

IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee**News**

News and Highlights from the IASC Community

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LATEST NEWS

Joint appeal to end suffering in Syria and start of the UN-mediated talks

On 21 January, more than 120 humanitarian organizations and United Nations agencies issued a [joint appeal](#) urging the world to raise their voices and call for an end to the Syria crisis. They outlined a series of immediate, practical steps that can improve humanitarian access and the delivery of aid to those in need inside Syria. Humanitarian organizations and UN agencies are not only appealing to governments but to citizens around the world – asking them to add their voices in urging “an end to the carnage,” and for parties to reach an agreement on a ceasefire and a path to peace. On 31 January, Mr. de Mistura, United Nations Special Envoy for Syria, [said](#) the Geneva meetings will start with proximity talks and are expected to last for six months, with Government and opposition delegations sitting in separate rooms and UN officials shuttling between them, with the immediate priorities being agreeing on a broad ceasefire, humanitarian aid, and halting

the threat posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Zika virus declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern

On 1 February, WHO's Director-General convened the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations. The Committee was provided with data on the current understanding of the history of Zika virus, its spread, clinical presentation and epidemiology. Brazil, France, United States of America and El Salvador provided information on a potential association between microcephaly and/or neurological disorders and Zika virus disease. Based on the advice of the Committee, the Director-General declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The Director-General endorsed the Committee's advice and issued them as Temporary Recommendations under IHR (2005).

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

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*The operating table of MSF trauma center in Kunduz is barely recognizable after the airstrike.
Credits: Dan Sermand/MSF*

IASC video: Robert Piper on the humanitarian situation in the oPt

Robert Piper, Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, offers valuable insights on the humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territory.



High Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing report

On 17 January 2016, the [report of the High Level panel on Humanitarian Financing](#) was launched by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in the United Arab Emirates. The panel calculated that an additional [US\\$15 billion annually](#) was needed to reduce suffering and save lives. The report is calling for a “Grand Bargain” for “collaborative efficiency” between donors and aid actors. Additionally, recommendations include more engagement with the private sector; better channelling of Islamic social financing; and the possible introduction of solidarity levies to fund humanitarian responses.

Secretary-General briefing on WHS to IASC Principals

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon shared his views with the IASC Principals on the key priorities for the WHS. He gave an overview of his report and received unanimous support and commitment from the participating organizations. His “Agenda for Humanity” will lay out actions and commitments needed by all stakeholders to deliver better. Applications for side-events, the Exhibition Fair & Innovation Marketplace are now open. Find out more on the [WHS website](#).

Update on the IASC Working Group workplan

After the [Working Group workplan](#) for 2016-2017 was endorsed by the Principals in December, several subsidiary bodies have already held annual meetings to debate their forthcoming work plans and implementation strategies. The IASC secretariat will call constituting meetings of the new subsidiary bodies to agree leadership structures and workplan/implementation strategies.

Log in to the IASC website with Humanitarian ID

One user account less for you: You can now log into the [IASC website](#) via your Humanitarian ID profile. That's the same as you use for HumanitarianResponse.info and ReliefWeb. Try it out! Upon first log in your HID profile is connected to the IASC website, but you will not yet see private content. [Contact us](#) to request access to restricted information. Note that the group accounts will be phased out later this month, so please ensure that you have an individual account set up.

Emergency Team Leadership Programme

The first IASC Emergency Team Leadership Programme (ETLP) training course since 2014 took place in Nairobi from 17 to 21 January, facilitated through UNHCR in cooperation with InterWorks and with participants from the UN, IOM, ICRC/IFRC and international and national NGOs. The ETLP enhances the effectiveness of participants in inter-agency leadership roles or as emergency team leaders. Because of its unique inter-agency focus, the workshop covers leadership, self-awareness and interpersonal skills. Key themes addressed in the programme include emotional intelligence, situational leadership, collaborative negotiation, decision-making in emergencies, team care/trust building and coaching. All ETLP learning activities, discussions and presentations are contextualized to reflect humanitarian emergency environments, challenges and scenarios. Expected outcomes of the ETLP are to strengthen the quality of leadership in humanitarian operations; to support stronger coordination among agencies; to foster development of best practice in emergency leadership and management; and to contribute to the expansion of a larger cadre of experienced team leaders proficient in emergency leadership competencies. The training is hoped to take place on a regular basis, approximately twice a year.

