Message from Executive Director

Counter-productive responses in the Sahel

The dominant narrative on the Sahel is one of terrorism and security.

The complex humanitarian situation in the region is deteriorating and expanding. Numerous high-level government visits are largely focused on security and counter-terrorism and results are so far elusive and intangible. The current national and international responses privilege military measures and migration-containment policies, materialising in an expensive, chaotic and often counter-productive process.

The manipulation of inter-communal conflicts by violent extremists, the blurred lines between humanitarians and military deployments are compromising humanitarian principles. Humanitarian assistance and protection to the affected population is carried out with tireless commitment, but poorly funded and at great risk for aid workers.

The "security and counter-terrorism" attention and messaging has to change to one that supports humanitarian efforts and additional humanitarian funding. To one that takes a longer-term vision in order to address structural development deficits. To one where joint analysis from humanitarian, development, government and other actors guides joint humanitarian and development planning, together with inter-communal dialogue, crucial in times of decreasing resources.

To take up the challenges around the protection of humanitarian space, people have to be at the center rather than building walls between themselves.

Ignacio Packer
Executive Director | ICVA

ICVA Updates

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Webinar "How do NGOs navigate shrinking civil society space", 20 June

On 20 June from 15:00 to 16:30, join us for an ICVA/PHAP webinar to hear from NGOs and different actors on:

- What measures are being put in place to restrict the operations of NGOs and how are humanitarian NGOs affected?
- What are NGOs and other actors doing to navigate shrinking and changing space for civil society?
- How can NGOs improve their engagement with other actors and partners and connect and collaborate?

The webinar draws upon the independent civil society space scoping study carried out for ICVA in 2018, accessible here.

Register for the webinar

IASC Results Group 2 on Accountability and Inclusion: Survey for NGO colleagues in the regions

As the IASC Results Group 2 on Accountability and Inclusion establishes itself, the co-chairs are eager to ensure that NGO colleagues in the regions have the opportunity to input into the design and refinement of its priority areas. The results of this survey, and inputs from the regional consultations will be taken into account at a planning retreat on June 28. Deadline to complete the survey: 21 June. With sincere thanks for your engagement.
Access the survey here.

Forced migration

1. The Global Compact on Refugees:
UNHCR-NGO meeting on the Global Refugee Forum
On 15 May 2019 in Geneva, **ICVA gathered NGOs to meet with Mr. Daniel Endres** (Director, Global Refugee Forum) and Ms. Perveen Ali (Senior Protection Policy Advisor and Head of the Global Refugee Forum Coordination Team). About 30 NGO representatives exchanged with UNHCR on the Guidance note on pledges, contributions & good practices, engagement at national and regional levels in the pledging process and on the co-sponsors’ roles. More information on **UNHCR's webpage**.

On 27 May in Geneva, **ICVA organised a discussion with UNHCR on the three-year strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways** to gather inputs from NGOs. The aim of the three-year strategy is to increase the number of resettlement opportunities available for refugees, expand the base of resettlement countries and improve the availability and predictability of complementary pathways. The same week, UNHCR released **Key Considerations on Complementary Pathways for Admission of Refugees to Third Countries**.

Notes from these meetings will soon be made available to ICVA members as well as notes from the informal briefing on the Global Refugee Forum provided by UNHCR to Member States and other stakeholders on 13 May (Geneva).

On 18 June in Nairobi, in collaboration with ICVA, UNHCR will hold a partners meeting on the regional application of the Global Compact on Refugees and preparations for the Global Refugee Forum.

### 2. UNHCR-World Bank Group Joint Data Center, 17 May, Geneva

ICVA UNHCR and the World Bank briefed on recent and upcoming developments related to their **Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement**. The meeting was the opportunity to learn about the objectives and purview of the center and to exchange on the way forward.

### 3. Multi-stakeholder Approaches to Refugee Response: Workshop in Ivory Coast on the multi-stakeholder approach to durable solutions, 31 May, Abidjan

Thanks to support from the US Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), ICVA and UNHCR facilitated a workshop to **strengthen common understanding of the multi-stakeholder approach in refugee response**. The workshop aimed to generate momentum and recommendations to improve joint work on durable solutions in the Ivorian situation, particularly sustainable reintegration of repatriates. Contributions from UNHCR and Save the Children allowed to better
understand multi-stakeholder approaches developed in CRRF roll-out countries. The contribution of the education sector to sustainable reintegration was also discussed. Connections were made with the Global Compact on Refugees and the thematic priorities for the first Global Refugee Forum.

4. Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

As a member of the GP20 Steering Group and IDP Participation workstream, ICVA contributed to the organisation of a webinar on *Confronting the Barriers to IDP Women and Girls’ Participation in Humanitarian Settings* (8 May). The recently released report: *Tearing Down the Walls: Confronting the Barriers to Internally Displaced* served as a basis for discussions with UNHCR and the Women’s Refugee Commission.

5. UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations, 3-5 July, Geneva

ICVA is actively engaged with members in the regions to identify suitable organisations to attend the consultations on thematic panels.

6. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

Informal consultations on the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) process continued in May with the co-facilitators organising an informal consultation with Members States in UN HQ, US on 8 May and one with stakeholders in Geneva, on 28 May. The International Migration Review Forum, which will be the primary intergovernmental platform “to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact on Migration” provides the opportunity to analyse progress and inspire further action towards the achievements of GCM goals and commitments. Therefore, determining the modalities and organisational aspects of the IMRF is important. **ICVA, through the Civil Society Action Committee is following and contributing to ensure that a meaningful and participatory IMRF process is in place and runs every four years, beginning in 2022.**

7. IOM-Civil Society Information Sharing, 17 June, Geneva

The next IOM-Civil Society Information Sharing will focus on ‘Migration & the 2030 Agenda’. Registration [here](#). Password: migration&development.

8. IGAD Regional Scientific Conference on Forced Displacement and Mixed Migration in the East and Horn of Africa, 8-10 May 2019, Nairobi, Kenya

ICVA participated and contributed in the regional conference alongside Member states, invited partners and academia. The conference examined the landscape of response to forced migration and partners were urged to incorporate some of the observation from
academia in their response to forced migration. The proceedings of the conference will be shared by ICVA as soon as availed by the IGAD secretariat. For more information contact addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org

9. ICVA participation to roundtable at African Union, 20 June, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

Within the framework of the African Union’s (AU) theme of 2019: “The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions for Forced Displacement in Africa”, ICVA will participate in the round table “Supervision and implementation of the 1969 Convention”.

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Financing

10. OCHA Country Based Pooled Funds, 28 June, Geneva

The next meeting of the Pooled Fund Working Group (PFWG) will take place on 28 June in Geneva. The OCHA NGO Pooled Fund Dialogue Platform, chaired by NRC will also meet the same week in Geneva on 26 June. Prior to the PFWG, ICVA is seeking input from NGOs on possible agenda items for the meeting. To ensure national perspectives are reflected, representatives of national NGOs are strongly encouraged to provide input.
To share inputs or for any questions, contact jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org

11. UN Harmonisation – Partnership Agreements

A joint analysis of UN partnership agreements led by Oxfam and conducted by different NGO partners (including ICVA) is now complete and has been shared with UN agencies. The agencies involved in the analysis included UNHCR, OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, and UNFPA. The analysis looks at how language and guidance linked to partnership agreements can be improved to reduce burdens, and better harmonised across agencies. Over the next year, ICVA will coordinate a quarterly dialogue to discuss implementation of recommendations with UN agencies.
For more information, or to express interest in engaging in the dialogue, contact alon.plato@icvanetwork.org and jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org

12. Grand Bargain annual meeting, 27 June, Geneva

All signatories to the Grand Bargain are invited to send a Principal and a ‘plus one’ to the meeting; please remember to register with the Grand Bargain Secretariat if you plan to attend the meeting. The meeting agenda is still under development; however, this year will include a transition of the Eminent Person from Kristalina Georgieva of the World Bank to Minister Sigrid Kaag of the Netherlands. This transition will help to set the tone of Grand Bargain implementation over the next two years.
Coordination

13. Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak and response in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Throughout the month, the Emergency Directors Group (EDG) had multiple calls on the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak and response in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The World Health Organization (WHO) alerted that an increase in transmission rates has been identified over the recent weeks: as of 2 June, 1,914 cases have been identified and confirmed, including 1,346 deaths. Response activities have been scaled up, but face challenges in terms of high numbers of new cases each week and the risk of the disease spreading to other regions and countries. For the latest situation report, please visit the [WHO website](https://www.who.int).

