ICVA Bulletin

Highlights from April 2017

Forced Displacement

1. UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations: From 14-16 June, UNHCR and NGO partners will gather in Geneva for their Annual Consultations. This year’s theme is “The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)”. ICVA will be holding webinars on May 23 and 24 for NGOs participating (in person or remotely). A guide for NGOs is also now available on UNHCR's website in French, English and Spanish. For any further information, you can contact us at secretariat@icvanetwork.org.

2. Global compact on Refugees /CRRF: In April, ICVA continued to support NGO engagement with the follow-up to the New York Declaration:
   a. On 4 April, ICVA organised a meeting with over 20 NGOs to strategise around the CRRF / Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) processes and identify opportunities for engagement with UNHCR and other actors. Following this meeting, ICVA is working with NGOs to develop a paper putting forward propositions on the GCR. This discussion also served to prepare for a meeting with UNHCR held at ICVA on 5 April and a UNHCR briefing to stakeholders in Geneva on 21 April. On both occasions, UNHCR presented an updated version of its GCR Roadmap. NGOs welcomed the opportunities for engagement the roadmap affords and asked for further details on modalities, allowing to prepare meaningful contributions. Members can access notes from the 4 April meeting; the 5 April meeting and the 21 April UNHCR Briefing.
   b. To help in mapping opportunities for engagement on the road to the GCR, ICVA developed a draft ‘Timeline of Main Opportunities for NGO Engagement Towards the Refugee Compact’ and ‘ICVA’s Support for NGOs to Engage with the Refugee Compact’. 
   c. On 10 April, the first meeting of the NGO-IFRC-UNHCR Reference Group on the CRRF provided discussions on the CRRF roll-out and NGOs' role. Common reflections on advocacy, information dissemination and methods to gather best practices and lessons learned were shared. Members can access notes from this meeting on the ICVA website.
   d. NGOs continued to be active with relevant projects and outputs. The International Rescue Committee issued a policy brief on The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework: Moving from New York Declaration Commitments to Action. On 20 April, a second webinar was held on the Initiative on Child Rights in the Global Compacts managed by Terre des Hommes and Save the Children. For more information, click here, or contact Jerome.Elie@icvanetwork.org and follow @ICVA_Displaced on Twitter.

3. UNHCR Standing Committee June: UNHCR’s Standing Committee meeting on Protection will take place 28-30 June in Geneva. This is a great opportunity for NGOs to ensure NGO thinking and views are heard by participating UNHCR management and member states. ICVA will be coordinating the delivery of NGO statements through identification of draft leaders and rounds of review. For further information, please contact, secretariat@icvanetwork.org.

Humanitarian Financing

***Check out ICVA's new and improved webpage on humanitarian financing: https://www.icvanetwork.org/humanitarian-financing.
4. Partner capacity strengthening webinars: UNHCR and ICVA are organising two webinars on capacity strengthening on 16 May and 18 May for NGO partners based respectively in Ethiopia (16 May) and Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda (18 May). The webinars will contribute to the finalisation of the draft “Operational Guidelines for Complementary Capacity Strengthening for UNHCR and NGO Partners” and collect capacity strengthening initiatives and best practices from NGOs and UNHCR partners in the region. This is directly connected to the UNHCR-IFRC-NGO Structured Dialogue on Partnerships and builds on last year’s Bangkok consultation organised with the help of APRRN and Mercy Malaysia. It is also relevant to the Grand Bargain localisation workstream’s focus on investing in capacity. For more information, please contact sophie.helle@icvanetwork.org.

5. CERF: The Grand Bargain agreed to explore the possibility of opening the CERF for direct funding to civil society organisations. NGOs have three opportunities to advance this conversation, including a NGO discussion with OCHA/CERF Secretariat organised by ICVA.

- 16 May at 3:00pm Geneva time: NGO discussion with OCHA/CERF Secretariat
- 17 May at 2:30pm Geneva time: Member State briefing on CERF
- 19 May at 10:30am Geneva time: CERF Advisory Group session with partners

See the CERF Secretariat's analysis of its current partnerships, the implications of opening up to direct NGO access, and the Initial NGO feedback, based on consultations within the Humanitarian Financing Working Group.

6. Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs): NGOs interested in CBPFs are gearing up for the 12 June meeting of the OCHA-NGO Platform on Country-Based Pooled Funds, to be held in Geneva. For information on this event, please contact Ms. Maria Isabel Castro (cbpf-ngo@un.org). Plans are also underway for the 13 June Pooled Fund Working Group (PFWG) meeting to be held in Geneva. The three NGO seats on the Pooled Fund Working Group are currently filled by InterAction (World Vision), Oxfam GB, and UOSSM. Over the summer we will begin the recruitment process for the next (staggered) cycle of NGO representatives. Stay tuned for the call for expressions of interest.

