



STUDY ON DECISION MAKERS' NEEDS FOR DISAGGREGATED IPC/CH ANALYSIS

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in collaboration with Cadre Harmonisé (CH) partners

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ACRONYMS

AFI	Acute food insecurity
AMN	Acute malnutrition
CFI	Chronic Food Insecurity
CH	Cadre Harmonisé
CILSS	Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel
DAWG	Disaggregated Analysis Working Group
DMN	Decision Makers' Needs
GSP	Global Strategic Programme
HEA	Household Economy Analysis
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
KII	Key Informant Interview
TAG	Technical Advisory Group

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between September and December 2023, the Technical Development Team (TDT) of the IPC Global Support Unit (GSU) in collaboration with Cadre Harmonisé (CH) colleagues conducted 45 interviews with selected decision makers at the local, regional and global levels to ascertain whether they needed disaggregated population analysis. Further, if these decision makers believed they needed such analysis, they were asked in what format and under what circumstances. The result and the key messages of the study have been summarized below:

1. Disaggregated analysis of population groups can have significant advantages.

Decision makers unequivocally agree on the potential advantages of disaggregated analysis and emphasise that granular information on the characteristics of population groups can “lead to better understanding of the underlying conditions of food insecurity”. Decision makers shared the view that more detailed information on the characteristics of population groups would enable more effective targeting, the meeting of the specific needs of such groups, and satisfy the demand of donors for disaggregated analysis. At the same time decision makers emphasised that the challenging contexts in which IPC/CH operate add myriad practical challenges to producing and utilising disaggregated analyses.

2. Cost can be a barrier to conducting disaggregated analysis.

Even if decision-makers in general were in favour of disaggregated analysis, virtually all of them made the point that one of the most significant barriers to providing disaggregated analysis on population groups was the cost of disaggregation (including additional data collection, data analysis and reporting). Case-by-case investigation is necessary to determine the largeness of the cost and the circumstances in which extra investments, if needed, might be worthwhile. If the benefits of data collection outweigh the costs, then the increased expenses may be justified and deemed useful. To do this, it's critical to first establish priorities and make a distinction between what must be known and what is good to know. A number of crucial strategic decisions must be made before disaggregated analysis can be carried out.

3. Adding a qualitative flavour to IPC/CH disaggregated analysis has potential advantages.

Several decision makers noted that some dimensions of food insecurity revealed by disaggregation tend to be more chronic and embedded within cultural aspects that change at a slower pace than other dimensions. They include local cultural determinants of food security such as gender, age, disability and morbidity in selected population groups. Several interviewees argued that these aspects could be investigated, researched and documented *a-priori*, before the IPC/CH analysis workshop takes place, thereby providing a useful input to the investigation of local-specific determinants of food insecurity broken down by population groups. These cultural dimensions and determinants of food insecurity could be captured in *qualitative* studies that could be referenced and used in IPC/CH reports and analyses and could serve as a form of a baseline to IPC/CH analyses.

4. The comparative advantage of IPC/CH in conducting disaggregated analysis is context specific.

Despite a consensus on the potential benefits of disaggregated population analysis, decision makers' opinions diverged significantly on *who* is best placed to carry out such analysis, resulting in a lack of consent on whether IPC/CH would have comparative advantage in providing disaggregated information on population groups. This argument was especially related to targeting. About half of the decision makers argued that in certain contexts IPC/CH might not necessarily be the best placed institution to provide detailed disaggregated information on population groups, especially when it is done for targeting purposes. Proponents of this argument emphasised that targeting at lower geographic levels is normally carried out in collaboration with local organisations, often through key informants with in-depth knowledge about the characteristics and determinants of food insecurity at the local level. Other decision makers emphasised IPC's advantages in providing disaggregated analysis and stressed that there was no empirical evidence to suggest that qualitative assessments would provide more reliable and accurate estimates of the food insecurity status of population groups. They also highlighted that the IPC's built-in processes of consensus building, as well as the methodologically sound estimates that adhere to internationally recognised standards, provide the most impartial, apolitical, and rigorous estimates that can be reached in different contexts. Further points were raised on the possibility to improve targeting based on disaggregated information. Some interviewees argued that due to the myriad practical challenges involved

in targeting specific population groups, even if disaggregated analysis is conducted by IPC/CH, it might not be able to inform targeting. Other decision makers felt, in contrast, that if such information was provided it could be used in practice to improve and inform targeting. The answer to the question on whether IPC/CH have any comparative advantage in conducting disaggregated analysis for targeting depends on the context.

5. Some disaggregated information may be available for IPC/CH analyses a priori from different sources.

Several decision makers raised the point that before IPC/CH engages in collecting and analysing disaggregated population data, it is important to explore the type of disaggregated information that may be available from various sources. There was no clear agreement about whether such information is available to be effectively used by the IPC/CH. Some decision makers noted that a lot of disaggregated analysis is available, but it is not used, analysed, and reported in IPC/CH workshops. Such analysis is available in NGO reports, qualitative studies, government data, social databases and registries, datasets collected and stored by statistical agencies, as well as gender-sensitive Humanitarian Needs Overviews, REACH Multi-Sector Needs Assessments and WFP Research Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) surveys and analyses. Other decision makers emphasised the opposite – that disaggregated data and analysis is not necessarily available from other sources. They argued that even if such data were available and accessible in some form, it may not be accessible for IPC/CH analysts. It is also unlikely to cover aspects of analysis that the IPC/CH requires e.g., in terms of geographic coverage, and it is unlikely to be recent and relevant to the current situation. The lack of consensus among decision makers reveals that this is a highly context-specific question, and the divergent views capture the different experiences of decision makers.

6. IPC/CH analyses conducted in different contexts may not be comparable.

Several decision makers warned that the findings of disaggregated IPC/CH analyses may not be comparable across different regions. For example, IDPs may be defined in diverse ways according to how long they have been resident in an area or whether they live in camps or reside with hosting families.¹ Similarly, different statistical offices may adopt different definitions of disability or gender and may also collect data in diverse ways. It follows that, if the IPC/CH were to provide disaggregated analyses of population groups, it would be essential to harmonise concepts of disaggregation for IPC/CH purposes, as well as data collection methodologies before engaging in comparative analyses across different contexts.

7. Decision makers are mostly interested in spatial, displacement and gender disaggregation.

The **type of disaggregation** that decision makers are interested in depends on the context. The most frequently cited type that is most in demand is spatial disaggregation, including *urban* analysis and disaggregation by lower *administrative levels* or hotspots of high food insecurity (admin 2 and 3), as well as analysis of displaced populations of IDPs and refugees (which is only relevant in those countries that host such populations). Decision makers agreed that in these cases IPC/CH analyses would benefit from more detail.

Another priority is *gender*. Most decision makers highlighted the importance, significance and usefulness of gender-specific IPC information in food security analysis. The remaining disaggregation criteria include *age, disability, ethnicity, morbidity and livelihood*. These aspects are primarily considered relevant in specific circumstances and conditions, where ample time and resources are available to collect and analyse information and use it to target selected population groups.

8. Severity of the context determines the type of disaggregated analysis that is feasible to be conducted within a given timeframe.

Decision makers highlighted the **severity of the situation** and the **availability of time** as crucial factors that determine whether disaggregated analysis can be conducted and used effectively in different contexts. In *emergency* situations less time is available to assess the need and determine the modality to intervene, while in development contexts more time is available to utilise disaggregated population analysis. In *extreme emergencies* the sole objective is to save lives at a very short notice, at large scale and in often unsafe circumstances, which means that there is little if any scope to target

¹ On the definition of IDPs see Mooney (2005):

resources to specific population groups. Even in such extreme situations, spatial disaggregation is considered relevant and there is high interest among decision makers in finding out where the most food insecure population groups are located. In case of more *protracted and slow-onset* crises and in development situations, there is more time and scope for decision makers to consider and utilise granular information on the characteristics of population groups.

9. Decision makers at different levels use disaggregated information for different purposes.

Global and regional level decision makers expressed interest in virtually all types of disaggregation for funding, advocacy, targeting and monitoring purposes. Local-level decision makers need granular information on the characteristics of target populations to fulfil operational and project-based goals, as they want to know who the target individuals are within an identified region. As they target resources and reach specific population groups within the local context, local-level decision makers expressed interest in specific disaggregation criteria that are relevant to the location, context, and the environment in which they operate.

Regional-level decision makers expressed interest in disaggregated information in order to better target specific countries with resources as well as for funding applications at the global level. They tend to require disaggregated analysis to ensure that funds are allocated effectively at the global level, they are utilised appropriately to reduce food insecurity (by monitoring the effectiveness of their projects in reaching vulnerable populations), and that they also serve advocacy purposes.

10. Decision makers in general do not find it advantageous to change the unit of analysis from households to individuals.

Most interviewed decision makers did not support the idea to focus on individuals (e.g., women, chronically ill) instead of households. They were unclear about the potential advantages of this change and largely agreed that such a shift would likely **not** be beneficial. Decision makers argued that shifting to individual-based analyses and hence individual-based surveys would require costly and institutionally heavy methodological changes that may not be worth the investment. They also believed that it is technically and methodologically possible to assess intra-household aspects of food security without having to change the unit of analysis. Further, projects normally target households and not individuals, and therefore an IPC analysis on groups of individuals may not be compatible with the requirements of the current aid infrastructure. In sum, providing individual level data might be too detailed for the purposes of IPC/CH and for the users of their analysis.

12. The current ways of presenting IPC/CH information are satisfactory.

In general, decision makers were satisfied with the current means of presentation of IPC/CH analysis results. As most decision makers acknowledged their lack of expertise in methods of reporting, data visualization or communication, no significant recommendations were made for improvement. *Global and regional level* decision makers expressed their preferences for **IPC maps**, while local-level decision makers indicated a particular interest in population tables. Some decision makers recommended **interactive maps** as a potential means to accurately present disaggregated information.

13. In addition to conducting disaggregated analysis, other priorities may be beneficial for IPC/CH to pursue.

Decision makers emphasised that disaggregated population analysis is one important, but not necessarily the *only* area that IPC/CH should prioritise. Disaggregated analysis, especially if it incurs significant additional cost, would only be worth the investment if it yielded significant additional benefits in a cost-effective manner. Other priorities and areas of focus deemed important for IPC/CH included improving the **quality** of analyses; increasing the **frequency** of analyses; and improving the **analytical capacities** of IPC/CH analysts. Another suggestion made frequently by decision makers included **expanding** IPC's coverage to additional countries where it is currently not operational. (While this is a valuable argument, it is important to note that this issue extends beyond the interviewed decision makers).

INTRODUCTION

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) provide decision-makers with a rigorous, evidence- and consensus-based analysis of food insecurity and acute malnutrition situations. The IPC/CH classification system enables relevant actors and stakeholders to determine and classify the severity and magnitude of acute and chronic food insecurity and acute malnutrition situations in a country, according to internationally recognised scientific standards.

