News and Highlights from the IASC Community

Jump to: Latest News | Recent Developments | Featured Product | IASC Priorities | Upcoming Meetings & Events

WFP providing supplies in Northern Afghanistan after the Earthquake. Credit: OCHA

LATEST NEWS

Afghanistan/Pakistan Earthquake

A 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck Northern Afghanistan on 26 October. Buildings and infrastructure suffered substantial damages in Afghanistan and Pakistan and shockwaves were felt as far away as India. As of 29 October, the death toll is at least 390 people. The true extent of the disaster may not be known for weeks as relief teams struggle to access remote parts of the Hindu Kush. See IRIN’s live updates for recent data.
Philippines Typhoon Koppu

Tropical Cyclone Koppu has affected nearly 2.4 million people and nearly one million were evacuated. There have been a total of 47 deaths and 82 injured. The Government is leading the humanitarian response and the HCT and partners are providing targeted and limited support using the resources available in the country. Find the latest updates on ReliefWeb.

Cholera outbreak in Tanzania

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) has identified 4,835 cases and 68 deaths of cholera in the United Republic of Tanzania. 72 per cent of these cases are found in the region of Dar es Salaam. MOHSW is leading the National task force to control the outbreak. WHO has deployed two public health experts to support risk assessment response activities and has supported MOHSW in the establishment of five treatment centers in Dar es Salaam and Morogoro. Read more here.

Syria discussed at the UN Security Council

In his statement to the Security Council on 27 October, ERC Stephen O’Brien warned that “the failure of the parties to uphold the basic tenets of international humanitarian and human rights law has propelled the Syrian people to levels of tragedy and despair that could barely have been imagined five years ago.” It is estimated that some 13.5 million people in Syria are now in need of some form of protection and humanitarian assistance which represents an increase of some 1.2 million since the beginning of the year.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 89th IASC Working Group meeting (12-13 October)
- World Humanitarian Summit Global Consultation (14-16 October)
- United Nations General Assembly (New York)
- Emergency Team Leadership Programme to be relaunched

89th IASC Working Group meeting (12-13 October)

The regular bi-annual Working Group meeting, hosted by UNFPA in Geneva, focused on taking stock of results and to discuss priorities for 2015/2016. Protection, Principled Humanitarian Action (counter terrorism progress since Rome, advocacy strategy and Integration Review) and Migration were discussed in dedicated sessions. The meeting was opened by Ambassador William Lacy-Swing, Director General of IOM who called for
political leadership to address the current challenges and to identify political solutions. He also shared his views on current migration flows, and the need to move the debate from identity to values stressing that migration historically has contributed to human progress. The first panel discussed key recommendations emerging from ongoing global processes, including the WHS, and current operational challenges. Day two was mostly devoted to strategizing on the road ahead with the objective to ensure the IASC WG responds effectively to key crises and developing issues.

Action points included a reconfirmation of the IASC’s commitment to PSEA, advocacy around counter-terrorism issues and action on recommendations from the integration review. Furthermore, the WG will further address the implementation of key recommendations of the Whole of System Protection Review, and will oversee the drafting of an IASC protection policy, as well as explore inter-agency cooperation addressing the humanitarian needs of migrants. WG members suggested future key priorities and recommended a strong focus on issues of immediate operational relevance or in support of strengthening operational capacity and effectiveness with a focus on protracted crises and conflict. They called for investing in partnerships and local response capacity. A workplan is being developed for further discussion in an ad hoc Working Group meeting on 18 November.

WHS Global Consultations (Geneva, 14-16 October)

The World Humanitarian Summit Global Consultations were a critical milestone which completed the consultative process and launched the next phase of action to address the most pressing humanitarian challenges of today and tomorrow. The many panels and breakout sessions focused on the five major action areas outlined in the Synthesis Report: dignity; safety; resilience; partnerships and finance. Participants discussed the emerging proposals, prioritized among them, highlighted relevant initiatives already in motion, and envisioned pathways to making them a reality. Great focus was given to ownership and governance of the humanitarian enterprise. There has been a broad call emerging from the consultations for localization of aid: “local when possible, international when necessary”. These initiatives and proposals will form the fiber of what the Summit in 2016 will achieve. IASC organizations are encouraged to take forward proposals and champion issues; announcing commitments in the lead up to and at the Summit itself.

