ICVA would like to extend its support to the NGOs working hard around the world to promote principled and effective humanitarian action in response to conflicts and natural disasters. On World Refugee Day, June 20th, UNHCR said that for the first time since World War II, the number of people forced to flee their homes worldwide has surged past 50 million, and a global emergency overview (1) listed 23 countries with humanitarian crises, over half of these "severe", and listed another 19 countries as "of concern" or on a "watch list". Our community is under increasing pressure to respond in dangerous locations to humanitarian requirements that are outpacing donations. Now is the time for solidarity.

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1. ICVA Begins Consultative Strategic Planning Process: What do you expect of ICVA? How could we do more to build the potential of the network? Who are the main humanitarian partners that the network should be connecting to? What should be the Secretariat’s main focus? We want to hear your responses to these and other questions related to the work of ICVA to help in developing the next Strategic Plan. In order to do so, we will be reaching out to you via a membership survey in July, as well as holding focus group meetings in Amman (July), Dakar (August), Bangkok (September) and in Geneva (September) to hear what you expect of the network in the coming three years.

A Strategic Plan Advisory Group comprised of a number of our members, including IMC, Plan, ACF, Save the Children, ICRC, ICCO, APRRN, OFADEC, NRC and the Somalia NGO consortium, will guide this process.

2. ICVA 2013 Annual Report Published: and is now available to download from HERE.

3. ICVA Regional Hub Update - find out what the Hubs have been doing since their establishment in this Progress Report.

4. Nearly 500 Gather at the UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations: We thank the nearly 500 people who participated in the June 17-19, 2014 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations. They are encouraged to fill out the online evaluation form here. To recap:

- **Social media:** The introduction of social media created a new dynamic at the consultation. Our hashtag #UNHCRNGOs was mentioned in 4,776 Tweets during the week! You can see a “storified” summary of the social media coverage of the event HERE.
- **The theme:** The theme of “women’s leadership and participation” generated vivid discussions and stressed the importance of women’s empowerment (with the support of men and boys) in ensuring the effective protection of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons. An inspiring Colombian refugee Luz Mery Mesa from Asylum Access, Ecuador delivered the opening remarks, calling for gendered asylum processes and justice for women refugees survivors of gender based violence, while Lucy Kiama Executive Director of the Refugee Consortium, Kenya gave a rousing closing statement, in which she urged us all to take an active step in promoting women’s leadership by initiating systematic mentorship programmes for young women and girls (followed by a powerful intervention by her daughter).
- **The issues:** Lively discussions tackled issues such as girls’ education and women’s land rights, while the regional and thematic sessions focused attention on partnership, protection at sea, sustainable livelihoods, resettlement, mental health and psychosocial support, community-based protection, advocating for protection, youth leadership, detention, urban refugees, IDPs and the plight of stateless persons. The moving session on statelessness served to

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highlight that one of the primary causes of statelessness is gender discrimination in nationality laws, with mothers incapable of passing their nationality on to their children.

- **UNHCR-NGO partnership**: ICVA’s presentations on the top 10 things you should know about the Structured Dialogue on UNHCR-IFRC-NGO Partnership and the Enhanced Framework for Implementing with Partners can be found HERE.
- **The summary**: NGO Rapporteur Jessie Thomson of Care Canada’s concluding remarks can be read HERE. She called on UNHCR to update the High Commissioner’s Five Commitments to refugee women based on the week’s discussions.
- **Looking Ahead**: The 2015 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultation will take place June 30 – July 2, 2015. Mark your calendars!

5. **ICVA and APRRN Support Nansen Consultation on Disasters and Displacement in South East Asia**: A Nansen Initiative Civil Society Meeting, cohosted with ICVA and the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), took place in Bangkok, Thailand from 30 June – 1 July, to explore the issue of cross-border displacement in the context of natural hazards and climate change in the region. The meeting brought together over 40 representatives from civil society organisations, UN organisations, affected communities and academic institutions from South East Asia, to: a) reflect upon the protection needs of displaced people in disaster contexts; b) identify appropriate protection frameworks; and c) discuss how civil society actors have undertaken activities to prevent displacement and/or to provide protection and assistance to displaced and receiving communities through human rights, development, disaster risk management and humanitarian assistance strategies and programming. Outcomes from the meeting will contribute to an inter-governmental South-East Asian Regional Consultation planned for September/October 2014. More information can be found at www.nanseninitiative.org/disasters-and-displacement-south-east-asia.

