Working at full speed in 2016 to meet new challenges

Within the framework of the IPC Global Strategic Programme (2014-2018), which was initiated in 2014, IPC was able to achieve major milestones. The continuous support in 2015 from IPC Global Partners and resource partners, buy-in and ownership from different stakeholders, the increasing confidence in IPC by numerous governments and partners, are fostering the ever-increasing determination and hard work from IPC global management and support unit to deliver the commitments planned for 2016.

Indeed, we are upbeat about 2016 and beyond. It is important to highlight that this year’s plan has been developed building on the important achievements made in 2015, among them:

- Successful IPC GSU strategic engagement missions in Southern Africa and Asia, with visits to Malawi, South Africa, Botswana, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- Launching of IPC Quality Reviews, with real-time and retroactive reviews for both IPC chronic and acute food insecurity analysis.
- Establishment of the IPC Food Security Working Group.
- Organization of the 3rd Global Event at EXPO Milano.
- Completion of IPC current and projected acute food insecurity analyses by over 15 countries as well as progress in the chronic roll-out implementation, which is now completed in several countries that are currently disseminating results.
- Advancement in the IPC certification processes of practitioners in the field with a record of 35% increase in L1 Certified Analysts and 50% increase in L2 Trainers achieved.

The IPC Global Strategic Programme continues to be the solid roadmap for this year’s implementation of IPC, even in the face of numerous challenges that have been turned into the following key priorities for 2016:

- Consolidation and sustainability of IPC;
- From IPC quality reviews to quality improvements of IPC products;
- Dissemination of findings, and advocacy and documentation on the use of IPC acute and chronic analysis;
- Strategic communication;
- Setting global standards for a fully integrated classification of food and nutrition security.

According to IPC Global Strategic Programme, the IPC Global partnership focuses on promoting the transition toward full government ownership and institutionalization of the IPC products. This may depend on the degree of IPC implementation and adoption in the countries in respect to IPC institutionalization, IPC technical capacity, and whether high quality IPC products are being produced and used by decision makers within the country. IPC GSU continues to play a key role in supporting countries towards full consolidation in a more strategic manner and based on the needs and available resources. To this purpose, the IPC GSU has drafted a Strategic Framework and Roadmap to IPC consolidation, which describes the recommended process to achieve IPC consolidation.
"New and Renewed" IPC Global Partnerships

The use of IPC at country level, the results from the improved analysis, and better response have encouraged both new and existing partners to support its development and implementation for the next three years.

USAID, which is already supporting the IPC Quality and Compliance activities through WFP, has recently confirmed to broaden the scope of its support by contributing to other outcomes of the IPC Global Programme strategic programme and country-related activities. In this framework, USAID has joined the European Union and the UK Government, which already renewed their support in 2015 and will be co-funding the IPC Global Programme until 2018. The consolidation of IPC as standard tool to direct food security and nutrition policy decisions is a key achievement of the FAO-EU INFORMED Programme. The UK Government has also extended a new phase of the IPC programme for the period April 2015-March 2018.

Another important partnership has been secured with the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), increasing the number of IPC Global Partners to 12. The IPC Global Steering Committee (SC) already included two regional intergovernmental bodies, CILSS for West Africa and SICA for Latin America. IGAD’s membership reinforces the role of the regional institutions that steer directly the global strategic decisions and directions of the IPC initiative, ensuring a regional governmental ownership.

IGAD’s membership and interest in IPC is motivated by IPC prior experience in Somalia, which is an IGAD founding Member State. In addition, IPC is now better recognized as a global Food Security Classification tool with coverage in over 17 African countries. IPC is also a crucial input in the wider resilience agenda being driven by IGAD and contributes significantly to the regional Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) that is co-chaired by IGAD and FAO. Thus, as one of the IPC Partner’s, IGAD will play a crucial role in advocating and supporting the adoption of IPC at both continental level in Africa and other parts of the world.

gFSC and IPC Strengthening their Cooperation: IPC-gFSC Guidance on “Global Standards for Collaboration at Country Level”

The global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) is active in supporting emergency coordination at national and sub-national level and IPC is one of the main tools for the gFSC at country level to inform food security response plans. However, the collaboration between IPC and gFSC has been very much ad-hoc, hence subject to a variety of factors and different individual understandings of the important links existing between the IPC and gFSC activities in the country.

