ICVA Bulletin #10

Highlights from October 2016

Forced Displacement

1. HC Dialogue on Children on the Move: UNHCR and NGOs have turned their attention to the organization of the ninth annual High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges to be held on 8–9 December 2016, in Geneva. Providing space for interactive, informal exchanges with a variety of actors, the 2016 Dialogue will focus on ‘Children on the Move’. As is customary, ICVA has convened the ‘Friends of the Dialogue’, a group of NGOs who prepare about NGO contributions to the Dialogue. Given this year’s theme, Save the Children will support ICVA in coordinating the Friends of the Dialogue and in the development of NGO key messages. The Friends of the Dialogue are in active contact with UNHCR to ensure NGOs can provide inputs with regard to the overall theme, agenda, and participation. More details about this year High Commissioner’s Dialogue can be found in UNHCR’s concept paper. A detailed agenda and background paper will soon be made available by UNHCR and on 4 November, UNHCR will be providing a Briefing in Geneva on the 2016 High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges. If you wish to join the Friends of the Dialogue, please contact Jerome.Elie@icvanetwork.org.

2. Post 19th September – Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework: The 19 September UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants resulted in the adoption of the New York Declaration, which calls upon UNHCR to develop and initiate a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in close coordination with relevant States, other United Nations organizations and stakeholders, and civil society. At the Executive Committee, the High Commissioner announced the creation of a dedicated Task Team to take forward this objective and pave the way for the adoption of a Global Compact on Refugees in late 2018. This Task Team will develop the CRRF in pilot countries. ICVA is ensuring NGO input, to the development of more systematic and sustainable responses to the benefit of both refugees and their host communities. Both the High Commissioner and the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection have signaled UNHCR’s interest in engaging with a variety of actors in this process, including NGOs. For more information, contact Jerome.Elie@icvanetwork.org.

3. Preparations underway for the 2017 UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations: The 2017 UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations will take place from 14-16 June, at the CICG in Geneva. The theme will look at...
emerging issues arising from the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRFF) (Annex 1 of the New York Declaration). There will also be space on the agenda to discuss the many practical and operational issues of concern to Implementing Partners. We are seeking NGO feedback on the draft agenda and the theme and, if you are interested in leading specific sessions, please let us know by 15 November. We are also seeking an NGO representative to serve as the Vice-Rapporteur in 2017 and to be the Rapporteur in 2018. For more information, contact Sophie.Helle@icvanetwork.org

4. Strengthening UNHCR NGO Partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean: In response to a request from the 44 NGOs who form the Regional Working Group for the Brazil Plan of Action, ICVA and the UNHCR Partnership Section are travelling to El Salvador for a Structured Dialogue in early November. Supported by the Foundation Cristosal and Asylum Access Ecuador, this regional event will provide an opportunity for NGOs and UNHCR to discuss communication, transparency in decision making, and clear accountabilities within their different partnerships. The Brazil Plan of Action, adopted by the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2014, outlines 11 concrete strategic programs to strengthen and promote sustainable solutions for refugees, displaced, and stateless persons in Latin America and the Caribbean. For more information, contact Sophie.Helle@icvanetwork.org

5. NGO interventions at UNHCR’s Executive Committee: During the first week of October, UNHCR had its annual Executive Committee meeting with its Member States. On behalf of the NGO community, Mercy Corps, AHA, World Vision, and AIRD delivered four NGO statements on the general debate, programme, protection and the Annual Consultations, which can be found on ICVA’s website. Save the Children spoke at a side event focused on the 19 September Summit on large movements of refugees and Migrants. NGO interventions were very well received by the international community, with the new High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi stating that NGO statements could “come first rather than last, given their extraordinary contributions at all levels.”

6. Post the World Humanitarian Summit: There is continued interest from NGOs in how the follow-up to commitments and initiatives from the WHS will be managed. This was also a topic for discussion at the recent IASC Regional meeting in Asia. On 1 November, ICVA convened a meeting with Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, Chief of OCHA’s Policy Development and Studies Branch, and NGOs. Throughout the session, OCHA confirmed that the push, interest and need for a robust follow-up from the WHS, is predominately coming from the NGO community, along with questions around accountability, and how to incorporate these commitments into operational organizational plans. In line with the Secretary General’s report of the outcomes of the WHS, there are several ‘vehicles’ to maintain momentum moving forward. These vehicles include 1) The Platform for Action, Commitments and Transformation (PACT), which is an online platform that captures all 3,500 documented commitments, aligned to five core responsibilities and the corresponding 24 ‘policy shift areas’; 2) An annual report, undertaken by OCHA to review progress over the last year the implementation commitments and policy shifts; 3) Continued engagement and outreach with all stakeholders to continue dialogue and discussion at both global and regional levels; and 4) A high-level, ‘stocktaking’ event, to take place between 2018-2020, to reflect on the movement of the core responsibilities and policy shifts over the preceding five years. Throughout the meeting, NGOs highlighted the need to hold both ourselves, and all others whom have made commitments, to account. Read the two-page summary note and watch the webinar recording of the session.