7. Grand Bargain: ICVA and Germany are working hard to prepare the Grand Bargain pilot on harmonised and simplified reporting, to be held in Iraq, Myanmar, and Somalia. They will join other Grand Bargain workstream co-convenors for a daylong meeting on 17 May to look for synergies across workstreams. The 20 June Grand Bargain annual meeting will feature the independent annual report assessing progress in implementing the Grand Bargain after one year of its launch in Istanbul at the World Humanitarian Summit. Members can see all our Grand Bargain-related materials at: https://www.icvanetwork.org/grand-bargain-humanitarian-financing

8. Money where it counts - Harmonise, simplify and save costs: The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and BCG launched in March 2017 the second phase of the study, entitled “Money where it counts: harmonise, simplify and save costs”. The objective of this work is to develop a harmonised system for cost classification and financial reporting and to have clear definitions of key terminology. Minimising bureaucracy, being more efficient, and having an harmonised, fair and transparent system taking into account the diversity of NGOs, are some of the principles that guide the work. For more information, please contact Clémence Boutant-Willm, clemence.boutant-willm@nrc.no.
9. The 92nd IASC Working Group Meeting hosted by FAO in Rome on 5-6 April. The new chair, Ms. Ursula Mueller, shared her initial vision on the opportunities and challenges ahead for the IASC Working Group. The Working Group (WG), to be seen in the broader framework of the IASC, will contribute to the SG’s reform agenda, interact with diverse actors, defend humanitarian space and principles, and ensure an effective operational response for people in need. Ms Mulleur saw the role of WG as a strong collective voice focused on delivering aid for people, not getting too “bogged down” in the process and interagency squabbles, and better linking the work of the WG and the EDGs. The next WG meeting will be combined with the EDGs – is a possible merger on the cards?

Recognising the need to ground their deliberations in field realities the WG discussed the issues of diversity and inclusivity. Ms Leila Muriithia, of the Refugee Consortium of Kenya and ICVA Board member, shared analysis from ICVA’s reflection paper prepared with input from partners, exploring why diversity is sought, and putting forward propositions aimed at strengthening IASC inclusivity. She noted under-representation of non-governmental organisations, and the voice of ‘Southern’ partners in the IASC, despite their significant role and expertise in providing assistance in crisis areas. Most important is to ensure a diversity of perspectives and thinking, through better sharing information, consulting with and listening to local stakeholders, and enabling partners, in particular Southern partners, to access field-based coordination structures, such as HCTs, and to have a voice in IASC mechanisms. The WG agreed that it must learn lessons from its previous engagement, revise how it communicates outwards, including on what the IASC is, what it does, and where it has impact.

The implications of the SG’s reform agenda were discussed, as was the New Way of Working, and the linkages between humanitarian, development and peace and the challenges at field level. These topics will continue to be discussed at future meetings. The WG generally welcomed the emphasis on working more closely together and the focus on collective results.

The WG expressed a need for further reflection on strategies to ensure adequate protection and assistance for IDPs, as well as to prevent and reduce such displacement. The WG will undertake an analysis and mapping on on-going IDP initiatives to identify gaps, and complementary approaches.

Further documentation and the Summary record are all available on the IASC website.

10. IASC Principals Retreat: Members can access ICVA’s preliminary note on the 27-28 April retreat of the IASC Principals. Key highlights included:

- Strengthening the IASC and delivering an effective response in the field, particularly in the light of the ongoing reform of the UN system. Interventions from the RC/HCs of Yemen and Ethiopia reflected on how the IASC can improve support to field leaders and humanitarian response.

- The recent collective work by some of the Principals to raise awareness about the “four famines” could be a model for both garnering attention and fundraising. The ERC sought to identify what issues the IASC could (next) pursue collectively. WFP offered to lead a group on future communication regarding the “four famines”.

- The session on System Wide Resource Mobilisation focused on the multiple demands on funding – from development, humanitarian, climate change, security to the specific changes that the largest donors are experiencing, to the global constraints in central government financing structures in general. The usual best practices were noted: pooled funds, insurance funds for disaster-prone communities, partnership with the private sector and now, the “New Way of Working.” However, funding constraints continue. It was noted that overall and UN funding constraints may contribute to reshaping the NGO sector and will influence partnerships.

