The most frequently asked question we have heard in recent weeks is this: “What will be the impact of Brexit, the U.S. election, and other signs of populism on humanitarian aid?” The immediate answer has been, “It’s too early to tell.” At ICVA, we expect the first tangible impact will be felt by those involved with third country refugee resettlement. Over time, aid organizations could be subjected to heightened scrutiny as described in Less Paper More Aid. As such, we will continue to advocate for: 1) respect for international law and humanitarian principles, 2) adequate, predictable and flexible humanitarian funding, and 3) global responsibility sharing, as underscored in September’s New York Declaration on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants as well as the Grand Bargain on Humanitarian Financing. Our March 2017 Annual Conference will explore different aspects of shrinking civil society space. The increase in humanitarian needs, as depicted in 2017 Global Humanitarian Overview (described later in this bulletin) shows that we cannot afford, as an international community, to be divided at this juncture in history.

### Forced Displacement

1. **UNHCR High Commissioners Dialogue:** The ninth annual High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges took place on 8–9 December 2016, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The Dialogue brought together a variety of stakeholders, including civil society, to consider the specific protection risks faced by children on the move, particularly those under the mandate of the UN Refugee Agency.

The Friends of the Dialogue group of NGOs, co-ordinated this year by ICVA and Save the Children, was particularly active in the preparations, meeting three times with the UNHCR organizers, providing comments and inputs on the agenda, participation, and the draft UNHCR background note. The group’s Joint Messages which served as the basis of a joint NGO statement delivered during the closing session of the Dialogue, stressed that protecting children on the move should be at the heart of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and the Global Compact on Refugees, and that NGOs are ready to contribute to this objective. In his concluding remarks, the High Commissioner highlighted the need to translate the collective understanding of the challenges faced by children on the move into a collective push to ensure they are protected and provided with solutions.

2. **Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework:** In November, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Mr. Volker Türk, and the Director for Comprehensive Responses, Mr. Daniel Endres provided a briefing in Geneva on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the Global Compact on Refugees. UNHCR also released a Factsheet on the “Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework: from the New York Declaration to a Global Compact on Refugees”. The briefing and factsheet provided confirmation of the process and timeline followed by UNHCR in the post-19 September phase. The CRRF UNHCR Task Team, now operational, is focusing on the first three possible ‘pilot countries’ - Uganda, Tanzania, and Somalia. ICVA continues to ensure NGOs remain informed and engaged in the process at various levels. Together with its members, ICVA advocated for a strong link to be established between this year’s High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges (Children on the Move) and the 2017 High Commissioner’s Dialogue focus on the CRRF and the Global Compact on Refugees.

The International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), NGO Committee on Migration-New York and ICVA took the opportunity of an informal exchange with the Co-facilitators of the modalities for the adoption process of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Geneva, 2 December) to highlight the importance of ensuring coherence and consistency between the two Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration. For more information, contact Jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org.

### Humanitarian Partnerships

1. **Engagement with Member States and regional intergovernmental organizations**

### Humanitarian Coordination

5. **IASC Principals Meeting**

6. **IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG) Teleconference**

7. **IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG) Missions**

8. **Joint InterAction/ ICVA mission to Myanmar**

9. **HC Coordination Pool**

10. **NGO fora Meetings**

### Humanitarian Financing

11. **Less Paper More Aid and the Grand Bargain**

12. **OCHA appeals for 10% more in 2017**

13. **CERF Secretariat Consults NGOs, Faces Shortfall**

14. **OCHA/FCS Consults NGOs on CBPFs, Links to the Localization Debate**

15. **IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team**

### Humanitarian Learning
3. UNHCR Structured Dialogue:

**San Salvador:** On November 9, ICVA, with the UNHCR Partnership Section and the support of Fundacion Cristosal and Asylum Access Ecuador, held the first Latin American Structured Dialogue workshop in San Salvador. It followed meetings organized by the Regional Group for the Brazil Plan of Action, GAR-PAB in Spanish (el Grupo Articulador Regional del Plan de Acción Brasil). The group, composed by more than 40 NGOs, was created after the 2015 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations in order to follow up on the implementation of the Brazil Plan of Action. Even with limited participation from UNHCR, the Structured Dialogue provided space for in-depth discussions on the areas of complementary advocacy, joint assessment and analysis, prioritization and strategic planning, problem resolution and capacity strengthening. A report, currently being finalized in consultation with the participants, will include recommendations to take forward.

**Greece:** ICVA and UNHCR Partnership Section held workshops in Athens and Lesvos to discuss partnership challenges in the country. This Structured Dialogue mission is timely given the changing and challenging context UNHCR and NGOs are operating in.

