LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER for ICVA’s “Show Me the Money!” Conference. ICVA members are encouraged to participate in our 1 April conference entitled “Show Me the Money!” This conference will build on ICVA’s ongoing work on humanitarian financing. NGOs, UN agencies, donors, and others will learn from each other about the current system for resourcing principled humanitarian action. Speakers will also share their experiences in finding innovative ways to fund their projects. You don’t want to miss it! For information on how to register, please contact our ICVA conference team.

Forced Displacement

1. ICVA, InterAction, the IFRC, and UNHCR Promote Partnership in Pakistan: After January’s successful mission to the D.R. Congo, an ICVA-InterAction-IFRC-UNHCR delegation visited Pakistan 24-27 February to promote partnership. They facilitated workshops for Islamabad and Peshawar-based partners to: 1) introduce to field staff the 10 recommendations made during the High Commissioner’s Structured Dialogue on Partnership; 2) learn how these recommendations are relevant in Pakistan; and 3) identify some concrete follow-up actions to improve partnerships. The key outcomes of this and other relevant missions/Regional consultations will be presented at the June 2014 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultation session on partnership.

2. UNHCR Fleshes out its Roll-Out Plan for the Implementing Framework: UNHCR is working with NGOs in its “Resource Partner Network” to flesh out plans for the roll-out of its Framework for Implementing with Partners. Questions still remain, particularly with regard to partner selection, the new Project Partnership Agreement, salaries for international and national NGO staff, and the process for NGOs to understand and feed into various elements. Controller Kumiko Matsuura-Mueller and Fatima Sherif-Noor will update UNHCR’s Standing Committee on the Framework during a 6 March side event. We will be eagerly taking notes! The final Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) will come into effect on 1 April 2014. UNHCR briefed its Standing Committee on the Framework during a 6 March side event; we will process our notes on that shortly.

3. 4-6 March Standing Committee (UNHCR) NGO Statements: The ICVA Secretariat is grateful to APRRN, Asylum Access Ecuador, ECRE, Handicap International, and NRC for drafting NGO statements for the UNHCR Standing Committee meeting. Each statement focuses on a region (Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, and Europe). To view the final statements, please CLICK HERE.

4. NGOs Urge UNHCR and Governments to Focus on Education: The ICVA Secretariat appreciates the hard work of RET and all NGOs who contributed to the statement they delivered at the 18 February Informal Consultative Meeting (ICM). UNHCR’s Executive Committee Member States considered four potential themes for the 2014 Conclusion: prevention, coordination, Convention Travel Documents, and education. The NGO statement made a clear case for the selection of education as the theme, not only to enhance protection but to support solutions. NGOs reiterated this view at UNHCR’s 6 March Standing Committee meeting. Unfortunately, some governments aren’t ready to make a decision. We’ll be doing some lobbying in the coming days to help them along. For more information on the Conclusions, CLICK HERE.
5. NGO Weigh in on the Syrian Refugee Situation: CARE, NRC, and World Vision joined the ICVA Secretariat in delivering statements at the 21 February Informal Consultative Meeting (ICM) on Follow-Up to the September 2013 High Level Segment on Solidarity for Syrian-Refugee Hosting Countries. The event started with presentations by UNHCR MENA Bureau Director Amin Awad, UNHCR Deputy Director for Comprehensive Solutions Renata Dubini, and the ambassadors from Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Turkey. Many donors then announced their contributions to the response (primarily funding levels and resettlement pledges). Syria’s neighbors thanked them, but said it was not enough. The Moroccan representative wondered why there seems to be enough funding to worrying parties inside Syria but not to humanitarian aid? The Turkish Ambassador quoted his own son, who said Syrians will get vaccinated, but die the next day from bombs. NGOs ended the meeting by delivering points on solidarity, protection, better aligning the response, coordination, out-of-camp refugees, and host communities. For a summary of the NGO points, CLICK HERE.

6. UNHCR Seeks New Assistant High Commissioner for Protection: UNHCR’s former Assistant High Commissioner for Protection Erika Feller retired in April 2013. On 19 July 2013 NGOs met with a UNHCR consultant to provide input for his review of the AHC (P) position. UNHCR has now completed a new terms of reference for the job. It mentions the importance of partnerships with NGOs! Applications (cover letter and CV) are due to recruitment.AHC-P@unhcr.org by 10 March 2014. External candidates will be considered. We are seeking opportunities for NGOs to express their views on this.