The IPC/CH estimates of the number of food insecure and malnourished people indicate where and how many people fall in different phases of food insecurity or malnutrition by geographical areas. Several recommendations have made in recent years for the IPC/CH to provide a more nuanced narrative on *who* is food insecure and / or malnourished, *why*, *where*, and *for how long*. The IPC Global Strategic Programme (2023-2026) emphasised the need for providing “*disaggregated analysis by gender and other inter-sectional determinants of vulnerability*” in IPC analysis (GSP 2022, page 30); more recently the TAG meeting in Rome (16-17 February 2023) confirmed the need for conducting disaggregated IPC analysis; and similar requests were made by the CH countries in April 2018, when disaggregated gender analysis was requested.

Despite these recommendations, IPC users’ **views** diverge on whether IPC should engage in disaggregated analysis and on the type of disaggregated analysis that would add value in different contexts. As noted by the Final Evaluation of the IPC Global Strategic Programme (2019-2022), “*While some users and GSC members highlight a need for more disaggregated and gender-sensitive analysis, a significant number of respondents including GSC members also questioned the role of the IPC and the added value of more disaggregated analysis.*”² Proponents of disaggregated analysis often emphasise the humanitarian sector’s needs for disaggregated analysis, while critics question the role and added value of the IPC in providing more disaggregated population estimates, arguing that disaggregated analysis is “not the IPC’s role”, rather a process that should be carried out during the design phase of programmes.

This study was conducted by the IPC in collaboration with CH. The purpose of the study is to investigate in detail whether there is a need for disaggregated analysis among different levels of decision makers and to explore the modalities of implementation that would inform decision making processes most effectively.

² The Evaluation interviewed Donor and UN agencies, NGOs, Government, IFI’s and regional authorities.

1. METHODOLOGY

Conceptualizing disaggregation

In general terms, disaggregation can be defined as a process of division; a method of breaking up something into separate constituent parts; and the analytic disassembly of categories which have been aggregated or lumped together. In statistical terms, disaggregated data refers to data that has been divided into detailed sub-categories, and disaggregation is understood as a “data analysis process to summarize an indicator of interest by a relevant disaggregation dimension, for example where a food security outcome indicator is grouped by the categories of the dimension to show differences if any” (WFP, 2022: 2).

For IPC, population groups can be disaggregated according to *spatial* and *social* (or socio-economic) categories. *Spatial distribution* of the population includes distinguishing among urban and rural populations and disaggregating data to lower administrative units. *Social* and/or *socio-economic* disaggregation includes gender, age, ethnicity (with special attention to ethnic minorities), disability, displacement, morbidity and livelihood characteristics.³

Study design

There was unequivocal agreement among IPC/CH technical experts, that the study should use in-depth **qualitative** data collection techniques in order to allow decision makers to express their views and opinions freely on IPC/CH disaggregated analysis. It was argued that qualitative interviews would explore in detail why decision makers’ opinions differ on the need, necessity and modality of IPC/CH disaggregated analysis and capture the nuances and the complexity of the matter in the most accurate and exhaustive manner.

Qualitative methods have various advantages that this study utilised extensively. They permit the gathering of rich, detailed information about why people think the way they do; they can capture new and evolving views including those that are considered outside the box; researchers can adapt questions to different circumstances; and they provide ample freedom for researchers to use subjective experience to identify and extract relevant data. These advantages were considered relevant for the purposes of this study.

The design of the methodology and the implementation of the research were carefully coordinated and overseen by relevant IPC technical expert groups, which ensured that all professional views and suggestions on improvement were incorporated within the design and implementation of the study. A separate Disaggregated Analysis Working Group (DAWG) was formally set up in August 2023, which met on a regular basis to discuss relevant aspects at each stage of implementation (Table 1).⁴

Table 1. DAWG meetings and agenda

Date of DAWG meeting	Agenda of meeting
16-17 August 2023	Review list of Decision Makers to be interviewed Review the content of the Concept Note and Interview Guide
24 August 2023	Feedback on pilot interviews
22 September 2023	Update on progress with interviews
17 October 2023	Update on progress with interviews
22 November 2023	Preliminary findings of the DMN study

³ The IPC Final Evaluation defines inter-sectional determinants of vulnerability as the “elements of a person’s personal characteristics or social category” and, besides gender, age and ethnicity, includes displacement into this category.

⁴ The DAWG includes members from FAO, WFP, NGOs (AAH, CARE, CRS), CILSS, SICA, FEWSNET, UNICEF, UNFPA and JRC.

The purposes and the details of the study were first summarized in a *Concept Note* that was developed by the IPC Technical Development Team (TDT). The Concept Note was shared with IPC senior management and subsequently with the Technical Advisory Group and the DAWG in June 2023. The expert groups showed remarkable interest and significant involvement in the development of the Concept Note: 23 reviewers provided close to 150 detailed comments on the draft paper, which were subsequently addressed and incorporated by the TDT. A separate Interview Guide document was also prepared by the TDT to ensure that all interviews were conducted in a consistent manner. The final versions of the Concept Note and the Interview Guide were shared with the DAWG in both English and French languages.

The questionnaire went through several steps of revision. The first draft contained five questions which, through the various rounds of expert consultation, was expanded to 27 questions.⁵ The research team was well aware that it would not be possible to ask each respondent all questions within a one-hour interview, which was also confirmed in two pilot interviews in August 2023. The questionnaire was thus divided into five sections (organised around the five *primary* questions) and the *secondary* questions were enlisted under each of the five primary questions. The secondary questions were considered optional, depending on the relevance of the question to the interviewed decision maker. For example, some highly technical questions on sample size calculations would only be asked to those decision makers, who had the relevant expertise in the subject area. This structure of the questionnaire confirmed two important objectives: first, it prioritised the *primary* research questions and ensured that they would be asked and discussed in detail with each respondent; second, it provided the interviewers the opportunity and the flexibility to tailor the interviews to the knowledge and expertise of the interviewed decision maker, by asking only those *secondary* research questions that were considered relevant and appropriate.

The five main research questions and areas of interest for this study are the following:

1. **Is obtaining disaggregated analysis on different population groups a priority for decision makers? If yes, what type of disaggregated analysis do they need in their IPC-related decision-making processes?**
2. **In what form should disaggregated analysis be presented and published to better support IPC/CH-related decision-making needs and objectives?**
3. **How would decision makers use disaggregated analysis in different contexts and situations?**
4. **How would disaggregated analysis increase the efficiency of the various uses of IPC/CH?**
5. **Are decision makers prepared to invest additional resources (both in terms of time and cost) into collection and analysis of disaggregated data as inputs to disaggregated analysis?**

Sampling

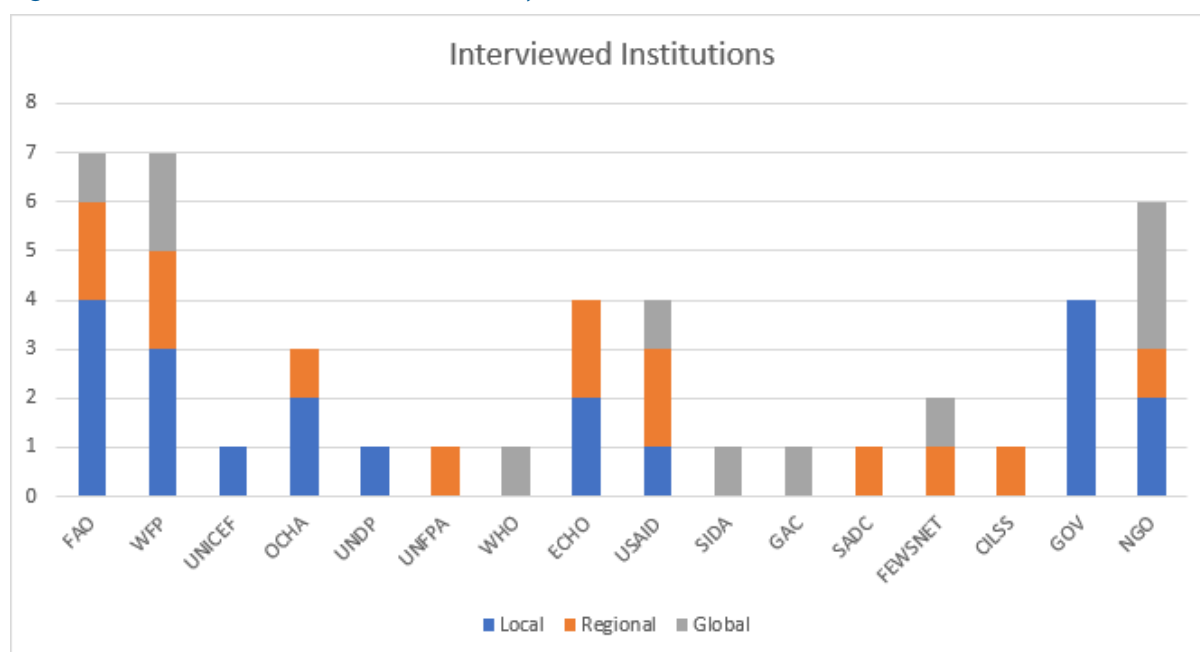
The selected decision makers included donors, IPC/CH partners (UN agencies, NGOs, and civil society) as well as government agencies.⁶ In the case of IPC, the local and the regional level decision makers were identified by the IPC regional coordinators and IPC chairs, who are in regular contact with them and understand well their IPC-related decision-making processes. For the CH interviews a team of CH colleagues identified the relevant decision-makers. Decision makers at the global level were selected and contacted by senior IPC management, who engage with them on a regular basis. During the selection process effort was made to compile a sample which includes all types of decision makers by type of institution and level of operation. The selected decision makers were contacted by email starting in August 2023. About half of the contacted decision makers responded to IPC's request and expressed interest in being interviewed for this study.

⁵ The questionnaire had 5 primary research questions (in 5 main sections) and 22 secondary research questions. The secondary research questions were: 6 questions in Section 1, 7 questions in Section 2, 1 question in Section 3, 3 questions in Section 4 and 5 questions in Section 5.

⁶ Decision makers did not have to use IPC analyses on a regular basis in order to be included in the sample. In the case of those decision makers who are currently using IPC, the study aimed to find out whether they required disaggregated analysis as an input to their decision-making. In the case of those decision makers who are currently not using IPC, the goal was to identify what they desired and whether and how IPC could respond to those needs.

