Dear members and friends of ICVA,

As we move into 2016, we would like to share with you key elements of ICVA's work and priorities for the year.

ICVA’s priority is to promote and sustain stronger NGO engagement in the development of the humanitarian sector and its policies.

We believe that since NGOs implement the vast majority of humanitarian action, an increased and sustainable NGO contribution at the decision making level has a positive change on humanitarian dynamics, better reflects operational and field realities and better serves populations affected by humanitarian crises.

We are fine-tuning our ways of work to increase NGO overall impact and contribution to humanitarian action. Going forward we will focus on:

- Increasing the range of platforms for stronger NGO engagement with key actors influencing the humanitarian sector. Acknowledging the globalization of the humanitarian landscape, ICVA will look at increasing its engagement with emerging political and humanitarian players and the private sector.
- Supporting and coordinating collective NGO advocacy on key humanitarian issues. (i.e. World Humanitarian Summit, humanitarian financing, forced displacement, coordination).
- Increasing opportunities for members and NGOs to join ICVA initiatives to work together on policy and advocacy, through simplifying processes and further investment in communication. A special focus will ensure greater participation of Southern, midsized, and national NGOs, and NGO fora.

By adjusting our approach in response to growing demands, we expect ICVA’s work and impact to best serve its members, other NGOs, the overall humanitarian sector and above all people affected by humanitarian crisis.

Thank you for joining this effort.
With our best regards,
Nan Buzard (Executive Director) and the ICVA Team
1. ICVA's 2016 Annual Conference will be held on Tuesday, 5 April at the CICG in Geneva, Switzerland (please note the change in date). The theme this year is “Complementarity in humanitarian action: what does it mean? What does it look like? What are the risks and benefits?” The conference will focus on what “complementarity” means, and how it is understood and applied in humanitarian action and relationships. The conference will include keynote speaker sessions, interactive panel discussions and question and answer sessions. Read more… Registration is now open - please register using the online registration form. The deadline for registration is 22 March 2016. For more information contact conference@icvanetwork.org

2. ICVA Asia: recruitment of a new representative is ongoing. In the meantime, Raphael Gorgeu, Director of Partnership and Policy, and James Schell, Programme Coordinator, from ICVA Geneva, will be in Bangkok and Jakarta from 15-22 February to meet with members and other key humanitarian actors in the region to discuss plans for ICVA in Asia for 2016. Please contact ICVAasia@icvanetwork.org for more information.

3. IKEA Foundation: We are pleased to announce a €1 million grant from the IKEA Foundation in support of our work to influence humanitarian policy. The grant will support ICVA's efforts to help national and international organizations that respond to emergencies make their voices heard and influence policy on important global issues such as forced displacement. Jonathan Spampinato, Head of Strategic Planning and Communications at the Ikea Foundation said “We're proud to give ICVA a €1 million grant so aid organizations can find better ways of working together to protect and support children and their families”

4. Will 2016 Be the Year of Solidarity for Refugees and Migrants? As we grapple with increasingly complex and overwhelming challenges related to large-scale displacement, the international community has several opportunities to express its solidarity this year.
   a) Appeals: ICVA participated in UNHCR’s 14 January inter-agency meeting on 2016’s Refugee Response Plans, which will request a total of $6.7 billion to support operations related to Syria, Europe, West Africa/Nigeria, Burundi, South Sudan and Yemen. Several events are being planned to raise awareness about these plans, and UNHCR urged for collective effort to generate needed funding. For more information, visit the UNHCR website.

   b) Admissions: The one tangible method to reduce smuggling and trafficking is to provide people with alternative pathways to mobility. On 21 January ICVA hosted a meeting for NGOs to learn from UNHCR about plans for the 30 March “High Level Meeting on Global Responsibility Sharing through Pathways for Admission of Syrian Refugees” to be held in Geneva. The goal is to provide 10% of the Syrian refugee population with resettlement and other forms of admission over the next three years. ICVA members who would like to get involved in preparations are encouraged to
c) Conclusions: UNHCR’s Executive Committee has decided to pursue a two-year workplan for negotiating Conclusions on International Protection, with a focus in 2016 on “international cooperation from a protection and solutions perspective” and “youth”. ICVA will host a meeting for NGOs on later this month to explore options for NGO engagement. If interested, please contact Secretariat@icvanetwork.org.

