



## “Continued implementation of the IPC in Eastern and Central Africa”

### INTRODUCTION

Within the food security sector, there is a lack of clarity on food security situations. This is a problem because food security situations may vary from more to less severe, with significant implications for humanitarian action and policy development. In fact:

- The way a situation is analysed determines the **type** of response and **allocation of resources**, the **timing** of the intervention and the **roles** of stakeholders.
- The absence of well-established standards to classify the severity of food insecurity by all actors at the time of interventions could affect the analysis of needs.
- These problems can lead to imprecise or gross misallocations of scarce resources and, in the worst case, even the loss of life.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is an approach for classifying the nature and severity of food insecurity. The IPC is a standardized scale that integrates food security, nutrition and livelihood information into a clear statement about the nature and severity of a crisis and implications for its response.

The IPC is an increasingly appreciated tool for evidence-based food security situation analysis within the framework of a regional or country-level coordination mechanism. It is being successfully rolled out by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and its partners at the global, regional and country levels.

Through the IPC, operational maps are generated, which present the food security situation along with its immediate and underlying causes. The IPC maps also provide **early warning information and project trends**, so planners can act before the situation deteriorate.

A monitoring mission undertaken by the European Commission Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Directorate-General highlighted the value-added of the IPC as: quality enhancement and consensus building at the national level on situation analysis, comparability across time and space, and improved geographic coverage of food security analysis. The IPC provides a platform for multiple organizations to build consensus and ownership around determinations of vulnerability to food insecurity.

### THE CHALLENGE

Despite significant efforts to mitigate hunger and poverty, food insecurity in Eastern and Central Africa remains of serious concern. A combination of conflicts, climatic shocks, transboundary crop and livestock diseases and soaring food prices have contributed to extreme poverty in the region, destroying livelihoods and placing basic goods out of the reach of many households.

In a context of dynamic, complex and, in many cases, protracted emergencies such as that in Eastern and Central Africa, effective information exchange among all involved stakeholders is crucial to assess needs, design effective interventions, prevent programme overlaps and help identify and stabilize financial resources.

Considerable progress has been made in the region in terms of using the IPC tool, process and products to support governments and the humanitarian community in their efforts to predict, prepare for and respond to food security



crises. A recently completed regional IPC project was largely successful in integrating the IPC tool into existing seasonal assessments and food security analysis systems. Regional IPC maps have been used to provide strategic information for donors, the humanitarian community and national governments, enabling them to monitor the relevance of their activities and increase the effectiveness of their response to emerging crises. The IPC has played a major role in raising awareness about the food security situation, including measures for analysing the severity of food insecurity, its root causes and initial responses. UN agencies and NGOs have used the information to adapt their programmes or projects, illustrate needs, justify geographical targeting and advocate with governments.

However, much more work needs to be done to ensure that more responsibilities are transferred to national governments, and to raise awareness among all stakeholders about the IPC and its value.

### CONSTRAINTS

Although the countries assisted under the regional IPC project have made varying degrees of progress in institutionalizing the IPC, the sustainability of this is by no means guaranteed. There is a real risk that without continued funding the IPC will come to a standstill in some countries and be seriously affected in others.

To-date, partners have been active in analysis workshops, lessons learning and training, and often use the IPC maps and reports themselves. However, they cannot yet be considered to have taken full ownership of the tool and processes and most are unwilling or not able to contribute financially.

The recent project has contributed significantly to supporting governments in taking on ownership of the IPC. Despite this, continued direct technical and financial assistance is urgently required to ensure this process is completed.

### OPPORTUNITIES

The main outputs of the project would be:

- Capacity in food security analysis is strengthened. Technical experts are trained at the regional and national level in the use and understanding of the IPC.
- Food Security analytical products are produced in each country and integrated into the regional and global analysis and used to inform appropriate responses and processes (e.g. Humanitarian Plans of Action, Consolidated Appeals, Country Pool funding allocations, etc).
- Best practices and lessons learned are disseminated and used to improve future country-level activities and global development of food security tools

### SUGGESTED INTERVENTION

The FAO Sub-Regional Emergency Office for Eastern and Central Africa (FAO-REOA) aims to enhance existing national capacities for food security analysis through the implementation of the Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification (IPC) approach across twelve countries within East and Central Africa.

