ICVA Updates

ICVA is delighted to announce that the Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation (KCOC) recently joined the ICVA network. KCOC is an association of 118 Korean based NGOs working in the areas of international development and humanitarian assistance, with the aim of eradicating poverty around the world. To improve the effectiveness and accountability of its members, KCOC promotes information sharing, capacity building programmes, and joint advocacy against global poverty and inequality. We look forward to the perspective that KCOC will bring to the ICVA network.

Forced Displacement

1. How should refugees be reflected in SRPs?: According to the 2015 Strategic Response Planning Guidance issued in July 2014, Strategic Response Plans (SRPs) should articulate a shared vision and support strategic decision-making by the humanitarian coordinator (HC), humanitarian country team (HCT) and others. SRPs are constructed in two parts: 1) a top line strategy, and 2) detailed cluster response plans followed by a refugee response chapter. The Guidance says refugee response plans should be “integral yet distinct” parts of the overall SRPs. But in the field, SRPs’ inclusion of refugees vary per operation, as recently witnessed in Chad and Iraq. Some actors want refugee requirements to be more consistently and coherently incorporated into the SRPs’ sector-specific analyses (for WASH, food, etc.). While others question the need to do more than provide a refugee-focused chapter at the end of the SRP. If you have views based on your own experience, please share them with Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org.

2. Helping each other help refugees: On 21 November 2014 ICVA and UNHCR facilitated two webinars, hosted by the Lutheran World Federation, to follow-up the High Commissioner’s Structured Dialogue on UNHCR-IFRC-NGO Partnership recommendation #6 on capacity strengthening. In a guided discussion participants reflected upon lessons learned during a
recent survey/mapping exercise identifying existing ad-hoc capacity strengthening initiatives, and explored options to collectively promote a more systematic approach to capacity strengthening. A report and proposed options will be shared for feedback in early 2015. For more information and/or to get involved, please contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org or Liliane.Bitong@icvanetwork.org.

3. Global campaign to end immigration detention of children - International Day of Action: To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ICVA members APRRN and IDC, in collaboration with the Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University and UNHCR, launched an awareness campaign on the International Day of Action. The film screening and interactive panel was hosted in Bangkok on 20 November and attended by supporters from the local and international community. For more information, please visit APRRN’s website or the Campaign’s website.

4. Request JIPS support for profiling displacement situations: Does your operation suffer from a lack of data – or a lack of agreed upon data – concerning displacement-affected populations? Is your operation planning to undertake a profiling exercise but you need some guidance or support to do so? If so, you can request the services of the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) in support of profiling displacement situations. JIPS supports collaborative profiling processes and has a particular interest in profiling exercises undertaken in protracted displacement situations and/or in urban settings in collaboration with governments, humanitarian and development actors. The Call for Requests has more information about the process. The next deadline for requests is 23rd of January 2015.

5. Nansen Refugee Award nominations due 6 February: Do you know an exceptional person who has gone beyond the call of duty and shown outstanding dedication and service to the displacement cause? Or maybe a group of people or an organisation? Anyone can nominate a candidate (individuals, groups of people or organisations) for UNHCR’s Nansen Refugee Award. The deadline for nominations is 6 February 2015.

Humanitarian Coordination

6. Improving the role of national NGOs on Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs): In November, ICVA brought together 14 national NGOs who sit on HCTs for two days to share their experiences and consider their function within a HCT. The meeting was incredibly dynamic, with many frustrations shared, but also many ideas for strengthening their role. The group shared their viewpoints on their engagement with the humanitarian system with UN colleagues and member state missions. A report and video of the event coming soon.

7. NGOs mobilised against Ebola: International NGOs, united in their advocacy efforts at the 15th Francophonie Summit, called on Francophone leaders from Africa and beyond to commit to concrete and sustainable actions that will help eradicate Ebola and help prepare West Africa for future crises. Ebola cast a shadow over the Summit, hosted in Dakar, Senegal on 29 and 30 November, which brought together over 70 heads of states and their delegations. ICVA members and other international NGOs
organised a number of events including:

