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IASC News - September 2016

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News and Highlights from the IASC Community

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After the devastating news of an attack at one of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) warehouses in Aleppo, IFRC social media campaign #REDforSYRIA asked partners to turn social media profiles RED and to show solidarity with the millions of dedicated volunteers who risk their lives everyday to save others

NEWS

Speaking Up on Syria: The ERC's Statement to the Security Council, 29 September 2016

On 29 September, in his statement to the Security Council, USG/ERC O'Brien reported on the "ultimate humanitarian shame" that was Syria today, providing an update on the situation in Aleppo and elsewhere in the country. He noted that the humanitarian convoy to Urum al-Kubra was a meticulously organized movement and yet, "the area around a clearly marked UN and Syrian Arab Red Crescent humanitarian convoy became a killing zone." He called on the Security Council "to take hold of this moment, I call on this council to urgently act to protect the humanitarian actors, be they UN staff or our NGO partners who face violent responses almost daily....It is up to you to turn the tide, to create the conditions for aid to reach all in need. To end the sieges. To restore political dialogue. And to bring an end to the war."

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

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Upholding Humanitarian Principles: The ERC's Statement on Yemen, 8 October 2016

After the news of civilians killed by air strikes that hit a community hall hosting mourners in Sana'a, the ERC's [statement on Yemen](#) on 8 October stressed that: "This horrendous and heinous attack displayed an utter disregard for human life... I call for a swift, transparent and impartial investigation into this incident to ensure accountability. I also call on all parties to protect civilians and stop using explosive weapons or conducting aerial bombardments in civilian-populated places in Yemen. Surely enough is enough." He saluted "the courageous work of national first responders, medical staff and the dedication of all humanitarian workers in Yemen, national and international, both the United Nations and beyond, who are doing everything in their power to save and help rebuild lives, and protect civilians in daily peril."



During his recent mission to Yemen, the ERC spent time with angry protesters. Thousands of Yemenis had gathered at the United Nations headquarters in Sana'a calling for an international investigation into an air strike that hit a community hall hosting thousands of mourners. Credit: OCHA

Calling for Action: Enough is Enough. It's Time to Protect Aid Workers

The Guardian article '[Enough is enough. It's time to protect aid workers](#)', by Patricia McIlreavy of InterAction, was published on 23 September: "Attacks on those who respond to global emergencies must be stopped – and the perpetrators must be held accountable... There comes a time when enough is enough, when even the most altruistic among us become angry. That time is now. World leaders must recognise and

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seek to harm us. The time for talk is over.

The New York Declaration and the Comprehensive Refugee Response

On 19 September 2016, the **UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants** brought together UN Member States, international and UN agencies, NGOs, private sector and migrant and refugee representatives to address large movements of refugees and migrants. During the Summit, Member States adopted *the New York Declaration for refugees and migrants (New York Declaration)*, a political declaration accompanied by two appendices which will pave the way for global compacts on refugees and migrants respectively in 2018. As well as compelling statements from migrant and refugee representatives, States made expressions of support towards the Declaration, and IOM was welcomed as a related UN agency during the signing ceremony.

UNHCR views the New York Declaration as a turning point in the protection for refugees, and also for the protection of migrants. UNHCR is developing the required follow up, in keeping with the request from the General Assembly contained in the Comprehensive Refugee Response (CRR) Framework (Appendix I). The success of this process is reliant on the engagement and critical contributions of various expert agencies in the provision of assistance and protection to refugees. In his remarks at the Summit, the ERC noted that "the New York Declaration rightly notes the need for reflection on the protection and assistance of IDPs and the prevention and reduction of such displacement. We need urgent action on this commitment." The IASC Working Group will discuss how to support these commitments and enhance Protection for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs, in its October Working Group meeting.

An Open Letter by OCHA, UNDP, IRC, NRC and the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons "The Invisible Majority: Helping IDPs"

Over 60 per cent of the world's 65 million forcibly displaced remain within the borders of their own countries. In an [open letter](#) published on 22 September Stephen O'Brien, Helen Clark, Chaloka Beyani, David Miliband and Jan Egeland call for urgent action to address the plight of this invisible majority. "It would be a great failure of humanity to limit whom we help based on lines on a map. Our work is guided by humanity and humanity has no borders. We must do all we can to ensure that no group is neglected. We must leave no one behind."

