**Forced Displacement**

1. **Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) missions**: Following the release of the FAQs on the RCM, and in response to pressure from donors, UNHCR and OCHA are engaging in joint RCM missions in Chad, Cameroon and Sudan. The inter-agency missions are an attempt to: support teams on the ground to identify improved coordination arrangements; increase knowledge of the provisions of the [OCHA-UNHCR Joint Note](#); and explore questions regarding the Joint Note’s application.

   The first two missions to Chad and Cameroon were held between 10 - 22 April. Unfortunately NGOs did not have a chance to participate due to the very short notice given - attendance was therefore limited to UNHCR, OCHA, UNICEF and WFP. A concise report will be shared with the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), and circulated soon after.

   The upcoming mission in Sudan is occurring in May. NGO involvement in monitoring the implementation of the RCM remains key, and ICVA continues to advocate with UNHCR and OCHA to ensure transparency and participation from NGOs. For NGOs interested in the RCM, contact Raphael Gorgeu at raphael.gorgeu@icvanetwork.org.

2. **IOM Humanitarian NGO Consultations**: IOM is hosting its first humanitarian NGO partners consultation on 30 June 2015 in Geneva. The consultation is focused on humanitarian action concerning displaced populations and migrants, and to strengthen cooperation between NGOs and IOM. An anticipated outcome is the production of a joint plan of action. The IOM-NGO consultation will also provide an opportunity to engage partners in the development of IOM’s Principles for Humanitarian Action (PHA).

   If you are interested in attending the IOM-NGO Humanitarian Consultations, please review the [agenda](#) and [register online](#) by 31 May. For more information on the partnership with IOM please contact Cecilia Roselli at cecilia.roselli@icvanetwork.org.
3. UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations: Outlines for the majority of sessions are now finalized. For more information on the agenda, logistics, and to register visit www.unhcr.org/ngo-consultations. The registration deadline is 22 May – please note, panelists also need to register. For more information, contact secretariat@icvanetwork.org and interagency@unhcr.org.

4. June UNHCR Standing Committee meeting: The next UNHCR Standing Committee meeting is scheduled for 24 - 26 June. Protection at Sea will be a key focus of the meeting. ICVA is seeking volunteers to assist drafting the NGO statements. Please read last year’s Statement on Protection. For more information, please contact Louisa Shea at louisa.shea@icvanetwork.org.

5. UNHCR Partner Portal Workshop: The UNHCR Partner Portal was launched on 20 April and is accessible at https://partner.unhcr.org. Partners are invited to register and interact online. Once finalized, a brochure explaining the Partner Portal will be uploaded onto ICVA’s website.

6. Emergency in the Mediterranean Sea: Following recent events in the Mediterranean Sea, ICVA hosted a meeting with NGOs on 22 April to discuss initiatives in response to this emergency. An informal briefing with UNHCR and IOM was held on 28 April, discussing ways to progress following the outcome of the EU Extraordinary meeting. Highlights from the meeting (members only), and a resource repository of ICVA members’ initiatives on the emergency in the Mediterranean Sea are available on the ICVA website.

7. Situation in Dadaab: Following the terrorist attacks claimed by Al-Shabaab, in Garissa University on 3 April, Kenyan political leaders called for the closure of Dadaab refugee camp. A UNCHR briefing on the situation in Dadaab was shared on 28 April - please access the minutes. The High Commissioner will travel to Kenya and Somalia to work with Ministries on this issue in May. The situation needs to be monitored carefully, with significant concerns regarding the ongoing protection for refugees, particularly with regards to the risk of refoulement.

8. Updates from the Urban Refugees Task Team: Community-Based Protection in Urban area: The Urban Refugees Task Team (URTT) will be holding a webinar on Community-Based Protection in Urban Areas on 13 May at 10 am CET. The webinar will promote best practice and learning in urban programming. A second session will soon be organised to accommodate NGOs in incompatible time zones. For more information see the ICVA website.

Funding available for Urban Refugee Protection: The US Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) has issued a call for projects on urban refugee protection. Approximately USD 1 million is available. Proposals are due in September for projects of 12 or 24 months duration. Those interested in applying are invited to contact Steve Corliss or Annika Sjoberg sjoberg@unhcr.org at the URTT to engage the support of UNHCR and the Task Team.

Humanitarian Partnerships

9. Approaches to Partnership Dialogue: In May, ICVA Asia in collaboration with members in the Philippines, is convening a dialogue for national NGOs, international NGOs, the private sector and...
government on exploring and developing case studies on approaches to Partnership. This dialogue will also feed into ICVA’s efforts to promote the Principles of Partnership in the lead up to the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). For more information please contact ICVA Asia (Jamie.munn@icvanetwork.org)

10. WHS: Central and South Asia Regional Steering Group: The first face to face meeting of the Regional Steering Group (RSG) of the WHS for the Central and South Asia region was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 28 April. Meeting objectives included: to establish a clear timeline for the stakeholder consultations in the run up to the regional consultation (held last week of July) in Dushanbe Tajikistan; review the emerging recommendations for the WHS from the Thematic Team Meeting in Bonn; and agree to the format of the regional consultation.