United Nations General Assembly (New York)

The 70th Regular Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) opened with expressions of optimism in light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a universal agreement on climate change. It also highlighted the necessity to deliver on promises for sustainable development and warned that a “selfish and boundless thirst for power and material prosperity leads both to the misuse of available natural resources and to the exclusion of the weak and disadvantaged” (Pope Francis). Among other issues, the Third Committee discussed issues related to the protection of children, indigenous problems, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racial discrimination and racism, and the right to self-determination.

In opening the high-level event on the Lake Chad Basin, ERC Stephen O’Brien warned that the region has become an epicenter of violence and terror, and the scene of the fastest-growing displacement crisis in Africa. Business activity is reportedly down by 80 percent. WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF appealed for greater international support to their efforts to reach those in desperate need. The United States announced US$6.8 million in funding for regional aid efforts.
During the High-level Discussion on the Future of Humanitarian Financing, ERC Stephen O’Brien reminded that humanitarian appeals have grown by more than 600 per cent in the past decade, with the global humanitarian appeal now at nearly $20 billion. While humanitarian aid is supposed to be a temporary measure, it is often given for years and the underlying causes of the crisis remain untreated. In some cases, humanitarian organizations are creating dependencies by providing the essential services such as clean water, sanitation, healthcare, and education instead of promoting development action by national governments and development partners and allowing the involvement of local groups and women’s organizations that have proven to make an impact on the local communities and are key to building resilience.

Emergency Team Leadership Programme relaunched

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee’s Emergency Team Leadership Programme (ETLP) which was originally developed in 2005 by the IASC Task Team/Force on Training to promote cross-organizational participation and inter-agency leadership development will be started again in January 2016 (exact dates tbc). The ETLP aims at strengthening the quality of leadership in humanitarian operation, support stronger coordination among agencies and foster the development of best practice in emergency leadership and management. Participants come from IASC partners agencies and should have previous emergency situation experience. Further announcement will be made closer to the relaunch date.

IASC P Priorities

For more information or to join the groups, please visit the IASC Subsidiary Bodies webpage.

IASC Task Team on Accountability to Affected Populations and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (AAP/PSEA)
The Task Team facilitated a session on AAP and PSEA during the Humanitarian Response Plan workshop in Erbil on 6 and 7 October. 50 participants attended the session, including Heads of agencies, cluster and inter-cluster coordinators as well as donors. Participants mapped out their activities related to accountability with the idea to systematize the already existing good practices at collective level. The session on PSEA was a good opportunity to discuss the inter-agency complaints mechanism. As a concrete outcome, each cluster will have to demonstrate how they have meaningfully integrated accountability in their strategy for the Humanitarian Response Plan.

Protection
With support from the Government of Denmark, the first GBV in Emergencies Surge Training was facilitated by UNFPA in New York from 21 to 25 September 2015. The training is central to UNFPA’s commitment to increase capacity to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in emergencies, in line with its role as co-lead of the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) of the Global Protection Cluster. The training utilized a mix of different learning methodologies including plenary discussions, presentations, small group work, case studies, role-play, an extended simulation exercise and facilitator-led group feedback and self-reflection. UNFPA’s Human Resource team developed an assessment process for the training, whereby participants were assessed against the GBV AoR Core Competencies. Participants in the training, who were nominated by six stand-by partners, gained skills to ensure readiness for deployment as GBV coordinators, information management
**Preparedness and Resilience**

The common messages on climate change and humanitarian crises have been finalized by the Task Team on Preparedness and Resilience and are awaiting IASC endorsement. The messages would form an advocacy tool for the IASC community for global processes such as the COP21 and the World Humanitarian Summit. The human and economic cost of climate-related disasters keeps increasing and the global community has to act to reduce greenhouse gases emissions. Furthermore, Member States and all partners in the humanitarian system need to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities of individuals, communities and systems.

**Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas**

The Global Alliance for Urban Crises is an initiative/proposal coming out from the World Humanitarian Summit consultations. Its objective is to modify the way we prevent, prepare and respond to urban crises. It aims at building a common platform gathering municipal authorities, urban professionals, the private sector and development actors that would set a common agenda and increase strategic investments. A public launch would happen during the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul next year.

