



Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

Health Cluster Forum
Geneva, June 2019

WHAT IS THE IASC?

Established in June 1992 in response to GA resolution [46/182](#) and reaffirmed by subsequent GA resolutions.

Primary global coordination mechanism for inter-agency coordination on humanitarian issues.

Only formal UN coordination mechanism that includes non-UN entities.

Led by the Emergency Relief Coordinator to facilitate the leadership role of the UN Secretary-General.

OBJECTIVES OF THE IASC

- **Strategic decisions on operational issues**

Facilitate an effective, coordinated, collective humanitarian response to crises.

- **Policy development**

System-wide policies and humanitarian guidelines for humanitarian operations.

- **Advocacy**

Platform for the humanitarian community to advocate collectively for common principles and issues.

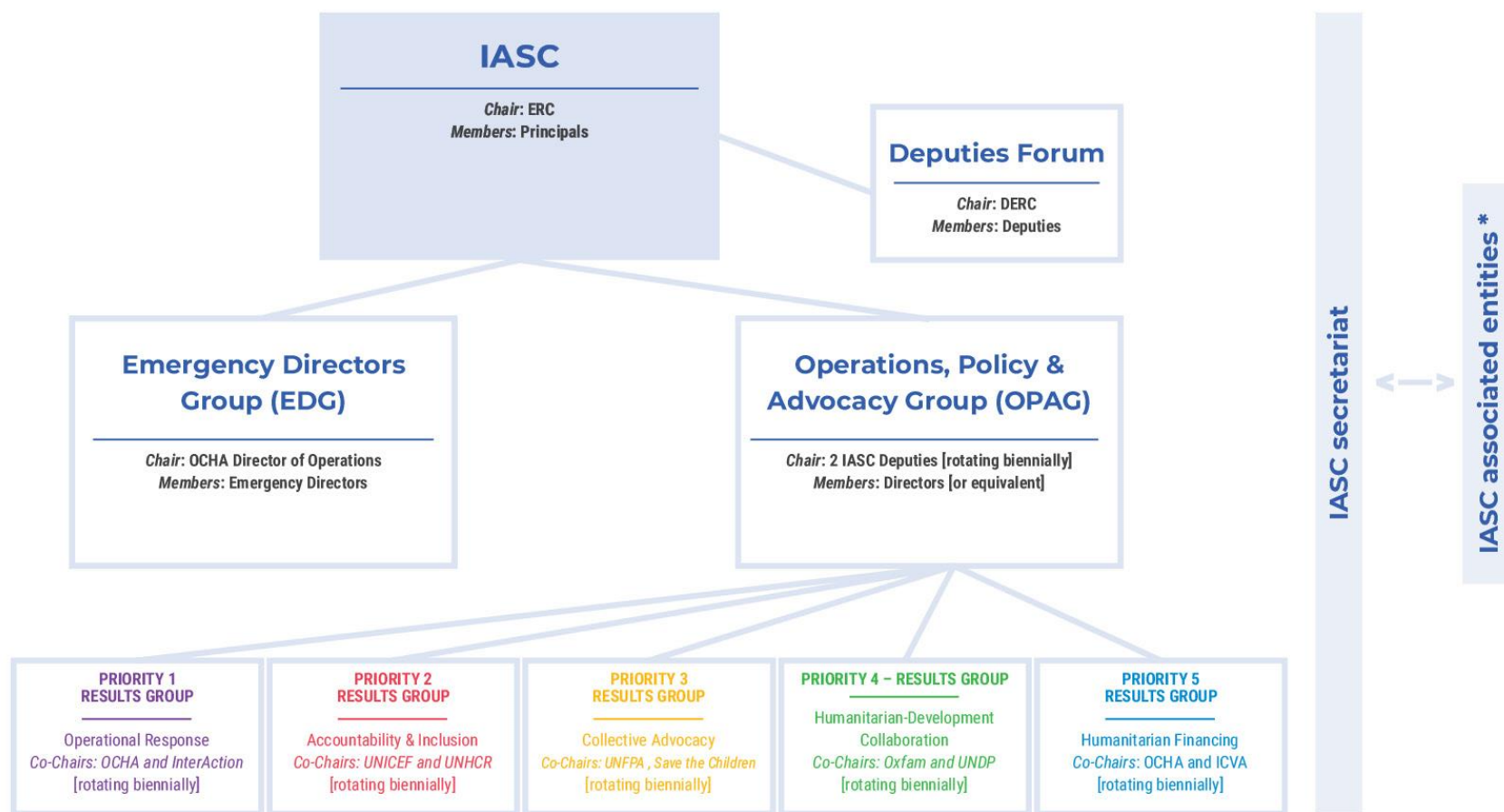
- **Dialogue**

Forum for dialogue among humanitarian actors and deliberation on key issues of impact on humanitarian action.

