ICVA Learning Streams

1. Hundreds Join the ICVA-PHAP Webinar on the Grand Bargain: In early March, the final webinar of ICVA’s Humanitarian Financing Learning Stream, "The Grand Bargain and its impact on NGOs" was held. By popular demand, this ‘bonus topic’ provided an overview of the origins and current processes of the Grand Bargain, and discussed in more depth the Grand Bargain workstreams related to: 1) Support to local and national responders, 2) Harmonised and simplified reporting, and 3) Strengthening engagement between humanitarian and development actors. View a recording of the webinar, and access ICVA’s briefing paper on this topic: The Grand Bargain Explained. You can also access previous webinars, briefing papers and videos on: the overall financing landscape, NGO access to UN funding, pooled funding, bilateral funding and private funding.

2. Launching in May: Learning stream on Humanitarian Coordination Following a successful humanitarian learning stream on financing, ICVA is now developing, with PHAP, the next learning stream, focused on Humanitarian Coordination, and the implications for NGOs. Throughout the learning stream, topics will unpack various humanitarian coordination structures at national, regional and global levels; and how NGOs can most meaningfully engage. Our first webinar, held on 31 May, will focus on "The IASC and the Global Humanitarian Coordination Architecture: How can NGOs engage?" Register here.

Forced Displacement

3. Global Compact on Refugees (GCR): In March, ICVA was active in connecting its activities on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) to a variety of initiatives.

- ICVA contributed to the Technical Experts’ Meeting Towards Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees (Entebbe, 7-8 March) organized to prepare the 25 March 2017 IGAD Special Summit on protection and durable solutions for Somali refugees (See the adopted Nairobi Declaration as well as the joint NGO statement).

- On 13 March, UNHCR presented its proposed roadmap towards a Global Compact on Refugees (more details here). NGOs conveyed suggestions and questions, particularly geared towards ensuring civil society can meaningfully and predictably engage.

- ICVA is working with NGOs and UNHCR to ensure the June 2017 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations can feed into the process.

- The 68th Session of the Standing Committee (14-16 March) marked another milestone, with the CRRF featuring prominently in the debates, and Ethiopia, Djibouti and Honduras confirming their intent to apply the CRRF (see Daniel Endres’ Oral Update). In a dedicated joint statement, NGOs recognized UNHCR’s “commendable efforts”, while calling for clarifications on the “opportunities for NGO engagement” in the CRRF/GCR process, and urging “States to support UNHCR, NGOs and all stakeholders” in this perspective.

- As a result of ICVA’s call for the creation of an NGO-IFRC-UNHCR Reference Group on the CRRF, ICVA, UNHCR and partners have defined and adopted the groups terms of reference.
NGOs continued to be active with concrete projects, such as the Initiative on Child Rights in the Global Compacts by Terre des Hommes and Save the Children. The Global Conference on Children on the Move will be held on 12-13 June 2017 in Berlin.

For more information, click here, or contact Jerome.Elie@icvanetwork.org.

4. Last call to register for the 14-16 June UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations: Warning! The deadline to register is May 12. You can find all relevant information on UNHCR’s website. Organized in collaboration with ICVA, this year’s Annual Consultations will focus on the overarching theme of “The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)”. Webinars will be held later in May for registered participants to meet the NGO Rapporteur and Vice Rapporteur and get tips on participating at the Consultations. For more information, contact Secretariat@icvanetwork.org.

5. NGOs Deliver 10 Statements at UNHCR Standing Committee: During UNHCR’s 68th Standing Committee meeting (14-16 March), NGOs delivered statements on Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, MENA, Emergency Preparedness, Coordination & Strategic Partnerships, the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, the follow-up to the High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges and ExCom Conclusions. The NGO statement on the Americas was well received by UNHCR and Member States, with the Americas Bureau stating its openness to collaborate with civil society to address challenges in the region and joint efforts in the stock taking exercise regarding the Brazil Plan of Action, and the announcement that Honduras committed to apply the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. We thank the following NGOs for supporting the drafting and delivery of the statements: ACT Alliance, APRRN, DRC, Fortify Rights, GAR-PAB, InterAction, Legal Resources Center, NRC, QUNO, Save the Children, and World Vision International. More documentation related to the Standing Committee meeting is available on the UNHCR website.

