ICVA express its deepest sympathy and support to the patients, staff and community of Medecins Sans Frontieres who lost their lives or were wounded following the air strike on the MSF hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan.

ICVA condemns this airstrike, which has devastating impacts on humanitarian action and the ability of humanitarian organizations to support those affected by crisis and conflict in neutral, independent and impartial ways. Now, more than ever, ICVA joins MSF and other humanitarian colleagues to call for respect of humanitarian principles and International Humanitarian Law.

### Forced Displacement

1. **NGOs identify 10 urgent steps to address the refugee crisis in Europe and beyond**: The EU and European donor governments who are often so nimble in supporting humanitarian assistance overseas have struggled to cope with the surge of refugees and migrants on their own territory. ICVA called together an urgent civil society meeting to exchange information on who was doing what, where, and then worked with partners to issue a public release recommending 10 urgent steps. UNHCR’s portal on the Refugee Crisis in Europe is accessible. For more information, contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org.

2. **Successful UNHCR Executive Committee meeting**: From 5 - 9 October, ICVA heavily involved in UNHCR Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting. This ExCom included a High Level Segment on Afghan refugees with an NGO statement delivered within this session, in addition to statements on the general debate, program, protection and the Annual Consultation. ICVA sincerely thanks our partners in developing and delivering NGO statements through ExCom. NGO statements here, and read the Storify account to get a flavour of the meetings here.

3. **Budget and compliance issues dominate UNHCR's Standing Committee meeting**: UNHCR’s new Deputy High Commissioner Kelly Clements presided over the 21-22 UNHCR Standing Committee (SCOM) meeting. She is very familiar with UNHCR and has repeatedly emphasized the importance of partnership. NGO representatives who read the SCOM background documents and listened to the SCOM interventions were troubled by two issues. First, UNHCR's needs-based budget has grown, but its income has not kept pace. Several African delegations raised concerns about the impact of these funding shortfalls in their continent in particular. Second, audit bodies and several Member States are urging UNHCR to tighten its oversight of NGO projects and cut NGO costs at every opportunity. ICVA called for a more balanced approach that provides NGOs the space and support they need to deliver. For more information, contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org.

4. **Who wants to be the next UN High Commissioner for Refugees?** Applications for the post of UN High Commissioner for Refugees were due on 14 September. Sources say over a dozen people have applied. As we did 15 and 10 years ago, ICVA has issued a public call encouraging applicants to publicly answer five key questions. Our goal is to promote transparency -- not back any particular candidate. The deadline for responses to ICVA's questions has been extended to 12 October. Some applicants have already agreed to participate. Answers will be published.
shortly thereafter in special edition of the ICVA Monthly Bulletin. For more information or to come forward to participate, please contact secretariat@icvanetwork.org.

5. Structured Dialogue Mission in Myanmar: Mark your calendars! ICVA's Asia Regional Representative is working with UNHCR colleagues to finalise the date for the Structured Dialogue on Partnerships and Collaboration in Myanmar. As a result of the ongoing response to Cyclone Komen the seasonal monsoon flood, and November 8 election, the Structured Dialogue will most likely be held in the first week of December. If you or your agency would like to participate, please contact jamie.munn@icvanetwork.org.

6. Structured Dialogue Consultation in Bangkok: A joint ICVA-UNHCR Regional Structured Dialogue consultation was held in Bangkok on 22 September 2015 to follow-up on the implementation of the High Commissioner’s Structured Dialogue on UNHCR-IFRC-NGO Partnership. Building on the outcomes of previous regional consultations in 2013 and 2014, the goal of this consultation was to evaluate the state of UNHCR-NGO partnerships in Asia and to support actions for further partnership strengthening and complementarity. Areas identified by participants as priorities and in need for further improvement included information sharing, capacity strengthening, advocacy and joint planning together with urban settings. For more information, access the consultation Report or watch a video highlights.

7. 2015 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations on Solutions: A big thanks to Zainab Jafri of ICVA member SHARP Pakistan for pulling together her report on the 2015 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations. The overarching theme was solutions. Four issues emerged: the need for comprehensive approaches, collective advocacy for funding, strategic partnerships, and an inclusive approach. Zainab presented her report to UNHCR's Executive Committee on 9 October.

8. 2015 IOM-CSO Consultations: ICVA was pleased to serve as the Rapporteur at the 18 September Annual IOM-CSO Consultations. The day-long talks featured ICVA members DRC and ICMC on comprehensive approaches to protecting and saving migrant lives; public perceptions of migrants; climate adaption, and a terrifying but stimulating session led by ICVA member World Vision on migration futures. The report will be available shortly.