OCHA is in the process of drafting the self-reporting template for the PACT, and will reach out to NGOs via ICVA in the coming weeks. For more information, contact james.schell@icvanetwork.org
7. The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus:

a. For the first time ever, the **UN Working Group on Transitions (UNWGT) and the IASC Task Team on Humanitarian and Development Nexus in Protracted Crises (HDNTT)** held a joint retreat in New York on 21-22 October. The ICVA Secretariat was joined by ACF, IRC and Plan International – but the vast majority of participants were from the UN family. The event was designed to: 1) enhance the understanding of joint analysis and planning across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, and 2) develop a roadmap for action that feeds into the separate workplans of the UNWGT and the HDNTT. While participants clearly demonstrated a desire to depart from the status quo, questions remain as to: 1) what concretely will change, 2) how to overcome structural barriers to working together in a way that maintains humanitarian principles, 3) how to appropriately engage governments and NGOs, 4) how to consider issues beyond analysis and planning, like leadership and coordination, and 5) how to work together in a manner that is simultaneously strategic and inclusive for effective delivery on the ground. Members can see **ICVA’s report and analysis** of the workshop.

b. **NGO briefing to Member States:** The humanitarian Development Nexus:
On 18 October, ICVA chaired an NGO briefing to Member States on the Humanitarian Development Nexus. The session, titled ‘What is aid for: Saving lives now or securing the future’, included presentations from the Somalia NGO consortium, CARE International, Médecins Sans Frontiéres and Handicap International. The session discussed the need for complementarity between development and humanitarian approaches, and the need for leadership from donors to better streamline a shift from humanitarian to development approaches, such as the need for donors to be flexible and responsive to changing contexts with multi-year funding. The session illuminated the differing perspectives within the NGO community on this topic – including those who call for stronger synergies between development and humanitarian programming; and others calling for a stronger protection of the humanitarian space. Read the **summary note**.

The next NGO briefing to Member States on November 21 will focus on the humanitarian implications from the offensive surrounding Mosul in Iraq. The briefing will be held in the Palais des Nations in Geneva (further information to follow).

### Humanitarian Coordination

8. **IASC Emergency Directors Group:** ICVA participated in both the in person EDG meeting in Geneva on 13 October, and in the 24 October EDG teleconference. The Geneva meeting focus was on was on strengthening collective leadership and accountability through the development of effective tools. The terms of reference for Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) were reviewed and the EDG deliberated on how to provide better support to field-level leadership. At the teleconference the EDG confirmed that the Government of Haiti is leading on the humanitarian response post hurricane Matthew and a coordination system, similar to clusters, has been set up. The EDG acknowledged the concerns of 85 Syrian and international NGOs who are calling for a “full, transparent and independent review of the humanitarian response in Syria, its adherence to humanitarian principles and commitments to protection”. Further discussion with the NGOs will be had at the forthcoming Whole of Syria review workshop, scheduled to take place in Amman on 22 November, on how the system can be more participatory and effective, and how it can demonstrate more clearly the adherence to humanitarian principles from all involved. For more information, contact Emmmanuelle.Osmond@icvanetwork.org

9. **IASC Working Group meeting 25-26 October:** The ICVA Secretariat was joined by IMC and Plan at this meeting in New York, which worked through several substantial agenda items: "Human Rights Up Front", speaking out (complementary advocacy), the new IASC Protection Policy, the Grand Bargain, the World Humanitarian Summit, accountability to affected populations, PSEA, gender, the “New Way of Working” across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, and the Working Group working methods. Some decisions were taken (e.g. to hold a Working Group workshop on Human Rights Up Front and carefully transition tasks from the
Protection Task Team to the GPC). Feedback from the field demonstrated the need to clarify the new IASC protection policy. The Working Group will be leaderless in the immediate future, with the departure of its co-chair ASG Kyung-Wha Kang, who will lead the UN Secretary General designate’s transition team. The next Working Group meeting will take place in March 2017. Members can read ICVA’s full report of the meeting.

