ICVA is pleased to announce the release of our new website at [www.icvanetwork.org](http://www.icvanetwork.org) designed with a fresh new look and user-friendly navigation. We hope that the new design will provide our members and visitors with an easier way to learn about what ICVA does, why we do what we do, and how to get involved.

We have improved the search functionality to ensure a more user friendly experience to the website's large document library, so that need to know information about humanitarian partnership, policy and practice and much more can be found with ease. We will continue to tweak and improve the website, adding new content and documents.

ICVA members can continue to use their current logon information to access "member only" documents.

If you experience any problems using the new website, or if you have any suggestions please contact us at secretariat@icvanetwork.org

Forced Displacement

1. ICVA report: What NGOs need to know about UNHCR's new Implementing Framework. Does your NGO implement...
projects with UNHCR funding? Have you had time to read through UNHCR’s new selection procedures and project agreement template? With generous support from seven ICVA members, we commissioned an expert to look carefully at these documents, compare them to the old ones, and summarise key aspects that have changed. Members can read the full report "In the Spirit of Partnership".

2. UNHCR Issues FAQs on its New Selection and Retention Policy: We thank NGOs who responded to our call for input into UNHCR’s “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQ) document on its new Policy and Procedures for Selection and Retention of Partners.

3. NGOs Gear up for UNHCR’s ExCom Meeting: UNHCR’s most significant governing board meeting of the year – a.k.a. ExCom – will take place in Geneva from 29 September to 3 October. The first day will be dedicated to a “high-level segment on enhancing international cooperation, solidarity, local capacities and humanitarian action for refugees in Africa.” The last day will feature a presentation by NGO Rapporteur Jessie Thomson on the 2014 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations. The full agenda can be found on the UNHCR website. The week prior, a Standing Committee meeting will be held on 23-24 September with a focus on UNHCR’s budget. If ICVA members would like to help draft the NGOs statements to be delivered at sessions on Africa, the general debate, protection, budget, and/or partnership, please contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org.

4. UNHCR seeks NGO participation in upcoming Chad/ Cameroon RTE: UNHCR has asked ICVA to help with a real time evaluation (RTE) of the Central African Republic (CAR) refugee response. UNHCR’s RTE of the Cameroon and Chad emergencies will take place mid-October for about 2.5 weeks in the field. For this RTE UNHCR is seeking NGO participants who are preferably a) French speakers, b) have evaluation experience, and c) have technical expertise in health/nutrition, water/sanitation, and/or shelter. UNHCR can fund travel and accommodation of the NGO participant(s). More information about the RTE is in the UNHCR terms of reference. If your NGO has the identified expertise available and is interested to put forward a candidate, please send his/her CV/resumé to Melissa.pitotti@icvanetwork.org by September 12.

ICVA was involved with the 2013 UNHCR RTE of the Syrian refugee emergency. The report “From slow boil to breaking point” is available on the UNHCR refworld website.

5. IOM-CSO Consultation to Address Xenophobia and Detention Issues: On October 9 International Organization for Migration (IOM) will hold its annual consultations with civil society organisations (CSOs) in Geneva with the overarching theme of “follow-up on the 2013 High Level Dialogue.” Specific agenda topics include: 1) the integration of migration into the post-2015 development agenda and the role of diaspora; 2) reducing the costs of labour migration; 3) improving
the global public perception of migrations, and 4) alternatives to detention. If ICVA members are interested in contributing to ICVA’s preparation for the event, please contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org

### Humanitarian Coordination

6. **IASC discussions regarding the escalating situation in Iraq**: On August 8, the IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG) met to discuss the rapidly-evolving situation in Iraq and evaluated the crisis along the L3 criteria of scale, urgency, complexity, capacity to respond and reputational risk. Read the [summary notes of the EDG meeting](#).

On August 12, the IASC Principals met, resulting in the Emergency Relief Coordinator declaring a Level-3 Emergency in Iraq “Linked to the Syria L3, with an emphasis on a whole-of-Iraq approach, and with the full knowledge of the limitations of what humanitarians can achieve”. Some of the resulting measures of the L3 declaration were to deploy a Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq. In the meantime, Kevin Kennedy arrived in Iraq on August 20 to lead humanitarian coordination in Erbil *ad interim*. It was decided that a short review would be made to map out existing coordination structures and provide options for a more streamlined approach going forward. [Notes](#) from the IASC Principals meeting.

ICVA’s MENA hub is closely following the situation in Iraq, in collaboration with the NGO Coordination Committee in Iraq (NCCI) and the Kurdistan NGO Coordination Forum (KNCF).

7. **Challenges in tackling the Ebola crisis**: During August, ICVA has been following the discussions on the challenges of scaling up to respond to the very concerning situation regarding the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, including engaging in IASC discussions and working with our Regional Representative in West Africa to understand ICVA concerns around the response. This response has been led by WHO, who have produced an [Ebola Response Roadmap](#). To help facilitate a coordinated response, the UN Secretary-General appointed Dr. David Nabbaro Senior UN System Coordinator for Ebola. However, despite these initiatives, ICVA is hearing the frustration of its members about the lack of clear plans, messaging and leadership. ICVA is currently working with its members, in particular through the ICVA West Africa Regional Hub, to understand what the NGO community needs to scale up the response needed.

