Message from Executive Director

"Thousands of people living in Lebanon are struggling to survive amidst the global COVID-19 pandemic and the country’s deepening economic crisis. We are saddened by the Beirut explosion, deepening the tragedy of Lebanon. It should serve as a wake-up call urging everyone to develop an ethics of risk and solidarity to protect the most vulnerable of society wherever they be." - Ignacio Packer, ICVA ED

Be part of it!

Looking towards the next decade, at ICVA, we are considering external trends that are accelerating changes or adaptations to our historical roles and focus areas.

The current agreed strategy runs until end of 2021. The ICVA 2030 process launched in February intends to ensure deep member participation towards our collective future, seeking agreement on the final proposal at the ICVA General Assembly on 19 May 2021.

As you will read from the information in this Bulletin, while framed by our current strategy, this is not limiting our agility to adapt to the current humanitarian situation.

The ICVA 2030 consultation phase offers different ways of engaging in the process. It has revealed very timely as humanitarian and social issues are being exacerbated by the current pandemic.

ICVA 2030 is a journey bringing ICVA members closer together as they engage in defining ICVA’s long term perspective. A greater understanding is being created by having to listen and try and understand the position of others leading to collective learning around ICVA’s diversity. We are engaged in these strategic discussions with other stakeholders in ways which are perceived as innovative and constructive.

We want to thank the very many of you who are reflecting with us on strategic considerations for ICVA’s future, outside of traditional lines, identifying solutions to the threats and development of the opportunities for improving principled, effective humanitarian action.

In the coming weeks we are holding a series of meetings for our members on transformations to achieve ICVA’s mission, challenging us all to think beyond the status quo.

The Membership days (2-4 September) and regional meetings in Africa (dates TBC), MENA (12 August), Asia-Pacific (dates TBC) are all different and complementary.

They contribute to improve our connectiveness in a complex environment to set ICVA’s ambitions and way forward embracing the diversity of perspective and opinion.

Be part of it.

Ignacio Packer
Executive Director | ICVA
ICVA 2020 Membership Sessions

*The future added value of the ICVA network in a post COVID-19 world*

Join us to discuss key themes that will impact the future role of ICVA and the membership. There will be a two-day online session on 2 and 3 September.

Join us!
- **Day 1:** Wednesday 2 September
- **Day 2:** Thursday 3 September

**Times for both days:**
- 08:00 - 10:00 EDT
- 13:00 - 15:00 DST
- 14:00 - 16:00 CEST
- 17:30 - 19:30 IST

[Click here to Register and view the agenda](#)

Register now: ICVA Membership online sessions!

ICVA's Membership day, initially scheduled as a one-day event in Geneva in March, 2020, will now be two online sessions on the 2nd and 3rd September, for members only. ICVA members are invited to join the two online sessions to discuss key themes related to the humanitarian system and the future added value of the ICVA network.

[Register now!](#)

ICVA 2030 Videos

Leading up to ICVA’s Membership Day, hear what members have to say about ICVA’s *2030* strategy! Members and stakeholders have recorded short videos sharing their ideas for the future of the ICVA network. [Watch videos here.](#)

For more information see our [Strategic Development Document](#), or contact [communications@icvanetwork.org](mailto:communications@icvanetwork.org)

1. ICVA Staff updates:

We are pleased to welcome Stephanie Yousef as Deputy Representative for ICVA MENA. She will be supporting Regional Rep., Eman Ismail, in working with ICVA members, NGO networks and humanitarian partners to ensure the implementation of ICVA's strategy in the
MENA region. Stephanie will be starting the position at the beginning of September. Meanwhile, we thank Claire Whiting for stepping in as a temporary deputy representative in MENA.

