ICVA Bulletin #3

ICVA Updates

1. Annual Conference: Complementarity in Humanitarian Action: We are all set for ICVA’s 2016 Annual Conference, focused on complementarity in humanitarian action. With up to 190 registered participants, we look forward to an engaging day, starting with unpacking the concept of complementarity and its relationship with local and national leadership. A series of four conversations will discuss what complementarity looks like in practice. In the afternoon of the conference, we look forward to promoting calls and commitments from NGOs in the lead up to the World Humanitarian Summit. For more information here is the link to the concept note and agenda, or contact conference@icvanetwork.org.

Forced Displacement

2. 30 March Pledging Conference for Syrian Admissions: Delegations from UN agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations from 92 countries gathered in Geneva on 30 March to pledge their support for Syrians, either through resettlement slots or other alternative forms of admission. The NGOs in their statement called for 10% (or 460,000 resettlement places) to be offered to refugees coming out of Syria by the end of 2016. Sadly, according to UNHCR, the pledges made on 29 March only “brought the total to date to some 185,000.” The Canadians demonstrated leadership not only in their own robust admission of Syrians, but also by hosting a 29 March event on partnership in admissions. See UNHCR’s take on the event. The NGO statement was delivered by a Syrian refugee granted asylum in Switzerland, Shadi Al Shaddeh of UOSSM Switzerland (Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations). The UN High Commissioner for Refugees closed the conference by acknowledging this day as a step forward in the recognition of the need for solidarity and responsibility sharing for refugees. In such difficult times, the High Commissioner is now looking forward to the World Humanitarian Summit as the next important milestone, hoping that additional commitments will be made on the way to the 19 September High-level Summit at the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants.

3. NGOs Speak Out Against the EU-Turkey Deal’s Detentions and Returns: In addition to speaking out at 30 March event, NGOs spoke out against the EU Turkey deal during the 15-17 March UNHCR Standing Committee meeting. The ICVA Secretariat has tracked NGO voices on the deal and links to some press releases are listed here:

- NRC Suspends Number of Activities in Chios, Says No to Police-Run Detention Facilities
- Caritas Internationalis (in Italian)
- Save the Children (On the deal, Save suspends support services on Greek Island detention centres following EU-Turkey deal)
- ECRE (8 March, 17 March)
- Amnesty (On the deal)
- ICMC (On the deal, At the HR Council, On 30 March)
- Human Rights Watch (On the deal, On 30 March)
UN agencies also expressed grave concerns about the EU-Turkey deal:

- UNHCR
- OHCHR

4. Looking Ahead to the 19 September Summit: ICVA facilitated two NGO meetings this month with Karen AbuZayd; one on 11 March in New York (with support from Concern) and one on 29 March in Geneva. Ms AbuZayd is the UN Secretary General’s Special Advisor on the 19 September UNGA Summit to Address Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants. It will be crucial to focus on how member states can move to concrete actions and change the increasingly toxic narrative related to refugees and migrants. You can read our summary of NGO meetings with Ms AbuZayd. ICVA and ICMC are partnering together to facilitate NGO inputs into the process.

5. NGOs Shine at UNHCR Standing Committee: NGOs received much praise for the nine statements delivered at UNHCR’s 15-17 March Standing Committee meeting on operations. There were statements related to all five regions (Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, and MENA) as well as the Board of Auditors, partnership, and follow-up to the High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Root Causes. We thank the following NGOs for helping lead the drafting and delivery: ADRA International, APRRN, Asylum Access, Care, DRC, IDC, IDMC, Interaction, NRC, Save the Children and QUNO. The nine NGO statements can be found on the ICVA website.

6. ICVA members pilot capacity strengthening initiative: We are working with members to strategize next steps for the UNHCR-IFRC-NGO Structured Dialogue capacity strengthening work-stream. With the leadership of APRRN, we are exploring an idea of piloting an NGO staff exchange program. Also, on 14 June, the day before the UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations, UNHCR would like to hold a consultation to discuss capacity strengthening for emergency preparedness. Stay tuned.

7. The 2nd Annual IOM-NGO Humanitarian Consultations: Save the date for the 2nd annual IOM-NGO Humanitarian Consultations to be held in Geneva on Monday, 13 June 2016. We will discuss advocacy, resilience, and upcoming events like the 19 September Summit on Addressing Large-Scale Movements of Migrants and Refugees. The first consultation, (see Report) was a big success. IOM senior managers gathered in Geneva on 14 March and appreciated ICVA Executive Director Nan Buzard’s provocative questions during their High Level Panel on Crisis Response. Her focus on the issue of complementarity and question, such as the relationship with UNHCR, the potential changed nature of IOM as a UN agency, and the WHS focus on “collective outcomes” based on vulnerability and risk rather than category sparked a range of comments. Note: IOM and UNHCR Emergency Directors will be discussing their complementarity at ICVA’s Annual Conference on 5 April.

8. World Humanitarian Summit draws nearer: Momentum surrounding the World Humanitarian summit continues to build. Invites, side event approvals and information for the High Level Leaders’ Roundtables (HLRTs) and Special Sessions are gradually being released, with the proposed core commitments for the HLRTs now available.

