**Forced Displacement**

1. **UNHCR’s Executive Committee does not want to hear from NGOs?**
   On 13 April UNHCR’s ExCom member states met with UNHCR to discuss aspects of the two “Conclusions” they will negotiate in the coming months: youth, and international cooperation. While in the past NGOs have been invited to present their field-based insights on the themes, this time the NGO voice was not included. ExCom will benefit from a more inclusive approach. NGOs have been deeply involved in organizing national and global refugee youth consultations, and have several ongoing campaigns to promote international solidarity to address displacement worldwide. Their involvement will be crucial to the implementation of any Conclusion. As UNHCR’s ExCom grows, why has the space for civil society shrunk?

2. **How is the development community going to help the displaced?** We have noticed a flurry of activity related to displacement and development, including the 16 March World Bank-hosted humanitarian-development partnership launch, the 4-6 April World Bank-DFID-UNHCR Wilton Park event on new approaches to protracted displacement, and the 16 April discussion on displacement between the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The subsequent communiqué of the last event says:
   - We look forward to World Bank Group (WBG) and IMF action…to mitigate the vulnerabilities of forcibly displaced persons, to help host communities manage shocks, and to tackle the root causes of forced displacement.
   - We welcome Islamic Development Bank, UN and WBG efforts to develop the financing facility for the Middle East and North Africa and donor commitments to this initiative.
   - We ask the WBG to explore options to develop a long-term global crisis response platform.
   - We look forward to the upcoming first World Humanitarian Summit and the Summit on Refugees at the UN General Assembly.

   All of this attention is great, but we wonder whether it will truly harness the complementarity of the humanitarian and development actors in a way that comports with humanitarian principles? Will new financing platforms add funding to the system, and who can access them?

3. **Last call to register for the 15-17 June UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations: Warning! The deadline to register is May 10.** You can find all relevant information on UNHCR’s website. Organized in collaboration with ICVA, this year’s Annual Consultations will focus on the overarching theme of “youth”. Webinars will be held later this month for registered participants to introduce them to the NGO Rapporteur and Vice Rapporteur and give tips on getting the most out of the Consultations. For more information, contact Secretariat@icvanetwork.org.

4. **Register for the 13 June IOM-NGO Consultations:** IOM and ICVA are organizing the second annual consultations focusing specifically on NGOs

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working in the humanitarian domain. The Consultations will look at 1) enhancing cooperation, collaboration and dialogue between IOM and humanitarian NGOs, 2) the various dimensions of the large scale movements of migration and refugees, and 3) changing the public narrative and negative perception of refugees and other migrants. Please register online for the 13 June event to be held in Geneva. For more information, see the Agenda, or contact Secretariat@icvanetwork.org.

5. Engage in preparations for the 19 September Summit on Large Scale Movements: An open call for applications for a civil society Steering Committee linked to the 19 September Summit has been launched by UN-NGLS and UN DESA on the request of the Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA). We strongly encourage our members to apply; ICVA Secretariat will apply as well. Visit: http://bit.ly/CSO-Apply-HLM-Large-Movements-Refugees-Migrants

6. Sign on to the #WithRefugees Campaign for World Refugee Day: UNHCR has launched the #WithRefugees Campaign ahead of World Refugee Day in June. The Campaign uses a petition as its primary call to action. You can sign the petition to show your solidarity for people forced to flee and also calls on governments to show greater solidarity in finding robust, humane and innovative solutions for refugees. It will be delivered at the UN General Assembly in September during the High Level Summit on Large Scale Movements of Refugees and Migrants.

7. World Humanitarian Summit:

Final lead-up to the WHS: NGOs and many humanitarian actors alike are busy finalizing preparations and commitments in this final two weeks before the Summit. The provisional agenda and schedule of side events have now been shared. ICVA is regularly sharing updates and news as we hear of them, via our WHS mailing list. Please contact james.schell@icvanetwork.org to be added to this list.

MSF pulls out of the WHS – for more information see MSF’s Statement and this article from IRIN.

