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IASC News - April 2016

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Report cover "Slavery and exploitation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon" Photo Credit: Tabitha Ross (ILO).

LATEST NEWS

Earthquake in Ecuador

On 16 April, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Ecuador. USG/ERC Stephen O'Brien visited Ecuador, including the most affected areas, on 19-20 April. The [Flash Appeal](#) launched on 22 April calls for US\$72.7 million to assist people in need over the next three months: it is for quick-starting life-saving assistance, protection services and early recovery support, to reach approximately 350,000 people.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- [Ad Hoc IASC Principals Meeting on the World Humanitarian Summit](#)
- [Designation of Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar, Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis and the RC as HC for Ecuador](#)
- [STAIT mission to Pakistan](#)
- [WHO and UNICEF High Level Technical Consultation on Health](#)
- [2016 ICVA Annual Conference on 5 April 2016](#)
- [2016 Annual InterAction Forum](#)
- [WHS](#)



STAIT mission to Pakistan

Credit: STAIT

Ad Hoc IASC Principals Meeting on the World Humanitarian Summit

The [IASC Principals](#) held an [ad hoc meeting](#) on the [World Humanitarian Summit](#) (WHS) to discuss the ongoing preparations, the Principals' role at the Summit, Humanitarian Financing, the [Grand Bargain](#), post WHS process. IOM provided an update on the Summit regarding Large Scale Movements of Refugees and Migrants and on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

Designation of Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar, Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis and the RC as HC for Ecuador

Following extensive consultations the ERC designated for a six months period Domenico Scalpelli as Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar and Ramesh Rajasingham as Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis, based in Gaziantep, Turkey. The RC for Ecuador, Diego Zorrilla, was designated as Humanitarian Coordinator in full support of the Government of Ecuador, for an initial period of three months.

STAIT mission to Pakistan

The Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team (STAIT) was invited by the RC and HC to Pakistan to reflect on the effectiveness of the humanitarian response system in the country. The mission team included senior representation from STAIT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP and Concern Worldwide. The team worked closely with the HC and HCT throughout the eight-day mission, and engaged with the clusters, international NGOs, national NGOs and other humanitarian actors in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and the centre of the humanitarian operation, Peshawar. The mission finished with a HCT retreat where specific actions were identified that could strengthen the humanitarian response. A detailed HCT Action Plan will be included in the upcoming

STAIT mission report.

WHO and UNICEF High Level Technical Consultation on Health

In the lead up to the World Humanitarian Summit, WHO and UNICEF held a high level technical consultation on health to collectively draft key health messages and reflect on possible commitments to be announced at the Summit. The rich discussions produced significant consensus on several key strategic issues including the need to 1) develop a predictable minimum package for health services, 2) improve the reliability of collective humanitarian response in large outbreaks and other public health emergencies of international concern, 3) promote sustainable outcomes and build resilient health systems and communities through multi-sector collaboration; 4) halt and prevent attacks on health services or denial of access to healthcare; and 5) ensure sufficient and flexible multi- year financing in support of these issues. A briefing to member states will be organized next month to further develop and refine measurable commitments that will feed into the Special Session on Health at the Summit.

2016 ICVA Annual Conference on 5 April 2016

The 2016 [ICVA Annual Conference](#) was held on 5 April 2016 in Geneva under the theme complementarity in humanitarian action. The conference held conversations on how complementarity is understood and applied in various humanitarian relationships - through ideological, institutional and operational lenses.

2016 Annual InterAction Forum

On 18-20 April, the [32nd Annual InterAction](#) Forum brought together leaders from not-for-profit organizations, governments, philanthropy, corporations, and civil society to advance collaboration, effectiveness and innovation in the work to end poverty and move toward a more sustainable and equitable future. With 50 diverse workshops, four high-level plenary sessions, and an evening gala banquet, the Forum created a stimulating environment for participants to engage with colleagues and partners from a variety of sectors to forge common solutions on pressing global challenges.

