

IASC PRINCIPALS MEETING

Washington, D.C. · InterAction

7-8 June 2016

Final Summary Record

Session 1: Follow-up from the World Humanitarian Summit

1. Discussions focused on the IASC's role in taking forward key commitments made at the WHS, leveraging the momentum of the Summit and ensuring progress on issues of key concern. Principals reaffirmed the IASC as the platform to convene UN and non-UN actors for operational and strategic alignment and collective humanitarian action, and as an inclusive and authoritative mechanism to take forward key collective commitments. Principals requested to be consulted and involved in the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General to the GA on the outcomes of the WHS.
2. Principals agreed to collectively advance progress in several of the most intractable and protracted crises in piloting the new way of working, including but not limited to efforts across the humanitarian-development nexus. Pending consultation with the RC/HCs and where IASC entities are already engaged and present, initial efforts may focus on several protracted and challenging situations, which could include the agreed areas of Afghanistan, Central America, Horn of Africa, Iraq, Lake Chad Basin and Yemen, as well as on complex global challenges such as the yellow fever outbreak and climate change, including the impacts of El Niño and La Nina. It was underscored that the regional dimensions of crises must be taken into account. All agreed that no new structures or coordination mechanisms would be created.
3. The Principals agreed that the WHS had highlighted the need to work more effectively, collaboratively and inclusively with local partners, in particular in protracted crises. This included building resilience and working with development partners, while upholding humanitarian principles and advocating for stricter adherence to International Humanitarian Law. They committed to work more effectively along the humanitarian-development nexus to promote solutions and showcase results in the identified areas and extrapolate lessons learned for other contexts. Both the Lake Chad Basin and Somalia situations were cited as examples of where innovative practices such as joint assessments and monitoring mechanisms across the humanitarian-development divide were taking place and which could be scaled up.
4. Principals noted that more could have been achieved at the Summit by member-states to uphold and defend International Humanitarian Law, including halting attacks on health care workers and facilities. They looked forward to receiving an analysis of commitments made during the WHS to allow for the validation of key IASC priorities and identification of areas of future collective action. While noting the importance of monitoring the implementation of the commitments, they warned against a cumbersome follow-up process and advised using existing mechanisms.
5. In reviewing the IASC, it was suggested that, the IASC should work differently by undertaking greater outreach to local actors and being more inclusive without losing its effectiveness and decision-making capacity. Some members noted that localisation was not just about diverting money into local structures, but also about generating the political will locally to support action. It was noted that the 2014 ODI review of the IASC had put forward some recommendations worthy of consideration and that these should be reviewed

at a future meeting in light of the strong support for a more inclusive IASC that emerged from the WHS consultation process. Pursuant to further discussion at a future meeting, it was also proposed that a small group or task team of Principals could work with the Emergency Relief Coordinator to examine future options for the IASC to become more inclusive, effective and context-specific in its composition and/or working modalities without losing its capacity for strategic decision-making.

Action Points:

The IASC Principals agreed to:

- Ensure that IASC members are involved in the WHS follow-up, including in particular in the development of the second WHS report of the Secretary-General. **Action by: Emergency Relief Coordinator and OCHA by 15 July 2016**
- Issue a joint statement indicating their collective commitment to translate into action the new way of working in protracted crises. **Action by: IASC Secretariat by 15 June 2016**
- Commence immediate action in the up to eight identified crises both as individual agencies and collectively. Undertake interim stocktaking of progress in implementing the new way of working in these identified countries/themes and implementing commitments before the UN General Assembly session. **Action by: IASC Principals by 23 August 2016**
- Engage the RC/HCs of selected eight countries/themes in defining the priorities and needs in support of implementing the new way of working. **Action by: Emergency Relief Coordinator by 23 August 2016**
- Undertake a light-touch review of the IASC working practices and modalities, including through revisiting the 2014 ODI review of the IASC with a view towards identifying relevant elements in light of recent developments. **Action by: ERC to suggest a timeframe for this discussion**
- Conduct a review of the work-plan in view of prioritised IASC collective action and WHS outcomes. **Action by: IASC Working Group by 31 July 2016**