6. **Options Considered for UNHCR’s Future Policy on Partner Personnel Costs**: On June 20 members of the UNHCR-NGO Network Organizations group met to discuss options for UNHCR’s future policy on partner personnel costs. One option is to peg UNHCR’s contribution to a humanitarian salary index that is updated every five years and reviewed every three years. Another option is to establish a maximum ratio of support-to-programme costs (like UNICEF). The third option, to put no limits on UNHCR’s contributions to partner personnel costs, did not receive universal support (primarily due to UNHCR’s budget constraints). The Network Organization’s Group will meet again in September 2014 after doing more research. Click HERE for more information. If you have comments or questions, please contact Melissa Pitotti and/or Reza Kasrai.

7. **NGOs Launch Film, “Register Me!”** A five-minute film was launched July 1 at the UNHCR Standing Committee meeting to promote understanding and implementation of the UNHCR Executive Committee 2013 Conclusion on Civil Registration (particularly birth registration) for persons of concern to UNHCR. It features interviews with UNHCR’s Volker Türk, government, and NGO representatives. ICVA commissioned the film with funding from several NGOs: Arigatou International, BICE, Child Rights Connect, Franciscans International, NRC, Plan, Track, and World Vision. Kate Ofwono, a former refugee, was trained by FilmAid produced the video. Please watch it HERE, and share it with your contacts. The French and Spanish versions of the film will be launched shortly. To read the Conclusion itself, click HERE.

22. ICVA West Africa Regional Hub workshop on Accountability Affected Populations (AAP)
23. The 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

**World Humanitarian Summit**
24. West and Central Africa WHS regional consultation
25. World Humanitarian Summit webinars and live Q&As

**New and Noteworthy**
26. ICRC online Customary international Humanitarian Law (IHL) database
27. Review of Cash Transfer Programming and Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP)
8. UNHCR Launches Guidance, Promotes Learning on Partnering with Faith Organisations and Communities: At the well-attended UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations’ side event on women’s leadership, faith and protection, UNHCR launched the “UNHCR Partnership Note on faith-based organisations, local faith communities and faith leaders.” You can read the English version HERE and the French version HERE. In addition, UNHCR has partnered with the UN System Staff College (UNSSC), UNFPA, and UNAIDS to provide a three-day strategic learning exchange on “Engaging with Faith Organisations and Communities in Development and Humanitarian Work” to be held from November 4-6, 2014. NGO and FBO representatives are encouraged to apply by September 21. For more information click HERE or contact the UNSSC Course Coordinator, Angelo Miramonti. To apply, please click HERE.

9. InterAgency Mobilises to Solicit Funds for Syrian, CAR and South Sudanese Refugee Responses: On June 4 ICVA participated in an inter-agency meeting to discuss mobilising funding for regional refugee response plans for the Syria, South Sudan and CAR situations. Unfortunately, funding levels – particularly for NGOs – are significantly low for all appeals. Please click HERE for the full report.

10. Seeking Input on UNHCR Partner Selection, Agreements and Joint Monitoring: NGOs are strongly encouraged to submit their feedback on UNHCR’s draft selection Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document, draft Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) guidance note, and draft joint monitoring guidance note by the end of July to Melissa Pitotti and/or Epartner@UNHCR. The material is available here under the heading “Implementing Partnership Session” —> “drafts for comments”

11. Seeking Ideas for the High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection at Sea: ICVA’s June 10 UNHCR Working Group meeting featured a presentation by UNHCR’s José Riera to discuss planning for the December 10-11 High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection at Sea. For information on the event and UNHCR’s global initiative on protection at sea, click HERE. Please let us know if you have ideas for good speakers, participants, side events, and potential outcomes by emailing Melissa Pitotti by July 10. For a full read-out of the Working Group meeting click HERE.