In the lead up to the Summit, ICVA is developing a series of NGO briefs to the HLRTs. These briefs will highlight key NGO messages, concerns and priorities for the HLRTs, in addition to responding to the proposed core commitments and identifying emerging NGO calls and commitments. These briefs are currently being drafted, and will be shared shortly amongst members for further input.
Humanitarian Coordination

9. IASC Principals: L3 extension Iraq, Syria and Yemen: L3 designations for Iraq, Syria and Yemen were extended for 6 months by the Emergency Relief Coordinator on the 11 March 2016 after consultations with the Principals and under recommendations from the EDG. As part of these extensions, the following points were highlighted:

1. L3 Benchmarks, already in place for the Yemen response, still need to be developed for Iraq and Syria, to enable monitoring of progress under the L3.
2. Until the next review of these L3 designations, the Emergency Directors should continue to support monitoring of progress in all three responses.
3. Ongoing work on further developing the L3 mechanism should continue, specifically on defining the phased approach, determining the frequency of reviews, and refining the benchmark development process.

Note as well the endorsement of the proposal to harmonise the timelines for reviewing the L3 designations for Iraq, Syria and Yemen. The next review will take place at the end of August 2016.

10. Emergency Directors Group (EDG) update:

Regional Humanitarian Envoy for El Niño in Southern and Eastern Africa: In light of the severe humanitarian effects of El Niño in Southern and Eastern Africa, UN regional directors in the two regions have identified the need for a senior official to coordinate effective and common advocacy and resource mobilization efforts, in support of the humanitarian response in these regions. A candidate has also been identified for the role, Mr. Manuel Da Silva. He is from Mozambique, a former minister in the Mozambican Government, and a former senior UN official with an extensive background with the World Food Programme.

Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar: The creation of a 6-month position of Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar has been approved, and confirmation of the nomination will be issued shortly. NGOs in the country have been extensively consulted during this process, and we hope that this position will help facilitate NGO engagement with the humanitarian system.

Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia: A position of Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator is being opened in Somalia, in support to the current DSRSG/RC/HC, Mr. Peter De Clerq. The period for nominations of candidates has been extended until 8 April.

Appointments for the DRHC for Syria and the DHC for Iraq will be made official shortly by the ERC.

11. IASC Working Group: A two day IASC Working Group in-person meeting took place in New York 8-9 March. Discussions followed the agenda items, and a number of follow up actions were agreed upon. These included:

- OCHA to provide additional information on the “new business model” proposed in the SG report, and identify implications for IASC. New “model” will respect humanitarian principles and include humanitarian and development actors working towards collective outcomes. {Potentially a challenge to turn aspirational approach of SG report in to practical commitments}
- IASC Secretariat to map out different processes, key events and
opportunities, and implications of how IASC can help strengthen humanitarian-development nexus and build on 2030 Agenda.

- UN, IOM and NGOs to find ways to collectively counter the public toxic narrative on migrants and refugees
- UNHCR and task team to articulate clear definition of protection and responsibilities of different actors, and make protection policy relevant and clear to all field staff
- WG sub-group on WoS Protection to integrate comments from meeting into management response and re-circulate it to WG for comments and endorsements
- IASC Secretariat to explore modalities of IASC engagement with member states on topics of mutual interest
- IASC TT on Humanitarian Financing to update paper on donor conditions to address point raised by GHD co-chair on terrorism.

The next Working Group meeting will be in October.

### Humanitarian Financing

#### 12. Round 2 of the Grand Bargain Talks in Brussels: The 18 March meeting of the Grand Bargain “Sherpas” tackled all 10 areas for potential commitments by donors and aid agencies to sign up to at the WHS. ICVA focused on four priorities.

1. The break-out group on reporting requirements was receptive to our calls for proportionality, simplification, and coherence (harmonization to best practice) and will convene a group of experts in April to explore options.
2. The group discussion on increasing support for frontline responders met resistance, with some states preferring to focus their investments on governments (rather than NGOs) and avoid setting targets.
3. The transparency workstream decided to further explore using the IATI standard format to gain more visibility on funding flows, and will thus reach out to IATI and FTS experts for a briefing. We cautioned against some of the drawbacks.
4. The multi-year funding group supported funding beyond an annual cycle, but how to make that happen remains unclear.

The Sherpas will reconvene in Washington on 15 April. ICVA members can read our analysis.

### New and Noteworthy

#### 13. New plain-language materials on protection: Protection in humanitarian action is fundamentally about the people caught up in an emergency being safe from the harm others might cause them. A new series of materials, produced by Oxfam for the Global Protection Cluster with financing from the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department, provides a clear, concise, plain-language overview of what protection means in operational terms in an emergency and who is responsible for what.

#### 14. The UNHCR MAPP app: The UNHCR MAPP app, available on the Apple App Store, is an easy and convenient way to keep your finger on the pulse of everything related to UNHCR activities. With a user friendly interface, the app has sections on news, campaigns and events, as well as profiles on UNHCR’s special people. The app is currently featuring a Malian singer recently named UNHCR Regional Goodwill Ambassador and Peter Capaldi, a doctor who meets Syrian refugees in Jordan. One of the many nice details about this app is a section called “simply for inspiration,” which features stories and videos about some incredible people. This app is free to download and definitely worth checking out.

### Upcoming Events

- **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
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
13 September: 71st Regular Session of the UN General Assembly (New York)
19 September: High-Level Plenary Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants (New York)
21-22 September: UNHCR Standing Committee 67th meeting (Geneva)
3-7 October: UNHCR Executive Committee 67th Meeting
25-26 October: IASC Working Group 91st Meeting
6 December: IASC Principals Meeting
7-8 December: HC’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges (Geneva)