

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification



Technical Manual
Version 1.1

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ORIGINAL FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MAY 2006

Since 1994, FSAU has been investing considerable energy in improving the rigour of the unit's food security, nutrition, and livelihoods analysis, and its relevance for decision making. To help meet the goals of rigor and relevance, FSAU has been developing and using a tool called the Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification (IPC) since February 2004. In addition to consistently improving analysis and facilitating effective response in the context of Somalia, there are strong indications that the IPC is relevant on a wider scale, as it serves as a "common currency" for food security and humanitarian analysis.

This manual provides technical guidance on the use of the IPC for FSAU analysts and technical partners. It will hopefully contribute to on-going global efforts to standardize core elements of humanitarian analysis and response (e.g., the SMART, Benchmarking, Needs Analysis Framework, Humanitarian Tracking Service, and Sphere Project).

The IPC builds on aspects of many existing classification systems and academic literature. The practical strength of the IPC, however, is that it was developed through the everyday realities of conducting food security analysis and linking it to action within the context of a complex emergency. In addition, IPC development has benefited from technical feedback from expert practitioners and high level decision makers through dozens of forums in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the USA. Appendix A lists just some of these meetings. We are extremely grateful for participants' technical input.

Within FSAU, there has been an on-going technical dialogue on the IPC among all of our Nairobi based analysts including: Noreen Prendiville, Cindy Holleman, Yusuf Mohamed, Ali Duale, Thomas Gabrielle, Simon Narbeth, Veena Sam-pathkumar, Zainab Jama, James Kingori, Sicily Matu, Ahono Busili, Bernard Owadi, Tom Oguta, Achoka Luduba, Carol Kingori and Francis Barasa. FSAU has a close partnership with FEWS NET Somalia, and both Mohamed Aw-Dahir and Sidow Addou have been directly involved in the IPC development. FSAU field staff has also made substantial input. Special thanks to Cindy, Noreen, Thomas, and Veena for their technical editing of this manual.

Thank you to the FSAU technical partners from WFP, UNICEF, OCHA, SC-UK, CARE, the Somalia Transitional Federal Government, authorities from Somaliland and Puntland, and numerous others for their technical input and continued support towards the development and usage of the IPC. The Greater Horn of Africa Regional Food Security and Nutrition Working Group has provided valuable feedback and support for wider application of the IPC. Wolfgang Herbinger and many other colleagues from WFP Rome have also made substantial contributions to the IPC revisions.

Many warm thanks to FAO colleagues for their technical insight and continued support, including Prabhu Pingali, Anne Bauer, Margarita Flores, Mark Smulders, Luca Alinovi, Richard China, Graham Farmer, Daniele Donati, Guenter Hemrich, Suzanne Raswant, Giovanni Simonelli, Alessandro DeMatteis, Florence Egal, Henri Josserand, Shukri Ahmed, and Christian Lovendal.

And lastly, many thanks to the FSAU donors, the European Commission and the United States Agency for International Development, for their ongoing commitment to FSAU and encouragement to develop new ideas.

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2ND FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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This IPC Technical Manual Version 1.1 is a revision and update of the original IPC Manual Version 1 issued in 2006. Version 1.1 introduces priority revisions and clarifies key concepts arising from extensive field testing and inter-agency technical consultations. IPC users are encouraged to adopt the revisions documented in this revised version. Following the release of Version 1.1, a more comprehensive revision of the IPC Manual will be prepared in 2009, resulting in a Version 2 of the manual. Visit the IPC website at www.ipcinfo.org for a list of priority revisions and an action plan for Version 2.

Appendix H provides further explanations of the rationale for and usage of revisions introduced in Version 1.1. The text of the manual has been updated to reflect these revisions. Users are notified where revisions have been made with “call-out boxes” entitled “Revision”, and advised to go to Appendix H for further explanations.

Revisions include:

- changing the name from the “Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification” to the “Integrated Food Security Phase Classification”
- adding an optional division of Phase 1 into two phases: Phase 1A and 1B. This is a provisional solution towards the future development and insertion of a Phase between the current Phase 1 and 2.
- changing the name of Phase 2 from “Chronically Food Insecure” to “Moderately/Borderline Food Insecure”
- changing the terminology from “Early Warning Levels” to “Risk of Worsening Phase”
- making changes to the design of the Analysis Templates
- making changes in the cartographic protocols

Section 3 of the IPC Manual has been updated with several new sections that clarify key issues.

