

IASC News - May 2016

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News and Highlights from the IASC Community

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Closing ceremony at the World Humanitarian Summit
See and download photos in the WHS Flickr page: bit.ly/whs_flickr

LATEST NEWS

The World Humanitarian Summit

The first [World Humanitarian Summit \(WHS\)](#) took place on 23-24 May in Istanbul, Turkey. 9000 participants from 173 Member States, including 55 Heads of State and Government, hundreds of private sector representatives, and thousands of people from civil society and non-governmental organizations came together to discuss the pressing humanitarian challenges in today's world. During the Summit, commitments were made and initiatives launched in the leaders' segment, seven high-level round tables, 15 special sessions, 132 side events, and two days of plenary; as well as the exhibition fair

and innovation market place. The [programme](#), [speeches](#), [press releases and statements](#) are all publicly available.

Some new initiatives launched at the Summit include a disability charter, a global alliance for urban challenges and a global alliance for humanitarian innovation. Commitments made at the Summit will have a critical role in achieving commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the Paris (COP 21) Agreement on Climate Change, on the needs and the interest of the most vulnerable. All individual and joint commitments made will be reflected in a Commitments to Action platform. This platform will be publicly accessible which will also ensure accountability. In September, the Secretary-General will report to the United Nations General Assembly on the achievements of this Summit; proposing ways on how to take commitments forward, including through intergovernmental and inter-agency avenues and the many initiatives, platforms and partnerships launched at the Summit. The Secretary-General's Chair's Summary of the Summit (advance unedited version) 'Standing up for Humanity: Committing to Action', can be read [here](#). The Secretary-General's Summary includes highlights of the key commitments made.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- [IASC Principals Ad Hoc Meeting on South Sudan and Cash Transfers](#)
- [IASC Working Group Ad Hoc Meeting on Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations](#)
- [IASC Support to Develop a Campaign to Counter the Toxic Narrative Around Migrants and Refugees](#)
- [Humanitarian Coordinators' Retreat, 31 May - 1 June 2016](#)
- [STAIT Webinars](#)



[GlobalHumanitarianLab](#)

incubate :: make :: accelerate

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Redondo

IASC Principals Ad Hoc Meeting on South Sudan and Cash Transfers

The IASC Principals [met on 4 May](#) to review the designation of the system-wide Level 3 Emergency (L3) Response for South Sudan, as well as to discuss the findings of the Cash Strategic Task Group. The IASC Principals agreed to deactivate the IASC L3 surge designation for South Sudan and to implement measures proposed by the HC and HCT following the deactivation. The discontinuation and transition to the consolidation of the surge capacity that the L3 yielded does not mean that other forms of strategic inter-agency support to operations, such as high-level advocacy and engagement, are no longer needed. Some IASC members noted that they would retain their internal L3 protocols to remain scaled-up operationally. The findings of the report of the Strategic Cash Task Group were welcomed and there will be follow-up discussions on cash,

including the implications of WHS and the Grand Bargain discussions for the findings of the Strategic Cash Task Group.

IASC Working Group Ad Hoc Meeting on Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations

An ad hoc Working Group [meeting](#) was held on 11 May to present the findings from two Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations (IAHEs) which were recently concluded in South Sudan and the Central African Republic. Based on good feedback and discussion the management response plans are now being adapted for input. Lead agencies will then need to take forward implementation of global recommendations.

IASC Support to Develop a Campaign to Counter the Toxic Narrative Around Migrants and Refugees

Following the most recent IASC Working Group, the IASC secretariat has worked with and in support of the secretariat for the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants to assess, gather and analyse what has been done by the IASC community to counter the omni present xenophobia and toxic narrative. Appropriate material is being gathered and intensive brainstorming meetings held with a large range of actors for input into concept paper to be developed ahead of the General Assembly in September 2016.

Humanitarian Coordinators' Retreat, 31 May - 1 June 2016

From 31 May to 1 June, 35 Humanitarian Coordinators were joined by senior officials from IASC partner agencies, representatives from donor governments, and public and private partners at the 2016 Humanitarian Coordinators' Retreat in Montreux, Switzerland.

The annual HC Retreat provides an opportunity for substantive exchange between HCs and key humanitarian stakeholders. The Retreat is a good occasion to share global messages and updates on global initiatives, to receive feedback from HCs on critical issues, and to 'ground truth' potential responses and policy. This year, taking place immediately after the World Humanitarian Summit, the Retreat included in-depth sessions exploring the role of HCs in implementing IASC commitments on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and to address sexual and gender-based violence. The keynote address, by Jean-Marie Guehenno, discussed humanitarian action in a changing and complex world, while expert panellists highlighted key outcomes and commitments from the World Humanitarian Summit, the Grand Bargain and the challenges for humanitarian financing, and prompting discussion on the implications of these for field leadership and action.

