1. **The Structured Dialogue on Partnership:** A UNHCR-ICVA-InterAction mission conducted two UNHCR-NGO workshops on partnership: one in Goma on 28 January and one in Kinshasa on 30 January. There was clearly an interest and willingness among UNHCR, international NGO, and national NGO staff to openly discuss partnership. After reviewing the Structured Dialogue process as well as strategic directions in the DRC, they honed in on specific themes like advocacy, capacity strengthening, and joint planning. Participants in Goma had an additional discussion on returns, while participants in Kinshasa spent some time focused on communication/coordination/information sharing. A mission report is forthcoming. The next mission will take place in Pakistan at the end of the month.

2. **The Implementing Framework:** UNHCR is working with its Partner Resource Network to finalise a roll-out plan for the “Framework for Implementing with Partners.” The focus during 2014 will be to inform and support colleagues and partners regarding changes related to: partner selection/retention, agreement management, project installment management, project risk management, and project monitoring. Many ICVA members are involved in the Partner Resource Network, so let us know if you have questions/concerns/suggestions. For more information, please contact Melissa Pitotti.

3. **Advocacy Opportunity:** NGOs are invited to give a joint statement at UNHCR’s 18 February Informal Consultative Meeting on the selection of a Conclusion theme. This is a positive development, since NGOs were excluded from the meeting last year. [Note: “Conclusions” are kind of like resolutions. They are negotiated by Member States, and usually call upon UNHCR and governments to improve protection of persons of concern to UNHCR.] The theme of the 2014 Conclusion will likely be education, but other topics are also under consideration. If you would like to feed into the NGO statement on education, please contact Melissa Pitotti. For more information, please visit the Conclusions webpage.

4. **HI Releases Fact Sheet on the Consequences of Explosive Weapons among IDPs in Syria:** Handicap International (HI) released in January a fact sheet that aims to provide a snapshot into the types of injuries caused by explosive weapons and witnessed by HI’s teams while working with IDPs in Syria. The paper provides information on the short and long-term consequences faced by victims of explosive weapons. It also calls on parties to the conflict, as well as to the international community, to follow recommendations to ensure international humanitarian law is respected. For more information, please read the full fact sheet and its recommendations.

5. **NGO Priorities Are Included in Work Plan of IASC Task Team on Humanitarian Financing:** The IASC Task Team on Humanitarian Financing held its retreat on 20 and 21 January to prioritize its tasks for 2014 and 2015. The retreat was well attended with a good balance of both UN and NGOs. A number of the priorities identified at the retreat include activities that are key to making humanitarian financing more accessible to NGOs. In particular, members of the Task Team agreed to conduct a...
stock-taking exercise to identify challenges to access pooled funds for NGOs, produce an options paper investigating the feasibility of harmonised ex-ante risk assessment processes to manage fiduciary risks especially for national NGOs and review good practices in UN-NGO partnership agreements. The work plan is being finalized and NGOs are expected to lead and contribute to many of the activities in the work plan.

ICVA is currently co-chairing the IASC Task Team together with OCHA. For more information or an opportunity to engage with the IASC Task Team on Humanitarian Financing, please contact Marzia Montemurro.

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6. 106 Responses to ICVA’s NGO Survey on HC Evaluation: In early February, the Emergency Directors will be reviewing 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. ICVA shared a survey with members in January to ensure that the NGO perspective was reflected in the appraisals. The response was great and we’d like to extend a big thank you to the over 106 NGO workers from 18 countries who participated and provided invaluable input that will feed into the final RC/HC Performance Appraisal Process. We will keep you informed on the process as it unfolds. If you have any questions before then, please contact Eigil Kvernmo.

7. NGO Entry Points Begin to Take Form as Preparations for World Humanitarian Summit Move Forward: As preparations for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) scheduled to take place in early 2016 in Turkey get under way, more details emerge as to how NGOs can contribute to the lead up. An online platform will enable all those interested in feeding input. The platform, which is scheduled to be launched in late April or early May, will be available in all 6 UN official languages and proposed to be interactive with possible moderated discussions online. Additionally, regional and thematic consultations will take place in 2014 and 2015. The first regional consultations are planned for West and Central Africa in June (potential sites include Cote d’Ivoire or Nigeria), followed by Asia (Japan) in July, Guatemala in September and South and East Africa in October/November. Eastern Europe, MENA and South and Central Asia as well as a Global Consultation (Switzerland) are planned for 2015.

Terms of reference setting the parameters for the four themes (1 - Humanitarian effectiveness; 2 - Reducing vulnerability and managing risks; 3 - Innovation; and 4 - Serving the needs of people in conflict) are currently being developed. This is a key component that NGOs and the ICVA Secretariat will track to ensure the centrality of humanitarian principles throughout the themes. Coordinators within the WHS Secretariat will lead the consultations for each of the themes. The WHS Secretariat is also looking at using other events, conferences and meetings to multiply input into the process including the post-15 MDGs, the HFA, the World Urban Forum, the Humanitarian Forum, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent conference, etc. As well, there will be special online events and real-time inputs into
regional consultations. It still needs to be clarified, however, how the all the feedback will be contributing to the Summit and how decisions will be made about priorities and recommendations.

At present, there is no specific funding for NGOs to participate but the online consultations may provide a strong platform for engagement and ICVA will monitor and support opportunities for engagement and influence, especially by national NGOs. If you would like more information, please write to Marzia Montemurro.

8. ERC Appoints New HC for Lebanon: Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, has appointed Ross Mountain (most recently Director General of DARA, 2010-2013) as the new Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) ad interim for Lebanon effective 1 February 2014.

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10. IMS Requests Feedback on IOM Desk Study on Media Situation in CAR: The IOM Desk Study (attached) was launched mid-January with the purpose of providing guidance for decisions on interventions on humanitarian information, communication and media support issues as a response to the current crisis in CAR. The International Media Support (IMS) requests your feedback on the report and its recommendations. For more information, please contact Finn Rasmussen.

11. Feedback Requested on First Draft of Core Humanitarian Standard and Guidance Note: HAP and People in Aid request feedback from humanitarian stakeholders on the first Draft of the Core Humanitarian Standards, now available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish, by 31 March 2014. They are also requesting feedback on the Guidance Notes, which provide direction on how you might work with colleagues and other humanitarian stakeholders, including affected populations.

12. SCHR Releases Revised Version of the Draft Certification Model: The revised Model, which has been developed by the Certification Review Project, has been simplified and the core assessment criteria is based on three pillars: 1. Humanitarian Principles; 2. Accountability to Affected People; and 3. Quality, Effectiveness and Learning, with a limited number of key indicators. This new version will be
used in the upcoming field research and piloting phase of the project. The next round of feedback will continue until 31 March.

As always, we welcome your feedback and input on the content of our Monthly Bulletin. If you have any suggestions for future topics you would like covered, please contact Klara Josipovic. Click here to unsubscribe from this mailing list.

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