ICVA Updates

ICVA Annual Conference and 16th General Assembly- 9 and 10 March

Registration is now open for the ICVA Annual Conference on 9 March 2015, and the 16th ICVA General Assembly on the 10 March 2015.

The ICVA annual conference entitled “Partnership: from principles to practice” takes place at a critical juncture as we prepare for the World Humanitarian Summit. The conference will focus on the value, relevance and implementation of the Principles of Partnership (Pop), in relation to diverse partnerships in humanitarian programming. Read more...

ICVA’s General Assembly held every three years, is the time when ICVA members come together to discuss and agree on a multi year strategy for the network, elect its Board and Chair, and review the work of the past three years. Only members can register for the General Assembly. Read more...

To register please use the online form.

Forced Displacement

1. NGOs identify opportunities to promote protection at sea: On 15 January, ICVA facilitated a discussion with NGO representatives who participated in the December 2014 High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection at Sea. Following this Dialogue, the NGO representatives developed a series of recommendations in the areas of information sharing, capacity development, advocacy and solutions, to be presented to UNHCR and IOM at a joint meeting in February. For more information, or to get involved, please contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org

This work at the global level was also followed up at country level when ICVA’s Asia Representative recently visited Myanmar and had the opportunity to discuss the follow up to this dialogue with UNHCR Myanmar country office – where according to UNHCR, in SE Asia more than 50,000 people a year risk their lives in sea crossings, many being Rohingya fleeing Myanmar. For more information please contact Jamie.Munn@icvanetwork.org

2. UNHCR issues new policy on “Project Headquarters Support Costs”: On 24 December 2014 UNHCR issued Implementing Partnership Management Guidance Note No. 3. What’s new?

- What used to be called “Headquarters Overhead Costs” is now called “Project Headquarters Support Costs.”
- It applies to NGOs implementing UNHCR-funded projects in a

Contents

Forced displacement
1. NGOs identify opportunities to promote protection at sea
2. UNHCR issues new policy on “Project Headquarters Support Costs”
3. European Network on Statelessness (ENC) announces statelessness conference
4. JAN 2015 mission to Myanmar
5. NGOs prepare for UNHCR Standing Committee

Humanitarian Partnerships
6. World Humanitarian Summit
7. Affected people central to WHS Consultations

Humanitarian Coordination
8. Review of Ebola crisis coordination
9. Recruitment for ERC

Humanitarian Financing
10. IASC HFTT advances ambitious workplan
11. Future of Humanitarian Financing (FHF) Initiative hones key findings
12. UN SYG Announces High Level Panel to address the humanitarian funding gap
NGOs no longer have to provide their own contributions as a prerequisite to receive a UNHCR contribution to “Project Headquarters Support Costs.”

Eligible partners receive a flat 7% contribution (rather than “up to” 7% contribution) towards their direct costs. But the 7% calculation excludes cash/vouchers, micro-finance/ micro-credit, bulk procurement above $100,000, and delivery of large volume/bulk.

To read the note, visit ICVA’s web portal on the Implementing Framework. To suggest inputs for the “Frequently Asked Questions” document about this policy, please contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org and/or epartner@unhcr.org.

3. European Network on Statelessness (ENC) announces statelessness conference (Budapest, 2-3 June 2015): Have you signed UNHCR’s #iBELONG campaign’s open letter to end statelessness? Consistent with the Structured Dialogue on UNHCR-IFRC-NGO Partnership that ICVA is actively following, the European Network on Statelessness (ENS) has been contributing to global UNHCR-NGO efforts to eradicate statelessness worldwide by 2024. To this end, ENS has announced a conference for scholars, practitioners and policy makers to discuss how to prevent and address childhood statelessness in Europe as part of a campaign called, “None of Europe’s Children Should be Stateless.” You are invited to submit a proposal to present at this conference by 15 February. For more information go to the ENS website.

4. JAN 2015 mission to Myanmar: ICVA Asia hub exchanged information and engaged with national and international forums in Myanmar, including 8 ICVA members and 41 partners, on the current status of IDPs and refugees along the Thai-Myanmar border, potential concerns on 2015 repatriation, and 4x4 Thai-Myanmar NGO dialogues. The mission also provided the opportunity to discuss with UNHCR the outcomes of their southeast Myanmar consultations that took place on 20-21 January between UNHCR Myanmar, UNHCR Thailand and key NGO partners. For more information contact ICVA Asia

5. NGOs prepare for UNHCR Standing Committee: We want to thank NGO volunteers who are drafting NGO statements on the regions for the 3-5 March UNHCR Standing Committee meeting on operations. These drafts will be circulated for NGO feedback shortly. If you already have content to recommend on Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East/ North Africa, please submit text to Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org.

6. World Humanitarian Summit: As the consultations progress in the lead up to the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, key issues are emerging within the four thematic areas. These issues are reflected in position papers and key messages from NGOs and other humanitarian actors. As ICVA serves to provide a platform for increased collaboration and coordination between NGOs and other humanitarian actors, ICVA’s website will act as one vehicle for NGOs to share key NGO statements and position papers. We invite members to send any documentation or position papers related to the WHS to the ICVA secretariat. In the coming week, NGO statements on the WHS in addition to a range of analysis and observations, will be posted on the ICVA WHS page. For the meantime, you can read the ACT Alliance position paper, and Christian Aid’s position paper. Handicap International and ACF have developed a joint statement on the need to uphold humanitarian principles. Members are encouraged to sign onto this statement.