The interviews were conducted over the course of four months between September and December 2023. As shown in the table below, the IPC and CH together conducted a total of 45 interviews with local, regional and global level decision makers from different institutions including seven UN organisations (WFP, FAO, UNICEF, OCHA, UNDP, WHO and UNFPA), four donor agencies (ECHO, USAID, SIDA and Global Affairs Canada), various government agencies, NGOs (Concern Worldwide, Welthungerhilfe, OXFAM, Save the Children and CARE) as well as SADC, CILSS and FEWS NET. The graph below shows the number of interviews conducted by type of institution and level of decision maker. The names of the interviewed decision makers, their institutional affiliation, as well as the date and time of the interviews are summarised in the Annex.

Figure 1. Number of interviews conducted by institution and level of decision maker



The countries and the local (national level) decision makers were selected by the IPC regional coordinators. The aim was to cover every region where IPC is represented including Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Africa (Southern, Eastern and Central Africa) and where CH is represented (Western Africa). In each selected country one, two or maximum three interviews were conducted, and in each region an average of 3.5 interviews were completed. A total of 20 interviews were conducted in 12 countries as shown in the table below.

Table 2. Number of interviews conducted by country

Region	Country	Number of Interviews		
Asia	Afghanistan	1	5	
	Pakistan	3		
	Lebanon	1		
Latin America & Caribbean	Haiti	2	3	
	Guatemala	1		
Africa	Southern Africa	Mozambique	2	4
		Namibia	2	
	Eastern Africa	Somalia	2	2
	Central Africa	DRC	2	3
		CAR	1	
	Western Africa (CH)	Burkina Faso	2	3
		Togo	1	

Interview process and analysis

Each interview was initially planned to be conducted with one selected decision maker on an individual (one-to-one) basis. The opportunity was offered to each decision maker to invite relevant colleagues to the consultation in case they considered that their participation would add value to the interview. Both interview arrangements had advantages. The interviews conducted on a one-to-one basis allowed more time and opportunity for respondents to express their views freely, which often led to interesting discussions with the interviewer. The main advantage of focus group discussions, on the other hand, was that respondents engaged in interesting discussions with each other through which additional dimensions and arguments emerged that might not have arisen in individual discussions. In approximately one third of the cases the interviews were conducted as focus group discussions where several decision makers were interviewed simultaneously.

Table 3. Number and type of qualitative interviews conducted together by IPC and CH.

	Individual	Focus Group	Total
Local	16	4	20
Regional	10	4	14
Global	6	5	11
Total	32	13	45

Each interview was conducted online, lasted for approximately one hour, and was recorded on Zoom. An automated speech recognition software was used to transcribe each conversation, which was later cleaned and formatted in Word, resulting in a total of close to 800 pages of interview notes.

In order to explore trends and patterns in the data and to discover themes, qualitative data was broken down and organised by tagging individual quotations. This technique is often referred to as **thematic analysis** which, as the name implies, involves finding *themes* from the data – in other words beliefs, practices, needs, or other phenomena.⁷ Thematic analysis assumes some amount of coding or assigning a word or a phrase that acts as a label for a segment of text and describes what the text is about. Coding makes it possible to identify and compare segments of text that discuss the same subject, and codes allow the analyst to sort information easily and analyse data to uncover any similarities, differences, and relationships among segments.

During the analysis stage each interview transcript was reviewed and analysed thoroughly. The objective of the review was to extract, collate, summarize and group the key arguments into identified themes that decision makers provided to the interview questions (as detailed in the concept note and in the interview guide). During the interviews decision makers were listing different reasons both in favour as well as against disaggregation, based on their own professional experience, the context they worked in, and/or their institutional affiliation. After some time, the interviews started to approach *saturation* as many of the main arguments had been captured over the course of the discussions. After gathering the main arguments, the interview notes were reviewed again to try to find frequencies and patterns in the data by type and level of decision maker.

⁷ Various data analysis software exist that can be used to analyse qualitative data. They include Dovetail, EnjoyHQ, Delve, Aurelius, Nvivo, Dedoose, MAXQDA, among others.

Limitations of the study

Just like any research project, this study also has limitations that need to be made explicit in order to clarify and manage expectations that the study can meet as well as those that are out of its scope.

1. The sample of decision makers interviewed for this study should not be considered **representative** of *all* decision makers who operate in the humanitarian industry. Quite apart from the definitional challenges of who is qualified to be a decision maker and how decision-making processes are carried out at the local, regional and global levels within the humanitarian architecture, the relatively small size of the sample (especially when disaggregated by level, geographical location or institutional affiliation of the interviewed decision maker) also questions what conclusions could and should be drawn by any of these categories. It would be problematic to assume, for example, that the seven interviewed FAO decision makers represent the views of the entire organization; and it would be equally questionable whether the one decision maker interviewed from Afghanistan, or the three decision makers interviewed from the Latin America and Caribbean region could be considered representative of all decision makers working in the same country or region. Rather than aiming to justify such representativity by any level, this study should be seen as an in-depth **consultation** with selected decision makers through which their views and opinions were solicited, captured and analysed. Any conclusion broken down by type of decision maker, country, region or institution needs to be interpreted with caution.
2. Opinions of decision makers were influenced by institutional affiliation, operational level, geographic location, but also by **subjective elements based on personal experiences**. Many of the interviewed decision makers emphasised explicitly that the views expressed during the interviews were based on their *own* personal experiences with working in the humanitarian sector. For this reason, some decision makers (and readers) may agree with the viewpoints offered by different interviewees and presented in this paper, while others may disagree or find them inconsistent. This is, in the case of this study, a perfectly normal phenomenon that indicates the complexity of the arguments, the diversity of the contexts in which they occur, and the divergent views of different decision makers.

This study does not intend to make any judgement about the various opinions presented by different decision makers. The purpose of the paper is to provide an objective analysis of the *divergent* views of decision makers in a neutral and consistent manner. The study aims to present both (or rather all) sides of the same coin – including the pros and cons of the arguments discussed.

2. WHAT WE KNOW FROM PREVIOUS RESEARCH AND STUDIES

Consultations with IPC Regional Coordinators

During April and May 2023, the Technical Development Team (TDT) conducted some preliminary research to ensure that the study is built upon a clear understanding of the current status of disaggregated analysis within and beyond the boundaries of IPC. The TDT started off by interviewing all IPC Regional Coordinators about the status of disaggregated analysis in their respective regions. No formal questionnaire was designed for these interviews, but each regional coordinator was asked to summarise their views and experience with disaggregated analysis in the regions and countries they worked on. The interviews identified some of the key areas that this study would focus on and contributed to the formulation of the Concept Note and the Interview Guide.

During the interviews the regional coordinators enlisted countries that this study could cover. Selection criteria for the countries included both previous experience with disaggregated analysis as well as the country's interest in and potential to conduct disaggregated analysis in the future. The list of countries recommended by the regional coordinators was cross-checked by the TDT and subsequently validated by IPC senior management. A core group of regional CH colleagues identified the West African countries for the study, primarily based on their experience with disaggregated (gender-sensitive) analysis.

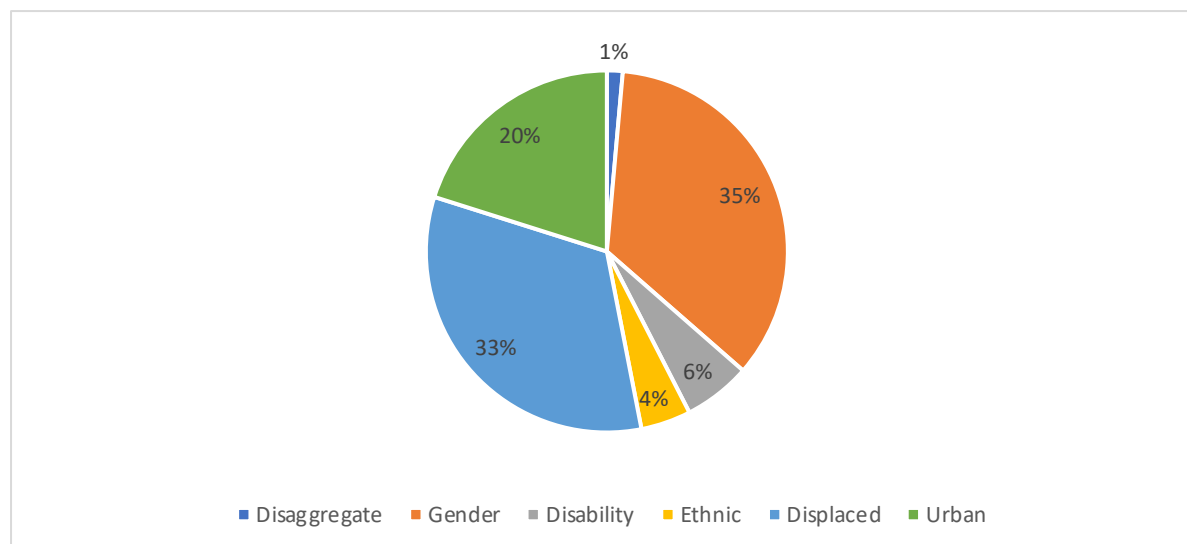
Preliminary research by the Technical Development Team

The research team considered it important to gather preliminary information on how IPC partner agencies are currently using, reporting and thinking about disaggregated analysis, and to understand the significance of disaggregated analysis in the agencies' operations and policies. In order to find out more on this, the team visited each partner agency's website individually and used their search engine to record the frequency at which selected keywords on disaggregation were occurring. This method was based on the assumption that search engines capture the content of the organisation's online documents and website and give a snapshot of the importance of each selected keyword. It should be noted that the methodology of this simple desk-based review should not be considered scientific, and its sole purpose was to give the research team an initial feeling of the type of disaggregation that may be relevant for partner agencies – it was not meant to provide an in-depth analysis of operations or policies on disaggregation.

Figure 2 indicates the result and shows the relative importance of selected keywords of disaggregation on IPC partner organisations' websites. The word *disaggregate* appears frequently (in 33 percent of the cases) on the reviewed websites, implying that organizations are, in general, interested and discuss disaggregation frequently in various documents. Among the criteria for disaggregation, the keywords *gender* and *urban* are the ones that are used most frequently, implying that they could be among the most important priorities. This study explores these questions in a more scientific and rigorous manner.⁸

⁸ Other synonyms were also explored such as "disabled" for disability, "ethnicity" for ethnic and "displace" and "refugee" for "displaced", but changing any of these key words did not result in major differences in the frequencies of occurrence as compared with the original words. For example, the correlation coefficient of the term "refugees" with "displaced" is 0.99, which is highly significant. Using any of these synonyms would have resulted in the same (or very similar) analysis and led to the same conclusions.

Figure 2. Relative importance of selected keywords of disaggregation in IPC partner agency’s websites.



The history of disaggregated analysis in IPC

The question whether IPC should provide disaggregated analysis of population groups is not new and has been raised repeatedly over the past years. Evidence for this can be found in evaluations of the IPC Global Strategic Programme (GSP), of which the 2018 and 2022 evaluations discuss disaggregation in detail.

