

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE
PRINCIPALS MEETING

Final Action Points

11 December 2015
HOST: ICVA, Geneva

Circulated: 15 January 2016

A meeting of the IASC Principals, chaired by the Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien, was hosted by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) in Geneva on 11 December 2015.

The agenda was structured around five main areas: (i) response to humanitarian needs in protracted crises; (ii) resource mobilization and humanitarian financing; (iii) the World Humanitarian Summit; (iv) strategic coordination of cash transfer programming; and (v) IASC priorities in 2016-2017.

SESSION 1: RESPONSE TO HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN PROTRACTED CRISES

Part 1: Protection, access and resources: the cases of Yemen and Syria

Action Points:

1. **Centrality of Protection:** *Organize a visible collective effort calling on all parties to the conflicts in Syria and Yemen to stop violations of international humanitarian law, immediately put an end to indiscriminate targeting of civilians and protect health care facilities. Action by: OCHA, ICRC, UNICEF, SCHR, WHO and OHCHR by 31 March 2016.*
2. **Humanitarian Access:** *Prepare a joint visit by a high-level humanitarian delegation to Syria and neighbouring countries, if feasible, to negotiate better humanitarian access and conditions for humanitarian action in support of the HCT. Action by: OCHA and InterAction with possibly others by May 2016.*
3. **Ceasefire in Syria:** *Discuss delivery strategies in a potential ceasefire and ensure preparedness and contingency planning are up to date and supported. Action by: Emergency Directors by the end of January 2016 / continuous.*
4. **Peace talks on Syria:** *ensure that humanitarian issues on protection and access are recognized in the Vienna process, including through a joint statement from Principals. Action by February 2016.*
5. **Collective Communication:** *Make a proposal to improve the collective ability of the IASC Principals in the area of strategic communications, for instance by establishing an inter-agency group that could develop key messages for the Vienna talks, Syria Donors Conference 2016, the WHS and other high level events. Action by: OCHA and InterAction creation by January 2016/ continuous.*

6. **Security Management:** Pursue with UNDSS a dialogue on efforts to create a more enabling security environment. This may include the automatic designation of HC as the Designated Official (DO) for Security in future L3 emergencies. **Action by: ERC UNICEF, and WFP by end February 2016.**

Part 2: Current migration and refugee crisis

7. Support the efforts to raise adequate funding at the Syria Donors Conference in London in February 2016 and request OCHA and UNHCR to develop key messages with respect to funding in alignment with the scale of needs and appeals for the Syria crisis, as well as to convey the need for continued focus on responding in Syria and neighbouring countries, in particular in the area of education, livelihoods and protection of civilians. **Action by: OCHA, UNHCR, FAO, IOM, UNICEF, UNDP by end of January 2016.**

Part 3: L3 mechanism, protracted crisis and staying the course

The IASC Principals endorsed the approach of differentiating between an L3 surge ‘scale-up’ phase and a ‘consolidation’ phase, with the transition and consolidation done with no “fanfare”. It was agreed that this should be effective immediately and for the Principals' review of L3 crises in early 2016. IASC Principals endorsed realignment of terminology on the L3 mechanism, from ‘Level 3 response’ to ‘Level 3 surge’, to reflect the purpose of the mechanism, i.e. an urgent, rapid injection of resources to close gaps.

The IASC Principals adopted the proposal by the EDG in order to refine the L3 mechanism so as to respond more adequately to current humanitarian crises. They reaffirmed the IASC-internal nature of the L3 mechanism that may not be publicly announced in the future.

SESSION 2: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND HUMANITARIAN FINANCING

The co-chair of the High-Level Panel (HLP) on Humanitarian Financing, Kristalina Georgieva presented the recommendations of the panel. She highlighted the possible elements of a Grand Bargain between big donors and humanitarian organisations that would do away with inefficiencies and embrace best practices in humanitarian action. The following issues were raised during the discussion:

- It is time to challenge the Member States with a request for mandatory funding as humanitarian assistance is increasingly a global public good. Humanitarian organizations should not self-censor for fear that the Member States may say no.
- Move from competitive inefficiencies to collaborative efficiency.
- NGO concern on donor conditionality.
- Proposal of a Grand Bargain between IASC organizations and donors.
- Funding for frontline actors.

Action Points:

8. Provide more accurate and credible costing methodology ahead of the 2017 humanitarian appeals. **Action by OCHA, WB, FAO and WFP in consultation with IASC organizations by 31 November 2016.**
9. Support the recommendations of the High Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing, including the “Grand Bargain” and working across humanitarian and development

pillars, and work with donors on implementing the recommendations. Action by: IASC Principals, lead by OCHA and FAO and working with the members of the Good Humanitarian Donorship by 31 March 2016.