To strengthen their collaboration, the gFSC and the IPC Global Support Unit (IPC GSU) have jointly developed a guidance on “Global standards for collaboration at country level”, which provides the gFSC and IPC TWGs members with recommendations, actions and best practices for effective planning of IPC analysis and the use of its findings to inform humanitarian plans and response.

This guidance note identifies 5 main crucial stages for which gFSC and the IPC TWGs should enhance their collaboration in order to increase the use of IPC findings to inform humanitarian response. These are:

- Bi-annual planning of IPC and Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)/ Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)
- Evidence retrieval and organization
- IPC analysis planning and implementation
- Review, dissemination and use of the results of IPC analyses
- IPC capacity building and certification

Given the respective roles and complementarity of the global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) Initiative and IPC Global Partnership, the guidance also highlights actions and opportunities to improve the global level cooperation, especially at the strategic, technical and operational level.
Towards a fully Harmonized IPC Classification System

Over the years, important lessons have been learnt from the application of the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Classification. Various technical issues have also emerged from the implementation of the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification and from piloting the IPC Acute Malnutrition prototype.

To consolidate learning and progress towards the harmonization of the three current set of IPC tools and protocols, the IPC GSU, in agreement with the IPC Steering Committee (SC), has reconstituted the IPC Chronic Working group into a IPC Food Security Working Group (IPC FSWG).

The purpose of the IPC FSWG is to provide technical expertise and guidance for complementarity of the IPC systems as well as harmonization of cross-cutting issues that need to be aligned between the three IPC Classification systems. The IPC FSWG work will focus on the following major outputs for the 2016: 1) Updates and revise the Version 2.0 of the IPC Technical Manual 2) Harmonization Process for alignment and harmonization of cross-cutting issues between the food security (acute and chronic) and nutrition scales.

For this purpose, the IPC FSWG will intensify the work with the IPC Nutrition Working Group (NWG) to capture cross-cutting lessons learned to prepare and develop a harmonized Integrated Food and Nutrition Security Phase Classification System by 2017. The inclusive IPC Classification system will consolidate and articulate the three IPC Classification systems (IPC Acute Food Insecurity, IPC Acute Malnutrition, and IPC Chronic Food Insecurity) in order to provide countries with a comprehensive IPC framework to analyze the most important types of food insecurity.

The IPC GSU will coordinate the overall harmonization process with strategic direction from the IPC Steering Committee (SC) and technical guidance from IPC Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The first Harmonization Meeting was held in December 2015 to discuss technical and implementation issues identified as high priority by the IPC Steering Committee, the IPC Chronic and IPC Nutrition Working Groups.

E-learning Course on IPC Version 2.0—Acute Food Insecurity Classification

The IPC GSU has launched the new e-learning course on IPC Version 2.0, this e-learning platform covers the four functions, related tools and procedures of IPC, which are specifically focused on acute food insecurity.

The course is designed to promote a better understanding of IPC version 2.0 core concepts, fundamentals and processes by all interested existing and potential IPC practitioners. It consists of 11 lessons, of approximately 15 to 150 minutes each, and it is based on the IPC technical Manual version 2.0 that was published in 2012. It is self-paced learning that uses a variety of learning methods to improve easy learning of each topic: storytelling, illustrative case studies, interactive self-assessment tests and practice exercises. The course also includes a glossary, background readings and relevant online resources.

The course has been produced in the framework of IPC Certification Programme which consists of three certification levels. The course is not a certification requirement but will help undertake the IPC Level 1 Test that is one of the key requirements in order to become certified IPC Analyst. To this purpose, a direct link to the IPC Level 1 Test is included in this course platform.

FAO, in its position as IPC Global Partner, has developed the full course and made it free on its e-learning centre as part of the “Improved Global Governance for Hunger Reduction Programme”, which is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by FAO.
Updates from the Regions and Countries

IPC in East and Central Africa

Progress on the IPC-Chronic roll-out in the Region—Uganda and Kenya

The Uganda IPC TWG, including representatives from the Government, just completed the IPC-Chronic roll-out by releasing the Uganda IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Situation Overview in March 2016. The process started in early 2015 and involved introduction and planning activities combined with technical meetings to determine the kind of data and training required on the IPC Information Support System (ISS) in order to undertake the analysis. The analysis was attended by 47 Food Security Practitioners: 29 from the District Local Governments representing all regions of Uganda, and 18 members of the IPC Technical Working Group representing relevant NGOs, UN Agencies and Ministries that handle food security, water and sanitation, health and nutrition related activities. The final Uganda IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification result was endorsed by the Government and has been disseminated to the various stakeholders in the country.

