
Tuesday 19 August is World Humanitarian Day - a global celebration of humanitarian aid work that joins United Nations and hundreds of national and international NGOs around the world. This years campaign, *the World Needs more #Humanitarian Heroes,* will showcase the important work of humanitarian aid workers on the frontline of some of the world’s worst crises. Check out the World Humanitarian Day [website](#) for more information, and the new online
community **Messengers of Humanity** that is to be launched.

ON World Humanitarian day 2014, ICVA will join the Geneva international community in celebrating the work of humanitarians around the world, and in commemorating lives lost in humanitarian service at an event at the United Nations Palais des Nations with a debate and film screening. For more information about this event please contact ICVA.

We encourage you to show your support for World Humanitarian Day by sharing stories of aid workers, joining the Messengers of Humanity, and hosting/taking part in local events. Let us know how you and your organisation will celebrate World Humanitarian Day.

**ICVA Updates**

1. **ICVA's New Strategic Plan 2015-2017 – your opinion matters!** ICVA continues to develop its vision for a way forward with the development of a new strategic plan (2015-2017). In order to help us do this we would really appreciate if you could take 20 minutes to complete this initial survey.

2. **Forced Displacement**

2. **Will Sri Lanka repatriate asylum seekers?** On 24 July ICVA hosted a briefing by refugee rights activist Ali Naqvi to raise awareness among NGOs, the UN and governments about the potential for Sri Lanka to repatriate Pakistani religious minorities (from the Shia, Christian and Ahmadiyya communities) and other asylum seekers who were arrested in Sri Lankan police sweeps in June 2014. Mr. Naqvi and his delegation are appealing to UNHCR to expedite their refugee status determinations and resettlement processing, and for the Government of Sri Lanka to refrain from *refoulement*. “If they are returned to Pakistan,” Mr. Naqvi said, “they will surely die.” More information can be found on the Human Rights Watch website.

3. **ICVA continues to closely follow a number of developments with UNHCR.** Some specific issues to draw your attention to are:
- **UNHCR issues policy on alternatives to camps**: UNHCR has issued a new policy on alternatives to camps which makes an institutional commitment to pursue alternatives to camps, whenever possible. Where camps must be established and where they already exist, they should be phased out at the earliest possible stage or transformed into sustainable settlements. UNHCR recognizes that in some cases national laws and policies in countries hosting refugees will present major obstacles to the implementation of the policy.

- **UNHCR speaks out against Australian returns to Sri Lanka**: The refugee rights community was stunned when it learned the Australian government had returned a boat of 41 Sri Lankan asylum seekers to the Sri Lankan navy on 6 July and was holding another boat of 157 Sri Lankan asylum seekers in an undisclosed location. UNHCR issued a press statement registering its deep concern.

- **UNHCR seeks candidates for Assistant High Commissioner for Operations**: After almost five and a half years serving as UNHCR’s AHC for Operations, Janet Lim will retire from UNHCR on 31 January 2015. Applications for this post should be sent by 12 September 2014 to Recruitment.AHC-O@ unhcr.org. For more information see the Terms of Reference

- **Revised appeals show humanitarian system stretched to breaking point**: ICVA attended and participated in several inter-agency briefings in July calling on donors to step up their funding for urgent operations, many of them regional. It is clear that needs are outpacing funding contributions. To learn more, see the following articles:
  - Heads of WFP & UNHCR issue urgent appeal as food shortages hit nearly 800,000 refugees in Africa
  - UNHCR warns of dramatic consequences if funding gaps for Syrian refugees continue
  - UNHCR calls for massive boost in funding as worsening situation in South Sudan fuels regional refugee crisis
  - UNHCR seeks $210m in revised appeal for refugees from Central African Republic

---

**Humanitarian Coordination**

**4. NGO Response to UN Security Council Resolution 2165**: NGOs in northern Syria welcomed the UNSCR
to ensure millions of people in Syria get the humanitarian aid they need. However the NGO forum for NGOs operating in northern Syria called on the UN’s humanitarian agencies to recognise and support their existing and ongoing work, to ensure timely information sharing, and to use the existing coordination structures to scale up the aid operations. More information can be found in the UNSCR 2165 Talking Points document.

5. Results of ICVA’s survey on the state of humanitarian leadership coordination and accountability: 244 NGO staff working in 21 different humanitarian crises responded to the ICVA’s survey on NGOs perceptions’ of the state of humanitarian leadership coordination and accountability. This survey built upon the InterAction/ICVA survey of 2013 on Perceptions on the Transformative Agenda. The results show a number of interesting observations including a positive trend in the perceived quality of coordination, more effort is required to engage international and local NGOs as equal partners, management of pooled funding needs to be more transparent, and accountability towards affected communities must be strengthened. The survey indicates a clear need to revisit Humanitarian Principles and the Principles of Partnership, and underscores the need to explain the relevance of the Transformative Agenda to those working in the field. For more details see the Survey Results.

6. ICVA develops its support to NGO Coordination: As part of its ongoing commitment to gathering knowledge on, and supporting NGO coordination, ICVA is conducting a series of regional meetings with NGO coordination fora. The first of these meetings was hosted by ICVA’s MENA hub in Jordan for NGO country and regional consortiums. The two-day meeting in July encouraged discussion among the participants from Yemen, Palestine, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey, Syria, as well as the Syria Regional International NGO Forum with the aim of sharing lessons and best practice in NGO coordination. Participants agreed that such a meeting is a very useful opportunity to exchange of information as a small group of peers. For more information download the Report of the meeting.

