

OVERVIEW

Since its inception, IPC has focused primarily on the analysis and classification of food insecurity situations and related outcomes. Although nutrition elements are integrated within the IPC analysis, the IPC acute food insecurity classification does not incorporate a **full nutrition situation overview** in terms of considering malnutrition caused by other factors than food insecurity.

With the constant expansion of IPC, a new interest has risen to complement the standard IPC analysis with a comprehensive nutrition component. In response to this demand from countries and governments, in 2014, the IPC Global Partnership committed to developing the **IPC Acute Malnutrition Classification tools and procedures** based on the Nutrition Classification used by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) in Somalia.

The development process started in February 2014 with the establishment of an IPC Nutrition Working Group (IPC NWG), which includes experts from IPC Global Partnership, CDC, FSNAU, Institute of Child Health/University of London, Standing Committee on Nutrition (WHO), UNICEF, FANTA, WHO, and the World Bank.

The FSNAU's tool was reviewed and a prototype IPC Acute Malnutrition Classification was developed and piloted in three countries in 2014. The new Acute Malnutrition tools and procedures have been revised in order to be compatible with whatever nutrition data collection systems, methodological approaches, and institutional arrangements that exist in-county, allowing comparison of findings over time and across countries.

The piloting and roll-out of a complementary IPC Acute Malnutrition Classification to be integrated in the IPC approach is a key component of the IPC Global Strategic Programme (2014-2018).

PURPOSE AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

The resulting fully integrated IPC Food and Nutrition Security Phase Classification will include both the analysis of malnutrition caused by non-food related factors, such as inadequate caring practices and disease-related causal factors, as well as food related factors.

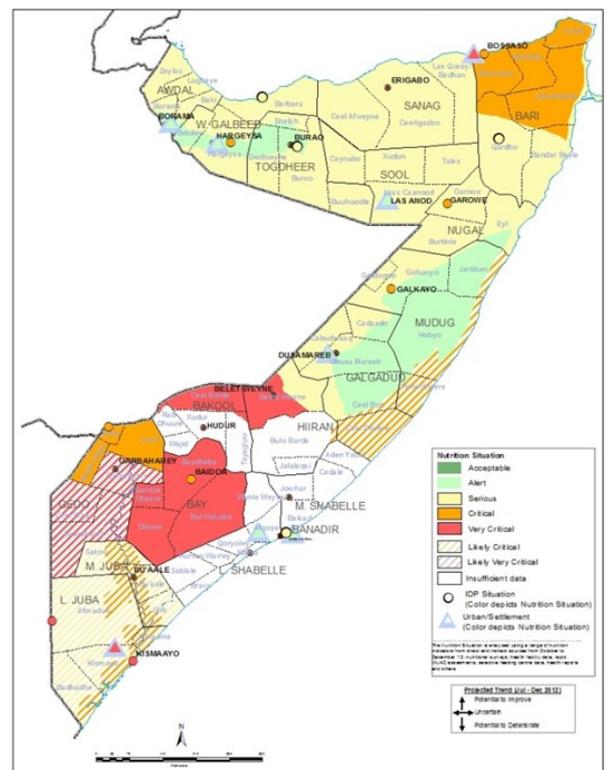
Inclusion of a separate but complementary classification for nutrition situations equips the decision-makers with a **full understanding of both underlying and direct factors that affect nutritional vulnerability**, which will facilitate:

- Better targeting of interventions
- Increasing coordination between humanitarian and development response, and
- Integrated response for achieving food and nutrition security

The IPC Food & Nutrition Security Phase Classification has a potential to bring together different global groups of stakeholders: the food security community and the public health community, and the humanitarian and development actors.

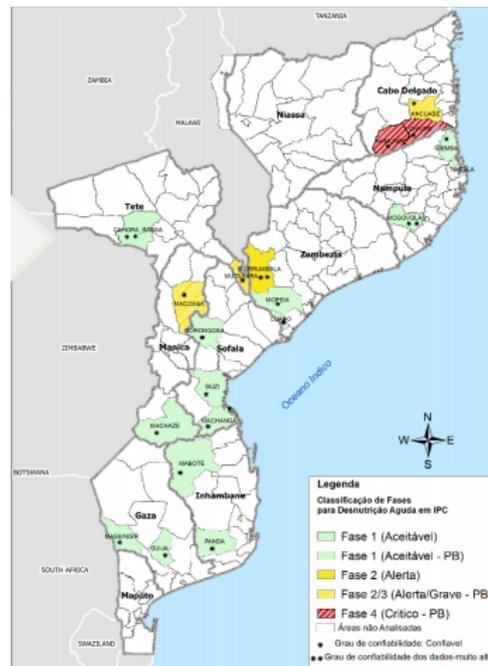
It will contribute to meeting the global challenge of addressing malnutrition and achieving nutrition security by informing comprehensive programming which includes investments in nutrition and food security.

