Resurging violence in Central African Republic

Violent clashes occurred on 26 September in Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic after the death of a muslim moto-taxi driver. The clashes left more than 30 people dead and 100 wounded and over 42,000 displaced with the situation remaining tense. Many UN offices and private residences were looted and international personnel were evacuated to the MINUSCA base. The Humanitarian Coordinator condemned all acts of violence and called for the protection of civilians and humanitarian workers. Security constraints have prevented effective humanitarian access and action. Access to displaced populations is urgently needed as many of them are in fear and require basic
assistance such as emergency shelter, healthcare and basic aid.

**Chile Earthquake: preparedness saves lives**

The 8.3 earthquake that hit northern and central Chile on 16 September killed 13 and left over 9,000 people homeless. One million people were evacuated from coastal areas. The offshore quake caused a 4.5 metres high tsunami which also affected livelihoods, particularly in the coastal town of Coquimbo where nearly 200 boats were destroyed. The earthquake and tsunami caused relatively little damage compared to previous, less powerful earthquakes. "Chile's investment in resilient infrastructure, early warning systems and urban planning have ensured that casualties have been low on this occasion, despite the intensity of the earthquake," Margareta Wahlstroem, head of UNISDR, said in a statement on the quake response. In support of the local and national preparedness and disaster risk reduction efforts, the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) organized the Americas Regional Earthquake Response exercise in Santiago de Chile from 22 to 26 September.

**RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

- Europe Refugee Crisis
- Colombia moving towards a peace agreement
- Sustainable Development Goals adopted
- ERC visit to Jordan
- Working Group Preparation
- Call for nominations to the Humanitarian Coordination Pool

![Europe Refugee Crisis](image)

**Europe Refugee Crisis**

As the Syrian conflict continues, an increasing number of migrants and refugees arrive in Europe. As of 2 October over 520,000 refugees and migrants had crossed the Mediterranean sea and arrived in Europe, mostly using the eastern route between Turkey and Greece. Many Greek islands are overcrowded and cannot provide registration. Chaotic situations arise on some islands and local police forces are often overwhelmed. Shelters are missing or are sub-standard. Flows of refugees continue northward into Macedonia, Serbia and Hungary. Border closures, movement restrictions as well as sub-standard reception conditions are of deep concern to UNHCR and other agencies, as well as the near absence of adequate asylum procedures between the Serbian and Hungarian border.

"Although challenging, this refugee emergency is manageable, provided that Europe is united in contributing to an effective response", stated UNHCR. The European Union held an emergency summit on 23 September to decide on a reallocation plan among its member states. 160,000 refugees will be reallocated from Greece, Italy and Hungary over the next two years. Additional funding (in particular to UNHCR and WFP) has also been pledged.
**Colombia moving towards a peace agreement**

A historic handshake between Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos and FARC guerrilla group leader Timoléon Jiménez on 23 September in La Habana symbolized the significant progress made in the peace negotiations that have been held between the Colombian government and the largest of the guerrilla groups since late 2012. The agreement on transitional justice - which had been one of the most contended issues in the negotiations - is seen as a major step towards ending the world's longest civil war and has been welcomed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and other leaders worldwide.

**Sustainable Development Goals adopted**

The UN Sustainable Development Summit from 25-27 September marked the formal adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda which consists of 17 goals with specific targets. This new framework for sustainable development aims to end poverty and build a life of dignity for all, leaving no one behind. At the Summit, numerous heads of state, high level representatives of international organizations and His Holiness Pope Francis debated displacement, migration, conflict, resilience, climate change, terrorism, gender equality and financing among other topics.

**ERC visit to Jordan**

ERC Stephen O’Brien visited the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan 19-20 September. He met with the Prime Minister of Jordan and high level government officials in order to strengthen the humanitarian response in the region. After his visit to Za’atari Refugee Camp, home to 80,000 people, he appealed to the international community to step up donations to meet constantly increasing needs. Only 46% of the 2015 Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan is currently funded (as per Financial Tracking Service on 2 October).

**Working Group Preparation**

The IASC Working Group will meet in Geneva on 12 and 13 October 2015 to discuss a wide variety of topics including the IASC priorities for 2016-2017. The detailed agenda and background documents will be available on the IASC website (login required).

**Call for nominations to the Humanitarian Coordination Pool**

The IASC Humanitarian Coordination (HC) Pool is a roster of high calibre humanitarian professionals from UN organizations, the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement and NGOs, who are considered to be qualified for humanitarian coordination leadership
IASC 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)

On 24 September 2015 the Global Cluster Coordinators and the Task Team on AAP/PSEA held a workshop on AAP and its linkages to protection. Participants exchanged experiences on how to operationalize the three pillars of AAP (taking account, giving account and being held to account) including protection mainstreaming. Relationships between AAP, PSEA, Protection and Protection Mainstreaming were illustrated.

Humanitarian Financing

At its meeting on 16 September, the Task Team on Humanitarian Financing was updated on the High Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing. The objective 3 of the Task Team work plan was discussed, which aims at bridging the humanitarian-development gap. The Task Team also continues to work on reducing donor conditions hindering humanitarian action.

Preparedness and Resilience

The Task Team on Preparedness and Resilience has finalized the key messages on climate change and will seek electronic endorsement by the IASC Working Group. As part of the roll-out of

Revitalizing Principled Humanitarian Action (PHA)

Following up to the Integration Review, the Task Team on Revitalizing PHA is developing an action matrix. Select actionable recommendations will be discussed by the IASC Working Group at its meeting in October.

Gender in Humanitarian Action

As a follow-up to the 26 June Ad Hoc WG meeting the Gender Reference Group is submitting a Terms of Reference, a workplan and an annual report to the IASC Working Group.

Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas (MHCUA)

The MHCUA Reference Group is working on the implementation of the Urban Action Plan endorsed by the IASC Principals in Nairobi in May 2015. The Reference Group is looking to expand its membership. ACTED and Samaritans Purse have expressed interest to join the Reference Group as co-chairs.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings (MHPSS)

The 2015 Annual meeting of the MHPSS Reference Group will be held in Istanbul hosted by UNICEF on 4 and 5 November. A new co-chair will be elected during this meeting and members are fundraising to finance additional secretarial support. The agenda of the annual meeting includes a discussion of the work plan progress and updates and future plans for the RG. Updates will be given on ongoing and past emergencies and the implementation of the M&E Framework
the Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) approach, regional training courses are being scheduled for the coming months, e.g. in Dakar during the first week of November.

**Protection**

The Global Protection Cluster (GPC) is currently undertaking a survey to develop a Communications Package on Protection for humanitarian actors. The Communications Package aims to explain what protection means in an operational sense. Please participate in the survey by 9 October.

Another GPC survey seeks input from individuals in the larger humanitarian community to its 2016-2019 Strategic Framework. You are invited to participate in the survey on humanitarian protection work (available in English and French).

For the October IASC Working Group meeting, the Global Protection Cluster Task Team is submitting recommendations on how to take the Whole of System Review of Protection in Humanitarian Action forward.

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**IASC EVENTS IN JUNE**

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

**Actionable data for complex humanitarian emergencies.**

*Briefing by Impact Lab*

Geneva, 30 September 2015. Years of armed conflict in the Middle East have resulted in the largest humanitarian crisis since World War II. Instability continues to disrupt the flow of resources and has placed severe strain on host nations. Since the onset of the crisis, the international community has provided resources to conflict-affected areas of the region; however, major information gaps regarding the best will be discussed as well as support for field coordination through a capacity building plan and follow up to the review of the IASC Guidelines on MHPSS.

A submission by the MHPSS Reference Group’s to the WHS can be found [here](#).

**RECENT REPORTS AND STUDIES**

Other developments of interest in the humanitarian field include the following:

**2015 World Disaster Report**

Local actors are often the most effective in conducting humanitarian operations. However, despite their critical role, they struggle to attract the funding and support they need. The [2015 World Disasters Report](#) – launched on [24 September](#) by the
allocation of resources still exist. With no end to the crisis in sight and resources dwindling, it is now more important than ever that actionable, data-driven decision making steers the humanitarian response effort. The Impact Lab team, which has been operating in acute and protracted crises for over a decade, presented their key findings from a 6,500-individual survey completed in the mid-Euphrates region of central Iraq and their capacity to assist relief agencies with operational data management. In an active discussion participants discussed the utility and appropriateness of presented technology in various current crises. The presentation can be found here.

FEATURED PRODUCT

GBV Guidelines

On 16 September, the Inter-agency Gender-based Violence Guidelines Reference Group launched the 2015 Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action in Stellenbosch, South Africa. These new guidelines follow a thorough revision process of the 2005 IASC GBV Guidelines and replace the latter. The guidelines offer essential and practical, field-tested tools that recognize risks and provide step-by-step guidance on the necessary actions for GBV prevention across all sectors of humanitarian response – resulting in safer and more effective programmes. For more information

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) – examines the complexities and challenges local actors face in scaling-up and sustaining their humanitarian response.

Explosive weapons disproportionately affect women and children in the Syrian conflict. A study carried out by BMJ to analyze the impact of different weapons on civilians, found that children are more likely to be fatal victims of air bombardments, shells, and ground level explosives than men or women. Women were the second most likely to die due to explosive weapons, while the likelihood of death for men was higher for shootings and executions.

Humanitarian Accountability Report, CHS Alliance

On the road to Istanbul, the 2015 edition of the Humanitarian Accountability Report, offers concrete solutions to many of the issues raised during the regional consultations for the World Humanitarian Summit. It brings together 13 leading humanitarian thinkers to discuss challenges to greater humanitarian effectiveness.

Use of explosive weapons in Libya, Ukraine and Yemen

Three recent reports published by OCHA in partnership with PAX and Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) - Shattered lives - Civilians suffer from the use of explosive weapons in Libya, Collateral - The human cost of explosive
Please contact gbv.guidelines@gmail.com. 

State of crisis: explosive weapons in Yemen - show the devastating humanitarian impact of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas in Libya, Ukraine and Yemen.

**UPCOMING IASC MEETINGS & EVENTS**

**IASC Meetings & Events**

**6 October 2015:** GPC Task Team on Implementing the IASC Protection Priority meeting

**12-13 October 2015:** 89th Working Group Meeting: discussions about the IASC priorities for 2016-2017, migration, protection and principled humanitarian action

**21 October 2015:** Task Team on Humanitarian Financing (HFTT) Meeting

**23 October 2015:** Task Team on Accountability to Affected Populations, including Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (AAP/PSEA) meeting on Global SOPs

**27 October 2015:** Task Team on Revitalizing Principled Humanitarian Action (RPHA) Meeting

**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 with all IASC agencies Senior Focal Points

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

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

**11 December 2015:** Principals Meeting

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

5 October 2015: A Debate on the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe (UNHCR 66th session of the Executive Committee)

8 October 2015: Role and activities of Faith-based Organizations: preparing for the World Humanitarian Summit, event by Caritas Internationalis

9-10 October 2015: Humanitarian Congress Berlin - registration open until 5 October

14-16 October 2015: WHS Global Consultation

26-27 October 2015: IOM Conference on Migrants and Cities

29-30 October 2015: International Forum on Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Development

30 November-11 December 2015: The United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP21/CMP11

8-10 December 2015: 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

15 December 2015: CERF’s annual High-Level Conference

We welcome your feedback and input to iasc correspondence@un.org.