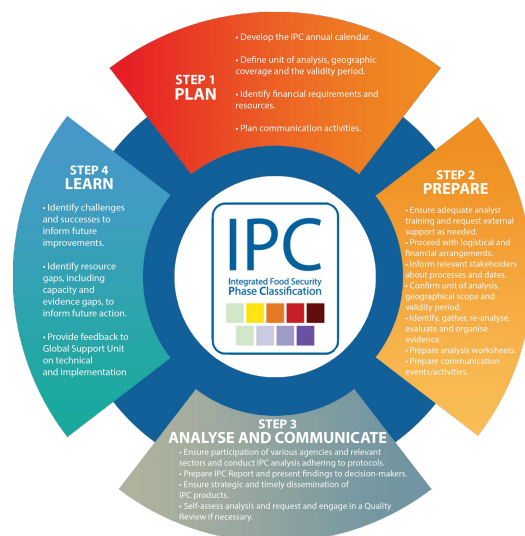




Photo: OCHA Democratic Republic of Congo, 2021

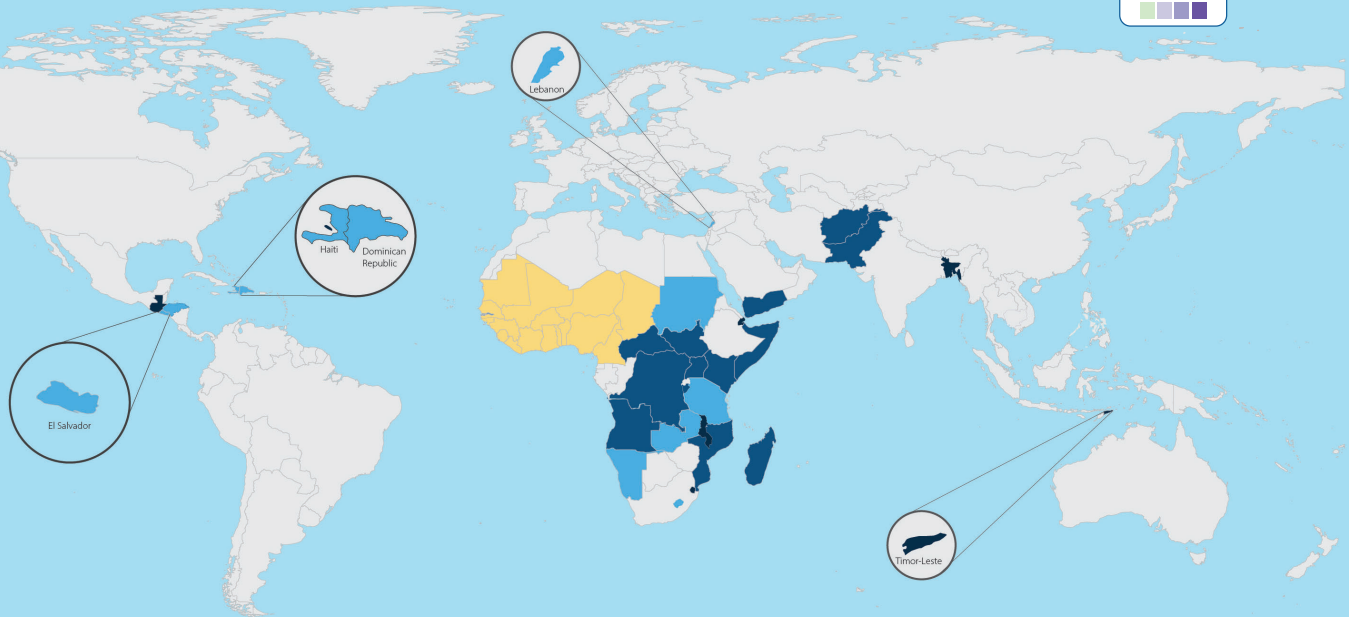
The IPC High Level Executive Committee

The IPC High Level Executive Committee (HLEC) is the highest-level entity within the IPC global governance structure. It comprises up to 17 high level representatives from IPC global partner organisations engaged in the IPC Global Steering Committee. The HLEC is responsible for positioning the IPC on the global agenda and assisting the IPC initiative to overcome challenges in countries facing (or vulnerable to) major food and nutrition crises and, in particular, sensitive contexts.

The IPC Global Steering Committee

The IPC Global Steering Committee (GSC), composed of representatives from the 19 IPC global partner agencies, is the governing body of the initiative, it has the following responsibilities:

- Providing the overall strategic direction to the IPC initiative
- Overseeing the management of the IPC Global Strategic Programme
- Ensuring global coherence and respect of IPC principles
- Endorsing IPC technical approaches, tools and guidelines
- Translating the strategic considerations shared by the HLEC into action.



Global Coverage by Scale

| | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|
| Acute & Chronic Food Insecurity | Bangladesh, Djibouti, Eswatini, Guatemala, Honduras, Malawi, Timor Leste | Acute Food Insecurity | Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Lebanon, Lesotho, Namibia, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia |
| Acute Food Insecurity & Acute Malnutrition | Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Yemen | Cadre Harmonisé | Benin, Burkina Faso*, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad*, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali*, Mauritania, Niger*, Nigeria*, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo |

*The IPC Acute Malnutrition scale is also implemented in these countries.

Where We Work

The IPC has three scales that are currently used in over 30 countries. The Acute Food Insecurity scale has been implemented in 32 countries, some of which are experiencing the world's worst food crises. The Acute Malnutrition scale has been implemented in 19 countries. The Chronic Food Insecurity scale has been implemented in 19 countries.

The IPC is collaborating with the *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH), a unified tool for consensual analysis of acute food and nutrition insecurity in the Sahel and West Africa, as both initiatives produce relevant, consensual, rigorous, and transparent analyses of current and projected food and nutrition situations in different parts of the world. Over the years, collaboration has led to increased similarities and convergence between the CH and the IPC that have resulted in comparable analyses findings in 52 countries (i.e. 18 countries using the CH scale in the Sahel and West Africa and 34 countries using the IPC).

The Origins of the IPC

The IPC was developed in 2004 by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), managed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Somalia.

The request for a food security measurement tool was motivated by a growing need for rigorous, evidence-based, consensus-based and actionable food security information to facilitate an effective humanitarian response in the Somali context. The IPC became more widely applicable in the following years, as it served as a "common currency" for food security and nutrition analysis.

IPC

Integrated Food Security
Phase Classification



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