6. Grand Bargain Signatories Gather in Berlin to Plan a Harmonized Reporting Pilot: During the month of March, key progress was made on plans to move forward with piloting harmonized donor reporting. This activity is co-led by German FFO and ICVA as part of the Grand Bargain workstream to harmonize and simplify donor reporting requirements. On 24 March, a core group of interested donors, NGO partners, and UN agencies met in Berlin to agree on the way forward. Key outcomes of that workshop included:

- An affirmation of the pilot objectives to examine the effectiveness of a common donor reporting framework to: 1) Meet the common narrative reporting needs of humanitarian donors; and 2) Reduce the burden of donor reporting for partners in the field.
- Identification of initial pilot locations in Iraq, Somalia, and Myanmar, with an additional location to be decided.
- Agreement to collect further feedback from partners on the proposed “10+3” template.

It is important to move quickly to meet the goal of initiating the pilot before June 2017. For those interested in learning more, please share your intent or interest in participation with Jeremy.Rempel@icvanetwork.org so we can include you in the planning and answer your specific questions.

7. How Can Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) be Better Costed?: On 8 March the IASC Costing Group met for the first time in its expanded form, which now includes NGOs. The IASC wants to review how HRPs are...
costed, especially since some stakeholders do not trust the HRPs’ figures. The current HRP costing approach is mostly project-based costing, but activity-based costing is used in Afghanistan, DRC, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Myanmar, and outcome-based costing is used in Lebanon. When the IASC Principals met last December, they were not ready to endorse the proposal by some actors to systemically shift to activity-based costing (and eventually outcome-based costing) of HRPs. The IASC Costing Group will host focus group discussions in countries where HRPs costings are activity-based, and project-based. These dialogues will provide suggestions for improving costing methodologies for HRPs. The ideas will be presented to the IASC Principals in June 2017. If you work for an NGO and have experience in costing HRPs and want to get involved, please contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org.

8. What is IATI again?: Development Initiatives (DI) and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) Secretariat held a two-part webinar to support Grand Bargain signatory organisations to use the IATI Standard to share information on their humanitarian funding and activities. The first webinar, held 23 February, introduced the IATI Standard within the humanitarian context. The second webinar, held 2 March, explained how data is published, the types of information required, and what support is available to publishers. You can watch the recordings read the background paper. You can also see the slides presented at the 29 March workshop “Working together to improve humanitarian transparency”.

9. What is HDX? HXL? the Centre for HumData?: On 13 March, ICVA attended a briefing by Sarah Telford, OCHA’s Chief of Data Services, at the Dutch Mission in Geneva. Ms Telford oversees a global open data platform, called the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX). She is also the lead for establishing a new center for humanitarian data to be based in The Hague starting at the end of March, called the Centre for Humanitarian Data (humdata). This Centre will focus on:

- **data services** (the most popular being data “cleaning” and data “visualization”, but this also involves directly managing HDX, and promoting the adoption of data standards, including for IATI and HXL, the Humanitarian Exchange Language data standard*);
- **data policy** (did you know there is currently no data policy at OCHA? this work will help partners use data responsibly, safeguard privacy, and handle sensitive data appropriately);
- **data literacy** (including in-person and remote training opportunities, and a data fellows program involving secondments); and
- **network engagement** (by creating physical and virtual spaces for partners to work together on data challenges).