World Humanitarian Summit

The final Core Commitments for each of the seven High-Level Leaders' Roundtables have now been published and are available on the [WHS website](#), click [here](#) to view them.

IASC PRIORITIES

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

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

The Coordinator of the IASC MHPSS RG

Principled Humanitarian Action:

The management response plan to the Review of the Impact of UN Integration on Humanitarian Action was endorsed by the IASC Working Group at end March 2016. It is expected that this plan help ensure the effective management of principled humanitarian action in the context of UN integration. The response plan sets out actions under three key recommendations: (a) Increase familiarity with the UN IAP Policy, principled humanitarian action, the roles of peacekeeping missions and special political missions, and guidance on UN integration. (b) Reinforce the HCT role to pro-actively and continuously shape the integrated UN presence. (c) Raise integration related concerns to the ERC, IASC Principals and IASC Working Group.

Accountability to Affected Populations

The task team has seen an increase in participation from stakeholders who are directly operational, including large NGOs and confederations. During the first PSEA meeting this year, IFRC, Caritas International and Oxfam presented the lessons learned on promoting PSEA throughout a confederation structure. Participants also exchanged best practices on questions raised by the group.

and three other RG members (International Medical Corps, CBM and MSF Holland) were panelist at the World Bank - World Health Organization high level meeting on mental health "Out of the Shadows." The meeting was organized to bring attention to persons with mental health problems, and also to advocate for the World Bank to include funding for mental health within its overall assistance to governments in the building of their health systems. The RG on MHPSS is updating its workplan, and has activated the working group on community based psychosocial support.

Other MHPSS Updates:

<http://mhpss.net/> is the major platform for the IASC RG on MHPSS for sharing information in emergencies and otherwise. MHSS.net Site Analytics for 2016 reveals that from September 2012 to January 2016, the site had 107,972 unique visitors from 219 countries and 7793 cities, with 862,865 page views. Visitors have spent over 12,935 hours on the site over the last 3.5 years. The number of sessions on the site has increased by 379% from 39,648 to 190,060. The membership of the network has grown from 1514 to 3818 in total, an increase of 130% in 3.5 years.

Humanitarian Financing:

The HFTT is preparing for the WHS high level round table on financing and advancing operationalization of the Grand Bargain. The task team set up a technical group, which works on improving system-wide transparency through development of a comprehensive policy on reporting funding flows by IASC partners; worked on simplifying donor conditions through ICVA-led Less Paper More Aid Campaign; and engaged in improving availability of multi-year funding.

IASC EVENTS

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

New York.

IASC Briefing: SG Report on Strengthening of the coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the UN and ECOSOC Preparations

On 6 April, an [IASC briefing](#) was organized with Ms. Anastasia Carayanides, Chief of the Intergovernmental Policy Section, Policy Development and Studies Branch of OCHA, on the 2016 Report of the Secretary-General on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, as well as on the preparations for the 2016 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), encouraging input and proposals from IASC members.

IASC Panel Discussion on Displacement

An [IASC panel discussion](#) on Displacement was held on 19 April in support of the IASC [Priority](#): "Responding to Displacement and Enhancing Protection Outcomes". The main issues presented were: IASC Reference Group on Protracted Displacement; IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs; Preliminary Operational Guide for Joint Durable Solutions Strategies; Informing Responses to Support Durable Solutions and Solutions Alliance. The Panel aimed to discuss approaches which allow the international community to better support governments in addressing situations of displacement within the humanitarian-development nexus.

IASC Special Event on Human Trafficking in Times of Crisis

On 27 April, we were joined by three experts to discuss human trafficking in times of natural disasters and conflicts: Ginny Baumann, Senior Program Officer for the Freedom Fund, presented the report [Understanding Vulnerabilities and Strengthening Response](#). The report provides recommendations for locally-based NGOs to help residents during humanitarian crises to protect themselves against trafficking and other abuse and exploitation. She also touched on the report, [Struggling to Survive: Slavery and Exploitation of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon](#); Simone Monasebian, Director of the UNODC New York Office, gave an overview of the current legal framework and ongoing developments within the UN on human trafficking, including in humanitarian situations; and Michela Macchiavello, Assistance to the Vulnerable Migrant Specialist of the International Organization for Migration, presented IOM's report on [Addressing Human Trafficking and Exploitation in Times of Crisis](#), in particular recommendations made by the report to the IASC.