IASC Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team (STAIT) Mission to Somalia

The STAIT completed a mission to Somalia to support the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) to enhance the effectiveness of the response on 5-24 September. The team covered the operational hubs in Mogadishu, Nairobi, Garowe and Hargeisa and engaged with more than 200 individuals from the HCT and included self-assessment exercises with the HCT, the inter-cluster coordination group (ICCG), international NGOs, national NGOs, and the Humanitarian Team in the

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October.



In this video, William Lacy Swing, Director General of the International organization for migration (IOM) talks about his experience in leading efforts to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarians and peacekeepers.

STAIT Video Series: "Talking with Humanitarian Leaders"

The Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation team (STAIT) has launched a video series featuring interviews with senior leaders in the humanitarian field, to discuss challenges from field operations and best practice. The STAIT has interviewed humanitarian leaders such as Director General of the International organization for migration (IOM), William Lacy Swing (above video); Yemen Humanitarian Coordinator, Jamie McGoldrick; and Former Syria Humanitarian Coordinator, Yacoub el Hillo (2013-2016).

1. [In this video](#), Jamie McGoldrick, Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator in Yemen, talks about his experience of leading the response in Yemen and highlights good practices and challenge covering Accountability to Affected People, Clusters, NGOs and more.

2. [In this video](#), Yacoub El Hillo, Former Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator in Syria (2013-2016), highlights the lessons learnt and challenges from his experience in leading the whole of Syria humanitarian response.

If your organisation is interested in participating in one of STAIT's interviews, please email Tineka Smith at smith65@un.org

World Humanitarian Summit: SG report and PACT website

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introduced his [Report on the World Humanitarian Summit](#), with a Roadmap for advancing the Summit outcomes. At the same time, he also launched the [Platform for Action, Commitments and Transformation \(PACT\)](#), a dynamic online tool where stakeholders can explore and report on commitments made at the Summit.

IASC PRIORITIES

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

[Accountability to Affected Populations and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse \(AAP/PSEA\)](#): Are you looking for Accountability Working Groups at country or regional levels? The IASC Task Team on Accountability to Affected populations and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (AAP/PSEA) has just finalised a mapping of current initiatives, interagency projects and key reports in 2016 which is available on [the IASC website](#).

[Principled Humanitarian Action](#): The final research products emanating from the 2016 NGOs and Risk study, conducted by Humanitarian Outcomes for InterAction with the participation of 14 major international NGOs, are now available. They include a Handbook, which serves as a primer and quick reference tool for humanitarian organizations on the basic principles of risk management and an Advocacy Guidance Note which serves as a template for individual organizations to develop advocacy strategies on residual risk. The full report, as well as a sample "risk register" template and a list of key resources, can be found [here](#).

[Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings](#): Newly translated versions of the IASC MHPSS products are now available: IASC MHPSS Guidelines now available in Portuguese (release date 30 September 2016) and the IASC MHPSS Checklist for Field Use, the IASC MHPSS Guidelines and the booklet What Camp Managers and Camp Coordinators need to know for MHPSS, are all now available in Korean at [the website of IOM South Korea](#).

World Mental Health Day took place on 10 October 2016. The theme for this year was Psychological First Aid within the broader theme of 'Dignity for All'.

[Gender in Humanitarian Action](#): The IASC Gender Reference Group is in the process of updating the IASC Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action. The Reference Group expects the updated Handbook to be endorsed by the IASC Working Group in December 2016 and the roll-out to begin in January 2017.

FEATURED PRODUCT

[IASC Best Practice Guide on Inter-Agency Community-Based Complaint Mechanisms](#)

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recent years, the humanitarian community has taken positive steps to prevent and address sexual exploitation and abuse. In close cooperation with UNHCR and Save the Children, and with the support of the IASC Task Team on AAP and PSEA, IOM coordinated a pilot project that established community-based complaint mechanisms (CBCM) in Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The lessons learned from these pilots were used to develop a [Best Practice Guide and Global Standard Operating Procedures](#), which was launched on 29 September 2016.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IASC Meetings & Events

4 October: STAIT Webinar: Protecting Civilians: Mission Impossible? Humanitarian leadership in action.

6 October: Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities Task Team Retreat

25-26 October: [IASC Working Group Meeting](#) (New York)

6 December: [IASC Principals Meeting](#) (Geneva)

Other Events

10 October: World Mental Health Day. The theme for this year is Psychological First Aid within the broader theme of 'Dignity for All'.

13 October: World Food Day, which is dedicated to Climate Change and Agriculture

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

5 December: Launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview 2017, Geneva

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