ICVA Bulletin

Highlights from May 2017

Forced Displacement

1. Global compact on Refugees /CRRF: Significant developments took place in May for NGOs engagement in the CRRF process:

a) To assist NGOs’ engagement in the CRRF, ICVA published a Briefing Paper on “The Global Compact on Refugees Explained”

b) ICVA held strategic meetings with NGOs, launching collective work on an ‘NGO Reflection Paper’ proposing ideas on how the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) should be organized and which principles should underpin it. It will be ready in early July. Members can access notes from the 2 May and 29 May meetings.

c) On 8 May, ICVA contributed to an ECRE Roundtable in Brussels on ‘Europe in the CRRF and the GCR’ with NGOs, the European Commission and UNHCR. It looked at how Europe can contribute to making the GCR is a truly global process. ICVA also contributed to CRRF/GCR discussions at APRRN’s protection meetings in early May.

d) On 22 May, ICVA hosted the 2nd meeting of the UNHCR-NGO-IFRC Reference Group. UNHCR highlighted CRRF implementation support tools being developed (e.g., a CRRF Global Portal) and commented on its 3rd version of the Roadmap towards a Global Compact on Refugees. The dates for the 2017 Thematic Discussions are now reflected in ICVA’s Timeline. Members can access notes from this Reference Group meeting.

e) On 10 May, ICVA contributed to a UKAID-UNHCR event in London on Refugees and Host Communities in East Africa. ICVA highlighted NGOs’ vital role for CRRF to succeed. Read the Co-chairs’ Summary. Members can access notes from this meeting. Meetings with NGOs also took place in Tanzania and Uganda, related to the CRRF and the upcoming Uganda Solidarity Summit. A Uganda Refugee Response Portal was launched.

f) In a welcome and noteworthy initiative, Plan International hired a consultant who will be working between Geneva, Tanzania and Uganda over the next 6 months, analyzing how the CRRF is being implemented and providing support to NGOs.

g) UNHCR issued a document on “A Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework for Central America” providing useful preliminary information. NGOs welcomed the effort and underlined that a Spanish version would be extremely useful.

For more information, read ICVA’s May update on the CRRF, contact jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org and follow @ICVA_Displaced on Twitter.

2. UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations 2017: Taking place from 14-16 June, the theme of this annual meeting of NGOs and UNHCR is “From global responsibility to local action – Implementing the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)”. The three-day event is central in collecting NGO perspectives and expertise in relation to the roll out of the CRRF, and the development of the Global Compact on Refugees. All relevant information on the Consultations are available on UNHCR’s webpage and on social media. Follow the development of the event on Twitter with the hashtag #UNHCRNGo. To support NGOs attending the Consultations, ICVA and UNHCR co-organized “An introduction to the Consultations” webinar sessions (recording can be made available, please contact secretariat@icvanetwork.org if interested).

3. UNHCR Standing Committee 28-30 June: For this meeting the NGO community is preparing statements on international protection, strengthening

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the humanitarian-development nexus, and follow-up to the New York Declaration and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. ICVA coordinates the preparation and delivery of NGO statements. If you wish to get involved in the NGO statement process please contact sophie.helle@icvanetwork.org.

4. Some Developments Related to IDPs:

- One of the key questions raised during the 3 May meeting between UNHCR and NGOs on the review of UNHCR’s IDP operational engagement, was how current separate, internal reflection processes within UNHCR, IOM and OCHA will eventually come together. The answer may be emerging: the first-ever joint meeting of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Working Group and Emergency Director’s Group (EDG) will likely take place in 10-11 October with a policy and operational focus on IDPs. Read ICVA's Summary of the 3 May meeting.

- At the end of May UNHCR announced that Steve Corliss, currently the Director of the Division of Programme Support and Management (DPSM), will lead a temporary task team to take forward UNHCR’s engagement with IDPs for an initial period of six months, as of 15 August. Andrew Harper, who many know from his recent work in Jordan, will take up the position of Director of DPSM as of 15 July.

