

**IASC**  
Inter-Agency Standing Committee**News**

## News and Highlights from the IASC Community

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Dear IASC colleagues!

Many thanks for your hard work, commitment and the good cooperation throughout 2015. Warm greetings to all of you – may 2016 be a year of hope!

**IASC** secretariat

## LATEST NEWS

### Looking back on 2015 and forward to 2016

2015 has been a year full of challenges and many deteriorating humanitarian situations, leading to increased humanitarian suffering and funding gaps. While the European refugee crisis and conflicts in Ukraine and Syria have received broad media coverage, many other situations have been largely overlooked: Central America's hidden displacement; the south Sudanese refugee crisis, the CAR conflict; Yemen's worsening humanitarian crisis; and the global impact of El Niño. However, positive developments, such as the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Change Agreement, advances in the peace negotiations in Colombia and improvements in preparing for humanitarian crises, such as the Nepal earthquake, give rise to hope for 2016.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- ["Burundi is at bursting point"](#)
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*IASC Principals at their meeting at Château des Penthes in Geneva on 11 December 2015*

### “Burundi is at bursting point”

Burundi is engulfed in a political and human rights crisis that is exacerbating the humanitarian plight of an impoverished and vulnerable population. During their visit to Burundi in early December, eleven IASC Emergency Directors (EDs) expressed deep concern that Burundi may quickly descend into humanitarian disaster. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, recently [stated](#) at the Human Rights Council that “the situation needs urgent, concerted, decisive attention from the international community”. Since April 2015, more than [228,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries](#). According to the 2016 [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#), almost 314 million US dollars will be required for the response operations in Tanzania, Rwanda, DRC and Uganda.

### Climate Change and food security

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change was [adopted](#) on 13 December 2015. For the first time, 195 Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)), pledged to curb emissions, strengthen resilience and joined to take common climate action. At COP21, WFP launched the [Food Security Climate Resilience \(FoodSECurRE\) Facility](#), a multilateral, multi-year, replenishable fund to financially and programmatically support community-centred action to reinforce and build climate resilience. The [Food Insecurity and Climate Change Vulnerability Index](#), jointly produced by WFP and the UK Met Office Hadley Centre, was also launched illustrating how strong adaptation and mitigation efforts will prevent the worst impacts of climate change on hunger globally and help make people less vulnerable to food insecurity.

### IASC Principals meeting and farewell to High Commissioner Guterres

At the 11 December 2015 meeting, hosted by ICVA at Chateau de Penthes in Geneva, the Principals discussed Syria, Yemen, L3 in protracted emergencies, humanitarian

financing, WHS, cash programming and coordination, and PSEA. The final Action Points from the Principals meeting will be made available on the [IASC website](#). The Principals meeting was preceded by a farewell dinner in honour of Mr Guterres, during which the outgoing High Commissioner for Refugees gave a touching speech reflecting on the past with a sobering view towards the future.

## Working Group strategic priorities endorsed

At the 3 December ad hoc meeting, the IASC Working Group discussed the strategic priorities and outputs for 2016, which were consequently endorsed by the Principals on 11 December. Fine tuning of the workplan is ongoing and will be finalized in January.

## Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) 2016 launched

The GHO 2016 provides a bleak outlook of the humanitarian situation in most of the 37 countries covered in the appeal. More than 125 million people across the world need humanitarian assistance. Of this number, humanitarian partners are targeting 87.6 million people with assistance requiring US\$20.1 billion in 2016 – five times the level of a decade ago. Find the GHO, a video and further information on [humanitarianresponse.info](#).

## CERF turns 10 years!

At the High-Level Pledging Conference held in New York on 17 December, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon commended [CERF](#) for the flexibility and speed it allows in disbursing funds to respond to humanitarian crises. Participants suggested that CERF should be accessible to local actors and in response to protracted crises. The High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing and the World Humanitarian Summit provide fora for further discussing CERF as well as other innovative funding mechanisms. As of 18 December, donors [pledged](#) a quarter of a billion dollars for 2016.

## Migrants and Cities

On 11 December 2015, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) held a briefing on “[Migrants and Cities](#)”. This event was part of the New York Migration Series, organized by IOM to enhance knowledge and raise awareness of migration amongst Permanent Missions, representatives of United Nations (UN) agencies, civil society and other stakeholders at UN Headquarters.

## 32nd Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference

From 8 to 10 December, representatives of nearly every government in the world, the Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement, and partner organizations gathered in Geneva for the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Read [more](#) about the conference and its outcomes.

## 8th annual High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection

## Challenges

This year's [High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges](#) was held in Geneva on 16 and 17 December on the theme "Understanding and addressing root causes of displacement". In a mix of plenary sessions, debate, thematic discussions and side events, the Dialogue fostered an exchange of views on the understanding of causes of conflict-related displacement, the potential of humanitarian action, the drivers of onward movements, newly developing root causes of displacement and actions to prevent, address and resolve them.

