



## MALAWI

### IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

JULY 2019 – MARCH 2020

Issued in August 2019

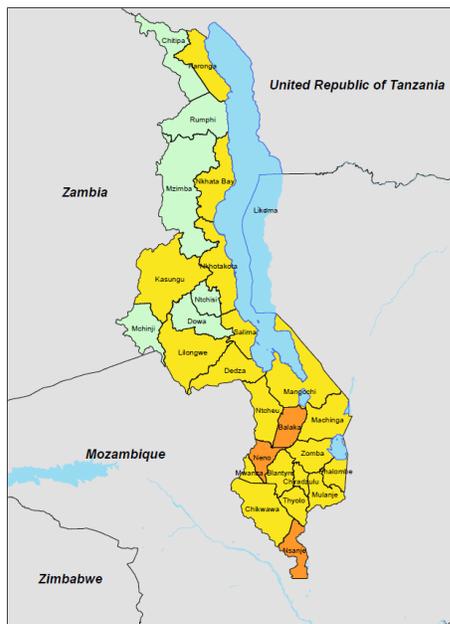
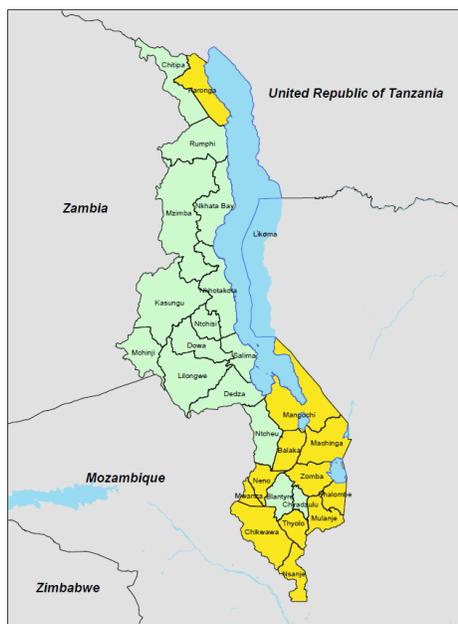
CURRENT July 2019 – September 2019			PROJECTED October 2019 – March 2020		
<b>0.67 M</b> 5 % of the rural population People facing severe acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	000 000 People in Catastrophe	<b>1.06 M</b> 7 % of the rural population People facing severe acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	000 000 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4	000 000 People in Emergency		Phase 4	000 000 People in Emergency
	Phase 3	673,000 People in Crisis		Phase 3	1,063,000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2	2,915,000 People in Stress		Phase 2	3,585,000 People in Stress
	Phase 1	11,145,000 People minimally food insecure		Phase 1	10,086,000 People minimally food insecure

**How Severe, How Many, and When:** In the current period – **July to September 2019** – around 0.67 million people are estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and require urgent humanitarian assistance. 2.9 million people are estimated to be in IPC Phase 2 (Stress) and require livelihood support. In the projected period, which covers the lean season from **October 2019 to March 2020**, 1.06 million people are estimated to be in IPC Phase 3, and 3,58 million people are estimated to be in IPC Phase 2. The districts that are classified under Phase 3 which are likely to require urgent action are concentrated in the southern districts. Three districts are in Phase 3.

**Where and Who:** The most affected districts are in the southern region, in total 15 in number, and the worst off are located within the area affected by the floods.

**Why:** The main drivers of food insecurity in Malawi this season include floods, dry spells, infestations of the Fall Armyworm, and high prices for staple foods compared to last year and the 5-year average.

### IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY CURRENT AND PROJECTION MAPS



**KEY FOR THE MAP**  
**IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification**  
 (mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine

**IPC Analysis Partners:**



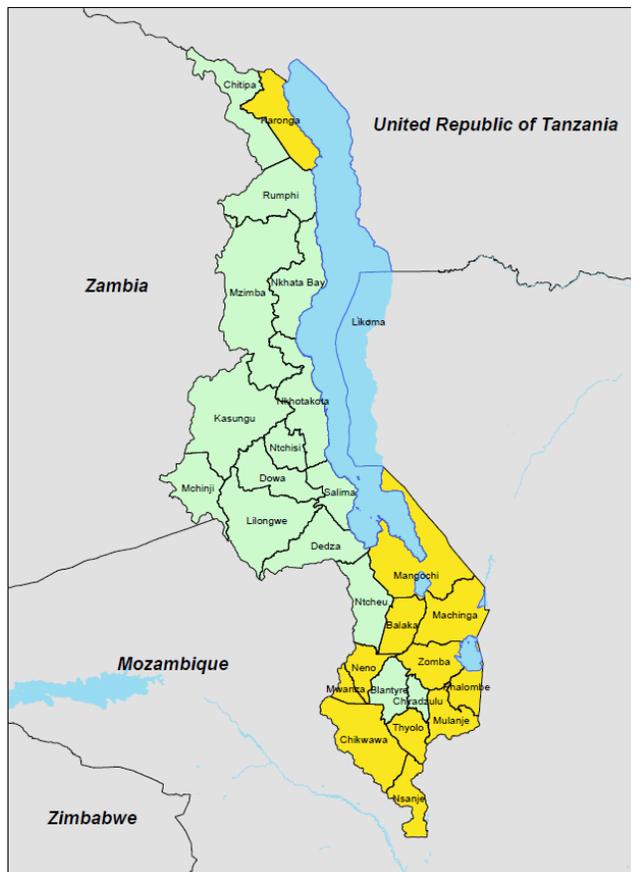
CURRENT SITUATION OVERVIEW AND KEY DRIVERS (JULY – SEPTEMBER 2019)

The Malawi economy is estimated to grow by 5 percent in 2019, primarily driven by growth in the agricultural sector. Annual inflation is expected to continue to decline, averaging 8%, owing to continued macro-economic stability.

The current food insecurity is mainly driven by climatic shocks such as Cyclone Idai, which resulted in flooding in the districts that border Mozambique in the southern parts of Malawi. It is estimated that 975,000 people were affected by the floods. The 15 affected districts were Balaka, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Chiradzulu, Machinga, Mangochi, Mulanje, Mwanza, Neno, Nsanje, Phalombe, Thyolo, Zomba districts in the Southern Region and Dedza and Ntcheu in the Central Region. However, unlike in Mozambique, the impact has been minimal, except for a few pockets, where complete wash away of the crops and destruction of the harvest was experienced. In addition, a few other districts in the central region had dry spells, which were not significant in severity. The other drivers were price shocks – the price of commodities remained high compared to the same period last season. A few districts experienced Fall Armyworm infestations and other minor crop pests. Over and above, the poor and very poor households remained stricken by high levels of poverty that compromise their ability to manage household food security.

The country received early and more rains this year compared to last year. A few districts reported dry spells during the growing season. Floods were experienced mostly in the southern part of the country and a few isolated areas in the central and northern regions.

All districts in the central region and southern regions registered an increase in maize production over the last year. In the north, all districts reported an increase in production, except for Karonga, Nkhata Bay and Rumphu districts. An increase in production was attributed to good rainfall distribution, despite the heavy rainfall in the south that occurred when the crop had matured. Farm gate prices for most crops improved slightly, but remain generally low for farmers to have good gross margins. All districts reported incidents of Fall Armyworm, but with a minimal impact on crop performance. Irrigated crop is projected to increase due to increased residual moisture, resulting from the high rainfall experienced in the year.



Most of the districts in the North and Central of Malawi have been classified as being in Phase 1, except for Karonga District, which experienced severe dry spells. The southern districts which experienced floods were also classified under IPC Phase 2. The total population under the current phase is 673,000.

**CURRENT IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION FOR JULY – SEPTEMBER 2019**
**3**
**Key outcomes and results for the current period**

The food consumption score (FCS) reflects 54% of the households having an acceptable FCS, while 36% having a borderline FCS and 10% having a poor FCS. Those that were not adopting any coping strategies were 61%, while those adopting stress coping strategies were 21% and crisis coping strategies were 14%, with only 2% adopting emergency coping strategies. Acute malnutrition by GAM was within normal ranges with an average GAM of 3.1 percent.

The population estimated to be in acute food insecurity Phase 3 (Crisis) and above for the same time period last year has dropped from 2.2 million in 2018 to 673,000 in the current period. About 76% of the households are in IPC Phase 1 (Minimal food insecurity), while 25% are in IPC Phase 2 (Stress) and 5% in IPC Phase 3 in the current season running from June to September 2019. The total population in need of urgent action is approximately 673,000 people.