2. ICVA’s COVID-19 Resources page:
ICVA’s Covid-19 resource page has a collection of guidelines, tools, statements, papers and useful links which are relevant to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

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Forced migration

3. UNHCR 78th Standing Committee
ICVA facilitated the drafting and delivery of three NGO statements during the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee (7-9 July), thanks to the many NGOs’ valuable contributions. The statements were focused on International protection, Resettlement and complementary pathways, and Budgets and Funding. For more information, contact Loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org

4. Follow-up to the Global Compact on Refugees and 2019 Global Refugee Forum
On 6 July, ICVA’s Executive Director delivered an NGO statement during the High-Level meeting on the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan refugees, based on numerous NGO inputs. The statement highlighted the NGO’s key role in supporting Afghan refugees in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, as well as concrete suggestions for the future work of the Platform. NGOs remain committed to strengthening international efforts to support Afghan displaced populations. More information on ICVA’s activities related to the Support Platforms is available on our dedicated webpage. For more information, contact jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org and Loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org

5. UNHCR and NGOs in Europe Dialogue
On 6 July, ICVA co-organised with the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe and ECRE a first online Dialogue between UNHCR and NGOs in Europe. The dialogue focused on the UNHCR Regional Bureau objectives and priorities and was an opportunity to discuss and exchange around topics of common interest as well as ways forward. For more information, contact jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org and Loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org

6. UNHCR and NGO meetings on COVID-19 response
In July, UNHCR and NGOs gathered during weekly global exchanges, addressing topics such as the vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons; updating on reforms in implementing partnerships; addressing the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 by working with development partners; communicating and fundraising in the COVID-19 context; and mental health and psychological support during the COVID-19 pandemic. Notes from those meetings and relevant documents have been shared broadly with NGOs and are also available to members on ICVA’s webpage. For more information, contact: jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org and Loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org

7. Internal Displacement
On 24 July, ICVA continued to connect NGOs with the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement and other stakeholders. An online meeting was organised to provide an update on the Panel’s work including the progress made with the workstreams, and the Secretariat’s collaboration with various stakeholders notably on consultations with internally displaced persons and host communities. Coordinated by ICVA and InterAction, 31 NGOs signed a letter to the UN Secretary-General supporting the extension of the Panel’s timeframe so that it can complete its work adequately. The call for the extension is accessible here, together with the list of NGOs
endorsing the call. For more information on ICVA’s work on the Panel, see here and/or contact jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org

Following a first lively consultation in May between ICVA members and the WBG, ICVA organised a second consultation on 23 July to review WBG progress in developing the new Refugee Policy Review Framework. Participants from NGOs, World Bank and UNHCR discussed the WBG indicators for each priority policy sub-dimension and other methodological aspects. The Refugee Policy Review Framework is part of the WBG’s International Development Association – IDA19 Policy commitments.

9. IML learning programme
The International Migration Law (IML) learning programme for NGOs, convened by ICVA, Civil Society Action Committee and the International Migrant Bill of Rights Initiative, held its second session on 7 July. This webinar focused on substantial law, discussed the content of rights as recognised under international law, while also zooming in the regional mechanisms and how they apply at the benefit of migrants.

Financing

10. Joint NGO Grand Bargain Statement. Following the Grand Bargain annual meeting held in June, the NGO networks ICVA, Interaction, SCHR, and VOICE have developed a joint NGO network statement on the current state of the Grand Bargain and necessary action over the coming year. The period leading up the Grand Bargain annual meeting in summer 2021 will be critical to develop a clear vision for the future of the Grand Bargain and associated workstreams. The joint statement from NGO networks on the Grand Bargain is available on the ICVA website here.

11. COVID-19 GHRP NGO Funding Envelope. The third update to the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan released in July included a new $300 million funding envelope to channel additional funds toward NGOs. The vision for this envelope is that donors will allocate funds to mechanisms such as pooled funds or direct grants to help build up funds for NGO usage quickly. ICVA will reach out to members through the Humanitarian Finance Working Group for inputs on how to best advocate for donor use of the supplemental funding envelope. It should be noted that the overall NGO portion of the GHRP based on assessed needs and historic funding flows within HRPs remains at 30-40% of the total GHRP (currently above $10 billion). To engage in the discussion through the ICVA Finance Working Group contact Alon.Plato@icvanetwork.org.

