

IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee**News**

News and Highlights from the IASC Community

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Humanitarian response to cyclones Chapala and Megh in Yemen. Credits: Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS)

LATEST NEWS

Yemen

As a result of cyclones Chapala and Megh, [26 people were killed and 78 injured](#). Many families have returned to their homes but many still shelter in tents. Restoring habitations, roads and livelihoods as well as continued humanitarian assistance are prioritized. The humanitarian community continues to provide assistance to people affected by the cyclones. Meanwhile, the situation in Taizz has intensified. On 24 November, Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien [stated](#) that “fighting has intensified there, and some 200,000 vulnerable civilians are living under a virtual state of siege, in dire need of drinking water, food, medical treatment, and other life-saving assistance and protection.” Access is severely limited and very limited assistance has been allowed in”. Mr. O'Brien urged the international community to hold all parties who violate humanitarian and human rights accountable. The [Humanitarian Needs Overview](#)

[for Yemen](#) details the crucial needs the Yemeni population faces.

Burundi: escalation of violence

On 12 November, the Security Council adopted resolution 2248 expressing its deep concern about the continued rise in violence and insecurity in Burundi. As of 25 November, [over 219,000 people have sought refuge in neighbouring countries](#). [UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein deplored the suspension of 10 NGOs](#) including several working on peace and human rights issues, warning against a relapse into “full-fledged civil war.” Donors are scaling-down support to the government in face of current events. Education, WASH programs and the healthcare sector have been significantly impacted.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- [El Niño](#)
- [UNHCR #IBELONG campaign against statelessness](#)
- [Emergency Telecommunications Cluster \(ETC\) Plenary Meeting](#)
- [The Global EWARS project](#)
- [The Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week \(HNPW\)](#)
- [New Index for Global Risk Management Launched](#)
- [Recent Nominations](#)



Elder woman speaking to ASG Kang during the community meeting in Ethiopia on El Niño related droughts. Credit: OCHA/Laila Bourhil

El Niño

Most climate models predict a strong [El Niño](#) for the end of 2015 and into 2016, leading to record global temperatures alongside droughts, floods and forest fires. Millions of people will be affected by El Niño this year and next. Climate forecasters predict East Africa, Southern Africa, the Pacific Islands, South East Asia and Central America are most at risk of extreme weather, including below-normal rains and droughts in some places and intensive rains and flooding in others. The humanitarian impact will include an increase in food insecurity, higher malnutrition rates, devastated livelihoods and forced displacement. The humanitarian community is raising the alarm in countries at risks and HCTs are developing preparedness and response plans. CERF plans to allocate more than US\$85 million to aid agencies to respond to droughts and floods linked to El Niño. Evidence indicates that climate change will increase the frequency of stronger El Niños in coming decades.

UNHCR #IBELONG campaign against statelessness

Today 10 million people around the world are denied a nationality. They often are not allowed to go to school, see a doctor, get a job, open a bank account, buy a house or even get married. Help to change their lives and sign the Open Letter to End

Statelessness which is part of UNHCR's [#IBELONG campaign](#).

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) Plenary Meeting

As global lead of the ETC, WFP convened representatives from 20 humanitarian, private sector and government organizations for the twice-yearly ETC Plenary Meeting, held in October at UNHCR headquarters. In addition to reviews of ETC operations in Nepal, Vanuatu, West Africa and Yemen, participants explored the development of [ETC2020 Pilot Projects](#). ETC2020 is the cluster's strategy which seeks to ensure that by 2020, all those responding to humanitarian emergencies have access to vital communication services. Currently being designed for Haiti, Liberia, Nepal, and the Philippines, pilot projects will cover the four key pillars of the strategy: Enhanced Communications and Energy; Improved and Decentralized Response Readiness; Increased Communications Resilience to Disasters; and Communications as Aid.