## Providing psychosocial support to people affected by conflict in Ukraine

Many people in conflict-affected areas, including women, men, boys and girls, have witnessed, experienced or taken part in violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and are traumatized as a result. Since 1 November 2015, UNFPA has deployed 21 mobile teams to provide psychosocial support to populations in the five regions most affected by the conflict in the Ukraine. Each team consists of two psychologists and one social worker. In working with local service providers, they are able to reach out to people where they are – in rural areas and communities, sometimes far away from city centres. In the first months of operation, the mobile teams provided support to more than 1,400 survivors of gender-based violence in the regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia. 84 per cent of the clients were female, most between the ages of 25 and 36 years-old.

## Humanitarian ID and IASC website

In any humanitarian crisis, having an accurate contact list of humanitarian responders is critical to help coordinate an effective response. In most operations, however, such lists are usually out-of-date, leading to missed communications and frustrated responders. To address this challenge, Humanitarian ID, a new approach to managing contact information was created. Humanitarian ID works on your desktop, laptop and as an app on your mobile device. Find out more and register at <https://humanitarian.id>.

***And coming soon: you will be able to use your Humanitarian ID to log in on the IASC website! We will keep you updated.***

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### IASC PRIORITIES

*For more information or to join the groups, please visit the IASC Subsidiary Bodies [webpage](#).*

[Accountability to Affected Populations and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse \(AAP/PSEA\)](#): On 11 December 2015, the IASC Principals adopted a [statement](#) affirming their commitment to actively prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian

[Protection](#): A partnership of UN agencies and non-governmental organizations led by UNHCR, with support from ECHO's Enhanced Response Capacity (ERC) grant worked together in 2014-2015 to increase emergency preparedness and capacity to deliver multi-purpose cash grants and to understand the protection risks and benefits of cash-based interventions. The project aimed to strengthen organizational capacity for cash-based interventions



workers, and the role of the PSEA Senior Focal Points, Humanitarian Coordinators, and the Humanitarian Country Teams to implement this commitment in all humanitarian response operations. They reaffirmed their determination to eradicate acts of sexual exploitation and abuse by their personnel and actively respond to incidents that are perpetuated against their beneficiaries.

At the 1 December Senior PSEA meeting and at the IASC Principals meeting, PSEA Champion Bill Swing highlighted that the 35 allegations of SEA in one province of DRC shows that on the one hand, the complaints mechanism is working, but that on the other, these cases are undermining our credibility and that a compensation system is urgently needed.

Preparedness and Resilience: At the 17 December meeting, STAIT debriefed on the Inter-Agency Preparedness Learning Review in Nepal; and updates were provided on the ERP (OCHA), on the Global Preparedness Fund (WHO, FAO) and on the UNDG-IASC Guiding Principles on Advancing Resilience (FAO).

Gender in Humanitarian Action: UN Women and Oxfam - on behalf of the Gender Reference Group (GRG) - facilitated a two day Expert Group Meeting to discuss the updating of the IASC Gender Handbook, as per the GRG's 2015 AWP. A Steering Committee will be convened in early January to guide and support the process of revising the IASC Gender in Humanitarian Action handbook. Find more information on the revision process [here](#).

and protection through consolidated and adapted tools, and the development of guidance and training materials. Field guidance and tools for Cash and Protection are now [available](#).

The GPC Task Team on the Protection Priority has embarked on the drafting of the IASC Protection Policy and the IASC Working Group is reviewing the Considerations and a Summary of Proposed Actions for follow-up to the Independent Whole of System Protection Review.

Humanitarian Financing: ICVA, on behalf of the Humanitarian Financing Task Team (HFTT), recruited a consultant to review and compile main findings realized. The product resulting from this consultancy will be available by the end of December. The HFTT will hold its annual retreat on 26 and 27 January. The retreat will focus, among other tasks, on 2016-2017 workplan development and planning of HFTT's follow up work on the upcoming report of the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings: World Vision created a new [research website](#) on Child Friendly Spaces to share the findings from six studies in five different emergency contexts - Ethiopia (with Somali refugees), Uganda (with Congolese refugees), two settings in Iraq (with Syrian refugees), Jordan (with Syrian refugees), and DRC (with internally displaced communities).

The MHPSS Reference Group welcomes UNRWA, CARE and AmeriCares' as new members and encourages suitable candidates to apply to the [Inter-Agency Co-Chair position](#) hosted by the IFRC Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support before 13 January 2016.

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## IASC EVENTS

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

### Briefing on the humanitarian situation in oPt by HC Robert Piper

The focus areas of the 2016 oPT Humanitarian Response Plan are protection; essential services; and coping strategies. The reconstruction effort is advancing well, but the work that remains is the most difficult part (e.g. reconstruction of houses that were left completely uninhabitable). It was highlighted that any substantive improvements to the humanitarian situation would be based on a political solution and it was pointed out during the discussion that humanitarian aid may be a factor that contributes to prolonging the conflict by keeping the situation stable.

