ICVA is excited to inform you of the start of its next Strategic Planning process, ready for endorsement by you, the members, at its next General Assembly on March 10, 2015.

The last strategic plan period (2012 - 2014) saw substantial changes in ICVA - a change in the Governing Board, Executive Director, Secretariat staff and a significant development in establishing presence in New York and three Regional Hubs. These internal changes came amongst the many challenging external humanitarian contexts, as well as an increasingly complex stakeholder environment. Therefore, while a new strategic plan is an obligation of our Statutes, it presents a critically important process to gather input from yourselves, the members, as well as key partners, to build on our strengths in this changing landscape and solidify your ownership of the plan.

There are three ways we will be seeking your contribution to this process in the coming months:

1. ICVA Strategic Plan
2. Forced Displacement
   - Nearly 500 Registered for the UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations!
   - UNHCR and NGOs Gather in Rome to Work on the Implementing Framework
   - Civil Society Prepares for the Cartagena Declaration’s 30th Anniversary
   - Online Petition Calls on European Leaders to Protect the Stateless in Europe
   - NGO Consultation on the “Call to Action” on Protecting Women and Girls in Emergencies
I. **Survey** – a survey will be sent to all members by end of July requesting feedback on the future direction of ICVA

II. **Focus Groups** – focus groups to discuss the issues more in depth will be held in various locations including Geneva, Bangkok, Amman and Senegal.

III. **Review of Drafts** – all members will have an opportunity to provide input into an initial draft strategy and a second draft, and be asked to approve the final version at the General Assembly

A Strategic Plan Advisory Group is being formed that will help analyse the information we receive and make recommendations to the Board.

We also want to alert you that the General Assembly will include nominations for election to the new Governing Board and a vote for a new Chair. More information will be shared with you on the election process, but we hope that many of your organisation will nominate candidates for election for a three-year term.

More details on the strategic plan process and preparation for the General Assembly will be sent to you in the coming months.

### Forced Displacement

1. **Nearly 500 Registered for the UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations!** The June 17-19 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations in Geneva are only two weeks away. Almost 500 people have registered to attend, breaking last year’s record. To see the agenda, click [HERE](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UNHCRpartners). People are particularly excited about the overarching theme of “Women’s Leadership and Participation.” If you cannot attend, don’t worry -- you can still participate through social media by following #unhcrngos and @ICVARenue, @UNHCRf, the NGO Rapporteur @jessicthomson, and the NGO Vice Rapporteur @jafrizainab. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org. If your NGO implements projects with UNHCR funding, we encourage you to fill out by 5 June this short HIAS survey on partnership: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UNHCRpartners](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UNHCRpartners). It has been updated to be trilingual: English, French and Spanish. The results will be presented at the UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations.

2. **UNHCR and NGOs Gather in Rome to Work on the Implementing Framework:** The ICVA Secretariat and several ICVA members participated in two workshops in Rome on the UNHCR Enhanced Framework for Implementing with Partners. The May 18-21 workshop was designed for UNHCR and NGO “resource persons” who will help promote understanding of the Framework as it is rolled out in the field. The May 22-23 workshop brought together “network organisations” focused on some particularly challenging issues, like partner personnel costs. For a summary of key takeaways, please click [HERE](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UNHCRpartners). If you have any questions or comments, please contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org or Reza.Kasrai@icvanetwork.org.

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**Humanitarian Coordination**

8. **Humanitarian Pledging Conference on South Sudan**

9. **Humanitarian Partnerships for Turkish NGOs**

10. **ICVA MENA Regional hub support two new NGO fora**

11. **Agenda for the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment is shaping up**

12. **Inter Agency Humanitarian Evaluation (IAHE) Guidelines**

13. **IASC Principals South Sudan Ad Hoc Meeting**

14. **Saving lives Together Review of existing NGOs and UN Security Coordination Practices in the Field**

**Humanitarian Financing**

15. **ICVA Annual Conference 2014: Show Me The Money**

16. **ICVA Regional Humanitarian Financing Workshop**

17. **CERF Advisory Group agrees on setting benchmarks to improve timeliness of disbursement from UN to NGOs**