10. IASC Regional Network for Asia and the Pacific - Ad Hoc Meeting with USG Stephen O’Brien: On 11 October, members of the IASC Regional Network (RN) held an ad-hoc meeting with USG O’Brien during his mission to the region. The USG welcomed and acknowledged the continued work of the IASC RN and highlighted that because the Asia-Pacific region was so affected by natural disasters, continuous engagement on reducing vulnerability and increasing preparedness was the new normal. Discussion covered a range of topics including the humanitarian-development nexus, partners, post-WHS, and the USG’s upcoming mission to Myanmar. IASC RN members urged the USG to address with the Government of Myanmar the lack of access for humanitarian actors to conduct assessments and truly understand the situation. The meeting also featured discussion on the need to continue to work on the humanitarian-development nexus to decrease resource competition in the region and respond to increasing donor pressure. The date of the next IASC Regional Network meeting was tentatively set for 27 or 28 November. For more information, contact Jeremy.Wellard@icvanetwork.org

11. Study on Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator Positions: In response to increased interest from ICVA members and in conjunction with an ongoing exchange with the Emergency Directors Group (EDG), ICVA has commissioned a study on the role of the DHC. The study will be conducted by an independent team of researchers. This study aims to 1) present an overview of DHC positions and the defining characteristics of each DHC, 2) explore the perceived added value of the DHC role within the coordination system, and 3) inform future collective discussion and decisions associated with DHC positions and functions within the coordination system. More information on the study can be found in the Terms of Reference. We hope to have a final report by the end of January 2017. For more information, contact Raphael.Gorgeu@icvanetwork.org

12. Support to NGO Fora.

- ICVA is holding three regional workshops for NGO Fora: 9 - 10 November in Amman, 21 - 22 November in Bangkok and 29 -30 November in Dakar. The workshops will include: presentations and discussion on the role of NGO Fora in humanitarian coordination; regional priorities and joint advocacy; consultations on a potential capacity support programme to NGO Fora; and a general opportunity to share good practice and challenges. For more information, contact Emmanuelle.Osmond@icvanetwork.org
- Upon the invitation of the INGO Forum in Myanmar, InterAction and ICVA, represented by Julien Schopp (Director of Humanitarian Practice at InterAction) and Raphael Gorgeu (Director of Programme and Policy at ICVA) travelled to Myanmar from September 28-October 7, 2016. Visiting Yangon, as well as Myitkyina and Sittwe, the team reviewed humanitarian practice and policy issues, including inter-agency response leadership; NGO coordination structures; humanitarian access and delivery modalities as well as humanitarian and development issues. The difficulty of access, return of IDPs and the complexity of the situation in-country with the new government still establishing itself, is making it difficult to respond to the very real humanitarian needs of the people of Rakhine and Kachin States. For more information go to http://ingoforummyanmar.org/

Humanitarian Financing

13. The Grand Bargain: ICVA’s analysis of the Grand Bargain 2-pagers for each of the 10 workstreams shows an impressive amount of work has already begun to implement the Grand Bargain. Some workstreams are more developed than others. The workstreams related to transparency, reducing management costs, multi-year funding/ planning, and reporting are
particularly clear and focused. The IASC subsidiary bodies – particularly the HFTT, the HDN TT, the AAP/PSEA TT – are implicated in several areas, but clarification is needed with regard to how other IASC subsidiary bodies will be involved. Some workstreams will be monitored more than others, with outside bodies expressing particular interest in transparency, national/local responders, cash, and multi-year funding/planning. ICVA is co-convenor with Germany of the reporting workstream, and will work with IASC HFTT and GHD members to organize the first of several workshops to be held during the second half of November to advance the commitment to harmonize and simplify reporting requirements.

14. IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team 19 October meeting: The bulk of this meeting was spent on learning from MPTF about the Global Concession Facility Fund and the Global Crisis Response Platform. Participants also discussed issues surrounding the parameters for the Grand Bargain commitment to the development of a localization marker, the CERF Advisory Group, Humanitarian Week and the Global Policy Forum in December, among other topics. Members can read the full report and the brochure of the Global Crisis Response Platform.

15. Less Paper More Aid – updated report. The Less Paper More Aid report has been updated to reflect refinements in the sections related to Danish contributions. The report is a living document, so we welcome any other suggestions for updating from the donors and UN agencies described therein.

16. NGOs and Country Based Pooled Funds: OCHA and OXFAM as current co-hosts of the CBPF NGO Dialogue Platform are organizing three important sessions in the coming weeks:

- **Financial guidelines for CBPFs**: FCS will present the recent changes on financial procedures for implementing partners, followed by a “finance clinic”. Date and time: Thursday 10 November 2016, 9:30 am – 11:00 am (New York time) Location: online session. Webex.