NGO briefs to the High Level Leaders’ Roundtables (HLRTs): ICVA Secretariat, together with ICVA members, is creating a series of short ‘briefs’ for each of the HLRTs. The objectives of these briefs are to: 1) identify common issues, priorities, concerns and commitments of NGOs in relation to each HLRT; and 2) Provide succinct and informed analysis to be shared widely and utilised as advocacy tools with Member States, the UN, NGOs and other humanitarian stakeholders. The briefs are in their final review stages. Final versions can be found on ICVA’s website.

Upload NGO special session briefs: Over the last two weeks, ICVA has hosted a range of NGO consultations and meetings in relation to three WHS Special Sessions, including Global Health; Humanitarian Principles and Putting People at the Centre. These meetings provided a useful opportunity for NGO input and discussion on the special sessions. Please contact james.schell@icvanetwork.org to access the summary notes.

Share your commitments and calls for the WHS!: Many NGOs are now in the process of finalizing their own organizations’ commitments to be shared during the Summit. Here at ICVA we will be promoting and amplifying NGO calls and commitments on our website, via briefing documents and through social media. We have collected a number of calls and commitments – but know there are many more now being released. Please share with us your commitments as they are released.

8. Joint ICVA and Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) paper on aid localisation: Developed together with the Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), and synthesising much of the current discourse, this short paper supports and highlights the necessity for the increased localisation of aid, and the importance of complementarity- not a straightforward relationship. Articulating some of the well-known benefits, it unpacks the concept of localisation, acknowledging that ‘local’ is not...
homogenous, but represents a diverse set of actors, working from varying and often distinct ideologies and at different levels.

The paper notes that while the localisation of aid is and must occur, all humanitarian action response cannot be placed solely on the shoulders of local actors. However, ‘how the international engages’, must change and must ‘reinforce, not replace’ local systems, using the comparative advantages of an increasing range of diverse humanitarian actors. The paper discusses key factors blocking concrete steps towards the localisation of aid - often the resistance of the established humanitarian system to cede power, control and resources. The paper will be uploaded in mid-May on ICVA's website.

### Humanitarian Coordination

9. IASC Principals:

**IASC Principals meeting on WHS and the Grand Bargain:** On 7 April the IASC Principals met to discuss the WHS and the Grand Bargain (see the Final Summary Record). The ERC presented the "Impossible Choices Campaign (www.impossiblechoices.org) launched ahead of the Summit, to generate public involvement in getting world leaders to attend the Summit and take bold action once there. The ERC called for continuous support by the IASC agencies to the WHS, and confirmed that the UN General Assembly in September 2016 will be the occasion to present a three-year road map based on the WHS outcomes. During the meeting ICVA raised the importance of civil society’s active participation in the Summit and beyond.

Regarding the Grand Bargain, the ERC focused on the importance of investing in the development/humanitarian nexus, and supported efforts made for unmarked and multi-year funding. ICVA noted i) the need to find consensus on how to support first line responders, ii) the importance of multi-year funding.

**Ad Hoc IASC Principals meeting on South Sudan L3 review and Cash coordination:** On the 4 May the IASC Principals met to review the L3 in South Sudan and Cash Coordination (following the IASC Principals meeting of December 2015). See the background documents.

10. Emergency Directors Group:

**EDG Ad hoc call on Yemen:** On the 22 April the EDG met to discuss the situation in Yemen (see Summary Note).

ICVA and the NGOs raised the following points:

- **Access:** While the current cessation of hostilities is an opportunity for better access, it does not directly impact on the bureaucratic impediments that humanitarian organizations and NGOs are facing in reaching out to affected populations. Unless these impediments are reduced it is impossible to scale up and reach areas where the needs are greatest. Strong and coordinated leadership is needed: 1) from the UN and NGOs to promote a coordinated and principled approach to address access constraints, and 2) from the donors and their political offices to put pressure on the key authorities to address those impediments.

