CASE STUDY #1

Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

How ICVA’s multi-pronged approach to increase NGO understanding of the humanitarian-development-peace Nexus has resulted in increased NGO engagement.

Overview

The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus – New Way of Working is one of the main outputs of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, where ICVA has been considerably contributing, bringing its members’ views at the highest level. It represents a major change in the UN and Government approaches toward Humanitarian Development and Peace affairs. Major changes, in Humanitarian affairs or in other sectors impacting humanitarian affairs, are a priority for ICVA.

ICVA has been one of the main drivers of the current interest of NGOs on the subject of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. Over the last two years, ICVA has included the topic of the Nexus in various initiatives, including publications, webinars, working groups, regional workshops, and 2018 Annual Conference. ICVA’s common objective for these initiatives has been to ensuring that the NGOs have sufficient information to understand the Nexus process and its many interconnections, so that NGOs are duly engaged in the process and are able to influence it with their views and experience. As a result, more and more NGOs are now actively involved in the process, through ICVA and/or independently.

Details

ICVA has worked in a range of ways to keep its NGO members abreast of the Nexus changes, preparing them to understand and equip themselves to navigate it and influence it.

In 2017, ICVA published an online briefing paper on “The New Way of Working” with analysis of the opportunities and risks associated.

Since 2016, ICVA has been active in the Grand Bargain Workstream 10, which is dedicated to strengthening engagement between humanitarian and development actors in order to better deal with protracted crises and shrink humanitarian needs over the long term.

ICVA’s 2018 Annual Conference provided NGO attendees the opportunity to interact with development and peace actors and hear from double or triple-mandated agencies on their experience of working in various humanitarian contexts. Participants had the opportunity to hear about policies related to the UN, the World Bank and the peace sector, how they are working towards a more collaborative approach when working in the Nexus and how NGOs are best placed to share their expertise and knowledge with policy platforms.

Also in 2018, ICVA produced a webinar series “Demystifying the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus” which had a total of 1,818 ‘live’ participants. The sessions have been viewed online more than 5,000 times.
ICVA has also played multiple prominent roles in facilitating NGO engagement with the UN, intergovernmental agencies and stakeholders by:

- ensuring wide NGO participation in and representing the views of NGOs within leading global humanitarian-development-peace Nexus bodies (such as the Grand Bargain workstream);
- relaying between UN- (mainly IASC-) led bodies and NGOs;
- briefing NGOs on new developments (ad-hoc or through the working group list-serve);
- supporting NGOs at the regional and national level;
- ensuring liaison with the RC/HCs is real, honest and regular at the country-level.

As a result of ICVA’s work:

- NGOs are regularly informed about the process, receive the main documentation for feedbacks and for information. They review the documents internally, debate on it among peers, share information and reactions and decide positioning, both as individual NGOs or as a group;
- NGOs are invited to the sessions of the community of practice on the Nexus (CoPN), a body embracing UN and NGOs, created to ensure peer-to-peer exchanges among practitioners dealing with Nexus related issues on their daily work;
- NGOs receive ICVA’s analysis on the subject and have an open channel to pose questions, request for further details or analysis;
- A dedicated working group for NGOs is established to ensure that the channel is open and accessible to interested members.