7. Affected people central to the WHS consultations: to ensure that WHS consultations remain people-focused, ICVA MENA, in collaboration with OCHA MENA office, conducted a series of consultations with affected
populations in the MENA region. Discussions held in Lebanon, Yemen and Palestine, included a mix of international and national NGOs, youth, women and community leaders, refugees and IDPs. So far the key recommendations included ensuring that basic refugee rights are upheld, the need to strengthen coordination with host governments and the humanitarian system, and to improve communications with refugee populations. Another congratulations will take place in Jordan. For more information and to get involved contact ICVA MENA.

Humanitarian Coordination

8. **Review of Ebola crisis coordination**: ICVA West Africa has been working with ICVA members, ACF, CARE, CRS, IMC, IRC, Oxfam, Plan International, Save the Children, and World Vision, and other partner NGOs working in the region, on a NGO review of coordination and information management in the Ebola response (see TO R). The first mission to Guinea has just been conducted. The findings of this review will feed into the UNMEER review at the end of February.

9. **Recruitment for ERC**: the UN Secretary General has responded to the letter from 85 NGOs regarding the criteria and process for appointment to this critical position. After conveying appreciation for the letter, he then clarified that the appointment would be an open process and not owned by any one member state. Applications will be reviewed by a panel, consisting of UN and an external (possibly an NGO) representative, in early February, with the expectation that the shortlisted candidates will include a woman.

Humanitarian Financing

10. **IASC Humanitarian Finance Task Team (IASC HFTT) advances ambitious workplan**: ICVA supported, as co-chair with OCHA, a 21-22 January IASC HFTT retreat taking stock of progress made in 2014 and fleshing out a 2015 workplan. Looking back, one key accomplishment was the endorsement by the UN Secretary General of HFTT-developed messages delivered to INTOSAI (the International Organization of Supreme of Audit Institutions) declining the introduction of new burdensome reporting requirements on aid agencies. Looking forward, the Team will produce important analyses related to donor conditionalities, partner capacity assessments, challenges to accessing country-based pooled funds, and ideas for the future of financing. These will feed into the Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative’s workplan, preparations for a High Level Panel to be held in Summer 2015, and the World Humanitarian Summit. For more information, please contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org.

11. **Future of Humanitarian Financing (FHF) initiative hones key findings**: The FHF is led by a Steering Group comprised of CAFOD, FAO and World Vision on behalf of the IASC HFTT. The FHF Advisory Group, which includes the ICVA Secretariat, met on 23 January to validate the initiative’s findings after a series of cross-sectoral dialogues held in London, Amman (supported by ICVA’s hub), Bangkok (supported by ICVA’s hub) and Dakar. ICVA’s members will be particularly interested in ideas generated regarding the “localisation of aid” and streamlining reporting requirements. A final synthesis report should be ready by March, just in time to feed into preparations for a High Level Panel on the future of financing. Summaries of cross-sectoral dialogues can be found on the Future Humanitarian Financing website.

12. **UN SYG Announces High Level Panel to address the humanitarian funding gap**: On 8 January the UN Secretary-General announced that he will be appointing a High Level Panel for a six-month period to explore how to fill the growing gap between humanitarian needs and resources available to meet them.

The purpose of the Panel is to consider new ways and opportunities to address the funding gap, including through: innovative funding mechanisms and partnerships, pooled funds, multi-year programming, better linkages to long-term interventions, cost efficiencies, and risk management. Members
can see the Panel’s draft Terms of Reference. The next step is for the SYG to determine the composition of the panel, which will consist of a maximum of 10 people and be chaired at the former President/Prime Ministerial level. The Panel should be featured at the ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment to be held in Geneva from 17-19 June 2015.

13. UNICEF Circulates Draft PCA Documents: UNICEF is in the process of updating its approach to implementing projects through civil society organisations (CSOs). Of particular interest to ICVA’s members is UNICEF’s draft 2015 guidance for CSO’s partnering with UNICEF, draft 2015 Programme Cooperation Agreement (PCA), and draft programme document (which are being sent to ICVA member focal points for comment by 18 February). Please contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org with any questions and comments. UNICEF also has a learning portal about HACT.

New and Noteworthy

14. Building a Better Response training on the international humanitarian architecture for NGOs: 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, to improve understanding of the international coordination system and help participants identify where they can take action and engage directly within the system. For more information about the BBR project and the workshops please visit www.internationalmedicalcorps.org/bbr. See this short video about the e-learning.

15. Launch of the Humanitarian Needs Assessment: The Good Enough Guide: Developed by the Emergency Capacity Building Project (ECB) and the Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS), this guide is aimed at helping humanitarian staff design and implement needs assessments in emergencies. It takes you step by step through the assessment process, and contains a number of useful tools and resources. Click here to download the guide.

Upcoming Events

18 February: IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team
18 February: EDG Donor meeting with humanitarian leadership for the Syria Crisis

2-5 March: UNHCR Standing Committee Meeting on Operations
9 March: ICVA 2015 Annual Conference
10 March: ICVA 16th General Assembly
17-19 June: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment (Geneva)
24-26 June: UNHCR Standing Committee Meeting on Protection
29 June – 1 July: Annual Tripartite Consultations on Refugee Resettlement (Geneva)

1-3 July: UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations 2015 (Geneva)
21-22 September: UNHCR Standing Committee Meeting on Budget
5-9 October: UNHCR Executive Committee Meeting
16-17 December: UNHCR High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges

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