14. EDG discussion on the Early Warning, Early Action and Readiness analysis, 22 May

Discussions highlighted new crises, new trends and ongoing deteriorations of situations. The outlook covered the period between May and October 2019. The EDG has planned to meet in person in Geneva on 26 June to further discuss about joint early action.

15. Engagement with humanitarian leadership

On 7 May, ICVA organised a discussion with Julien Harneis, Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator (DHC) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), to share updates on the humanitarian situation in the DRC, including on the Ebola outbreak.

16. IASC Humanitarian Coordinators’ (HCs) retreat, 6 May, Lausanne

The HCs discussed about key challenges they face in the field, notably the increasing lack of adherence to International Humanitarian Law by all parties.

17. IASC Results Groups 1 (RG1) on Operational Response and RG3 on Collective Advocacy

The RG1 and RG3 met respectively on 16 and 21 May for their first face-to-face discussion on the priority areas of work tasked by the OPAG (Operational Policy and Advocacy Group). They agreed to form small groups of members with proposed leads to take forward each of the agreed priority of work. Within RG1, ICVA co-leads with InterAction the bureaucratic impediments affecting NGOs group and the strengthening of humanitarian leadership group. The next meeting of the RG1 is scheduled for 2 July.
18. Inclusion of the Sahel region in the IASC horizon scanning

The IASC Principals met on 29 May in Geneva to discuss a variety of topics, ranging from “Coordination with key global processes”, “Global humanitarian overview” to “Ebola”, “PSEA” and “Persons with disabilities”. During the first session which concentrated on “Horizon scanning”, ICVA successfully obtained the inclusions of the Sahel region in furtherance of an increase in regional analysis.

This followed an ICVA visit to Bamako, Mali, on 25-29 May where ICVA ED and Africa Regional Representative met with the ICVA members, UN agencies and Member States to collect opinions and reflections on the situation in the country and in the Sahel. The visit to Mali was also an opportunity to visit the FONGIM/GTAH and National Civil Society platforms.

More information about the ICVA visit to Mali: marco.rotteli@icvanetwork.org

19. ECOSOC

The draft agenda of the 2019 Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) is available here, indicating time slots of the various sessions as well as a tentative list of speakers. A briefing focused on communication will be organised shortly.

20. Support to NGO fora

Following the first NGO fora exchange programme, held in Hargeissa (6-13 April 2019), ICVA is finalising the second exchange programme in the end of June (date and location TBD)

For more information contact addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org

21. ICVA-NGO seat at Saving Life Together (SLT)

ICVA network has been represented by one of its members in the SLT Oversight Committee and the sub-set Working Group. To ensure reasonable rotation and diversity of representation, ICVA is now looking for a new NGO member to represent ICVA network in this platform for a duration of two years.

Deadline for application: 23 June 2019 CoB. Read the call for interest here.

22. ICVA-NGO seat at the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation Steering Group (IAHE-SG)

ICVA network has been represented by one of its members on the IAHE-SG. To ensure reasonable rotation and diversity of representation, ICVA is now looking for a new NGO member to represent the network in this platform for a duration of two years.

Deadline for application: 27 June 2019 CoB. Read the call for interest here.

Navigating change: cross cutting issues
23. Grand Bargain and Localisation

On 15 May in Nairobi, ICVA joined the ALNAP launch of the State of the Humanitarian System (SOHS). The event was an opportunity to reflect on localisation and the Grand Bargain. Access SOHS resources here. For more information contact marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org

Regional Conferences on Localisation of Aid, July and August 2019, Africa, MENA, Asia and Pacific regions
ICVA supports these events as part of the steering group for the planning of the Grand Bargain Localization Workstream. More information and registration information can be found here.