12. Seeking Editors for Refugee Right Toolkit: The Refugee Rights Toolkit, an Asylum Access initiative, is looking for content editing support. The Toolkit is primarily aimed at developing the leadership capacity and knowledge base of those establishing refugee rights initiatives in any country. It contains, for instance, best practices, advice on organisation start-up and management, and programmatic tools for achieving refugee rights through legal services. The initiative is seeking expert editors with experience in refugee rights and/or NGO programming to review and edit various sections of the Toolkit. Interest from both academics and practitioners is welcome! If you are interested or wish to find out more about the position, please contact Laura Parker specifying your area of expertise and your interests. Click here for more information.

13. Webinar on Urban Good Practices July 3: The UNHCR-NGO Urban Refugee Task Team is holding the third in its series of urban webinars on Thursday July 3 at 4:00 pm (CET) to promote good practices and learning in urban programming. IRC will present on the role of information and communication technology (ICT) in the delivery of protection and assistance in urban environments. Using the IRC’s protection programme in Lebanon as a case study, the presentation will highlight
lessons learnt and provide recommendations around mobilising ICT to adapt to the complexities of communication and participation in environments where populations are dispersed and hidden and service provision is dynamic. For information on how to participate in the webinar, please contact Melissa Pitotti. To search for good practices or upload your own, please visit: http://urbangoodpractices.org/

14. UNHCR Launches Statelessness E-Learning Course: Want to learn more about statelessness? On June 19, 2014, UNHCR launched an e-learning course at its Annual Consultations with NGOs. The programme is an interactive and practical online course that aims to raise awareness of statelessness, its causes and consequences. It also looks at the relevant legal framework and UNHCR's statelessness mandate. To access it you simply need to register via this link (no charge): https://trainingpost.com/course/statelessness

15. NGOs Call on States and UNHCR to Improve Protection in 10 Ways: ICVA would like to thank all those who contributed text and input into the NGO Statement on Protection for the 60th Standing Committee Meeting of the UNHCR Executive Committee. On 1 July the statement was delivered by Tennah Kpaka, the Chairperson of the Australian National Committee on Refugee Women - a former Sierra Leonian refugee. To read the statement, please click HERE.

**Humanitarian Coordination**

16. ECOSOC Resolution includes new language on Internal Displacement. The ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment took place in New York on June 23-25. At the conclusion of the Segment, Member States adopted the Resolution on Strengthening Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations. While the negotiations leading to the adoption of the Resolution proved particularly difficult with Syria locking the G77 in an impasse around the principle of sovereignty, the Resolution contains new elements including new language on internal displacement. The new language addresses in particular the frequently protracted nature of displacement resulting from complex crises and emergencies and encourages Member States and humanitarian agencies to continue to work together and with host communities to provide more predictable responses to the needs of IDPs. The concept of interoperability was also included in the new text. Though included in the zero draft under the wording of ‘timely delivery of assistance’ the reference to humanitarian access was once again dropped. For a record of the interventions by Member States and other humanitarian stakeholders at the concluding General Debate, please click HERE.

17. ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment: High Level Panels and Side Events. The focus themes at the June 23-25 meeting in New York of the Humanitarian Affairs Segment mirrored those chosen for the World Humanitarian Summit, specifically humanitarian effectiveness and serving the needs of people in conflict.

**High-level panel on effective humanitarian assistance:** the panelists included the Director-General of the Nigerian National Emergency Management Agency, Ms. Georgieva (European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid), a representative from the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency and Mr. Fisher (UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria) under the moderation of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Amos. They suggested that global humanitarian aid actors should adopt policies of solidarity with strife-torn and disaster-stricken communities to provide more predictable responses to the needs of IDPs. The concept of interoperability was also included in the new text. Though included in the zero draft under the wording of ‘timely delivery of assistance’ the reference to humanitarian access was once again dropped. For a record of the interventions by Member States and other humanitarian stakeholders at the concluding General Debate, please click HERE.
communities rather than charity, and ensure aid workers had the requisite skills to deliver their specific mandates. For a detailed account of the panel, please click HERE.