STAIT Webinars

“Sexual Exploitation and Abuse is an insufferable sign of our collective failure to protect those very persons who have been entrusted to our care,” William Lacy Swing.

The STAIT held two webinars on “[Practical Steps to Avoid Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#)”, on 11 and 13 May which were attended by several hundred field based practitioners. The IASC has focused on reinforcing the responsibilities for Humanitarian Coordinators to ensure that PSEA has a clear place within the humanitarian architecture, and that the humanitarian community has a responsibility to legally hold perpetrators to account. Ambassador William Lacy Swing (IASC Champion on PSEA and Director General, IOM) and Mr. Mohamad Fall (UNICEF Representative and HCT focal point on PSEA, Central African Republic) discussed the challenges in preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers and provided examples of how PSEA is being addressed, through global policy and at the country level. The webinar focused in particular on CAR.

The webinars can be seen here: [11 May, 13 May](#)

IASC PRIORITIES

[Accountability to Affected Populations and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#)

The TT decided to commence the revision of the 2011 IASC AAP commitments reflecting recent developments, including the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) and the lessons learned through the pilot on PSEA community-based complaints mechanisms (CBCM). The best practices guide on inter-agency collaboration for CBCM will be sent along with the related Global SOPs to the IASC Principals for their endorsement.

AAP/PSEA was well represented at the WHS side event organized by the Gates foundation, focusing on local and national engagement. IOM and Interaction organized a special event on PSEA, including a discussion on the future of SEA prevention, protection and response based on global commitments. As an outcome from this event, it was suggested to include PSEA language into the upcoming ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment and the humanitarian resolution. The CHS Alliance, with other

[Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings:](#)

Three RG members participated in the 4th International Congress of Psychology in Emergencies and Disasters, held in Havana Cuba in May. The RG members presented the IASC MHPSS in Emergencies guidelines ([Spanish version](#)). The Portuguese translation will be available shortly.

An MHPSS desk review is being led by the University of Miami, John Hopkins University and Kings College London to aid agencies and organizations running MHPSS programmes in response to the earthquake that hit Ecuador in April 2016. IASC RG members are actively providing input to the review, which should be released in June.

The RG members also held a series of teleconferences to discuss advocacy options and strategies for and beyond the World Humanitarian Summit. Whilst the IASC MHPSS RG was not granted a side event, one RG participant (from MHPSS.net) attended the summit. The

partners, mobilized donors and community representatives in a panel discussion on Quality and Accountability, during which the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq suggested specific and well-received recommendations on how accountability standards can be applied in the field. The Task Team member from OCHA coordinated the Special Session ["People at the Center"](#) with interesting insight on the role of the diasporas.

[Early Warning and Preparedness](#)

During the 3 May meeting, the [terms of reference](#) for the Reference Group were adopted. The next step is to develop a work plan, with the inputs from RG members. The co-chairs briefed on the IASC Early Warning report, which is due to be published in May. OCHA briefed on the Inter-Agency Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) which is currently being implemented in 30 countries. The target will be to implement the approach in a total of 65 countries by the end of the year. It was noted that OCHA is developing an online tracker for the ERP that will be accessible by agency partners by the end of July.

RG has written to the ERC and Principals to ensure mental health commitments will be taken forward post WHS.

[Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Area](#)

The IASC Reference Group was heavily involved in the preparations for the urban track at the World Humanitarian Summit. They also participated as key members of the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, which was formally launched at the WHS. The RG and Global Alliance co-organized the urban specific [side event](#) "adopting and systematizing settlement based approaches in humanitarian responses". The event, moderated by IMPACT Initiatives and UN-Habitat on behalf of the RG, was a key venue to discuss settlement-approaches and share knowledge and practices among senior representatives from ECHO, UNHCR, ACTED, UN-Habitat, UCLG, as well as among practitioners from ISOCARP, SEEDS, IFRC and The Sphere Project.

IASC EVENTS

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

IASC Event on Global Humanitarian Lab

With the [Global Humanitarian Lab \(GHL\)](#) officially launched at the WHS, its Executive and Operating Chiefs provided an update to the IASC community. The GHL will focus on developing appropriate [innovative humanitarian solutions](#) for and with the affected populations. It is a partnership of leading humanitarian organizations, public- and private-sector entities, networks, as well as the global crowd which aims at empowering both the humanitarian actors as well as the affected communities to develop adapted solutions for their respective needs. The GHL will serve as a central body which aims at serving and informing the wider humanitarian community.

