Call for Expression of Interest
For the participating NGO Fora

Strengthening in-country NGO Fora to promote enhanced NGO collective action at field level during the COVID-19 Response

Date: 20th May 2020

Dear NGO Fora Coordinator/Director,

The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) is a global network of non-governmental organization whose mission is to make humanitarian action more principled and effective by working collectively and independently to influence policy and practice. ICVA is a member based network with over 100 NGO members operating in 160 countries. These members are a mix of secular and faith-based, national and international, large and small NGOs; with individual decision making processes, culture, priorities and approaches. ICVA’s focus on Forced Migration, Humanitarian Coordination, Humanitarian Financing, and Navigating Change; cross cutting issues – i.e. Shrinking Civic Space, Localization, Nexus and PSEA).

The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) secretariat is embarking on a project from June- December 2020 to support NGO fora with support to their localization/partnership efforts, during the COVID-19 response under the GHRP. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has spread rapidly across the world, halting and reverse positive gains from our socio-political and economic activities. With the potential impacts on humanitarian crises in many countries, an urgent response across the health, humanitarian and development dimensions is needed. However, the contagious nature of the virus has significantly constrained the provision and coordination of humanitarian assistance, and consequently the response to address the rising humanitarian needs at country level in the context of COVID-19 outbreak in many countries, is expected to largely rely on national and local actors. As rightly highlighted in the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan, stronger partnerships and increased support to national and local staff and organizations working in humanitarian responses is needed.

ICVA is committed to approaches that reinforce localization as a key approach to address humanitarian needs in-country and believes that the localized approach in the context of COVID-19 outbreak will be critical to an effective response driven by solidarity and humanitarian principles for affected populations including the most vulnerable. To this, the proposed “Strengthening in-country NGO Fora to promote enhanced NGO collective action at field level during the COVID-19 Response” project seeks to provide support through resources and structured assistance to/with selected NGO fora in some of the key areas of humanitarian response include Collective NGO Action, Information Sharing, Capacity Building, Promotion of Learning Opportunities and Advocacy; and guidance on governance and membership-related issues in the context of COVID-19 outbreak.

As part of the ICVA secretariat support to the selected 8-10 NGO Fora, financial provisions have been made to employ a Programme Officer(s) for the selected NGO Fora – Local Hire on a 6months short term basis. The local hire with support from ICVA NGO Fora COVID-19 Support Desk Officer and Regional team; will be providing support to strengthen selected in-country NGO Fora efforts to address their specific areas of need with the broad objective to reinforce local efforts around
coordination, partnership and communication with the Fora’s membership during COVID-19 responses.

All applying NGO Fora are expected to and will be evaluated based on the following criteria listed below:

1. the participating forum is closely engaged in assisting its members in humanitarian response that align with and/or complement a national Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), aligns to mainstream structures that will be responding to COVID-19.

2. the participating forum has (or is willing to develop) a strategic focus on reinforcing localization and partnership approaches among its members; and there is a demonstrated need/request from its members for further support on partnerships.

3. the participating forum can be an INGO forum, a mixed NGO forum, or National NGO forum looking to develop tools/procedures to strengthen partnerships for its members and where relevant, external local partners;

4. existing organizational and staff capacity in supporting coordination, advocacy and principled engagement by NGOs must be in place to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency the project, particularly in the context of providing support to members remotely.

5. have a business continuity plan in place and flexibility to ensure the achievability of the project.

6. the participating forum should be able to show its contribution and collaboration with other members in the national humanitarian and development response – particularly the HCT.

Please send your Expression of Interest – not more than 2 pages; covering the above stated criteria with the Subject – "Expression of Interest – Africa or Asia/Pacific or MENA; to Obele Oluchukwu Obele.Oluchukwu@icvanetwork.org on or before COB of 3rd June 2020. This call for expression of interests will be evaluated and the final selected Fora will be contacted within 10 days of call closure to send in detailed proposal using an agreed template.