2019 Asia Pacific Humanitarian Leadership Conference, 22-24 May, Melbourne, Australia
Participants reflected on the challenges facing good leadership in the humanitarian space and the future of humanitarian action in the Asia Pacific and fragile states. ICVA’s role included the moderation of two sessions; an interactive panel on localisation in the response to the Lombok and Sulawesi Earthquakes in Indonesia, and the closing high-level plenary panel discussion on Complementarity and Localisation.

24. Humanitarian-development nexus

Mali is included as a case study in the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus (HDPN) Community of Practice. ICVA’s visit to Mali on 25-29 May was an opportunity to have extensive discussions with key stakeholders on the HDPN. For more information contact marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org

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Region specific information

25. Pacific Resilience Partnership Meeting, 1-3 May, Suva, Fiji
ICVA joined the 300 participants to take stock of the implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and highlight how communities and countries in the Pacific were strengthening resilience in an era of escalating disaster and climate risks. Outcome statement can be found here.

ICVA joined the GPC Conference under the theme of Child Protection. The GPC and its Areas of Responsibility (AoR) in Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence, the Housing, Land and Property, and Mine Action discussed the latest issues and challenges facing the cluster, and took stock of recommendations on durable and sustainable solutions from 250 participants from field operations, partners from INGOs, NGOs and CSOs, academics and donor. This year, the GPC was also joined by the inter-agency ProCap and GenCap stand-by rosters. Information about the event can be found here.
27. Training on “Gender in humanitarian action”, 27-30 May, Bangkok, Thailand

To accelerate implementation of key gender equality commitments outlined at the World Humanitarian Summit and through the IASC Gender Policy and Accountability Framework, OCHA and UN Women facilitated a 3,5 days joint training on gender in humanitarian action. The key objective was to increase the capacity of OCHA Gender Focal Points, UN Women humanitarian focal points in priority countries, and key regional humanitarian partners to integrate gender into humanitarian preparedness and response. For more information contact qingrui.huang@icvanetwork.org.

28. UNHCR Annual Consultation with MENA NGO and Civil Society, 20-21 June, Aman, Jordan

This year, as part of a decentralisation process, the regional sessions are being held in the field, with the first one being in MENA. More info here.

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New and noteworthy


This conference co-hosted by Norway, Iraq, Somalia, United Arab Emirates, UN OCHA, UNFPA, ICRC and other partners, consisted of a civil society segment the first day, and a high-level segment the second day. The dynamic civil society segment was organised by ICVA member Norwegian Church Aid and other civil society partners. Throughout both days, participants shared good practices on life saving services for the survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and how a gender-based approach supports peacebuilding and development efforts. The conference succeeded in mobilising stronger political commitment and additional financial resources to prevent incidents of SGBV, and to ensure that the response is life-saving, timely, and promotes the rights and dignity of survivors and those at risk. Read documents related to the conference here, including results from financial pledges and a joint civil society statement.

30. NPO Breakfast Exchange on the limits of not-for-profit operating models, 5 June, Geneva

ICVA Executive Director Ignacio Packer contributed alongside other experts from Amnesty, PwC and Oak Fondation to this Breakfast Exchange. A gap is opening between the rapid rate of change in the world and the slow rate at which the NGOs adapt to change. The panel explored paths NGOs take and perspectives about the governance and financial crisis not-for-profits are
facing. The discussion covered big challenges and hard questions that lie ahead for NGOs.

31. Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG) State of Diversity Survey
The HAG invites you to participate in the first phase of its current research into Diverse and Inclusive Humanitarian Leadership as part of its Humanitarian Horizons Research programme. The State of Diversity Survey is designed to capture information about the current diversity and inclusiveness of humanitarian leadership globally. Click here to complete the survey.

32. High-level debate on the benefits and risks of consolidating international NGOs, 11 June, London, UK
NGOsMercy Corps and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) are organising a debate on whether merging INGOs would create a more effective humanitarian system. More information here.

33. SDG Accountability Handbook
Download the SDG Accountability Handbook, a practical guide - developed by the Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) network - to support civil society organisations in holding governments accountable for 2030 Agenda promises.

34. World Humanitarian Day
Do you have stories to share to support the #WomenHumanitarians 2019 World Humanitarian Day campaign? Last call for Asia-Pacific partners to submit stories to OCHA Pierre Peron at peronp@un.org.