REPORTS AND STUDIES

The final report of ICVA ["Less Paper More Aid"](#) Initiative was launched on 17 May at the

occasion of an NGO briefing to Member States in Geneva. The Less Paper More Aid Initiative, an ICVA-NGOs led project, examines donor and UN guidance on, and NGOs' perception of, reporting, partner capacity assessment and audit conditions attached to grants. Giving voice to NGO staff in the field and comparing existing donor requirements, the study addresses an important knowledge gap showing how aid can be affected by compliance with administrative requirements.

STAIT concluded its mission to Pakistan and has produced the final report with the HCT's Action Plan which will be implemented in the coming months. The mission affirmed the excellent work that the HCT is doing in Pakistan, but also recognized the need to strengthen preparedness measures in anticipation of large scale disasters: both in terms of being prepared to respond, as well as preparing communities to withstand the worst impact of disasters when they occur. The mission identified the importance of stronger links, in terms of planning if not operational activities, between humanitarian response and development work in relation to preparedness and the needs of IDPs and those returning to their homes in KP/FATA. The report also stressed the importance of building on protection, consolidating bureaucratic processes on access, strengthening partnerships with national NGOs. Please contact the Inger-Johanne Tjoflaat, STAIT (tjoflaat@un.org) for a copy of the report.

OTHER UPDATES

The STAIT website will launch on 13 June. There will be useful mission summaries, audio interviews with humanitarian leaders, animation videos and the first episodes of the STAIT video series, which features interviews with Humanitarian Coordinators on operational issues. The videos will be uploaded on the site and available via YouTube. The STAIT website will be accessible via deliveraidbetter.org.

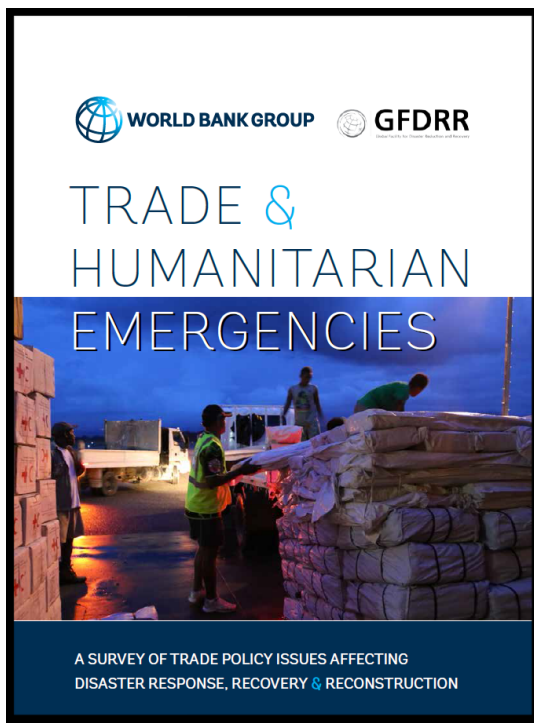
The Global Cluster for Early Recovery (GCER) launched an [animation video](#) spot which uses creative and eye-catching imagery to explain what early recovery is to mainstream audiences. The populations affected by the crisis require lifesaving support; their communities, institutions and livelihoods have often been physically destroyed and weakened. Recovery programming works to restore services, livelihood opportunities and governance capacity. In fact, early recovery addresses recovery needs during the humanitarian crisis giving essential support to affected communities with a long-term impact. The video spot aims at clearly conveying that Early Recovery is together with relief the necessary component of a much needed smarter humanitarian response as the people recover quicker and it reduces cost, reduces impact of future crisis and builds resilience.

PHAP is conducting a study on professional development and the recognition of professional knowledge and skills in the humanitarian sector. Please click [here](#) to enter the survey.

FEATURED PRODUCT

Trade and Humanitarian Emergencies

The same issues that affect trade on a daily basis, such as costly, inefficient and onerous borders procedures, are



magnified in times of humanitarian emergencies where speed and reliability of delivery are so critical. Trade also plays a key role in recovery and reconstruction well beyond the initial phase of an emergency. The report surveys three main areas at the intersection of trade-related policies and humanitarian emergencies:

1. Border procedures and trade facilitation.
2. Other trade policies affecting humanitarian response.
3. Trade and disaster recovery and reconstruction

UPCOMING EVENTS

IASC Meetings & Events

7-8 June: [IASC Principals meeting](#) (Washington DC)

Other Events

27-29 June: ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS)

June: Draft resolution on strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (negotiated in June 2016)

11-20 July: High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (with a ministerial segment on 18 - 20 July)

12-13 July: UNGA High-level Thematic Debate: Human Rights

13-26 September: 71st Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 71)

19 September: High-level Plenary Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants

20 September: General Debate of the 71st Session of the UNGA (opening on 20 September)

20 September: Leaders' Summit on Refugees (on the margins of the UNGA)

17-20 October: UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

We welcome your feedback and input to 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
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