This project will therefore be directly implemented by the respective FAO country offices with coordination and technical support from the FAO regional office (FAO-REOA).

The main project activities to be undertaken are as follows:

- Awareness raising and buy in
  - National level consultations with key stakeholders and decision makers on (i) roll out of IPC (ii) endorsement process, and (iii) to ensure consistency with national strategies.
  - Briefings on the use and process of the IPC for key decision makers.
- Identifying/Establishing Technical Groups
  - Formalisation of local authorities, stakeholders in the technical groups.



- National and sub-national consultations with technical groups.
- Technical Training
  - Training of Food Security Analysts on the IPC approach.
  - Training of Trainers exercise.
  - Technical training with local and sub-national partners.
  - Guidelines on data collection and management principles for IPC.
- Application of the IPC
  - Convening of technical groups to facilitate IPC analysis.
  - Completion of IPC evidence based analysis template.
  - Vetting of IPC results amongst forum of peers and decision makers.
  - Production and public dissemination of the results.
- Review of Lessons Learned
  - Mechanism to link national lessons learned to the regional and global level analysis.
  - Integration of lessons learning into the technical feedback mechanism.
- Regional support by FAO-REOA
  - Enhance regional capacity in food security analysis to ensure timely support at the sub-national and national levels.
  - Conduct a bi-annual regional workshop to elaborate regional analysis and ensure consistency of the IPC approach.
  - Coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the IPC implementation in the region.



## Proposed budget

| Item  | Unit Cost (USD) | No of Units | Cost for 1 country | Total cost for 8 countries |
|---|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>A. Regional Office</b>                               |                 |             |                    |                            |
| Personnel   |                 |             |                    |                            |
| - 1 Regional Food Security Analyst (3 months)           | 9,000           | 3           | 27,000             | 216,000                    |
| - 1 GIS Expert (4 months)                               | 3,500           | 4           | 14,000             | 112,000                    |
| Duty travel   | 5,000           | 3           | 15,000             | 120,000                    |
| Training/Capacity Building                              | 15,000          | 1           | 15,000             | 120,000                    |
| Admin and office support costs                          | 10,000          | 1           | 10,000             | 80,000                     |
| <b>Sub-Total A (Regional level)</b>                     |                 |             | <b>81,000</b>      | <b>648,000</b>             |
| <b>B. Country Office</b>                                |                 |             |                    |                            |
| Personnel   |                 |             |                    |                            |
| - 1 National IPC Coordinator (12 months)                | 3,000           | 12          | 36,000             | 288,000                    |
| - 1 National GIS / Mapping Specialist (6 months)        | 3,000           | 6           | 18,000             | 144,000                    |
| Duty travel   | 12,000          | 1           | 12,000             | 96,000                     |
| Training/Capacity Building (workshop costs)- 4 per year | 20,000          | 4           | 80,000             | 640,000                    |
| Admin costs   | 10,000          | 1           | 10,000             | 80,000                     |
| <b>Sub-Total B (Country level)</b>                      |                 |             | <b>156,000</b>     | <b>1,248,000</b>           |
| <b>C. Headquarters</b>                                  |                 |             |                    |                            |
| Technical Support Services                              | 6,000           | 1           | 6,000              | 48,000                     |
| Internal Monitoring & Evaluation                        | 4,000           | 1           | 4,000              | 32,000                     |
| Reporting   | 3,000           | 1           | 3,000              | 24,000                     |
| Communication, information, visibility                  | 5,000           | 1           | 5,000              | 40,000                     |
| <b>Sub-Total C (HQ level)</b>                           |                 |             | <b>18,000</b>      | <b>144,000</b>             |
| <b>Indirect Operating Costs (7%)</b>                    |                 |             | <b>17,850</b>      | <b>142,800</b>             |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                                      |                 |             | <b>272,850</b>     | <b>2,182,800</b>           |

## CONTACT

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