12. The STEP UP Fund
The Dutch Council for Refugees is launching a new pilot to support local and national NGOs in stepping up capacity for refugee protection and inclusion: the STEP UP Fund. This call for proposals is for capacity-building projects to step up refugee protection and inclusion in Croatia, Italy and Spain. Read more here.

13. IASC Humanitarian Finance Results Group (RG5). RG5 will not plan to meet in the month of August. During the month of July, the RG focused on developing links with the OCHA FTS team to improve tracking of finances passed through UN agencies to NGO partners under the COVID-19 GHRP. Planning was also completed to meet with GHD representatives in September to discuss humanitarian funding issues, including broader agreement on implementation of funding flexibility measures. In September, the RG will also examine the state of humanitarian funding looking forward into 2021, taking into account the effects of economic downturn on funding flows.
14. COVID-19 GHRP Update
ICVA supported members to contribute to the second and final update to the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan. This update increased the overall funding ask for the response to 10.3 billion USD, of which approximately 1.3 billion had been received as of its publication. The GHRP can be found online.

Following efforts by ICVA and other partners to raise issues, two briefings on the Medical Evacuation (Medevac) System for International NGO focal points were held. The briefings included an introduction on the UN system-wide Medevac system, processes of requesting a Medevac, eligibility and financing issues pertaining to INGO personnel, and an open Q&A to address any questions. For access to the session recordings please contact jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

15. IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG):
The EDG met three times in July, to discuss the Venezuela crisis, Mozambique (focusing on Cabo Delgado province), and DRC (focusing on Ebola in Equateur province). Each discussion included active engagement by NGO representatives to highlight key operational and advocacy issues and to raise key areas for dialogue with the respective RC/HCs for each response.

16. IASC Principals meetings:
Mr. Mark Lowcock, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) convened this month two ad hoc IASC Principals meeting and one with CEOs to discuss the COVID-19 response. Connecting with other meetings with UN agencies, donors and other actors, ICVA’s priority contributions were:
1) ICVA highlighted that funding to NGOs still needed to be stepped-up and better tracked, including at the global level with greater discipline in reporting on FTS;
2) a collective responsibility to further concretize the humanitarian-development nexus;
3) documenting existing work to combat misinformation, racism and xenophobia as a critical way to strengthen community solidarity;
4) the need to encourage donor support by rapidly framing how the GHRP funds would be used, and by identifying fast funding mechanisms;
5) duty of care for all humanitarian actors.

17. Update on IASC Results groups:
RG 1 Operational response:
RG1 met on 16 July to discuss overall progress of the group including a range of its sub-groups. Of note, ICVA has agreed to support the nomination of a national NGO ICVA member to co-chair (along with UNHCR) the Sub-Group on Localization, with selection process currently underway. ICVA and InterAction also highlighted the need for increased engagement and commitment, by UN agencies in particular, with the work of the Sub-Group on Bureaucratic impediments.

RG 2 Accountability and Inclusion: No updates

RG 3 Collective Advocacy:
RG3 Sub-group on climate change:
The Subgroup on Climate Change, Humanitarian Action and Collective Advocacy of the RG3 on Collective Advocacy met online on 14 July. Topics discussed were: Updates and endorsement of workplan/advocacy strategy and COVID-19 related climate change key messages by the IASC secretariat; updates on common narrative by IFRC; recent initiatives by IFRC and upcoming events by OCHA. Final comments on the key messages and the advocacy strategy were to be submitted by 24 July and the IASC secretariat will circulate key messages and advocacy strategy to the sub-group and RG3 once finalised.

ICRCs new report, "*When Rain Turns to Dust*," on climate and conflict, launched on 9 July. It
explores how the vulnerability of people enduring conflict is exacerbated by climate risks and environmental degradation, and how they cope and adapt.

**RG 4 Nexus:**
ICVA has been actively working to disseminate the IASC collective outcome light guidance. Through members we are providing guidance translated in French (thanks to the National NFO forum in Cameroon CHOI), Spanish (thanks to the Mexican NGO Network FM4 Paso Libre) and other languages to be confirmed.