- The Principals reviewed global IASC structures, and agreed that whatever changes are proposed, the core functions of the EDG must be maintained, namely: Humanitarian Coordinators’ performance appraisals; the ability to focus on time sensitive crises, plan response requirements and troubleshooting; field visits to catalyse action at the HCT level; horizon scanning which contributes to the annual review of current operations; and identification of potential risk areas and mitigating measures.
Overall, making the IASC more inclusive was encouraged by all. A 21st century IASC cannot be command and control, or even hierarchical, but rather needs to act as a set of networks, joining up and connecting to constituencies on a continual basis. That said, the IASC will refrain from taking on new members until it can fully consider significant changes it needs to make in order to become more effective (see first bullet). In the meantime, ICVA will continue its work promoting better NNGO access to financing, inclusivity in decision-making forums such as HCT, and ensuring influence on agendasetting by the diverse membership.

**Humanitarian Partnership**

11. Survey on UNHCR-NGO Partnerships: InterAction and HIAS, in cooperation with UNHCR, are conducting the annual survey on the state of project partnerships between NGOs and UNHCR. This survey presents an excellent opportunity for UNHCR to receive the collective voice of NGOs on the issue of partnerships. This survey should be completed as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, May 19, 2017. The final report will be shared at the NGO Consultations and will be publicly accessible. To take the survey click here.


- UNHCR is revising its Guidance Note #4 on Procurement by Partners.
- The threshold for informal quotations of USD 40,000 is now granted for non-emergency situations. Above this level, formal tenders for procurement are required.
- However, in an emergency context a revised threshold of up to USD 60,000 applies - for a period of up to six months following an emergency declaration or until the emergency is declared to be over (whichever is sooner).

13. Webinar on Approaches to Strengthen National Actors' Role in Humanitarian Response: On 23 May, the Global Cluster Coordinators’ Group (GCCG) is holding a second webinar in its of Breaking down the Silos Webinar Series, titled, Approaches to Strengthen National Actors’ Role in Humanitarian Response. This webinar will examine good practice and approaches from several countries that encourage the engagement of national and local actors in the delivery and coordination of humanitarian response. Two separate webinars will be held on the 23rd, to ensure all regions can actively participate.

The morning session will be held at Geneva 10:30; Amman 11:30; Nairobi 11:30; Kabul 13:00; Manila 16:30, with panelists from the National Humanitarian Network in Pakistan; Child Protection representatives; the Nigeria nutrition cluster coordinator and OCHA’s deputy head of office in Afghanistan. Register here for the morning session.

The afternoon session will be held at New York 08:30; Geneva: 14:30; Amman 15:30; Nairobi 15:30, with panelists from Save Somali Women and Children; CAFOD's Country Representative in DRC; the Global Early Recovery Cluster Coordinator and an OCHA Humanitarian Affairs Officer in Turkey. Register here for the afternoon session.

Further questions or queries can be directed to Ali Gokpinar (gokpinar@un.org)

**ICVA Learning Streams**

14. New Learning stream series on Humanitarian Coordination: Following the great success of the 2016 Learning Stream on Humanitarian Financing, ICVA launches the second series. What are the current global,
regional, and country level mechanisms for humanitarian coordination? How can NGOs contribute to and influence both the established and the new coordination models in the humanitarian sector? How can NGOs engage in the different fora and consortia aiming to collectively strengthen humanitarian response? In the coming months, the new series will explore these questions and others around the topic of humanitarian coordination and the role of NGOs in coordination mechanisms. The dates for all six events have been announced so you can now register to participate. Each event will be accompanied by a short whiteboard video and a briefing paper.

Read more and register for the six upcoming sessions

31 May 2017 The IASC and the global humanitarian coordination architecture: How can NGOs engage?
22 June 2017 The humanitarian coordination architecture at country and regional levels.
20 July 2017 NGO fora and consortia from local to global
14 September 2017 OCHA and NGOs in humanitarian coordination
5 October 2017 The New Way of Working: What does it mean for NGOs?
16 November 2017 Alternative models for humanitarian coordination

New and noteworthy

15. The study of the consequences of de-risking and restrictions on transferring funds to humanitarian organisations: is the title of a new field research project of the Humanitarian Forum and partners in humanitarian work. De-risking is a key issue affecting humanitarian work, however there is little evidence-based research on its impact. This research study aims to compile a series of case studies of how de-risking impacts on the work of humanitarian organisations particularly in areas of conflict and crises. If you are interested in in providing input to this study, please complete the questionnaire. For more information contact info@humanitarianforum.org

16. Migration Crises and the Breakdown of the Global Order – What Are the New Models of Governance? The 2017 Advancing Good Governance Seminar, to held on 8-9 June, in Oxford UK, will look into how global/national/ultra-national governance needs to change to respond more effectively to migration challenges now and in the future. The seminar series brings together thought leaders from the academic, donor, micro-finance, NGO, government and private sector communities to identify timely issues in the international development and humanitarian sectors, and how good governance may address those issues. For more information and to register.