Health needs paramount as refugees and migrants stream through Serbia

As refugee flows to Europe hit record breaking levels in 2015, women face increased risks of violence and abuse as well as barriers to reproductive health care. To address these needs, UNFPA deployed mobile clinics and ultrasound equipments in major transit points for refugees in Serbia and in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. [Read the full story.](#)

Attacks on medical facilities

Conflicts in Syria and Yemen have revealed increased lack of respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) by all actors involved in conflicts. The reports of starvation from Madaya, Foua and Kefraya are just the latest examples. In particular, medical facilities have been increasingly targeted: [the attacks on the Kunduz Trauma Center](#) and various [medical facilities in Yemen](#) run by MSF are flagrant examples of IHL violations. “Is this the new normal: an MSF hospital bombed every month? How many other hospitals are being attacked in Yemen and other conflict zones, run by medical staff who do not have the platform that MSF does to speak out? We refuse to accept that this trend continues with a total lack of accountability. We urgently need guarantees from warring parties that functioning hospitals are never a legitimate target.” says Joanne Liu, International President of MSF. During a Security Council debate on the protection of civilians, Christine Beerli, vice-president of the ICRC, [stated](#) that “the need to respect and ensure compliance with IHL is urgent. States and non-State armed groups must comply with these laws, and close the existing implementation gap”. PHAP will organise an [online briefing](#) "International law at the vanishing point of war" on 23 February.

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

Accountability to Affected Populations and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (AAP/PSEA):

On 11 December 2015, the IASC at its annual retreat on 22 January, the IASC AAP PSEA Task team took stock of achievements and challenges faced last year and brainstorming on the way forward for 2016. 38 participants from 27 agencies and organizations discussed and agreed on priorities for collective work in 2016. The retreat was opened by Mr. Berk Baran, Minister-Counsellor at the permanent mission of Turkey. Mamadou Ndiaye, from Senegal-based NGO OFADEC participated as the new co-chair of the Task Team, along with Preeti Law. Based on the new IASC Working Group workplan, and in particular, the priority on Accountability and Inclusivity, the participants selected three main areas of work: (1) Capturing and sharing good practices on AAP/PSEA; (2) Supporting the operationalization of AAP/PSEA; (3) Supporting inter-agency collaboration on PSEA. Participants also discussed how to support other initiatives related with AAP and PSEA. A draft action plan will be circulated to Task team members to get approval and determine roles and responsibilities moving forward.

Gender in Humanitarian Action: The Reference Group and Cluster Leads are revising the [IASC Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action](#). Stakeholders are invited for interviews to inform the revision.

Protection: The WG sub-group on the Whole of System Protection Review is reviewing the submission by the GPC Task Team on the IASC Protection Priority. The management response would be submitted to the Working Group for discussion at the March meeting. The GPC Task Team is developing the IASC Protection Policy; interviews with stakeholders are ongoing to inform the process.

Humanitarian Financing: The Task Team held its 2016 retreat on 26 and 27 January in Geneva. The retreat focused on reviewing Task Team's achievements in 2014/2015 and formulating its 2016/2017 workplan in the context of the road to the World Humanitarian Summit. The retreat was attended by 48 participants representing a broad spectrum of IASC partners and representatives from WHS, HLP and GHD secretariats as guest speakers.

Revitalizing Principled Humanitarian Action: The Task Team is finalizing the management response to the integration review. It is also transitioning into a Reference Group and welcomes James Munn of NRC as their new co-chair, replacing Ingrid McDonald.

IASC EVENTS

[IASC Events](#) are organized on an ad hoc basis by the IASC secretariat in Geneva and New York

Second briefing on the 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 outcome of three resolutions were discussed: (1) Omnibus, (2) IDPs and (3) Safety and Security.