The Global EWARS project

The Global EWARS project is a WHO initiative that aims to strengthen early warning, alert and response in emergency settings. The project supports Ministries of Health and health partners by providing technical guidance, training and field-based tools. By providing *EWARS in a box*, frontline health workers can establish and manage surveillance and response activities in field settings without reliable internet or electricity. One kit costs approximately US\$15,000 and can support surveillance for 50 fixed or mobile clinics, covering roughly half a million people. In December, it is being piloted in South Sudan, with the aim of increasing surveillance in hard-to-reach areas. This will reduce delays in detecting and responding to disease outbreaks, and therefore help to avoid unnecessary cases and deaths. For more information, contact the Global EWARS Project at WHO Geneva (info@ewars.ws)

The Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week (HNPW)

Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week (HNPW) is the annual meeting of OCHA-supported networks and partnerships under the Consultative Group umbrella. The event is open to other actors that have an interest in its activities. Every year, the HNPW is underpinned by a different theme; from 1 to 4 February 2016, it will focus on *Effectiveness of international preparedness and response*. The week sees both plenary sessions and network-specific meetings. Focus Task Forces hold workshops to consult and update partners on progress, and thematic sessions are organized to present new developments and initiatives. Register [here](#) before 25 December.

New Index for Global Risk Management Launched

INFORM is the first global, objective and transparent tool for understanding the risk of

humanitarian crises. When all those involved in crisis prevention, preparedness and response use a shared risk assessment, they can work more effectively together. INFORM has been developed in response to recommendations by numerous organizations to improve the common evidence basis for risk analysis, as well as the real demands of INFORM partner organizations and is open-source. To learn more about INFORM, view this [short animation](#), or visit the [INFORM website](#).

Recent Nominations

Following his nomination by the Secretary General, [Filippo Grandi was elected as the next United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#). He will take over from Antonio Guterres on 1 January 2016 for a period of five years. On 4 November 2015, Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien, designated Mr Stephen Tull, incoming Resident Coordinator in Chad as Humanitarian Coordinator, and Ms Ahunna Eziakonwa, incoming Resident Coordinator in Ethiopia as Humanitarian Coordinator. Jamie McGoldrick will assume the role of Resident Coordinator for Yemen, deploying to Sana'a in early December.

IASC PRIORITIES

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

[IASC Task Team on Accountability to Affected Populations and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse \(AAP/PSEA\)](#)

The IASC AAP/PSEA Task Team undertook a mission to Niger in mid-November. Accountability had emerged as an important course corrector in the Niger Operational Peer Review carried out by the STAIT in March 2014 and several actions related to accountability have been included into the Niger action plan post OPR. The Task Team facilitated a workshop with clusters coordinators and facilitators as well as government counterparts and local NGOs to discuss a roadmap to operationalize accountability at a collective level.

The Task Team also supported the facilitation of a workshop hosted by IOM on the Community Based Complaints Mechanisms (CBCM) piloted in Ethiopia and DR Congo. Representatives from both pilot countries, along with global experts on PSEA met in Kigali from 2 to 6 November to discuss lessons learned,

[Humanitarian Financing](#)

The new co-sponsors of Humanitarian Financing are Gordana Jerger of WFP and Raphael Gorgeu of ICVA and Mateusz Buczek of OCHA is now providing the secretariat support function for the Task Team. Welcome!

The Humanitarian Financing Task Team will follow up on the [Future of Humanitarian Financing](#) report with a think piece on emerging financing recommendations, drawing on current global processes; prioritizing recommendations and future key work streams. The work on donor conditions will be continued to further influence the High-Level Panel recommendations around a Grand Bargain. The Task Team will hold their annual retreat in mid-January to strategize future work.

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

On 4 and 5 November, 40 representatives from member organizations and observers of the MHPSS Reference Group met in Istanbul to review and discuss progress of inter-agency work undertaken on MHPSS including on

which will feed into the CBCM Best Practice Guide. The fifth day, open to other interested stakeholders, allowed to gain a better understanding of issues and challenges faced in addressing SEA in other countries. The Best Practice Guide for establishing inter-agency CBCMs will be produced and broadly disseminated by end of December 2015.

