

IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee**News**

News and Highlights from the IASC Community

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Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis in 2011, schools have been attacked more than 4,000 times. One in four schools in the country does not function. Almost 2 million children remain out of school and another 1.35 million are at risk of dropping out (UNICEF). Credit: UNICEF/Zayat

NEWS

ERC's Statements to the Security Council on Syria: Aleppo risks becoming a "giant graveyard"

In his 21 November statement to the Security Council, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), Stephen O'Brien, deplored the ever-worsening situation in Aleppo. "I am more or less at my wits' end as a human being," he said. "Shame on us all for not acting to stop the annihilation of eastern Aleppo and its people and much of the rest of Syria too." Read the full statement [here](#).

that the parties to the conflict in Syria have shown time and again that they are willing to take any action or do any deed to secure military advantage even if it means killing, maiming or besieging civilians into submission in the process. There are no limits or red lines left to cross.” He pleaded “to do everything in their power to protect civilians and enable access to the besieged part of eastern Aleppo before it becomes one giant graveyard.” Read the full statement [here](#).

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

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Keynote Remarks by the Deputy Secretary-General at the IASC Working Group Meeting

During his keynote remarks at the IASC Working Group meeting on 25 October 2016, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN, Jan Eliasson, drew on his extensive personal experience to analyse the past and current context for humanitarian action. He talked about the initial challenges in achieving GA Resolution 46/182 and highlighted the subsequent evolution of humanitarian response. Reflecting on new trends, he noted an exponential rise in displacement from conflict, natural disasters and climate change, and substantial gaps between needs and financial resourcing. He translated his reflections into conclusions, one of which was that humanitarian action and development must work closer together. Also, he urged them to work in parallel both with prevention and with post conflict-situations. He also pointed to the “the decay and absolute disrespect that we see on humanitarian law and human rights.” The full transcript of his key note remarks are available [here](#).

Welcoming the new Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs)

Ms. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary was appointed Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs by the Human Rights Council in September 2016 and assumed the mandate on 1 November 2016. She succeeds Dr. Chaloka Beyani, who held the position from 2010 to 2016.

rights advocacy for the Asia-Pacific region and also has teaching experience as an adjunct professor of international human rights and humanitarian law. Ms. Jimenez-Damary previously acted as Senior Legal Adviser and Trainer with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in Geneva; as the National Director of the IDP Project of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines; and more recently as the Philippine government representative to the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission on Muslim Mindanao.

The IASC Secretariat would like to warmly welcome Ms. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary as an IASC Principal and hopes she will be extended the same degree of collaboration as her predecessor.

Call for applications for the 2016 IASC Humanitarian Coordination Pool

On 13 November, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien, called on the Principals of Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) organizations to nominate candidates for inclusion in the Humanitarian Coordination (HC) Pool.

The IASC HC Pool is a unique collective talent management mechanism. It serves us to pre-identify high-calibre humanitarian leaders from the UN, Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, NGOs and other organizations, who the IASC consider to be qualified for field-based humanitarian coordination leadership positions.

Further details can be found on the [humanitarianresponse website](#). For more information about the nomination procedure, please contact OCHA's Talent Management Coordinator, Ms. Claudia Purpura at purpura@un.org.



Red Cross and Grab Taxi partner in Southeast Asia to promote road safety, provide emergency assistance and

Safety Knowledge

According to the World Health Organization, road traffic injuries kill approximately 316 000 people each year in Southeast Asia. In response to this issue, the Red Cross and Grab Taxi have partnered in Southeast Asia to promote road safety, provide emergency assistance and equip Grab fleet drivers with life-saving skills and road safety knowledge. The multinational partnership involves Grab, the IFRC and its National Societies in six countries across the region, Thailand being one of the frontrunners.

<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/thailand/partnering-up-to-make-the-streets-safer-in-thailand-73705/>

Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team (STAIT) Mission to Somalia

The Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team (STAIT) was invited to carry out a support mission to Somalia in September 2016. The objective was to look at the operational, leadership, and coordination aspects of the response following the El Niño drought and floods. The mission was composed of senior UN and INGO colleagues, which worked closely with the humanitarian community to develop an action plan with the goal of strengthening the response.