5. IOM NGO Humanitarian Consultations to be held in Kenya: To be closer to the field and to foster exchange and synergies in the region of East Africa and the Horn of Africa, the third annual IOM-NGO Humanitarian Consultations will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 11-12 September 2017. The focus will be cooperation and dialogue between IOM and humanitarian NGOs in three areas: 1) IOM and partners’ approaches to address internal displacement issues in the region; 2) preparation and contribution to the Global Compact on Migration; and 3) mixed migration in the Horn of Africa. More information will follow regarding the event and the registration procedures. In the meantime we encourage you to send any additional proposed topics for discussion or inquiries to: ssortino@iom.int and marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org and Addis.Tesfa@icvanetwork.org.

6. The Grand Bargain, One Year Later: Thanks to SCHR for hosting, and Manisha Thomas for facilitating, the first-ever workshop bringing together co-conveners of the ten Grand Bargain workstreams on 17 May. ICVA participated in its capacity as a co-convenor with Germany of the workstream on harmonized and simplified reporting. The workshop underscored the need for more deliberate cross-fertilization between similar workstreams, and prompted ICVA and Germany to co-host a 22 May teleconference with the co-conveners and contributors to donor conditions-related workstreams: narrative reporting, transparency, reducing earmarking, and reducing duplication and management costs. Tensions exist, particularly regarding the process underway to define national/local responders and the humanitarian-development nexus/New Way of Working. The 20 June Annual Meeting of the Grand Bargain will be a test of the Grand Bargain: not only whether it is on track to achieve results, but also whether it can maintain the momentum generated in 2016 to achieve systemic changes that can only be realized in 2018 and beyond.

7. Opening CERF to NGOs: A Good Idea? ICVA is grateful to its members participating in the 16 May meeting of the CERF Secretariat and ICVA Humanitarian Financing Working Group and the 19 May meeting of the CERF Advisory Board with partners. The CERF Secretariat has fulfilled the Grand Bargain’s request to explore making the CERF (Central Emergency Response Fund) directly accessible to NGOs. Their analysis makes a strong case that allowing non-UN agencies to directly access the CERF would neither improve the efficiency nor the effectiveness of CERF due to its very unique modalities. Participating NGOs are still eager to explore ways to improve complementarity between CERF and other pooled funds and...
improve the speed and visibility of onward disbursements of CERF Funds implemented by NGOs. We are grateful to the CERF for participating in the Grand Bargain reporting pilot.

8. NGO Fora Support Programme:

ICVA’s Representative for Asia visited Myanmar on 8 and 9 May 2017 and engaged in discussions with the NGO fora around developing a specific programme of support. Meetings with the INGO forum members, the Chair of the Steering Committee and the Director of the forum enabled to identify areas to strengthen collective action. For more information, please contact: Jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org

ICVA’s Representative for Africa will visit Nigeria, from 19 - 23 June, and to CAR in July 2017, with a focus on supporting in-country NGO fora. For more information, please contact: marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org

9. IASC Principals: The Summary record of the IASC Principals 27-28 April meeting is now available. Given the turnover in the IASC Principals (with a new ERC coming on board, and leadership transition in WFP, WHO and UNDP) the IASC Principals may meet on the margins of the UNGA in September to get to know each other. Dates to be confirmed.

10. Updates from the IASC Working Group:

a) Overview: See the one-page IASC poster summarizing the objectives and planned products of IASC Working Group subsidiary bodies. There will soon be a small group convened to do a "light touch" review of these bodies to assess their contributions to the IASC’s evolving priorities and value add.

b) NWoW: An "ad hoc" Working Group meeting on the New Way of Working could take place during the 25-27 July by video link between New York and Geneva (dates TBC). The IASC Humanitarian-Development Nexus Task Team (HDN TT) would like guidance on: 1) clarifying the peace dimension, 2) linkages to other processes like the Grand Bargain, 3) feedback on its workplan, and 4) the life span of the HDN TT.

