

IASC News - August 2015

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## News and Highlights from the IASC Community

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*UNFPA Myanmar working with Myanmar's Youth YIC (Youth Information Corner) to deliver support to flood survivors in Ayeyawady Region. Credit: UNFPA Myanmar/Benny Manser*

## LATEST NEWS

### Myanmar Floods

As of 21 August over [1.6 million people and over 900,000 acres](#) of farmland have been critically affected by the floods. [US\\$75.5 million](#) will be required to address the needs of nearly 600,000 people in the next five months. Lessons learned from the Cyclone Nargis response allowed more efficient response from humanitarian actors and the government. Food, shelter and family kits were distributed and local [civil society came together to help the flood victims](#). The government created a Recovery Coordination Committee to facilitate a rapid recovery. A United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination

(UNDAC) team was deployed to Myanmar on 24 August for a period of three to four weeks. The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, [Ms. Renata Dessallien](#) expressed that “our efforts to help households rebuild their livelihoods, repair infrastructure and restore services, must be accompanied by measures to reduce people’s vulnerability to future disasters.”

## Chief of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) Secretariat to step down

Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, a doctor and founder of MERCY Malaysia, will be stepping down as chief of the WHS Secretariat to take up a senior role in another operational agency as of January 2016 onward. Mahmood will see the secretariat through some “key ongoing processes” before she leaves, including the WHS Global Consultations in October. [Find out more.](#)

### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- [Review of Active L3s by the IASC Principals](#)
- [Ad hoc Principals meeting on Security](#)
- [WHO #ThanksHealthHero Campaign](#)
- [Global Protection Cluster Strategy - Survey](#)
- [World Humanitarian Day](#)



ERC O'Brien with displaced children in a hygiene sensitisation session in Amran, Yemen. Credits: OCHA / Philippe Kropf.

## Review of Active L3 Responses by the IASC Principals

At their [ad hoc meeting on 26 August](#), the IASC Principals reviewed the System-Wide Level Three (L3) Response Activations for Iraq, South Sudan and Syria and decided to maintain the L3 status for all three crises. The Principals also agreed to have a more strategic discussion on the Level 3 concept.

### Iraq

Over [8 million](#) people are in need of humanitarian assistance as of 16 August. Of the [US\\$498 million](#) requested in humanitarian aid, 25 per cent has been funded thus far. Funding shortfalls and strict security policies are negatively impacting the provision of and access to food, shelter, and non-food items. Health services in Kurdistan are stretched by heavy displacement and drinking water and coolboxes remain an urgent priority. About [3.2 million](#) school aged children lack access to quality education. The IASC Principals decided to extend the L3 Response for Iraq until the end of 2015 and tasked the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) to present their Transition Plan before the December 2015 IASC Principals meeting.

### South Sudan

An internationally-mandated peace agreement was signed between President Kiir and rebels on 26 August. [World leaders and humanitarian organisations welcomed the deal but warned it must now be implemented.](#) As of 25 August, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has increased to 1.6 million IDPs and over 600,000 have become refugees in neighbouring states. Funding remains insufficient and only half of

the [US\\$1.63 billion](#) required has been secured thus far. The [USG emphasized the high cost of the conflict](#), with communities enduring insecurity and fear as atrocities continue. While [addressing the Security Council on 25 August](#), he expressed his concern for Unity and Upper Nile states as fighting continues. He emphasized the need for leaders to take responsibility for their actions and cease hostilities. The IASC Principals decided to extend the L3 response for three months.

## Syria

Since the start of the conflict, over [250,000 Syrians](#) have been killed, more than 1 million injured and about [7.6 million](#) displaced. The number of UNHCR registered refugees has reached [4 million](#) – the largest refugee population from a single conflict worldwide in over a quarter of a century. [31 per cent of the US\\$2.89 billion](#) of the Syrian Humanitarian Response Plan has been funded thus far. People in Damascus, [Aleppo](#), and Dara'a suffer from [water insecurity](#) as a result of cuts imposed by armed groups. [4.6 million Syrians](#) in need of humanitarian assistance are inaccessible. The IASC Principals decided to extend the L3 response for another 6 months.

## Yemen

According to ERC/USG Stephen O'Brien's [Statement to the Security Council on Yemen](#) on World Humanitarian Day, 80 per cent of Yemenis require humanitarian assistance and nearly 1.5 million people are internally displaced as a result of the conflict. As of 27 August, [19 per cent of the US\\$1.6 billion](#) in requested humanitarian aid has been funded. There is widespread scarcity of food and fuel resulting from impediments to commercial imports and airstrikes in and around Hudaydah port. The shortage of funding has created the possibility of [famine](#) for millions of Yemenis. The Yemen L3 status will be reviewed by the IASC Principals at the end of September.