STAIT webinar on information management in the field, focus on Syria

On 27 April, STAIT hosted a webinar on the critical role of information in humanitarian operations. The webinar also looked at the challenges of collecting, harmonizing and analyzing information in a situation where different country hubs run operations into various parts of Syria. Presentations were based around the key question: Is information

management helping to guide humanitarian strategies worldwide and with regard to Syria supporting the operation in the largest and, arguably, most complex crisis in the world?

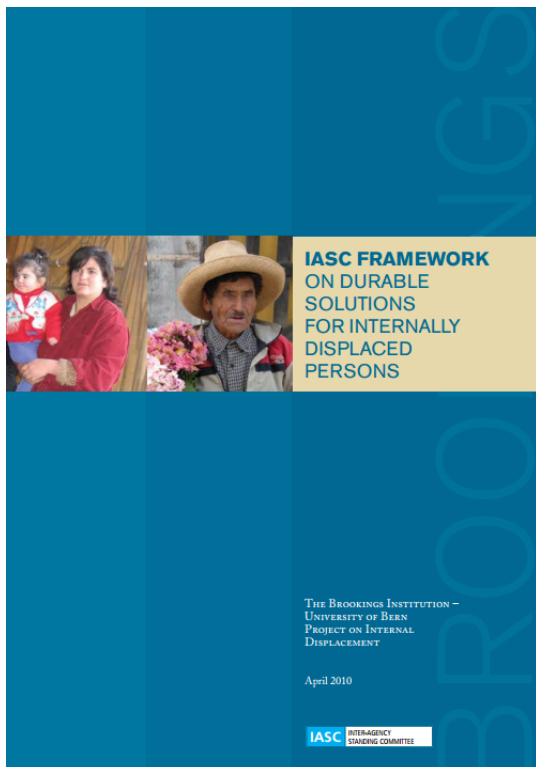
REPORTS AND STUDIES

The [findings](#) from a recent pre-assistance baseline (PAB) for off camp Syrian refugees in Turkey were recently released by WFP. The results reveal that almost one-third of the interviewed households are food insecure, leaving the majority at risk of food insecurity.

The "[Publish What You Fund](#)" campaign released their 2016 [Aid Transparency report](#) which analyzed funds from 46 donors. Some of the most transparent organizations include UNDP which tops the Index with an excellent score of 93.3%. UNICEF enters the 'very good' category which also includes the World Bank-International Development Association (WB-IDA).

This month saw the launch of the Humanitarian Policy Group's flagship report: '[Time to let go: remaking humanitarian action for the modern era](#)'. Drawing on two years of research, the report calls for radical change to create a humanitarian system fit to respond to the challenges of both today and tomorrow, including reform of the IASC.

FEATURED PRODUCT



IASC Framework for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons

In light of the recent focus on displacement we would like to highlight the IASC Framework for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons which was developed in 2010 and is still relevant today. Whether they return home or settle elsewhere, internally displaced persons (IDPs) usually face problems long after the conflict is over, and need support to find durable solutions. The framework provides guidance for achieving durable solutions following internal displacement in the context of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights and natural or human-made disasters. Find the full framework [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

IASC Meetings & Events

4 May: Ad Hoc [Principals Meeting \(Cash/South Sudan\)](#)

11 May: [Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting on Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations \(IAHEs\)](#)

11 May 2016: STAIT webinar on PSEA in humanitarian operations with the Director General of IOM, Ambassador William Lacy Swing

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

TBC: STAIT mission to Nigeria

Other Events

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

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

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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