ICVA updated the RSG on the progress made with national NGO/CSO consultations taking place across the region. Together with ADRRN (Asia Disaster Risk and Response Network) and the Humanitarian Forum, ICVA’s regional hub ensured that national and sub-national consultations will take place in all but three countries.

Along with the NGO/CSO consultations, ICVA has ensured affected communities are also provided the opportunity to express their views on the state of humanitarian assistance and their thoughts on how the system can be improved. The deadline for submissions from the national consultations is 5 June.

It was agreed during the Almaty meeting, that a separate half-day NGO/CSO event would be held on the first day of the Dushanbe consultations to allow NGO/CSO and affected community representatives to exchange ideas and organize their engagement in the regional consultations. The next meeting of the RSG will be a teleconference at the end of May. For more information please contact ICVA Asia (Jamie.munn@icvanetwork.org).

Humanitarian Coordination

11. Inter Agency Standing Committee

Yemen: In preparation for an IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG) meeting on the evolving humanitarian situation in Yemen, ICVA’s MENA hub was in close contact with both national and international NGOs working in Yemen. Humanitarian operations continue across Yemen. However, ongoing airstrikes, conflict on the ground, intermittent communications and lack of access render assessments and aid delivery difficult. Most international humanitarian staff have been evacuated, with a remote coordination hub set up in Amman. HCT meetings and informal INGO meetings are currently being held in Amman.

L3 Review: The L3 review for Iraq, South Sudan and the Central African Republic is currently underway by the EDG. The Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) and IASC Principals are currently reviewing standing down criteria. A decision will be taken on 13 May by the ERC and IASC Principals, regarding whether to stand down the L3 in any of these countries.

Upcoming IASC Principals meeting: ICVA is preparing for the upcoming IASC Principals meeting, taking place 21 – 22 May in
Nairobi, Kenya. The new ERC will attend. On 22 May, IASC Principals will meet regional civil society organizations to discuss issues pertinent to the NGO community, including protection, forced displacement, the impact of UN integration, and the politicization of aid. Key meeting discussion points will be shared following the meeting. ICVA’s Chair, Dr Faizal Perdaus and the ICVA Executive Director will also take the opportunity to meet on the 22 May with ICVA members based in East Africa.

12. Third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria took place on 31 March in Kuwait City. ICVA’s MENA hub ensured twenty seats were reserved for national NGOs, including two from each of the affected countries (Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon). A total of USD 3.8 billion were pledged towards the USD 8.4 billion requested for affected populations in Syria. For more information, see http://www.unocha.org/syria/third-pledging-conference

13. STAIT Mission to Niger: Together with four UN staff and an NGO team member, ICVA West Africa participated in a Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team (STAIT) mission to Niger, from 23-31 March 2015, followed by a debriefing in early April with Regional IASC members. The mission aimed to support the HC and HCT to improve humanitarian response effectiveness.

Team members facilitated self-assessments with the HCT, clusters, NGOs, authorities, donors and affected populations in targeted locations. Issues identified included: the need to strengthen links between humanitarian and development assistance; insufficient available funding; the coordination of the Diffa crisis; the functioning of clusters; and the need to reinforce contingency plans. The engagement of this external inter-agency team provided an important opportunity for the HCT to step back and develop an action plan to address identified issues over the coming months.

14. NGO Coordination Resource Centre: The online NGO Coordination Resource Centre (NGOCRC) was launched by ICVA in April. The NGOCRC provides NGO Coordination Bodies with a range of resources and support for successful NGO coordination.

The centre provides: guidance in establishing and managing coordination bodies; support to NGO Coordination bodies to engage in broader humanitarian mechanisms (HCTs, clusters and sector working groups); and a dedicated section for networking and learning, including a Community of Practice, a growing list of NGO Coordination bodies, trainings and vacancies. In the coming months, the online centre will host relevant webinars. Please visit the NGOCRC website at www.ngocoordination.org

Humanitarian Financing

15. Humanitarian Financing NGO Working Group: ICVA hosted a meeting on 28 April for NGOs with Rachel Scott, the Senior Humanitarian Advisor in the Development Co-operation Directorate of the OECD. Rachel briefed the group on recent findings from DAC Peer Reviews; the main points of the OECD paper "Imagining more effective humanitarian assistance: A donor perspective"; and some opportunities that might exist in the High Level Panel on Financing. For more information about the High level panel, visit here.

