

Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) Guidelines

The Group

The FSNWG is a spontaneous and field-driven coordination ‘working group’ established in Nairobi in 2005 in response to requests from several international NGOs in Central-East Africa. The group is attended by representatives from organizations engaging in food security (NGOs, UN agencies, international humanitarian institutions, etc). Participation to the FSNWG is open to all partners in the humanitarian community. New members are welcome to join at any time.

Membership

Current members (in alphabetical order) are: Actionaid International, Action Contre la Faim, CARE, Christian Aid, Concern Universal, COOPI, CRS, FAO, FAO/FSAU, FEWSNET, ICRC, IFRC, OCHA, OXFAM, Save the Children, Terranuova, UNICEF, VSF Suisse, WFP, WHO, and World Vision. Besides being a member of the group, FAO also provides a secretariat function.

Scope

The main goal of the FSNWG is to collect, analyze, and disseminate food security information in the region with a view to keeping all humanitarian actors - donors and governments especially – updated on food security crises developments. The region covers 11 countries: Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda.

IPC

The IPC is one of the tools of the FSNWG. The group has planned its roll-out in 2007 to six selected countries (Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Uganda). The IPC is a classification system and an analytical statement, underpinned by key outcome reference characteristics and supported by *convergence of evidence*. It aims at providing a ‘common currency’ for describing the nature and severity of crises. The IPC builds upon internationally accepted standards and classifications, draws from multiple methods, and does not compete with any existing assessment methodologies or information systems.

Outputs

- The FSNWG aims at providing a forum for food security information exchange and analysis. Its formal output is a “Central and Eastern Africa FSNWG Situation Analysis Report”, produced – with seasonal frequency - in the form of a cartographic representation of the prevalence of IPC (Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification) severity phases in the east-African region. After approval of the work’s results by all FSNWG members, the report will be disseminated to all governmental and non-governmental institutions, donors, and the wider community of humanitarian actors interested in food security. The report is a direct output of the FSNWG in Nairobi and does not necessarily reflect the specific position of each individual organization represented in the group.

- Links established with Country Coordination Mechanisms. Regular flow of information between national and regional levels;
- Regional information repository on food security and nutrition including a resource centre and integrated databases with analysis functionality established. A FSNWG website will be developed. The website will contain links to national level websites and an integrated tool for analysis linked with national data management systems.
- Improvement of assessment and monitoring and evaluation tools and establishment of response protocols. The FSNWG, working with national coordination mechanisms, would like to develop the capacity to monitor and map country-level response over needs, and compile information at the regional level. In collaboration with key stakeholders, the FSNWG will move toward the development of a common impact assessment framework to evaluate food security and nutrition interventions and collect lessons learned within the region.

FAO attaches great importance to the role of the FSNWG, the use of the IPC, and the realization of Plans of Action, as essential instruments for the coordination of the humanitarian community's response to emergencies.