



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED
AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Forced Displacement Working Group meeting

22 November 2016 14:00 – 15:30

ICVA's Office // 26-28, Avenue Giuseppe-Motta

NGOs Present:

ACF (dial-in); BADIL; DRC; Intersos; JRS; LWF; MSF; NRC; Plan International (dial-in); Terre des Hommes; Save the Children (dial-in); WRC; WV (dial-in)

A/ From UNHCR Executive Committee to the High Commissioner's on Protection Challenges:

- UNHCR's Executive Committee – Update:

During the first week of October, UNHCR had its annual Executive Committee meeting with its Member States. On behalf of the NGO community, Mercy Corps, AHA, World Vision and AIRD delivered four different ExCom statements, which can be found on [ICVA's website](#). The NGO community was also represented by Save the Children at a side event focused on the 19 September Summit on large movements of refugees and Migrants. NGO interventions were very well received by the international community, the new High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi stating that NGO statements could “come first rather than last, given their extraordinary contributions at all levels.”

The [NGO side-event](#), “Around the World in 60 Minutes,” focused on a civil society perspective of the 2016 events: The February London conference for Syria, the 30 March High Level Meeting on global responsibility sharing through pathways for admission of Syrian refugees, the May World Humanitarian Summit, the 19 September New York Summit on refugees and migrants, and the ExCom Conclusions process. Panelists from RCK, ECRE, and ISI, talked about their field experience with new arrivals in Europe, long-stayers in Kenya, and stateless populations. With pragmatic and constructive suggestions, the side-event allowed frank and open conversation with stakeholders in the room.

For the coming year, the Executive Committee Bureau will comprise the following Officers:

- Chairperson: H.E. Ambassador Ms. Rosemary MCCARNEY (Canada)
- 1st Vice-Chairperson: [Appointment Deferred]
- 2nd Vice-Chairperson: H.E. Ambassador Mr. Boudjemâa DELMI (Algeria)
- Rapporteur: Ms. Anh Thu DUONG (Switzerland)
 - In this role, the Rapporteur will bring Member States together to negotiate two Conclusions. She is therefore part of the Bureau and meetings with the High Commissioner throughout the year.
 - For this coming year, the two conclusions to negotiate will be on *Resilience and self-reliance from a protection and solutions perspective* and *Machine readable travel documents*
 - ICVA and the NGO Rapporteur (Rachel Criswell, WV) shortly met with Ms. Duong after ExCom. She has a human rights background and is still learning about UNHCR processes. She seems open to interact with NGOs and is curious to know more about past

processes. This year's rapporteur seems particularly interested in the resilience conclusion.

- NGOs could consider using the NGO side-event during March Standing Committee to highlight/present their thinking around the two conclusions and the process.
 - ⇒ It could be interesting to interact with her from early next year.

For more information on the Conclusions process, please see notes from the meeting with Madeline Garlick.

- High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges:
 - Participation is almost finalized now (deadline to register was on 18 November). The [agenda](#) is posted on [UNHCR's website](#) and updated regularly.
 - On a very short notice, the Friends of the Dialogue had the possibility to send feedback on UNHCR's draft background paper.
 - Friends of the Dialogue are preparing the NGO Key Messages – Feedback by 24 November welcome. A meeting on 29 November has been secured to share/discuss the NGO Key Messages with UNHCR.
 - UNHCR is keen to have clear outcomes and follow-up from the dialogue. Suggestions could be integrated in NGO Key Messages and it could potentially influence also what the HC could say in his closing remarks.
 - One suggestion: using the HC Dialogue to follow-up on the CRRF by coming up with clear guidelines.

Reactions:

- Some technical aspects need to be integrated in our NGO Key Messages.
- On the determination of the best interest of the child: Could be interesting to know where UNHCR is at and whether investment in this capacity is planned. This is a very sensitive and delicate policy (especially for children turning 18yo), we could factor some aspects in our NGO Key Messages, especially on the practice part.
 - ⇒ This theme is partly integrated in UNHCR's background paper.
- In the CRRF, article 18: A lot about reception and some aspects (detention, realizing full rights of the child, etc.) could be added. Since they are not necessarily integrated in the selection of the pilots, we could propose some key messaging in that part of the CRRF.

B/ New York Declaration - follow-up on the CRRF:

- What can we do collectively?

The Forced Displacement Working Group Members brainstormed on NGOs collective engagement towards the implementation of the CRRF, based on the ToR ICVA developed (see attached) to engage with UNHCR.