16. UNICEF Programme Cooperation Agreements (PCA) training: A face to face training on the new UNICEF PCA procedures was held in Geneva on 14 April, hosted by ICVA. 18 NGO representatives and
10 UNICEF staff members attended the training. The learning event offered an opportunity to improve knowledge regarding UNICEF-NGO partnerships. Similar training events are planned at regional levels in the coming months. Training in Amman is scheduled for 14 May – to register, please contact ICVA MENA at Yafa.Ajweh@icvanetwork.org. For more information on the partnership with UNICEF contact Cecilia Roselli at Cecilia.Roselli@icvanetwork.org.

17. Country Based Pooled Funds (CBPF) OCHA- NGO Platform: The next meeting will be held in Geneva on 15 June from 14.00-18.00 (Geneva time). The agenda includes:

- New CBPF Global Guidelines and Training Framework;
- The CBPF NGO Dialogue Platform and the World Humanitarian Summit;
- Presentation of findings of an ICVA commissioned mapping exercise and lessons learned on partner capacity assessments;
- Discussion on the establishment of an OCHA Global Facility for NGOs.

NGOs interested in attending please contact Cecilia Roselli at Cecilia.Roselli@icvanetwork.org and Julia Gietmann at gietmann@un.org.

18. Pooled Funds Working Group: The next meeting will be held on 18 June, with the agenda, invitation and location to be confirmed shortly. As per the ToR, there are three NGO representatives (Oxfam GB, IRC, Palestinian Hydrology Group) participating in the group, tasked with ensuring NGO perspectives are tabled. In preparation for this, the ICVA Humanitarian Financing working group will meet at the beginning of June to agree on inputs – with the three NGO representatives in attendance. For more information, or to contribute to this discussion, please contact Cecilia Roselli at Cecilia.Roselli@icvanetwork.org.

19. IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team Mid Year Retreat: The retreat will take place on 16 June from 11.00-15.00 in Geneva. The agenda will include an update on the agreed work plan. For more information please contact Cecilia Roselli at Cecilia.roselli@icvanetwork.org.

ICVA Updates

20. New ICVA members: We are pleased to welcome five new member organizations to ICVA so far this year:

- Caritas Internationalis
- Community World Service Asia
- ORAM (Organization for Refuge, Asylum & Migration)
- Support to Life
- RefugePoint

21. ICVA Asia and West Africa Members’ Meetings: In May, ICVA Asia and West Africa are hosting members’ meetings to provide updates on ICVA’s work and discuss upcoming ICVA hub activities in each region. ICVA West Africa’s members’ meeting is tentatively scheduled for 12 May. For more information contact ICVA Asia.
New and Noteworthy

22. Building a Better Response: Announce dates for integrated learning workshop series: The Building a Better Response (BBR) project has launched a series of integrated learning workshops to strengthen NGO capacity on the international humanitarian architecture. These 3-day workshops for NGO staff will build on the BBR e-learning course (www.BuildingABetterResponse.org) to improve understanding of the international coordination system and help participants identify where they can take action and engage directly within the system.

The next workshop is scheduled in Toronto, Canada from 27 – 29 May. For more information about the BBR project and the workshops please visit www.internationalmedicalcorps.org/bbr. See this short video about the e-learning.

23. Call for NGOs to apply for Consultative Status with the UN: May is the last month for non-governmental organizations to apply for Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) consultative status in order to be considered by the 2016 NGO Committee. NGOs interested in applying for ECOSOC consultative status should submit their application and required documents on or before 1 June 2015. Please see the following link to find background information useful for prospective NGOs that will be applying for consultative status.

Upcoming Events

5 May: ICVA Forced Displacement (UNHCR) Working Group
13 May: Webinar Community-based protection in urban areas
14 May: UNICEF new PCA training Amman
20 May: Humanitarian Financing Task Team Meeting
20-21 May: UNHCR Implementing Framework: Network Organizations Meeting – Istanbul
27 May: Special meeting of the HFTT on donor conditionalities
27-29 May: Building a Better Response (BBR) Workshop (Toronto, Canada)

15 June: OCHA-NGO Platform on Country-Based Pooled Funds (Geneva)
16 June: Humanitarian Financing Task Team Mid-year retreat (Geneva)
17-19 June: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment (Geneva)
18 June: Pooled Funding Working Group (Geneva)
24-26 June: UNHCR Standing Committee Meeting on Protection
29 June-1 July: Annual Tripartite Consultations on Refugee Resettlement (Geneva)
30 June: IOM Humanitarian consultations (Geneva) TBC
1-3 July: UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations 2015 (Geneva)
21-22 September: UNHCR Standing Committee Meeting on Budget (Geneva)
5-9 October: UNHCR Executive Committee Meeting (Geneva)
16-17 December: UNHCR High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges (Geneva)
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