7. Call for Inputs on Community-Based Protection: Community-based protection (CBP) is gaining increasing interest among protection actors. UNHCR recently released a CBP policy paper and re-affirmed its commitment to community-based protection, and the approach is coming to the international arena for a thought-provoking session at the June 2014 UNHCR-NGO Consultations. Here’s how you can make an important contribution to mapping best-practices in CBP:

a) Send your call for examples to Jessica Lenz, Senior Program Manager – Protection, InterAction by 31 March 2014. OR
b) Choose to have a team member call you and help you complete your example of CBP. (Please contact Jessica Lenz)

The UNHCR-NGO team working on this will review your case study, and use it to help frame the CBP conversation at the 2014 Annual Consultations, work up recommendations to implement our commitments to CBP, and highlight particularly promising examples in a written documentation for the event. InterAction has volunteered to support this process, as a part of a longer CBP workstream. Case studies will not be made publicly available or published without explicit consent from those who submit.

8. NGO Focal Points Identified for the 17-19 June UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultation: We thank all those who volunteered to help with the 2014 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations. It’s going to be an big event with something for everyone. The overarching theme is “Women’s Leadership and Participation.” Attached is the list of NGO focal points who will help us co-organize, with UNHCR, what promises to be an exciting event. Please feel free to contact them.

Humanitarian Funding
9. Pooled Fund Working Group Explores Focus on Partnerships: At the Pooled Fund Working Group’s meeting in December 2013, it was agreed that a small working group would review the ToR of the Pooled Fund Working Group as it regards its objectives and working methods. ICVA was asked to be part of the small working group together with the PFWG co-chairs and FAO. According to its current draft, the ToR includes a specific focus on partnerships to support new and existing partnerships between country-based pooled funds and NGOs, in particular national and local NGOs. The ToR is expected to be adopted at an ad hoc meeting of the PFWG on 9 April, to be held in Geneva. For more information or an opportunity to engage with the Pooled Fund Working Group please contact Marzia Montemurro.

Humanitarian Coordination
10. Call for Expressions of Interest to Join World Humanitarian Summit Thematic Teams: In the lead-up to the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in 2016, consultations will take place to capture thinking on issues related to each of the four WHS themes: 1. humanitarian effectiveness; 2. reducing vulnerability and managing risks; 3. transformation through innovation; 4. serving the needs of people in conflict. Teams of experts for each theme will guide, facilitate, and organise the knowledge base for the substantive development of the agenda of the Summit. The teams will also support online consultations on a dedicated web platform and face-to-face regional consultations with local experts and practitioners.

The thematic teams will comprise of a core team of between 6 and 10 experts. Team members are expected to contribute approximately 30 to 50 percent of their time to the team’s work (as part of their full-time post at their home organisation). The composition of the teams is expected to be diverse to reflect the varied nature of the humanitarian community and NGOs are also encouraged to put forward the names of experts who could serve on each of the thematic teams. All expressions of interest should be sent to the WHS Secretariat by 14 March 2014. We will be including more information on what to include in the expression of interest and the full ToR of the thematic teams on our website shortly.

You will find a dedicated WHS page on our website with all the information and opportunities to engage. Please sign up to our dedicated listserv to stay informed!

11. As Plans for the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment Shape Up, Time for NGOs to Prepare: This year’s ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment will take place in New York between 23 and 25 June. The main themes for this year will be Humanitarian Effectiveness and Serving the Needs...
of People in Conflict, two of the four themes of the World Humanitarian Summit. Particular focus will be given to affected communities and local humanitarian actors. NGOs are encouraged to propose topics for side events, as well as stories/experiences of locally led humanitarian responses to be featured in the Humanitarian Trade Fair that will run throughout the segment alongside the side events. The expectation for this year’s side events is to be recommendation focused to be able to link it better to both Member States discussions and to the preparations for the World Humanitarian Summit. We would like to set up a group of members interested in preparing for the ECOSOC humanitarian affairs segment. Please contact Marzia Montemurro

12. Mali HC/RC David Gressly Meets with NGOs at ICVA: On February 6, 2014 David Gressly, DSRSG/RC/HC for Mali met with NGOs at ICVA. In spite of improved security situation in the country, the insecurity still represents the largest obstacle to the humanitarian space in the regions of Kidal and Gao in the Northeast. The food security situation is severe and malnutrition levels among children very high. There were hopes that Mali round table on humanitarian space and UN integration, scheduled for mid February would contribute to resolve the problem of blurring of humanitarian and military lines in this integrated mission.