- 10. Establish a small, representative team to articulate joint messaging ahead of the 71st General Assembly to reduce the funding gap. Action by: FAO, UNDP, WB, NGO, UNICEF, OCHA, WFP by 31 August 2016.*

SESSION 3: WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

Action Points:

- 11. Seek to organize a meeting with the Secretary-General and the IASC Principals on the World Humanitarian Summit and the S-G's report. Action by: ERC by early February 2016.*
- 12. Identify opportunities for IASC Principals to support the Secretary-General's vision for WHS and the future humanitarian agenda. Action by: IASC Principals with support of the ERC and OCHA/WHS secretariat throughout 2016.*
- 13. Send a joint reply to the letter from the donors of 4 December 2015 on WHS. Action by: OCHA/WHS secretariat to share draft by early January 2015.*
- 14. IASC agencies to develop and present individual contributions in support of the objectives of the WHS and the vision of the Secretary-General. Action by: IASC organizations by 23 May 2016.*

SESSION 4: STRATEGIC COORDINATION OF CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMMING

Action Point:

- 15. Establish a Strategic Cash Task Group at the Deputy Executive Director level which will work on a two-step process: (1) Review evidence of existing cash programming in the field; and (2) develop strategic recommendations to the Principals on cash programming, including coordination based on analysis of commonalities and specificities, cost effectiveness and direct applicability to people's needs. Action by: World Bank (lead) to select team members (from operational agencies, NGOs, OCHA etc.) by 31 March 2016.*

SESSION 5: IASC PRIORITIES IN 2016-2017

IASC Principals endorsed the strategic priorities proposed by the Working Group and the Programme of Action proposed by the Emergency Directors Group. Deep gratitude was expressed by the Principals for the work done.

Action Point:

- 16. Report on implementation of the EDG work plan. Action by: EDG by 30 November 2016*
- 17. Develop a detailed work plan based on the list of strategic priorities submitted to the Principals in line S-G report on WHS. Action by: Working Group by 1 June 2016*

On Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

The statement proposed by IOM and OHCHR was endorsed by the Principals.

Action Points (from the PSEA statement):

18. *Fully implement the Minimum Operating Standards, including by developing operational tools and clear guidance for the field on agency commitments and activities to protect against sexual exploitation and abuse, both at the institutional and collective levels. This requires ensuring that global standard operating procedures on cooperation in inter-agency complaints mechanisms, and specifically on SEA case referrals and follow-up, are developed and endorsed by May 2016. It also requires effective and continuous staff training by all humanitarian agencies, to ensure that their field offices understand their agencies' PSEA commitments and Code of Conduct obligations, and which fosters capacity building and behavioural change to address the root causes of SEA. Action by: IASC Principals by 31 May 2016 under IOM's leadership.*
19. *Reinforce the responsibilities on PSEA for the Humanitarian Coordinator role, in order to ensure that PSEA has a clear place within the humanitarian architecture and IASC system-wide responsibility for developing PSEA strategies and action plans is institutionalized. Coherent with existing PSEA responsibilities as Resident Coordinator, this would include developing complaints mechanisms, ensuring that survivors have access to appropriate immediate and longer-term assistance, coordinating inter-agency allegation referrals, reporting regularly to the Emergency Relief Coordinator on PSEA in relation to humanitarian operations, and including PSEA as a standing agenda item at the HC annual meeting. Action by: OCHA by end of 2016.*
20. *Strengthen investigation and protection responses to SEA allegations, by individual organizations and collectively. This includes taking swift and appropriate administrative sanctions, and developing and sharing best practices on enforcing Code of Conduct breaches and on referring SEA cases that may arise to criminal misconduct to competent authorities. This also requires concerted efforts to operationalize the recommendations for preventing the re-recruitment of individuals disciplined for SEA, and to enforce PSEA contractual clauses with implementing partners. Furthermore, efforts should be made to ensure that the IASC response to SEA includes adequate protection and redress, including adequate assistance for survivors. Action by: IASC Principals by end of 2016 under OHCHR and IOM's leadership.*
21. *Share Notification Alert procedure to report allegations of SEA of children by UN personnel. Action by: UNICEF by December 2015 (done)*

SESSION 6: AOB AND CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

22. *Assess the possibility for changing the date of the next Principals meeting proposed for 19 May 2016 to a later date between the WHS (23-24 May) and the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (20-22 June) and request the IASC secretariat to propose a tentative schedule of meetings for 2017-2019. Action by: IASC secretariat by 31 January 2016*