
IASC Priorities 2009



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I INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is the Inter-Agency Standing Committee?

According to its 1998 Terms of Reference, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is a unique inter-agency forum for coordination, policy development and decision-making involving the key UN and non-UN humanitarian actors.

The IASC Principals are the heads of all 21 IASC organizations. Chaired by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Principals convene twice a year in New York or Geneva. The responsibilities of the Principals include making strategic, policy and major operational decisions; advocating common humanitarian principles; and bringing humanitarian issues to the attention of the Secretary-General and the Security Council through the ERC.

The IASC Working Group is composed of Director level staff of IASC organizations. Chaired by the Director of OCHA Geneva, the Working Group meets at least three times a year normally in Geneva, New York and Rome. The Working Group makes strategic policy and operational decisions; establishes and reviews the work of the IASC Subsidiary Bodies; and monitors the progress and implementation of the IASC guidelines and policies.

The IASC Subsidiary Bodies assist in developing policy and operational guidelines and include: Sub-Working Groups dedicated to long and medium-term policy issues; time limited Task Forces; and Reference Groups, which play an advisory role to the Working Group.

IASC Key Documents:

- [General Assembly Resolution 46/182 \(1991\)](#)
- [General Assembly Resolution 48/57 \(1993\)](#)
- [IASC Terms of Reference \(1998\)](#)
- [External Review of the IASC \(2003\)](#)

II THEMATIC PRIORITIES FOR 2009

2.1 Leadership in Humanitarian Coordination

At its November 2008 meeting, the IASC Working Group gave its approval for the continuation of the Humanitarian Coordination (HC) Pool for a further three years, with improved selection processes, and for the establishment of an IASC Humanitarian Coordination Assessment Panel (HCAP). During 2009, supported by the inter-agency HC Group, the Working Group will consider and endorse Terms of Reference and Competencies for the Humanitarian Coordinator, monitor the work of the HCAP, and discuss the findings of the 'HC models' once complete.

2.2 Clusters

In 2009, the Working Group will discuss and agree new forms of accountability and reporting for Clusters, including to the ERC, based on the Humanitarian Reform Tracking tool, monitoring of the financial support to the Clusters and other tools. IASC Subsidiary Bodies will work with Cluster Leads to see that cross-cutting issues form part of the tracking system. There will be additional training for cluster coordinators and country teams on humanitarian reform. Further guidance will be issued, including on clusters working with national authorities and clusters and transition strategies. 2009 will also see the completion of the Phase 2 Cluster evaluation, the findings from which will be considered by the Working Group in 2010.

2.3 Humanitarian Financing

The IASC Good Humanitarian Donorship Contact Group will develop a road map for joint action and will strengthen coordination among donors and IASC organisations to address key areas of concern, such as UN-NGO partnership issues, accountability measures, and the implications of the financial crisis on humanitarian financing, in collaboration with the CERF Partnership Task Force. The Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) Sub-Working Group will adapt the Flash Appeal and the CAP in light of humanitarian reform and the changing nature of disasters, both natural disasters and conflict-related, and also revise the CAP guidelines.

2.4 Needs Assessment

In 2009, the IASC will move ahead with an inter-agency effort to consolidate and harmonise needs assessments, working closely with the Clusters, with the goal of developing a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral needs assessment framework. The consolidation and harmonisation of core

assessment data will be supported by the newly created Information Management Task Force. Work will also continue on the development and prototyping of a consolidated humanitarian situation and response analysis tool (the 'humanitarian dashboard'), in consultation with a technical reference group, with the aim of providing consistent analysis and a common set of information to decision makers.

2.5 Humanitarian Country Teams

In 2009, the IASC will develop preliminary guidance for the establishment of Humanitarian Country Teams (HCT), with field testing, to provide for a broader and more inclusive humanitarian coordination mechanism involving IASC organisation and other national and local civil society organisations at country level. As far as possible, this will be harmonised with the Global Humanitarian Platform (GHP)'s concept of Humanitarian Country Partnerships Teams. UNDOCO will be engaged to ensure that Resident Coordinators are aware of the HCT concept. Depending on the progress made with HCTs, inter-agency coordination at regional level may also be debated.

2.6 Humanitarian Principles/Space and Integration

The November 2008 Working Group established a Core Group under OCHA and UNHCR leadership to find practical measures to address challenges of humanitarian space, drawing lessons from good practice in the field initially via two country level roundtable events, plus devising ways to communicate the importance of humanitarian space to key audiences. OCHA will follow up on the Principals decision in their meeting of December 2008 for the IASC to work more closely with DPKO and DPA to ensure greater dialogue on Integrated Missions. OCHA will also lead a discussion on how the IASC might interact with the International Criminal Court.