The Somalia Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) recognizes the need to function as a cohesive team, led by the Humanitarian Coordinator and guided by a jointly defined vision based on the humanitarian principles. In order to do so, the HCT members are committed to take on leadership responsibilities, to prioritize leadership on protection, accountability to affected people, humanitarian access, cash assistance, and the sustainable return and reintegration of returning refugees. The HCT will also enhance the role of NGOs as strategic and equal partners. There is also recognition that resilience and social protection programming are important in addressing humanitarian concerns, as well as complementing and supporting development objectives.

An update on the implementation of the action plan will be provided in May, 2017. The update will be sent to the Emergency Relief Coordinator and will be shared with the IASC Emergency Directors' Group. Where possible, the STAIT will provide support to implement the action plan.

STAIT webinar on the strategic use of CERF funds

The Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team (STAIT) held a webinar on 15 November titled, "The 1 Billion Dollar Question: How can Field Leaders Leverage CERF Funding?" In this webinar, the panellists discussed the practical implications of the Secretary General's call for CERF's annual funding to be increased from \$450 million to \$1 billion by 2018, with a focus on the role of senior humanitarian field leaders in ensuring that CERF funds are allocated to achieve the greatest impact, in meeting urgent needs of people affected by a crisis.

Other areas discussed include, actions taken by the Chad Humanitarian Coordinator to ensure that funds are allocated to prioritised needs based on a crisis-based needs and gap analysis, as well as steps taken by the HC and the HCT to ensure transparency and accountability of the CERF allocation processes. The webinar summary and additional

STAIT Localisation Webinar Summary

The summary note from the recent STAIT webinar on Localisation - 'As local as possible, as international as necessary,' is now available online and can be accessed [here](#). The webinar summary features in-depth practical steps provided by senior humanitarian field leaders on Localisation.

Panellists:

Mr Stephen Tull, Humanitarian Coordinator and Resident Coordinator, Chad
Ms Lisa Doughten, Chief, UN Central Emergency Response Fund

STAIT Video Series with senior humanitarian leaders

The STAIT has a video series featuring interviews with senior leaders in the humanitarian field, to discuss challenges from field operations and best practice. You can access the STAIT's most recent interview about Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) with IOM Director General, William Lacy Swing [here](#).

Upcoming Webinar on Protection

The STAIT will hold a [webinar](#) on Tuesday, 13 December, on Protection by humanitarian field leadership. Speakers include the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan, Eugene Owusu; and the UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees-Protection, Volker Turk.

The speakers will discuss practical steps humanitarian leaders in field operations can take, to move forward key leadership responsibilities of HCs and HCTs on protection, advocate with different stakeholders to maximize protection outcomes, and capitalise on the complementary roles of HCs and HCT members - in reference to the Protection Cluster and Inter-Cluster Coordination Group.

In addition to the upcoming webinar, you can access useful ideas and practical steps for implementing protection in your field operations, by referring to the recent HC and HCT note on protection, which can be accessed [here](#).

Click one of the sessions below to register:

[Session 1](#)

(Geneva 10:00 Amman 11:00 Juba 12:00 Bangkok 16:00 Sydney 20:00)

[Session 2](#)

(New York 10.00 Dakar 15:00 Geneva 16:00 Amman 17:00 Juba 18:00)

Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) coming up in January 2017

massive Open Online Course (MOOC): Managing in the humanitarian sector. The course is designed as a training package for in-country, new managers in humanitarian response, but it potentially has wider appeal; as a refresher for existing humanitarian managers and as a taster for those contemplating stepping up to management in humanitarian response. This free course is three weeks long, and only requires 4 hours per week. Register today: bit.ly/HumMOOC

IASC PRIORITIES

IASC Task Team on Accountability to Affected Populations and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Meeting

The IASC Task Team on Accountability to Affected Populations and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse met on 10 November to share an update of the latest achievements in delivering on its workplan and a debriefing of several events and projects around strengthening AAP and PSEA. Mr. Arafat Jamal, the Task Team Sponsor debriefed the group on the actions to advance the work of the IASC AAP PSEA Task Team that were presented during the IASC WG meeting on 25-26 October 2016. The Task Team co-chair Mamadou Ndiaye from OFADEC and other members reiterated on the need to ensure the IASC membership reflect our collective commitment towards localization and facilitate participation of national actors, and the Task Team confirmed its interest in strengthening collaboration with diaspora organizations acting as a bridge with national organizations. Regarding the IASC strategic priority on Accountability and Inclusivity, the Task Team would appreciate an opportunity of exchange between the various IASC Subsidiary Bodies delivering on this priority to ensure synergies and shared understanding. The last meeting of the Task Team for 2016 will be on 8 December, and will focus on PSEA.