c) Joint Working Group – EDG meeting: The 10-11 October joint meeting of the Working Group and EDG in Geneva will be chaired by the Deputy ERC and could focus on IDPs. TBC.

d) GBV AoR: On 4 May UNHCR’s Filippo Grandi passed a joint letter from UNICEF and UNFPA to ERC O’Brien. To date, the leadership of the Gender Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) and been shared between UNICEF and UNFPA. However, it has now been decided that UNFPA will assume the sole leadership of the GBV AoR at the global and field levels.

e) #FightingFamine: WFP lead the development of updated IASC common messages on the four countries (Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen) in or at risk of famine, to support IASC on-going collective and individual advocacy.

Humanitarian Partnership

11. Advancing the New Way of Working: On May 18-19 ICVA participated in a workshop organized by the Government of Turkey, OCHA and UNDP to mark the 1st anniversary of the WHS to debate the theme ‘Advancing the New Way of Working’. The main objective was how to operationalize the NWOW, to take stock of in-country experience and joint analysis, and how bridging the humanitarian development divide can reduce need, prevent crises and reinforce local structure of response and development. Given the limited presence of NGOs at the meeting, ICVA organized a debriefing and debate on the subject on June 7th, with members in Geneva, Bangkok and Nairobi. For more information, contact Marco.Rotelli@icvanetwork.org
12. The ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS): takes place from 21-23 June 2017 in Geneva, under the theme “Restoring humanity and Leaving no one Behind: working together to reduce people’s humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability”. Multiple actors involved in humanitarian response, including Member States, UN agencies, the private sector, NGOs, and the affected communities will attend this event to discuss critical humanitarian issues. In addition to a General Debate, there will be a discussion on the annual ECOSOC humanitarian resolution, three High-Level interactive panels, and approximately twenty side-events all focusing on important issues across the humanitarian sector. More information http://www.unocha.org/ecosoc-2017

13. Successful launch of ICVA's Humanitarian Coordination learning stream: On 31 May, over 200 participants from around the world joined for the first webinar in the learning stream on humanitarian coordination, setting the scene for an informative and dynamic series. The webinar The Global Humanitarian Coordination Mechanisms, commenced with an informative presentation by Building a Better Response, outlining the various global coordination mechanisms. NGO experiences of engaging at the global level were shared by SCHR and the Refugee Consortium of Kenya. The IASC Secretariat also joined the webinar, responding to questions raised by participants. To learn more, visit the humanitarian coordination learning stream page for more information, to watch a recording of the webinar and a short introductory whiteboard video.

14. Navigating humanitarian coordination at the national level: Join us on 22 June for the next topic in ICVA's Humanitarian Coordination learning stream, "Humanitarian coordination architecture at country and national levels". The session on June 22 will commence with Building a Better Response providing a summary of the architecture at the national level, followed by commentary on the current system by ALNAP. A humanitarian coordinator and NGO representative will share their experiences, challenges and tips of how NGOs can more meaningfully engage in national coordination mechanisms. To register and for more information click here.

15. #LockedInLimbo campaign: European Network on Statelessness (ENS) has launched the #LockedInLimbo campaign to protect stateless people from arbitrary detention. ENS are encouraging organizations and high profile individuals to sing their campaign statement ahead of an event in Strasbourg later this year. If you are interested you can so do quickly via this link. You can also read their new report ‘Protecting Stateless Persons from Arbitrary Detention – An Agenda for Change’.

Forthcoming Events

ICVA Meetings and Events

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 14–16: UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations, Geneva
June 20: World Refugee Day
June 20: Annual Meeting of the Grand Bargain signatories (Geneva)
June 21-23: ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, Geneva
June 28-30: UNHCR Standing Committee 69th Meeting, Geneva
July 11: Alnap Webinar series: Up to standard: The role of evidence in the Sphere Standards revision process
August 19: World Humanitarian Day
September 11-12: IOM-NGOs Humanitarian Consultations, Nairobi
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

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