ICVA Updates

**Announcing ICVA’s Annual Conference 2018**

“Navigating the Nexus: NGO Perspectives,” will be the theme of the 2018 ICVA Annual Conference to be held in Geneva on 20 March 2018. This one day event will consider how to navigate the humanitarian, development and peace nexus in line with humanitarian principles and the Principles of Partnership. Beginning and ending with the voices of affected persons, the agenda will draw on diverse NGO experiences and use an interactive methodology to learn some key concepts, consider context-specific case studies, meet stakeholders in the development and peace sectors, and consider ways to better connect NGO voices to some emerging policies. To share your lessons learned or get more information on the event, contact Nishanie.Jamayaha@icvanetwork.org.

**For ICVA Members: ICVA’s 17th General Assembly**

This important gathering of ICVA members will immediately follow ICVA’s Annual Conference, and will include: a review of ICVA’s work over the past three years; discussions and agreement on the next multi-year strategy for the network; elections for ICVA’s Board and Chair; discussions and voting on amendments to the ICVA Statutes; and consideration of issues and concerns related to humanitarian action worldwide. For more information, contact secretariat@icvanetwork.org.
1. A Busy Month for the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF):

**Themes:** On 14-15 November, the last Thematic Discussions on the GCR were held in Geneva, with a focus on solutions and cross-cutting issues. Through its Board member, Ms. Véronique Andrieux (Action Against Hunger France), ICVA co-chaired a panel on the whole-of-society approach. Ahead of the event, ICVA helped NGOs prepare by organising a brainstorming (7 November) as well as a meeting with UNHCR (9 November). Notes from those meetings are available to members. As a result of the Thematic Discussions held since July, UNHCR invited NGOs to share their views on the ideas of creating a Global Refugee Response Group on 27 November. ICVA notes from this meeting are available to members. Another discussion on this topic, involving more stakeholders, is scheduled for 11 December, ahead of the High Commissioner’s Dialogue.

**Complementarity between the Global Compacts:** ICVA has partnered with its member ACT Alliance to work with other NGOs on developing reflections and analysis related to the complementarity that may develop between the Global Refugee and Migration Compacts. Such thinking is intended to feed into the two stocktaking events scheduled for 4-6 December in Puerto Vallarta (for the Migration Compact) and 12-13 December in Geneva (for the Refugee Compact).

**The CRRF in Central America:** As a follow-up to the San Pedro Sula Regional Conference (26-27 October), ICVA worked with Asylum Access, the UNHCR Bureau for the Americas, and the UNHCR Partnership Section to prepare for a workshop scheduled for 29 November-30 December in San Jose, Costa Rica. As part of a project supported by the US Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), ICVA’s role was to facilitate discussions around the whole-of-society approach in the regional CRRF application. A report is now in preparation and will be made available online.

**The CRRF in East Africa:** The African Union’s 5th Annual Humanitarian Symposium held in Nairobi, Kenya from 25-27 November, also focused on the GCR and the CRRF. For this meeting ICVA organised an NGO panel moderated by the head of humanitarian affairs department of the AU commission, Mr. Olabissi Dare.

For more information, please contact Jerome.Elie@icvanetwork.org.

2. High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges: The theme for UNHCR’s 12-13 December Dialogue is “Towards a global compact on refugees”. The meeting will serve as a “stocktaking” to assess outcomes of the discussions, held during 2017, on the CRRF and the GCR. The conclusions of the Dialogue will contribute to the zero draft of the GCR’s “programme of action” to be circulated in early 2018. Participants are invited to make targeted interventions, notably in relation to the draft programme of action, building on the thematic discussions and the CRRF roll-out and guided by the questions posed in the concept note. UNHCR has shared an estimated schedule and logistical note. This year, ICVA is supporting the participation of five NGO representatives in this important meeting. For more information, contact Jerome.Elie@icvanetwork.org.

3. Results of the 2017 UNHCR-NGO Partnership Survey Released: In mid-November the results of the 2017 UNHCR-NGO Partnership Survey were released. Led by InterAction, HIAS and UNHCR, the findings showed that according to most NGO partner and UNHCR respondents the NGO-UNHCR relationship has improved over the last 12 months, continuing a three-year trend of increasingly positive assessments on UNHCR-NGO relationships. However, there are always opportunities for improvement to better partner in serving persons of concern, for example through more training by UNHCR on how to use its Partner Portal and more systemic investments in partner capacity. The report suggests discussing the survey findings further at the UNHCR annual Country Representatives meeting. Read the report.
4. Nominate Your Hero for a Nansen Refugee Award by 8 February: The Nansen Refugee Award is delivered annually by UNHCR to an individual, group, or organisation in recognition of outstanding service to the cause of refugees, displaced or stateless people. UNHCR is searching for a hero supporting refugees, internally displaced and stateless people. Do you know an inspirational individual or group making a difference? Nominate them before 8 February 2018. Click here for more information.

