ICVA Bulletin #2
Highlights for February 2016

ICVA Updates

1. Register now for ICVA’s 2016 Annual Conference: “Complementarity in Humanitarian Action” – Tuesday, 5 April: The Conference, to be held on Tuesday, 5 April at the CICG in Geneva, will discuss what “complementarity” means, its relationship to humanitarian effectiveness and in local and national leadership. The Annual Conference will include a series of conversations on how complementarity is understood and applied in various humanitarian relationships - through ideological, institutional and operational lenses. The Conference will also discuss complementarity and its relationship with local and national humanitarian leadership in the lead up to the World Humanitarian Summit.

There is a lot of interest in this conference, so we are limiting registration to two seats per ICVA member organization, one seat per non-member organization. Register online to secure your seat before 22 March. Please contact conference@icvanetwork.org with any queries.

2. ICVA Asia: Meeting members, partners and looking forward: In mid February, ICVA’s Director of Partnerships and Policy, Raphael Gorgeu and Program Coordinator, James Schell, visited both Bangkok and Jakarta to meet with members and partners. A number of meetings with members, the UN and regional organizations confirmed the importance of maintaining ICVA’s engagement with key platforms including IASC Regional Directors Group, the IASC Emergency Preparedness Group and to strengthen links between civil society and ASEAN and the AHA Centre. Throughout 2016, ICVA will continue a strong reach out to national NGOs throughout Asia. Please contact james.schell@icvanetwork.org as ICVA’s interim focal point in Asia.

Forced Displacement

3. Will States offer Syrian refugees a second chance? UNHCR’s 30 March Pledging Conference (or “High Level Meeting on Global Responsibility Sharing Through Pathways for Admission of Syrian Refugees”) is fast approaching. It will be chaired by the UN Secretary General and serve as the first big event of UNHCR’s new High Commissioner. ICVA members can read about our consultations (January and February) with UNHCR on the event. NGOs broadly welcome this initiative as a way to encourage member states to explore complementary pathways for refugees from Syria, such as work/education visas, private sponsorships, extended family reunification and other temporary admissions programmes. NGOs have urged for more ambitious pledging targets and for safeguarding vulnerability-based pathways managed by UNHCR, such as resettlement and humanitarian

Contents

ICVA Updates
1. Register now for ICVA’s 2016 Annual Conference
2. ICVA Asia

Forced Displacement
3. Will States offer Syrian refugees a second chance?
4. Supporting Syria and the Region
5. Solutions Alliance Roundtable
6. Diverse stakeholders gather to discuss coordination of migration
7. Planning underway for the June 2016 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations focused on youth
8. UNHCR ExCom members move closer to negotiating Conclusions
9. Challenges and prospects of humanitarian response in Yemen
10. High Level Panel on Statelessness

Humanitarian Partnerships
11. World Humanitarian Summit: Momentum building in the lead up to the World Humanitarian Summit
admissions, that afford the maximum international protection. A draft NGO statement, to be delivered at the 30 March conference is available to ICVA members for feedback. Contact Sophie.Helle@icvanetwork.org, for more information.

4. Supporting Syria and the Region: On 4 February 2016 the UK Government hosted a conference, in London, on the Syria crisis. The event, co-hosted by the UN and the Governments of Kuwait, Norway and Germany, was a head-of-state level continuation of the previous pledging conferences held in Kuwait. In addition to the pledges made by member states, Syria’s neighbouring countries made commitments, notably on livelihoods and education, through compacts. On the day before the pledging conference, the British NGO consortium (BOND) and Crisis Action held a civil society conference. Syrian, regional and international civil society organizations, in addition to UN agencies and donor and member state delegations were in attendance.

ICVA’s MENA Hub had facilitated a process through which a number of national NGOs from the Syria region were selected to be invited to London. Although all of these national NGOs were invited by the organizers to the CSO conference on 3 February, the invitations by the UK Government to the 4 February were marked by a lack of transparency and last-minute changes resulting in a limited number of NGO representatives.