18. **Pooled Fund Working Group scheduled for June 24 on the margins of ECOSOC**

3. Civil Society Prepares for the Cartagena Declaration’s 30th Anniversary: Some say that Latin America is a pioneering region when it comes to the protection of asylum seekers and refugees. Asylum Access Ecuador has joined with others to galvanise civil society inputs into preparations for the 30th anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration. Their Cartagena +30 Initiative document highlights challenges in the region, like drug-related violence, megaprojects, femicide, threats against human rights defenders, and extra-continental mixed migratory flows. It also provides 16 recommendations based on current good practice. Please click HERE for English and HERE for Spanish.

4. Online Petition Calls on European Leaders to Protect the Stateless in Europe: The European Network on Statelessness (ENS) is a civil society alliance with 53 member organisations in over 30 countries. They have launched a petition calling on European leaders to take action to protect stateless people in Europe and enable them to rebuild their lives. Around 600,000 stateless persons live in Europe today, including many migrants stuck in perpetual limbo. Timed to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the 1954 Statelessness Convention, this campaign will culminate in a concerted day of action against statelessness across Europe on October 14, 2014 when this petition will be handed to European leaders. You can sign the petition at: http://www.statelessness.eu/act-now-on-statelessness and watch a short explanatory cartoon HERE. For additional information, please contact: Chris Nash at info@statelessness.eu

5. NGO Consultation on the “Call to Action” on Protecting Women and Girls in Emergencies: Have you heard of the US Government’s “Safe from the Start” initiative? In September 2013 they announced USD 10 million towards building core capacity of partner organisations like UNHCR and ICRC to address gender-based violence from the earliest phases of emergencies. These resources will be used to hire new staff, launch programs in the field, and build an evidence base to expand learning. The US Government is also preparing a September 2014 “Call to Action” event in New York during the high level week of the UN General Assembly to promote the prevention of and response to SGBV in humanitarian emergencies. One key opportunity for consultations with NGOs in advance of September will be a meeting on the margins of the UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations in Geneva. If you would like to be consulted, or if your organisation would like to sign the Communiqué and discuss new commitments, please email SafeFromtheStart@state.gov

6. JIPS Accepting Requests for IDP Profiling Support - Due 15 June: Does your operation suffer from a lack of data – or a lack of agreed upon data? Is your operation planning a displacement profiling exercise but you don’t know how to do it? The Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) responds to requests for support in collaborative IDP profiling processes: preparing for them and implementing them depending on the need. JIPS is now calling for applications for support, particularly in urban settings, by 15 June 2014. For more information on how to request support, please click HERE.

7. Ockenden International Seeks its Next USD 100,000 Prize Winner - Applications due July 31: We have been asked to alert ICVA members to an opportunity to win up to USD 100,000 for successful on-the-ground projects for refugees and displaced people from around the world that foster self-reliance. The deadline for entries is July 31, with three finalists to be announced in November. The 2014 Ockenden prize was awarded to NRC Zimbabwe, with additional prize money for runners up ADRA India and ActionAid India. Click HERE for more information.
8. Humanitarian Pledging Conference on South Sudan: Cohosted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) this conference took place in Oslo, Norway on May 19 - 20, and was attended by representatives from the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, representatives from the South Sudanese opposition, donors, UN agencies, national and international NGOS. Discussion was focused on the financial and operation response to the humanitarian consequences of the crisis in South Sudan, the necessity for more funding and best practices for delivery of humanitarian assistance to the estimated 4.9 million people in need. More information can be found in the Outcome Document, the Oslo Joint Communiqué, and on the website www.southsudanpledgingconference.org

9. Humanitarian Partnerships for Turkish NGOs: ICVA MENA Regional Hub participated in a 2-day workshop entitled “Humanitarian Partnerships for Turkish NGOs” on April 24-25. This workshop was conducted in collaboration between the Republic of Turkey’s Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) with the objective to bring together international Turkish NGOs and other humanitarian actors to discuss topics of common interest. ICVA’s Regional Representative, Reza Kasrai, presentation on humanitarian coordination talked about NGOs coordination, how and why the coordination should take place, who does what, different styles of coordination, inter-agency vs. NGO coordination, organisations and characteristics, and finally regional and international NGO coordination examples (NCCI, LHIF, and ICVA) that show good practices and lessons learned out of those experiences to be used as guidance by Turkish NGOs.