IASC STRUCTURES

IASC structure and working method – 31 January 2019

NEW IASC STRUCTURES



* The Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation Group (IAHE), Global Cluster Coordination Group (GCCG), Humanitarian Programme Cycle Steering Group (HPCSG) and Reference Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action, Reference Group on Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support

IASC PRIORITIES (2019-2020)



- Centrality of protection
- Humanitarian system-wide emergency activation
- Coordination arrangements
- Humanitarian leadership
- Early warning and preparedness



- AAP
- SEA/SHA against aid workers and survivors
- Specific needs of affected people
- Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls



- IHL, IHRL and protection
- Access
- Security of aid workers



- Risks and vulnerabilities of affected populations
- Humanitarian-Development nexus and linkages with JSC



- Funding gap and widening resource base
- Multi-year funding and planning
- Donor support

WHY THE REFORM

- Going back to basics (46/182) - Recognizing that the IASC is, by definition, the Committee of the Principals.
- New Strategic Priorities
- Addressing previous issues that posed challenges in the efficient functioning of the structures
- Focusing on **results and concrete deliverables** – need to demonstrate relevance and effectiveness
- **Collaboration** – Structures to work well together (*complementing each others' roles*).
- **Inclusivity** – Need to systematically engage and capitalize on the wealth of knowledge and expertise from non-IASC entities
- **Management** – Guidance and support, monitoring, follow-up, accountability, communication/partnerships (*strengthened IASC secretariat*).

WAY FORWARD

- **Committee** meeting on 29 May (*horizon scanning/ EWEA report, sustain/severe, PSEA/SHA, Disabilities, UNDS/Migration/Refugees, GHO*) and 5 December
- **EDG** working on supporting ongoing operations (*Mozambique, Ebola, Libya, Yemen, Syria, etc.*) + various field visits.
 - **P2P** (Afghanistan, Mozambique – upcoming OPR DRC)
- Focus on erecting **OPAG** and **RGs**:
 - First OPAG meeting a success
 - RGs working on finalizing list of concrete deliverables until end 2019 (Principals decisions, IASC workplan, EDG priorities)
 - Firming up relations with EDG and entities associated with the IASC
 - Inclusivity of work
 - 2nd Face to Face meeting first week of November
- Light **review of structures** in March 2020 to determine effectiveness and suitability.

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Coordination of humanitarian action in **response to various crises** (including recently to Mozambique, Venezuela, Yemen, Syria, DRC/Ebola)
- **Humanitarian Reform** (2005): ERC, clusters, etc.
- **Transformative Agenda** (2011): leadership, coordination, accountability
- L3 Review: **Scale-Up Protocols** (completed) and Severe/Sustain designation (near completion).
- **Field Support** (STAIT/ P2P, MHPSS, etc.)
- Development of **guidelines, policies, tools**.
- **Early Warning – Early Action Analysis** (bi-Annual)

EXAMPLES OF IASC PRODUCTS

- Best Practice Guide Inter-Agency **Community-Based Complaints Mechanisms**.
- IASC statement on **Protection in Humanitarian Crises**.
- Guidelines on **Mental Health and Psychosocial support** in Emergency Settings.
- Women, Girls, Boys & Men, Different Needs – Equal Opportunities, a **Gender Handbook** for Humanitarian Action.
- IASC Guidelines for **Gender-based Violence**.
- Inter Agency Standing Operating Procedure (SOPs) for **Early Action El Niño** Southern Oscillation (ENSO).
- **Protecting Persons Affected by Natural Disasters** Operational Guidelines on **Human Rights and Natural Disasters**.
- The IASC **Gender with Age Marker (GAM)** launched in June 2018.
- The IASC **Professional Standards for Protection Work**, launched in 2018 (which sets standards to enhance accountability and effectiveness).

All accessible on the IASC website:

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/resources/iasc-products>



IASC

Inter-Agency
Standing Committee

IASC MEMBERS



IASC STANDING INVITEES