13. ICVA’s Survey on the Performance of Humanitarian Coordinators: On 5 February, the Emergency Directors reviewed the performance of Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs) who have been in post during 2013 for more than six months, as well as select Resident Coordinators (RCs) with substantial humanitarian portfolios. The ICVA organized survey was most appreciated by the EDG chair and members and this modality of gathering field inputs will feed into an EDG task team assigned with developing a methodology for Annual Operational Reviews and the HC Performance Appraisals.

14. HC Pool: Strong NGO Candidates Passed the First Screening Exercise: In February, ICVA took part in the screening of candidates for the HC Pool. Currently there are no RC/HC’s with an NGO background deployed in humanitarian crises, mainly due to the lack of candidates in the pool. Therefore, prior to this exercise, ICVA encouraged our members to nominate strong senior candidates with an HC profile to the pool with the result that four out of five candidates forwarded by ICVA members passed to the second round! We would like to thank our members for promoting their best staff to take on these critical roles in the humanitarian architecture and we are committed to following them through the next phases of the selection process.

15. 2-3 April Copenhagen Roundtable: Kudos to IRC for volunteering to serve as the NGO co-chair of the new Durable Solutions Engagement Group (DSEG). Other co-chairs include the Government of Denmark, UNHCR, and the Government of Colombia. The Danish Refugee Council is serving as the DSEG’s Secretariat. DSEG’s purpose is to bring key stakeholders, including development actors, together to promote sustainable solutions for displaced persons. They will gather in Copenhagen on 2-3 April to: 1) endorse their mission statement; 2) develop a global advocacy strategy; and 3) agree on specific country situations to focus on. We want to organize a broader meeting to get NGO views and advice on the initiative. To see the DSEG’s draft mission statement, CLICK HERE.

Quality & Accountability

16. Q & A Workshop Took Place on March 4 and 6 in Amman: The MENA hub organized two workshops on Accountability to Affected Populations. The objective of the workshop was to build and strengthen shared understanding of various Q&A practices and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Q&A tools in addressing areas of greatest need in two specific operational contexts: The first took place in Beirut, Lebanon on March 4th (with thanks to member DRC for helping with the arrangements), followed by March 6th in Amman, Jordan. Dr. James Munn, the Bangkok Regional Representative facilitated both workshops.

In the News!

17. Security Council Presidential Statement after PoC Open Debate Reaffirms Council’s Commitment to the Protection of Civilians: On Wednesday 12 February, the United Nations Security Council adopted a Presidential Statement (PRST) after holding its first open debate of 2014 on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (POC). This month, Security Council members focused on one of the five core protection challenges identified by the Secretary-General in 2009: strengthening protection by UN peacekeeping and other missions. Following agreed language from previous resolutions and presidential statements, the PRST stresses the role of senior mission leadership in ensuring implementation of protection mandates and encourages coordination between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations on protection issues relating to peacekeeping. Despite references by High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay and Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous to the Rights Up Front initiative, presented by Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson on 17 December 2013 to ensure that “human rights awareness and knowledge permeate the UN system”, no reference to it is included in the PRST. Addressing the Council, Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, stressed the need to ensure effective coordination between missions and humanitarian actors and emphasized the importance of the civilian contribution to operations, which should not be overshadowed by the military’s role in that regard. The full record of the discussions and the text of the PRST can be found HERE.

18. Call for Papers on Refugee Protection Outside the International Legal Framework: The Center for Forced Migration Studies is organizing an international workshop on "Refugee Protection Outside of the International Legal Framework: Expanding Cross-National and Cross-Disciplinary Collaborations" May 27-28, 2014. The workshop seeks to draw not only established experts, but also new scholars, graduate students and voices of underrepresented regions and groups. The deadline for abstract submissions is 1 April 2014.

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