

# The IPC Reference Table

Phase Classification		Key Reference Outcomes <i>Current or imminent outcomes on lives and livelihoods. Based on convergence of direct and indirect evidence rather than absolute thresholds. Not all indicators must be present for classification..</i>	Strategic Response Framework <i>Objectives: (1) mitigate immediate outcomes, (2) support livelihoods, and (3) address underlying causes</i>
1A	Generally Food Secure	<b>Crude Mortality Rate</b> < 0.5 / 10,000 / day <b>Acute Malnutrition</b> < 3 % (w/h < -2 z-scores) <b>Stunting</b> < 20% (h/age < -2 z-scores) <b>Food Access / Availability</b> usually adequate (> 2,100 kcal ppp day), stable <b>Dietary Diversity</b> consistent quality and quantity of diversity <b>Water Access / Avail.</b> usually adequate (> 15 litres ppp day), stable <b>Hazards</b> moderate to low probability and vulnerability <b>Civil Security</b> prevailing and structural peace <b>Livelihood Assets</b> generally sustainable utilization (of 6 capitals)	Strategic assistance to pockets of food insecure groups Investment in food and economic production systems Enable development of livelihood systems based on principles of sustainability, justice, and equity Prevent emergence of structural hindrances to food security Advocacy
1B	Generally Food Secur	<b>Crude Mortality Rate</b> < 0.5 / 10,000 / day; U5MR < 1 / 10,000 / day <b>Acute Malnutrition</b> > 3% but < 10 % (w/h < -2 z-score), usual range, stable <b>Stunting</b> > 20% (h/age < -2 z-scores) <b>Food Access / Availability</b> borderline adequate (2,100 kcal ppp day); unstable <b>Dietary Diversity</b> chronic dietary diversity deficit <b>Water Access / Avail.</b> borderline adequate (15 litres ppp day); unstable <b>Hazards</b> recurrent, with high livelihood vulnerability <b>Civil Security</b> Unstable; disruptive tension <b>Coping</b> "insurance strategies" <b>Livelihood Assets</b> stressed and unsustainable utilization (of 6 capitals) <b>Structural</b> Pronounced underlying hindrances to food security	Design & implement strategies to increase stability, resistance and resilience of livelihood systems, thus reducing risk Provision of "safety nets" to high risk groups Interventions for optimal and sustainable use of livelihood assets Create contingency plan Redress structural hindrances to food security Close monitoring of relevant outcome and process indicators Advocacy
2	Moderately / Borderline Food Insecure	<b>Crude Mortality Rate</b> 0.5-1 / 10,000 / day, U5MR 1-2 / 10,000 / dy <b>Acute Malnutrition</b> 10-15 % (w/h < -2 z-score), > than usual, increasing <b>Disease</b> epidemic; increasing <b>Food Access / Availability</b> lack of entitlement; 2,100 kcal ppp day via asset stripping <b>Dietary Diversity</b> acute dietary diversity deficit <b>Water Access / Avail.</b> 7.5-15 litres ppp day, accessed via asset stripping <b>Destitution / Displacement</b> emerging; diffuse <b>Civil Security</b> limited spread, low intensity conflict <b>Coping</b> "crisis strategies"; CSI > than reference; increasing <b>Livelihood Assets</b> accelerated and critical depletion or loss of access	Support livelihoods and protect vulnerable groups Strategic and complimentary interventions to immediately food access / availability AND support livelihoods Selected provision of complimentary sectoral support (e.g., water, shelter, sanitation, health, etc.) Strategic interventions at community to national levels to create, stabilize, rehabilitate, or protect priority livelihood assets Create or implement contingency plan Close monitoring of relevant outcome and process indicators Use "crisis as opportunity" to redress underlying structural causes Advocacy
3	Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis	<b>Crude Mortality Rate</b> 1-2 / 10,000 / day, > 2x reference rate, increasing; U5MR > 2 / 10,000 / day <b>Acute Malnutrition</b> > 15 % (w/h < -2 z-score), > than usual, increasing <b>Disease</b> Pandemic <b>Food Access / Availability</b> severe entitlement gap; unable to meet 2,100 kcal ppp day <b>Dietary Diversity</b> Regularly 3 or fewer main food groups consumed <b>Water Access / Avail.</b> < 7.5 litres ppp day (human usage only) <b>Destitution / Displacement</b> concentrated; increasing <b>Civil Security</b> widespread, high intensity conflict <b>Coping</b> "distress strategies"; CSI significantly > than reference <b>Livelihood Assets</b> near complete & irreversible depletion or loss of access	Urgent protection of vulnerable groups Urgently food access through complimentary interventions Selected provision of complimentary sectoral support (e.g., water, shelter, sanitation, health, etc.) Protection against complete livelihood asset loss and / or advocacy for access Close monitoring of relevant outcome and process indicators Use "crisis as opportunity" to redress underlying structural causes Advocacy
4	Humanitarian Emergency	<b>Crude Mortality Rate</b> > 2 / 10,000 / day (example: 6,000 / 1,000,000 / 30 days) <b>Acute Malnutrition</b> > 30 % (w/h < -2 z-score) <b>Disease</b> Pandemic <b>Food Access / Availability</b> extreme entitlement gap; much below 2,100 kcal ppp day <b>Water Access / Avail.</b> < 4 litres ppp day (human usage only) <b>Destitution / Displacement</b> large scale, concentrated <b>Civil Security</b> widespread, high intensity conflict <b>Livelihood Assets</b> effectively complete loss; collapse	Critically urgent protection of human lives and vulnerable groups Comprehensive assistance with basic needs (e.g. food, water, shelter, sanitation, health, etc.) Immediate policy / legal revisions where necessary Negotiations with varied political-economic interests Use "crisis as opportunity" to redress underlying structural causes Advocacy
5	Famine / Humanitarian Catastrophe		

Risk of Worsening Phase	Probability / Likelihood	Severity	Reference Process Indicators	Implications for Action
<b>Watch</b>	As yet unclear	Not applicable	Occurrence of, or predicted <i>Hazard</i> event stressing livelihoods; with low or uncertain <i>Vulnerability</i> <b>Process Indicators:</b> small negative changes	Close monitoring and analysis Review current Phase interventions
<b>Moderate Risk</b>	Elevated probability / likelihood	Specified by predicted Phase, and indicated by color of diagonal lines on map.	Occurrence of, or predicted <i>Hazard</i> event stressing livelihoods; with moderate <i>Vulnerability</i> <b>Process Indicators:</b> large negative changes	Close monitoring and analysis Contingency planning
<b>High Risk</b>	High probability; "more likely than not"		Occurrence of, or strongly predicted major <i>Hazard</i> event stressing livelihoods; with high <i>Vulnerability</i> and low <i>Capacity</i> <b>Process Indicators:</b> large and compounding negative changes	Step-up current Phase interventions Preventative interventions with increased urgency for High Risk populations Advocacy

The IPC Reference Table guides analysis for both the Phase Classification and Risk of Worsening Phase. The Phase Classification is divided into Five Phases which are general enough to accommodate a wide range of causes, livelihood systems, and political/economic contexts - yet their distinction captures essential differences in implications for action (including strategic design, urgency, and ethical imperative).

The Reference Table also includes three levels for Risk of Worsening Phase: (1) Watch, (2) Moderate Risk, (3) High Risk. Each of these is associated with key information required for the effective early warning of a potential further deterioration of the situation: Probability, Severity, Reference Indicators, Implications for Action, and Timeline.