- **Ebola speaks all languages** Francophone nations must act now, before hope fades for West Africa, an open letter published by international NGOs stated that solidarity is not enough as more medical staff, equipment and supplies are required urgently.
- **Ebola et Après** roundtable event highlighted the consequences of the Ebola crisis on children, food security and fragile economic and health systems. Long-term sustainable support is needed to rebuild the damage health systems, re-open schools, develop and sustain safe water and sanitation facilities and support orphaned children

8. **Influencing the recruitment for the new ERC**: At the announcement that Valerie Amos, the current The Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) is stepping down in March 2015, ICVA is working with other NGOs to ensure that there is a robust selection process for her successor into this critical position, and that the new incumbent should meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrated extensive knowledge and/or experience of the international humanitarian system and the challenges facing the humanitarian community.
- Demonstrated experience of working in partnership with national and international actors to resolve global challenges.
- Ability to build consensus and stimulate effective campaigns among a broad spectrum of people and organisations, on humanitarian issues.
- Ability to be a powerful and convincing advocate on all aspects of humanitarian issues worldwide and within the United Nations system.

9. **A review of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)**: prepared by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) concludes that the IASC, the only forum that brings together UN agencies, the Red Cross/Red Crescent movements and NGOs, has systemic weaknesses that need to be addressed including, lack of diversity, inclusivity and representation of humanitarian actors, lack of clarity around the impact of the decisions and policy work of the IASC, and that there is a clear need to revisit the working methods of the IASC. These findings and suggested options for improvement will be discussed at the IASC Principals meeting on December 9. ICVA, through its IASC working group, fed into the IASC Review which is available to members only.

10. **Risky business**: Launched on 19 November the INFORM Index for Risk Management is a global, open-source risk assessment tool for humanitarian crises and disasters, developed in collaboration with the European Commission and the IASC Task Team for Preparedness and Resilience. INFORM helps identify where and why crises and disasters are likely to occur, thus supporting decision making about prevention, preparedness, response and investment. This short video provides a good explanation of INFORM. Risk management is a key issue for other IASC Task Teams. The IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team is to study lessons learned from the HACT, and the IASC Task Team on Revitalizing Principled Humanitarian Action is to develop a common framework and principles for improved risk
sharing at the field level.

11. Gender: not why, but how?: The 2008 IASC Policy Statement on Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action, set out the actions to be taken by IASC to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment are fully incorporated into all of the IASC’s work. UN Women has commissioned a review on the progress made to date on the implementation of this policy at both global and field level. If you have any views or information on the policy and its implementation, particularly in the following countries CAR, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Haiti, Mali, oPt, Pakistan, Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen, please contact the consultant Dr Camillia El-Solh at celsolh@aol.com by the end of January 2015.

Wondering how to implement gender equality in your programmes? More resources can be found on the IASC website. The IASC initiative the Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap) have advisors who can help NGOs facilitate and promote gender equality programming and the use of the IASC gender marker. The IASC E-learning on Gender - Equal Opportunities: Increasing Effectiveness of Humanitarian Action for Women, Girls, Boys and Men is another useful tool.

12. 2nd Global Disaster Response Dialogue: In October, ICVA participated in a conference in Manila which gathered over 80 participants to discuss some of the issues, challenges and dilemmas in responding to the needs of populations affected by natural disasters. The Outcome Statement captures some key issues and highlights concerns related to trust, transparency, the role of national actors, financing and improved contextualisation of disasters.

13. Asia Disaster Reduction and Response Network: The ADRRN General Meeting provided an opportunity to strengthen ICVA’s partnerships with the regional network as well as with national NGOs in the Asia Pacific region. OCHA highlighted the success of the WHS North and Southeast Asia consultations as an outcome of the strong collaboration between ICVA and ADRRN, which was followed by updates on the work of ADRRN’s members emphasising new approaches in their work, such as dialogues with communities that include local government and incorporating traditional knowledge into emergency preparedness and response. Together with ADRRN and UNOCHA Regional office, the ICVA regional representative participated in a session on developing a roadmap for the upcoming consultation. Key outcomes include a commitment to local and national consultations with communities and government leading into the discussions in April 2015, as well as structuring a stronger CSO position by reaching out to more grassroots organisations.