The 2018 evaluation highlighted the IPC’s *blind spots* (page 68) and recommended that “*The GSP should continue to develop the IPC for better disaggregation. This includes by gender, displacement, supporting countries to disaggregate the analysis to smaller geographic units, and exploring how the IPC analysis can be adapted for urban contexts*” (page 6). This recommendation was taken into consideration and its achievement was discussed in detail in the next GSP evaluation of 2022, which is the most recent and up-to-date evaluation that discusses IPC disaggregated analysis.

The 2022 evaluation dedicates an entire chapter to explore the current status of disaggregated IPC analysis focusing on gender, spatial disaggregation (urban and lower administrative units), IDPs and refugees (pages 41-47). The Evaluation concludes that respondents have very different and unreconciled views on IPC disaggregated analysis: “*For some respondents, further disaggregated analysis is not the IPC’s role [...]. At the same time, some strong voices highlighted that the IPC cannot continue to be blind to diversity and differentiated food security levels [...]*” (page 46). While noting such differences, the paper does not explain why such differences exist among decision makers and how they could be reconciled. This study aims to shed light on some of these questions and explore in more detail the determinants of the divergent views.

3. STUDY FINDINGS

Summary of decision makers' arguments for and against IPC disaggregated analysis

Whether decision makers consider disaggregated analysis a priority, whether granular information on different population groups would help their IPC-related work, and whether they would want IPC to engage in this type of work are complex questions that require a detailed analysis broken down by different dimensions and arguments. It is therefore not surprising that previous studies and evaluations that raised *some* of these questions without specific scope and mandate to go into the details have found diverging views among key informants, who would emphasise and justify different aspects of their need for disaggregated analysis, which is challenging to reduce into a simplistic yes or no argument.

It is useful to separate the responses to the above questions according to *conceptual* and *practical* aspects. At the *conceptual* level there was a general agreement among decision makers on the underlying principle that more *information leads to better understanding*. Virtually all interviewed decision makers shared the view that the more detailed information is provided on the characteristics of target population groups, the more effectively they can be targeted, the more the specific needs of such groups can be met, and the more donors' demand for disaggregated analysis *can* be satisfied. All decision makers agreed on the *potential* benefits of disaggregated analysis and on the advantages that such analysis *could* lead to if it was provided by the IPC. As one decision maker put it, *"If you want to do programming well, how can you do it well without detailed information on whom you are targeting?"* This view echoes the position of the WFP Research Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) Unit, concluding that *"disaggregated data is needed across the programme cycle to ensure high quality evidence-based programme design, including response analysis, targeting, prioritization and monitoring."* (WFP 2022: 1).

The above conceptual arguments in favour of IPC disaggregated analysis might be considered a *wish-list* that would undoubtedly be beneficial and useful to have in an ideal world. However, the challenging environments and realities in which IPC and CH operate in different countries add a myriad of *practical* challenges to producing disaggregated analysis and utilising it in practice. The design of the questionnaire ensured that decision makers would decompose this question into various dimensions and explore caveats that pose practical challenges to implementing disaggregated analyses. The following discussion indicates some of the key arguments that decision makers brought up regarding disaggregated analysis.

Argument 1: High cost can be a significant barrier to conducting disaggregated analysis

Virtually all decision makers raised the point during the interviews that one of the most significant barriers to providing disaggregated analysis on population groups is the **cost** of disaggregation. Disaggregating survey data requires additional funds for data collection and sampling, data analysis and reporting. The extent to which disaggregated analysis may increase overall cost depends on the depth of disaggregation, the required increase in the sample size to reach representativity at the desired level, and the existing analytical skills that may require additional training, among others. This raises at least two questions: how large is the cost and under what circumstances would it be worth making additional investment?

Decision makers agreed that while it is a matter of straightforward statistical calculation to estimate the required increase in the sample size to ensure representativity, the cost implication is **context-specific**, given that costs of data collection may vary significantly across regions, countries, contexts as well as the size and the content of the survey. For this reason, this question needs to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and it is not possible to provide an estimate of the increase in cost neither in absolute terms, nor in terms of the availability of funds or willingness of donors to fund the additional cost. It is, however, feasible to describe the context in which additional costs of data collection may be justified and considered a worthwhile investment.

Decision makers noted repeatedly that the ultimate question is that of **cost-benefit analysis**: the additional cost may be worth the investment if the benefit it yields exceeds its cost. Several decision makers emphasised cases when IPC analysis drives the allocation of hundreds of millions of dollars, in which case investing additional say half a million dollars could indeed be worth the investment. As one decision maker put it: *"The question of how expensive is disaggregation and whether it is worth investing in, needs to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The key question is the rate of return in investing into collecting and analysing additional data. For example, in Somalia FSNAU's IPC analysis has guided 1 billion dollars' worth of operation, where additional investment may be considered cost effective. In other countries this may not be the case."* A general consensus emerged among decision makers that disaggregation is a "tricky and

expensive” business. It is therefore important to first agree on the priorities and clarify what is “good to know” and what “must be known”. There are several important strategic choices that need to be made when deciding about conducting disaggregated analysis: the available resources need to be contrasted with what is necessary to find out. If the choice is to conduct disaggregated analysis, then it is important to do it in a “meaningful” way. As one decision maker summarised: “There is high pressure on the system to produce disaggregated information, but often this request is not meaningful”. Clearly, this is a general term, and its interpretation is highly subjective.

The majority of the decision makers interviewed did not have a background in statistics and therefore could not provide concrete examples on sample size calculations. However, one decision maker, more familiar with sample size calculations, discussed two options. The first option involves adding a separate component to the survey that interviews selected individuals. An unpublished WFP pilot food security assessment in Iraq revealed that incorporating an intra-household component (involving individual-level data collection) to the household questionnaire increased overall survey cost by 52 percent. The second option is to disaggregate data at the household level and introduce a separate stratum for specific household categories such as female-headed households. In this example, to ensure representativeness, the sample size would need to increase by $1/x$, where x is the percentage of female-headed households in the target population. The proportion of female-headed households varies significantly by country and region. Assuming a conservative average of 20 percent, the sample size would need to be increased fivefold. While no estimate has been provided for the associated cost, it is likely that implementing this option would yield a significant increase in cost.⁹ These implications apply only in those cases where the aim is to conduct disaggregated analysis at the same administrative level at which the standard IPC analysis is carried out.

Some decision makers argued that it is not necessary in all cases to collect additional data to conduct disaggregated population analysis: “We should dissociate disaggregated data analysis and the need for additional surveys. [...] Data are already being collected, let us make sure that they are of good quality and that they are analysed.” Many technical analysts with statistical background would, however, counter argue and emphasise the key question of representativity. If the requirement is to provide statistically representative estimates either at a lower administrative level or concerning the characteristics of a selected subgroup of the population, then the question is not *whether* data are being collected but, rather, *how much* the sample needs to increase to ensure that the findings are representative at the required level. This question will have inevitable cost implications.

In sum, the additional cost of disaggregation can be evaluated in absolute, relative and in comparative terms. The first question is whether the additional money required to conduct disaggregated analysis is available in *absolute* terms: in certain situations and contexts, additional funds are simply not available to invest in disaggregated population analysis. If funds are available, the second question concerns the relationship between the additional cost of disaggregation and the potential benefit that disaggregation yield. Comparing cost with potential benefits can reveal the extent to which it would be worth investing in disaggregated population analysis. The third (comparative) aspect is whether conducting disaggregated analysis is indeed the most beneficial investment, or investing extra funds into another IPC/CH activity might yield higher benefits than conducting disaggregated population analysis.

These three steps build on each other and all three conditions need to prevail simultaneously in order for disaggregated population analysis to be worth the investment. First, funds must be available in *absolute* terms; second, a cost-benefit analysis needs to show the *relative* benefits that disaggregated analysis would yield; and third, obtaining granular information on selected population groups should be valued higher than any other potential area of investment. The need and feasibility of disaggregated analysis can become (un)justified at each of these three levels.

⁹ Saad et al (2022) find that “Globally, the median percentage of households headed by women was 28.0% and ranged from 1.7% in Afghanistan up to 50.1% in Belarus.”

Argument 2: Adding a qualitative flavour to IPC disaggregated analysis would add value and save cost

During the interviews several decision makers argued that the various aspects of disaggregation could also be differentiated according to the *frequency* at which they change and according to the extent to which they require data collection in specific survey rounds. The argument is that certain aspects of disaggregation are more *chronic, long-term* and *embedded within cultural aspects* than those that are specific to the context and to the immediate situation in which IPC/CH operate. For example, **gender** aspects of food insecurity (such as women's access to food within a household); **age-specific** aspects of food insecurity (such as access to food by the elderly or children within and outside households); and the impact of **morbidity** and **disability** on food insecurity are dimensions that are usually impacted and driven by local *cultural* elements. Many of these aspects often would not change as fast, as dramatically and as significantly as other dimensions of food insecurity, and there is a potential for them to be captured and investigated *a-priori*, before the IPC analysis workshop takes place.

Decision makers sharing this view argued that such rather long-term aspects of disaggregation could be researched and documented *before* the IPC analysis workshops take place – thereby providing an a-priori input and guidance on relevant local-specific determinants of food insecurity by selected population groups. Decision makers considered that the most cost-effective and productive way to capture these cultural dimensions and determinants of food insecurity would be *ad-hoc qualitative studies* focusing on selected dimensions of food insecurity that could be referenced and used in IPC/CH reports and analyses. A number of recommendations were made on the various aspects that qualitative studies could capture that affect the food security status of different population groups in different contexts. For example:

- The extent to which different population groups (for example women, girls, boys, men, the sick or the elderly) tend to be **affected differently** by emergencies.
- How culture, customs, traditions, and the social context affect or limit **access to and control over food** to any members of the household, community, or the population at large.
- Whether there is **variability of food consumption, health, and nutrition** between population groups and how these factors affect their use of food, in particular during crises.
- If there are any **cultural or religion-based food restrictions**, preferences, or taboos for population groups in the local culture that may be amplified during crises.
- How **food is shared within households** and who eats first considering intra-household food distribution and consumption preferences.

Qualitative studies focusing on the above determinants of food insecurity, among others, could be considered a form of a *baseline* that could contribute to disaggregated IPC/CH analysis. While qualitative studies would clearly not provide the exact same information that quantitative surveys would deliver, they would likely provide a cost-effective way to include disaggregated analysis in IPC/CH reports, by not requiring additional data collection or changes in data collection methods. An important implication of this argument is that disaggregation should not necessarily and in all cases be carried out through quantitative survey analysis, but useful information on the characteristics of selected population groups could be provided to IPC/CH users, including project designers and implementers, through qualitative discussions, especially if derived from already existing sources and studies.