5. Preparations Underway for the 2018 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations:

The Theme: The 2018 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations will take place at the CICG in Geneva, Switzerland from 27-29 June 2018, under the overarching theme of “Putting People First”. The priority to “put people first” is to ensure refugees, IDPs and stateless people can, as UNHCR states, “find protection from harm; live peacefully; learn, work and flourish as contributing members of the communities where they live; and find longer term solutions that enable them to build a secure future”. The Consultations will look at how NGOs and UNHCR can best work in partnership to achieve this objective. The agenda will include: experiences of the CRRF roll-out; participation of persons of concern; the humanitarian-development-peace nexus; and how to address the complex protection and needs of IDPs.

Vice Rapporteur: ICVA is seeking an NGO representative to serve as the Vice-Rapporteur at the 2018 Consultations and to be the Rapporteur at the 2019 Consultations. Please contact Sophie.Helle@icvanetwork.org for more information.

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Humanitarian Financing

6. Update on Less Paper More Aid: As the end of the calendar year approaches, participants in the Grand Bargain’s Harmonised Reporting Pilot co-led by ICVA and Germany will be producing a large number of reports using the piloted "8+3" template for narrative reporting. The pilot core team of Germany, GPPi, and ICVA met in early December to make sure planning is on track. Orientation for field staff also continues: on 28 November a virtual orientation was completed for UNHCR and partner organisations in Iraq and Somalia. Most donors participating in the pilot have now completed and distributed their final versions of the "8+3" template. If you are a participating NGO that has not seen any guidance from participating donors on reporting, feel free to reach out so we can follow-up. On 5 December, the Donor Conditions Task Force met for a day-long workshop in Oxford, UK to discuss strategic planning and how best to support engagement with the relevant Grand Bargain workstreams. For more information or to follow-up on the above items, contact Jeremy.Rempel@icvanetwork.org.

7. UNHCR and NGO Partners Meet in Ethiopia on Capacity Strengthening: Following conference calls about capacity strengthening in May 2017 for partners in the East and Horn of Africa, UNHCR and ICVA held a workshop on 21 November, in Ethiopia, to take the discussion forward. Representatives from UNHCR, the Government of Ethiopia, international and national NGOs, discussed the mapping of agencies engaged and/or interested in capacity strengthening, the development of an online hub of capacity strengthening initiatives, UNHCR’s draft Operational Guidelines on capacity strengthening, and the development of action plans. A big thanks to Humentum’s Civil Society Support Program in Ethiopia for their training on financial sustainability and financial management. A report will be made available shortly. For further information, contact Sophie.Helle@icvanetwork.org.

8. Pooled Funds Update

NGO Rotation in the Pooled Fund Working Group: A big thanks to those NGOs who have served in the PFWG: UOSSM, Oxfam GB, and World Vision (for InterAction). Their participation in the PFWG have been very helpful in providing NGO perspectives to this group of country-based pooled funds donors and stakeholders. Many highly qualified NGO representatives submitted expressions of interest to serve as the next NGO representatives.
After a thorough review and consultation between the three NGO consortia serving in the IASC, the next three NGO representatives will be ARDD-Legal Aid (based in Jordan), Save the Children, and Caritas Internationalis. Another rotation will occur after 18 months.

**OCHA Revises its Operational Handbook for Country-based Pooled Funds (CBPFs):** This ‘Quick Fix’ version incorporates updates and adjustments based on lessons learned and feedback collected from fund managers and other stakeholders. The summary of revisions highlights the most important changes. The ‘Major Changes’ phase of the revision, planned to start next year, will introduce substantial changes to the current business processes in line with World Humanitarian Summit and Grand Bargain commitments and it will be based on larger consultations with key stakeholders. The documents are now available on OCHA's website. They will also be disseminated at the field level.

9. Survey by 21 December: MSF Research on “For Profit” Initiatives and Actors in Emergency Humanitarian Response: Calls for the mobilisation of private actors are heard in different contexts and discussions in the humanitarian sector. Whether linked to research and innovation or to subcontracting practices with the aim of mobilising the private sector’s skills and expertise, externalising service provision in protracted crises or in emergency response seems to be a growing trend. In order to be able to have a more objective view of this trend, Médecins sans Frontières’ (MSF’s) Operational Centre in Barcelona has commissioned a piece of research looking into the current practices and prospective trends. We encourage you to fill out their 15-minute survey, the objective of which is to produce a better overview of the current role of the private sector in the humanitarian and emergency response. They welcome responses from HQs, field, expatriate personnel and local staff. Find the survey at: https://www.surveymonkey.de/r/MDL9C8H

