1. UNHCR and OCHA Issue Guidance on Coordination in Mixed Settings: UNHCR’s High Commissioner Guterres and OCHA’s ERC Valerie Amos held a bilateral meeting on 24 April 2014 to agree on guidance for the functioning of leadership and coordination mechanisms in mixed situations (settings involving refugees, IDPs and other affected groups). “Summary Conclusions from the discussions between OCHA and UNHCR” can be found [HERE](#). Click [HERE](#).
to read the “Joint UNHCR-OCHA Note on Mixed Situations: Coordination in Practice,” which attempts to clarify accountabilities, roles and responsibilities of the Humanitarian Coordinator and UNHCR Representative in contributing to the IASC-agreed strategic outputs of coordination. In terms of next steps, NGO representatives who volunteered to assist UNHCR in developing and rolling out a new coordination model may be asked to assist with pilot workshops in May and June.

2. UNHCR Explains its New Approach to Partner Selection and Agreements: UNHCR met with ICVA and InterAction members on 15 April for a Q&A session on the Enhanced Framework for Implementing with Partners. The discussion focused on: 1) UNHCR’s Guidance Note on Selection and Retention of Partners issued in July 2013; 2) UNHCR’s new Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) template that came into effect on 1 April; and 3) next steps, including some workshops scheduled for the week of 19 May. For notes on that meeting, please click HERE. ICVA is grateful to its members who are pooling resources to conduct a more in depth analysis of the various products being developed as part of the new Framework.

3. “Solutions Alliance” Emerges from the Copenhagen Roundtable: Kudos to IRC for volunteering to serve as the current NGO co-chair of an initiative bringing together key stakeholders, including development actors, to promote sustainable solutions for displaced persons. Other co-chairs include the Government of Denmark, UNHCR, UNDP, and the Government of Colombia. The Danish Refugee Council is currently serving as the initiative’s Secretariat. They gathered in Copenhagen on 2-3 April with a variety of experts to: 1) endorse their mission statement; 2) develop a global advocacy strategy; and 3) agree on specific country situations to focus on. They decided to call their initiative the “Solutions Alliance: Ending Displacement Together.” To learn more, visit http://www.endingdisplacement.org/.

4. Partnership in Pakistan: Follow-Up to the Structured Dialogue Mission: Please click HERE to read the ICVA-InterAction-UNHCR-IFRC mission report from the High Commissioner’s Structured Dialogue Mission to Pakistan that took place from 23 to 27 February. The mission was conducted as follow up to the High Commissioner’s Structured Dialogue on UNHCR-IFRC-NGO Partnership and examined the relevance of the Dialogue in the context of Pakistan. The report provides findings and recommendations for improved information sharing, advocacy, and coordination amongst partners. Additionally, a teleconference has been scheduled for 15 May to discuss and review findings with relevant parties in Pakistan. Please let Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org or Jaime.Munn@icvanetwork.org know if you would like to discuss this further.

5. Register for #unhcrngos Annual Consultations by 16 May! @ICVAREfugee: ICVA and UNHCR are working hard with volunteers to prepare for the 17-19 June 2014 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations in Geneva.

- Interesting Topics: The overarching theme is “Women’s Leadership and Participation.” Sessions will focus on regional challenges, partnership, and a wide range of specific topics. Click HERE for the agenda.

Forced Displacement
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Humanitarian Financing
7. CERF Advisory Group to discuss timeliness of disbursement from UN to NGOs
8. Pooled Fund Working Group
9. NGOs meet with OCHA to explore opportunity to set up a regular platform to discuss country-based pooled funds
10. Annual Conference

Humanitarian Coordination
• **Registration:** NGOs have until 16 May to register for the event at [www.unhcr.org/ngo-consultations/](http://www.unhcr.org/ngo-consultations/) (user name: ngos and password: consult). To register, an NGO must be either: 1) an ICVA member; 2) a UNHCR implementing partner; 3) a UNHCR operational partner; or 4) an ECOSOC affiliate.

• **Social Media:** People who are not able to travel to Geneva can still participate in the Consultations through social media. Join the conversation on Twitter by following #unhcrngos and @ICVAREfugee, @UNHCRIAU, the NGO Rapporteur @jessiechomson, and the NGO Vice Rapporteur @jafrizainab. For more information on the use of social media at the Consultations -- including via Livestream, Twitter and Tumblr -- click [HERE](http://www.unhcr.org/ngo-consultations/).