4. Engagement with Member States and Regional Intergovernmental Organizations:

**NGO briefing to Member States in Geneva:** On 21 November 2016 at the Palais Des Nations, Action Contre La Faim, CARE International, Danish Refugee Council, Oxfam International and Save the Children presented to Member States on the humanitarian concerns and implications of the current Iraq offensive. Throughout the session, NGO panellists stressed the need for support to affected populations to access food, water, medical care and markets – especially for children and vulnerable groups - and highlighted the lack of available information on freedom of movement; a dangerous prevalence of mines throughout affected areas; significant health impacts from the lighting of oil fields; and the fluid and unclear Governance and system of law in Iraq. Read the Summary Note.

**League of Arab States:** In November, ICVA MENA hosted a workshop with the League of Arab States in Cairo, Egypt, to raise awareness about humanitarian coordination and structure. ICVA is developing with the League of Arab States opportunities for dialogue and engagement between the League of Arab States and NGOs.

**Regional Organizations Humanitarian Action Network (ROHAN):** ICVA attended the first working meeting of ROHAN, on 17 November, in Jakarta, Indonesia. This global network of regional intergovernmental organizations was launched at the World Humanitarian Summit. The meeting involved in-depth discussion around how ROHAN would continue to promote knowledge and experience sharing between regional organizations. The meeting also included a panel discussion highlighting ASEAN’s strategic partnerships with civil society, OCHA and ICRC.

**The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa:** ICVA Africa met with representatives from IGAD, in the framework of NGO engagement with intergovernmental organizations.

**4th Annual African Union Humanitarian Symposium:** On behalf of ICVA, Addis Woldemichael from AHA, attended this symposium, held in Nairobi, Kenya from 28-30 November. The theme “From Common African Position to Implementing a New African Humanitarian Architecture” follows on from the AU commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit, and is looking at implementing a 10 year humanitarian action plan that will strengthen the role of states to prevent, prepare, respond and recover more effectively from humanitarian crises.

5. IASC Principals Meeting: ICVA’s Chair, Dr Faizal Perdaus and Executive Director Nan Buzard attended the Principals meeting on 6 December in Geneva. Overall, the absence of five of the Principals, the potential UN structural changes by the incoming UN SG, the uncertainty created by the Trump election, and the obstacles to the Principals developing collective action resulted in a meeting in which there were few substantial takeaways to report. There were particularly good and important discussions around costing (session 4) and follow up to a report on discrimination (session 6).

NGO consortia stressed the importance of UN agencies to advocate and speak out on protection, human rights, IHL, and xenophobia, and the need to hold Member
States to account. This was in response to UN agencies acknowledging a) they did not always know how to engage with MS that turn their back on law and principles, and b) the constraints of a competitive funding environment. UNDSS gave an interesting reflection on the global security drivers, however, the discussions did not address some of the practical issues related to agencies’ security capacity and training needs. Concerns were raised from both the NGO consortia and UN agencies about the proposed new costing methodologies for the inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plans, requesting more analysis and consultations. Also on the agenda was the “new way of working blueprint” for El Nino, WHO’s update on the system-wide activation for infectious hazards, and the report on the abuse of female aid workers to which all agencies agreed to address. Members can read ICVA’s Summary of the meeting.

6. IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG) Teleconference: An EDG teleconference took place on 23 November about the horizon scanning based on the IASC Early Warning, Early Action and Readiness (EWEAR) report. The following countries and regions were identified as facing risks of very high concerns for the coming months for various contextual factors: DRC, Nigeria and Lake Chad, South Sudan, Syria/ Iraq/ Turkey and Yemen. Members can read the summary note from the meeting.

7. IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG) Missions:

**Nigeria:** Due to concern about the protection and food security crisis in North East Nigeria where 2.1 million people are displaced, nine agencies took part in this EDG mission to Nigeria from 29 November- 2 December. The EDG reported that although access has improved relatively and the local communities show tremendous resilience, there is still much instability and insecurity. At least 5 million people need food assistance in the region, hence the Humanitarian Appeal of USD 1 billion, an increase of 118% from last year. See also the Humanitarian Response Plan for Nigeria 2017. And ICVA members can read the EDG report of the Mission.

**Central African Republic (CAR)** Described by the EDG as the “neglected crisis”, a mission to CAR in early December focused on how to implement the “new way of working” - how to concurrently mobilize both immediate lifesaving aid and early interventions that support livelihoods. With over 2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and high levels of malnourishment, in a country with negligible infrastructure, and in a situation compounded by internal strife and conflict, the EDG called on the international community to sustain long term engagement and both humanitarian and development investment. The “new way of working” is reflected in the National recovery and peace building plan for CAR.

You can listen to a press briefing by members of the EDG about both these missions.