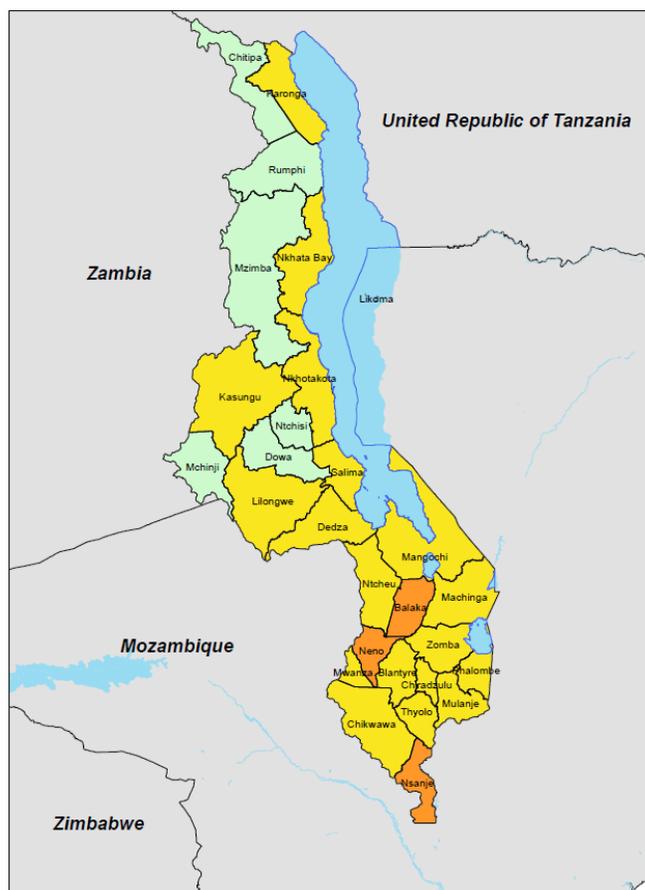
District	Total # (pp)	Phase 1#	Phase 1%	Phase 2#	Phase 2%	Phase 3#	Phase 3%	Phase 4#	Phase 4%	Phase 5#	Phase 5%	Area Phase	Level 3 or higher#	Level 3 or higher%
Balaka	389,024	198,402	51	159,500	41	31,122	8	0	0	0	0	2	31,122	8
Blantyre	451,220	365,488	81	67,683	15	18,049	4	0	0	0	0	1	18,049	4
Chikhwawa	551,538	286,800	52	215,100	39	49,638	9	0	0	0	0	2	49,638	9
Chiradzulu	353,914	297,288	84	38,931	11	17,696	5	0	0	0	0	1	17,696	5
Chitipa	217,184	193,294	89	19,547	9	4,344	2	0	0	0	0	1	4,344	2
Dedza	799,584	647,663	81	119,938	15	31,983	4	0	0	0	0	1	31,983	4
Dowa	740,891	651,984	88	74,089	10	14,818	2	0	0	0	0	1	14,818	2
Karonga	303,419	239,701	79	33,376	11	30,342	10	0	0	0	0	2	30,342	10
Kasungu	726,235	602,775	83	101,673	14	21,787	3	0	0	0	0	1	21,787	3
Lilongwe	1,637,583	1,342,818	82	262,013	16	32,752	2	0	0	0	0	1	32,752	2
Machinga	710,231	490,059	69	184,660	26	35,512	5	0	0	0	0	2	35,512	5
Mangochi	1,080,158	626,492	58	421,262	39	32,405	3	0	0	0	0	2	32,405	3
Mchinji	574,294	488,150	85	74,658	13	11,486	2	0	0	0	0	1	11,486	2
Mulanje	669,325	475,221	71	133,865	20	60,239	9	0	0	0	0	2	60,239	9
Mwanza	112,910	73,392	65	30,486	27	9,033	8	0	0	0	0	2	9,033	8
Mzimba	914,088	776,975	85	109,691	12	27,423	3	0	0	0	0	1	27,423	3
Neno	136,008	72,084	53	43,523	32	20,401	15	0	0	0	0	2	20,401	15
Nkhata bay	270,407	221,734	82	35,153	13	13,520	5	0	0	0	0	1	13,520	5
Nkhotakota	364,727	306,371	84	43,767	12	14,589	4	0	0	0	0	1	14,589	4
Nsanje	272,324	138,885	51	81,697	30	51,742	19	0	0	0	0	2	51,742	19
Ntcheu	638,367	542,612	85	63,837	10	31,918	5	0	0	0	0	1	31,918	5
Ntchisi	307,712	261,555	85	36,925	12	9,231	3	0	0	0	0	1	9,231	3
Phalombe	423,208	292,014	69	110,034	26	21,160	5	0	0	0	0	2	21,160	5
Rumphi	206,803	173,715	84	26,884	13	6,204	3	0	0	0	0	1	6,204	3
Salima	435,162	352,481	81	65,274	15	17,406	4	0	0	0	0	1	17,406	4
Thyolo	701,013	504,729	72	175,253	25	21,030	3	0	0	0	0	2	21,030	3
Zomba	746,724	522,707	70	186,681	25	37,336	5	0	0	0	0	2	37,336	5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>14,734,053</b>	<b>11,145,387</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>2,915,499</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>673,167</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>673,167</b>	<b>5</b>

