

**IASC  
SUBSIDIARY  
BODIES  
REPORT 2018**

March 2019

## Background

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Created by the United Nations General Assembly, through its resolution 46/182 in 1991, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is the longest-standing and highest-level humanitarian coordination forum of the United Nations system that brings together 19 Principals of United Nations and non-United Nations entities to ensure coherence of efforts, formulate policy, and discuss priorities for strengthened humanitarian action. It facilitates the leadership role of the United Nations Secretary-General by meeting regularly to ensure better preparation for, as well as rapid and coherent response to, humanitarian crises. It is chaired by the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator.

In May 2018, the IASC Principals endorsed five [Strategic Priorities for the IASC for the 2019-2020 biennium](#), namely: Operational Response; Accountability and Inclusion; Collective Advocacy; Humanitarian-Development Collaboration; and Humanitarian Financing. Consequently, the IASC initiated a reform of its structures to ensure it is better fit for purpose to deliver against the five Strategic Priorities. [A new IASC architecture](#) was initiated in January 2019 whereby the IASC carries out its role through four distinct structures. The IASC Principals who are the executive heads of the organizations that form the IASC. They meet regularly to address critical humanitarian crises, and to make strategic, operational and policy decisions that have implications on humanitarian action. The IASC Principals are supported by three structures: 1) [Deputies Forum](#), 2) [Emergency Directors Group \(EDG\)](#), and 3) [Operational Policy and Advocacy Group \(OPAG\)](#), supported by the five [Results Groups](#). In addition, five entities associated with the IASC will interact with different IASC bodies as appropriate, via the IASC secretariat, namely: IASC-associated inter-agency group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings, IASC-associated inter-agency group on Gender, Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations (IAHE) Steering Group, Global Cluster Coordination Group (GCCG); and Humanitarian Programme Cycle Steering Group (HPCSG).

Prior to the IASC reform in January 2019, the function of today's Results Groups was carried out by the IASC Task Teams and Reference Groups, accountable to the Working Group. This report presents key activities and outcomes of the work of these IASC subsidiary bodies in 2018. Members of these groups provided technical expertise and were in regular contact with the field to ensure field perspectives shaped IASC policies, guidelines, tools and actions.

The report covers the activities of the following subsidiary bodies:

- [Task Team on Accountability to Affected Populations and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#)
- [Task Team on Humanitarian Financing](#)
- [Task Team on Strengthening the Humanitarian/Development Nexus with a Focus on Protracted Contexts](#)
- [Task Team on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#)
- [Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning and Preparedness](#)
- [Reference Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action](#)
- [Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings](#)

While the work of both the Task Teams and Reference Groups have been enveloped into the Results Group as of January 2019, the Gender and Humanitarian Action Reference Group and the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings Reference Groups will continue to exist as stand-alone entities associated to the IASC.

March 2019  
IASC secretariat

## Task Team on Accountability to Affected Populations and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (AAP/PSEA)

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**CO-CHAIRS** UNHCR and OFADEC

### KEY OBJECTIVES

- Foster a culture of accountability and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse at all levels of the humanitarian system.
- Encourage institutionalisation of AAP and PSEA within humanitarian organisations, including local and national NGOs, INGOs, Red Cross Red Crescent movement and UN Agencies.
- Support operationalisation of AAP and PSEA at collective level as well as individual agency level.

### KEY DELIVERABLES IN 2018

- Over 50 country operations were supported through its [Helpdesk](#) and support functions, including the [PSEA task force and toolkit of PSEA materials](#).
- [A menu of AAP/PSEA questions for needs assessments](#) was developed and endorsed. Data on views and perceptions of affected populations was collected and analysed for inclusion in Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO).
- [IASC AAP Commitments \(CAAP\) guidance note](#) was developed and endorsed.
- Regional Training of Trainers (ToTs) were executed in East Africa, MENA and West and Central Africa.
- A leadership training module on PSEA was developed and piloted in Somalia.
- *The P2P Guidance note on PSEA* for HCs and HCTs is under review for endorsement.
- With support from Translators without Borders, [71 translations of the IASC six core PSEA principles](#) have been finalized and validated.
- A dedicated meeting was convened with the Good Humanitarian Donorship Donors to represent [Task Team messages for Donors](#) in response to the SEA scandals.

A full report on the activities of the Task Team in 2018 can be found [HERE](#).

## Task Team on Humanitarian Financing

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**CO-CHAIRS** OCHA and ICVA

### KEY OBJECTIVES

- Promote system-wide approaches to closing the funding gap.
- Promote more effective, efficient and accessible humanitarian funding.
- Improve contractual arrangements and management of risk across the humanitarian system.
- Contribute to aid effectiveness by strengthening humanitarian development collaboration in particular in fragile contexts and protracted crises.
- Improve decision-making by increasing the transparency of funding data.

