

## INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP

<b>IASC OVERARCHING GOAL</b>	<b>STRENGTHEN THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION</b>
<b>IASC FUNCTIONS</b>	<p><b>POLICY:</b> Produces system-wide policies, guidelines and tools to harmonize and achieve a better overall response.</p> <p><b>OPERATIONAL:</b> Ensure a coherent and timely response to complex emergencies.</p> <p><b>ADVOCACY:</b> Agree on common messages, to jointly advocate for respect for humanitarian principles and ensure support for humanitarian work.</p>

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2016-2017 OF THE IASC WORKING GROUP

EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES AND PROTRACTED CRISES	ACCOUNTABILITY AND INCLUSIVITY	DISPLACEMENT AND PROTECTION OUTCOMES	FINANCING
An unprecedented number of people require assistance in highly complex and protracted environments, stretching the international response capacity to its limits. The IASC seeks to support strengthening the effectiveness and relevance of humanitarian response, including through strengthening preparedness and resilience and working across sectors.	More can be done to increase collective ownership and promote the implementation of key IASC policy guidelines and response. IASC members are committed to strengthening inclusivity (cooperating with external stakeholders including frontline responders, donors, private sector and national government) and investing in accountability, transparency and local capacity, with particular attention to PSEA.	An unprecedented number of people require assistance and protection. The IASC has made a strong commitment to place protection central to humanitarian action. In 2016, IASC organizations will address challenges and strengthen response, including through adoption and implementation of a system-wide protection policy. Particular attention will be paid to forced displacement, sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response, child protection, gender mainstreaming and PSEA, addressing root causes of protection risks, and achieving durable solutions to displacement.	Resources are not fit for purpose to adequately respond to the unprecedented number of people requiring assistance and to effectively strengthen preparedness. Working with partners the IASC seeks to promote appropriate, accessible and efficient use of resources to meet the needs for effective humanitarian response.

### STRATEGIC ENTRY POINTS

In implementing its strategic priorities, the IASC Working Group will engage in global processes including in particular the World Humanitarian Summit, Sustainable Development Goals / Agenda 2030; HABITAT III; Good Humanitarian Donorship; COP 21; and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

### OUTPUTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coherent and accountable system wide response to emergencies promoted with a focus on protracted crises and urban contexts</li> <li>• Principled humanitarian action strengthened</li> <li>• Humanitarian development nexus strengthened</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accountability to affected populations strengthened and operationalized</li> <li>• Enhanced inter-organizational cooperation on PSEA</li> <li>• Cooperation, transparency and outreach strengthened</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operationalise the whole of system approaches to protection in accordance with the Centrality of Protection Statement</li> <li>• Enhance protection of the most vulnerable groups in emergencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate, appropriate and accessible financing for diverse response capacity promoted</li> </ul>
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## PRIORITY: EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES AND PROTRACTED CRISES

**Suggested Sponsors:** (tbc)

**Subsidiary bodies:**

Each Task Team/Reference Group will meet on a monthly basis and champions will call in quarterly meetings for the full priority to report on the linkages between activities.

- Reference Group Principled Humanitarian Action
- Task Team on Strengthening the Humanitarian/Development Nexus with a focus on protracted contexts
- Reference Group on Early Warning and Preparedness
- Reference Group MHCUA

OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD
Coherent and accountable system wide response to emergencies promoted with a focus on protracted crises and urban contexts	Monitor key IAHE recommendations to reinforce humanitarian accountabilities	<i>IASC secretariat</i>
	Adapt TA protocols for utilization in protracted crises, with a focus on simplicity and ensuring inter-agency ownership and accountability	<i>Task Team on Strengthening the Hum./Dev. Nexus in cooperation with OCHA</i>
	Develop guidance on urban area- and system-based analysis/profiling to support humanitarian programming and coordination	<i>Task Team on Strengthening the Hum./Dev. Nexus in cooperation with MHCUA</i>
	Develop a compendium of best practices and an operational guidance on building the capacity of frontline national responders, taking into account implementation of the IASC/UNDG/UNISDR Common Framework for Preparedness	<i>Task Team on Strengthening the Hum./Dev. Nexus in cooperation with ICVA members (tbc)</i>
Principled humanitarian action strengthened	Raise awareness and promote implementation of the key recommendations of the Review of the Impact of UN Integration on Humanitarian Action, in particular implementation of the Integrated Assessment and Planning (IAP) policy	<i>Reference Group Principled Humanitarian Action in cooperation with OCHA</i>
	Publish the collected data on activities and good practices of IASC related to COTER advocacy	<i>Reference Group Principled Humanitarian Action</i>
Humanitarian development nexus strengthened	Promote and monitor implementation of the IASC/UNDG Principles of Resilience	<i>Reference Group on Early Warning and Preparedness</i>
	Promote and monitor implementation of the IASC/UNDG/ ISDR Common Framework for Preparedness, coordinating with CADRI, UNDG, UNISDR and other groups	<i>Reference Group on Early Warning and Preparedness</i>
	Propose core elements of a new business model that could address needs and vulnerabilities in a comprehensive manner, including humanitarian and development actors and other relevant partners	<i>Reference Group on Early Warning and Preparedness</i>
	Horizon scanning, early warning and proposed early action, including assessment of emerging and new risks in the IASC's operational environment, and, where needed, policy response to operational developments. This would also encompass an increase to IASC forward-looking analysis capacity, including through engagement with development, peacebuilding and other relevant actors	<i>Reference Group on Early Warning and Preparedness</i>

	Strengthen operationalization of building the resilience of vulnerable populations in crises: development of an IASC policy on the use of conditional or unconditional cash transfers in emergencies ( <i>depending on the outcomes on the Principals' cash working group</i> )	<i>Reference Group on Early Warning and Preparedness</i>
	Adapt, monitor, promote coherent implementation of the Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP)	<i>Reference Group on Early Warning and Preparedness</i>

## PRIORITY: ACCOUNTABILITY AND INCLUSIVITY

**Sponsors:** UNHCR  
IOM (champion PSEA)

**Subsidiary bodies:**

- Task Team AAP/PSEA
- Reference Group MHPSS
- Reference Group GRG

OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD
Accountability to affected populations strengthened and operationalized	Provide support to field operations to ensure that commitments on both accountability and PSEA are understood and being operationalised at collective level	<i>AAP/PSEA Task Team</i>
	Embed IASC guidance in organisations' policy and report to the IASC	
	Strengthen disseminating policy guidance to operational levels	<i>IASC secretariat</i>
	Promote and support implementation of the IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	<i>MHPSS RG</i>
	Promote, support and monitor implementation of the IASC Gender Policy and monitor the accountability framework of the IASC Gender Policy	<i>GRG</i>
	Promote and support implementation of the revised IASC Gender Based Violence Guidelines,	<i>GBV AoR in cooperation with GRG</i>
Enhanced inter-organizational cooperation on PSEA	Finalize, adopt and promote implementation of the SOPs on inter-agency referral of complaints	<i>IOM in cooperation with AAP/PSEA Task Team</i>
	Incorporate lessons learned from the PSEA-CBCM pilot project into the IASC Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Operational Framework	<i>AAP/PSEA TT and Senior PSEA Focal Points</i>
	Implement the statement by IASC Principals on PSEA (December 2015): 1) Fully implement the Minimum Operating Standards, 2) Reinforce the responsibilities on PSEA for the HC role, 3) Strengthen investigation and protection responses to SEA allegations	<i>AAP/PSEA TT and Senior PSEA Focal Points</i>
Cooperation, transparency and outreach strengthened	Promote participation and influence of regional coordination actors within IASC mechanisms and maintain a dialogue with regional field coordination structures including with NGOS	<i>Activity coordinated by the IASC secretariat and co lead by OCHA and ICVA. Engagement of UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR and others for "promotion of inclusive field level coordination structures"</i>
	Promote adherence to Principles of Partnership and identify recommendations on how to translate Principles into best practice	
	Maintain a dialogue with key stakeholders including NGOs (with a special focus on National and Southern NGOs), member states and the private sector	
	Promote inclusive field level coordination structures, including HCTs , with a special focus on National NGOs, Southern NGOs and emerging actors	