2.7 Humanitarian Consequences of Climate Change

The IASC Informal Task Force on Climate Change will continue its work, under the coordination of the IFRC, to prepare high-quality analytical inputs to the UNFCCC process, including for the UN Climate Change Conference COP 15 in Copenhagen in December 2009. The Task Force will also provide guidance to the IASC organisations on integrating climate change risk management into their operations and how IASC guidelines and tools might be adapted. The IASC will strengthen its collaboration with ISDR on the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and climate risk management. The informal task force will

complete discussion papers on the ‘operational gaps’ identified in 2008 by the Informal Group on Migration, Displacement and Climate Change.

2.8 Humanitarian Implications of Urbanisation

The humanitarian sector as a whole has been slow to respond to the consequences of the acceleration of urbanisation and the IASC itself has not so far considered in any detail the humanitarian implications of urbanisation. UN-HABITAT, building on its work for the World Urbanisation Forum, presented a concept paper at the March 2009 Working Group meeting, and will lead a task force to develop an IASC strategy for responding to humanitarian consequences of urbanisation, for consideration by the Working Group before the end of the year.

2.9 IASC Engagement in the 2009-10 Revision of the Sphere Standards

While not the responsibility of the IASC, the Sphere Standards have become the de facto standards for humanitarian response. UN members of the IASC had little involvement in the development of the first Sphere standards and the IASC Working group will consider how all IASC organisations can support the Sphere Project’s revision of standards over an 18-month period from March 2009, as well as the upcoming review of the related International Network on Education in Emergencies’ minimum standards.

2.10 Review of IASC Products

The IASC Secretariat will review the relevance and application of selected IASC products designed for field application, building on assessments already completed by the relevant IASC Subsidiary Bodies. The review will be forward-looking and consider how the IASC guidelines can be further strengthened and promoted.

2.11 Staff Safety and Security

Staff safety and security remains a major concern, given increasing risks, and threats to and attacks on humanitarian workers. The December IASC Principals meeting decided that a Steering Group should be established under UNICEF leadership to bring the IASC together to learn lessons on safety and security and to understand different agency approaches to risk management. The Working Group will receive a progress report from the Steering Group before the end of 2009.

2.12 Accountability to Affected Populations

Some IASC organisations have been working on initiatives to support accountability of agencies towards affected populations, involving various forms of consultation, planning, reporting or complaints mechanisms, using peer review, and otherwise. The Working Group will hear from UN and non-UN agencies on their experience to date and consider whether lessons can be drawn for all IASC organisations.

2.13 Early Recovery, Recovery and Transition

In 2008, the Working group concluded that early recovery needed to achieve greater momentum, including through its mainstreaming into the work of the Clusters. In parallel, the newly signed UN-World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis and Post-Crisis Situations, with the accompanying UN Development Group-World Bank operational annex and the Fiduciary Principles Accord have important implications for the funding and organization of post-crisis recovery. Also in 2009, the Secretary-General's Report on peacebuilding in post-crisis situations will be completed. Under the leadership of UNDP, the Working Group will consider the progress made in early recovery during 2009 and also debate the implications of the related post-crisis and peacebuilding initiatives.

III IASC SUBSIDIARY BODIES

In 2009, nine subsidiary bodies will support the work of the IASC, covering the following policy and operational topics: the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP), Emergency Telecommunications, Gender and Humanitarian Action, Preparedness and Contingency Planning, Good Humanitarian Donorship, HIV in Emergency Settings, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, Human Rights (discontinued in April 2009), and Information Management. The subsidiary bodies plan to produce the following guidelines and guidance notes in 2009:

- Revised IASC Guidelines on the Consolidated Appeal Process
- Revised Guidelines on the Flash Appeals
- Revised IASC Guidelines for Addressing HIV in Humanitarian Situations
- Guidelines and recommendations for the use of the emergency satellite services for GIS/localisation systems
- Guidance note on gender and the humanitarian implications of climate change

-
- Guidance on conducting case studies for mental health and psychosocial support in emergency settings
 - Guidance Note/Health and Protection Cluster Coordinators' Tools to mainstream mental health and psychosocial support
 - Updated Operational Guidance Note on Information Management

Operational Tools:

- 3 Early Warning and Early Action Reports
- Online tool-kit for field practitioners on how to implement the “Operational Guidance Note on Information Management”

Web Platform/Website

- Inter-Agency web platform to support and manage the exchange of operational information in emergencies

Training Packages

- Preparedness and Contingency Planning simulation exercise package
- Interactive E-Learning on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance
- Standard resource/training package on the use of the revised HIV Guidelines
- Induction Package on integrating HIV and AIDS in Humanitarian Action
- Regional training materials/kits on Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support
- Updated CAP Training Tool-Kit

Studies and Policy Documents

- Report on Sex and Age Disaggregated Data in Humanitarian Action

IV CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2009

IASC Principals Meetings in 2009:

- 30 April - New York (Full day meeting), hosted by UNFPA
- 14 December - Geneva (Half-day meeting), hosted by OCHA

IASC Working Group Meetings in 2009:

- 18-20 March - Washington, hosted by InterAction
- 13-15 July - Geneva, hosted by OHCHR
- 11-13 November - Nairobi, hosted by UN-HABITAT

ANNEXES

(Updated March 18 2009)

I IASC Subsidiary Bodies

| IASC Subsidiary Body | Chairperson(s) |
|--|---|
| Sub-Working Group on the Consolidated Appeals Process | Mr. Robert Smith Chief, Consolidated Appeals Process Section, OCHA Phone: +41 22 917 1695 Email: smith50@un.org |
| Sub-Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications (WGET) | Mr. Cherif Ghaly Chief, Information and Communications Technology Section, OCHA Phone: +41 22 917 2184 Email: ghaly@un.org |
| Sub-Working Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action | Dr. Henia Dakkak Technical Specialist, UNFPA Phone: +1 212 297 5069 Email: dakkak@unfpa.org |
| Sub-Working Group on Preparedness and Contingency Planning | Mr. Michel Le Pechoux Chief, Early Warning and Preparedness, Office of Emergency Programmes, UNICEF Phone: +41 22 909 5610 Email: mlepechoux@unicef.org Mr. Carlos Veloso Chief, Emergency, Preparedness and Response Branch, WFP Phone: +39 06 6513 2462 Email: carlos.veloso@wfp.org |
| Contact Group on Good Humanitarian Donorship | Mr. Robert Smith Chief, Consolidated Appeals Process Section, OCHA Phone: +41 22 917 1695 Email: smith50@un.org |
| Task Force on HIV in Humanitarian Situations | Dr. Karl L. Dehne AIDS, Security & Humanitarian Response Unit, Country and Regional Support Department, UNAIDS Phone: +41 22 791 1255 Email: dehnek@unaids.org Dr. Mukesh Kapila SRSG for HIV at IFRC, IFRC Phone: + 41 22 730 43 41 Email: mukesh.kapila@ifrc.org |

| IASC Subsidiary Body | Chairperson(s) |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Task Force on Information Management | Mr. Brendan McDonald Manager, Field Information Services Communications and Information Services Branch (CISB)/OCHA Tel: +1 917-367-3557 Email: mcdonaldb@un.org |

II Other IASC Initiatives

| Other IASC Initiatives | Chairperson(s) |
|--|--|
| Reference Group on Human Rights and Humanitarian Action (Discontinued in April 2009) | Ms. Kazumi Ogawa Human Rights Officer, Capacity Building and Field Operations Branch, OHCHR Phone: + 41 22 928 9846 Email: kogawa@ohchr.org |
| Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support | Ms. Amanda Melville Project Officer Child Protection, UNICEF Phone: +1 212 326 7208 Email: amelville@unicef.org Ms. Alison Schafer Country Program Coordinator, World Vision Australia Email: alison.schafer@worldvision.com.au |
| IASC Task Team on Cluster Implementation | Mr. Jamie McGoldrick Chief, Humanitarian Coordination Support Section, OCHA Phone: +41 22 917 1712 Email: mcgoldrickj@un.org |
| The Humanitarian Coordination Group | Ms. Claire Messina Senior Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordination System Strengthening Project, OCHA Phone: +41 22 917 2293 Email: messinac@un.org |
| Informal IASC Task Force on Climate Change | Ms. Jette Michelsen Coordinator Informal IASC Task Force on Climate Change International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Phone: +41 22 730 46 50 Email: jette.michelsen@ifrc.org |

| | |
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| Core Group on Humanitarian Space | <p>Mr. Bernard Doyle Head, Inter-Agency Unit, Division of External Relations UNHCR Phone: +41 22 7398550 Email: doyle@unhcr.org</p> <p>Mr. Hansjoerg Strohmeyer Chief, Policy Development and Studies Branch OCHA Phone: +1 212 963 9035 Email: strohmeyerh@un.org</p> |
| Needs Assessment Group | <p>Mr. Niels Scott Chief, Disaster and Vulnerability Policy Section (DVP), OCHA Phone: + 41 22 9173518 Email: scott2@un.org</p> |