ICVA expressed the need for NGOs of all shapes and sizes to have an opportunity to learn about these initiatives and understand what happens to the data/incentives for contributing data. In addition, linkages should be made to other mechanisms to which they are asked to contribute (e.g. the new Financial Tracking Service, HRPs/HNOs, harmonized reporting, etc.). For more information contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org

**Humanitarian Coordination**

10. How will OCHA Change? OCHA held a Member State briefing on its “Change Management Process” on 10 March. The presentation was delivered by Dr. Bruce Aylward, the current head of OCHA’s Change Management Unit, and made famous for his previous work on polio and Ebola. He started by acknowledging OCHA’s financial crisis, questions of relevance and role in a change world, and pending recommendations from a previous functional review. He argued that there is a strong consensus on the need for OCHA, and agreement on its five core functions: coordination, advocacy, information management, policy and humanitarian financing.
Nevertheless, he said OCHA needs to change because: its processes are not nimble, it is often siloed, its work and costs need to be clarified, it should better support talent, and it needs to prove “value for money.” He outlined a change process that will focus on “what OCHA does”, and then on “how OCHA works”. The briefing concluded on a sober note, with Aylward responding to Member State inquiries about OCHA staff by warning that not all jobs would be preserved. He added that OCHA staff surveyed indicated they would prefer tough decisions to be taken quickly. For what it is worth, ICVA would strongly support the USG’s vision for OCHA to become “a relentless champion of humanitarian principles” and “better value to partners.”

11. High-Level Workshop. The New Way of Working, 13-14 March, Copenhagen: ICVA attended this high-level workshop, organised by UNDP, OCHA, the World Bank and Danida. The objectives of the workshop were to identify and overcome barriers to the New Way of Working (NWoW) and demonstrate high-level support to accelerate this effort. “The [NWoW] can be described as a context-specific approach of working over multiple years towards collective outcomes, based on respective comparative advantages of a diverse set of actors. The approach blends short-term humanitarian tools that respond to shocks and sudden critical developments, with longer-term development interventions that systematically tackle vulnerability and risk”. The NWoW is accepted by many and is encouraged through the Secretary General’s prevention agenda, as well as attractive to donors who feel huge pressures on their funding. Some key issues for NGOs regarding the NWoW include: humanitarian space and principles, staff skill sets, and the overall role of NGOs. This workshop launched Denmark’s joint development cooperation and humanitarian strategy.

12. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals extend L3 responses: at their meeting in March, the IASC Principals agreed to extend the designation of Level-3 for the emergency responses in Syria, Yemen and Iraq for another six months (until the end of August 2017). They called for a strategic assessment of the L3 mechanism, its functionality and appropriateness in protracted emergencies, and how surge capacity can be mobilised and sustained for L3 emergency responses. They also discussed the potential famine in the four contexts (North-Eastern Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia and Yemen) and the opportunities to enhance the mobilisation.

13. IASC Principals’ Statement on ‘Zero Tolerance on Sexual Harassment and Abuse in the Humanitarian Sector’: The Statement, endorsed by the IASC Principals in March 2017, re-affirmed commitments to zero tolerance on sexual harassment and abuse in the humanitarian sector. The statement is accompanied by a letter from Ms. Kate Gilmore, OHCHR, and Ms. Lindsay Coates, InterAction, who were nominated in December 2016 as the IASC Co-Champions to take this issue forward.

14. Emergency Directors Group (EDG) Missions to Somalia and South Sudan: The EDG will go to Somalia from 8-10 April and to South Sudan between 11 - 13 April. Several meetings with NGOs in Somalia, South Sudan as well as in Nairobi are planned. The emergency directors of the following NGOs will be part of the missions: Caritas, Concern, Save the Children and World Vision. For more information contact Emmanuelle.Osmond@icvanetwork.org

15. High-level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen: Co-hosted by the UNSG, Switzerland and Sweden, this event will take place in Geneva on 25 April 2017. The co-hosts are facilitating the participation of six national NGOs from Aden and Sanaa who will coordinate a joint statement

https://www.icvanetwork.org/civicrm/mailing/view?reset=1&id=679&snippet=2
on behalf of civil society. With the aim to raise the much needed USD 2.1 billion, the event will refocus international attention and raise awareness on the critical humanitarian needs in Yemen, call for IHL and humanitarian principles to be respected and an end to hostilities. For more information see the OCHA website.

Humanitarian Partnership

16. ICVA Africa engagement with intergovernmental bodies:

- NGOs present in Dakar, Senegal, for the 10th African Development Week expressed their disappointment at the last minute adjournment of the AU-ECA Conference of Ministers. Jointly hosted by the African Union and UNECA from 23-28 March, this event, under the theme ‘Growth, Inequality and Unemployment’ are important platforms for dialogue and exchange of experience between high level experts and other stakeholders, including member States, academia, civil society and NGOs, and UN agencies.