**PROJECTED SITUATION OVERVIEW AND KEY DRIVERS (OCTOBER 2019 – MARCH 2020)**

In the projected period, some districts usually experience floods, however, the intensity is not expected to be severe according to the climate forecast, which indicates normal to above normal rainfall. Winter production is likely to increase due to adequate residual moisture following the expected rainfall levels. Although according to international forecast by NOAA (October 2019-January 2020), there is a likelihood of El Niño (50%-55%) occurring, which could result in below normal rainfall in Malawi, the uncertainty of its occurrence would most likely result in near average rainfall conditions. Considering this, the 2019/20 growing season would most likely be normal, resulting in good availability of labour opportunities for the poor and very poor households. Agricultural labour rates will likely be normal to above normal in most northern and central Malawi districts. However, rates might be lower in southern districts, having experienced heavy rains and flooding in 2019. Income from the sale of cash crops (e.g. tobacco, cotton, soya beans, etc.) will be average in most northern and central districts, but remain below normal in some southern districts.

During the projected period, corresponding to the lean season, prices are expected to increase seasonally as households deplete their stocks. Higher prices are likely in the southern part of the country, typically experiencing production deficits and in the areas affected by floods in 2019. Staple maize price is projected to be above the 5-year average during the lean season but is estimated to remain below 250 Malawian Kwacha per Kg in most of the areas. Irrigated crop is projected to increase due to increased residual moisture resulting from the high rainfall experienced in the year. Prices of commodities are likely to be affected by the weakening Malawian Kwacha, with expected higher prices of staple food commodities.

Based on available nutrition data, the level of acute malnutrition will most likely remain stable in most areas through January 2020. The overall level of acute malnutrition is expected to remain within acceptable (<5 GAM) thresholds through the period with slightly high levels in the areas that experienced floods and where Global Acute Malnutrition could deteriorate to Alert levels.



**MAP KEY**

**IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification**  
(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine

The 2019 IPC analysis was completed in June and provides the population in the various phases. The map indicates three districts that are projected to be in Phase 3 (Crisis) during the period October 2019 – March 2020. These include Balaka, Neno and Nsanje. The population in Phase 3 and above during this period is projected to be 1,063,000 representing 7% of the total rural population of the country.

**PROJECTED IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION FOR OCTOBER 2019 – MARCH 2020**
**5**
**Key outcomes and results for the projected period**

Between October 2019 and March 2019, it is estimated that 7 percent of Malawi's rural population (1,063,000) will require humanitarian assistance to manage their food needs and to some extent recover lost assets because of the cyclone effects. The Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA 2019, Malawi) has outlined the needs per sector, and for the food security, immediate food needs are key.