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**Humanitarian Coordination**

10. The IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG): A meeting between the EDG and the main humanitarian donors for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), hosted by ECHO, took place in Brussels on 28 November. A month after the activation of the L3 declaration, the meeting looked at how to scale-up efforts, address operational priorities, mobilise necessary resources for the response, and consider actions to raise the profile of the humanitarian situation in the DRC. All participants recognised the complexity and the severity of the crisis in the DRC, and appreciated the ongoing work to respond to the needs. Several donors reported on their additional efforts to increase funding for DRC, and called on the humanitarian community to collectively scale up their resource mobilisation. For more information, contact Emmanuelle.Osmond@icvanetwork.org.

11. The New Way of Working (NWoW) ventures to Asia and Africa: ICVA's Representative in Asia participated in the 20 November “deep dive” workshop on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus held in Seoul, Korea. Days later ICVA's Regional Representative in Africa participated in the 28-29 November technical level "Peer Support Network Meeting" and the following 29-30 November multi-stakeholder regional workshop organised by OCHA and UNDP in Entebbe, Uganda. The latter Entebbe event aimed to create a “community of practice” among experts to support the NWoW implementation at field level. Participants from UN agencies, member states and NGOs split into groups to do a “deep dive” into the components of the NWoW, in particular to identify the key barriers and enablers of the NWoW at field level. The preceeding event in Entebbe was held in collaboration with the IASC and UNDG Nexus Task Teams, bringing together a much smaller number of field practitioners directly engaged in operationalising the NWoW in a number of countries. ICVA was actively present at both meetings. For more information, contact Marco.Rotelli@icvanetwork.org.
Humanitarian Partnership

12. IGAD is organising a ‘Regional Conference on Education for Refugees in IGAD Region: to be held December 12-13 in Djibuti. ICVA Members have been invited to express interest in order to facilitate the invitation process. The process is designed in the framework of the New York Declaration – CRRF, the Nairobi Action Plan and refers to the SDG 4 and the AU Agenda 2063. For more information, contact Marco.Rotelli@icvanetwork.org.

13. WFP’s Annual Partnership Consultation took place in Rome on 24-25 October. Those interested can read their report on the event and ICRC’s Hugo Slim’s interesting presentation on the triple nexus (humanitarian, development and peace).

Humanitarian Learning Stream

14. NGOs in government-led and refugee coordination contexts: ICVA's 6th and last webinar for 2017 was held on 9 November. In partnership with PHAP, the webinar included speakers from Humanitarian Outcomes and SPHERE India providing an overview of government-led coordination structures and how NGOs work in such contexts. UNHCR and ACT Alliance Uganda Forum provided an insight on the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) and the challenges and opportunities faced by NGOs when working in such contexts to support refugees and host communities with government, UNHCR and other partners. If you missed the webinar, you can now watch the recording and the introductory video.

New and Noteworthy

15. Your Views Matter: Please complete the State of the Humanitarian System (SOHS) 2018 Survey. If you have worked on the ground in a humanitarian response since 2015, be it with an NGO, UN, Red Cross or government then please take 10 minutes to complete the SOHS 2018 Survey. This survey, led by ALNAP, will help to understand what it is that humanitarians are doing right, where they are going wrong and what can be learned from it to improve the system's performance. This can potentially help to shape future humanitarian action both within your country and globally. To complete the survey in French, Spanish or Arabic click here.

16. Community Stories of Resilience Building in ASEAN: This new publication that shares experiences and recommendations for strengthening resilient communities across ASEAN. Developed as part of an ASEAN Peer–to-Peer Resilience Learning Project, it is implemented by the AADMER Partnership Group (APG), a network of NGOs working across the ASEAN states, through Oxfam GB; with support from the Asia Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Canada. Download the full publication.

17. Humanitarian Overview: An analysis of key crises into 2018. This ACAPS report examines major humanitarian crises worldwide to identify likely developments and corresponding needs.

18. Global Humanitarian Overview 2018: This comprehensive evidence based assessment of humanitarian needs sets out detailed, prioritized costed plans for meeting the needs of affected people. Click here for information and to download the overview.
Forthcoming Events

ICVA Meetings and Events

March 20, 2018: ICVA Annual Conference: Navigating the Nexus, Geneva
March 21, 2018: ICVA's 17th General Assembly, Geneva

Other Meetings and Events

November 28-December 1: IOM 108th Council, Geneva
December 4: IASC Principals Meeting
December 12-13: High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges, Geneva
December 14: Meeting of the Pooled Fund Working Group, New York
February 5-9, 2018: Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week Geneva

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