- Heads of State Special Summit on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees: Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and international organisations met in Nairobi on 24 March to endorse a durable solution for Somali refugees. Ahead of the Summit NGOs called on the international community to show solidarity with IGAD Member States as they commit to finding durable solutions for Somali refugees. Long term and predictable international political and financial support is needed to develop and implement a comprehensive regional approach for Somali refugees and reintegration of returnees in Somalia. Through the Nairobi Declaration IGAD Heads of State and Government declared they would “Collectively pursue a comprehensive regional approach to deliver durable solutions for Somali refugees, whilst maintaining protection and promoting self-reliance in the countries of asylum, with the support of the international community”. They also adopted an accompanying Nairobi Comprehensive Plan of Action for Durable Solutions for Somali refugees. ICVA contributed to the preparations for this Summit at the Technical Experts’ Meeting Towards Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees (Entebbe, 7-8 March). An IGAD representative participated in the ICVA Annual Conference in Geneva, presenting their views on opportunities and challenges of the cooperation among civil society.

For more information contact Marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org ICVA's Regional Representative for Africa.

17. Supporting Chinese Government and NGOs to better understand international humanitarian system: ICVA facilitated a meeting between a research delegation from the Chinese Government and NGO representatives in Geneva. The delegation sought to understand how Chinese NGOs can better participate in the international coordination architecture and learn about humanitarian coordination and financing frameworks, with a focus on response in natural disaster settings. NGO participants highlighted the value of the knowledge gained by international NGOs over many years of humanitarian action and the importance of strong partnerships in facilitating effective response to humanitarian needs. They expressed interest in continuing to support China’s Government and NGOs to strengthen their understanding and engagement with international partners, both regionally and globally. ICVA offered to continue to actively engage with Chinese partners, specifically around our focus areas of humanitarian financing, coordination and partnerships. For more information on ICVA's continued engagement with Chinese NGOs, contact jeremy.willard@icvanetwork.org ICVA's Regional Representative for Asia.
18. Launch of ADRRN Local Leaders’ Guide Towards Resilience and Local Leaders’ Training Programme: ICVA travelled to Nepal for the launch of the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network’s (ADRRN) Local Leaders’ Guide Towards Resilience, which was attended by a range of civil society and government representatives. Prior to this, the Local Leaders’ Training Programme was launched together with municipal officials of Bhimeshwor town, close to the epicenter of the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake in Nepal. ADRRN hopes this will be a useful tool for strengthening local leadership at all levels – including civil society organisations, NGOs and government representatives.

ICVA UPDATES

19. ICVA Regional Representative for MENA: ICVA is pleased to welcome Eman Moankar to the ICVA team as the ICVA Regional Representative for MENA. Eman will focus on developing ICVA’s approach and platforms of engagement in the region. She can be contacted at eman.moankar@icvanetwork.org.

20. ICVA’s March Meetings: The last week in March was a busy time for ICVA, as we hosted several meetings at the CICG in Geneva.

- ICVA’s Annual Conference: Stressing the importance of NGO engagement with host governments: Over 160 participants attended ICVA’s 2017 Annual Conference, How Can Humanitarian Civil Society better Navigate a Complex World? The importance of NGO engagement with host governments. Over the course of the day, panelists and participants unpacked the definitions of humanitarian civil society; whether the space to operate is shrinking or evolving, and how more effective engagement between NGOs and host governments can help NGOs’ ability to operate. Several NGOs showcased their work in engagement with host governments at national levels, providing an opportunity to share lessons and experiences from across the globe.

- The Annual Conference was followed by an NGO-only symposium, where we delved further into the issue sharing experiences, ideas and lessons of NGOs engaging with host governments. Both the Conference and NGO symposium provided a rich foundation for ICVA’s two-year project on strengthening NGO engagement with host governments. The Annual Conference report will be available in the coming month.