9. Community Resilience and Disaster-Related Displacement in South Asia: On 28 September, in Bangkok, Thailand, the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), ICVA Asia, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Praxis Lab co-hosted the launch of the NRC-commissioned report, "Community Resilience and Disaster-Related Displacement in South Asia". For more information please contact jamie.munn@icvanetwork.org

Humanitarian Partnerships

10. World Humanitarian Summit: 

a. Release of the WHS Synthesis Report: Ahead of the Global Consultation, the World Humanitarian Summit Synthesis report is now available. Reflecting the various consultations, the Synthesis Report and its Executive Summary focus on key issues and emerging recommendations in the distinct areas of: safety, dignity, resilience, partnerships and finance. The WHS Secretariat has also launched a public facing microsite to accessibly share the report's five action areas.

b. WHS Global Consultations, 14 – 16 October: Following the conclusion of an extensive consultation process, culminating in the release of the WHS Synthesis Report, the WHS Global Consultations will be held from October 14 – 16. The Global Consultation completes the consultative process, launching the next phase of action to address the most pressing humanitarian challenges. Access the briefing pack.

c. WHS Global Consultation – 13 October preparatory stakeholder session: For NGO representatives attending the Global Consultation, a preparatory stakeholder session with representatives from civil society organizations and national and international NGOs, will be held from on 13
October from 2:00 - 5:00 pm at the Palais des Nations. ICVA, together with other consortia will be facilitating dedicated breakout sessions based on the emerging themes. NGO representatives will need to arrive no later than 1:00 pm. If you have any questions on the pre-session, please contact Ms. Reshmi Theckethil at reshmi.theckethil@undp.org.

11. Humanitarian Principles: The protection of civilians: On 12 September, ICVA’s MENA hub supported the NGO Forum in Turkey in organizing a discussion on protection of civilians and the use of force in the northern Syria context. The discussions focused on questions and considerations to be taken into account when deciding whether and when to advocate for the use of force in the protection of civilians from indiscriminate attacks.

ICVA’s MENA Regional Representative was joined by experts from the Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC) and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. ICVA’s interventions made the link to potential implications for humanitarian organizations with respect to the humanitarian principles, and especially the principle of neutrality. The discussions will inform the members of the NGO Forum in Turkey in their subsequent discussions on joint advocacy on the question. For more information, please contact reza.kasrai@icvanetwork.org.

12. Understanding and Implementing the Code of Conduct: In early September our Asia regional rep was in Bogor Indonesia to host a two-day Symposium entitled “Our Principles in Action: Understanding and Implementing the Code of Conduct” in partnership with ICRC and Humanitarian Forum Indonesia. More than 80 NGO and civil society representatives participated in the event which focused on faith-based organisations and their relationships to the Humanitarian Principles, Code of Conduct and Principles of Partnership. Please view the Programme. If you would like for more information, contact jamie.munn@icvanetwork.org.

13. NGO Coordination Resource Centre: Now available in Arabic and French: Over the last month, ICVA has translated key NGO coordination content into both Arabic and French. Please share with your colleagues and visit the resource centre to access information in Arabic and French related to convening NGO Coordination bodies; processes in development of a position/joint statement or a press release, and many other relevant topics. Visit the online resource centre at www.ngocoordination.org.

14. Inter Agency Standing Committee:

a. IASC Working Group: The IASC Working Group will meet on October 12-13 to define its priorities for 2016 – 2017. Based on discussions with members, ICVA’s advocacy efforts will focus on supporting operational effectiveness in emergency settings and strengthening partnerships with local and national NGOs.

b. Emergency Directors Group: The next EDG meeting will take place on 26 October in Geneva. This upcoming meeting aims to develop recommendations to inform Level 3 classifications amongst IASC Principals. Key questions will focus on how to adapt the L3 mechanism to support protracted crises and better respond to humanitarian needs. For more information on these upcoming IASC meetings, please contact Raphael.Gorgeu@icvanetwork.org.

15. High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing: Members of the Secretary General’s High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing (HLP) recently participated in their second face-to-face meeting. Members of the HLP have identified potential areas for action including more flexibility in funding in exchange for more transparency.

Additional potential action areas include: the need to advocate for more appropriate financing instruments to respond to protracted crises and displacement situations; exploring greater use of Islamic social finance for
humanitarian action; and advancing the use of cash and digital cash at greater scale in humanitarian crises, including remittances. The next HLP meeting will occur in late October, with the launch of the report tentatively planned for January 2016. ICVA continues to support and coordinate NGO contributions to the HLP. NGOs interested in contributing to this discussion can contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.

16. OCHA commissioned study on front-line responders: Inline with the priorities of the Humanitarian Financing Task Team, an independent study has been released, commissioned by OCHA on Improving Funding for Front-Line Responders: Opportunities and Options for Pooled Humanitarian Funds*. This report represents a key output from recent efforts in exploring options for pooled funding in places where no country-based pooled funds (CBPF) exist. The study considered how to increase funding for frontline responders, including local and national NGOs, which received only 0.2 percent of direct international humanitarian funding in 2014. The study also considered what a global facility could look like. Various potential ways forward have been identified, highlighting the importance of tailoring the facility in different contexts and scenarios. Access the full report here. Further consideration is needed to identify next steps, for more information, please contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.