d) 19 September UNGA Event: In a 22 December 2015 decision, the UN General Assembly decided to hold a “High-Level Plenary Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants” on 19 September 2016 in New York. It requested the Secretary-General prepare a comprehensive report no later than May 2016 setting out recommendations on ways to address large movements of refugees and migrants. The Secretary-General appointed Ms. Karen AbuZayd as his special adviser to prepare the report and support the General Assembly in its build-up to the event. To inform the report, interested NGOs can email written submissions outlining their concerns, expectations and specific recommendations about what the event should achieve to Noel Calhoun at calhoun@un.org.

e) Obama UNGA Event: On 22 January in Davos, US Secretary of State John Kerry announced that a separate high-level event will be hosted by US President Obama on the margins of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly focused on refugees. Event participants will be asked to make commitments in three areas: 1) broader and deeper commitments to funding UN humanitarian appeals; 2) expanded resettlement and other legal channels for humanitarian admissions, and 3) facilitating refugee inclusion and self-reliance. For more details, click HERE.

5. Humanitarians Rally to Respond to the Refugee Crisis Europe: The month of January was brimming with discussions about the refugee crisis in Europe, culminating in the 25 January launch of the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RRMRP). UN High Commissioner Filippo Grandi presented the Plan, which includes 67 partners and covers operations in Turkey, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and the broader region. He expressed his worry about politicization of the refugee/migrant issue and resulting xenophobia and hostility, and pointed out that the only way to stabilize the situation is to obtain peace in Syria. IOM’s DG William Swing called for long-term thinking and alternative pathways to mobility. Save the Children’s Anita Bay Bundegaard presented an NGO perspective, emphasizing the need to prioritize protecting people – human lives - over protecting borders. To learn more about the context, see Forced Migration Review #51 called “Destination Europe”.

6. How Do You Ensure Migrants Don’t Fall Through the Cracks? ICVA Secretariat and several members participated in the 28-29 January civil society consultation of the “Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative” (a.k.a. MICIC) in Geneva. The consultations focused on identifying best practice in the pre-crisis, emergency and post-crisis recovery phases. ICVA served as Rapporteur on a session focused on communicating with and about migrants.
– which highlighted the need for stronger civil society action to improve the public perception of migrants. You can share good practices being collected in the MICIC repository.

7. UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations: ICVA and UNHCR have revised the agenda for the 15-17 June Consultations based upon inputs from refugee youth as well NGO and UNHCR staff. An update on next steps will be disseminated as soon as the roster of NGO session coordinators is confirmed. For more information see the UNHCR website or contact Sophie.Helle@icvanetwork.org if you have any questions.

8. ICVA, InterAction, and UNHCR are updating plans for further roll-out of the UNHCR-IFRC-NGO Structured Dialogue on Partnership at the regional, country and thematic levels. ICVA is particularly focused on the theme capacity strengthening. Contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org if you would like to get involved.

Humanitarian Partnerships

9. World Humanitarian Summit: With the publication of the UN Secretary General’s Report “One Humanity-Shared responsibility” and less than four months until the WHS, humanitarian stakeholders are encouraged to bring ready-made commitments to announce at Istanbul. Anticipating an increase in momentum leading up to the Summit, in addition to disseminating key information and promoting opportunities for dialogue with NGOs, ICVA will: a) amplify NGO voices, commitments and propositions for the WHS; b) build on ICVA’s focus on the Principles of Partnership; c) amplify NGO voices in discussions and recommendations on localization, emphasizing ICVA’s focus on complementarity; and d) facilitate NGO engagement in discussions related to financing humanitarian action.

A range of initiatives are underway at ICVA, including preparing for ICVA’s Annual Conference on complementarity; convening a range of thematic task teams; disseminating briefing papers; and influencing the next steps on the High Level Panel’s report on humanitarian financing, particularly through the proposed “grand bargain” (see item 15). For more information, contact james.schell@icvanetwork.org

Humanitarian Coordination

10. IASC – Emergency Directors Group (EDG) donor Meeting (Geneva): The refinements to the L3 mechanism as agreed by the IASC Principals at their December 2015 meeting were presented to the EDG, which endorsed the approach of differentiating between L3 surge “scale up” phase and a “consolidation” phase. There was extensive discussion with the Donors about financing and the potential “grand bargain” (see item 15), and also about the humanitarian-development interface during the session on Rethinking Support and Delivery in Protracted Crisis. Minutes will be available soon.
11. IASC working Group: The next meeting will be in New York from 8-9 March. The agenda is to be finalized. The IASC Working Group 2016-2017 Strategy is now available. ICVA will engage in a) Humanitarian Financing as the co-lead of the Humanitarian Financing Task Team; b) in transparency/cooperation initiatives for greater inclusivity and reach out within the IASC; and c) capacity building of first line responders.