### KEY DELIVERABLES IN 2018

- [A Learning Lab on Innovative Humanitarian Financing](#) was set up to encourage peer-to-peer learning about innovative financing mechanisms and to explore collective approaches to closing funding gap.
- A series of studies on more effective, efficient and accessible humanitarian funding are under development, to be completed in 2019, including on the synergies between Grand Bargain and CBPF; Multi-Year Financing; visibility needs by donors in connection to unearmarked funding; country-level financing solutions; and documentation of how much predictable, multi-year, flexible financing is made available at country level.
- A partner survey assessing perceptions of UN agency Partnership Agreements was conducted, and a report is under development, to be completed in 2019.
- A mapping on risk management initiatives is being consolidated to inform the Task Team's risk management tasks in 2019.
- A pilot exercise was launched to explore the use of published data according to the standards of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) to fulfil Financial Tracking Service (FTS) reporting obligations to improve the availability of timely and accurate data on humanitarian financing.

A full report on the activities of the Task Team in 2018 can be found [HERE](#).

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The Task Team includes 13 UN agencies, 8 NGOs, 2 NGO Consortia, ICRC, IFRC, IFIs, and others.

# Task Team on Strengthening the Humanitarian-Development Nexus (HDN) in Protracted Settings

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**CO-CHAIRS** UNDP and WHO

## KEY OBJECTIVES

- Shape and contribute to common understanding of what is required to strengthen the Humanitarian Development and Peace (HDP) nexus.
- Review and assess current policy, guidance and operational tools based on common understanding to identify gaps and best practices.
- Ensure coherence in field support towards successful implementation of the New Way of Working (NWoW).

## KEY DELIVERABLES IN 2018

- [HDP Nexus mapping](#) is being transformed into a more user-friendly, [web-based iteration](#).
- [Key Messages on the Humanitarian-Development Nexus \(HDN\)](#), aiming to convey a common narrative on HDN, is under review and to be endorsed during the course of 2019.
- [Analysis Paper on the Intersection between the NWoW and the Sustaining Peace Agenda](#) was drafted to support policy-setting discussions.
- [Typologies of HDP response and Engagement Scenarios](#) was developed to visualise different blends of planning tools and analysis in different conflict settings.
- [Report: Towards a Generic Definition of Collective Outcomes](#) clarifies the divergence in views on defining collective outcomes. [Towards IASC Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes](#) proposes common elements and process criteria. [Collective Outcomes Progress Mapping](#) shows a global view on field-generated collective outcomes.
- [Synopsis: A Survey Towards Coherent Support for the HDN](#) clarifies gaps and required guidance on the operationalisation of NWoW.
- Two practitioners' support network meetings on advancing collaboration across sectors in the field were held in [Dakar](#) and [Entebbe](#). Participants established a community of practice network ([HDN CoPN](#)).
- [Preliminary HDN Progress Snapshots](#) on 11 countries serve as baseline to track progress against key HDP Nexus.
- To support the field operations, [a mission to Sudan](#) was conducted; a [HDN framework in Ukraine](#) was developed; and short-term support to CAR was provided. A support mission to Mali is planned in 2019 to facilitate a [HDN workshop](#). The newly developed [ToR](#) provides predictability to the Task Team's technical support to field colleagues.
- [A draft of IASC Task Team on Strengthening the HDN in Protracted Crises: Workplan Stock-taking Exercise](#) puts forward recommendations that may have system-wide implications and form the basis of the work of the new IASC Results Group on IASC Strategic Priorities 4 on Humanitarian-Development Collaboration.

A full report on the activities of the Task Team in 2018 can be found [HERE](#).

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The Task Team comprehends more than 85 members, including 13 UN agencies, 8 NGOs, 3 NGO Consortia, 3 inter-agency entities, IFRC, ICRC, and others.

## Task Team on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

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**CO-CHAIRS** UNICEF, International Disability Alliance, and Humanity and Inclusion

### KEY OBJECTIVES

- Work jointly on the development of IASC-endorsed Guidelines.
- Review and collate existing guidance and evidence related to inclusion and protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.
- Identify operational and policy gaps in all phases of humanitarian action.

### KEY DELIVERABLES IN 2018

- [Desk Review on Humanitarian Action Inclusive of Persons with Disabilities](#) was completed in March 2018. The Review informed the design and direction of global online consultation and face-to-face workshops, undertaken across regions in 2018 ([Pacific](#), [Middle East](#), [Latin America](#)).
- Consultations on gender-based violence and persons with disabilities during humanitarian crisis were held in [Africa](#) and [Asia](#).
- A consultation with self-advocates with intellectual disabilities was conducted, facilitated by the [easy-read version of the initial IASC Guidelines for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#). Ten sector-specific working groups were established through a call for sector experts to develop the Guidelines. To feed evidence from field practice into the further development of the Guidelines, a call for documentation of practices was launched and over sixty case studies were submitted.
- Continue to finalise and plan the roll-out of the *IASC Guidelines for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action* (expected to be finalised by June 2019).

A full report on the activities of the Task Team in 2018 can be found [HERE](#).

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The Task Team comprehends 72 members, including governments, networks, universities, UN agencies, ICRC/IFRC, cluster representatives and humanitarian NGOs.

## Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning and Preparedness

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**CO-CHAIRS** UNDP and WFP

### KEY OBJECTIVES

- Promote common risk-informed understanding of current and potential operational contexts.
- Develop better preparedness to respond.
- Strengthen advocacy and advice on the importance of consideration of risk, early warning, and preparedness, including through inclusion in discussions and outcomes of relevant global processes and support to the design and implementation of platforms that link risk with readiness and financing.

### KEY DELIVERABLES IN 2018

- Biannual *Early Warning, Early Action and Readiness (EWEAR) Analysis* highlights the most serious risks during the next six months, grouped into three tiers: very high, high or moderate concern. [Return on Investment \(ROI\) in Emergency Preparedness](#) study, tool kit and guidance are also completed.
- [INFORM Report 2019](#) was produced, while the [INFORM](#) registers were further developed and rolled out. [Subnational Roll-out project](#) in selected at-risk countries is ongoing and additional [INFORM](#) subnational models are in development. Guidance and online training package for [INFORM](#) subnational models will become available in early 2019.
- A subgroup on [ERP \(Emergency Response Preparedness\)](#) provided Readiness and Early Action recommendations for the countries identified in the EWEAR Analysis, and provided technical support for ERP implementation to Humanitarian Country Teams.
- [IASC Inter-Agency Standard Operating Procedures for Early Action to El Niño/La Niña Episodes 2018](#) were endorsed and published. The ENSO Analysis cell initiated preparedness planning for the forecasted El Niño in 2019.
- *IASC Humanitarian System-Wide Scale-Up Activation Protocol for the Control of Infectious Disease Events* is under review for endorsement. They will be adapted to the newly endorsed [IASC Scale-Up Protocols](#).

A full report on the activities of the Reference Group in 2018 can be found [HERE](#).

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The Reference Group includes 16 members from the United Nations, 2 members from the ICRC, 9 members from NGOs/Consortia, IFRC, IFIs and others.

## Reference Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action

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**CO-CHAIRS** UN WOMEN and Oxfam International

### KEY OBJECTIVES

- Develop, test and roll out tools for use by the humanitarian community to integrate gender into policies and programming and create accountability mechanisms for monitoring.
- Provide the humanitarian community with timely and practical information to help meet its commitments to gender equality.
- Actively engage and coordinate with all bodies and structures of the IASC to ensure that they incorporate gender equality into relevant aspects of their work in a manner complementing efforts by counterparts.

### KEY DELIVERABLES IN 2018

- [IASC Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action 2017](#), updated from the original 2006 handbook, became available in English, Arabic, French and Spanish. Face-to-face Training of Trainers and [E-learning](#) platform also supported the uptake of the Handbook.
- [IASC Gender Policy and Accountability Framework](#) and means of execution were refined.
- 2018 ECOSOC HAS side-event, "[A Collective Effort of Leaving No One Behind: Strengthening Gender Equality Programming in Humanitarian Action](#)" was co-hosted to discuss the IASC's renewed commitment to gender equality.
- [Briefing Note Cholera Response – Gender-Based Violence \(GBV\) Sub-Sector Nigeria](#) identifies strategic entry points for linking humanitarian programming to existing gender equality programming.

A full report on the activities of the Reference Group in 2018 can be found [HERE](#).

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The Reference Group includes 8 members from the United Nations, 8 members from NGOs/Consortia, ICRC, IFRC, IFIs and others.

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

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**CO-CHAIRS** WHO and IFRC

### KEY OBJECTIVES

- Facilitate the integration of the relevant content of *Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings* into all sectors of emergency response.
- Provide practical guidance, coordination and technical support during emergencies including linking actors, discussing options for synergy and joint actions, supporting country-level MHPSS Working Groups where they exist and advocating for quality MHPSS interventions.
- Foster collaboration among agencies and diverse stakeholders (such as governments and communities) working in MHPSS; and between MHPSS agencies at global, regional and national levels.

### KEY DELIVERABLES IN 2018

- Means of Verification of the [IASC Common MHPSS Monitoring and Evaluation Framework](#) were reviewed. The Framework was [translated](#) and disseminated in Bangla, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.
- [IASC MHPSS Referral Guidance Note](#) was translated and disseminated at country level in Bangla, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.
- [MHPSS Briefing toolkit](#) was developed for the emergency response in Indonesia and DRC.
- [A Faith-Sensitive Approach in Humanitarian Response: Guidance on Mental Health and Psychosocial Programming](#) was developed to provide practical programming guide, more sensitive to faith perspectives and community resources.
- A Humanitarian Technical Sectors Surge Capacity Meeting and the first MHPSS in Emergencies Forum were organised in October 2018.
- Co-Chair missions were conducted to support MHPSS operations in seven countries. In addition, remote support was provided to 250 requests, as well as remote-technical support to 15 country-level MHPSS working groups.

A full report on the activities of the Reference Group in 2018 can be found [HERE](#).

**IASC** Inter-Agency  
Standing Committee

[www.interagencystandingcommittee.org](http://www.interagencystandingcommittee.org)