Humanitarian Financing

14. Future of Humanitarian Financing Dialogues: On 17 November and 24 November, two of the ICVA regional hubs, respectively in Amman and in Bangkok, hosted regional cross-sectoral dialogues following a similar event held in London. Representatives from the humanitarian, academic, corporate, legal, and development sectors discussed how humanitarian actors can adapt to the changing environment to match the growing needs and challenges of the future, and explored good
models of innovative financing strategies. The Steering Committee of Future Humanitarian Financing (FHF) composed of FAO, World Vision International and CAFOD will produce the Dialogue Outcome Report before the end of December.

15. Harmonising Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPF): OCHA is soon to issue its long-awaited Global Guidelines for CBPFs harmonising approaches towards the Common Humanitarian Funds (CHFs) and Emergency Response Funds (ERFs). OCHA held two question and answer sessions for NGOs, (17 and 20 November), to provide an update on the status of these Guidelines in the light of NGO inputs received earlier this year 2014. Initial key take-aways include:

- The Guidelines will include three parts: a vision, policy instructions, and a handbook. While the vision and policy instruction will remain unchanged for a minimum of 2-3 years, the Guidelines will be a living document that can be amended on a rolling basis as needs arise.
- The Guidelines will include three modalities to assess partners’ capacities. (NGOs have found the capacity assessment process in Afghanistan, a pilot country for the Guidelines, too heavy.)
- OCHA is rolling out a new online Grant Management System (GMS) in the CAR, DRC, Jordan, Lebanon, oPt, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen. (NGOs have found the GMS - which is already used in Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Turkey - to be too cumbersome and only available in English.)
- The number and size of installment tranches will depend upon assessed risk levels as well as the duration and amount of grants. (Some NGOs have noted challenges in implementing projects without receiving a full payment up front.)

The Global Guidelines will be discussed at the 15 December OCHA-NGO Platform on CBPFs and 16 December Pooled Fund Working Group meetings in New York. ICVA looks forward to working with others in the IASC to develop indicators to track over time to assess improvements in NGO access to CBPFs.

16. Activity-Based Costing: the “Project-less plan”: Activity based costing (ABC) for humanitarian appeals is a major departure from the way costs for humanitarian responses have been previously calculated. ABC is a method of estimating overall resource needs using average costs per sector activity, per person served. A "Review of recent practice, prospects and issues" was discussed at the September meetings of the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team, and the IASC Working Group. Advantages of ABC include a lighter administrative burden on appealing agencies during the planning phase, and speed with which they can produce such calculations. Disadvantages include the loss of project review/vetting in the planning phase, the loss of quality assurance tools like the gender marker, the loss of NGO visibility, and the reduction in transparency if projects are not later listed in the Financial Tracking Service (FTS). Lessons learned from the pilots to date will be reviewed and refined to maximise the potential of an ABC approach prior to any global rollout. For more information, and to share your experience please contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org

17. For more money, better spent – the IASC HFTT: The
recent IASC review opined that the IASC Task Teams are too technical and ambitious. However, ICVA, as co-chair of the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team (HFTT) regards the work of IASC HFTT as relevant to NGOs and the wider humanitarian community. The IASC HFTT is working to: 1) promote adequate, accessible humanitarian financing for operational organisations on the ground; 2) re-negotiate burdensome donor requirements; 3) reduce the humanitarian/development divide; and 4) improve transparency. At their upcoming January 2015 retreat the Team will design its 2015 workplan informed by current projects related to donor conditionalities, NGO challenges to accessing country-based pooled funds, and the Future of Humanitarian Financing. Members can read the IASC HFTT 2014 progress report.

18. Potential new direct funding options for NGOs: OCHA has drafted a discussion paper for the 16 December Pooled Fund Working Group called "What OCHA could do to increase field effectiveness through enhanced NGO partnership." This could include three “very early-stage options” to fill gaps in large-scale emergencies where country-based pooled funds do not exist and promote direct NGO access to humanitarian funding through:

(i) Establishing a global facility managed by OCHA at headquarters;
(ii) Establishing regional funds managed by OCHA Regional Offices;
(iii) Establishing stand-by CBPFs in all OCHA Country Offices.

These options will also be discussed in a 15 December meeting of the OCHA-NGO Platform on Country-Based Pooled Funds. If you have questions/ comments on the paper please share them with Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org by 12 December.