Main points that came out of the discussion:

- Difficulty to assess the future of the humanitarian sector, especially after Trump's elections.
 - Would a contingency plan approach be relevant?
 - Based on InterAction's working group, it seems that there is a strong commitment from the Obama Summit to ensure significant engagement and follow-up in the commitments that were made to supporting refugees.

- At UNHCR, the Resettlement Section is reportedly getting worried about what is going to happen.
- Clarification on NGO representative 'seat' in the Task Team: ICVA has asked and not seen ToR and is therefore not aware of the exact role that person would play. There was a lack clarity both on what this person will do, and what the task team actually wanted.
 - The information we have so far: The task team is not looking for someone based in GVA but someone from the field, ready to work full time for 2 years. There were discussions around the recruitment process and recommendation to look into rosters to have a relatively quick and open process.
- On NGOs being proactive:
 - Since Uganda is the only concrete known pilot so far: Shall we move forward and have a skype conversation with our partners in Uganda? It could be a way to reach out proactively, talk about the ReHope Plan, etc.
 - ⇒ One initial thought was to go with UNHCR to pilots and link the policy and implementation levels by linking the CRRF to the Structured Dialogue 2.0
 - ⇒ Would be useful to map out where NGOs should input to and for what as the Compact gets developed - ICVA could develop a matrix/mapping of NGO activities around the CRRF.
 - ⇒ We should look at circles of discussion based on this "whole-of-society approach", i.e. as interdisciplinary discussions with NGOs, governments, private sector altogether.
 - ⇒ Country Operations Planning exercises could also be moment when information on the CRRF implementation could be gathered and inputs provided by NGOs.
- On the regional approach: UNHCR seems to be looking at regional aspects (we heard Uganda, Somalia, Tanzania; Northern Triangle)
 - ⇒ We could look at existing regional documents (the Brazil Plan of Action, the Bali Process) and use the CRRF as a momentum to implement them.
- Remaining questions:
 - Piloting: What is meant by 'piloting'? Can we push for new situations to be piloted? It is not what is new but rather what should supposedly be done.
 - ⇒ Maybe we should suggest ourselves some clarity on how countries should be piloted. Should we look at the content of the CRRF and suggest how it should be operationalized?

What you as an NGO organization is doing/planning to/ideas:

The Women's Refugee Commission is hoping to be able to convene a meeting (in NY) on age/gender/diversity approach to the CRRF early next year.

World Vision is looking at the 6th year of anniversary of Syria in March as an opportunity to have a thematic event on the lessons learned from the crisis; World Vision will focus on how children are affected.

Actions points:

- ⇒ **Forced Displacement Working Group Members are welcome to share with the rest of the group what their NGO is planning on doing regarding the CRRF. Existing NGO fora in the different countries could be used to collect information. (Ideal if we could get the voices of refugees in the process – NGOs could be the one providing them a platform)**

- ⇒ **Those who have contacts and colleagues in Uganda to contact them to get some info on what is happening. The information will be shared with the rest of the group, ICVA could compile it with a matrix document to better understand what is happening at the national level.**

C/ Structured Dialogue Missions - update and forward looking

A Lessons Learned exercise has been done over the summer, in order to inform the next stage and the development of the structured dialogue 2.0. Looking forward to linking it with existing initiatives, and having a discussion with the new High Commissioner.

- San Salvador's regional structured dialogue:

Regional structured dialogue with 44 NGOs part of the GAR-PAB (*Grupo Articulador Regional del Plan de Accion de Brazil*) constituted to follow-up on the Brazil Plan of Action. The structured Dialogue took place on the third day, looking at the dynamics between UNHCR and NGOs.

Unfortunately, only one UNHCR staff participated. Yet, it helped the group reflect on how to structure themselves and approach UNHCR processes. Key issues that were highlighted were: communication, joint advocacy and joint planning. NGOs were also quite interested in the connections (existing and to be established) between the NY Declaration and the Brazil/San Jose Declarations.

Report is currently being written, it will include the main recommendations and will be shared with UNHCR and participants. In a couple of months, we will contact them again to check the dynamics and progress.

- Greece's structured dialogue:

Currently waiting for UNHCR to confirm the dates, but it will most likely take place the week of the 12 December.

Objective: one capital workshop; one field workshop (Lesbos)

- ⇒ Will keep you informed on San Salvador & Greece follow-up

D/ Ways of working together

This agenda item was postponed to the next FDWG meeting.

The next meeting of the FDWG will be on **Friday 16 December 2016, from 14:00.**