INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION (IPC)
EXPLAINER FOR ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

IPC 1 – MINIMAL:
More than 80 percent of households in an area are experiencing IPC 1 outcomes and acute malnutrition rates are expected to be below 5 percent.

IPC 2 – STRESSED:
At least 20 percent of households in an area are experiencing IPC 2 or worse outcomes and acute malnutrition rates are expected to be between 5 and 10 percent.

IPC 3 – CRISIS:
At least 20 percent of households in an area are experiencing IPC 3 or worse outcomes and acute malnutrition rates are expected to be between 10 and 15 percent.

IPC 4 – EMERGENCY:
At least 20 percent of households in an area are experiencing IPC 4 or worse outcomes and acute malnutrition rates are expected to be between 15 and 30 percent. In IPC 4, between 1 and 2 people per 10,000 are dying per day.

IPC 5 – FAMINE:
At least 20 percent of households in an area are experiencing IPC 5 outcomes, meaning these households are facing an extreme lack of food; at least 30 percent of children are suffering from acute malnutrition; and at least 2 per 10,000 people are dying each day.

Household Classification
In IPC 3, 4, and 5 humanitarian assistance is urgently required.

IPC 1 – NONE
People are able to meet their basic food and other needs without major changes to their daily lives.

IPC 2 – STRESSED
People are eating minimally adequate diets but must make significant changes to their lifestyles to support other non-food needs.

IPC 3 – CRISIS
Some households are not consuming enough food and have high levels of malnutrition, while others are adopting irreversible coping strategies—such as selling assets that support their livelihoods—to support a limited diet.

IPC 4 – EMERGENCY
People are facing extreme food shortages, acute malnutrition and disease levels are excessively high, and the risk of hunger-related death is rapidly increasing.

IPC 5 – CATASTROPHE
Even when using all of their coping strategies, people have almost no food and cannot support their basic needs. Starvation, death, destitution, and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident.

For more information on acute food insecurity classifications, please visit the IPC, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, and the Cadre Harmonisé.