The roll-out the IPC-Chronic Classification has also advanced in Kenya. In March 2016, the IPC GSU conducted an IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Training on Evidence Preparation to re-analyze and organize data in preparation for the upcoming IPC Chronic Analysis. The workshop was attended by individuals from national institutions and UN agencies that have been engaged in Kenya’s IPC analysis, and was supported by the IPC Regional Coordinator and two staffs from the IPC Global Support Unit. This workshop is part of the step-wise process to implement the IPC Chronic food Insecurity Classification which already began in Kenya in 2014 and has been postponed to 2016 due to the prioritization of IPC Acute and other activities in response to El Nino.

Latest IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis released — Kenya, Somalia and Sudan

It is worth highlighting that, during the quarterly period covered by the newsletter, three countries have released IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis:

- In February 2016, the Somalia Food Security and Nutrition Analysis (FSNAU) released the results of the IPC Acute food insecurity Analysis conducted in January 2016. As indicated in the report, the analysis focused on vulnerable areas affected by 1) drought and poor rainfall, 2) a combination of protracted crisis and new (IDP) population, and 3) trade disruption.

- Similarly, in February 2016, the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) released the 2015 Short Rains Assessment covering 23 counties classified as arid and semi-arid and highly vulnerable to food insecurity. IPC was employed in classifying severity levels of food insecurity in different livelihood zones.

- In Sudan, the National TWG conducted an IPC Acute Analysis in March 2016, which was done at the state level covering West and East of Darfur and some other areas of Blue Nile and South Kordofan states. The Analysis was endorsed and released by the Government in April 2016 and is valid until July 2016.

Wanjohi Kamau – New IPC Regional Coordinator - Welcome on Board!

The IPC Team is happy to welcome Mr. Wanjohi Kamau, the newly appointed: IPC Regional Coordinator for East and Central Africa. Kamau officially took up his position in February 2016. He is based in Kenya, hosted by the FAO Sub-Regional Resilience Office for Eastern Africa (RTEA). He will be working under the overall guidance of the IPC Global Programme Manager and the direct supervision of the RTEA Coordinator for Eastern Africa, and in close coordination with IGAD, an IPC Global Partner.
IPC Support to CH in West Africa

Salif Sow – the IPC Regional Advisor for West Africa - Welcome on Board!

The IPC Team is happy to welcome Mr. Salif Sow, the newly appointed IPC Regional Advisor for West Africa. Salif will officially take up his position starting from July 2016. He will be based in Dakar, Senegal, at the FAO Sub-Regional Emergency Office for West Africa (FAO REOWA). He will be working under the overall guidance of the IPC Global Programme Manager and the direct supervision of the REOWA and in close partnership with CILSS. Mr. Sow will bring on board a wealth of experience spanning over 20 years’ in the areas of Early warning systems, Food security and Nutrition both in International, Regional and Country levels. Once fully operational, he will represent IPC as a member of the CH Technical Committee and will actively participate and strengthen the existing close collaboration between IPC and CH by offering technical support, capacity building and rollout of CH among the different partners in the Region.
IPCs in Asia and Near East

2nd round of IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Roll-out in Bangladesh and Philippines

Following the successful completion and release of the 1st round of IPC Chronic analysis situation for November 2015, the Bangladesh IPC Technical Working Group conducted a 2nd round of IPC-Chronic analysis in December 2015 to expand coverage of the analysis to other vulnerable districts that were recently reported in the Government’s Food Security Monitoring report, namely: Sunamganj, Habiganj, Netrokona, kishoreganj, Sylhet, Maulvibazar (Haor), Rangamati, Bandarban, Khagrachhari (CHT) and Cox’s Bazar. This activity also included a refresher training for the country Technical Working Group (TWG), which also introduced the recent revisions made to the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification. 25 analysts participated from 17 agencies in the analysis process which was recently finalized. The findings will be presented in an official launch event on 28 June 2016.

It is worth highlighting that, results of the 1st round of IPC Chronic results have been used to inform the country Investment Plans, NGOs resource allocation and caseload estimation, Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) Appeal to ECHO etc. The results were also mentioned in OCHA’s presentation to the World Humanitarian Summit and presented at the Bangladesh Development Trade Fair last year. More recently, the EU delegation quoted the IPC Chronic findings in a presentation to the Ministry of Planning, in reference to their new programme targeting highly chronic-food insecure areas of Bangladesh.