10. ICVA MENA Regional support two new NGO fora: one in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and the other composed of Syrian NGOs working across borders. Apart from the NGO Coordination Guide, ICVA hubs support country or regional NGO fora with lessons learned and best practice from around the world, including sample terms of reference for NGO fora and sample job descriptions of NGO forum coordinators. The ICVA MENA hub is preparing to bring together NGO fora from the region for a two-day workshop in early July. We welcome these two NGO fora to the network of NGO fora in the region!

11. Agenda for the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment is shaping up: The ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment will take place in New York from June 23-25. While the culmination of the segment is the adoption of the ECOSOC Resolution on Strengthening Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations (Member States are currently engaged in negotiations led by Switzerland and Bangladesh on its draft text), the Segment is also used by the humanitarian community as an opportunity to table particular issues of relevance through side events. The focus themes for this year mirror those chosen for the World Humanitarian Summit, specifically humanitarian effectiveness and serving the needs of people in conflict. A draft calendar of the segment, which includes additional meetings planned for that week, can be found HERE.

12. Inter Agency Humanitarian Evaluation (IAHE) Guidelines: Each time an IAHE is triggered in a country based on...
the Level 3 emergency or the request of an Humanitarian Coordinator, we establish a small ad hoc management group led by OCHA evaluation plus two or three (max) other agencies. NGOs could participate here but should be professional evaluation staff.

13. IASC Principals South Sudan Ad Hoc Meeting: At the May 23 Ad Hoc Meeting, the IASC Principles decided to extend the L3 activation in South Sudan for another six months. Before the new deadline the IASC Principals will convene again to review operations and what the L3 has achieved. IASC Principles Final Summary and Action Points from the meeting can be found HERE.

14. Saving Lives Together Review of Existing NGOs and UN Security Coordination Practices in the Field: Please find attached a recent report from consultants who examined the formal and informal security co-ordination in selected countries within the NGO community, and between NGOs and the UN, and a cover letter signed by ICVA representative, Dominic Crowley, and Mick Lorentzen as the co-chairs of the Saving Lives Together Organising Committee. This report highlights the significant differences of expectations among NGOs and the UN regarding information exchange and security arrangements that can exist. Please contact Dominic.Crowley@concern.net with any comments and for further information.

Humanitarian Financing

15. ICVA Annual Conference 2014: Show Me The Money: The ICVA Secretariat was happy to welcome members and non-members at our Annual Conference on resourcing Principled Humanitarian Action on April 1st in Geneva. The theme for the conference was both timely and critical. With a focus on resourcing principled humanitarian action, the Conference provided an opportunity for ICVA members and non-members to build partnerships and alliances, to understand the current international financing system, and to create opportunities to rethink existing approaches. Here is the Conference Report, the presentation on "Rethinking Humanitarian Resourcing" and the presentation by keynote speaker Judith Randel.

16. ICVA Regional Humanitarian Financing Workshop took place in Dakar on May 28 with over 35 participants from UN agencies, national, regional and international NGOs and donor organisations. To compliment the ICVA Annual conference, ICVA is holding regional events to encourage further critical discussions on challenges to NGO, specifically national NGO, access to humanitarian financing, while also feeding into the work of the IASC Task Team on Humanitarian Financing – a grouping which has previously lacked NGO engagement.