[Gender in Humanitarian Action](#)

The [Gender Equality in the Strategic Response Plan](#) report captures lessons on integrating gender into the previous humanitarian planning process and makes recommendations for continued improvements. It is encouraging that concerted efforts are being made to ensure that humanitarian programming effectively addresses the distinct needs of women, girls, men and boys. Despite important progress, the review of the IASC Gender Marker codes indicated that the majority of projects were either gender blind (22 per cent), or only partially designed to address the distinct needs of women, girls, boys and men (42 per cent). Some key recommendations for the planning process are: improvement of quantitative and qualitative data collection, filling gaps in future assessments, coherent activities and indicators, closer attention to the wider role of women and girls in society and a stronger focus on vulnerabilities faced by men and boys to improve the wider gender understanding.

the development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the IASC Guidelines on MHPSS, key advocacy priorities on MHPSS around WHS and follow up to the UNICEF symposium on 'Growing up in conflict: The impact on Children's mental health and psychosocial well-being'. The following priorities have been set for the next two years: M&E Framework and its roll out, development of an IASC tool for referral, clarifying the thinking around MHPSS and peacebuilding through a working group established within the Reference Group, promoting the use of IASC guidelines through further dissemination of the review already undertaken, greater advocacy on MHPSS including for the WHS, Capacity building, surge, ongoing field support, greater guidance on Community based MHPSS and a review around the work on Psychological First Aid (PFA). It was also decided that the IFRC Reference Centre and UNICEF will serve as co-Chairs for the year 2016 with former's role extending till 2017.

[Preparedness and Resilience](#)

The [Key Messages on Climate Change](#), recently endorsed by the IASC Principals and Working Group, are used as an inter-agency communication and advocacy tool during and after the COP21. They call upon the global community to rapidly reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and to strengthen preventive and adaptive capacities of individuals, communities and systems for climate resilience.

IASC EVENTS

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

[Humanitarian Needs Overview Syria 2016 with Helena Fraser](#)

RECENT REPORTS AND STUDIES

The new inter-agency guidance note 'Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Migrants on the Move in

The HNO findings are sobering: humanitarian needs are spread across the whole country. Over 11 million people have been displaced, many of them several times. Explosive threats, child labour, lack or loss of civil documents and family separation are among the top protection threats. Preparing to flee is the third coping mechanism after seeking advice from community leaders and seeking support from NGOs.

The HNO for Syria 2016 should serve as a robust base for operational planning in 2016. For the first time, field-based, in depth, geographic coverage data is available to all partners and will be updated bi-monthly. The severity ranking in the HNO measures the levels of need and allows humanitarian actors to refine the response. The HNO is widely supported by the inter-agency community which commended its inclusiveness and the great efforts done towards streamlining protection, livelihood and resilience throughout the document.

GA Humanitarian Omnibus Resolution

OCHA PDSB provided a briefing to the IASC community on the GA resolutions on "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations". The resolutions aim to incorporate outcomes of the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and reference to WHS among other global processes.

Humanitarian Briefing on the Sahel with Toby Lanzer

Toby Lanzer, Assistant Secretary General and Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, depicted the dramatic conditions in the Sahel: poverty, security gaps and environmental degradation are of particular concern. The situation in Lake Chad Basin is deteriorating with currently 2.5 million displaced people. The Sustainable Development Goals provide an opportunity to increase our resources and cash programs should be used more often. Finally, development and security actors can provide good and reliable data and could have a huge impact if collaborative work is realized.

Habitat III

Europe' provides advice on protecting and supporting the mental health and psychosocial well-being of affected people. It describes key principles and appropriate interventions to guide all those who are designing and organizing emergency services and/or providing direct assistance. The guidance note will be available on www.MHPSS.net shortly.

The Chatham House report [Heat, Light and Power for Refugees: Saving Lives, Reducing Costs](#) zooms in on the energy needs and use of refugees and displaced people worldwide, and shows how new approaches could benefit refugees and displaced people, host country communities and the environment.

