

## **5.8: EXPANDED AND IMPROVED FOOD SECURITY FORECASTING AND MONITORING, BASED ON THE INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION (IPC) AS THE ACCEPTED GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY ANALYSIS STANDARD**

### **What, in brief, is the solution?**

Expanded and improved food security forecasting and monitoring, based on the IPC as the accepted global food security analysis standard.

### **What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

United States of America – Member State contribution

### **What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

Covid-19 has highlighted long-standing weaknesses in the humanitarian and development system for food security and famine prevention: The world does not have a singular source of information to provide real-time assessments of people facing acute food insecurity with the geographic scale to cover any country of concern, the ability to update forecasts frequently and consistently in near real-time, and with multi-stakeholder consensus building. In addition, existing early warning systems lack indicators to adequately monitor degradation of food systems.

Without this system, global policy makers and humanitarian funders are often left piecing together reports from various international organizations, which poses a number of challenges for harmonized, strategic, and timely action. This leads to sub-optimal allocation of ever more scarce resources and risks those people and geographies that need support most to be ignored or significantly underserved.

### **How can this solution address that problem?**

There is a globally accepted standard for food security analysis classification, the so-called Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). While there is a chronic and an acute IPC food insecurity scale, the IPC is currently mostly used for humanitarian response and is largely unknown among development players. It has good potential to become a “common language” and help breathe life into the much debated but rarely seen humanitarian-development nexus.

The IPC provides a standardized analytical framework with an agreed set of core indicators. These can be refined, in particular where longer term food security is concerned, e.g., through agriculture interventions. IPC analyses can also benefit from better data availability and provision (Note: The IPC does not itself collect data but draws in available data from reliable sources.) Its analytical and consensus building processes can also be strengthened further through innovative technology, primarily AI.

Leading international organizations are working to actively improve the state of food security analysis, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FEWSNET, the World Bank, the UN World Food Program and others. Their work is based on the IPC, the global food security monitoring standard methodology. A vision of a strong future information system would build on the IPC as the accepted standard methodology and classification and draw on all relevant existing work by other actors, while building a strong, innovative independent global system.

The expanded and improved system would be built on existing early warning systems through improved coordination or consolidation. There could be resistance to consolidating all of the existing systems into a single system. New indicators need to be identified to enable the system to better capture deteriorating conditions in food systems (e.g., market disruptions) that could lead to increases in chronic food insecurity. The

geographic coverage of the system would have to expand beyond the current coverage of existing early warning systems. Designing, building and maintaining this system would require dedicated and sustainable funding.

**Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a ‘game changing solution’ developed by the Summit?**

This action would reduce the global humanitarian assistance burden and prevent future crises. The potential cost savings from reducing humanitarian assistance needs over time should make it both politically actionable and sustainable.

**What is the existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least that it will achieve the initial outcomes described above?**

Existing early warning systems have already proven their feasibility. Efforts are already underway to expand early warning and predictive capabilities. The World Bank and FAO, for example, are working on separate initiatives in this area. A comprehensive system would need to build on this existing work.

**What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

Several bilateral development agencies have been discussing this idea. The informal Development Ministers contact group, which convened last year to address the impacts of COVID-19, endorsed a call to develop an expanded and improved food security forecasting and monitoring system.

**Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, conversely, contexts for which it is not well-suited at all?**

An expanded and improved food security monitoring and analysis system is a global public good. It has particular relevance for fragile areas. It will serve to strengthen resilience in the humanitarian-peace-development nexus as well as in the context of increasing risks from climate change.

**What do you think are the key actions required to address this solution?**

Engage women in the solutions in resolving, mitigating, and adapting to a particular shock from the beginning.

Build women’s assets to deal with the shock – economic empowerment with a clear eye on equitable benefit sharing and decision making on the benefits. This can range from ensuring women have access to vaccines for their livestock so that they survive and can be used to buy the COVID vaccine to all the other work the CG is good at.

Push for the bigger players like UNFSS to invest in gender so that the systems can be changed. Invest in gender expertise in all process and projects, not just to do an analysis but actually ensure change.