Humanitarian Principles

19. Humanitarian principles workshop: A workshop on the Code of Conduct and humanitarian principles, jointly organised by ICVA and the ICRC in Dakar on 8-9 October, brought together 20 local and international, secular and faith based NGOs, and Red Cross movements from Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Central African Republic and Senegal. A highlight of the workshop was the interfaith dialogue with Professor Abdul Aziz Kebe and Father Stanislaus Dominique Mendy, emphasising that humanitarianism is a fundamental principle of both Islam and Catholicism. Subsequent discussions and presentations were used to illustrate the concepts of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and to compare field experiences in connection with the Code of Conduct. This video summarises the meeting. Future meetings to be held in CAR, Mali and Senegal.

20. Humanitarian principles and Code of Conduct seminar: The ICRC and Dompet Dhuafa hosted a one-day seminar in Jakarta on 20 November, which saw more than 80 participants from primarily faith-based humanitarian organisations, many of which are under the umbrella of the Humanitarian Forum Indonesia (HFI). The ICVA Regional Representative led a session on the importance of humanitarian principles that focussed on the Code of Conduct and included a robust discussion on how to translate them into practice as a faith-based organisation. This forum was a continuation of workshops collaboratively organised by ICRC, ICVA, the Humanitarian Forum, the Muslim Charities Forum and Islamic Relief held in London, Sana’a, Amman and...
21. WHS consultation for Lebanese civil society: On 5 November ICVA member AMEL co-hosted with OCHA the World Humanitarian Summit Consultation for Lebanese civil society in Beirut. ICVA’s MENA hub supported the event both financially and technically, drawing on ICVA’s experience and engagement in the WHS processes in both West and Central Africa, and North and South-East Asia. The forthcoming report will draw on the recommendations issued by the participants. On the sidelines of the Lebanon consultation, ICVA and OCHA co-facilitated focus-group discussions with affected populations in Baalbek (in collaboration with the Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training) and in Beirut (in collaboration with AMEL). ICVA’s MENA hub will be continuing consultations with affected populations in other countries in the region, including Jordan, Palestine and Yemen, until the MENA regional consultation in March 2015.

22. WHS regional consultations for Eastern and Southern Africa: After attending the WHS consultation for West and Central Africa in May, ICVA Regional representative Liliane Bitong was invited to attend the WHS Consultations for Eastern and Southern Africa which took place in Pretoria, on 27-29 October. Despite the fact that there was good representation of affected populations, and good discussions, the general impression was that the WHS is not fulfilling its expectations, nor truly representative. As a member of the Regional Steering Group for West and Central Africa, the ICVA regional representative will continue to follow the debate. Expect some comparative analysis in 2015. For more information, contact Liliane.bitong@icvanetwork.org

23. Join the Europe & Others online consultation: This online discussion in advance of the regional consultation for the Europe and Others Group is intended to provoke debate and stimulate further thinking about how to keep humanitarian action fit for the future. Your comments will inform the regional consultation meeting taking place in Budapest, Hungary on 3-4 February 2015. The discussion begins on 26 November and ends on 19 December. To participate visit the WHS website and post your response to the following questions: 1) What are the key humanitarian issues Europe & Others must address?; 2) What needs to be in place 10 years from now to meet the humanitarian challenges & capitalize on the opportunities that we expect to prevail then?; 3) How should humanitarians and development actors deliver together, for a more effective overall result?

Upcoming Events

1-2 December: OCHA, PDRF, and ADP “Regional Business Consultation” Bangkok, Thailand
4 December: Webinar on Education for Refugee Children and Youth in Urban Settings
9 December: Pledging Conference for Syrian Refugee Resettlement/Admissions, Geneva
9 December: IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team Meeting
9-10 December: UNHCR-NGO Structured Dialogue Regional Consultation, Dakar
10-11 December: HC Dialogue on Protection at Sea, Geneva
15 December: OCHA-NGO Platform on Country-Based Pooled Funds, New York
15-17 December: ICRC Workshop Code of Conduct & Humanitarian Principles, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
16 December: Pooled Fund Working Group, New York
19 December: Launch of the Syria SRP & Regional 3RP, Berlin

2015
13 January: ICVA Humanitarian Financing Working Group Meeting
20 January: ICVA UNHCR Working Group Meeting
21-22 January: IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team Retreat
9 March: ICVA 2015 Annual Conference
10 March: ICVA 16th General Assembly
1-3 July: UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations 2015

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