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IASC News - March 2016

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Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon holding a child while speaking to refugees in Beqaa Valley, Lebanon.
Credit: UN Photo/Mark Garten

LATEST NEWS

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Mission For Humanity

During his [Mission for Humanity](#) UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo where he emphasized the importance of "[safeguarding the next generations future.](#)" In South Sudan he addressed the "[never ending challenge of protecting civilians.](#)" Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator Kyung-wha Kang also visited Malakal, where recent [fighting](#) had left the city in rubbles.

The UN Secretary-General then traveled to the Hay el Tanak settlement in [Lebanon](#). While at the camp he visited with refugees and re-emphasized the importance of [leaving no one](#)

behind. During his visit to the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan he spent time with families and children currently living in the camp. Young people, he said, "are not just the leaders of tomorrow; they are the leaders of today."

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- [IASC's 90th Working Group Meeting](#)
- [Cyclone Winston](#)
- [Migrants in Countries in Crisis](#)
- [Achieving Gender Equality - WHS Commission on the Status of Women Side Event](#)



Members of the IASC Working Group engage during the session on the World Humanitarian Summit.

IASC's 90th Working Group Meeting

The [90th IASC Working Group meeting](#) on 8 and 9 March 2016 was hosted by UNDP in New York. The Working Group discussed issues around humanitarian financing, including the Grand Bargain, the World Humanitarian Summit, opportunities to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus, movements of refugees and migrants and protection.

EU Commissioner and co-chair of the High Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing Kristalina Georgieva delivered the key note speech, addressing members on the process and contents of the Grand Bargain. WG members expressed their commitment towards contributing to the Grand Bargain, highlighting on-going work in the Grand Bargain work streams and the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team, and their desire to support the Grand Bargain's implementation and wish to achieve greater inclusivity.

In preparation for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 19 September 2016, Ms. Karen Koning AbuZayd, the Special Adviser for the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, spoke on the report of the Secretary-General "Addressing Protracted Displacement: A Framework for Development-Humanitarian Cooperation". Working Group members will cooperate with her team addressing the current 'toxic narrative' on migrants and refugees.

Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, OCHA, explained the thinking behind the Secretary-General's Report "[One Humanity: Shared Responsibility](#)" and presented WHS as a unique opportunity for change. This triggered a discussion on possible new ways of working, responding to growing humanitarian needs globally.

Izumi Nakamitsu, Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the

Crisis Response Unit at UNDP and Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director WFP and Vice-Chair of the UNDG spoke on opportunities for humanitarian and development organizations to collaborate in responding to crises and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable people.

Brooke Lauten, NRC, and co-lead of the WG sub-group on the WoS Protection Review presented the draft management response matrix for consideration of the WG. Michelle Berg, ProCap and pen holder for the protection policy, presented on the progress to date. Arafat Jamal, UNHCR, shared an overview of the GPC Strategic Framework.

The Working Group also had an opportunity to exchange views with representatives of the Good Humanitarian Donorship and other donor representatives.

Cyclone Winston

To strengthen the response to the devastation caused by Cyclone Winston the [Emergency Telecommunications Cluster \(ETC\)](#) was [activated](#). The cluster will assist the government of Fiji in evaluating the condition of the telecommunications infrastructure. World Food Programme (WFP) is working in close collaboration with ETC and assisting in inter-agency coordination of information communication technology.

Migrants in Countries in Crisis

The [Migrants in Countries in Crisis \(MICIC\)](#) initiative held the [International Organizations](#) consultations at the Permanent US Mission, Geneva, Switzerland on 16 and 17 March. This came after completing almost all of their [regional](#) and other consultations. The information from the consultations will contribute to the development of a set of non-binding principles to assist migrants in countries in crisis.

Achieving Gender Equality - WHS Commission on the Status of Women Side Event

On 17 March 2016, the Governments of Australia and Mexico in collaboration with OCHA, UN Women, Action Aid and Oxfam held a round table side event at the 60th session for the [Commission on the Status of Women](#). The event focused on the right of women and girls, as well as resilience and leadership in [humanitarian action](#). Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, opened the discussion by noting that gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian action were central to the WHS consultations discussions. The event put forward that "[gender equality must be at the core of humanitarian action](#)."