Argument 3: The purpose and use of disaggregated analysis varies by type of decision maker

While at the conceptual level decision makers agreed on the potential benefits of disaggregated analysis of population groups, there was variation in responses on how disaggregated analysis would be used and what practical purposes it would serve. Distinct levels of decision makers require disaggregated analysis for different purposes, and several systematic differences in opinions emerged from the interviews.

Local-level decision makers would, in most cases, welcome more granular information on the characteristics of their target population, because of **operational and project-based goals** that they are trying to achieve in field operations. These decision makers want to know, in the most practical terms, *who* the target individuals are within an identified region. Current acute food insecurity IPC/CH analysis identifies the most affected regions in the country, but this level of information in itself is usually insufficient for local-level decision makers to implement operations effectively: *“How do we know who is the most vulnerable and needs the resources most within the identified region?”*

Regional-level decision makers, who stand in between the local and global levels, identified at least two reasons why they would welcome and use IPC disaggregated analysis: first, for operational purposes, **to target specific countries** with resources, and second, for their **funding applications** at the global level. Regional-level decision makers would thus use disaggregated analysis to serve both the local as well as the global levels. Similarly, *global-level* decision makers require disaggregated analysis to **monitor the effectiveness of their projects** in reaching vulnerable populations, to **ensure that funds are allocated effectively** at the global level and are being utilised to reduce food insecurity, as well as to serve advocacy purposes. At these levels of decision-making the practicalities of targeting resources at the household level appear to be less of a concern as the focus lies at the country, regional and global levels.

Argument 4: The comparative advantages of IPC/CH in providing disaggregated analysis are context-specific

Should the IPC/CH provide granular level information on the characteristics of vulnerable population groups, or should this be provided in other ways, by other organization(s)?

Decision makers' opinions diverged significantly on how disaggregated information should be obtained and whether IPC/CH would have a comparative advantage in providing disaggregated analysis on population groups. About half of the decision makers argued that it should not be the role of IPC/CH to provide detailed disaggregated information on population groups that is needed for targeting at local level. Targeting at the local (admin 2 and 3) levels, so the argument goes, is normally carried out in collaboration with local authorities, local NGOs or through knowledgeable key informants, who have in-depth knowledge about the characteristics and determinants of food insecurity at the local level and hence know the areas where food insecurity is concentrated the most. These locally based agents also have invaluable information on the characteristics of those population groups in the area who require assistance the most. According to these decision makers, there is no need for the IPC/CH to get involved in granular analysis of population groups, because however well the IPC/CH would provide this information, its quality and depth would not reach the qualitative knowledge of locally based agents. The decision makers who shared this view also (re) emphasised the significant cost-implications of disaggregated analysis provided by the IPC, which in most cases would not be worth the investment if the same level (and reliability) of information could be obtained from various sources at a lower cost. It was also emphasised that disaggregation could potentially expose the analysis to a range of criticisms. As one decision maker noted: *“From a methodological point of view, population data can be disaggregated in several ways. This would expose us to further questions and potential criticisms of the methodology used – we would have to do it very carefully, otherwise the analysis would risk losing power and credibility.”*

It is important to shed light on the other side of the coin and highlight many of the counterarguments that emphasise the IPC/CH's advantages in providing disaggregated analysis. Those who are in favour of IPC/CH disaggregated analysis counter-argued that no empirical evidence exists to prove that qualitative assessments by individual key informants or various disaggregated analyses provided by other organisations would in any way provide more reliable estimates of the food insecurity status of population groups or bear more credibility than estimates provided by the IPC/CH. In fact, the very advantage of the IPC/CH compared with other assessments is that through an intensive consultative process it builds consensus among a broad range of institutions and thereby provides the most impartial and apolitical estimates that can be achieved in each context. The conception that disaggregated analysis could expose the IPC/CH to questions and criticisms on the methodology has also been discredited by several decision makers, who argued that the IPC/CH in all cases provides methodologically sound estimates that adhere to internationally recognised standards that also go through consensus building as well as rigorous peer reviews. Therefore, *“The assumption that IPC disaggregated population analysis would not be methodologically sound is simply wrong.”*

Argument 5: Disaggregated information does not in all cases improve targeting

The question whether local-level decision makers would be able to utilise disaggregated analysis on population groups effectively in their targeting mechanisms, resulted in **non-obvious conclusions** and revealed highly contradicting views. Some local-level decision makers emphasised myriad practical challenges involved in targeting specific population groups and did not unilaterally agree that they would be able to target resources more effectively if granular population information was provided by the IPC/CH. As one decision maker put it: *“If you tell me that children or the elderly or women are the most vulnerable within a region, and therefore I should target those groups, I am not sure I would be able to ensure in all cases that they receive the resources. [...] If we knew that females are more food insecure than males, and they all live in the same households, then what can I do with that information?”*

Other local-level decision makers, contrary to those cited above, emphasised that they would indeed be able to target resources to vulnerable groups if the IPC/CH clearly identified them within regions: *“Of course we could find ways to target the most food insecure groups if disaggregated information was provided by the IPC on their characteristics.”* This raises further (perhaps more general) questions that may go beyond the objectives and the boundaries of this study. First, to what extent is it possible to target resources to specific population groups based on disaggregated information? Second, are there clear patterns on how resources are distributed within households, who receives aid on behalf of the household, and who decides about its use? The answer to these questions is context specific which explains why no clear patterns have been found on the effectiveness of targeting modalities. In general terms, it is worthwhile to disaggregate population data only if interventions can feasibly respond to the immediate problem being faced. There are various contexts and situations which offer more scope to utilise disaggregated analysis and adjust targeting mechanisms accordingly. One such dimension that emerged from the interviews is the availability of time for planning and implementing projects. This aspect will be discussed further in the next section.

Argument 6: Some disaggregated information may be available for IPC/CH analyses from different sources

Several decision makers raised the point that before IPC/CH engages in collecting and analysing disaggregated population data, it is important to explore the type of disaggregated information that may be available from different sources. Several decision makers, in particular in the Southern Africa region, noted that **a lot of disaggregated analysis is available** that is not used, analysed and reported in IPC/CH workshops. They mentioned various NGO reports, different qualitative studies conducted by organisations, government data, social databases and registries, datasets collected and stored by statistical agencies, as well as gender-sensitive Humanitarian Needs Overviews, REACH Multi-Sector Needs Assessments and WFP Research Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) surveys and analyses.¹⁰ For these decision makers the main constraint to conducting disaggregated analysis lies in the *lack of analytical capacity* to analyse and report disaggregated information on population groups, and not in the availability of disaggregated data or in the high cost of collecting additional population data. This argument was duly emphasised by one decision maker in the CH region, who noted that *“Disaggregated data are already available for displaced or refugee populations in countries like Nigeria, Chad and Burkina Faso, but they are under-utilised. It would be very helpful if they were analysed by national data analysis teams.”* This argument also tallies with the GSP Final Evaluation (2022) which concluded that, *“Although lack of disaggregated data may be cited as a major impediment to more disaggregated analysis, it does exist and is not being fully exploited in IPC analysis processes. This is usually due to lack of expertise and sensitization of analysts.”*¹¹ Even though several decision makers emphasised this point during the interviews, no concrete solution or mechanism was offered on who should fulfil this role and on how to address this need. Clearly, there are several context specific aspects that need to be considered: whether such data and analyses would be easy to find and access; whether sufficient local capacity exists to explore alternative analyses (in terms of skills, time and resources); and whether the information could be used effectively for the purposes of the IPC/CH analysis.

¹⁰ The HNO, REACH and RAM sources are also mentioned in GSP Evaluation (2022: page 46).

¹¹ The Evaluation confirms this statement in other paragraphs, as follows: “Lack of disaggregated data and the focus on household level data are most often highlighted as the constraint for gender and other disaggregated analysis. However, a number of key informants highlighted that disaggregated data is available but underutilized during the analysis process” (page 41).

Other decision makers emphasised the exact opposite of the above statement, namely that disaggregated **data and analysis is not necessarily available** from other sources. They argued that even if such data were available and accessible in some form, it may not be accessible for IPC/CH analysts, it is unlikely to cover those aspects that the analysis requires, for example in terms of geographical coverage, and it is unlikely to be recent, up-to-date, and relevant to the current situation. Census data and information available in large-scale population surveys (such as the MICS, LSMS, DHS, MSNA etc.)¹² do not necessarily cover the most recent period, and the information they contain on population groups may not be relevant to the current food security situation. Proponents of this argument also noted that before IPC/CH workshops take place, there is usually a thorough review of available datasets and information that are studied by analysts and thus feed into the IPC/CH analysis – so there is a high likelihood that most of this information is captured in IPC/CH analyses. As one decision maker noted: *“The reason why data is not disaggregated is very simple: there is no data”*. It should be noted, however, that data used in analyses is typically provided by partners who conduct quantitative and qualitative analyses of their own survey data. Surveys normally include demographic and socio-economic variables that allow disaggregation of surveyed households in many ways, depending on interests. It would be up to the IPC and CH Technical Working Groups to explore the options and determine the feasibility of disaggregated analysis based on data available and the needs of partners and decision-makers.

Another frequently cited argument why the IPC would not release and publish disaggregated analysis include **political** reasons, as governments do not necessarily always endorse and approve the publication of IPC analyses. Several examples were cited from the Latin America and Caribbean region, among others: the IPC analysis in Colombia in 2022 was not validated by the government; and there were cases in El Salvador and in Honduras when governments did not authorise the publication of the IPC analyses. As one decision maker highlighted: *“It is not the process, but the robustness of the data that is questioned. Many people ask: how can you say this about a district where hundreds of thousands of people live, and you interviewed only 15 households?”*¹³ Some criteria of disaggregation may also be considered too sensitive to investigate, such as ethnicity, that some institutions may want to avoid analysing in detail. As one decision maker put it, *“If the IPC concluded that one ethnic group is more food insecure than another one, it could have serious political consequences which neither the IPC nor governments may want to face”*.

The above discussion shows a lack of consensus among the interviewed decision makers on whether additional data is available from various sources that are not explored in sufficient detail. It is very likely that (just like many other issues discussed above) this is also a context-specific question, and the divergent views capture the different individual experiences of interviewed decision makers. A general implication that emerges from the discussion above is that it is worth investing into *some* preliminary analysis prior to the IPC/CH analysis workshops, to explore whether investing additional time and resources into exploring alternative datasets and analyses is worth the effort.

Argument 7: Terms and concepts used in IPC analyses are context-specific and may not be comparable across regions

Several decision makers warned that disaggregated IPC/CH analyses may not be comparable across different regions and contexts, as the different dimensions of disaggregation may have different meanings in diverse contexts. For example, IDPs may be defined in diverse ways according to how long they have been resident in an area or whether they live in camps or reside with hosting families. Similarly, statistical offices tend to use different definitions of *disability* or *gender*, which, as some decision makers warned, makes it problematic to compare IPC/CH analyses that have been conducted in different contexts. It was also noted that organisations often collect data in diverse ways which also challenges the comparability of analyses. It follows that, if the IPC/CH were to provide disaggregated analyses of population groups, it would be essential to review the definitions and concepts of disaggregation and ensure that they are carefully harmonised before engaging in comparative analyses.