- **Humanitarian structure:** The full humanitarian coordination structure has been slow to get established and has faced considerable challenges in rolling out to the sub-cluster levels. A welcome mapping initiative by the UN of the gaps, the costs and the realities is underway that will better inform how best to reinforce coordination. But greater inclusion of NGOs is still needed, ensuring the voices of local and international NGOs are considered. The quality of cluster leadership must as well be reinforced through senior staff, clear co-lead ToRs and an equal sharing of responsibilities between UN and NGOs. For this to work, it requires financial support from donors for dedicated resources.
11. IASC Working Group:

90th Working Group meeting on 8-9 March in New York - read the Summary Record.

Updated documents from the IASC:

- Updated IASC organigram
- IASC Task Team on Accountability to Affected Populations and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (AAP/PSEA) IASC AAP/PSEA TT Workplan 2016-2017
- IASC Reference Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action Annual Report
- IASC Humanitarian Financing TAs Team Workplan 2016-2017

Coming up in the IASC Working Group:

Ad hoc IASC Working Group meeting on IAHE South Sudan and CAR will be held on 11 May the final findings from the two inter-agency humanitarian evaluations (IAHEs) that have been recently concluded: the IAHE of the response to the crisis in South Sudan (see Report of IHAE Response to Crisis in South Sudan, and IHAE MRP), and the IAHE of the response to the crisis in the Central African Republic, will be presented. The objective is to discuss the management response.

Note the summary on the IAHE of the response to the crisis in South Sudan: "the IAHE for South Sudan found that the main response objectives related to saving lives, providing protection and supporting livelihoods were appropriate and have generally been fulfilled. The evidence collected by the evaluation indicates that despite tremendous logistical and security challenges, the response averted any major humanitarian or public health catastrophe, including famine. A balanced and appropriate approach to working with national and local authorities was achieved, and strenuous fundraising efforts, led by the Humanitarian Coordinator, yielded excellent results in securing resources for the response. There was room for improvement in, amongst other areas, the deployment of experienced personnel (especially outside Juba), implementing key facets of Accountability to Affected People (AAP), ensuring the effectiveness of coordination structures throughout the country, and strengthening joint strategic response planning. The evaluation also identified excellent and innovative work in support of livelihoods, which will form a strong basis for future work in this area. On the basis of its findings, the report provides 19 recommendations to be implemented at the country and global (IASC) level."

Humanitarian Financing

12. ICVA launches “Less Paper More Aid”: At the 27 April High Level Meeting of the Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative, ICVA Executive Director Nan Buzard launched the “Less Paper More Aid” report illustrating the impacts on NGOs of donor and UN reporting, partner capacity assessment and audit requirements. Two days later, ICVA facilitated a discussion with UN agency staff securing agreement for NGOs to be included in UNHCR-WFP-UNICEF discussions to harmonize their partner project agreements. The Less Paper More Aid report will feature at the 13 May “NGOs Forward” Member State briefing in Geneva. Many have expressed support for the report’s relevance to the Grand Bargain and its practical “Framework for Change.” Check out the report, video, and other resources at LessPaperMoreAid.org. A big thanks to project coordinator
Cecilia Roselli, our members, and the many NGO staff providing thoughtful contributions to this team effort.

13. Grand Bargain Round 3: The Grand Bargain Sherpas reconvened on 15 April for their third round (of four planned rounds) of talks. They painstakingly reviewed potential commitment language associated with ten themes, agreeing on some language with only minor fixes (e.g. simplified and harmonised reporting), muddling through others, and starkly disagreeing on the points related to joint and impartial needs assessments. Some expressed worries that the commitment language was getting too watered down. Others expressed angst about the monitoring mechanism proposed by the World Bank (e.g. using the International Development Association model) as exclusive and adding a layer of bureaucracy. They ended the meeting with a compressed timeline for follow-up action, illustrating the pressure of delivering a “Grand Bargain” with the World Humanitarian Summit only 25 business days away. They will meet again for their final round 9-10 May. ICVA members can see ICVA's analysis.

14. Global Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) agrees to best practices:
Under the Co-Chairmanship of the United States and Canada (2014-2016), GHD members identified operational best practices in four areas: Funding Modalities, Evidence-based Decision Making, Managing Risk, and Administrative and Accountability Requirements. GHD members welcomed operational best practices at their Annual High Level Meeting on April 27, 2016. You can learn more on the GHD website. ICVA has recognized this was not an easy task, but challenged the GHD to go further than best practices to spur change.