## Ad Hoc Principals Meeting on Security

At DSS request, the IASC Secretariat organized a briefing by USG Drennan on security threats and mitigating measures. The meeting provided a sobering reminder of the security risks faced by humanitarian organizations in different parts of the world. The ERC noted that security must be more systematically on the humanitarian agenda and that IASC Principals must provide leadership to ensure that security measures and analyses are factored in decisionmaking. He also provided an update on the efforts underway to revise the UN-NGO collaboration framework "Saving lives Together".

## WHO #ThanksHealthHero Campaign

Between World Humanitarian Day and the World Humanitarian Summit, [the campaign](#) will honour frontline health workers by shining a spotlight on the doctors, nurses, paramedics and other health workers who selflessly serve their communities, often with very little access to resources and sometimes at great risk to their own lives.

[Click here](#) to send a message of thanks to the health heroes.

## Global Protection Cluster Strategy - Survey

The Global Protection Cluster (GPC) is revising its Strategic Framework for 2016-2019. To support this endeavour, the GPC is seeking input from individuals in the larger



humanitarian community, at all levels of seniority, including staff and volunteers with UN agencies, other international organizations, and NGOs; states; civil society organizations; coordination mechanisms; and other stakeholders. You are invited to participate in the survey on humanitarian protection work which is available in [English](#) and [French](#).

## World Humanitarian Day

More than 40 countries around the world commemorated [World Humanitarian Day](#) (WHD) to celebrate aid workers and advocate for humanitarian action under this year's overarching theme – “Inspiring the World's Humanity” The digital campaign #ShareHumanity had a huge spike in activity on 26 August, with more than 170,000 posts; a potential outreach of 2 billion views. #ShareHumanity was tweeted more than 230,000 times (up from 77,000 from last year's #HumanitarianHeroes). For a summary of the digital campaign engagement so far, and some of the highlights, please see the [storify wrap up](#).

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## IASC PRIORITIES

*For more information or to join the IASC Subsidiary Bodies working on these priorities, visit the IASC [webpage](#).*

The IASC Subsidiary bodies are currently preparing progress updates on their work plans in order to present suggestions for their plans beyond 2015 to the Working Group.

### Humanitarian Financing

The IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team (HFTT) is working to improve the transparency of humanitarian financing data. OCHA has built a new version of the website of the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), which is currently available in a [beta version](#). A technical working group of the HFTT will review a draft blueprint for a humanitarian extension to the data standard of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). The task team, together with ReliefWeb, is working on an online repository of humanitarian financing documents. These activities fall under Objective 4 of the HFTT's work plan,

### Accountability to Affected Populations and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (AAP/PSEA)

The [AAP/PSEA HelpDesk](#) is gaining acceptance and several requests for support have been received.

### Preparedness and resilience

At the regular TTPR meeting on 13 August, members were [briefed](#) on the “Global Mapping of Emergency Stockpiles”. [Find out more](#).

### Revitalizing Principled Humanitarian Action

The final Review of the Impact of UN Integration on Humanitarian Action was circulated to the TT on Revitalizing Principled Humanitarian Action, and the TT is now preparing a recommendations matrix to accompany the report. A draft of the COTER Advocacy Strategy was circulated to the TT for input.

### Gender in Humanitarian Action

The new [IASC Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action](#) have been circulated and will be officially launched in September. The Gender and Development Network, alongside other

which aims to improve transparency by strengthening the empirical knowledge base on funding flows.

organisations, have collectively called on the WHS to put women's leadership, gender equality and gender-based violence (GBV) at the heart of humanitarian reforms in a [joint position paper](#).

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## IASC EVENTS IN AUGUST

*IASC Events are organized on an ad hoc basis by the IASC secretariat in Geneva and New York*

### Briefing to the IASC on the World Humanitarian Summit Regional Consultations (RC) for the Pacific and South and Central Asia (Geneva and New York, 17 August 2015)

Elizabeth Cafferty, Gender Advisor, WHS secretariat, briefed on the [South and Central Asia Regional Consultations](#), highlighting both preparatory meetings and the many issues which came out of the RC itself. Emmi Antinoja, WHS secretariat, briefed on the [Pacific Regional Consultations](#) and thanked IASC agencies for their joint efforts in organizing consultations in the lead up to the RC. She detailed the six priorities that came out of the RC. The discussion section focused on when taskable action recommendations might be made, as well as the synthesis report and the SG's report. Other issues discussed were IASC's multiyear planning and development of priorities for 2016-2017 in particular with regard to preparedness, but also protracted crises, humanitarian financing, natural disasters, climate change and localization of response.