Areas for Clarification include:

- Focus of the IPC
- Analysis Process
- Data Adequacy and Reliability
- When and how often to do IPC analysis
- Time Horizon for IPC analysis
- Early Warning
- Inclusion of “imminent” in the Phase Classification
- Spatial scale of analysis
- Under 5 mortality rate
- Institutional ownership and processes
- Core elements of an “IPC analysis”

Interest and support for the IPC as a common classification framework for food security situation analysis continues to gain momentum among government, UN, NGO, donor, and academic organizations. The IPC has been introduced in several parts of Africa, Asia, Central America, and the Caribbean. This ranges from full implementation to pilot exercises to training activities. For more details on specific country experiences visit www.ipcinfo.org.

A number of food security-oriented agencies have formed an initial global partnership for the further development and roll-out of the IPC. These include: FAO, WFP, USAID-funded FEWS NET, Oxfam GB, CARE, Save the Children UK, Save the Children US, and the Joint Research Center of the European Union. Together with national governments, these international agencies and many others at the regional and national level are collaborating on the development and roll-out of the IPC. The IPC roll-out will be a demand-driven process, and its further development will be driven by country experiences and feedback.

There is a need to ensure that the IPC can accommodate a wide variety of country and institutional settings. Innovative ideas on how to improve the rigor and user-friendliness of the IPC are constantly generated each time the IPC is applied. Version 1.1 is based on extensive feedback from technical experts in countries involved in the IPC roll-out. In addition to country implementation feedback, revisions are based on technical discussions which took place during the IPC On-Line Forum (a month-long web based discussion on the IPC held in February 2007), an IPC International Workshop in Rome in March 2007, direct feedback from IPC global partner agencies, and consultations with the Greater Horn of Africa Regional Food Security and Nutrition Working Group. Numerous technical experts in the nutrition and food security community have also made contributions.

The revisions reflect the strong consensus between national governments and partner agencies who have been consulted so far, and have been endorsed by the IPC Global Partner agencies.

The efforts of the following members of the global IPC Technical Working Group are highly appreciated:

Suleiman Mohamed	FEWSNET Regional Representative
Agnès Dhur	Senior Food Security Officer
Valérie Ceylon	Programme Adviser
Nicholas Haan	FAO Senior IPC Technical Advisor
Cindy Holleman	FAO Chief Technical Advisor to the FSAU

The inputs from the many people who have contributed feedback to this Addendum are greatly appreciated.

***For further information on the IPC including technical support, country reports, and contact information, visit:
www.ipcinfo.org***

May 2008

The Global IPC Steering Committee:

- Care International
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET)
- Joint Research Center of the European Commission (EC-JRC)
- Oxfam Great Britain
- Save the Children UK
- Save the Children US
- United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACF	Action Against Hunger (Action Contre la Faim)
ALRMP	Arid Lands Resource Management Project
ALRMP	ALRMP Associated Press
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
CAP	Consolidated Appeal Process
CDC	Center for Disease Control
CILSS	Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (Comité Inter-Etats de Lutte Contre la Sécheresse au Sahel)
CILSS	Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CMR	Crude Mortality Rate
CNN	Cable News Network
CSI	Coping Strategies Index
DFID UK	Department for International Development
EC	European Commission
EFNA	Emergency Food Needs Assessment
FANTA USAID	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network.
FIVIMS	Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems
FNPP	FAO/Netherlands Partnership Programme
FSAS	Food Security Analysis System
FSAU	Food Security Analysis Unit - Somalia
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GHA	Greater Horn of Africa
GIEWS	Global Information Early Warning System
HEA	Household Economy Approach
HPG	Humanitarian Policy Group
IASC UN	Inter-agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
IPC	Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification
IRIN	Integrated Regional Information Networks
Kcal	Kilo calories
LRRD	Linking Relief, Recovery, and Development
LUCC	Land Use and Land Cover Change
MSF	Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders)
MUAC	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
NAF	Needs Analysis Framework
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
SCF - UK	Save the Children - United Kingdom
SCN - UN	Standing Committee on Nutrition
SENAC	Strengthening Emergency Needs Assessment Capacity
SLA	Sustainable Livelihoods Approach
SMART	Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions
UN/OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNAIDS	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VOA	Voice of America
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme
WFS	World Food Summit