IASC Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings (MHPSS)

The IASC RG Coordinator conducted a mission to Gaziantep, Turkey to support with an MHPSS strategy development workshop for 2017 - 2018. The workshop was co-facilitated by UNHCR's Senior Mental Health Officer from Geneva. The IASC RG Coordinator was also able to support the Northern Syrian MHPSS technical working group (led by WHO), who are also based out of Gaziantep.

The IASC RG Coordinator will conduct a support mission to Athens, Greece in December to provide a 3-day ToT on the IASC MHPSS in Emergency Settings Guidelines for MHPSS working group member agencies. The training will also be followed by a Psychological First Aid ToT.

The IASC Reference Group's annual meeting report and PowerPoint presentations are now available on MHPSS.net: <http://mhpss.net/groups/policy-and-good-practice-guidelines/iasc-reference-group-working-space/mhpss-rg-global-meetings/iasc-mhpss->

REPORTS

New educational toolkits launched by IFRC designed to help communities prevent transmission of diseases spread by mosquitoes

Amid spikes in dengue cases and the recent spread of the Zika virus, Red Cross and Red Crescent teams in the Americas, Africa and the Asia Pacific region are rolling out new educational toolkits designed to help communities prevent transmission of diseases spread by infected Aedes mosquitoes. The IFRC, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre in the Netherlands and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in the UK joined forces to develop two easily adaptable teaching guides and interactive toolkits to be facilitated by local volunteers and educators – one intended for adults in affected communities and the other for school children. The toolkits are available by visiting:

www.ifrc.org/en/publications-and-reports/general-publications - ZDF Toolkit: Community - ZDF Toolkit: School / Youth - ZDF Prevention Toolkit
<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/press-releases/general/as-dengue-spikes-and-zika-spreads-new-educational-toolkits-are-rolled-out-to-help-communities-prevent-diseases-transmitted-by-aedes-mosquitoes/>

IFRC's Unseen Unheard: gender-based violence in disasters. Case studies from Asia Pacific

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) new publication 'Unseen Unheard: gender-based violence in disasters. Case studies from Asia Pacific' follows on from the global study 'Unseen Unheard: gender-based violence in disasters' and contains case studies from Bangladesh, Samoa and Myanmar. The case studies provide an overview of gender-based violence within each context, as well as presenting findings and key recommendations with regards to awareness and understanding on GBV occurrence during disasters; availability and access to services; safety and security and livelihoods and migration.

www.ifrc.org/Global/Photos/Asia%20Pacific/GBV%20page/GBV%20in%20disasters%20AP%20report%20LR.pdf

Discrimination and abuse of women aid practitioners in the humanitarian system

The Humanitarian Women's Network has conducted a survey to better understand the issues that women face, working in humanitarian operations. This survey provides a snapshot of the level of discrimination, harassment and abuse faced by women, based on responses received from a total of 1005 women working across more than 70 organizations, providing a strong body of evidence that demands attention. The survey findings are available at: <http://humanitarianwomensnetwork.org/>. The results of the survey were also featured in a Guardian article titled "It was like being in a boys' club:

Principals will be committing to action to collectively address and prevent abuse.

FEATURED PRODUCT

IASC Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action was endorsed by the IASC Principals in October 2016. The policy is a product of constructive cooperation and extensive consultations among agencies and protection actors led by the Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Protection Priority and can be accessed [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

IASC Meetings & Events

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

6 December: IASC Reference Group on Principled Humanitarian Action retreat

7 December: IASC Task Team on the Humanitarian Development Nexus in Protracted Crises meeting

8 December: IASC Task Team on Accountability to Affected Populations and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse meeting

13 December: STAIT Webinar: Humanitarian field leadership on protection: Why it matters? How to do it?

Other Events

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

12 December: 25th anniversary event for General Assembly resolution 46/182, New York

12-13 December: Global Humanitarian Policy Forum, New York

13 December: CERF High-level Pledging Conference, New York

13-14 December: World Humanitarian Forum, Dubai

15 December: Pooled Funds Working Group, New York

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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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