8. **Revision of the Humanitarian Program Cycle (HPC)**: The IASC, as part of the Transformative Agenda, has revised the HPC to facilitate the work of humanitarian country teams (HCTs), NGOs and other in-country responders. Gareth Price-Jones of OXFAM, along with colleagues from InterAction and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), represented NGOS on the HPC Steering group, and have done their best to bring simplicity to the HPC process, to make
it relevant and useful to NGOs, increasing the impact of an effective collective response to crises. What NGO staff should know, a powerpoint presentation by Gareth, will tell you what the HPC process is about and how it can increase impact and make the job of field staff easier. This is essential reading for Country Directors (particularly those that sit on HCTs), and other humanitarian staff.

9. OIC Ambassador Calls for Humanitarian Paradigm Shift: On August 27, ICVA hosted a meeting for NGOs and governments with Ambassador Hesham Youssef, ASG for Humanitarian Affairs of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), who called for humanitarian actors to start thinking now about promoting a paradigm shift in humanitarian action, given how humanitarian needs are outpacing the resources available. The OIC welcomes ideas from NGOs on what the paradigm shift should look like, including how to bridge the gap between relief and development. Members can read the summary of the meeting.

10. ICVA Asia Regional Workshop on NGO Coordination: on September 16 and 17, the ICVA Asia Regional Hub is hosting representatives from national NGO consortia to discuss common challenges, learnings and reflections on NGO Coordination. This is part of ICVAs on going programme to gather knowledge on and support NGO coordination. The agenda and more information from Jamie.munn@icvanetwork.org

Humanitarian Financing
Note: In light of recent staff changes, the ICVA Secretariat’s humanitarian financing portfolio will now be covered by ICVA Senior Policy Officer Melissa Pitotti (Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org). She will also be assuming the role of co-chair of the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team (HFTT).

11. NGOs Monitor Allocation of Saudi Contribution towards Iraq: On July 1, Saudi Arabia pledged USD500 million to the United Nations to help more than one million Iraqis affected by the conflict there. This striking amount is well beyond the USD312 million requested in the June 2014 Iraq Strategic Response Plan. Given the developments of the last two months, the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) will be revised by September 7 and a new Strategic Response Plan is scheduled for September 29. NGOs are watching closely to see how Saudi funds wind their way through the system from OCHA to UN humanitarian agencies in Iraq and are implemented through international and national NGOs. NGOs were concerned by bottlenecks in cash flow and delays in the signature of sub-agreements with UN agencies. For information about the funding for Iraq can be found on the UN OCHA website, or by contacting reza.kasrai@icvanetwork.org at the ICVA Regional Hub in Mena.
12. What are the Top Five Donor Conditions from which Agencies Suffer? The IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team is working to answer this question. The preliminary inputs, available to ICVA members, require more NGO contributions. If you have any comments please let us know by September 5, 2014.

13. Call for ICVA Members to Join ICVA’s Working Group on Humanitarian Financing: In 2013 ICVA established a Working Group on Humanitarian Financing for ICVA members to advise the Secretariat on how to achieve our goals. This group helps the ICVA Secretariat prioritise its efforts and focus on the long-term objectives of: 1) improving NGO understanding of various funding mechanisms; 2) facilitating better NGO engagement in key inter-agency bodies; and 3) promoting policies that allow for better NGO access to funds. The Group’s next meeting will take place on September 8, at 14.00 Geneva time.

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<th>World Humanitarian Summit</th>
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<td>14. ICVA continues to stay closely engaged with the preparations for the WHS. The following reports from the north and South East Asia consultations are available:-</td>
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b. Final Report from the WHS Regional Consultation for North and South East Asia, held in Tokyo July 23-24, 2014.
c. The World Humanitarian Summit website has more information and videos on the North and South East Asia regional consultations.

The WHS Regional consultation for East and Southern Africa takes place in October 2014. For those of you working in the area the online consultations are now open.

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<th>New and Noteworthy</th>
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<td>15. 150 years of International Law: To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the original Geneva Convention the ICRC has produced a video Rules of war in a nutshell as a call to all parties in all conflicts to comply with international humanitarian law.</td>
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<th>Upcoming Events</th>
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<td>September 2-4: 5th Annual Asia Pacific Consultations on Refugee Rights, Bangkok, Thailand</td>
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<td>September 4: Ahead of the Curve presentation and ICVA Open House, Geneva, Switzerland</td>
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<td>September 5: OCHA- NGO Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland</td>
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September 8: ICVA Asia Regional Hub Roundtable Discussion with Sandrine Tiller author of the MSF report “where is everyone? Bangkok, Thailand

September 16-17: ICVA Asia Regional Hub NGO Coordination Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand

September 23-24: UNHCR Standing Commitee Meeting (Budget)

September 29-Oct 3: UNHCR Executive Committee Meeting

October 9: IOM-CSO Consultation to Address Xenophobia and Detention Issues

November 4-5: ICVA Board Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland

December 10-11: High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection at Sea

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