ICVA has also participated in the RG4 meeting and brought inputs discussed with members for the work that is undergoing to develop a paper on the articulation of the Peace Pillar in the Humanitarian and Development Nexus.

**RG5 Humanitarian Finance:** See update above under ‘Financing’.

**18. NGO Fora Support:**
Support and engagement with NGO Fora in Africa continues. In July ICVA focused on the enduring crises in the Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, Horn of Africa and Southern Africa. During this month special attention has been dedicated to the protection of humanitarian principles in Cameroon and in Mali.

For more information contact: Obele.Oluchukwu@icvanetwork.org

**Navigating change: cross cutting issues**

**19. Child rights:**
**UNICEF NGO Briefings:**
On 2 and 9 July, two thematic webinars of the UNICEF-NGO briefing series on Humanitarian Partnerships in COVID-19 took place, focused respectively on UNICEF’s social protection, humanitarian cash & education and WASH response to COVID-19. The series of webinars will resume in September. More information on past and upcoming NGO webinars can be found here. For more information, please contact: vania.gobbo@icvanetwork.org

**20. Civil society space in humanitarian action**
A [Advocacy in Restricted Spaces toolkit](#) is a practical resource that emphasizes that advocacy is possible even in highly restrictive contexts. Created by the [Lifeline Embattled CSO Assistance Fund](#), the toolkit is intended for use by grassroots, national, and regional organisations that want to engage in advocacy in restrictive environments. It includes concrete examples and new perspectives on mobilising around opportunities for change. While many advocacy resources are oriented toward groups operating in functioning democracies where basic freedoms are respected, this toolkit provides real-world examples of how civil society can be effective even under significant duress. Visit the [Freedom House website to learn more](http://freedomhouse.org) and download the toolkit here.

For more information, tools, resources and updates on civil society space and action, please email nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org to be included in ICVA’s Working Group on NGO Space (ICVA members only).

**21. Safeguarding:**
Translation of the Inter-Agency PSEAH Learning package ‘Saying No to Sexual Misconduct’ is an interactive and innovative learning package that aims to raise awareness among IASC partner staff and ensure they have the skills and tools to define, detect and respond to sexual misconduct. This package is now available in English, French, Arabic and coming soon in Spanish during the week of 10 August. For more details see here.
ICVA regional teams have been working intensively with inter agency coordination groups to ensure national and international NGO involvement and active contribution to the ongoing preparedness and response to the COVID-19, including to liaise at the country, regional and global level.

22. Asia and the Pacific:
**Regional Roundtable event on the response to COVID-19 and other humanitarian challenges with donors and other key stakeholders:**
The roundtable held on 22 July between donors and humanitarian partners was a continuation of the regional dialogue on the COVID-19 response that began with a donor briefing organised by OCHA on 14 May to coincide with the launch of the second iteration of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP), the WHO Country Preparedness Response Plan (CPRP) as well as various other national and regional plans. More than 100 participants attended this initial meeting including UN agencies, International Organisations, donor groups, Red Cross Movement, and NGOs. ICVA through its NGO representative Azmat Khan from FRD Pakistan, presented collective NGO feedback on the challenges around maintaining operational space and continuity of business, and called for duty care for NGO workers, consideration of funding adaption strategies to address increasing non-COVID-19 relevant humanitarian needs and for true partnership with NGOs.

**IASC Regional Network meeting at the Directors’ level**
A virtual Regional Directors meeting was held on 9 July to review where the humanitarian sector in the region stands collectively and agree on a few points going forward. A few regional challenges and concerns foreseen in the second half of 2020 including the continuing disruption caused by COVID-19 was briefed, in addition to the updates from regional Working Groups as well as individual organisations. ICVA presented some collective updates on the localization agenda in the region.