¹² Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, Living Standard Measurement Studies, Demographic and Health Surveys, Multi Sectoral Needs Assessment, Humanitarian Needs Overview.

¹³ The IPC analyses are representative in a statistical sense, which sometimes appears strange for decision makers who received less training in sampling methods and statistics.

What type of disaggregated analysis do decision makers need?

As discussed earlier, decision makers generally agreed that the type of disaggregation depends on the **context** in which they are operating. This context-specific nature of disaggregation was confirmed by virtually all decision makers regardless of their level of operation or institutional affiliation.

The most frequently cited and important aspect of disaggregation by all three levels of decision makers was **spatial disaggregation**. This included disaggregating by *urban* populations as well as by lower *administrative levels* (admin 2 and 3). The importance of spatial disaggregation has been regarded crucial in all circumstances and situations, regardless of context, and by virtually all interviewed decision makers. One decision maker in the CH region emphasised the need for detailed information at the grassroots administrative level as follows: *“Last year and also this year the province of Soum has been in Phase 3 (critical). As we did not have data at the communal level, we had to ask the humanitarian actors which communities were most affected so that we could adapt our response interventions accordingly.”*

Analysis of population groups living in **urban** areas has particular importance for decision makers, justified by the speed and magnitude at which urbanisation is happening in developing countries with steadily increasing proportion of the population moving to urban settlements. Spatial disaggregation was considered relevant even in those extreme emergencies, where time is limited, and resources are often distributed unconditionally through blanket distributions. There is high demand among decision makers to know in all settings and contexts *where* the most food insecure population groups are located.

Decision makers' need for disaggregated spatial analysis was also emphasised several years ago in the 2018 GSP Evaluation, which noted that *“humanitarian actors expressed their need for information and analysis at a lower administrative level for more precise targeting, for example from state to county level in South Sudan, and from ‘department’ to ‘commune’ level in Niger”* (page 30). The next GSP Evaluation of 2022 recorded significant progress made over the past years as, *“Users positively commented on progress made in further geographical disaggregation in IPC analyses, including expanded coverage of urban analysis, although they are still calling for disaggregation to lower administrative units.”* (page 19). This survey confirms further interest in spatial disaggregation, acknowledging IPC's significant evolution over the past years in this area.

Disaggregation by **displacement** (including both IDPs and refugees) was also ranked important by those decision makers who deal with displaced populations. This is, clearly, also context-specific and it is only relevant in those countries which host displaced populations. As one decision maker put it: *“Right now IPC tells us the number of food insecure people classified into phases by region. We know how many IDPs that region contains, and we know that their food security situation is not the same as of those who are sedentary in that region. So, in essence, I know very little about those IDPs despite IPC analysis in the same region.”*

The third frequently cited and required criterion of disaggregation was **gender**, in all types of situations and context, including emergencies. The gender aspects and determinants of food insecurity are well known and documented in the literature and understood among practitioners, and decision makers were all aware of the importance and significance of gender-specific IPC/CH information. It is interesting to highlight a significant difference in decision makers' views on the context in which information on gender would be more relevant and useful. Some decision makers argued that information on gender would be more important in *chronic* situations. These decision makers consider gender an integral aspect of the local culture and argue that the gender dimensions of intra-household food distribution and women's role in preparing and accessing food should be investigated in detail in long-term *chronic* situations. The 2022 Evaluation recorded similar arguments that considered gender dimensions as a *“chronic rather than acute food insecurity issue”* (GSP 2022: page 44). However, other interviewed decision makers passionately referred to the well-documented evidence that in conflict situations and in other forms of disasters women and girls are more seriously affected than men: *“It is shocking, naïve, outdated and shameful not looking at women, men, boys and girls in humanitarian situations.”*

Some decision makers argued that disaggregating household level information by *sex and age* would **not create significant additional workload** and not raise the cost of data collection, since this type of information is always collected and available in all regular surveys that the IPC/CH relies on. The additional workload, so the argument goes, would thus be minimal to analyse households' food security status by gender and age, since the data is already available. As noted earlier, from a statistical point of view, disaggregation by gender would likely require additional sample to ensure representativity by the selected criterion at an administrative level normally used in IPC analyses. This argument therefore contradicts other decision makers' views on sample size calculations – unless for these decision makers the administrative level of the analysis is not the determining factor of the usefulness of such analysis.

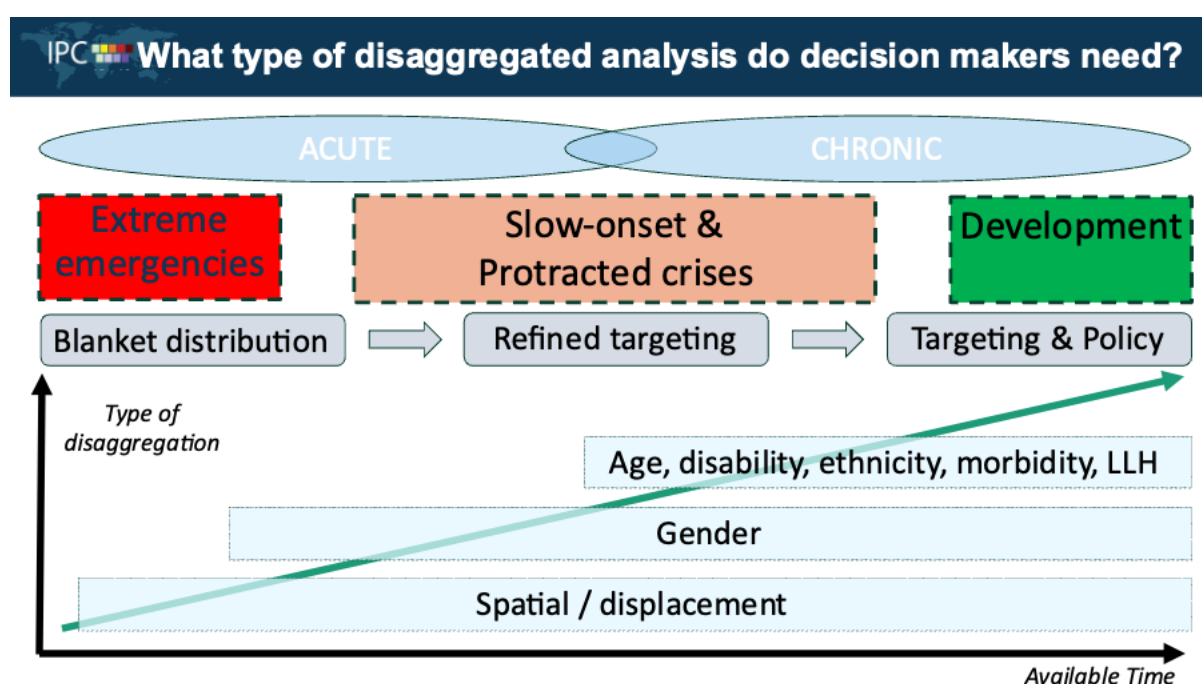
The remaining disaggregation criteria, including **age, disability, morbidity and livelihood** were only considered relevant in specific circumstances and under specific conditions, where ample time and resources are available to collect and analyse information and use it for targeting selected population groups. Some decision makers noted that ‘economic aspects’ of food security (such as cost and affordability of a healthy diet) are gaining more and more importance in food security analysis. Many of these aspects of disaggregation are considered less relevant and appropriate in *extreme* emergency situations, where there is less time to collect and less scope to utilise disaggregated information. As noted in the previous section, decision makers’ views and experiences differ in their ability to target population groups.

Decision makers were asked about the type of disaggregation that they are interested in and would need to increase the efficiency of their IPC/CH-related work. It emerged from the responses that a significant factor that determines whether disaggregated analysis can be obtained and used effectively is the **availability of time**. It is therefore important to categorise responses according to the *context* in which disaggregated analysis would be used and distinguish between *emergency* and *development* situations. In the former less time is available to assess need, design, and implement interventions, while in the latter case there is more time available to utilise disaggregated population analysis. Clearly, this is not an either / or question: there is a broad spectrum of situations ranging from extreme emergencies to long-term development contexts with the availability of time increasing gradually.

Decision makers gave the example of *extreme emergencies*, where no or very limited time exists to assess the characteristics of population groups that require immediate life-saving assistance and utilise disaggregated information. In these situations, including military conflicts or sudden earthquakes, the sole objective is to save lives that needs to happen at a very short notice, usually at a large scale and in extremely difficult and often unsafe circumstances. In such situations there is little if any scope to target resources to specific population groups and the most frequently used modality of implementation is *blanket distribution* of resources.

In case of more *protracted and slow-onset* crises and in development situations, there is more time and scope available for decision makers to take into account and utilise granular information on the characteristics of population groups. Together with the increasing availability of time and resources, the range of opportunities also expands to use various types of disaggregated analysis for project design and targeting. The availability of time in different contexts is thus a crucial element that determines the demand for disaggregated analysis and whether it can be used by decision makers for project or policy design and targeting.

Figure 3. Type of disaggregated information by context



It is useful to further distinguish responses according to the level at which decision makers operate. Global and regional level decision makers expressed interest in virtually all types of disaggregation and they would welcome both spatial and social disaggregation of population groups. As noted in earlier sections, decision makers at this level utilise IPC information mostly for funding and advocacy purposes, as well as to monitor and analyse food security situations – with less focus on more practical aspects including sub-regional and household level targeting. Local-level decision makers, on the other hand, whose main purpose of using disaggregated analysis is to target resources and reach specific population groups within the local context, expressed interest in specific disaggregation criteria that are relevant to the location, context and the environment in which they operate. For example, information on IDPs and refugees was in high demand in Mozambique, but received less attention in many of the interviews elsewhere in Southern Africa, where gender and livelihood received more attention.

Should the unit of analysis be changed from household to individual?

The survey asked decision makers whether it would be beneficial if the unit of analysis was changed from the household to the individual level and surveys would be conducted with individuals instead of households. The underlying argument behind this initiative is that collecting information from individuals, instead of households, would enable IPC/CH to classify selected population groups into Phases in areas. It may be possible to classify, say, women in a given region in Phase 4, while the rest of the population in the same area would be classified in Phase 3.