35. Working in networks
Reflecting over five years as Director of CONCORD, the European Confederation of Development NGOs, Seamus Jeffreson shares his four take aways for working in civil society alliances. Read blog here.

36. UN Human Rights Report 2018 to civil society
On 14 June, the High Commissioner will present the UN Human Rights Report 2018 to civil society. Electronic version of the report available here.

37. Statelessness
On 22 May, the European Network on Statelessness and the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion launched a new #StatelessJourneys website to help protect the rights of stateless refugees and migrants and prevent new cases of statelessness arising in the context of people arriving in Europe.
The Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) is launching a new research project focused on increasing inclusion in humanitarian action. This research aims to address bias in the humanitarian sector by improving awareness and resources for confronting challenges related to discrimination and inequality. The “Call for Materials” is seeking internal information, resources, and materials on how humanitarian actors are addressing the challenges of bias and discrimination within both the workplace and beneficiary communities. Read more here or contact Meredith Blake at mblake@hsph.harvard.edu. Deadline is: 30 June.

New members

ICVA is pleased to welcome the following organisations as members to the ICVA network:
Al Sham Foundation, Turkey  
Finn Church Aid, Finland  
International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation, Turkey  
Japan Platform, Japan

Mark your agendas

June 4-7: OECD Civil Society Days, Paris  
June 5: Not for Profit Breakfast Exchange, Geneva  
June 11: Mercy Corps & ODI debate on INGOs, London, UK  
June 17: IOM-Civil Society Information Sharing, Geneva  
June 18: Partners’ meeting on the regional application of the Global Compact on Refugees and preparations for the Global Refugee Forum, Nairobi, Kenya  
June 20: ICVA-PHAP webinar on “How do NGOs navigate shrinking civil society space?”  
June 20: Supervision and implementation of the 1969 convention Addis Abeba Ethiopia  
June 20: World Refugee Day  
June 18-20: 75th UNHCR Standing Committee meeting, Geneva  
June 19-20: UNHCR NGO MENA regional consultations, Amman  
June 24-26: ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), Geneva  
June 25: Second preparatory meeting for Global Refugee Forum, Geneva  
June 27: Grand Bargain Sherpa meeting, Geneva  
June 28: Good Humanitarian Donorship High Level Meeting, Geneva  
June 26 to July 18: Caux Forum 2019 – Developing the human potential for global change  

July 1: Refugee Legal Empowerment convening, Geneva  
July 1-3: Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR), Geneva  
July 3-5: UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations, Geneva, Geneva  
July 4-6: Fifth Meeting of Experts of Member States in Charge of Education on the Implementation of the Djibouti Declaration on Education for Refugees, Returnees and Host Communities  
July 15-16: Grand Bargain Localization Workstream MENA Regional Conference:
Amman, Jordan

**August 12**: 70th anniversary of Geneva Conventions

**August 19**: World Humanitarian Day, honouring women humanitarians

**August (TBC)**: Grand Bargain Localization Workstream Asia-Pacific Regional Conference: Jakarta, Indonesia

**September 17-30**: 74th Session of the UN General Assembly, New York

**September 18-19**: UNHCR 76th Standing Committee Meeting, Geneva

**September 23**: UN 2019 Climate Summit, New York

**September 30 to October 9**: 74th Session of the UN General Assembly – General debate, New York

**October 7**: 65th Anniversary Nansen Refugee Award, Geneva

**October 7-11**: UNHCR 70th Executive committee meeting

**October 15-16**: IOM’s International Dialogue on Dialogue on Migration, Geneva

**October 15-16**: World Humanitarian Action Forum, Istanbul

**November 14**: Third preparatory meeting for Global Refugee Forum, Geneva

**November 25-29**: Global Forum on Migration, Quito, Ecuador

**November 26-29**: IOM – 110th Council, Geneva

**November (TBD)**: IASC OPAG Meeting

**December 5**: IASC Principals meeting

**December 5**: UNHCR Pledging Conference, Geneva

**December 9-12**: 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent - "Act today, shape tomorrow", Geneva

**December 17-18**: 1st Global Refugee Forum, Geneva