For more information on the Asia and the Pacific Region, contact: Qingrui.Huang@icvanetwork.org

**ICVA co-organised webinar series: How CSO Adapts Its Humanitarian Work towards the New Normal**
Human Initiative (Hi) and Humanitarian Forum Indonesia (HFI), with support from Asian Disaster Reduction and Responds Network (ADRRN) and International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), are launching a webinar series (5 webinars) between now and the end of 2020 which aims to provide a platform for CSOs and CSO networks in Asia and the Pacific to have open discussions on critical themes focused on how CSOs are adapting themselves to address the needs in a COVID-19 era. This Series is a result of close collaboration between national, regional and international organisations. The first Webinar of this Series “How CSO Adapts Its Humanitarian Work towards the New Normal Age” took place on 29 July, with panelists from Pacific Islands (PIANGO), Japan (Japan Platform), China (Amity Foundation), Bangladesh (Dhaka Community Hospital (DCH) Trust) and Indonesia (Humanity Initiative). The meeting recording will be shared.

**Gender-based Violence in Emergencies Risk Mitigation Session**
GBV AoR Asia and the Pacific team and ICVA organised a second GBV learning session on GBV in Emergencies Risk Mitigation dedicated to NGOs on 29 July. The 1.5 hours session was attended by many national and local NGOs in the region and the learning was focused on relevant elements of the IASC GBV Guidelines on GBV risk mitigation, good practices and accountability measures to track progress of GBV risk mitigation measure.
and accountability measures to track progress of GBV risk mitigation measure. For more information on the Asia and the Pacific Region, contact: Qingrui.Huang@icvanetwork.org

23. Africa Region:

- ICVA has participated to the Regional IASC meetings in West/Central, Eastern and Southern Africa. A specific focus on Mali characterised the meeting for the West and Central Region. The representative from the NGO forum in Mali briefed the regional directors about concerns for the aggravating Humanitarian crisis in the region and the country and the need to step up principled aid.

- Preparatory meetings have been done to support NGOs in the advocacy effort for the Senior Officers Meeting (SOM) on Sahel.

- The deteriorating situation in northern Mozambique prompted a discussion at the EDG level with ICVA bringing input collected from members operating in the country.

- ICVA has facilitated the regular NGOs Regional Director meeting for Eastern Africa, with updates on the GHRP, medevac and medical facilities in the region.

For more information contact: marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org or Addis.Tesfa@icvanetwork.org

24. MENA Region:

ICVA MENA Members & Partners Meeting
August 12, 2020

ICVA MENA Membership Meeting:

Join us for the upcoming ICVA MENA Member and Partner Meeting on 12 August to connect with members and engage on:

- The future of ICVA membership and regional engagement
- ICVA 2030 – A Collaborative Future For Principled and Effective Action
- Humanitarian Financing Priorities and Emerging Trends in in MENA

Register now!

3RP MENA
ICVA MENA has been participating at Regional RTC – Regional Refugee and Resilience platform (3RP). In the July meeting there was a reflection on the progress related to the 2020 3RP Financial Requirements and Q2 Funding Status.

ICVA MENA team participated at virtual event to launch virtually the Inter-Agency PSEA Community Based Complaint Referral Mechanism (CBCRM) in Jordan. This effort has been carried out by PSEA network in Jordan that is co-chaired by UNHCR and Intersos. The opening remarks focused on how important this collective work is to address different protection issues, and to coordinate among different actors. In addition, local NGO representatives have been active and engaged at the discussion level and in articulating the guidelines and proving a leading role to LNNGO actors. The PSEA network, led the revision of the CBCRM Mechanism to strengthen its compliance with a survivor-centered approach as well as good global practices on PSEA. For more information read here.
The Regional Durable Solution Working Group Survey
The RDSWG is exploring the possibility of setting up an information repository to foster an ongoing information exchange related to products of the RDSWG, its members and workstreams. RDSWG would like to request members to help by taking this short survey to frame some of the specifics around this proposal.

A policy brief launched by Save the Children last week, titled "Pathways to Psychosocial Safety for Syria’s Displaced Children and Adolescents". This document was developed by Save the Children in order to draw attention to the importance of considering the psychological and social impacts of displacement on the lives of children of different ages.