The [Global Terrorism Index](#) shows a surge in activity from Nigeria's Islamist insurgency Boko Haram and Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, who have driven an 80 per cent increase in the number of people killed by terrorists in 2014. The index also shows that 80 per cent of last year's terrorist killings were carried out in just five countries: Iraq, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Syria.

The UNICEF report [Unless we act now: The impact of climate change on children](#) looks at how children, and particularly the most vulnerable, are affected and what concrete steps need to be

Ana Moreno, Secretariat Coordinator for [Habitat III](#), briefed the IASC community on the process leading up to the conference that will take place in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016. The conference aims to advocate for the new drivers of the urban agenda: urban rules and regulations, planning and design, and municipal financing.

Launch of the Gender-based Violence (GBV) Guidelines in Geneva

The launch was held in the margins of the 62nd session of CEDAW and attended by a diverse range of actors, including Member States, UN agencies and NGOs. The panelists from UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR and World Vision International explained the objective of the revised guidelines which is to implement a system-wide change across all sectors and clusters and push for stronger GBV standards, including in humanitarian programming. Discussants highlighted the necessity to be accountable and practically implement the guidelines at the field level.

Cash Toolkit - Technical briefing

Cash programmes take an increasingly important role in humanitarian action and Multipurpose Cash Grants (MPG) are proven to be an effective tool to address various needs in different contexts. While conceding that cash programmes cannot be used in all situations (e.g. where markets are unavailable), the panelists from UNHCR and NRC reminded us of the necessity to push for cash programming in all agencies and organizations to end misperceptions and the lack of understanding of cash programs. The Cash Toolkit developed by UNHCR is comprehensive and practical and can be used by all humanitarian actors, not only cash experts. A representative of ECHO highlighted the fact that MPG become more cost-effective at a large scale. Inter-agency coordination and preparedness work will help better implement MPG in different emergencies. The toolkit in its finalization stage after receiving input during workshops and will be made available on the CaLP website.

FEATURED PRODUCT

Guidelines for addressing HIV in Humanitarian settings

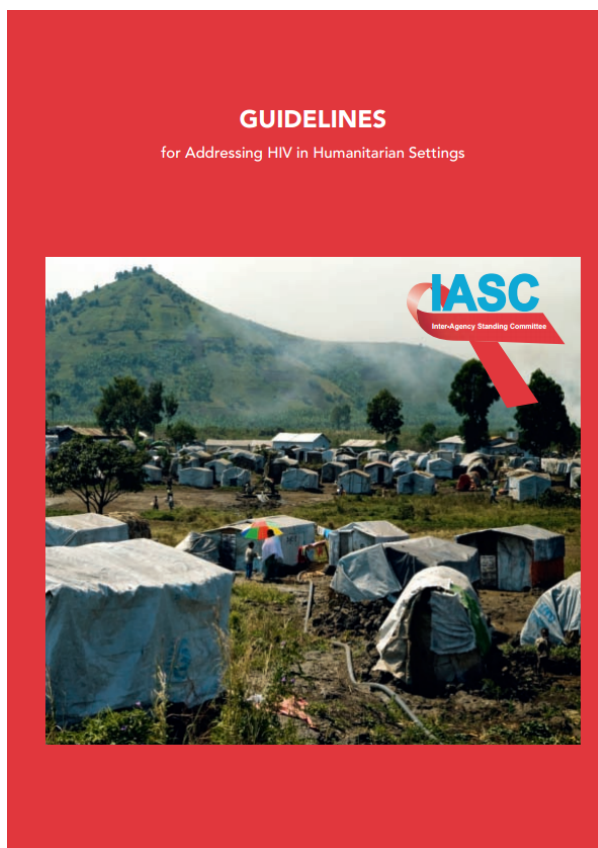
taken to protect them.