17. CERF Advisory Group agrees on setting benchmarks to improve timeliness of disbursement from UN to NGOs: The CERF Advisory Group met in Geneva on May 14-15. As agreed at their November 2013 meeting, members of the CERF Advisory Group met with António Guterres, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and Bruce Aylward, Assistant Director-General at WHO to discuss sub-grants of CERF funding from UN agencies to NGOs. According to data collected by the CERF Secretariat through reports submitted by RC/HCs having received CERF funds, the average number of days for UN agencies to disburse CERF funds to NGOs saw little improvements in recent years as it went
down from 53.2 days in 2010 to 52.1 days in 2012. The CERF Secretariat will only analyse data for 2013 sub-grants in the third quarter of 2014. At the request of the CERF Advisory Group, Dr Aylward committed to reducing the time it takes WHO to disburse sub-grants by half, from 52 to 25 days. The Advisory Group recommended that all agencies should set similar benchmarks.

The CERF Secretariat is currently working on a more detailed record of the meeting. Detailed CERF sub-grant analysis for 2011 and 2012 can be found HERE. If you are interested in learning more about it, please contact marzia.montemurro@icvanetwork.org

18. Pooled Fund Working Group scheduled for June 24 on the margins of ECOSOC: The regular session of the Pooled Fund Working Group – an informal group of donors and key stakeholders of country-based pooled funds currently co-chaired by OCHA and Norway - is scheduled to take place in New York on the margins of the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment on June 24 in the afternoon. While the agenda is still being finalised, participants are expected to spend a substantial part of the meeting discussing the Terms of Reference of the Pooled Fund Working Group, with a focus on the scope and purpose of the group – with potentially competing interests in an advisory versus supervisory body – and consequent membership. If you are interested in learning more about it, please contact marzia.montemurro@icvanetwork.org

19. Review of the Global Guidelines on Country-based Pooled Funds: OCHA, as the manager of both Common Humanitarian Funds (CHFs) and Emergency Response Funds (ERFs), has been working on Global Guidelines to standardise processes and ensure harmonisation and coherence in the management of country-based pooled funds. These would replace previously issued guidelines on ERFs. OCHA has been collecting comments on the Draft Guidelines from the different stakeholders. NGOs were also able to provide helpful feedback both generally on the scope and implications of the guidelines, and specifically on some of the technical aspects of the management of CBPFs, such as the timeliness of disbursement and their approach to risk management. Consolidated comments can be found HERE.

Acknowledging the need to make substantive and structural changes to the Guidelines based on the comments received, OCHA has reviewed its original timeline for the adoption of the Global Guidelines. The draft Guidelines will be rolled out for implementation as of July 2014 so to be able to collect feedback and implement the final and endorsed Guidelines during 2015. Another comprehensive review of the Guidelines is already being planned for 2016. The updated timeline can be found HERE. Additional comments are being sought through the IASC Task Team on Accountability to Affected People and Preventing Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (AAP/PSEA). NGOs will also have an opportunity to further engage with OCHA on the Global Guidelines at a meeting of the OCHA-NGO Platform on country-based pooled funds in the margins of ECOSOC.

20. The first substantive meeting of the OCHA-NGO platform on country-based pooled funds planned for June 23 in New York: 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 is
planned for June 23 in New York. NGO participants will have an opportunity to discuss the review process of the Global Guidelines on country-based pooled funds as well as review the accountability framework included in the draft guidelines. For more information, please contact marzia.montemurro@icvanetwork.org

Quality and Accountability

21. ICVA West Africa Regional Hub workshop on Accountability Affected Populations (AAP):

As part of ICVAs commitment to build discussion around quality and accountability in the humanitarian sector, the ICAV West Africa regional hub held a workshop in Dakar on May 26. The one day workshop encouraged discussion among the 29 participants representing national, regional and international NGOs, UN agencies and refugees, with the aim of improving knowledge regarding commitments to AAP. A clear outcome of the discussions was the importance of including affected populations in any evaluation of the humanitarian response. As a result OCHA has accepted to increase the number of affected populations participating in the World Humanitarian Summit regional consultation in Cote d’Ivore.

The workshop was designed by ICVA Asia Regional Representative to provide a platform where participants playing an active role in disaster response and rehabilitation are given the opportunity to share with and learn from each other on the benefits of using Q&A tools in their work. The workshops adopted a participatory approach with a focus on shared learning based on best practice examples as well as challenges faced by participating organisations as they integrate Q&A into their programme cycle.