- ICVA’s half-day Members’ meeting on March 29, was an opportunity of new and old members to hear more about the work of ICVA, key priority programmes for 2017, preparations for the 2018 General Assembly, to meet the Board and staff, and provide input into the 2018-2020 Strategic plans. Thank you to all who attended.

New and noteworthy

21. Webinar on ECOSOC Consultative Status (5 May 2017): In preparation for the 1 June deadline to apply for consultative status with ECOSOC, the NGO Branch is pleased to invite interested NGOs to an informational session about the application process. The event will be held on-line on 5 May 2017 at 11:00am to 12:30pm EST and will be conducted in English. The meeting will provide answers to the following questions: What is consultative status, which organisations are eligible and what are its
benefits? How the entire application process works starting when the application is submitted to the NGO Branch until ECOSOC makes its final decision? After the presentation, the floor will be open to answer questions from participants, Register for the webinar.

22. Request JIPS support for profiling displacement situations: next deadline for requests is 15 May: Does your operation suffer from a lack of data – or a lack of agreed upon data – concerning displacement-affected populations? Is your operation planning to undertake a profiling exercise but you need some guidance or support to do so? If so, the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) would like to invite you to request for its services in support of profiling displacement situations. JIPS supports collaborative profiling processes and has particular expertise in profiling exercises to support durable solutions and/or in urban settings in collaboration with governments, and humanitarian and development actors. For more information go to the JIPS website, or contact info@jips.org.

23. Inaugural Asia-Pacific Humanitarian Leadership Conference: The Centre for Humanitarian Leadership is hosting an inaugural Asia-Pacific Humanitarian Leadership Conference, from 26-28 April 2017 in Melbourne, Australia. The conference will focus on the themes of diversity and leadership, localization, people on the move and humanitarian ethics and principles. The Centre for Humanitarian Leadership was born from a joint initiative between Deakin University and Save the Children Australia in 2015, delivering education, innovation and research for the humanitarian sector. Please see the website for information and registration.

24. Application open for the Humanitarian Leadership Programme - Programme de Leadership Humanitaire: Applications are now open for the July 2017 intake of the Anglophone version of the Humanitarian Leadership Programme / Graduate Certificate of Humanitarian Leadership (HLP/GCHL) and for the September 2017 intake of the first Francophone version of the course – Programme de Leadership Humanitaire. The 8-month course (including distance and face to face learning) has been designed to enrich understanding of the evolving humanitarian system, develop quality and accountable leadership, and support humanitarian practitioners in the delivery of high level leadership in challenging and complex contexts. Successful students will receive a Graduate Certificate of Humanitarian Leadership from Deakin University and (Deakin University and IRIS for the Francophone course). Apply for the Anglophone HLP or for the francophone PLH.

Forthcoming Events

ICVA Meetings and Events

May 31: Humanitarian learning stream webinar - IASC and the global humanitarian coordination architecture: How can NGOs engage?

Other Meetings and Events:

April 5-6: 92nd IASC Working Group meeting, Rome
April 26-28: Asia-Pacific Humanitarian Leadership Conference, Melbourne, Australia
May 4-5: European Network on Statelessness conference “Protecting Stateless Persons from Arbitrary Detention” Budapest
May 5: Webinar on ECOSOC Consultative Status
June 4-6: Asia Pacific Regional Humanitarian Partnerships Forum, Bangkok (TBC)
June 12-13: Global Conference on Children on the Move, Berlin
June 14-16: UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations, Geneva
June 20: World Refugee Day
June 20: Annual Meeting of the Grand Bargain signatories, Geneva
June 21-23: ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, Geneva
June 28-30: UNHCR Standing Committee 69th Meeting, Geneva
August 19: World Humanitarian Day
September 20-21: UNHCR Standing Committee 70th Meeting, Geneva
October 2-6: UNHCR Executive Committee 68th meeting, Geneva,
November 28 - December 1: IOM 108th Council, Geneva
November 30: IASC Principals
December 6-7: High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges, Geneva

ICVA Secretariat
Avenue Giuseppe-Motta 26-28
Geneva, GE CH 1202
Switzerland

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