**High-level panel on serving the needs of people in complex emergencies:** The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau, the Director of the Executive Unit for IDPs and Camps Management in Yemen, the Director for International Law and Cooperation of the ICRC and representatives from the Catholic, Islamic and Evangelical communities in CAR highlighted in their interventions the need for humanitarian action to be supported by stronger peacebuilding and preventive diplomacy, as well as accountability and partnerships with local communities and religious organisations. The full account of the event can be found HERE.

**Side events:** more than twenty side events took place during the humanitarian affairs segment. Background documentation for all of them can be accessed HERE.

### Humanitarian Financing

**18. NGOs gain full membership during review of the Terms of Reference of the Pooled Fund Working Group:** The regular session of the Pooled Fund Working Group (PFWG) – an informal group of donors and key stakeholders of country-based pooled funds currently co-chaired by OCHA and Norway – took place in New York on the margins of the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment on June 24. As part of the agenda, participants reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Group. Donors, UN agencies and NGOs had an opportunity to provide feedback and ICVA did it on behalf of the NGOs. It was agreed that three NGO representatives alongside three UN representatives and donors will be full members of the group. While the PFWG has generally been open to NGOs in the past couple of years, expectations around NGO participation (e.g. only presenters on specific issues, observers, etc.) were never fully clear. We will share separately a call for expressions of interest to represent NGOs on the PFWG on behalf of ICVA.

While the group remains informal in nature, the links with the other humanitarian financing bodies will be clarified in the final Terms of Reference. It was also agreed that the group should serve as an advisory body to OCHA as the manager of pooled funds and provide policy guidance and strategic direction to the overall functioning of country-based pooled funds. A draft work plan, which will also help clarify the roles and responsibilities of the PFWG members, will be circulated ahead of the next regular meeting planned for December in New York.

**19. Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) Syria:** As part of the updates provided at the Pooled Fund Working Group, there was a separate discussion on the expected changes regarding the ERF for Syria. Following a decision by Under-Secretary General and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) Valerie Amos in May 2014 to reorganise the management arrangements of the Syria ERF, there will be three separate ERFs (Syria, Lebanon and Jordan) effective July 2014. Each Fund will be led by the respective Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) and managed by the OCHA Country Office. In addition, a fourth Fund will be established in Gaziantep, Turkey and coordinated by the Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (DRHC), who will act as a “convener” of all cross border activities.
It is expected that the Fund in Turkey will be used to fund Syrian NGOs in particular to increase access to hard-to-reach areas. Recognising the current capacity of local Syrian NGOs, however, it is likely that there will be a tiered approach for the short, medium and long term with INGOs expected to play an important role, and to work with local NGOs especially at the beginning. There will need to be concrete discussions around eligibility criteria (including registration in Turkey) with the humanitarian community in Turkey and the DRHC. Some donors at the PFWG meeting encouraged OCHA to include non-registered NGOs among eligible recipients. To view the details shared at the PFWG on the ERF for Syria and other country-based pooled funds, please click HERE.

20. OCHA-NGO platform on country-based pooled funds looks at revised accountability framework: Following a preliminary OCHA-NGO meeting hosted by ICVA and OCHA’s Funding Coordination Section (FCS) on April 3 in Geneva, the first substantive meeting to discuss the management of country-based pooled funds (CBPFs) took place in New York on June 23. Some 20 NGO participants attended the meeting. The two main items on the agenda were the review of the status of the draft Global Guidelines on country-based pooled funds and next steps and the presentation of the revised accountability framework. As part of the accountability framework, the capacity assessment focused the bulk of the discussions. NGOs encouraged OCHA to: 1. Maintain a light approach to capacity assessment and avoid duplications recognising that many of the large INGOs are already assessed by the donors of CBPFs, and that INGOs assess in turn their national NGO implementing partners; 2. OCHA should not contract out the capacity assessment but should carry it out in house, as a tool to strengthen its relationship with partners and to help partners identify areas for improvement where capacity needs to be further developed; 3. NGOs recommended that OCHA carries out global-level assessments of INGO partners.

The next meeting of the Platform is tentatively planned for December but OCHA welcomes requests for further discussions and consultations on specific elements of the draft Global Guidelines before the end of the year.