Session 2: Global Responses to Health Crises

6. Lessons learned in the aftermath of the Ebola crisis suggested that responses to large-scale outbreaks should use and empower existing mechanisms wherever possible and make them inclusive and accessible to partners, rather than establish new mechanisms. The World Health Assembly welcomed the engagement of the IASC and other partners. The proposal for an IASC+ model was presented as a way to integrate those specialized capacities and entities, such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The IASC endorsed the concept note on the International Management of Large-scale Public Health Emergencies Due to Infectious Hazards and validated the proposed next steps in order to tailor existing response mechanisms accordingly.
7. Several IASC members highlighted the importance of strengthening multi-stakeholder, whole-of-system responses, working across silos, in cooperation with the development community and the private sector. There was also support for a multi-hazard approach and strengthening of risk reduction frameworks. A number of Principals noted that the health cluster must remain sufficiently nimble to enable an effective and timely response. Integral to an effective response, the role of national non-governmental actors as frontline responders and the value of community engagement were highlighted. The Ebola crisis highlighted the importance of context – of capacity and infrastructure – and of how greater investments in preparedness can avert future crises. Cited as particularly instrumental was

the provision of advice and capacity building of national health systems to ensure that they are equipped to cope with the shocks of public health emergencies; the critical role of national leadership was a cross-cutting finding in many of the Ebola evaluations. The importance of analysis of the intersections of health security and human mobility was highlighted.

8. WHO shared that it was working with UN and other partners to ensure a holistic coordinated approach to current health crises, such as the spread of the Zika virus and yellow fever. The urgency of containing the current spread of yellow fever was underscored in order to prevent another major global health crisis.

Action Points:

The IASC Principals agreed to:

- Spearhead the development of draft IASC Standard Operating Procedures for infectious hazards in the context of the Transformative Agenda, with support from the Emergency Directors Group, to operationalize the proposal on extending and adapting IASC mechanisms to respond to large-scale outbreaks and public health emergencies. **Action by: WHO, OCHA, Emergency Directors Group by end-August 2016**
- Engage through the EDG in responding to the ongoing public health emergency of yellow fever. **Action by: WHO, Emergency Directors Group by July 2016**
- Based on agreement from the IASC Principals, submit SOPs for infectious hazards to the Secretary-General's Global Health Crises Task Force. **Action by: WHO, Emergency Relief Coordinator by September 2016**

Session 3: IASC Engagement with Donors and Intergovernmental Processes

9. Upcoming intergovernmental processes, namely the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2016, QCPR, Habitat III, the 19 and 20 September Summits on refugees and migrants, and the UN General Assembly 71st session, were identified as strategic entry points for engagement with Member States to bolster political support and goodwill for implementation of the WHS outcomes.
10. In the context of the QCPR, coherence in messaging between the humanitarian and development community and targeted advocacy to Member States in relation to multi-year planning and financing and consideration of key outcomes of the WHS in the final resolution were noted.
11. Regarding the preparation for Habitat III, the IASC was encouraged to engage in the ongoing inter-governmental negotiations; review the Urban Agenda zero draft; side events and other fora to enhance the humanitarian dimensions in the Urban Agenda.

Action Point:

The IASC Principals agreed to:

- Provide substantive contributions to the Habitat III process, including the outcome document of the new Urban Agenda. **Action by: IASC Principals, UN Habitat, Reference Group on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas by 30 July 2016**

Session 4: Progress against IASC Decisions of 11 December 2015

Strategic Coordination of Cash Transfer Programming

12. As a follow-up to the ad hoc meeting of 4 May 2016 on cash-based programming, Principals endorsed the report on “Cash Transfers in Humanitarian Contexts” led by the World Bank with support from the Strategic Cash Task Group.
13. There was agreement that the report findings, outcomes of the Grand Bargain process and lessons learned by IASC in cash-programming revealed a critical mass of evidence to scale-up the use of cash strategically. Further requirements to fill in evidence gaps were not seen as obstacles in moving forward, although it was noted that further work to establish common definitions and to strengthen the evidence base in social sectors was needed. Principals underscored the centrality of humanitarian principles in cash programming, as well as the need to be context-specific and to guard against the politicization of cash.
14. On the issue of coordination, while noting the range of views, it was agreed that existing coordination mechanisms should be leveraged, taking into account the specificity of each context and where possible the relevant recommendations from the Strategic Note on Cash Transfers in Humanitarian Contexts.

