



# Evidence and Standards for Better Food Security Decisions

The **IPC Acute Food Insecurity** includes two types of classifications that are used to analyse food insecurity within geographical areas and the households within those areas.

The main difference between the two classifications is that the **Area Classification** includes outcomes usually measured at the population level; the **Household Group Classification** includes outcomes usually measured at the household level. Therefore, both classifications have the **same phase names and descriptions, except for Phase 1 and Phase 5**, as the terminology needed to be adjusted according to the levels of analysis.

## Description of the IPC Acute Phases – Area and Household (HH) level

PHASE	DESCRIPTION
<b>1 Area - Minimal</b>	More than four in five households are able to meet essential food and non- food needs without engaging in atypical, unsustainable strategies to access food and income, including any reliance on humanitarian assistance.
<b>1 HH - None</b>	This household group is able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical, unsustainable strategies to access food and income, including any reliance on humanitarian assistance.
<b>2 – Stressed</b>	Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five HHs in the <b>area</b> have the following or worse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimally adequate food consumption, but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies.</li> </ul>
<b>3 - Crisis</b>	Even with humanitarian assistance at least one in five HHs in the area have the following or worse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food consumption gaps with high or above usual acute malnutrition; OR</li> <li>Marginal ability to meet minimum food needs only with accelerated depletion of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps.</li> </ul>
<b>4 - Emergency</b>	Even with humanitarian assistance at least one in five HHs in the area have the following or worse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large food consumption gaps resulting in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality;</li> </ul> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extreme loss of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps in the short term.</li> </ul>
<b>5 Area - Famine</b>	Even with humanitarian assistance at least one in five HHs in the area have an extreme lack of food and other basic needs. Starvation, death and destitution are evident. Evidence for all three criteria of food consumption, wasting and Crude Death Rate (CDR) is required to classify Famine.
<b>5 HH - Catastrophe</b>	Even with humanitarian assistance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HH groups have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even with full employment of coping strategies;</li> <li>Starvation, death and destitution are evident.</li> </ul>

For more information:

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