5. Solutions Alliance Roundtable: ICVA Secretariat and many ICVA members attended the 9-10 February Brussels meeting of the Solutions Alliance. The most interesting part of the event was the “speed dating” process to learn about various initiatives related to data collection, self-reliance, rights protection, etc. Also intriguing were the country-specific breakout sessions on Tanzania, Somalia, Uganda and Zambia. There was some confusion about the Alliance’s new governing structure which was quickly announced at the end of the event. ICVA is keen to work with others to follow up the issue of multi-year funding for humanitarians, which is closely linked to discussions underway related to the “Grand Bargain”. Learn more HERE.

6. Diverse stakeholders gather to discuss coordination of migration: ICVA Executive Director Nan Buzard attended UN-DESA’s 14th annual coordination meeting on international migration at the UN in New York on 26 February. Of particular interest to ICVA was the focus on preparation for the 19 September high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants. Earlier this year the Secretary General appointed Ms. Karen AbuZayd as his Special Advisor for the 19 September Summit. She is tasked to work with member states, civil society, international organisations (even an effort to include refugees and migrants!) to prepare a report (she will be meeting with ICVA members in Geneva on March 29). The UN is keen to change the narrative to one of opportunity in human mobility and link to 2030 Agenda (leaving no one behind). The high-level plenary will look at root causes and responsibility to make progress; better protection of large flows including expanded safe and legal pathways; increased financing to bridge gaps and a focus on continuum, not silos; and a coordinated global approach. The assumption is that enlightened State self-interest will be a game changer. The report – out in May – will be 10,000 words and be “bold and ambitious but realistic” (have we heard this before?). The report will frame differences and commonalities of refugees and migrants; affirm the positive aspects of migration; build on existing state-led initiatives and seek some kind of “compact” on mass movement (of migrants – the Refugee Convention will be assumed and be left as is). Next month we will provide information on how NGOs can engage with events and activities leading up to (and beyond) 19 September.

7. Planning underway for the June 2016 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations focused on youth: The agenda is now finalized, UNHCR and NGO coordinators have been appointed to work on the design of each session (content, format, speakers etc.). If you would like to get involved in the process, please contact sophie.helle@icvanetwork.org.

8. UNHCR ExCom members move closer to negotiating Conclusions: To advance planning for NGO engagement in the UNHCR ExCom Conclusions process, UNHCR Division of International Protection, Madeline Garlick, and the UNHCR Executive Committee Rapporteur from
Ethiopia, Yanit Abera Habtemariam, met with the NGO community on 25 February. The meeting was the opportunity to identify key initiatives, projects and opportunities for close cooperation on the process. ICVA members can read ICVA’s notes on the meeting. This year, the two themes of the Conclusions are youth and international cooperation.

9. Challenges and prospects of humanitarian response in Yemen: Qatar Charity hosted a conference on the humanitarian crisis in Yemen in Doha on 22-24 February. ICVA MENA, as a member of the organization committee, moderated a session on livelihoods and economic empowerment, and delivered a statement during the high-level closing plenary. During the first two days of the conference a number of discussions were held on different sectors, resulting in a series of recommendations captured in the closing statement of the conference.

10. High Level Panel on Statelessness: ICVA West Africa attended a High Level panel on statelessness organised by UNHCR and the Senegalese Ministry of Justice to celebrate the first anniversary of the Abidjan Declaration on the eradication of statelessness. On 25 February 2015, the members of the Economic Community of West African States committed to eradicating statelessness by 2024. Around one million people in West Africa are stateless or at risk of statelessness. Lacking identification documents, they have limited access to social services and are exposed to discrimination and abuse.

Humanitarian Partnerships

11. World Humanitarian Summit: With the WHS in Istanbul now less than three months away, momentum is building as the WHS structure is developed, and as Member States, the UN, NGOs and many other representatives of civil society rally together to make commitments and call on others for reform. Initial details of the seven High Level Leader’s Roundtables has been released. WHS side event concept applications have now closed, with successful applicants notified by 11 March. However, with approximately three-times the number of applications received compared to the available side event slots, we expect much consolidation will be needed! Initial rounds of nominations for participation at the WHS are currently being considered by OCHA/WHS Secretariat. We expect further information in the coming weeks.