12. Mission to Nigeria: A team of ICVA's Executive Director, West Africa Regional Representative and West Africa Programme Officer travelled to Nigeria in January to get a better understanding of the situation and assess ways of supporting NGO coordination and advocacy. With over 2.2 million displaced people in the North East of Nigeria and largely under addressed humanitarian needs, this crisis does not get the attention it deserves. In a country with little previous humanitarian experience, and the widespread belief that a leading African economy should be able to solve its own problems, humanitarian concerns are at risk of being overshadowed by early recovery initiatives and return agendas. ICVA will continue supporting the INGO fora including relaying messages calling for greater attention to this under-acknowledged humanitarian crisis in upcoming global and regional events.

13. Joint operations plan Zika: Under the lead of the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN system is mobilizing a coordinated response to the Zika virus infection and its possible association with congenital malformations, with the aim to minimize the threat in affected countries and reducing the risk of further international spread. IASC partners meet on 4 February to discuss a draft response strategy (see draft summary). For those of you already engaged with Zika please contact Scott Pendergast pendergasts@who.int to provide information on the 4Ws.

14. El Niño phenomenon: The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) develops global reports and advocacy regarding preparedness and response activities addressing the El Niño phenomenon. Currently OCHA provides a monthly global overview, a weekly news update, and ad hoc collections of personal stories of El Niño response. OCHA also maintains a website with a specific El Niño page. If you would like your organisation's stories or updates to be included in OCHA products and website, please contact Matthew Serventy, serventy@un.org

Humanitarian Financing

15. NGOs to Be Consulted on the "grand bargain": At the 9-10 February Solutions Alliance Roundtable, European Commission Vice President Kristalina Georgieva announced that the three NGO consortia of the IASC, (ICVA, Interaction and SCHR), will be invited to engage in discussions related to the formulation of the "grand bargain". The first meeting of high level "sherpas" will take place in Amsterdam on 29 February. She hopes the three NGO consortia will give a voice to their members, and speak for “all.” ICVA will reach out to its members to articulate a process for engagement. ICVA Secretariat's initial thoughts are to promote concrete recommendations
around the following:

- Promoting a diversity of financing options (rather than centralization)
- Ensure that first line responders can benefit from the "grand bargain", while boosting their operational capacity
- Improving transparency around transaction costs along the chain of what the High Level Panel calls “fundermediaries”
- Reducing burdensome donor conditions (building on the findings of the ICVA member-supported #LessPaperMoreAid campaign)

16. **Launch of “Too Important to Fail: Addressing the Humanitarian Financing Gap”:** ICVA’s Board Chair, Dr. Ahmad Faizal Perdaus, attended the 17 January launch in Dubai of the High Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing’s report. See ICVA’s one-page summary of the report. We thank Danny Sriskandarahah, the Secretary General of CIVICUS, for providing a civil society perspective on the Panel. Our current focus is to gain clarity on the process for follow-up to the report, particularly as it relates to NGO involvement in the so called “grand bargain.”

17. **“Less Paper, More Aid” Campaign Gains Momentum:** This NGO-funded project will analyze and communicate the impact of donor conditions on NGO field and headquarters staff. We would like to thank several NGOs, including NRC, DRC, CARE, ICMC and INTERSOS, for funding the project, as well as VOICE and CHS Alliance for their participation in its design. We are currently compiling evidence related to donor reporting challenges - highlighting the costs associated, best practices and suggestions for improvement. The initial outcomes of this research will inform the discussion around the "grand bargain" recommendation from the HLP report (mentioned above). In the coming two months we will also analyze the impact of particular due diligence and audit processes in two field operations and start looking into additional conditions sought by UN agencies of their NGO partners. NGO colleagues willing to contribute to this initiative can contact: Cecilia Roselli cecilia.roselli@icvanetwork.org.