### Somalia Briefing by IOM (New York, 14 August 2015)

Gerry Waite, IOM Chief of Mission for Somalia, briefed the IASC on the situation in Somalia focusing on mobility dynamics in Somalia and the impact of the crisis in Yemen. Mr. Waite highlighted issues regarding coordination and joint leadership by IOM and UNHCR. He also discussed the numbers and profiles of returnees from Yemen, where they are crossing and where they are settling, as well as their needs. Other issues highlighted during the briefing included reception centres, government attitude towards returnees, youth and migration to Europe. The

## RECENT REPORTS AND STUDIES

### [Funding Update of the Global Humanitarian Review](#)

On 19 August, 2015 OCHA released a humanitarian funding update. Overall, global humanitarian funding amounts to US\$11.5 billion, an increase of \$3.7 billion compared to June funding levels (\$7.8 billion).

### [Amnesty International Report - Yemen](#)

On 17 August, 2015 Amnesty International released: 'Nowhere Safe For Civilians: Airstrikes And Ground Attacks In Yemen'. The report highlights the impact of unlawful coalition airstrikes in densely populated residential neighbourhoods, and attacks by Huthi loyalists and anti-Huthi armed groups operating on the ground, who have carried out indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks in civilian areas.

### [Mainstreaming Environment and Climate Change into Humanitarian Action](#)

Evidence on Demand produced a topic guide targeted at Climate, Environment, Infrastructure and Livelihoods Advisers in the UK Department for International Development

discussion focused on arrivals screening, IDP camps, economic crisis, migration routes and protection issues.

(DFID) and other development professionals.

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## FEATURED PRODUCT: FINAL TRANSFORMATIVE AGENDA PROTOCOLS

The [Reference Module for the Implementation of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle \(HPC\)](#) was prepared by the Humanitarian Programme Cycle Steering Group of the IASC. It provides an overview of what needs to be done, when and by whom, to enable managers to allocate staff and tasks, sequence decisions and planning, and identify priorities during humanitarian crises.

The [Reference Module for Cluster Coordination at Country Level](#) has been revised, reflecting implementation of the 2011 Transformative Agenda, and includes inputs from the field and the global level. The cluster approach was adopted in 2005, following an independent Humanitarian Response Review, to address gaps and to increase the effectiveness of humanitarian response by building partnerships.

The [Emergency Response Preparedness](#) (ERP) approach - developed by the IASC Task Team on Preparedness and Resilience - enables the international humanitarian system to apply a proactive approach to emergency preparedness. The ERP replaces the 'Inter-Agency Contingency Planning Guidelines for Humanitarian Assistance' as developed in 2001 and updated in 2007. It aims to optimize the speed and volume of critical assistance delivered immediately after the onset of a humanitarian emergency.

The [Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment \(MIRA\) Guidance](#) has been revised to incorporate lessons learned from its application in new emergencies, further field practice and other existing assessment tools and methodologies. It reflects a common vision of what is methodologically sound and realistically feasible in the highly challenging environment in which emergency humanitarian needs assessments take place.

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

### IASC Meetings & Events

**9-10 September 2015:** IASC secretariat retreat

**15 September 2015:** IASC Focal Point meeting to prepare the 89th Working Group meeting

**16 September 2015:** [Task Team on Humanitarian Financing \(HFTT\) Meeting](#)

**18 September 2015:** [Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting: IAHE CAR and South Sudan](#)

**29 September 2015:** [Task Team on Revitalizing Principled Humanitarian Action \(RPHA\) Meeting](#)

**30 September 2015 (tbc):** Ad Hoc Principals Meeting: Review of L3 system-wide activation in Yemen

**12-13 October 2015:** [89th Working Group Meeting](#): discussions about the IASC priorities for 2016-2017 and migration.

**6 November 2015:** Senior Focal Points PSEA meeting with all IASC agencies  
Senior Focal Points

**11 December 2015:** [Principals Meeting](#)

## Other Events

**September-October 2015:** [PHAP Special Events Series: Practical Dilemmas of Principled Action](#). Please register to participate in the series of two-hour live online discussions.

**1-2 September 2015:** [WHS Youth Summit](#)

**9-11 September 2015:** [WHS Thematic Consultations](#)

**14-16 September 2015:** [International Conference: A Quest for Humanitarian Effectiveness?](#)

**25-27 September 2015:** [United Nations Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#)

**9-10 October 2015:** [Humanitarian Congress Berlin](#)

**14-16 October 2015:** [WHS Global Consultation](#)

**26-27 October 2015:** [IOM Conference on Migrants and Cities](#)

**29-30 October 2015:** [International Forum on Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Development](#)

**30 November-11 December 2015:** The United Nations Climate Change Conference, [COP21/CMP11](#)

**8-10 December 2015:** [32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent](#)

**15 December 2015:** [CERF's](#) annual High-Level Conference

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We welcome your feedback and input to [iasccorrespondence@un.org](mailto:iasccorrespondence@un.org).



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The IASC was established under General Assembly Resolution 46/182 (1991) as the primary inter-agency coordination mechanism for humanitarian action in complex and major emergencies. It is a unique forum which brings together UN operational agencies and other humanitarian organizations and is supported by the IASC secretariat. Email: [iasccorrespondence@un.org](mailto:iasccorrespondence@un.org)

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