### Adapting the IASC Gender Marker to your needs: Future evolution

Delphine Brun and Merrin Waterhouse provided an update on the revision of the IASC Gender Marker, which aims at solving inconsistencies and including age. The tool's revision will also address some of the recurrent miscoding problems. Tracking of target actions and implementation monitoring are also part of the revision. A representative of Irish Aid, who financed the revision, highlighted the importance for donors to have strong gender project proposals and to ensure the tool is useful and effective.

### Update on WHS: Global Consultation and Beyond

Robert Smith, Chief of the WHS secretariat in Geneva, briefed the IASC community on the results of the Global Consultations and ways to engage on the road to Istanbul, and Astrid van Genderen Stort provided an update on the WHS discussion at the Principals meeting. The universality of humanitarian principles, as well as practicability and their applicability, came out clearly from the Global Consultations. The Secretary General report will build on the consultation process and other global processes to give a vision for humanity and key high-level sentiments and aspirations. He reiterated the need for IASC partners to fully engage at the highest level in the WHS, engage

## REPORTS AND STUDIES

The revised [Saving Lives Together Framework](#) is product of a joint effort of the UN Security Management System (UNSMS) and NGO consortiums to further enhance security collaboration between the UN and NGOs.

UNFPA's [Minimum Standards for Prevention and Response to GBV in Emergencies \(GBViE\)](#) promote the safety and well being of women and girls in emergencies and provide practical guidance on how to mitigate and prevent gender-based violence in emergencies and facilitate access to multi-sector services for survivors.

During the 4th annual [Humanitarian Policy Forum](#), held on 1 and 2 December in New York, OCHA launched the study "Leaving No One Behind: Humanitarian Effectiveness in the Age of the Sustainable Development Goals" as well as the "World Humanitarian Data and Trends". Explore both reports [here](#).

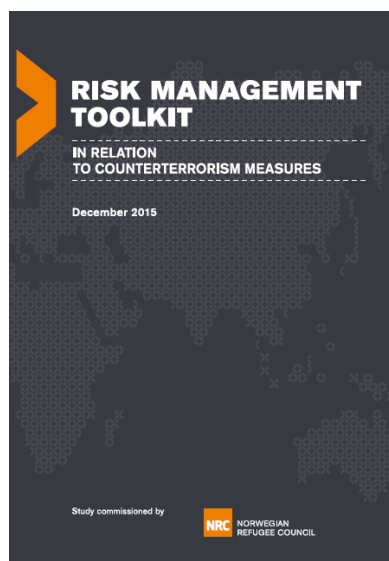
The latest Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) [newsletter](#) focuses on Displacement in Honduras, area-based urban profiling in Iraq, and durable solutions profi-

with goodwill ambassadors for their participation and strongly advocate for the summit.

ling in Kosovo among other issues.

## FEATURED PRODUCT

### Risk Management Toolkit in Relation to Counterterrorism Measures



In 2011, OCHA published a landmark “To Stay and Deliver” study, which contributed significantly to the development of more a risk management focused approach. It is now time to take stock of what has happened since.

Help to get a better sense of how “to stay and deliver” recommendations have been implemented and participate in the survey in [English](#), [French](#) or [Arabic](#).

NRC’s new [Risk Management Toolkit in Relation to Counterterrorism Measures](#), commissioned by NRC on behalf of the Task Team on Principled Humanitarian Action, provides examples of practical steps that humanitarian organisations can take, and are already taking, to strengthen risk management in relation to counter-terrorism measures through an approach underpinned by humanitarian principles. It focuses on five areas where NGOs and UN agencies may be able to strengthen organizational risk management procedures.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### IASC Meetings & Events

12 January 2016: [Briefing on the Humanitarian Omnibus Resolution](#) (IASC event New York)

tbc/mid January 2016: **Briefing on the early warning and response system (EWARS)** by WHO (IASC event Geneva)

17-21 January 2016: **Emergency Team Leadership Programme**, Nairobi, Kenya

tbc/2nd half of January: **Debrief on the Inter-Agency Preparedness Learning Review in Nepal** by STAIT (IASC event Geneva)

tbc/between 21 and 31 January: **Adapting the IASC Gender Marker to your needs: future evolution** (IASC event New York)

tbc/early February: **Humanitarian Negotiations** by ICRC (IASC event Geneva)

tbc/February: **Update on SAFE** (IASC event New York & Geneva)

8-9 March 2016: **90th Working Group meeting**

## Other Events

Until 15 January 2016: **InterAction Photo Contest**

17 January 2016: **Launch of the report of the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing**

20-23 January 2016: **World Economic Forum** (Davos, Switzerland)

1-4 February 2016: **Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week** (Geneva)

4 February 2016: **Syria Donors Conference** (London)

9-10 February: **Solutions Alliance Roundtable** (Brussels)

16-19 February 2016: **19th International Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and UN Advisors** (Geneva)

4 April 2016: **ICVA Annual Conference** (Geneva)

18-20 April 2016: **InterAction Forum** (Washington)

23-24 May 2016: **World Humanitarian Summit** (Istanbul)

17-20 October 2016: **Habitat III** (Quito)

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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