17. ECOSOC- Upcoming Deadline 1 JUNE 2017: Call for NGOs to apply for Consultative Status with the UN. NGOs interested in applying for ECOSOC consultative status should submit their application and required documents before 1 June 2017. Click here for background information on and the instructions how to apply.

ICVA Updates

18. We are pleased to welcome Isabelle Saussereau as ICVA’s new Director of Finance and Administration, replacing Jane Bennett who has moved to another Geneva-based NGO. Isabelle is an experienced finance professional with significant knowledge of human resource management and administration. She has a long humanitarian career with MSF and MSF Access Campaign, and most recently worked with MSF France in Nigeria and as an audit coordinator for an ICRC ECHO audit. Isabelle can be contacted at isabelle.saussereau@icvanetwork.org.
19. Sphere – evolving, relevant and exciting! After four years of hosting the Sphere Project (2013 – 2016), we are thrilled that the Sphere Association has been constituted in Geneva as a non-profit association under Swiss law. The new legal entity is the successor of the Sphere Project, established in 1997 as a timebound multi-organisation initiative to establish minimum standards for humanitarian assistance in crises. The “new” Sphere is now led by a General Assembly, an Executive Board and a Secretariat headed by an Executive Director. ICVA, along with other founding members, is part of the new association. ICVA has been a member of the Sphere Project board since 1998 and remains part of the new Association’s Board.

We are very pleased to communicate that the first draft of the Sphere revised standards is now available for review and feedback. As has been the case for all editions over the past twenty humanitarian practitioners around the globe are encouraged to share their comments and input now! The first draft of the next Sphere standards is now available for review and can be downloaded from the Sphere website. The deadline to submit feedback on the first draft is 31 May 2017. The first round of in-person consultation events takes place up to the end of June.

20. ICVA working groups: we are pleased to inform you about the creation of two new ICVA working groups, open to all ICVA members. ICVA Africa Working Group, and ICVA Asia Working Group. These working groups are an opportunity for ICVA members to follow and participate in ICVA programmes by our regional teams. These working groups provide regionally focused perspectives on the development of the humanitarian sector at the global level; identify opportunities for members to contribute to regional or global initiatives; and share information about the diverse and emerging actors in the region. If you are interested in joining these working groups please contact: ICVA Africa working group- marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org or addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org, and for the ICVA Asia working group contact Jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org.

---

**Forthcoming Events**

**ICVA Meetings and Events**

*May 16:* UNHCR & ICVA webinar on capacity strengthening in Ethiopia  
*May 18:* UNHCR & ICVA webinar on capacity strengthening in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda  
*May 31:* Learning Stream Webinar The IASC and the global humanitarian coordination architecture: How can NGOs engage?  
*June 22:* Learning Stream Webinar The humanitarian coordination architecture at country and regional levels  
*July 20:* Learning Stream Webinar NGO fora and consortia from local to global  
*September 14:* Learning Stream Webinar OCHA and NGOs in humanitarian coordination  
*October 5:* Learning Stream Webinar The New Way of Working: What does it mean for NGOs?  
*November 16:* Learning Stream Webinar Alternative models for humanitarian coordination

**Other Meetings and Events:**  
*June 4–6:* Asia-Pacific Regional Humanitarian Partnerships Forum, Bangkok (TBC)  
*June 12:* OCHA-NGO Platform on Country-Based Pooled Funds (Geneva)  
*June 12-13:* Global Conference on Children on the Move, Berlin  
*June 13:* Pooled Fund Working Group (Geneva)  
*June 14–16:* UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations, Geneva  
*June 20:* World Refugee Day  
*June 20:* Annual Meeting of the Grand Bargain signatories (Geneva)  
*June 20-22:* Interaction Forum, Washington  
*June 21–23:* ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, Geneva  
*June 28-30:* UNHCR Standing Committee 69th Meeting, Geneva  
*August 19:* World Humanitarian Day  
*September 20-21:* UNHCR Standing Committee 70th Meeting, Geneva  
*October 2-6:* UNHCR Executive Committee 68th meeting, Geneva,  
*November 28:* December 1 : IOM 108th Council, Geneva  
*November 30:* IASC Principals Meeting
December 6-7: High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, Geneva

ICVA Secretariat
Avenue Giuseppe-Motta 26-28
Geneva, GE CH 1202
Switzerland

Click to Unsubscribe »