## PRIORITY: RESPONDING TO DISPLACEMENT AND ENHANCING PROTECTION OUTCOMES

**Sponsors:** UNHCR, UNDP

**Subsidiary bodies:**

- GPC Task Team to Implement IASC Protection Priority Tasks (time bound - until protection policy is completed)
- Reference Group on protracted displacements (UNDP/UNHCR)

OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD
Operationalise whole of system approaches to protection in accordance with the Centrality of Protection Statement	Promote and support implementation of the key findings of the Whole of System Protection Review	<i>WG subgroup on protection/WG</i>
	Develop the IASC Protection Policy	<i>GPC TTPP</i>
	Develop an implementation strategy of the IASC Protection Policy	<i>IASC protection agencies</i>
Enhance protection of the most vulnerable groups in emergencies	Review and promote implementation of the IASC framework on durable solutions for IDPs	<i>UNHCR, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDP, UNDP</i>
	Agree and strengthen the response to the humanitarian needs of migrants	<i>IOM in cooperation with UNHCR, OHCHR, OCHA</i>
	In support of the implementation of the IASC framework on durable solutions for IDPS in protracted displacement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote and support rule of law in response to displaced population needs including: a) community security; support strengthening law enforcement for the service of host and displaced communities; b) access to justice c) violence reduction.</li> <li>- Support livelihoods in communities affected by displacement.</li> <li>- Support early recovery, including livelihoods recovery for IDPs, out-of-camp refugees and host communities, while setting a longer-term vision for economic recovery and development.</li> <li>- Promote and develop sustainable frameworks for the (re-)integration of returnees and local integration of displaced people in host communities.</li> </ul>	<i>Reference Group on protracted displacements</i>

## PRIORITY: FINANCING

**Sponsors:** ICVA and WFP

**Subsidiary bodies:**

- Task Team Humanitarian Financing

OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD
Adequate, appropriate and accessible financing for diverse response capacity promoted	Advise on the development of new funding mechanisms and more accessible funding (including for local actors), with a focus on more effective response to protracted emergencies and investment in results-driven, multi-year programmes that bridge the humanitarian-development divide and consider added value of diversity amongst actors.	<i>Humanitarian Financing Task Team</i>
	Supporting the operationalization of key recommendations around hum/dev financing, including stemming from the HLPHF's report and WHS.	

	Building on the analysis of donor conditions, 1) Make recommendations for increasing the transparency of financial flows through stronger reporting on pass-through funding; and 2) Strengthen awareness of and advocate for the application of the principles of the Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative	
	Formulate IASC contribution to the Grand Bargain operationalization	

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## COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENED WORKING MODALITIES

### IASC WORKING GROUP

December 2015

1. Strengthen accountability and effectiveness by strengthening the ownership of and promoting the implementation of key collective policy guidelines and response.
2. Promote diversity and effective collaboration with diverse actors, based on complementarity and localizing response as appropriate, and strengthening accountability to affected populations.
3. Uphold closer working relationships between Principals, WG and subsidiary bodies' chairs.
4. Proactive dissemination of decisions and guidelines among IASC members, stakeholders, and field coordination structures including HCTs, regional IAWGs and NGO fora. Work with partners to provide platforms for people to discuss new policies to promote understanding on how they are relevant to them.
5. Maintain a dialogue with key donors on IASC reform products and deliverables.
6. Bring to the attention of the Principals key issues impacting affected people with a view of promoting stronger advocacy.
7. Commit to quick decision making on topical issues making processes more efficient.
8. Better utilize flexible working structures to enable speedier action and decision making, including sub-working groups, strategic use of ad hoc meetings, use of innovative technologies (in light of capacity constraints).
9. Review and adapt priorities and workplan including tasking in mid/late 2016