FSNU, Somalia Nutrition GU Season 2014



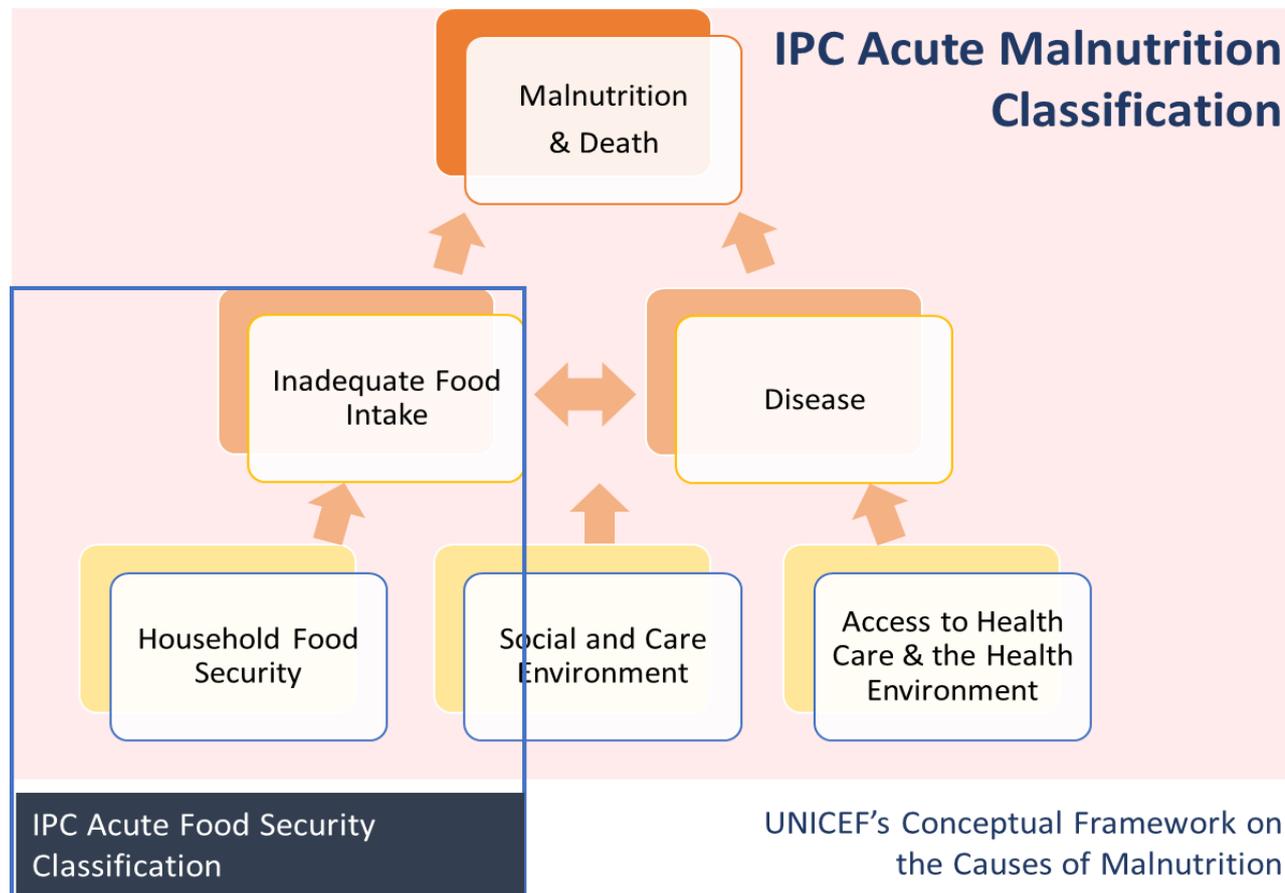
SAME IPC ANALYTICAL APPROACH

- ⇒ Focus on severity and causes
- ⇒ Evidence-based analysis and convergence of evidence
- ⇒ Thresholds linked to international standards
- ⇒ Technical consensus sought among multi-sectoral experts
- ⇒ Links to response
- ⇒ Quality assurance for technical rigor and neutrality
- ⇒ Communication for action in a consistent and effective manner
- ⇒ Use of Reference Tables, Analysis Worksheets, and Mapping Protocols for standardized analysis



IPC Acute Malnutrition Classification Mozambique, March-April 2017

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY AND IPC ACUTE MALNUTRITION CLASSIFICATIONS



NUTRITION IN IPC

In the IPC Acute Food Security Classification, nutrition is captured in the analysis in two ways: nutrition is examined in terms of inadequate quality and/or quantity of consumption of food which leads to malnutrition); and it is also an input to food security (nutritional status affects human capital and for example labor productivity, which has an impact on vulnerability aspects and livelihood strategies).

FSNAU Nutrition Classification

The FSNAU Nutrition Classification tool was developed in Somalia in 2007 based on the UNICEF and Lancet Conceptual Frameworks. The purpose of the prototype is to classify the severity of acute malnutrition caused by non-food security factors such as disease, water, sanitation, and social and care environment, access to health care and the overall health environment.