For more information on ICVA MENA, contact: eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org and claire.whiting@icvanetwork.org

25. Latin America Region:
ICVA in collaboration with FM4 Paso Libre, Dignidad y Justicia en el Camino A.C., had a formal introduction of our work in the region with our colleagues from REDLAC. We had great feedback from NGOs in the region regarding the situation in Venezuela. Specifically highlighting coerced returns; stigmatisation, human rights and the pandemic’s impact on the health system; malnutrition and livelihood facing the EDG meeting that was held on 14 July. We continue to work to ensure greater collaboration in the region.

Learning Opportunities

Join ICVA and PHAP on 8 September for a webinar focusing on the twin concepts of risk tolerance and risk appetite. Understanding and appropriately applying the concepts of risk tolerance and risk appetite is crucial for humanitarian organisations to ensure that they are operating within their ability to manage risk. Humanitarian action is taking place in inherently high-risk environments and humanitarian organisations are often under pressure to take on much of that risk through the way funding agreements are structured. Hence, it is particularly important that humanitarian actors have a solid understanding of how to manage those risks and try to ensure that risks are shared more appropriately between partners and donors.

Following an introductory briefing on these concepts, we will discuss with a panel of experts
the practical challenges in identifying risk appetite and tolerance for NGOs. This is the second event of the Learning Stream on Risk Management in Practice, aimed at exploring the current state of risk management in the humanitarian sector.

Register now!

ICVA’s Learning opportunities and resources page: ICVA’s learning resource page is a curated list of online and face-to-face (when available) learning and training programmes. Please share with us any interesting opportunities that would be useful to include on the webpage. For more information contact: nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org

New and noteworthy

27. WFP Annual Partnership Consultation 2020 (APC 2020)
WFP Annual Partnership Consultation will be held online during the week of 19-23 October 2020. Topics of discussion include: How needs are changing during these difficult times and what that means for agencies and the way we work together; How can we continue to support those who need us most both in the mid and long-term? What strategies could we use to improve our effectiveness and efficiency? For each of the session’s participants will agree on next steps including joint actions. For more information see here.

28. Humanitarian Access Overview: COVID-19 containment measures increased the challenge
Access to humanitarian assistance continues to be restricted for crisis-affected populations in more than 50 countries, according to the latest Humanitarian Access Overview report released by ACAPS. Along with their report, they have made publicly available the access dataset behind their analysis as well as an interactive dashboard to quickly check the level of access constraints per country.

29. New Brief from Save the Children
COVID-19 is exposing and exacerbating the existing inequalities that put girls at increased risk of gender-based violence (GBV). Save the Children released a new brief where they address this topic: “Beyond the Shadow Pandemic: Protecting a Generation of Girls from Gender-Based Violence through COVID-19 to Recovery.” Arabic, French and Spanish versions of the brief are available here.


Development Initiatives’ annual Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2020 shows that the humanitarian system was already under huge strain with increased needs and a fall in funding. Now it is compounded by exceptional demands from COVID-19. Read the full report.

32. World Humanitarian Day
This year’s World Humanitarian Day on August 19, 2020 the UN will be highlighting the real-life Heroes working every day, in countries and regions around the globe, to help build a
better world. The 2020 Global Campaign, “Real-life Heroes” aims to bring attention to the world’s real-life heroes by a comparison to culture’s fictional superheroes through film, podcasts and social media.

Mark your agenda

July 7-9: 78th UNHCR Standing Committee, Geneva

August 19: World Humanitarian Day
August 19: IASC Deputies Forum Meeting

September 8: ICVA-PHAP Webinar on Risk Appetite and Risk Tolerance Register here
September 9: Launch of the report on the seventh meeting of the Istanbul Process
September 9-10: Virtual climate Summit - Climate: Red
September 16-17: 79th UNHCR Standing Committee, Geneva

October 5-9: 71st UNHCR Executive Committee, Geneva
October 19-23: WFP Annual Partnership Consultation (APC)

December 8-9: High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges 2020, Geneva
December 14: UNHCR’s 70th Anniversary

May 18-19: ICVA General Assembly and Annual Conference, Geneva

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