Action Point:

The IASC Principals agreed to:

- Release the report on “Cash Transfers in Humanitarian Contexts” and strengthen the evidence base and undertake further consultations on issues of policy concern. **Action by: IASC Principals, with support of World Bank and Strategic Cash Task Group, on-going.**

Update on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

15. The Global Standard Operating Procedures on cooperation in inter-agency complaints mechanisms and the associated Best Practices Guide were reviewed and endorsed¹ for operationalization at the global and field levels.
16. Principals expressed concern over a recent increase in incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse. Key areas of concern highlighted included: lack of accountability at all levels; compensation of victims; protection of whistle-blowers; and the re-hiring of staff implicated in sexual exploitation and abuse cases. The need to ensure that human resource recruitment systems and information sharing prohibit any rehiring of perpetrators across the system was emphasized.
17. A number of organizations reported on on-going initiatives underway to develop and/or review internal policies and guidelines. While the tools were highly welcomed, it was cautioned that the implementation process should complement and enhance, but not supersede, agency-specific guidelines.

Action Point:

The IASC Principals agreed to:

- Rollout the Global Standard Operating Procedures on cooperation in inter-agency complaints mechanisms and the associated Best Practices Guide and champion implementation. **Action by: IOM, Emergency Relief Coordinator by 30 June 2016.**

Session 5: AOB and Chair’s closing remarks

¹ IFRC noted that, while it welcomed in principle the initiative to improve the ability of persons affected by sexual exploitation and abuse to bring complaints, it could not commit on a global basis to participating in an inter-agency complaints mechanism.

Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants

18. The Special Advisor on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, Ms. Karen AbuZayd, briefed the IASC on the preparatory process for the Summit on 19 September 2016 in New York. Key issues discussed in the context of the Summit included: targeted advocacy to encourage Member States to commit to global burden sharing, while highlighting the benefits of human migration for more predictable and organised responses; leveraging the Summit as an opportunity to promote the rights of migrants and examine root causes for why people move; promotion of civil society engagement in the consultations process and participation at the Summit; advocacy on the needs of IDPs through building on the outcomes of the WHS; and safeguarding fundamental principles on refugee rights.
19. The Chair invited Ms. AbuZayd to enlist IASC support in the lead-up to the Summit, including issuance of an IASC statement as deemed appropriate. It was cited that such a statement from the IASC would also note its disappointment at the exclusion of IDPs in the report.
20. In support of the on-going campaigns to address xenophobia and counter the “toxic narrative” on refugees and migrants, the IASC agreed to continue to support efforts led by Ms. AbuZayd’s team and engage in further dialogue post-Summit as a standing item on its agenda.

Action Point:

The IASC Principals agreed to:

- Consider preparation of an IASC joint statement on countering the “toxic narrative” on refugees and migrants, noting that IDPs were a significant omission given the linkages between internal and external displacement. **Action by: IASC Principals by 19 September 2016.**

Update on the Humanitarian Situation and Access in Ukraine

21. A proposal presented for consideration in relation to the current humanitarian access challenges in Ukraine was not endorsed. Further consultations will be held on this subject to determine an agreed way forward.

AOB

22. The outgoing Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Dr. Chaloka Beyani, briefed the IASC on an on-going initiative to put in place benchmarks for measuring when durable solutions for IDPs have been achieved. He informed that his successor would likely bring this initiative to the IASC for consideration and endorsement by the Principals in a subsequent meeting.
23. The Chair, on behalf of the IASC, warmly thanked Dr. Beyani for his outstanding work and membership within the IASC, wishing him well as he returned to his professorial duties at the London School of Economics and Political Science.