AN ALL INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The IPC Nutrition Working Group (IPC NWG) has been established in February 2014 to lead technical development and piloting of the prototype of the IPC Acute Malnutrition Classification. As of today, it includes which about 21 representatives from 17 leading food security and nutrition organizations/entities including IPC Partner Agencies, CDC, FSNAU, Institute of Child Health/University of London, Standing Committee on Nutrition (WHO), UNICEF, FANTA, WHO, and the World Bank.

The first prototype was developed in June 2014 and has been going through piloting and revision. In 2014-beginning of 2015, five country pilots have been carried out in Kenya, South Sudan, Bangladesh, Central African Republic, and Niger respectively with the support of IGAD/FSNWG for East and Central Africa, SADC in Southern Africa, SAARC/ASEAN in Asia and CILSS in West Africa.

The IPC NWG Group also held three technical

development workshops and several consultative meetings during 2014. A key outcome of the meetings is an improved IPC Acute Malnutrition Classification prototype based on the review of the lessons learned and feedback from the pilots.

A major milestone in the development of the new IPC Acute Malnutrition Scale was achieved on June 2016 when the IPC Global Steering Committee endorsed the key parameters, tools and procedures for the new scale. The endorsed materials are the result of 2-year IPC multi-partner development process involving pilots in eight countries and applied research.

The manual and training materials are currently under finalization in the framework of the **Integrated Food and Nutrition Security Phase Classification System**, which will consist of the three IPC Classification scales (IPC Acute Food Insecurity, IPC Acute Malnutrition, and IPC Chronic Food Insecurity).

IPC NUTRITION WORKING GROUP (IPC NWG)

The IPC NWG includes experts from IPC Global Partnership, CDC, FSNAU, Institute of Child Health/University of London, Standing Committee on Nutrition (WHO), UNICEF, FANTA, WHO, and the World Bank.



LESSONS LEARNED AND LOOKING FORWARD

According to the feedback received and lessons learnt through the pilots, IPC Acute Malnutrition Classification was found very useful to classify areas based on acute malnutrition outcome and prioritize the scale and type of response. Countries that have piloted the tool have also started using it. There is also growing interest in the tool in other countries.

The IPC Acute Malnutrition Classification has helped with macro level analysis on the causes of malnutrition in addition to highlighting the severity of acute malnutrition in the pilot countries. It has

helped **identify data gaps**, streamline the **timing of nutrition data collection**, and strengthen existing data collection mechanisms.

In terms of ensuring complementarity between the Acute Food Insecurity classifications, it has been recognized that several processes and systems need to be synchronized in order for both classifications to effectively work together. To this purpose, an **IPC Harmonization Working Group** has been established and tasked to work on these issues.

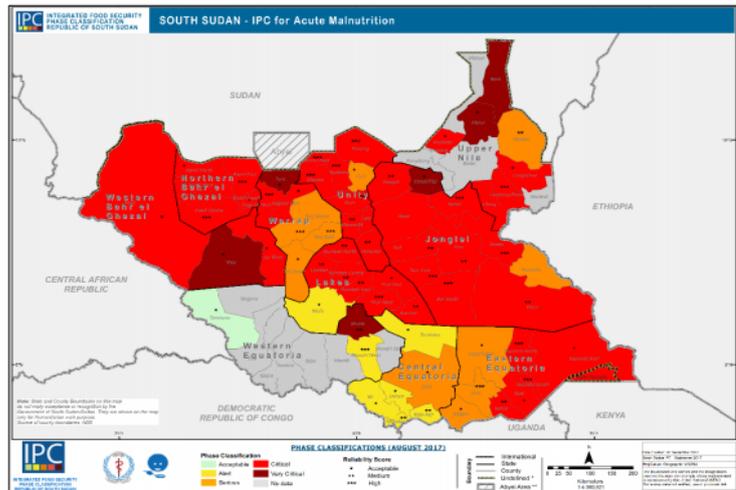
SOUTH SUDAN: INTEGRATION OF IPC ACUTE AND MALNUTRITION CLASSIFICATION

As an **example of best practice**, the **Ministry of Health in South Sudan**, one of first countries that has piloted the IPC Acute Malnutrition Classification, has actively been using the results for planning purposes and has developed nutrition maps for the entire country using the prototype IPC Acute Malnutrition Classification.

Further, IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis has been integrated in the IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis cycle. The results are reported together in order to used in planning

IPC Acute Malnutrition Classification in South Sudan: August 2017

IPC FOR ACUTE MALNUTRITION MAP, AUGUST 2017



For updates and additional information, visit the IPC web site at: <http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-technical-development/ipc-nutrition-phase-classification/en/>

IPC Global Steering Committee Members:



*The European Commission in the global partnership is represented by the Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC)

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