6. **Q&A on the Implementing Framework:** ICVA members are invited to a question and answer (Q&A) session on the Enhanced Framework for Implementing with Partners with the Head of UNHCR’s Implementing Partner Management Service, Fatima Sherif-Nor on Tuesday, 15 April from 15:00 – 17:00 Geneva time (GMT + 2). The Framework provides UNHCR’s standard operating procedures for establishing and managing partnerships. UNHCR is currently updating its Framework, including elements related to partner selection and retention, the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA), and monitoring. To help inform partners about these changes, UNHCR is developing guidance notes and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for each new policy issued, starting with selection/retention and the new PPA template. UNHCR will integrate additional questions into the FAQ documents.

## Humanitarian Financing

7. **CERF Advisory Group to discuss timeliness of disbursement from UN to NGOs:** The CERF Advisory Group is due to meet on 14 and 15 May. During their November 2013 meeting, members of the CERF Advisory Group asked to meet with IASC principals to discuss their experiences with CERF, the challenges of using the fund effectively in the field, the strategies used to prioritize CERF funds and any other issues that need to be addressed, including partnerships and the timeliness of agency sub-grants to implementing partners.

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and CERF Manager, Ms. Valerie Amos, has invited UNHCR High Commissioner Antonio Guterres, Dr. Bruce Aylward (WHO) and Ms. Etharin Cousin (WFP) to participate in an IASC session as part of the CERF Advisory Group meeting on 14 May in Geneva to discuss the timeliness of disbursements to NGOs. A record of the meeting will be made available. If you are interested in learning more about this, please contact marzia.montemurro@icvanetwork.org

8. **Pooled Fund Working Group:** An ad hoc session of the Pooled Fund Working Group took place in Geneva on 9 April. Some 30 participants representing member states, UN agencies and NGOs attended. The need to support NGOs to better work with country-based pooled funds and make funding available for evidence-based needs assessment was discussed. Concrete suggestions on the way forward are to be presented at the next meeting along with revised Terms of Reference for the Pooled Fund Working Group. The regular meeting of the PFWG is planned for June during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment in New York. If you are interested in learning more about it, please contact marzia.montemurro@icvanetwork.org
9. NGOs meet with OCHA to explore opportunity to set up a regular platform to discuss country-based pooled funds: An OCHA-NGO meeting hosted by ICVA and OCHA’s Funding Coordination Section (FCS) was held on April 3 in Geneva. Participants included representatives from 10 NGOs both international and national. The purpose of the meeting was to explore NGO interest in having a dedicated platform with OCHA to tackle operational issues that affect all country-based pooled funds and need to be addressed at the global level. Participants welcomed the initiative and expressed interest in the establishment of the Dialogue Platform as an informal forum to improve accessibility of country-based pooled funds for NGOs. It was suggested that the first meeting of the Platform be held during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment from 23-25 June in New York. For more information, please contact marzia.montemurro@icvanetwork.org

10. Annual Conference: The ICVA Secretariat was happy to welcome members and non-members at our Annual Conference on Resourcing Principled Humanitarian Action on April 1 in Geneva. Speakers included Judith Randel, Executive Director of Development Initiatives, Berk Baran from the Permanent Mission of Turkey, Joshua Tabah from the Permanent Mission of Canada and Lionel Bodin from Accenture. Some 150 participants attended and contributed to a lively discussion around the current landscape for resourcing humanitarian action, innovative resourcing models and donors’ realities. A summary of the day is being finalized and will be made available with the conference presentations in May.

**Humanitarian Coordination**

11. IASC WG: After many months of work and based on recommendations by the IASC Working Group and Emergency Directors’ Group, the IASC Principals have approved the following Transformative Agenda protocols:

1) the Accountability to Affected Populations Operational Framework;
2) the (revised) Empowered Leadership Protocol;
3) the Humanitarian Programme Cycle Reference Module Version 1.0; and
4) the Inter-Agency Rapid Response Mechanism Concept Note.

These Protocols will be issued to the IASC membership. The Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team headed by Panos Mountzis will lead their implementation with colleagues from IASC member organizations. Feedback from field colleagues will be used to refine the Protocols in the future.

**Quality and Accountability**

12. Update on the Core Humanitarian Standards effort: A workshop led by SCHR, HAP and People in Aid was held on April 28-29 to review Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS). A summary of the workshop can be found at [http://schr.info](http://schr.info). Click [HERE](http://schr.info) for information on this workshop and [HERE](http://schr.info) for a critical analysis by the French NGOs on the CHS and CHR’s Certification Project.