

IGAD BI-ANNUAL MEETING ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Turning insights into action: Leveraging data for improved food security and nutrition

05-06 December 2024



1. Background

The IGAD region continues to face an extremely concerning food insecurity situation fuelled by escalating conflicts, including the humanitarian emergency in Sudan, climate extremes, and widespread macroeconomic instability. The lingering effects of the severe 2020-2023 drought, and chronic vulnerabilities, attributed to the protracted impacts of previous shocks, high levels of poverty and inequality, low resilience capacities, and high levels of displacement among other factors, further aggravate the situation.

As of October 2024, nearly 50 million people in the region were estimated to be highly food insecure and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. In Sudan, Famine and Risk of Famine (IPC¹ Phase 5) persisted in parts of Al Fasher, North Darfur, amidst intensification of conflict. Several other areas of Greater Darfur, Greater Kordofan, Al Jazirah states and some hotspots in Khartoum also face a Risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5).

Acute malnutrition remains a critical concern across the region. Persistent underlying drivers, including food insecurity, inadequate health and nutrition services, and poor infant and young feeding practices, have been exacerbated by increasing conflicts, economic shocks, and the effects of weather extremes. By October 2024, an estimated 11.7 million children aged 6-59 months in the region were acutely malnourished, including 650,000 suffering from severe acute malnutrition.

The number of forcibly displaced persons has been on an increasing trend, with an estimated 20.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and more than 5.1 million refugees and asylum seekers in the region. Sudan remains the epicentre of internal displacement globally, with close to 11.2 million people displaced within the country both before and after April 2023.

Looking ahead, drier than usual conditions are forecast over the eastern Horn of Africa – southern and southeastern Ethiopia, eastern Kenya, and much of Somalia – during the ongoing October-December (OND) rainfall season. Should these forecasts hold, reduced agricultural production, and worsening food insecurity, nutrition and health outcomes are expected.

2. About the proposed meeting

The need for coordinated multi-dimensional and multi-stakeholder interventions aimed at building resilience in the long-term while addressing humanitarian needs in the short-term can, therefore,

¹ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a set of standardised tools used to classify the severity of food insecurity using a five-phase scale, that is, Minimal (IPC Phase 1), Stressed (IPC Phase 2), Crisis (IPC Phase 3), Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe or Famine (IPC Phase 5)

not be overemphasised. This only makes continuous engagement of multiple actors and stakeholders necessary, preferably by improving the effectiveness of their interventions through continuous learning from their experiences, better coordination of their efforts at temporal and spatial scales, and better decision-making by using timely and reliable information. It is against this background that the IGAD Food Security, Nutrition and Resilience Analysis Hub (IFRAH) and the IPC Global Support Unit for East and Central Africa (IPC-GSU), with the support of the African Development Bank (AfDB), are organising the ninth (9th) IGAD Bi-annual Meeting on Food Security and Nutrition.

Objectives of the meeting

The objective of the meeting is to bring together IGAD member states and partners to jointly discuss the food security, nutrition and resilience situation in the region, and propose practical and strategic response actions going forward. Specifically, the meeting is expected to provide a forum to:

- Review country-specific food security and nutrition analyses, including the impact of various shocks and stressors – conflict and insecurity, climate extremes and macro-economic challenges – on food security, nutrition and livelihoods
- Assess the effectiveness of actions taken in response to food security- and nutrition-related analyses and early warning, and identify the required actions going forward, for the immediate, medium term and long term
- Explore strategies to strengthen the institutionalisation of the IPC analytical approach in the region
- Highlight successful and innovative practices for enhancing food security, nutrition and resilience in the region

- Expected output of the meeting

- Policy brief

- Expected participants

- IGAD and IGAD member states,
 - IPC-GSU
 - Technical and development partners

- Language

- English

- Date and venue

- 05-06 December 2024, Nairobi, Kenya



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