**ICVA Updates**

15. New members: ICVA is delighted to announce that the following organizations have recently joined ICVA:

- Community Research and Development Organization (CRDO) Pakistan
- DanchurchAid
- Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe
- Mercy Corps
- Terre Des Hommes

We look forward to working with them.

16. ICVA's Annual Conference - Complementarity in Humanitarian Action: Many thanks to all those who attended ICVA’s 2016 Annual Conference, held in early April. Attracting over 170 NGO, UN, Red Cross Red Crescent and donor representatives, the Annual Conference unpacked the concept of complementarity in humanitarian action - and considered its relationship with local and national leadership. Over the day, a series of conversations discussed what complementarity looks like in practice. An engaging session was held in the afternoon, when NGOs shared their calls and commitments in the lead up to the World Humanitarian Summit. A report will be available on ICVA's website soon.

17. ICVA MENA Regional Hub: MENA Regional Representative, Reza Kasraï, and Director of Partnership and Policy, Raphael Gorgeu, undertook a one-week visit to Egypt and Saudi Arabia to foster greater engagement with stakeholders at the regional level, including UN agencies, IOM, donors, KsRelief, League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The visit provided an opportunity for ICVA to better understand the work of these stakeholders in the region and for them to become more familiar with ICVA's strategy and activities. In the longer term the MENA hub will be able to better facilitate the engagement of NGOs with such actors at the regional level.

18. ICVA Annual Report 2015 is now available to download from the ICVA website.
19. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change: is seeking information on how the impacts of climate change are affecting patterns of migration, displacement and human mobility. If you have knowledge, data and information on internal and/or cross border migration or displacement impacted by climate change please see this letter or contact secretariat@unfccc.int by 16 May for more information.

20. Requests for JIPS support for profiling displacement situations due 15 May: Is your operation planning to undertake a profiling exercise but you need some guidance or support to do so? If so, the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) would like to invite you to request its services. Have a look at the “Call for Requests” form at www.jips.org. You can also visit this site to learn more about JIPS’ Profiling Coordination Training in Geneva (12-17 June 2016) – deadline for applications is 5 May.

21. Civilian Survival Strategies in Conflict: InterAction is hosting a discussion on civilian survival strategies in the Syrian conflict 11 May from 11:00 – 12:30pm EDT (Washington DC time). The findings and recommendations from a new report by the Center for Civilians in Conflict will be presented. Register online for the webinar.

22. The UNHCR Emergency Handbook is a guide/toolkit for UNHCR staff and partners, who are involved in humanitarian emergency preparedness and response. Although published in June 2015 UNHCR is continuously promoting its use and encourages other organisations to place the link into their own websites. The UNHCR Emergency Handbook link is at https://emergency.unhcr.org/

Upcoming Events:
- **23-24 May:** World Humanitarian Summit (Istanbul, Turkey)
- **7 June:** IASC Principals Meeting (Washington DC)
- **13-15 June:** Annual Tripartite Consultations on Refugee Resettlement (Geneva)
- **13 June:** IOM NGO Consultations on humanitarian action (Geneva)
- **14 June:** Consultations with UNHCR on Emergency Preparedness (Geneva)
- **15-17 June:** UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations (Geneva)
- **20 June:** World Refugee Day
- **21-23 June:** UNHCR Standing Committee Meeting on Protection (Geneva)
- **27-29 June:** ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (New York)
- **19 August:** World Humanitarian Day
- **13 September:** 71st Regular Session of the UN General Assembly (New York)
- **19 September:** High-Level Plenary Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants (New York)
- **21-22 September:** UNHCR Standing Committee 67th meeting (Geneva)
- **3-7 October:** UNHCR Executive Committee 67th Meeting
- **25-26 October:** IASC Working Group 91st Meeting (tbc)
- **6 December:** IASC Principals Meeting (tbc)
- **8-9 December:** HC’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges (Geneva)