New and Noteworthy


18. Child friendly feedback and complaint mechanisms: ICVA members Plan, World Vision and Save the Children recently participated in an interagency study on child friendly feedback and complaint mechanisms within NGO programs. See the Report or contact Anna Wood on anna_wood@wvi.org for more information.

19. Communicating Protection: ICVA member Oxfam is working on behalf of the Global Protection Cluster to develop a package of communication materials to help promote a clear, common understanding of protection. To help them get the content, language, form and formats right, please take this 15 minute survey.

20. Migrants in Countries in Crisis: On September 9 ICVA participated in the MICIC Initiative’s global webinar on the role civil society plays in assisting and protecting migrants caught in countries experiencing conflicts or natural disasters. To learn more and watch the video click here.

21. Alternatives to Detention: Kudos to ICVA member International Detention Coalition (IDC) for launching during Human Rights Council its research entitled There are alternatives, with guidance to successfully avoid unnecessary detention and to ensure community options are as effective as possible.

22. Launch of Alternatives to Camps - Making it work: Key Action #1: Settlement and Shelter Responses is the first of a series of good practice and guidance to assist field operations in implementing the key actions outlined in the UNHCR Policy on Alternatives to Camps.

23. Core Humitarian Standards Alliance: The launch of the CHS Alliance and the 2015 Humanitarian Accountability Report: On the Road to Istanbul—Can the World Humanitarian Summit make humanitarian response more effective? takes place at the CICG, Geneva on 9 October from 9.30am. For more information please contact mgarrard@chsalliance.org.

24. World Disasters Report 2015: The 2015 World Disasters Report was launched on 24 September by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
25. **STAIT webinars on application of Humanitarian Principles**: The Norwegian Refugee Council, Handicap International, the Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team (STAIT) and PHAP, are holding two webinars on the field-level implementation of principled humanitarian action. Click [here](#) for more information and to register for **Realities of Being Principled in Today’s Field Operations** on 8 October. Click here for more information and to register for 22 October webinar on **Humanity, Neutrality, Impartiality, and Independence: Are these principles applied in today’s humanitarian operations?**

### ICVA updates

26. **ICVA’s new Director of Partnership and Policy**: ICVA is pleased to announce the appointment of Raphael Gorgeu to the position of Director of Partnership and Policy. He has served in over 15 countries and has held positions with Handicap International in Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, as Emergency Manager with Medecins Du Monde in Paris, and with Medicines Sans Frontieres in Yemen, Haiti and most recently as Head of Mission and Representative in South Sudan. Raphael can be reached at Raphael.gorgeu@icvanetwork.org

27. **ICVA Open Board meeting on the WHS**: On 6 October, ICVA held an open session with Board members and NGOs, sharing perspectives on the emerging WHS recommendations in advance of the forthcoming Global Consultations. The meeting, attended by over 30 NGO representatives, provided an open, informed space for excellent dialogue. Key messages included the need to emphasis Member States’ political responsibility to address political inaction leading to humanitarian crisis; the need to amplify a smaller number of non-negotiable recommendations for the WHS; and a need to closely look at the mechanics of change, and how the humanitarian community can implement its own recommendations.

### Upcoming Events

- **5-9 October**: UNHCR Executive Committee Meeting (Geneva)
- **9 October**: Regional IASC meeting (Dakar)
- **11-16 October**: Joint UNHCR – ICVA Structured Dialogue mission to Chad to discuss UNHCR – IFRC – NGO partnerships (Chad)
- **14-16 October**: WHS Global Consultations (Geneva)
- **19-22 October**: NGO Consortia and Coordination Symposium (Bangkok)
- **20 October**: UNICEF CSO Training for Implementing Partners (Dakar)
- **28-29 October**: Sphere training (Dakar)
- **2 November**: BBR/ICVA Interagency discussion on coordination (Dakar)
- **4-6 November**: BBR training, Dakar
- **11 December**: IASC Principals Meeting (Geneva)
- **16-17 December**: UNHCR High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges (Geneva)

**2016**

- **15-17 March**: UNHCR Standing Committee on Operations (Geneva)
- **4 April**: ICVA Annual Conference (Geneva)
- **23-24 May**: World Humanitarian Summit (Istanbul, Turkey)
- **13-15 June**: Annual Tripartite Consultations on Refugee Resettlement (Geneva)
- **15-17 June**: UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations (Geneva)
- **20 June**: World Refugee Day
- **20-22 June**: ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (New York)
- **19 August**: World Humanitarian Day