- **Dialogue on the revision of the CBPF Global Guidelines**: OCHA FCS is leading the revision process of the CBPF Global Guidelines two years after their approval and dissemination. This dialogue session aims at providing NGOs the opportunity to raise key topics identified as challenging during the initial period of implementation of the guidelines and to suggest recommendations for consideration in the forthcoming revision process. Date and time: Thursday 17 November 2016, 9:30 am - 11:30 am (New York time) Location: online session. Webex.

- **2nd Regular annual meeting of the CBPF NGO Dialogue Platform**: The agenda will be provided in due course. Date and time: Friday 2 December 2016, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (time in Nairobi) Location: The meeting will take place in Nairobi. Webex connection will be offered for interested participants.

Please do not hesitate to contact cbpf-ngo@un.org in case you have any recommendations or questions.

17. UNHCR updates its Framework for Implementing with Partners: In response to feedback from NGOs, UNHCR is updating its approach towards procurement and contributions to partner personnel costs. Read the announcement on procurement, and the announcement on partner personnel costs.

**ICVA Learning Stream**

18. Demystifying Humanitarian Financing:

**Topic Three: Pooled Funding: How can NGOs engage?** Our forthcoming webinar for topic three will be held on November 10, focused on pooled funding mechanisms directly accessed by NGOs. Pooled funds are becoming an increasingly used medium in the disbursement of humanitarian financing. Pooled funding mechanisms can both encourage quicker responses, whilst limiting administrative burdens on both donors and NGOs.
Throughout the webinar we will explore Country Based Pooled Funds, the START fund, and hear from NGO representatives on their experiences, challenges and lessons of accessing pooled funding. Watch our introductory video; and register for the webinar on 10 November, 10:30 – 12:00 Geneva time.

**Topic Two: UN humanitarian funding: Demystifying NGO access**

Topic two of ICVA's Humanitarian Financing Learning Stream is underway - focusing on demystifying NGO access to UN humanitarian funding. During the webinar on 12 October, representatives from UNHCR and WFP’s partnership sections presented their organizations’ approaches to implementing partnerships – including the overall steps and processes NGOs must follow. NGO representatives, including NRC and FAROS shared their perspectives, experiences and lessons learnt for other NGOs hoping to partner with UN agencies. Watch the webinar recording, and the short introductory video. A briefing paper will also be shared shortly.

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**ICVA Updates**

19. **New Members:** ICVA is delighted to announce that the following organizations have recently joined ICVA:

- COOPI (Cooperazione Internazionale), Italy
- HIAS, USA
- International Consortium of Refugees in Iran (ICRI), IRan and Switzerland
- International Refugee Rights Initiative – IRRI, USA and Uganda
- IPPF (International Planned Parenthood Federation), UK

**New and Noteworthy**

20. The recently published ALNAP Evaluation of Humanitarian Action (EHA) Guide will help humanitarian actors increase the quality and usefulness of evaluation findings and results. Six years in the making, the Guide will be a valuable resource in helping the sector understand if their humanitarian efforts are working.

21. **MSF Briefing paper 'Dadaab to Somalia : pushed back into peril':** With the announced closure of the world’s largest refugee camp and thousands begin to return to war torn Somalia, MSF in their recent Briefing Paper is calling for alternatives to be urgently considered by the Government of Kenya and UNHCR.

22. **High-Level PSEA Guidance:** As sexual harassment and abuse of aid workers hits the headlines, the newly launched IASC Best Practice Guide to Establish Inter-Agency Community-Based Complaint Mechanisms (CBCM)” and accompanying operating standards is a step in the right direction to help eliminate SEA from occurring in humanitarian settings. A result of intensive collaboration between agencies at global and field level, these guides are designed to facilitate the work or PSEA networks. In depth training on inter-agency complaint handing and referrals is also available from IOM.

23. **UNHCR Alternatives to Camps:** Key Action #5 Community-Based Protection, fifth in the series of good practice and guidance to assist field operations in implementing the key actions outlined in the UNHCR Policy on Alternatives to Camps is now available.

24. **The 1 billion dollar question: How can field leaders leverage CERF funding:** This Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team (STAIT) webinar on 15 November 2016 will share practical steps that HC/RCs, HCTs and senior humanitarian leaders in field operations need to take to ensure that their CERF funding request is successful. This webinar will be simultaneously interpreted into ARABIC, FRENCH and SPANISH For more information and to register click here.

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<td>ICVA Webinar: Bilateral funding – trends, challenges and opportunities for NGOs?</td>
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<td>HC’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges – Children on the Move (Geneva)</td>
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<td>8-12 December</td>
<td>Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), including Civil Society Days (Bangladesh)</td>
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