Most decision makers were unclear about the potential advantages of this methodological change: “*What operational value would we get out of this?*”. They agreed that such a shift would **not** be beneficial, and the IPC/CH should not aspire to analyse individuals instead of households. The arguments in support of this claim included the following:

- The current IPC/CH infrastructure is set up around households and the indicators in the IPC/CH reference tables also refer to households. Shifting to individual-based surveys would require **major methodological changes**, including revising questionnaires, data collection methods, and redesigning sampling. This would be a significant revision of the current analytical system and would require substantial investment, while it is unclear whether this change would yield better estimates and more reliable results than the current methods that focus on households. The revision process would be institutionally heavy, as the new methods would likely need to be agreed upon by all IPC/CH partner agencies. As one decision maker put it: “*The old dog is hard to change*”.
- It is technically and methodologically possible to go into the intra-household aspects of food security without changing the unit of analysis from the household to the individual. It is possible to add additional modules to household questionnaires, to interview selected individuals within the household without replacing the household as the principal unit of analysis, and household-based surveys can also be disaggregated by factors to provide individual-level information.
- Interventions and projects by implementing agencies often normally target households and not individuals. Therefore, an individual-based IPC/CH analysis may not be compatible with the requirements of the current aid infrastructure, whereas the current household-based analysis is in methodological harmony with the requests of the users of IPC/CH information.
- Some decision makers argued that providing individual level data on a regular and continuous basis might be “too detailed” for the purposes of IPC/CH and for the users of analysis results. It may be feasible, however, to do individual-based analyses once in a while and focusing on specific question(s), but not on a regular basis and not in a systematic manner. Conducting occasional studies on selected aspects of individual-level determinants and consequences of food insecurity may be a feasible option, according to some decision makers.

Certain decision makers highlighted that the IPC acute malnutrition scale offers significant opportunities for disaggregation by sex and age, as it is based on individual and not on household level data. On the other hand, nutrition data currently focuses on women and children, while it would be important to include other sex and age groups into the analysis, including older people or people living with disabilities.

Should the IPC/CH classify disaggregated groups into phases?

The feasibility of classifying population groups into IPC/CH phases depends on both the aspect of disaggregation as well as on the context. Decision makers agreed that classifying population groups according to **spatial** aspects (including *urban* areas and *lower administrative units*) as well as *displacement* (IDPs and refugees) would be worth the effort in most cases, and the IPC/CH should aim to classify these population groups into phases, if resources permit the analysis. The phase classification of displaced populations (both IDPs and refugees) is rarely available in IPC/CH analyses and decision makers working in countries that host displaced populations often struggle to know how much resources are required by IDPs and refugees within a region that has been classified by the IPC/CH. This also applies to urban areas that are located within classified regions. Classification by spatial dimensions can be implemented by using household level data, which is the primary unit of analysis in surveys currently used in IPC/CH analyses.

There was less unanimity among decision makers about the usefulness and feasibility of classifying population groups by **social and socio-economic** dimensions (including gender, age, disability, morbidity or livelihoods) and whether such an exercise would be worth the effort and the investment in all cases and contexts. Some of the arguments that were raised against classifying population groups by social criteria include the following:

- There are no appropriate corresponding targeting mechanisms to channel resources effectively to the identified (and classified) population groups: *“Let’s just see what this would mean in practice. If IPC told us that women are in phase 4 and men are in phase 2 in a given region, what could we actually do with this information? Would you distribute resources to women only and exclude men, knowing that they all live in the same household and will eventually share the resources?”*
- Others highlighted the difficulties involved in choosing between population groups that would be classified and others that would not be classified into phases: *“If you classify women into phases as part of your gender analysis, then what about children, disabled, chronically sick and so forth. In order to decide whom to classify and whom not to classify into phases, you would need to make prior assumptions about who is likely to be more vulnerable, more food insecure and less resilient. But how do you know this before actually doing the analysis? Or would you want to classify all population groups? Where would that lead to; and how much would it cost?”*
- Many decision makers reiterated their earlier claim that disaggregating and classifying population groups into phases could become an expensive exercise, which may in some cases require changing data collection methods and collecting data directly on individuals as opposed to households. This may only pass a cost-benefit test under some specific circumstances: *“You would need to decide very carefully when and which groups to classify – it would be very costly and I am not sure it would be worth the investment”*.

Classifying population groups into phases according to social and socio-economic dimensions may, in certain cases, require collecting population data at the individual (and not at the household) level. As discussed above, shifting from household to individual-based surveys ranks low on the list of priorities for most interviewed decision makers, who would also argue that classifying population groups with different vulnerability characteristics into phases should not be a priority for the IPC/CH. (It should be noted that, from a technical point of view, household surveys can be used to also collect certain individual-level information, and hence it may be technically possible to classify certain social and socio-economic groups into phases, or at least provide information on their situation, based on household surveys. This is a more technical discussion that was not explored in detail with decision makers but would be worth exploring more in depth in any subsequent guidance).

What would be the most useful format to present IPC/CH disaggregated analysis?

Decision makers in general were satisfied with the current means of presentation of IPC/CH analysis and no significant recommendations on improvement were made during the interviews. It was acknowledged that decision makers were not experts in communication methods or specialists in data visualization techniques, therefore there was a general reluctance among them to make recommendations in areas that they were not entirely familiar with. Some differences in the responses across the three levels of decision makers were captured during the interviews which are worth discussing in some more detail.

Global and regional level decision makers expressed explicit preferences for **maps**, which they considered in general the most efficient and easy-to-understand way to present IPC/CH results. Maps and infographics were considered to provide sufficient detail of information for global and regional level decision makers for their IPC/CH-related work. Local-level decision makers also agreed that maps and infographics were very useful ways of presenting the results of analysis – but they also added that for their field-based projects at their operational (national and sub-national) levels more detailed information, presented in various forms of population tables, was of particular interest. Information on numbers of affected people reported in **population tables** contain useful practical information that local level decision makers can rely on when targeting resources.

Some decision makers recommended **interactive maps** as a method in which disaggregated information could be presented accurately. While there were no specific recommendations made on what these maps could look like in practice, the idea of clicking on a dimension of disaggregation that could be displayed on a map was considered useful and beneficial to respondents: *“Just make the map as interactive as possible, so that users can extract any type of information they need. This is the way to go in the future.”* It needs to be noted that virtually all decision makers agreed that long reports were less appealing compared to other, more ‘digestible’ means of communication, including short one pager snapshots, summaries, maps and population tables.

The opportunity cost of disaggregated analysis

It was generally agreed by all decision makers that the tools and processes used by the IPC/CH need to be honed to the best possible use. As discussed in the previous section, disaggregated analysis could incur significant cost, which would only be worth the investment if it proved to be *“meaningful”* and cost-effective on a case-by-case basis. Decision makers were asked to compare the cost of disaggregated analysis with the cost of other possible options that the IPC/CH could invest in – in other words, what is the *opportunity cost* of focusing on and promoting disaggregated analysis? It is important to note that the interviewed decision makers do not necessarily hold positions that would enable them to influence or provide advice on IPC/CH policies related to options for investment. Nevertheless, several important and useful recommendations were made, and the following list shows, in order of preference, those options where the return on investment was considered just as high as the return on investing in disaggregated population analysis:

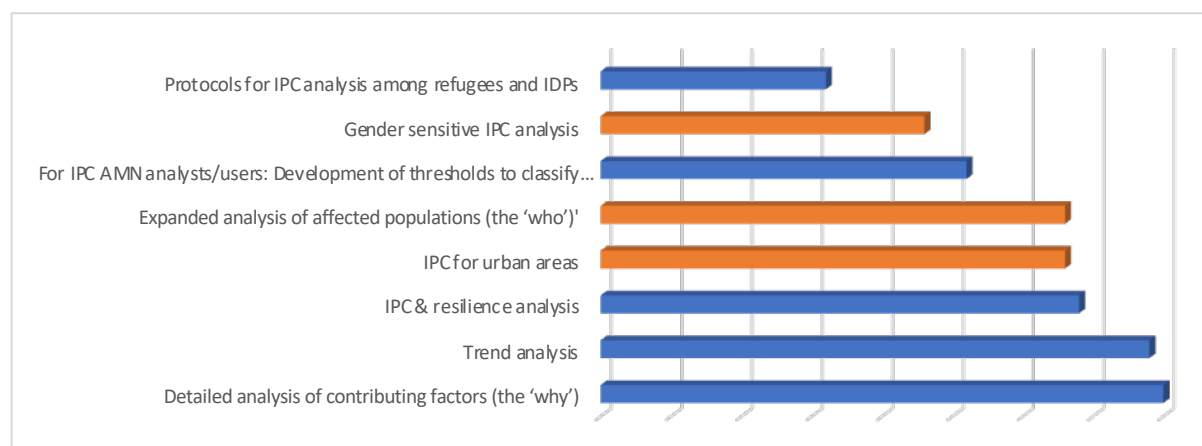
- Some decision makers highlighted that the IPC should **expand its coverage** to additional countries where it is currently not operational. For many respondents it would make more sense to channel resources and funding into expanding the coverage of IPC countries than to invest in disaggregated IPC analysis, especially if the return on disaggregated analysis may be unclear in certain situations. A relevant example was cited from the Latin America and Caribbean (LA&C) region, in which IPC reduced its representation in some countries.¹⁴ It should be noted, however, that disaggregated analysis cannot be directly compared to expansion of coverage: decisions on these are taken at different levels, by different actors, and the two are not using the same resources.
- Some decision makers noted that rather than investing in disaggregated analysis, it would be more important and strategic to invest in improving the **quality of IPC/CH analyses**. Several examples were quoted from the field where the figures and the analysis provided by the IPC/CH were not necessarily “believed or accepted” by some agents and decision makers – even though IPC/CH analyses are built on consensus building among partners. Several decision makers noted that estimates provided by FEWS NET and by IPC/CH can be significantly different and there is no clear benchmark that decision makers can adhere to in such cases. It is not clear which one of the estimates should be considered more “reliable”, and it is not obvious from this argument whether the right policy implication is that the IPC/CH should improve methods of analysis.
- For some decision makers, beside the quality and depth of the analysis, the **frequency** of conducting IPC analysis was an important aspect that they wanted IPC to focus on. Their argument is that the IPC analyses, if not conducted frequently enough, may become outdated quickly in an environment that changes fast at a very short notice. If the IPC wants to provide up-to-date information for its users, then they need to conduct analyses frequently. This tallies with the findings of the GSU 2018 Evaluation, which emphasised the *“Rapidly changing context and therefore levels of food insecurity, yet insufficient frequency of the IPC, which means that the analysis can become quickly outdated”* (page 30). The same argument did not arise in CH interviews, as CH analyses are conducted regularly twice a year especially in key CH countries.

- Other decision makers noted that the IPC/CH should focus on improving the **analytical capacities** of analysts – including the ability to pick up and analyse disaggregated information and data. This recommendation tallies with earlier arguments that in several cases there is significant amount of disaggregated data and analysis that could be available for IPC/CH analysts, but they are not reported and investigated in sufficient detail. In these cases, for some decision makers, the constraint lies in capacity, which, if invested in and improved, could increase the quality of IPC/CH analysis and could subsequently lead to improvements in disaggregated analysis.