21. West Africa Humanitarian Financing Workshop. The ICVA West Africa Regional Hub organised a humanitarian financing workshop in Dakar on May 28 with over 35 participants from national and international NGOs, UN agencies and donors. Panelists included Regional Coordinator for the Sahel Robert Piper, ECHO Head of office Cyprien Fabre, OCHA’s Laurent Dufour, AMSS’ Elmehd Ag Wakina, Microdon’s Eric Boniface, and Forewarn’s Kodjro Tedjro. The meeting highlighted organisations’ interest in discussing existing funding mechanisms and getting to know alternative mechanisms. Next steps: ICVA will organise workshops on national NGO access to humanitarian financing in Bamako and Abidjan in September.

Quality and Accountability

22. ICVA West Africa Regional Hub workshop on Accountability Affected Populations (AAP). On May 26 in Senegal, the ICVA West Africa Regional Hub organised a workshop on Accountability to Affected Populations in Dakar. 27 participants, including four refugees, took part in the meeting and shared their experience of using Q&A tools in their work. The afternoon discussions evolved around the humanitarian system’s willingness to have beneficiary populations judge the work which is being done. Several participants said they had not had this level of discussions in several years. OCHA
Representatives presented the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) efforts undertaken to collect affected populations’ views. The participants of the debate emphasised that disaster and conflict affected communities must be central to the discussions and must be given a voice in official WHS consultations. Their inclusion must go beyond tokenism as they are the best placed to ascertain to what degree aid has or has not been effective. As a result, OCHA accepted to significantly increase the number of “affected populations” participating in the WHS.

23. The 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Bangkok from 22-26 June 2014. Hosted by the Royal Thai Government in collaboration with UNISDR, this biennial conference, under the theme “Promoting Investments for Resilient Nations and Communities”, had a focus on enhancing resilience at local levels, improving public investments for disaster and climate risk, and promoting public and private partnership for disaster risk reduction. More information including copies of presentations and outcome documents can be found [HERE](#).

### World Humanitarian Summit

24. **West and Central Africa WHS regional consultation**: In the lead up to the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, the first West and Central Africa regional consultation took place in Abidjan, Cote D’Ivoire from June 19-20. Representatives from regional governments, crisis-affected communities, civil society, the private sector, and humanitarian and development organisations participated in the two day consultations, to discuss new and innovative ways to address humanitarian challenges. As a member of the Regional Steering Group, Liliane Bitong Ambassa, ICVA Regional representative for West Africa, facilitated the sessions on innovation and various working groups. The consultation report will be available shortly. More information about the West and Central Africa consultations can be found [HERE](#).

25. **World Humanitarian Summit webinars and live Q&As**: On 19 June 2014 Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) hosted an online event on the theme of humanitarian response in situations of armed conflict in North and Southeast Asia. The event dealt with regionally relevant issues such as population displacement, accountability of governments and aid organisations, access of people to humanitarian action, and protection of civilians. Speakers included Carsten Völz, Humanitarian Director of Oxfam International, Cecilia Jimenez, National Director of the IDP Project for the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines, and Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, Deputy Head of the regional office for Asia and the Pacific of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). A recording of the event and summary documents can be found at [HERE](#).

### New and Noteworthy

26. **ICRC online Customary international Humanitarian Law (IHL) database** most recent update, published on June 23, integrates practice relating to armed conflicts and humanitarian issues up till the end of 2010 of eleven countries: Afghanistan, Australia, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Israel, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Spain, Venezuela and Viet Nam. The Customary IHL database provides rapid access to the rules of customary IHL and enables users to examine practice around the world.
27. Review of Cash Transfer Programming and Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) 2005-2015 and beyond. The core purpose of this review, commissioned by the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) is to evaluate CaLP’s progress since inception and examine the status and continued needs in cash programming in emergencies. This will enable the CaLP Steering Committee to make decisions on the appropriate role and shape of CaLP in the future. It is also envisioned that this review will provide a useful discussion for agencies and donors engaged in cash transfer programming (CTP) in emergencies as it also examines the status of CTP including barriers, and investments needed. Click here for the Review.