The IDMC report [Driven apart: how repeated displacement changes family dynamics in eastern DRC](#) (also available in [French](#)) focuses on the impact of repeated displacement on family composition, relationships and roles in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and looks at how the phenomenon affects the ability of displaced families to cope with the consequences.

[Supporting community resilience on conflict](#) is a podcast by Harvard's Advanced Training Program on Humanitarian Action.

The [Central African Republic: addressing the protection crisis](#), a report by the Overseas Development Institute looks at how people in CAR affected by the conflict see protection threats, how they mitigate them, and what they expect from those seeking to provide protection.

Parts of Central America and Mexico are suffering a humanitarian crisis which stems directly from expanding criminal violence, including rape, kidnapping, human trafficking, extortion, forced displacement, exploitation and murder. The IDMC report [New humanitarian frontiers: Addressing criminal violence in Mexico and Central America](#) pinpoints three structural challenges in response to



criminal violence in the region: the features and characteristics of criminal violence, the presence of self-sustaining regional mixed migration and the flow of narcotics and the extremely fragile nature of Central American states.

More than 100 million people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance - that is more than at any time since the end of the Second World War. Among those displaced by conflict or uprooted by disaster are an estimated 26 million women and adolescent girls in their childbearing years. The [State of World Population 2015](#) report is a call to action to meet their needs and protect their rights and to reframe humanitarian response.

Ahead of World AIDS Day on 1 December, UNAIDS released a [report](#) showing that countries are getting on the [Fast-Track to end AIDS by 2030](#) as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. By adapting to a changing global environment and maximizing innovations, countries are seeing greater efficiencies and better results.

At the same time, the importance of addressing HIV in humanitarian emergencies has been recognized not only in the updated [UNAIDS Strategy 2016-2021](#). In addition, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for the first time has recognized the need to address HIV in emergencies and has set up an Emergency Fund that may be further expanded in 2016.

The [IASC Guidelines for Addressing HIV in Humanitarian Settings](#), revised in 2010, aim to assist humanitarian and AIDS organizations to plan the delivery of a minimum set of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services to people affected by humanitarian crises. Users can refer to sectoral responses as well as relevant actions that should be addressed across all sectors.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

IASC Meetings & Events

2 December 2015: IASC Event: [Adapting the IASC Gender Marker to your needs: future evolution](#)

3 December 2015: [ad hoc Working Group Meeting](#)

4 December 2015: [GPC Task Team on the IASC Protection Priority Meeting](#)

4 December 2015: [Gender Reference Group Meeting](#)

7 December 2015: [IASC AAP/PSEA Task Team meeting](#)

11 December 2015: [Principals Meeting](#)

15 December 2015: [IASC Event: WHS briefing](#)

16 December 2015: [Task Team on Humanitarian Financing \(HFTT\) Meeting](#)

17 December 2015 (TBC): [IASC Event: Second briefing on the Humanitarian Omnibus Resolution](#)

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

Other Events

30 November-11 December 2015: The United Nations Climate Change Conference, [COP21/CMP11](#)

8-10 December 2015: [32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent](#)

15 December 2015: [CERF's](#) annual High-Level Conference

19 October 2015-15 January 2016: [InterAction Photo Contest](#)

1-2 December 2015: [Global Policy Forum](#), New York, USA

2 December 2015: [The relationship between the International Criminal Court and humanitarian actors](#), PHAP Online Learning Series on Humanitarian Law and Policy

7 December 2015: Global Humanitarian Appeal launch

10 December 2015: [Yemen's forgotten war](#), Overseas Development Institute event, Geneva, Switzerland

15 December 2015: Country-based pooled funds NGO Dialogue Platform meeting

15 December 2015: [Market analysis for urban humanitarian response](#), ALNAP webinar

17 December 2015: [Suppressing foreign terrorist fighters and supporting principled humanitarian action](#), PHAP Expert IHL Briefing

1-4 February 2016: [Humanitarian Network and Partnership Week](#) (HNPW), Geneva

16 February 2016: [19th International Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and UN Advisor \(NDM\)](#)

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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