**Humanitarian Financing**

As per its 2014-15 workplan, the Humanitarian Financing Task Team (HFTT) is examining various internal and external challenges that affect humanitarian financing and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. As part of this broader effort, the HFTT’s analysis of donor conditions first identified and ranked donor conditions that most affect humanitarian organizations’ operations. The findings will be presented in November and will serve as the basis for future discussions with donors. According to the preliminary analysis, donor conditions that hamper humanitarian efforts are structured in four groups: (1) Operational restrictions related to financial restrictions, earmarking and heavy reporting; (2) Risk management approaches that result in risk aversion and possibly compromise the quality, speed and neutrality of humanitarian interventions; (3) Limited predictability of funding; and (4)Disclosure/ transparency requirements that could reveal sensitive information. For each of these groups of conditions, the paper present definitions, overall context, examples of impact and best practices and wherever possible suggests recommendations to donors.

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**FEATURED PRODUCT**

**IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychological Support in Emergency Settings**

**RECENT REPORTS AND STUDIES**

According to the [Funding Update of 28 October](http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=83487eb1105d72f2427e4bd7&id=40aaf4547e), 54 per cent of the required humanitarian funds remain unmet.


[IOM's](http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=83487eb1105d72f2427e4bd7&id=40aaf4547e) [World Migration](http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=83487eb1105d72f2427e4bd7&id=40aaf4547e)
World Mental Health Day on 10 October raised awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilized efforts in support of mental health. This year’s theme was “Dignity in mental health”. Thousands of people with mental health conditions around the world are deprived of their human rights. They are not only discriminated against, stigmatized and marginalized but are also subject to emotional and physical abuse in both mental health facilities and the community.

The IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings provide concise and practical guidelines for humanitarians to help address mental health and psychosocial support concerns. The Review of the Implementation undertaken in 2014 examined practice and lessons learnt, the level of institutionalization of the guidelines, experience of its mainstreaming, its relevance and overall usefulness.

The IASC Recommendations for Conducting Ethical Mental Health and Psychosocial Research in Emergency Settings were developed to ensure MHPSS research in emergencies benefits affected people, to design research to fill knowledge gaps in MHPSS theory and practice in emergencies, to avoid bad practice and to better understand how to manage ethical challenges in MHPSS research during emergencies.

Find out more on the work of IASC Reference Group

Report 2015: Migrants and Cities, New Partnerships to Manage Mobility focuses on how migration and migrants are shaping cities and how the life of migrants is shaped by cities, their people, organizations and rules.

The report Protracted displacement: uncertain paths to self-reliance in exile, produced by ODI’s Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) with IDMC contributions, shows more work is needed to understand how to better support displaced people who find their own paths to sustainable livelihoods.

The IDMC briefing paper Leaving no one behind: Internal displacement and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development sets out why internal displacement is a development concern, and how particular attention to IDPs will do much to ensure highly vulnerable populations are not left behind.

Based on Community feedback to the Nepal Earthquake response, a report by the Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project highlights that 72 per cent of quake-affected Nepalis feel like their priority needs are not met.

A Working Paper produced by the ODI’s HPG on The Ebola response in West Africa: Exposing the politics and culture of international aid revealed flaws in the humanitarian coordination system.
UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

IASC Meetings & Events

4-5 November 2015: Annual meeting of the Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

6 November 2015: Senior Focal Points PSEA meeting

11 November 2015: Humanitarian Needs Overview Syria 2016 (Geneva IASC event)

16 November 2015: Briefing on the Preparations for Habitat III (NY IASC event)

17 November 2015: Launch of the GBV Guidelines (Geneva)

18 November 2015: Task Team on Humanitarian Financing (HFTT) Meeting

18 November 2015: Ad hoc Working Group meeting

20 November 2015: Cash toolkit - Technical briefing (Geneva IASC event)

24 November 2015: Task Team on Revitalizing Principled Humanitarian Action (RPHA) Meeting

Late November/early December 2015 (tbc): Gender marker (Geneva IASC event)

11 December 2015: Principals Meeting

16 December 2015: Task Team on Humanitarian Financing (HFTT) Meeting

January 2016: Emergency Team Leadership Programme training course
(exact dates and location tbc)

Other Events

23-25 November 2015: PHAP Course: Humanitarian Law

26-27 November 2015: PHAP Course: Islamic Law, Counterterrorism and Humanitarian Action

27 November 2015: INFORM launch

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-10 December 2015</td>
<td>32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 December 2015</td>
<td>CERF’s annual High-Level Conference</td>
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<td>19 October 2015-15 January 2016</td>
<td>InterAction Photo Contest</td>
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We welcome your feedback and input to iasccorrespondence@un.org.