Innovation

22. NGOs Encouraged to try New Innovation Tool Kit: We have recently been alerted to the launch of a new, free toolkit for innovation. Development Impact and You is a free new online toolkit, designed by Nesta (an innovation charity) in partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation, to help you find, test and scale new ideas. The toolkit is a compilation of 30 innovation tools that have been road tested in four continents to help development practitioners have more impact in their work. The toolkit is also relevant for humanitarian practice, particularly with regard to its tips for: a) developing a clear plan, b) clarifying priorities, c) generating ideas, and d) testing and improving. Download it now for free and join the community at www.diytoolkit.org. Nesta welcomes feedback from humanitarian NGOs.

23. Deloitte Launches its 2nd Humanitarian Innovation Program – Applications Due July 18: You may recall Deloitte’s participation in ICVA’s 2013 conference on innovation. An open call for applications to the second year of the Deloitte Humanitarian Innovation Program launches on Monday, June 9. This is an opportunity for humanitarian organisations to receive pro bono services (time and expertise free of charge) for a three to six month project, and a package of support and promotion from the Deloitte network. Deloitte member firms’ core business skills--data analytics, capacity building, infrastructure advisory, leadership development, resilience, scenario planning, and supply
chain management--are often used by the humanitarian sector on a daily basis. After each project the outcomes of what was learned will be shared with the humanitarian community. To learn more about the Program and how to apply you can join the launch webinar by registering here now.

**World Humanitarian Summit**

24. The World Humanitarian Summit is picking up speed. We are very pleased with the appointment of Dr. Jemilah Mahmood as the Chief of the World Humanitarian Summit secretariat. She is the founder of Mercy Malaysia, a long-time humanitarian activist and will very likely make every effort to ensure that a diverse civil society is fully engaged and well represented. If you’re not already up to speed, we encourage you to visit [http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org](http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org) where you can sign up for updates.

ICVA is playing a key role in some of the regional consultations. The first regional consultation of **western and central Africa** kicks off on June 19-20. OFADEC, chair of the Africa NGO Consortia and ICVA board member, and the ICVA Regional Representative are both involved in the Regional Steering Group and working hard to ensure broad NGO engagement.

The **northern and south-eastern Asia regional consultation** takes place July 23-24 in Tokyo. ICVA’s Regional Representative is part of the Regional Steering Group and has been active in designing the means for the local civil society and community consultations and ensuring national NGOs have space at the Tokyo event.

ICVA’s MENA Regional Representative attended a [Humanitarian Forum](http://www.icva.org) Coordination Meeting on the World Humanitarian Summit on April 26. The meeting was hosted by IHH in Istanbul and discussed ways in which Arab/Muslim humanitarian agencies could contribute to and participate in the World Humanitarian Summit and the related regional and country-level consultations around the world. ICVA was able to share its experiences from its engagement with the upcoming North and South-East Asia and the West and Central Africa regional consultations.

**ICVA Updates**

25. **ICVA membership on the increase**: ICVA is pleased to welcome back IRROSA as a member, [International Islamic Relief Organisation (IIROSA)](http://www.icva.org) (IIROSA): Based in Saudi Arabia IIROSA works internationally to provide emergency relief, education, health care and engineering to those affected by natural or man made disasters in various parts of the world

and to welcome four new members to the ICVA network:

[ACF (Action Contre la Faim)](http://www.icva.org) Founded in 1979 Action Against Hunger is now recognised as one of the leading
organisations in the fight against hunger worldwide.

**AIRD (African Initiatives for Relief and Development)** Working in seven countries in Africa, AIRD is an organisation of concerned African professionals specializing in transport, fleet, warehouse and construction management.

**Christian Aid**: A Christian organisation, that insists the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty, provides urgent, practical and effective assistance where need is great, tackling the effects of poverty as well as its root causes.

**ISIM (Institute for the Study of International Migration)**: Founded in 1998, ISIM is part of the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and affiliated with the Law Center at Georgetown University, USA.

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