**The population projected to be in Phase 1 is 10,086,000(68%), in Phase 2, 3,585,000(24%) and 1,063,000 (7 %) in Phase 3. This will bring the total population requiring humanitarian assistance to 1.06 million people from October 2019 to March 2020.**

District	Total # (pp)	Phase 1#	Phase 1%	Phase 2#	Phase 2%	Phase 3#	Phase 3%	Phase 4#	Phase 4%	Phase 5#	Phase 5%	Area Phase	Level 3 or higher#	Level 3 or higher%
Balaka	389,024	182,841	47	128,378	33	77,805	20	0	0	0	0	3	77,805	20
Blantyre	451,220	266,220	59	157,927	35	27,073	6	0	0	0	0	2	27,073	6
Chikhwawa	551,538	281,284	51	215,100	39	55,154	10	0	0	0	0	2	55,154	10
Chiradzulu	353,914	191,114	54	138,026	39	24,774	7	0	0	0	0	2	24,774	7
Chitipa	217,184	182,435	84	21,718	10	13,031	6	0	0	0	0	1	13,031	6
Dedza	799,584	615,680	77	103,946	13	79,958	10	0	0	0	0	2	79,958	10
Dowa	740,891	629,757	85	88,907	12	22,227	3	0	0	0	0	1	22,227	3
Karonga	303,419	185,086	61	60,684	20	57,650	19	0	0	0	0	2	57,650	19
Kasungu	726,235	566,463	78	137,985	19	21,787	3	0	0	0	0	2	21,787	3
Lilongwe	1,637,583	1,260,939	77	311,141	19	65,503	4	0	0	0	0	2	65,503	4
Machinga	710,231	404,832	57	255,683	36	49,716	7	0	0	0	0	2	49,716	7
Mangochi	1,080,158	615,690	57	410,460	38	54,008	5	0	0	0	0	2	54,008	5
Mchinji	574,294	476,664	83	68,915	12	28,715	5	0	0	0	0	1	28,715	5
Mulanje	669,325	455,141	68	174,025	26	40,160	6	0	0	0	0	2	40,160	6
Mwanza	112,910	67,746	60	30,486	27	14,678	13	0	0	0	0	2	14,678	13
Mzimba	914,088	740,411	81	137,113	15	36,564	4	0	0	0	0	1	36,564	4
Neno	136,008	57,123	42	51,683	38	27,202	20	0	0	0	0	3	27,202	20
Nkhata bay	270,407	210,917	78	40,561	15	18,928	7	0	0	0	0	2	18,928	7
Nkhotakota	364,727	291,782	80	54,709	15	18,236	5	0	0	0	0	2	18,236	5
Nsanje	272,324	111,653	41	98,037	36	62,635	23	0	0	0	0	3	62,635	23
Ntcheu	638,367	510,694	80	76,604	12	51,069	8	0	0	0	0	2	51,069	8
Ntchisi	307,712	249,247	81	30,771	10	27,694	9	0	0	0	0	1	27,694	9
Phalombe	423,208	203,140	48	165,051	39	55,017	13	0	0	0	0	2	55,017	13
Rumphi	206,803	167,510	81	22,748	11	16,544	8	0	0	0	0	1	16,544	8
Salima	435,162	330,723	76	82,681	19	21,758	5	0	0	0	0	2	21,758	5
Thyolo	701,013	420,608	60	245,355	35	35,051	5	0	0	0	0	2	35,051	5
Zomba	746,724	410,698	55	276,288	37	59,738	8	0	0	0	0	2	59,738	8
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>14,734,053</b>	<b>10,086,397</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>3,584,981</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1,062,674</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>1,062,674</b>	<b>7</b>

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

**Response Priorities**

Urgent action is needed for the population in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) to save and protect their livelihoods and reduce their food consumption gaps. Resilience building programmes for the populations in Phase 1 (Minimal Food Insecurity) and 2 (Stress) should be promoted to ensure that their assets and livelihoods are secured. Households in districts that suffered destruction and crop loss due to floods may require support for recovery and reconstruction. To cushion the household against further deterioration to a worse phase, Disaster Risk Reduction and recovery programmes should be immediately activated to support the families. This could include:

- **Support for farm inputs in such areas will boost production for the next production season.** Disaster Risk Reduction and resilience programming, as highlighted in the National Resilience Strategy, should be scaled up to prevent the worsening of the poverty and food security situation.
- **Promote nutrition sensitive interventions that will improve diversity.** This can be achieved through; provision of key messages on healthy eating, food budgeting, processing and preservation, and the promotion of Integrated Homestead Farming (IFH) alongside key WASH interventions. Nutrition sensitive interventions are a priority in the areas that experienced floods to boost households’ access to nutritious foods. The focus of the interventions should be on supporting children under 5 as well as enhancing dietary diversity across the board in all areas.
- Resource mobilization and linkages to development, social protection and Disaster Risk Reduction programmes.
- Current recovery responses and approaches by various stakeholders need to be continued to sustain and improve food security and household welfare.
- Intensify control of the Fall Armyworm through strengthening extension messages, enhancing development and dissemination of the messages, promoting plant wise concepts (plant clinics), farmer training on management of the Fall Armyworm and provision of pesticide and protective gear.
- Promote irrigation farming through provision of farm inputs, rehabilitation of irrigation schemes and promotion of sustainable climate SMART agriculture technologies e.g. use of solar powered panels.