ICVA will be holding a similar meetings in Dakar, 27-28 August and in Bangkok, 16-17 September. These meeting will feed into the development of ICVA’s new NGO Coordination Resource Centre, which will build on the existing NGO Coordination Guide and provide a live source of knowledge and exchange around NGO coordination mechanisms.

7. Growth of the 2014 Humanitarian Coordinator Pool (HC Pool) selection: Following the call for nominations issued by the ERC in January 2014, 123 applications were received. The selection process shortlisted 61 candidates for interview by the IASC Emergency Directors and other senior officials from UN and non-UN organisations. The HC
Pool July 2014 now comprises 99 members from 27 agencies; one-quarter are women, one-quarter are from the South, and one-fifth are from non-UN organisations. While the gender and geographical balance is still unsatisfactory, (see Breakdown of Applicants, HC Pool Call Key Statistics, and HC Pool Composition). ICVA is pleased to see the HC pool growing with well-qualified candidates and an increasing amount of interest from the NGO community.

Humanitarian Principles

8. Prompting discussion on the Humanitarian Principles: Building on the experience of the collaboration between ICVA and ICRC facilitating a workshop with the Muslim Charities Forum in the UK in 2013, ICVA and ICRC collaborated again with a learning event on the Humanitarian Principles in Amman in June 2014. Over 30 national, regional, international, secular and faith-based organisations were represented at the workshop, which provided a platform for bridging perception gaps that exist between actors regarding the principles and their application and overcoming some of the misconceptions associated with these principles. ICVA’s West Africa and Asia Regional Hubs will host similar workshops in the coming months.

Quality and Accountability

9. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and NGOs Debate “Where is Everyone?” On 21 July 2014, ICVA hosted a discussion with MSF Secretary General Jérome Oberreit and MSF Switzerland's Director General Bruno Jochum on the recent MSF report “Where is Everyone: Responding to Emergencies in the Most Difficult Places.” The discussion focused on three questions:- 1. How has MSF reacted to the reaction to the report? 2. How do the assertions in the report relate to changes in the political, conflict and security environment? 3. What more can be done to work with local NGOs/civil society on the ground? As expected, the discussion was a lively one. Read the report of the meeting and let us know if you have any thoughts!

Other responses to the MSF "Where is Everyone?" report include:

- [http://www.rescue.org/blog/%E2%80%98where-everyone%E2%80%99-we%E2%80%99re-standing-right-next-you](http://www.rescue.org/blog/%E2%80%98where-everyone%E2%80%99-we%E2%80%99re-standing-right-next-you)
ICVA and MSF are planning to replicate this discussion in Bangkok in September.

**World Humanitarian Summit**

10. The debate leading up to the World Humanitarian Summit has begun in earnest, with two Regional Consultations – West Africa and South East and North Asia. For more information on these Consultations please contact Liliane Bitong, ICVA Regional Representative West Africa, or James Munn, ICVA Regional Representative Asia.

- **The West and Central Africa Consultations** were held in Abidjan from 19 to 20 June, and co-hosted by the Governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Cote d'Ivoire. These consultations brought together over 190 participants from 24 countries. The discussions covered how best to meet the humanitarian needs in the region in particular in urban areas, how to address the gap between early warning and response, and how to conduct effective, principled humanitarian action in the region’s conflict situations. The Summary, available in English and French, highlights some of the emerging recommendations. ACF and ICVA produced a lessons learned document about the Consultation process for the West and Central Africa Region with recommendations for future consultations, including ensuring a balance of participants between state, UN, INGOs and NGOs, and donors.

- **South East & North Asia Consultations**: The SE and N Asia Consultations took place in Tokyo from 23-24 July 2014. Representatives of UN agencies, NGOs, regional organisations, business and academic institutions from 16 countries in the region participated. The Closing Remarks were made by Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary-General of OCHA. An NGO meeting was held the day prior to the regional consultation.

**New and Noteworthy**

11. The 2014 Essential Field Guide to Afghanistan is out! This recently published comprehensive handbook on Afghanistan provides invaluable and practical information. The guide and its companion website are designed to keep you informed.

12. Conrad N Hilton Foundation seeking nominations: Nominations for the 2015 Hilton Humanitarian Prize nomination is now open and ends on August 31, 2014. Guidelines and more information about this prestigious prize can be found on the Hilton Foundation Website.

**Dates for your Diary**

Please note the new date for UNHCR_NGO Annual Consultations is now 1-3 July, 2015.
2014

August 19: World Humanitarian Day
August 27-28: West Africa NGO Coordination Meeting
August 28: ICVA West Africa Member Strategy Consultation
September 16-17: Asia NGO Coordination Meeting
September 23-24: UNHCR Standing Committee Meeting (Budget)
September 29- Oct 3: UNHCR Executive Committee Meeting
November 4-5: ICVA Board Meeting
December 10-11: High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection at Sea

2015

March 9: ICVA Conference
March 10: ICVA General Assembly
March: UNHCR Standing Committee Meeting (Operations)
June 29-30: UNHCR Standing Committee Meeting (Protection)
July 1-3: UNCHR NGO Annual Consultation

ICVA Secretariat
Avenue Giuseppe-Motta 26-28
Geneva, GE CH-1202
Switzerland

Click to Unsubscribe