Operational Peer Review (OPR) in Yemen

The Yemen OPR was undertaken in December 2015 by an inter-agency team led by Panos Moumtzis (STAIT) and including Kate Halff (SCHR), Zlatan Milisic (WFP) and Roberto Mignone (UNHCR). Panos Moumtzis and Kate Halff presented the main findings of the OPR. They highlighted the importance of matching leadership decisions with the L3 declaration and have better security management to enable humanitarian operations. Recommendations included the inclusion of the "Human Rights Up Front" approach as well as a communication officer in senior Humanitarian Country Leadership. You can find the detailed analysis in the full [OPR document](#) (password protected).

Adapting the IASC Gender Marker to your needs: future evolution

See [summary](#) of the event held in Geneva in December on the same topic. Contact [Delphine Brun](#) for updates.

FEATURED PRODUCT

SAFE - Matrix and Decision Tree



The IASC Task Force on Safe Access to Firewood and Alternative Energy (SAFE) was established in 2007 to reduce exposure to violence, contribute to the protection of and ease the burden on those populations collecting wood in humanitarian settings worldwide, through solutions that promote safe access to appropriate energy and reduce environmental

REPORTS AND STUDIES

[OCHA, FAO and WFP](#) have released updates on El Niño.

The "[Hotline for People in Need in Darfur](#)" second annual report outlines the call-centre for IDPs in Darfur achievements and remaining challenges.

"[The long-term impact of the 2014 Gaza conflict on women and girls](#)" report gives the full picture on the displacement, unemployment, health and other concerns for females in Gaza today.

impacts while ensuring accountability. The task force created two main tools:

- The [SAFE Matrix on Agency Roles and Responsibilities](#) is a framework for addressing cooking fuel needs in emergency and protracted response settings. It sets out who is responsible for what and when.
- The [SAFE Decision Tree Diagram](#) outlines factors affecting the choice of fuel strategy in humanitarian settings to help determine which cooking fuel options will be most appropriate in diverse response settings.

Today, [SAFE](#) is led by the Global Interagency SAFE Humanitarian Working Group, a consortium of key partners including FAO, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, Mercy Corps, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, and Women's Refugee Commission, among others. In 2014, SAFE formally expanded to become Safe Access to Fuel and Energy to include humanitarian energy needs more broadly.

The SAFE group envisions a world in which all crisis-affected populations are able to satisfy their fuel and energy needs for cooking, lighting, heating, and powering in a safe and sustainable manner, without fear or risk to their health, well-being, and personal security.

Want to learn more about SAFE, join us on [16 February!](#)

[R2P bimonthly report](#) applies the Responsibility to Protect to current crises.

PHAP is conducting a [survey](#) to understand the needs of humanitarian practitioners with regard to professional development.

The 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa pointed out the critical need for countries to have strong health systems to respond to adverse health events. The report "[Achieving Global Health Security: The Implementation of International Health Regulations](#)" by the GCSP highlights key issues.

The Women's Refugee Commission is conducting an [online survey](#) for Humanitarian Professionals as part of a project titled Strengthening the capacity of networks of women with disabilities on humanitarian issues.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IASC Meetings & Events

2 February 2016: [Briefing on World Humanitarian Summit: Side Event/Exposition Space/Innovation Marketplace Application Process](#)

16 February 2016: [Energy Access in Humanitarian Settings](#) (IASC event New York & Geneva)

8-9 March 2016: [90th Working Group meeting](#) (New York)

7 June 2016: [Principals meeting](#) (Washington DC)

Other Events

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

4 February 2016: [Syria Pledging Conference](#) (London)

8 February 2016: [ODI event: Leaving No One Behind](#)

9 February 2016: **Launch of the UN Secretary-General's Report on the WHS**

9-10 February: [Solutions Alliance Roundtable](#) (Brussels)

18 February 2016: **Urban event "City Haven" with UN Habitat, David Miliband (IRC) and the Office of the Mayor of New York City**

16-19 February 2016: [19th International Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and UN Advisors](#) (Geneva)

18-19 February 2016: [International Humanitarian Conference: "Toward the World Humanitarian Summit"](#) (Geneva)

23 February 2016: [PHAP Expert IHL briefing](#)

4 April 2016: [ICVA Annual Conference](#) (Geneva)

18-20 April 2016: [InterAction Forum](#) (Washington)

23-24 May 2016: [World Humanitarian Summit](#) (Istanbul)

19 September 2016: **Summit on "Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants"**

17-20 October 2016: [Habitat III](#) (Quito)

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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