IASC PRIORITIES

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

Humanitarian Financing:

The Humanitarian Financing Task Team has been [exploring](#) the implications of the Report of the Secretary General for the World Humanitarian Summit and the follow up process on operationalizing of the 'Grand Bargain'. The Task Team also worked on finalizing its 2016-2017 workplan, which was jointly developed during the January [retreat](#).

Gender in Humanitarian Action:

The group is currently focusing on finalizing the revision of the [Gender Handbook](#).

Principled Humanitarian Action:

The former chairs TT will meet and commence selection of new co-chairs for the Reference Group. A work plan is being discussed and the existing ToR are being adapted. The Group finalized the implementation matrix of the Integration Review, which was submitted to the WG.

Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas:

The MHCUA co-chairs attended the [Global Alliance for Urban Crises](#) meeting in Barcelona in March 2016, and have submitted an application for a Side Event during the WHS focusing on Settlement-approaches. Members of the RG have also progressed on their work plan by finalizing the case studies "[Adapting to an Urban World](#)" and "[Cities in Crisis](#)." The studies were launched across 7 crisis-affected cities in the Middle East, South-East Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

Mental Health and Psychosocial

Support in Emergency Settings:

The IASC Reference Group Mental Health and Psychological Support in Emergency Settings released their report, [Where and When \(4Ws\) in Mental Health & Psychosocial Support in Jordan](#).

Protracted Displacements:

The first [meeting](#) of the Reference Group on protracted displacement is scheduled for 7 April. A panel discussion on protracted displacement will take place later in April as an IASC event.

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

Thirty-three participants from 19 NGOs, UN agencies and international organizations joined the 11 March Task Team [meeting](#).

The team discussed the final update to the 2013-2015 work plan and committed to collective actions for 2016-2017 work plan. Members have already started working toward their objectives by commencing multi-agency projects such as the [Pamati Kita Project](#).

Early Warning and Preparedness:

The Reference Group held its first [meeting](#). The TORs and work plan were discussed. UNDP and WFP will serve as co-chairs.

REPORTS AND STUDIES

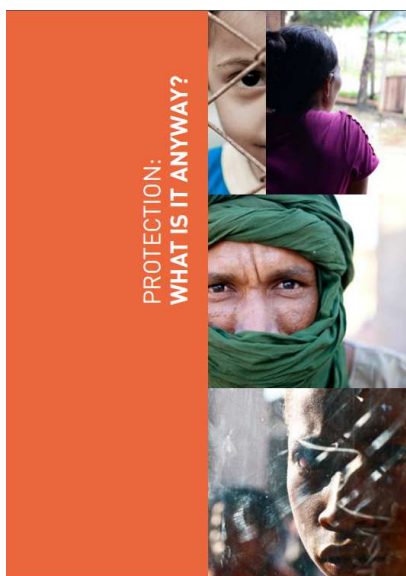
InterAction released its full [report](#) on how the major humanitarian NGOs perceive, define and manage risks to their organizations and operations. They also released related products including an [NGO Risk Handbook](#), a risk registry [template](#) and [additional information](#) meant to support humanitarian risk management decision-making.

The [60th session](#) of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) was held from 14 to 24 March 2016 at the UN Headquarters in New York. This session focused on women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development.

The Women's Refugee Commission released a report on gender-based violence, "[Falling Through the Cracks: Refugee Women and Girls in Germany and Sweden](#)." The findings highlight the struggles faced by refugee women living in accommodations in Germany and Sweden and provides recommendations for improvement.

FEATURED PRODUCT

Protection - what is it anyway?



Protection in humanitarian action is fundamentally about the people caught up in an emergency being safe from the harm others might cause them. A new series of materials, produced by Oxfam for the Global Protection Cluster with financing from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department, provides a clear, concise, plain-language overview of what protection means in operational terms in an emergency and who is responsible for what. Download the materials at: www.globalprotectioncluster.org/en/tools-and-guidance/protection-cluster-coordination-toolbox/communication-package-on-protection.html.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IASC Meetings & Events

6 April: IASC event: [Briefing on the report of the Secretary-General on Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations and on the 2016 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment](#) (NY/Geneva)

7 April: ad hoc [Principals meeting](#)

19 April: IASC event: Panel Discussion on Displacement (TBC)

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

Other Events

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

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

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

27-29 June 2016: ECOSOC [Humanitarian Affairs Segment](#) (New York)

19-20 September 2016 [UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants](#)

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

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