Similarly, in Philippines, the release of the 1st round of IPC-Chronic Analysis, which covered 18 provinces of Mindanao, prompted the National Nutrition Council of the Government of Philippines and the country TWG to conduct a 2nd round of Chronic Analysis in February 2016 covering 15 provinces chosen from the provinces of the 1st round. The IPC GSU provided a refresher training in January 2016 and intensive technical support, especially on re-analyzing the evidence gathered from the previous IPC Chronic Analysis. A total of 50 analysts participated in the event. In addition, the IPC GSU used it as an opportunity to invite five members of the IPC Afghanistan TWG to participate in this event under the Cross Country Learning Exchange (CCLE). This was done in order to better prepare the IPC Afghanistan TWG for their own IPC Chronic analysis workshop that is coming up later in 2016. As a follow up action-point from Bangladesh and Philippines, the findings of the analysis will be shared with the countries’ TWGs and submitted to the IPC stakeholder agencies for dissemination later in the year.

Boosting IPC Adoption and Synergies in Asia – Strategic missions in Cambodia, Philippines and Sri Lanka

From February to May 2016, the IPC Regional Coordinator for Asia, Ms. Nusha Choudhury undertook strategic missions to Cambodia (March 2016), Philippines (February 2016) and Sri Lanka (May 2016).

In Cambodia, representatives of the Government of Cambodia, the donor community, and UN country teams and heads of agencies were reached out and briefed on the IPC potential and use in the country. The stakeholders agreed that the Council for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) should host the IPC Secretariat. The Cambodian Government also expressed interest in having the IPC Chronic Analysis as the primary upcoming activity and a draft plan for the IPC Chronic Implementation was agreed upon.

In Philippines, Ms. Choudhury explored the possible convergence between IPC and Early Warning System on Food Nutrition and Nutrition (EWS-FSN). One of the key findings is that the IPC Acute analysis can utilize the data gathered by EWS as a baseline. Similarly, the IPC Chronic analysis can also benefit by utilizing the time-series data once they are generated at provincial level through the EWS-FSN.

Strategic meetings and consultations conducted in Sri Lanka allowed briefing Government institutions, resource partners, UN agencies and NGOs on the use and benefit of IPC; identifying the institutional set-up for the IPC TWG; assessing the level of analysis and data availability situation.
IPC in Latin America and Caribbean

Highlights from the Region

The regional inter-governmental body of Central America, Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA), through Regional Food Security and Nutrition Programme for Central America (PRESANCA), is in the process of finalizing the Regional Strategy to implement IPC in the region, especially in Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Haiti.

The IPC Regional Strategic Plan for Central America and the Caribbean will set the priorities, objectives and coordination mechanisms for the IPC activities in the Region for the next three years. The plan is part of and will be fully aligned with the broader Global Strategic Programme (2014-2018) outcomes.

The plan will be managed by the IPC Regional Technical Working Group in the framework of the “Programa de Sistemas de Información para la Resiliencia en Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional de la región del SICA” (PROGRESAN). The overall objectives of the IPC Regional Strategic Plan are twofold:

- Strengthen monitoring and surveillance systems of Food Security and Nutrition through the application of IPC; and
- Improve mapping and vulnerability analysis through the implementation of IPC.

In addition to the IPC Regional Strategic Plan, other key priorities are:

1) The implementation of the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification in Haiti and El Salvador. The validation of the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Analysis is on hold in both countries due to the political election and the drought emergency respectively.

2) The support to the implementation of acute food insecurity analysis especially in El Salvador and Honduras, where the situation is critical due to the drought emergency in the Dry Corridor.

About IPC

The Integrated Food Security Classification (IPC) is internationally recognized as a best practice in the global food security field.

The IPC is a set of analytical tools and protocols to analyze and classify acute and chronic food insecurity and nutrition linked to international standards. The IPC aims to inform decision makers on how severe the food insecurity situation is, who is food insecure, where they are and why they are food insecure. The IPC protocols also create a forum involving Government, UN, NGOs and civil society to conduct joint food security analysis to reach technical evidence based consensus on the nature and severity of food insecurity in their country.

Currently, the IPC is applied in around 20 countries in Africa, Asia, and Central America and the Caribbean.

This Issue’s Authors

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Upcoming Events

- Haiti IPC Acute Level 1 Training: 01-08 July 2016
- Haiti IPC Acute Analysis: 01-08 December 2016

Relevant Resources

- Honduras Projected Acute Food Insecurity Dec 2015 – April 2016

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IPC GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

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