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IASC News Update - September 2014

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## News and Highlights from the IASC community

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Welcome to the first issue of IASC News, which aims to inform you about developments in the IASC community. Developed by the IASC secretariat, the News aims to provide a general overview of events and meetings of interest to you. This first version covers news from the last few months. In future we aim for IASC News to be a monthly feature. We welcome your feedback and input to [iasccorrespondence@un.org](mailto:iasccorrespondence@un.org).



Credit: OCHA/Phil Moore

*A displaced child stands in an aircraft hanger where violence has largely split communities along religious lines, displacing tens of thousands in the Central African Republic. Credit: OCHA/Phil Moore*

## LATEST NEWS

### [The Ebola Response, the Iraq Crisis and Central African Republic](#)

This summer, the Ebola outbreak in West Africa expanded and the humanitarian crisis in Northern Iraq deepened. Led by the WHO, the IASC discussed next steps in fighting the Ebola outbreak. To facilitate a coordinated response, the Secretary-General appointed Dr. David Nabarro as Senior UN System Coordinator for Ebola. On 18 September the Security Council declared the Ebola outbreak in West Africa a threat to peace and security. The S-G announced that the UN will deploy a new emergency health mission (the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, UNMEER) to combat the disease. For more information on the WHO response plan and Ebola please visit their [website](#).

With the growing displacement in Iraq, a system-wide Level 3 ("L3") emergency was declared, linked to the Syria L3, in August. IASC Principals also extended the L3 declaration in the Central African Republic for another three months in September. The Humanitarian Coordinator and Humanitarian Country Team will define what the humanitarian community will aim to achieve over these three months. L3 emergencies are

also on-going in South Sudan and Syria. Visit the IASC website for more information on [L3s and the Transformative Agenda](#).

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Ad Hoc IASC Principals meetings were held on [Gaza](#), [South Sudan](#), [Syria](#), [Iraq and the Ebola response](#), and [CAR](#) between late June and September. An Ad Hoc IASC Working Group (WG) meeting was convened. Some of the highlights from these meetings include:



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### Ad Hoc Working Group

**30 June:** The WG discussed several issues: the Post-2015 Agenda and Humanitarian Issues; L3s in Slow-Onset Crises or Protracted Crises; Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and National Disaster Management Authorities (NDMAs) Capacity Strengthening; and the work of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle Steering Group. [Read the final summary of the meeting and action points.](#)

### L3s in Slow-Onset and Protracted Crises

For many, the declaration of an L3 is a trigger to scale-up the response to on-going crises where the response has been insufficient. For others, the L3 declaration is about the scale of the crisis. In order to clarify when an L3 is declared in a slow-onset or protracted crisis and how it can be mitigated, the WG agreed on a paper clarifying when an L3 should be declared and what measures can be taken to prevent situations from warranting an L3 response. The Emergency Directors Group is working on the operational measures to be taken to complement the WG's paper. Both papers will serve as the basis for the Principals' review of the L3s.

### Common Framework for Preparedness and RCs

**18 July:** Resident Coordinators were sent the [Common Framework for Preparedness](#): one of the eight [Transformative Agenda Protocols](#). The CFP commits organizations to work together "to build national and local capacity for preparedness."

### ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

**23-25 June:** Two high-level panels, a General Debate, over 26 side-events, and the second humanitarian trade fair showcasing the voices of affected people and the difference humanitarians make on the ground. A key outcome was the adoption of a consensus resolution. Visit the [ECOSOC HAS](#) website.

## RECENT IASC EVENTS IN GENEVA

*IASC Events are organized on an ad hoc basis by the IASC secretariat in Geneva and New York. To be added to the invitation list, please email [iasccorrespondence@un.org](mailto:iasc Correspondence@un.org).*

### Humanitarian Situation in Ukraine

**10 September:** Since December 2013, Ukraine has become engulfed in a crisis. The social sectors (health, education, social protection) have been critically

## Upcoming Events

**22 October 2014:** Geneva IASC Event - Launch Global Humanitarian Assistance Report and Panel Discussion

## PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

affected. This event provided an opportunity for humanitarian donors and partners to better understand the situation and response in Ukraine and the requirements for stepping-up humanitarian responses.

### Environment and Humanitarian Action

**3 September:** The environment is often not adequately considered when developing humanitarian programmes, but what's needed to make it work? Read the report and find other resources: [Environment and Humanitarian Action: Increasing Effectiveness, Sustainability and Accountability](#).

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### Delivering You and Cargo to Difficult Places: WFP Aviation

**22 July:** How do humanitarian actors reach difficult places? Often using UNHAS flights - a common service set up by the IASC in 2003. In addition to UNHAS, WFP Cargo flights also help deliver aid to remote locations. Read the [WFP Aviation in 2013 report](#).

### Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS)

**16 July:** The second version of the Core Humanitarian Standard is currently being tested. The CHS aims to clarify the responsibilities of aid workers and aid organizations. The final version will be launched in Copenhagen on 12 December 2014. [Comment on the CHS](#).

### Nutrition Cluster Launch

**11 July:** The Global Nutrition Cluster presented its three year strategic plan to move forward the Nutrition Cluster. For more information on the cluster and the strategic plan, visit <http://nutritioncluster.net/>

### An Illusion of Safety: Challenges of Nuclear Weapons Detonations for UN Humanitarian Coordination and Response

**8 July:** The humanitarian community is not adequately prepared for a possible nuclear weapons detonation. What are the next steps to be better prepared? Find out more by reading the [report](#).

### IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings



The [IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings](#) provide concise and practical guidelines for humanitarians to help address mental health and psychosocial support concerns.



*Credit IRIN*

## IASC Panel Discussion - MSF Report Where is Everyone?

**2 July:** MSF's report, *Where is Everyone?*, has received a number of reactions from across the humanitarian sector. While some have levelled criticisms at the report and its methodology, most agree that it is sparking a much-needed debate in the humanitarian community. An IASC Event brought together a high level panel to reflect on the [report's findings](#).

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### IASC SUBSIDIARY BODIES

IASC subsidiary bodies - Task Teams and Reference Groups - are mandated by the IASC to work on specific tasks and thematic areas. Members of these groups provide technical expertise and are in regular contact with those in the field to ensure field relevant solutions. For more information or to join the groups, please visit the [IASC Subsidiary Bodies webpage](#).

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### Upcoming TT and RG Meetings:

**30 September:** Revitalizing Principled Humanitarian Action

**29-31 October:** MHPSS Annual Meeting, Copenhagen



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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. E-mail: [iasccorrespondence@un.org](mailto:iasccorrespondence@un.org)

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