

IASC News - June 2016

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News and Highlights from the IASC Community

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*Pope Francis gathers critical momentum for hunger when visiting WFP's Executive Annual Session early June.
Credit: Zimbio*

With apologies for the slight delay due to technical challenges

LATEST NEWS

IASC Principals Meeting on 7-8 June

The IASC Principals met on 7-8 June 2016 in Washington, D.C., hosted by InterAction. Most notably, they discussed the way forward following the World Humanitarian Summit, including how the IASC could play a leading role in taking forward the commitments forged at the Summit. They issued a [joint statement](#) in which the IASC pledged to put their commitments into action immediately. The Principals also redoubled their call for the safeguarding and respect for international humanitarian law, international human rights

law and refugee law. Also of note, the IASC Principals endorsed a proposal for tailoring the L3 response mechanism to respond to global health pandemics. The IASC Principals endorsed operational guidance and standard operating procedures on PSEA in humanitarian contexts, as well as the report on “Cash Transfers in Humanitarian Contexts” led by the World Bank with support from the Strategic Cash Task Group. Finally, the Special Advisor on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, Ms. Karen AbuZayd, briefed and gathered further support from the IASC on the preparatory process for the Summit on 19 September 2016 in New York.

ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) on 27-29 June

This year's ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment held on 27-29 June featured a number of interesting High Level Panels and side events with strong IASC participation at

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and access in armed conflict, among others. A number of IASC highlights included the New York Launch of the IASC Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action by a panel comprised of UNICEF, OCHA, the International Rescue Committee, and the Governments of the U.S. and Ecuador. An event on Humanitarian Financing in the context of the follow-up from WHS explored ways to achieve more efficient and effective financing, building upon good practice, and making finite humanitarian resources go further to bring about better results for crisis-affected populations. "Safeguarding health access in conflict, upholding international humanitarian law" raised awareness on the need to take concrete actions and make principled commitments to safeguard access to healthcare and uphold international humanitarian law in conflict zones. An event on Gender in Humanitarian Action focused on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the post-WHS Landscape, while "Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas" focused on Urban Crises and the New Urban Agenda. A comprehensive overview and summary of discussion highlights of the panels and events at this year's ECOSOC HAS is being produced by OCHA and will be circulated in due course.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- [Inter-religious engagement for Zero Hunger](#)
- [STAIT Website](#)
- [Launch of the MICIC Initiative Guidelines](#)

Inter-religious Engagement for Zero Hunger

On the occasion of the WFP's Executive Board Annual Session, in early June, Pope Francis visited WFP Headquarters in Rome and personally addressed its membership.

The Pope gathered critical momentum and brought the world's attention to hunger, especially highlighting the need to stop perceiving hunger and extreme poverty as a statistic, as a matter of fact or as something natural, and give it back a “human face”. In the sidelines of the Executive Board, religious scholars and representatives of a range of faith-inspired NGOs met to discuss how to enhance inter-faith action to achieve Zero Hunger. As conveyed by Mohammed Ashmawey, former CEO of Islamic Relief Worldwide, “when crisis hits, it is always the church, the synagogue, the mosque that people go to for help”, thus suggesting that increasing the number and enhancing the quality of partnerships with faith-led NGOs and communities are fundamental for

achieving the 2030 Zero Hunger goal.

Each year WFP reaches 80 million people affected by conflict, disasters, climate change and chronic hunger. By working together, WFP and religious actors have the potential to broaden their collective reach and amplify public support for the common goal of a world without hunger.

STAIT Website

The Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team (STAIT) has created a new website named deliveraidbetter.org. The site features useful mission summaries, audio interviews with humanitarian leaders, and animation videos. The STAIT has also started a video series called "the Humanitarian STAITment" which features interviews with

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homepage. The team will also have two page STAIT webinar summaries and Q&A's available on their website in July. The STAIT Website can be accessed [here](#).

Launch of the MICIC Initiative Guidelines

The Geneva launch of the MICIC Initiative "Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster", took place on 27 June 2016. The Geneva launch followed the New York launch of 15 June. Launched in May 2014 at the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the MICIC Initiative is a government-led process co-chaired by the United States and the Philippines. The Guidelines provide practical, non-binding, voluntary guidance for States, private sector actors, international organization, and civil society to protect migrants. The Guidelines can be accessed via the [MICIC Initiative website](#).

IASC PRIORITIES

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

Early Warning and Preparedness:

The Reference Group (RG) produced the IASC Early Warning, Early Action and Readiness Report for the period June to November 2016. The report highlights risks with a high probability and impact on humanitarian needs during the next six months. It aims to provide a forward-looking analysis of the most serious risks in support of IASC RG activity and to equip relevant decision makers with key information for preparedness, response, advocacy and resource mobilization efforts to mitigate and manage these risks. The report is now available [online](#).

Accountability to Affected Populations and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and

Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas:

The Reference Group (RG) has been focusing on bringing forward the urban agenda that emerged from the WHS. Within the framework, the RG organized two urban expert events hosted during the ECOSOC at the end of June. The RG has also been organizing a side Event during Habitat III on humanitarian responses in urban areas that will be hosted by the RG. Furthermore, the RG attended the global Food Security Cluster Urban working group meeting in Rome, and presented some of the work done by UCLG and IMPACT as part of the Reference Group "[Perspectives from Cities in Crisis](#)".