18. **IASC HFTT Develops Two-Year Work Plan on Humanitarian Financing:** ICVA co-chaired with OCHA/CERF the 26-27 January retreat of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Humanitarian Financing Task Team (IASC HFTT). Nearly 50 participants from the UN, ICRC, IFRC, IOM, several NGOs, World Bank and other entities took stock of their 2014-2015 results (see ICVA-commissioned review). They engaged the Secretariats of the High Level Panel (HLP) and World Humanitarian Summit and co-chairs of the Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative to find synergies. Finally, they began planning their 2016-2017 work plan, including a discussion of the HLP’s "grand bargain". To learn more, please contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org.

19. **ICVA Hands Over Chairmanship of CBPF Platform:** ICVA co-chaired with OCHA the 15 December OCHA-NGO Platform meeting on Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) in New York. The meeting provided OCHA’s latest thoughts on improving funding for front-line responders, lessons learned in the Syria context, ACBAR’s twinning program for capacity strengthening in Afghanistan, and findings from a survey of NGOs on the impact of the new CBPF global guidelines. Read a summary of the meeting.
Now that two years have passed since its inception, the NGO co-chair role is moving from ICVA to Oxfam. We wish Oxfam and OCHA the best.

20. OCHA Seeks Applicants for Pooled Fund Manager Associate Surge Pool: In light of a newly opened OCHA Associate Surge Pool (ASP) for Fund Managers, OCHA is seeking assistance in identifying potential non-OCHA-staff individuals for the P3 and P4 level rosters currently open on INSPIRA at careers.un.org. They are looking for experienced humanitarians, with the relevant years of experience and knowledge in managing programme cycles, budgets along with workplans, and who understand the processes associated with proposals, submissions, review, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, etc. The posting period is until 25 February, 2016. Successful individuals will be added to the roster and be eligible for deployment for three months to a year (364 days) to Country Offices where OCHA has a country-based pooled fund. If you are not a current OCHA staff member and are interested in being on the roster, please apply.

New and Noteworthy

21. APRRN’s report: “Positive Practices in Refugee Protection in the Asia Pacific Region” compiles 17 case studies from APRRN members around the region and their contribution towards refugee protection. For any questions or comments please feel free to contact the APRRN Secretariat at evan@aprrn.info.

22. Protection of displaced LGBTIs: IOM and UNHCR are pleased to announce the release of a comprehensive training package on the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants and stateless persons. All modules include a facilitation guide, participant workbook and presentation. These materials can be accessed at the following locations: www.usrap.iom.int/training, http://www.unhcrexchange.org/topics/15810 and https://goo.gl/T7Z9Dy.

23. STAIT Webinar: as part of the Transformative Agenda Webinar Series the next webinar will take place on Thursday 18 February 2016 on Preparedness: Can we learn from the Nepal earthquake response? For more information and to register please go HERE.

24. Urban Refugee Task Team (URTT) Webinar: on 23 February the URTT invite you to a webinar on measuring the well-being of refugees in urban areas. ICVA member Women’s Refugee Commission working with the Development Research Institute at NYU has developed an easy-to-use tool to capture the collective impact of assistance and service. For more information and to join the webinar click HERE.

25. “Connecting with the Past” conference report now available: ICVA was pleased to participate in this conference - Executive Director, Nan Buzard, convened one of the panel sessions. Read the report from the conference on “Fundamental principles of International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in critical historical perspective” and watch the related video on “History and Humanitarianism: Understanding humanitarian action
Upcoming Events

2016

18 February: STAIT Webinar: Preparedness: Can we learn from the Nepal Earthquake response

23 February: Urban Refugee Task Team (URTT) Webinar

8-9 March: IASC Working Group meeting (New York)

15-17 March: UN Secretary General High level meeting on global responsibility sharing through pathways for admission of Syrian refugees (Geneva)

5 April: ICVA Annual Conference (Geneva)

23-24 May: World Humanitarian Summit (Istanbul, Turkey)

7 June: IASC Principals Meeting (Washington DC)

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)

21-23 June: UNHCR Standing Committee Meeting on Protection (Geneva)

19 August: World Humanitarian Day

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