III IASC Organisation Focal Points

| IASC Agencies | IASC Focal Points |
|---|--|
| American Council for Voluntary International Action (InterAction) | <p>Mr. Jim Bishop Vice President, Director Humanitarian Policy and Practice Phone: +1 202 667 8227 Email: jbishop@interaction.org</p> |
| Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) | <p>Ms. Laura Sciannimonaco Rehabilitation Programme Officer, Rehabilitation and Humanitarian Policy Unit, Emergency Division Phone: +39 06 570 543 82 Email: Laura.Sciannimonaco@fao.org</p> |
| International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) | <p>Ms. Cristina Pellandini Diplomatic Advisor, Humanitarian Diplomacy Unit Phone: +41 22 730 2370 Email: cpellandini.gva@icrc.org</p> |
| International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) | <p>Ms. Manisha Thomas Policy Officer Phone: +41 22 950 9600 Email: manisha@icva.ch</p> |

| IASC Agencies | IASC Focal Points |
|---|---|
| International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) | Mr. Robert Mister Coordinator, Inter-Agency Cooperation External Relations and Communications Department Phone: +41 22 730 4418 Email: Robert.mister@ifrc.org |
| International Organisation for Migration (IOM) | Ms. Lea Matheson IDP Adviser, Emergency & Post Crisis Division, Operations Support Department Phone: +41 22 717 9326 Email: lmatheson@iom.int |
| Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) | Ms. Marina Throne-Holst Special Assistant to the Director of OCHA Geneva Phone: +41 22 917 6272 Email: throne-holst@un.org |
| Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) | Ms. Kazumi Ogawa Human Rights Officer, Capacity Building and Field Operations Branch, OHCHR Phone: +41 22 928 9846 Email: kogawa@ohchr.org |
| Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (RSG on Human Rights of IDPs) | Mr. Patrick Egloff Adviser Phone: +1 212 963 8268 Email: egloffp@un.org |
| Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) | Ms. Eva von Oelreich Executive Secretary Phone: +41 22 730 4500 Email: schr@ifrc.org |
| United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) | Mr. Quoc Nguyen Project Officer Office for Emergency Programmes (EMOPS), Geneva Phone: +41 22 909 5662 Email: qnguyen@unicef.org |
| United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | Mr. Tullio Santini Senior Advisor, Bureau for Crisis Prevention Phone: +41 22 917 8299 Email: tullio.santini@undp.org |

| IASC Agencies | IASC Focal Points |
|---|--|
| United Nations Human Settlements Programme (Habitat) | Mr. Esteban Leon Senior Advisor, Disaster Reduction and Recovery, Humanitarian Affairs Office Phone: + 41 22 917 8757 Email: leon.unhabitat@unog.ch |
| United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) | Mr. Bernard Doyle Head, Inter-Agency Section Phone: +41 22 739 8500 Email: doyle@unhcr.org |
| United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) | Ms. Nina Sreenivasan Humanitarian Liaison Officer Phone: +41 22 917 8440 Email: sreenivasan@unfpa.org |
| World Bank | Mr. Patrick Reichenmiller Policy Officer Phone: +41 22 748 1013 Email: preichenmiller@worldbank.org |
| World Food Programme (WFP) | Ms. Evelyn Chung External Relations Officer, Policy and External Affairs Department, External Relations Division Phone: +39 06 6513 3412 Email: evelyn.chung@wfp.org |
| World Health Organisation (WHO) | Ms. Tanja Sleeuwenhoek Technical Officer, Health Action in Crises, Alliances & Partnerships Phone: +41 22 791 2727 Email: sleeuwenhoek@who.int |

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IASC Website

www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc

IASC Inter-Agency Standing Committee

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IASC NEWS

02-03-2009
[E-Learning Flyer](#)

21-01-2009
[IASC calls on Humanitarian Agencies to Identify Applicants for the Humanitarian Coordination Pool](#)

26-11-2008
[Climate Change, Migration and Displacement: Who will be affected?](#)

26-11-2008
[Disaster Risk Reduction and Risk Management Practices for Adapt. to Clim. Change](#)

30-10-2008

CALENDAR Today | This week | All meetings

Wed 18-03-09 to Fri 20-03-09
Aid to A/D (CET)
Working Group
73rd IASC WG Meeting

Thu 02-04-09 to Thu 02-04-09
15:0 to 16:30 (CET)
Subsidiary Bodies
IASC CAP SWG Meeting

Thu 30-04-09 to Thu 30-04-09
Aid to A/D (CET)
Principals
IASC Principals Meeting

Thu 07-05-09 to Thu 07-05-09
15:0 to 16:30 (CET)
Subsidiary Bodies
IASC CAP SWG Meeting

Thu 04-06-09 to Thu 04-06-09
15:0 to 16:30 (CET)
Subsidiary Bodies
IASC CAP SWG Meeting

Thu 02-07-09 to Thu 02-07-09
15:0 to 16:30 (CET)
Subsidiary Bodies
IASC CAP SWG Meeting

IASC PRODUCTS Please select a category

IASC Products are guidelines, tools and documents endorsed by the IASC Working Group or IASC Principals and used by humanitarian actors in field or policy work

[IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings](#)

[Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action](#)

IASC

ICRC
UNICEF
UNHCR
SCHR

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