**Haiti:** Members of the EDG visited Haiti between 2 and 5 November 2016, to review the humanitarian situation caused by the destruction of Hurricane Matthew. They visited the two worst affected areas ( Grand Anse and Sud) and noted critical gaps in protection, sanitation, shelter and information management. Despite many operational and financial challenges, the EDG was encouraged by the quality of the humanitarian programming. Read the report.

8. Joint InterAction/ ICVA mission to Myanmar: Upon the invitation of the international NGO (INGO) Forum in Myanmar, InterAction and ICVA traveled to Myanmar from 28 September to 7 October 7, 2016. The report, written by the mission participants, ICVA and Interaction, sets out observations, key findings and recommendations for Myanmar and the wider Inter-Agency Standing Committee. Recommendations include:

- NGOs to improve documentation and communication of the humanitarian situation in Myanmar
- Support for keeping the DHC position, however, the ToR should clearly delineate any double” hatting” of this position.
- Promote participation of national NGOs in the HCT
- The INGO forum should be institutionalized by the NGO community it serves and set a clear common strategy.

For more information, contact Raphael.Gorgeu@icvanetwork.org.

9. HC Coordination Pool: The annual call for nomination of members to join the Humanitarian Coordination Pool (HC Pool) has been launched. Only 10% of the pool’s members come from the NGO community. As part of a programme to promote NGO candidates, ICVA held a webinar entitled “How to become a
10. NGO Fora Meetings: Strong in-country NGO fora are key to maximizing the impact of collective efforts, coordination and advocacy initiatives. Following the input from the NGO fora workshops held in Amman, Bangkok and Dakar during November, ICVA is developing a support programme for NGO fora. This programme will focus on a) strengthening NGO fora capacity in governance, information management and advocacy; b) the advocacy engagement of NGO fora with other humanitarian stakeholders, and c) promoting the added value of NGO fora. For more information, contact Emmanuelle.Osmond@icvanetwork.org.

Humanitarian Financing

11. Less Paper More Aid and the Grand Bargain: ICVA is very happy to be joined by Jeremy Rempel, our new consultant, to help shape the next phase of Less Paper More Aid. He helped us at the 18 November workshop co-convened by ICVA and Germany to advance the Grand Bargain workstream on simplifying and harmonizing reporting. This workshop showcased a GPPi proposal for “10+3” harmonized reporting template that could be piloted by volunteer donors and agencies to achieve the Grand Bargain reporting commitments by the end of 2018. If you would like to be involved in the next steps, please contact ICVASecretariat@icvanetwork.org. We are also pleased that the Grand Bargain “Facilitation Group” met face-to-face in Brussels on 9 December after interviewing Grand Bargain workstream co-convenors. They are developing some “Frequently Asked Questions” to help promote better understanding of the Grand Bargain. ICVA will build on these materials when it co-hosts the ICVA-PHAP learning webinar on humanitarian financing in February 2017.

12. OCHA appeals for 10% more in 2017: OCHA launched the 2017 Global Humanitarian Overview in Geneva on 5 December. This consolidated appeal seeks USD 22.2 billion to help 92.8 million people affected by disaster and conflict in 33 countries. The amount requested represents a 10% increase when compared to the appeal for 2016.

13. CERF Secretariat Consults NGOs, Faces Shortfall: On 7 December NGOs provided the Central Emergency Response Fund CERF Secretariat suggestions on how to allocate their next round of funding for “Under-Funded Emergencies,” with an emphasis on Niger/ Nigeria, the Northern Triangle, Haiti, Yemen, and Myanmar. As per the Grand Bargain, the CERF Secretariat is reflecting internally on what it would take to make CERF accessible to NGOs. As the CERF Secretariat prepares for its 12 December High Level Conference, they face a USD25 million shortfall against a 2016 funding target of USD450 million. This is particularly troubling in light of the “CERF to USD1 billion campaign” made prominent in the Secretary-General’s Agenda for Humanity and World Humanitarian Summit. Despite the welcome focus on achieving greater efficiencies in the Grand Bargain, we have yet to create a collective process to address systemic funding gaps in the humanitarian sector.

14. OCHA/FCS Consults NGOs on CBPFs, Links to the Localization Debate: On 2 December OCHA and Oxfam co-hosted another meeting of the OCHA-NGO Platform on Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs). This was their first meeting held outside of New York/ Geneva: participants met in Nairobi to be more accessible for some national NGOs. Looking forward to this week, the ICVA Secretariat will be joining Interaction, World Vision, Oxfam GB and UOSSM to provide NGO perspectives at the 15 December meeting of the Pooled Fund Working Group in New York. CBPFs are a “hot topic” these days, as many donors consider their contributions to CBPFs as a contribution towards “localization” under the Grand Bargain. CBPFs have disbursed USD543 million this year (as of 3 December) with 63.5% of the total amount going to NGOs, including 18.5% to local NGOs and 45% to international NGOs. This links to a current debate facing those developing a “localization marker”: what is the definition of national/local actor, and what qualifies as funding them “as directly as possible”?

15. IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team: The IASC HFTT, co-chaired by ICVA and the CERF Secretariat, is planning its January 2017 retreat to be held in Geneva. This will likely feature opportunities to exchange with members of the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group and Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative. It will also carve out time to advance workplan activities related to localization (e.g. engaging local actors, partner capacity assessments and developing a localization marker), donor conditions (e.g. simplifying/ harmonizing reporting), transparency
(e.g. FTS and IATI), multi-year planning and funding, and the humanitarian-development nexus. This is a very unique group of experts from the UN, Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, World Bank and NGO community that have a very clear reason to collaborate.

**ICVA LEARNING STREAM**

16. Humanitarian Learning: Demystifying Humanitarian Financing:

**Topic Five: Private funding-a growing source for NGOs?** Register now for the next PHAP /ICVA webinar on 27 January 2017 which will be on private funding. Learn what drives private funding to the humanitarian sector, the different sources of private funding, and the challenges and trends regarding NGO access to private funding sources. Watch the introductory video.

**Topic Four: Bilateral Funding – Trends, challenges and opportunities for NGOs:** On 6 December, the live learning event was held for this topic, which shed light on overall bilateral funding flows, focusing specifically on humanitarian funding from the United States’ Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) and from the European Commisions, (DG-ECHO). Webinar presenters shared detailed information on criteria and processes for NGOs to access funding from both entities. NGO presenters also shared tips and suggestions for other NGOs interested in accessing these funding sources. Watch the introductory video and webinar recording. The briefing paper will be released in the coming weeks.

**Topic Three: Pooled Funding - How can NGOs engage?** Our live learning event for topic three was held in early November, focused on pooled funding mechanisms directly accessed by NGOs. The webinar explored the Country Based Pooled Funds (CBPF) mechanism, outlining its rationale, level of disbursements and processes for NGOs to access the mechanism. The webinar outlined tips and recommendations from NGO access to CBPF, and explained the rationale and NGO experiences in access the START Fund. Watch the introductory video, the webinar recording, and stay tuned for the forthcoming briefing paper release.

**New and Noteworthy**

17. **Report the Abuse** is a new Geneva based NGO working to address sexual violence within and against the humanitarian and development community. As the only organisation in the world working specifically on this issue, it is the resource centre for the humanitarian community. Report the Abuse works to prevent and address incidents of sexual violence in the sector through advocacy, research, experience exchange and support to both survivors of sexual violence and organisations. Together we can create safer workplaces for all humanitarian and development workers. For more information, go to [http://www.reporttheabuse.org/](http://www.reporttheabuse.org/)

18. **PhD research on volunteerism:** Alasdair Gordon-Gibson at the University of St Andrews is undertaking doctoral research on the concept and impact of ‘voluntary service’. His study will examine the extent to which trust, trustworthiness and reciprocity play a role in a socialising process that leads to positive changes in power and authority in the humanitarian arena. It will evaluate whether new concepts of ‘protected space’ for volunteers can be formed and sustained in the politicised environments of the contemporary humanitarian environment. The study will draw information from a broad range of stakeholders, including institutional practitioners, donors, state and non-state actors, as well as from affected communities. Anyone who might have something to contribute to this research, whether it be personal experience of volunteering, organising or supervising volunteers, interaction with volunteers in organisational settings, or experiences of third sector organisations as ‘protected’ or neutral space in conflict areas, should contact Alasdair at agg2@st-andrews.ac.uk

19. **International Migrants Day 18 December 2016:** This year’s #MigrantRights Campaign will have a particular focus on ending the immigration detention of children and families, consistent with the recommendation of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and a growing number of UN and civil society voices.

20. **Broadlights.org:** if you are an NGO and need connectivity to make your project successful, BroadLights may be able to help. BroadLights focuses on finding pragmatic solutions to deploy affordable connectivity, whether it be internet access, lights, phone connections, in cities or remote areas, to vulnerable communities in the world. For more information, contact info@broadlights.org

**Forthcoming Events**

2016

16 December: IASC Asia Regional Network Meeting (Bangkok)
2017
January 27: ICVA Webinar Private funding - a growing resource for NGOs?
March 14-16: UNHCR Standing Committee Meeting
March 29 - 30: ICVA Annual Conference
June 14-16: UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations
June 20: World Refugee Day
June 28-30: UNHCR Standing Committee Meeting
September 20-21: UNHCR Standing Committee Meeting

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