As the WHS nears, ICVA will continue to:

- Amplify NGO voices on localization and complementarity, including through participating in a corresponding side event.
- Engage strongly in discussions on humanitarian financing – including the “Grand Bargain”.
- Map and amplify emerging NGO calls and commitments for the WHS.

ICVA uses a separate mailing list to share and communicate WHS news and developments, please contact james.schell@icvanetwork.org to join this mailing list.

12. NGO briefing to Member States on the WHS: following the release of the Secretary General report “One humanity: Shared Responsibility” NGOs met with 32 Members States, along with key UN agencies on 12 February in Geneva. ICVA, ADRRN, World Vision, Care and NRC shared their views around the interagency support to the WHS process and the key role of NGOs; safeguarding humanitarian space; strengthening local and national capacities for more effective action; the central role of protection in humanitarian assistance and the responsibility of Member States to respect International Humanitarian Law; and issues related to humanitarian financing and funding requirements. For more information about the regular NGO briefings to Member States in Geneva, contact james.schell@icvanetwork.org.

13. UNHCR improving partnerships in West Africa: On 1 March 2016 ICVA West Africa attended a Round Table session on ways UNHCR should
improve its partnerships in West Africa, organized by the UNHCR Regional Office, in the framework of yearly strategy and planning meeting for 2017. Participating were Deputy Director for the Africa Bureau, UNHCR Representatives in the region and staff from the regional office, plus ECHO, OCHA, UNICEF, PAM, BPRM, OIM and ICVA. Recommendations included understanding partners’ added value better and leveraging their expertise to advocate to donors and governments. For solutions: being more transparent, consulting partners more, doing way more on advocacy and protection. Numerous exchanges touched upon the imbalance of refugee vs IDP protection and participants emphasized more clarity and leadership is needed from the IASC on the issue. Following calls from Nigeria notably for more robust investment in civilian protection, UNHCR will convene a regional dialogue on protection.

### Humanitarian Coordination

#### 14. IASC: The IASC Principals will review L3 status for South Sudan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen in March. The following recommendations will be shared with the IASC Principals for final decision:

- **Iraq:** Recommendation proposed: Expecting further mass displacement and returns and confronted with a possible outburst of Mosul dam, the most dangerous and compromised in the world, the HCT strongly recommends that L3 “surge” activation is extended, preferably until June 2016. ICVA supports this recommendation, highlighting however the need to think about moving to a “L3 consolidation phase”.

- **Yemen:** Recommendation proposed: The L3 activation in July 2015 has had a positive impact on the overall response in Yemen, and progress has been made against the established “benchmarks” in terms of reach and scale of the operations. Nevertheless, much work remains to be done with continued limited presence and capacity of the UN and NGOs. Large portions of the country remain difficult to access, and the UN’s international presence is still inadequately spread outside Sana’a. As such, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen recommends the extension of the L3 status by an additional six months. ICVA supports this recommendation and will highlight the need to consider better security and logistic arrangement as part of L3 in Yemen for improved support to NGO operations, along with the OPR recommendations following the OPR mission in December 2015.

- **Syria:** Recommendation proposed: The humanitarian community recommends that until an alternative to a system-wide L3 designation is found for protracted crises at the scale of Syria, and in order to ensure that priority in terms of empowered leadership, staffing and funding is provided, the current designation should remain, with the nuance – in line with the IASC Principals’ recent decision – that the crisis is in the L3 ’consolidation’ phase. ICVA supports this recommendation.

- **South Sudan:** ICVA will support a de-activation of L3, as proposed by the HCT.

For all L3 scenarios, ICVA will continue to advocate for better inclusion of NGOs in the L3 mechanism.

#### IASC Working Group:

The 90th IASC Working Group meeting takes place in New York on 8 and 9 of March. IMC and Plan International will join the ICVA Secretariat at this two-day meeting. Find here the agenda.