The list of alternative priorities for the IPC/CH tallies with the findings of the 2022 online survey, which evaluated and ranked eight potential thematic areas of improvement for the IPC. The survey found that disaggregation was not highly prioritised: *“Disaggregated analysis including gender-sensitive analysis is deprioritized by some users, GSC members and technical actors. This is often due to other challenges being seen as critical to be addressed first to ensure the basics are right, and not to jeopardize hard-won gains by overcomplicating the IPC analysis process”* (Evaluation of the GSP 2022: page 46).

It is interesting to note that the 2022 online survey ranked the different dimensions of disaggregation very similarly compared to the findings of this survey. Among the three dimensions of disaggregation that the survey asked about, urban analysis came first (*“IPC for urban areas”*), followed by *“Expanded analysis of affected populations (the who)”* (including IDP’s and refugees as affected populations), and finally by *“gender sensitive IPC analysis”*. This ranking also tallies with the findings of TDT’s review of partner agencies’ websites discussed earlier in this report. The figure below shows the eight areas captured by the 2022 online survey including the three columns in orange that are related to the different dimensions of disaggregated analysis.

Figure 4. Thematic areas of improvement for IPC



Source: 2022 Online Survey (Final Evaluation of the GSP – 2022).

4. CONCLUSION

This study has provided evidence that decision makers at the local, regional and global levels share remarkable interest in disaggregated information on population groups, which is in high demand at all levels. The advantages and potential benefits of granular information on the characteristics of selected population groups for the purposes of targeting, policy design, monitoring, or evaluation were unanimously acknowledged by all interviewees.

Despite this general agreement on the value of disaggregated analysis, the decision makers also had many divergent views especially regarding the practical implementation of disaggregated analysis. This study has not aimed to reconcile the divergent views offered by different decision makers, and the objective was not to take any position on 'who is right and who is wrong', or to make judgements about the validity of various opinions, or to evaluate the legitimacy of opposing arguments. Not only would this approach have resulted in a biased presentation of the results, but the study would have lost its overall purpose and its very advantage to be able to capture and present divergent views in a balanced manner.

The core mandate of the IPC and CH is to serve the international aid industry with high quality information on population groups. This study has confirmed that decision makers at the local, regional and global levels are interested in obtaining disaggregated information on population groups. To better serve this purpose, it is important that IPC/CH analysts receive clear guidance on how to assess the need for, and how to conduct, disaggregated analysis in different contexts. This would serve the humanitarian industry and may further enhance the credibility of the IPC and CH in assisting aid agencies with allocating resources.

Despite the unequivocal agreement on the importance of disaggregated analysis, a deeper investigation into the purposes and potential modalities of disaggregated population analysis in different contexts has revealed significant differences in the views and approaches of decision makers. The multiple viewpoints and often contradicting opinions offered by respondents on how, when, where and in what way disaggregated analysis should be carried out makes it challenging to draw universal conclusions and to provide general recommendations that are applicable across the diverse contexts in which the IPC and CH operate. The divergent views provide evidence that such decisions are conditioned on the context, on the needs of decision making, as well as on the available resources.

Regardless of the often-diverging views of decision makers, an important finding that emerges from this study concerns the priorities that decision makers attribute to the various types of disaggregated analysis. In order of preference, decision makers favour *spatial* disaggregation including by administrative units and urban areas, and analysis of *displaced* populations, followed by *gender* analysis. *Socio-economic* disaggregation including age, disability, morbidity and livelihood is considered worthwhile primarily in contexts where there are ample resources and time for such analysis. This prioritisation applies across emergencies, protracted crises and development contexts: with increasing availability of time the opportunities to conduct disaggregated analysis also increase consistently. Another key finding that very clearly surfaced from the interviews, and has been also consistently highlighted through the report, is that the feasibility and the modality of disaggregated analysis need to be evaluated carefully on a case-by-case basis. It is crucial that IPC/CH working groups and decision-makers at country level carefully assess what kind of disaggregated analysis would best satisfy the needs for more granular information, that can ultimately be used to direct resources to the beneficiaries that need them most.

ANNEX 1: LIST OF INTERVIEWED DECISION MAKERS

Local Decision Makers

Level	Country	Region	Name	No. of people	Institution	Date of Interview
Local (IPC)	Somalia	Africa	Daniel Molla	1	FAO	2023 10 18, 10:30
	Somalia	Africa	Simon Karanja	1	UNICEF	2023 11 03, 13:00
	Afghanistan	Asia	Moctar Abou Bacar	1	WFP	2023 11 02, 06:30
	Lebanon	Asia	Etienne Careme, Choueiri Etienne	2	FAO	2023 10 25, 8:00
	Pakistan	Asia	Raja Ajmal Jahangeer	1	FAO	2023 09 26, 14:00
	Pakistan	Asia	Omer Bangash	1	NGO (WHH)	2023 11 07, 14:00
	Pakistan	Asia	Shafqat Ullah	1	NGO (CWW)	2023 11 07, 12:30
	Namibia	Africa	Ndapunikwa Hamunyela	1	GOV (OPM)	2023 11 16, 10:00
	Namibia	Africa	Paulus Ashili	1	GOV (OPM)	2023 11 16, 12:00
	Mozambique	Africa	Pablo Rodriguez	1	WFP	2023 11 07, 11:00
	Guatemala	LA&C	Edy Manolo Barillas	1	OCHA	2023 11 02, 16:30
	Haiti	LA&C	Marie Judith Fanfan	3	GOV	2023 11 08, 15:00
	Haiti	LA&C	Clement Rouquette, Ferdinand Bealem	2	WFP	2023 11 03, 16:00
	DRC	Africa	Dimitri Obolensky	1	USAID	2023 10 04, 11:00
	DRC	Africa	Bruno Lemarquis, Bounena Sidi Mohamed, Marc Sekpon	3	UNDP	2023 10 11, 15:30
CAR	Africa	Tobias Schuldt	1	OCHA	2023 11 03, 11:00	
Local (CH)	Mozambique	Africa	Custodio Amaral	1	FAO	2023 11 30, 10:00
	Burkina Faso	Africa	Christophe Breyne*	1	ECHO	2023 10 19
	Burkina Faso	Africa	Emilien Bakone	1	GOV	2023 10 30
	Togo	Africa	Kodzo Nyuito	1	ECHO	2023 11 03

* The interview was conducted at the same time.

Regional and Global Decision Makers

Level	Name	No. of people	Institution	Date of Interview
Regional (IPC)	Gemma Connell	1	OCHA	2023 09 29, 10:00
	Jessica Gorham	1	UNFPA	2023 09 25, 13:00
	Andrea Berardo	1	WFP	2023 09 07, 9:30
	Calogero di Gloria, Judith Munyano	3	ECHO	2023 09 11, 9:00
	Pierre Winshell	1	ECHO	2023 09 12, 17:00
	Gabriel Santos	1	USAID	2023 10 12, 16:30
	Raquel Pena, Xabier Garay, Marion Khamis	3	FAO	2023 09 06, 15:00
	Nana Dlamini	1	SADC	2023 10 02, 10:00
Regional (CH)	Charlotte Fontaine*	1	ECHO	2023 10 19
	Abdoulaye Mohamadou	1	CILSS	2023 11 09
	Ismael Ardrajaho Boly	1	NGO (OXFAM)	2023 10 25
	Halima Ouattara-Ayanou, Stephane Dufils	2	USAID	2023 10 27
	Ollo Sib, Aliou Badara Samake	2	WFP	2023 11 30
	Kouacou Dominique Koffy	1	FAO	2023 10 31
	Laouali Ibrahim	1	FEWSNET	2023 10 25
Global (IPC)	Emily Farr, Eric Munoz	2	NGO (OXFAM)	2023 10 05, 15:00
	Tanya Boudreau	1	FEWSNET	2023 10 02, 15:00
	Abdul Majid	1	gFSC	2023 09 29, 11:30
	Binta Cisse, Joanne Grace	2	NGO (SCF)	2023 10 23, 15:00
	Eric Branckaert, Naouar Labidi	2	WFP	2023 10 20, 11:00
	Luca Russo, Jose Rosero Moncayo	2	FAO	2023 09 28, 09:30
	Justus Liku	1	NGO (CARE)	2023 10 04, 14:00
	Sophie Maes, Andre Griekspoor, Marina Adrianopoli	3	WHO	2023 10 16, 15:00
	Philip Steffen	1	USAID	2023 11 08, 14:00
	Angela Király, Michelle Wei, Robyn Baron	3	Global Affairs Canada	2023 10 11, 16:30
	Elisabeth Vikman	1	SIDA	2023 12 18, 10:00

* The interview was conducted at the same time.

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Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

CADRE HARMONISE



FOOD
Survey, Import, Assessment
Severity, RESOURCES, Monitoring
Indicators, Priorities, CLIMATE, Acute
Chronic, Projected, Catastrophic, Emergency
Stressed, ASSISTANCE
marginalization
Key factors
Catastrophe
Hostilities, Survival
DEATH, Vulnerability
Hazards, Conflict
Inflation, Production
Returnees
Coping Strategy
Assistance
Accessibility, Stability
Farming, Food
Security, Classification
Malnutrition
Childcare Practices, Access, Alert, Serious, Health
WASH, Sanitation, Hygiene, DISEASES, Poverty
Mortality, Treatment, INFORMATION, Humanitarian
Response, Balanced Diet, Population in Need, Household
Deforestation, Malaria, Low Income, Inflation, Currency
Devaluation, Funding Levels, Climatic Shocks, Earthquake

Famine
Climatic Shocks, Indicators
Flooding, Tsunami, Desert Locust
Food Security Classification
Crises, Nutrition, Children, Feeding, IPC Phases
Severity, Resources, Monitoring, Indicators, Priorities
Survival, CLIMATE, Chronic
Projected
EMERGENCY
Hostilities, Survival
Vulnerability, Hazards
Breastfeeding, Imports
Current situation, Cash
Stability, Gender
Reference, Insecurity
DATA, Information
Disasters, Drought
Malnutrition, Stunting
humanitarian
CHILDCARE, Access
Sanitation and Hygiene
POVERTY, Factors
Evidence
Behavioral Change, CRISES, Humanitarian Response
MULTISECTORAL PROGRAMMING
Livelihood Support, Conflict,
Refugees, Displacement, Livestock
Resilience

Food Insecurity, Aid
Assessment
Stressed, Catastrophe
Death rate, Information
Damages
Production, CONFLICT
Assistance, Utilization
Framework, Dietary
Post-Analysis, Review
Decisions, Response
Markets
Pregnant, policies
Breastfeeding
Health Services, WASH
Nutrition
SEVERITY, Volatility
Supplementary Feeding
Humanitarian Response

YEARS

informing decisions



The IPC Global Partners



IPC Funding Partners