The response committee may decide the modality for providing the humanitarian assistance. Based on the analysis from the Market survey data, it is recommended that cash-based transfers (CBT) would be the based modality for those household in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) over the consumption period between October and March 2020. Key factors supporting the CBT are significant surplus production of maize, pulses and other key staples such as sweet potatoes, rice, sorghum and cassava. The caseloads at the sun district level (Traditional Authorities) are generally small, as such CBTs are unlikely to be inflationary to the disadvantage of non-beneficiaries. The export ban on maize is still in force, which will reinforce the availability of staples over the marketing season. It is also projected that the prices will remain within the acceptable level from 175-250 Malawian Kwacha as reflected in the seasonal trends.

**Situation Monitoring and Update of Activities**

The key factors to monitor will include:

- (i) The price changes for key commodities
- (ii) Levels of acute malnutrition
- (iii) Infestation of Fall Armyworm on the winter crop
- (iv) Inflation and impact on the Malawian Kwacha
- (v) Possibility of flooding at the beginning of the next rainy season

PROCESS, METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

**Process and Methodology**

The MVAC TWG conducts Annual Assessment and Analysis from May to June. This year, the TWG held a workshop to refine the tools to enable an integrated assessment and analysis. Several surveys were integrated to happen at the same time and synchronized through harmonized tools and coordination. The main surveys undertaken were; the Household food security survey, the HEA data collection, and the Market survey.

The TWG then carried out an analysis of the data collected from the surveys to prepare the indicators for the IPC analysis. Overall data analysis was carried out using the IPC protocols based on the new version (Version 3.0).

Analysis was based on the four regions: North, Central, East and South. Each district was independently analysed but compared with the neighbouring districts in the same region.

Upon completion of entries into the ISS, a technical consensus process involved each region presenting their outcomes and reviewed by the facilitators and the plenary before the team concluded the analysis.

**Limitations of the analysis**

- Inconsistent data for some districts (one district is always not analysed as it is on an island and inaccessible (Likoma District).
- The entire exercise takes a long time and to have the participants present throughout is always a challenge.
- Nutrition Survey had not been conducted and as such, the survey could only use GAM by MUAC, which was part of the Household Food Security Questionnaire.

**Sources**

Data sources: Household Food Security Survey, Agricultural Crop Production Estimates (APES), Market Survey, Price Projections (FEWSNET), Price data Ministry of Agriculture (Agricultural Market Information System – AMIS), mVAM data from WFP, National Statistics Office (population), and District Food Security reports.

**What is the IPC and IPC Acute Food Insecurity?**

The IPC is a set of tools and procedures to classify the severity and characteristics of acute food and nutrition crises as well as chronic food insecurity based on international standards. The IPC consists of four mutually reinforcing functions, each with a set of specific protocols (tools and procedures). The core IPC parameters include consensus building, convergence of evidence, accountability, transparency and comparability. The IPC analysis aims at informing emergency response as well as medium and long-term food security policy and programming.

For the IPC, Acute Food Insecurity is defined as any manifestation of food insecurity found in a specified area at a specific point in time of a severity that threatens lives or livelihoods, or both, regardless of the causes, context or duration. It is highly susceptible to change and can occur and manifest in a population within a short amount of time, as a result of sudden changes or shocks that negatively impact on the determinants of food insecurity.

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IPC Global Support Unit  
[www.ipcinfo.org](http://www.ipcinfo.org)

This analysis has been conducted under the patronage of the .....(e.g. Ministry of Agriculture). It has benefited from the technical and financial support of .....(e.g. European Commission, UK Government).

Classification of food insecurity and malnutrition was conducted using the IPC protocols, which are developed and implemented worldwide by the IPC Global Partnership - Action Against Hunger, CARE, CILSS, EC-JRC, FAO, FEWSNET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IGAD, Oxfam, PROGRESAN-SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNICEF and WFP.

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