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings:

The Reference Group (RG) is part of the Phase I of the INEE / UNICEF-supported project on Psycho-social Support and

Abuse (AAP/PSEA):

The Global SOPs on interagency collaboration and joint complaints mechanisms by the Task Team (TT) were endorsed by the IASC Principals on 7 June. The CBCM best practice guide was also endorsed, which is the operational guidance including the lessons learned from the IASC pilot project and other projects implemented in the past. These two tools, complemented by an online database will support country operations: the TT help-desk has already received an

Social-Emotional Learning in Crisis and Fragile Settings. RG members have been peer reviewing the guidance created by an External Consultant (hired by the INEE) throughout late June and will continue into July.

The World Bank-WHO High level meeting report on Mental Health: Out of the Shadows was also released. The Coordinator of the IASC RG was a panelist at this meeting speaking on behalf of MHPSS in emergencies.

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are planning to set up PSEA networks.

The TT is glad to welcome the NEAR network as its newest member. NEAR is a network of local and national NGOs launched ahead of the WHS, and NEAR membership is contributing to the TT strategy to engage at global level national and regional actors with operational expertise in AAP and PSEA.

held support mission to South Sudan on 18-30 June to support the creation of an MHPSS coordination group and overall MHPSS coordination vis-à-vis the cluster system in Juba. During the mission, the RG Coordinator also conducted donor briefings to discuss the MHPSS reporting within the 5Ws process led by OCHA.

IASC EVENTS

IASC Events are organized on an ad hoc basis by the IASC Secretariat in Geneva and New York.

Briefing on Yemen

On 2 June, Jamie McGoldrick, Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator for Yemen, briefed the IASC community in Geneva on the humanitarian situation in Yemen and the ongoing response efforts. Since his last IASC briefing in February, the difficulties for humanitarian aid workers to obtain visas, deliver equipment and assess the severity of conflict affected areas have continued to increase. This has also prevented the humanitarian actors from being able to assess the nutrition and health of those living in the conflict zones. In addition to these challenges, the Humanitarian Response Plan is only 17% funded. Mr McGoldrick called for greater support from the humanitarian community. He stated that "there is no person [in Yemen] that has not been affected by the conflict."

Briefing on Palestine

An IASC briefing on humanitarian situation in Palestine took place on 23 June. Fiona Kelling, Shelter Cluster Coordinator in Palestine, reflected on 'Gaza Reconstruction Efforts and the Role of the Shelter Cluster'. The hostilities in Gaza in 2014 damaged over 171,000 units and displaced over 100,000 people. Two years on, reports reveal that over 70,000 people are still displaced. However, underlying the damage from the past war is a protracted crisis that has increased the need for humanitarian intervention to meet the needs of the population.

Itay Epshtain, Policy and Protection Advisor, NRC Palestine, presented on 'Normative Challenges to the Provision of Humanitarian Assistance in Occupied Territory.' UN agencies and INGOs have been providing humanitarian assistance in occupied Palestinian territory to afford protection from IHL and IHRL violations, while upholding the obligations of the Occupying Power. The coordination of relief schemes in occupied territory triggers a legal debate on soliciting consent to provide aid, obstruction and arbitrary refusal of assistance by the Occupying Power. The presentations can be accessed [here](#).

Briefing on Libya

An IASC Briefing on the humanitarian situation in Libya was held on 22 June, presented by IOM, OCHA, UNHCR and WHO. An overview was provided of the humanitarian

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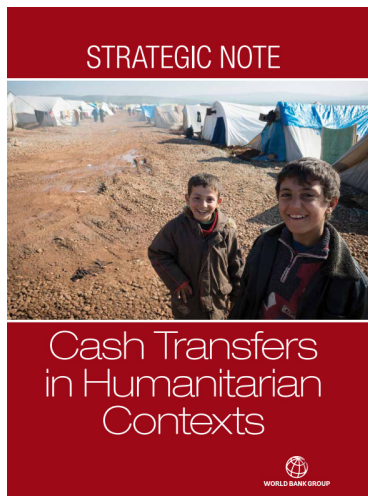
updated on the ongoing planning process for the UN return to Libya. WHO's presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Briefing on ECOSOC Resolution, ECOSOC HAS 2016 and SG report post-WHS

The IASC community was briefed on the preparations for ECOSOC and given the opportunity to comment on the ECOSOC Resolution. The SG report on WHS was discussed: meanwhile the one pager outline has been shared for comments, and is scheduled to be finalized by the end of July 2016.

FEATURED PRODUCT

Cash Transfers in Humanitarian Contexts by World Bank Group



Upon request of the IASC Principals, the World Bank coordinated a process of reviewing key issues and options for significantly scaling up the use of multipurpose cash transfers in the humanitarian space. This report lays out the main findings emerging from the process. The report can be accessed [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

[IASC Meetings & Events](#)

- 7 July: [IASC Ad Hoc Working Group meeting](#) (Geneva)
- 8 July: [IASC Event on HNx Platform](#) (Geneva)
- 23 August: [IASC Ad Hoc Principals L3 Review Syria, Yemen and Iraq](#)
- 14 September: [IASC Ad Hoc Principals](#) follow up June meeting
- 25-26 October: [IASC Working Group meeting](#)

Other Events

- 11-20 July: [High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development \(ministerial segment held 18-20 July\)](#) (New York)
- 12-13 July: [UNGA High-level Thematic Debate: Human Rights](#) (New York)
- 13-26 September: 71st Session of the UN General Assembly (New York)
- 19 September: [UNGA High-level Meeting on Refugees and Migrants](#) (New York)

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17-20 October: [UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development \(Habitat III\)](#) (Quito)

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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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