#### 15. Lake Chad Basin:

ICVA West Africa facilitated a discussion in Dakar between NGOs and HCs from Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, DHC from Nigeria and HCR Rep in Niger. Following NGO consultations to agree on common advocacy priorities for the region and substantial input received from countries, the discussion dwelt on the usefulness of adopting a regional approach, forced relocation of IDPs in Nigeria and Niger, advocacy to governments, humanitarian coordination, meningitis threat in Niger and Nigeria, coherent messaging and collective action. Report available.
16. Grand Bargain, Round 1: On 29 February in Amsterdam Dutch Minister Ploumen and EC Vice President Georgieva kicked off the first of four meetings of “sherpas” – 30 representatives of donors and aid agencies – to scope out the implementation of the “Grand Bargain on Efficiency” proposed in the January 2016 report of the High Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing. ICVA’s Chair Faizal Perdaus urged participants to focus less on cutting costs and more on promoting principled and effective humanitarian action. He said the humanitarian system must move away from a centralized, command and control, one-system-fits-all approach to an ecosystem of diverse actors, with contextualised responses to crises, in which frontline and national responders receive adequate and timely resources. The next meeting of the sherpas will be held later this month. ICVA members can read ICVA’s notes and analysis of the meeting, HERE.

17. “Less Paper More Aid” Campaign Launches Website: ICVA in collaboration with several members and other networks, has launched a “Less Paper More Aid” website to visualize the outcomes of the initiative. This includes: a) findings from the field research showing the impact of specific donor conditions on NGOs providing suggestions for improvement; b) a comparison analysis of conditions applied to NGOs by donors and UN agencies. A Code of Conduct for Donor Reporting will be posted soon! Final Results of the study will be shared by mid April following a validation Round-Table planned in Geneva on the 11 April.

New and Noteworthy

18. 1 for 7 Billion Campaign Alert: Submit Your Questions for Secretary General Candidates: From 12 - 14 April 2016, all Member States are invited to interact with candidates in the UN General Assembly. The sessions will be webcast, and NGOs around the world are encouraged to take part. The UN's Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) has created a new website for NGOs to pose questions to the candidates, and see questions posed by others. There are three ways to submit your questions:

1. Fill out an online form
2. Tweet using #UNSGcandidates or
3. Email askSGcandidates@unngls.org

Please note that questions must be submitted by 20 March.

19. HumanSurge: The Global Emergency Roster for Humanitarian Responders was launched on 29 February 2016 in beta-version. Organizations can register on humansurge.org to search among a growing database of available qualified humanitarian professionals, using tailored search criteria, reducing recruitment time and costs. For more information, email HumanSurge at: info@humansurge.org

20. Opportunity Featuring Refugee Youth Voices: APRRN has launched a refugee youth voices video project. They invite refugee youth and refugee youth advocates from across the Asia Pacific region to film themselves answering the following questions:

1. What does being a refugee youth (or advocate for refugee youth) mean to you?
2. Why should refugee youth participate in advocacy?
3. How can refugee advocates and the general public work together with you to support and advocate for refugee youth?

For more information on how to get involved with APRRN's youth engagement activities visit the APRRN website.

21. NGOs and Risk: InterAction has shared the results of the research on NGOs and Risk, completed by Humanitarian Outcomes with the participation of 14 operational NGOs. The project produced a report, NGOs and Risk: How international humanitarian actors manage uncertainty, as well as two
related products - the NGO Risk Management: Principles and Promising Practice handbook and a blank Risk Register template as a tool to help support risk management decision-making.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upcoming Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-9 March: IASC Working Group meeting (New York)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17 March: UNHCR Standing Committee on Operations (Geneva)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 March: UN Secretary General High level meeting on global responsibility sharing through pathways for admission of Syrian refugees (Geneva)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 April: ICVA Annual Conference (Geneva)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-24 May: World Humanitarian Summit (Istanbul, Turkey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 June: IASC Principals Meeting (Washington DC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-15 June Annual Tripartite Consultations on Refugee Resettlement (Geneva)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17 June: UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations (Geneva)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 June: World Refugee Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-22 June: ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (New York)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-23 June: UNHCR Standing Committee Meeting on Protection (Geneva)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 August: World Humanitarian Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 September: 71st Regular Session of the UN General Assembly (New York)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 September: High-Level Plenary Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants (New York)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-22 September: UNHCR Standing Committee 67th meeting (Geneva)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-7 October: UNHCR Executive Committee 67th Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-26 October: IASC Working Group 91st Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 December: IASC Principals Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8 December: HC’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges (Geneva)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 December: IASC Principals Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Click to Unsubscribe