

## **IASC Weekly Fact Sheet**

### **What is the IASC Weekly?**

The IASC weekly meetings serve as a forum for communication and information sharing among a wide range of humanitarian actors. Presenters from IASC agencies and other humanitarian partners from Headquarters, the field, research institutes and think tanks provide briefings on topics of relevance to the wider humanitarian community.

The IASC Weekly is open to all colleagues from humanitarian organizations, IASC members and beyond. Regular participants include United Nations entities, the IOM, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and a wide array of NGOs. Most organizations are represented by their senior liaison and advocacy officers. Each meeting has an average of 15-20 participants.

The IASC Weekly is organized by the IASC Secretariat in Geneva and New York. In Geneva, the IASC meetings usually take place on Wednesdays from 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. at the Palais des Nations, 8 Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva. In New York, the meetings usually take place on Fridays from 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. at OCHA, 380 Madison Avenue (between 46<sup>th</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> St.), 6th floor, New York.

### **Why a weekly forum for the IASC?**

Our aim is to provide a forward-looking forum for information sharing among humanitarian organizations, where humanitarian practitioners can share resources, discuss new developments and best practices, or simply seek feedback from peers on new initiatives. The weekly forum helps IASC members to keep abreast of major operational and policy developments affecting their work. Past agenda items have comprised briefings on acute emergencies; thematic issues covered by the IASC Working Group and the IASC subsidiary bodies (e.g. humanitarian access, humanitarian funding) and/or cross-cutting issues (such as climate change, urbanization and the food crisis); and debriefings on missions, IASC Principals and Working Group meetings. The IASC priorities for 2010 are Upholding Humanitarian Space/Principles, Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination, Humanitarian Financing, Emergency Preparedness, and Improved Evidence for Decision-Making in Humanitarian Crises. However, the convener is open to discussing a broader range of issues as long as they are relevant to humanitarian organizations' work.

### **What is the format of the IASC Weekly?**

The IASC Weekly's purpose is to foster lively debates among humanitarian organizations. Since IASC meetings take place in an informal setting and all discussions are off the record, presenters should be prepared to talk openly and address controversial issues. In New York, two topics are on the agenda and presentations usually last 10-15 minutes, followed by 15 minutes of Q&A facilitated by the chair. In Geneva, only one topic is discussed and presentations usually last 20 minutes, followed by 40 minutes of Q&A. On occasion, the IASC Weekly takes the shape of a panel discussion with different speakers debating one topic. In either case, presenters are encouraged to foster a dynamic discussion.