



Forced Displacement Working Group Meeting

28.02.17, 14:00 – 15:30

ICVA's Conference Room, 26-28 Avenue Giuseppe Motta

NGOs Present

Act Alliance; African Initiatives for Relief and Development; Caritas Internationalis; Danish Refugee Council; International Detention Coalition; Intersos; Lutheran World Federation; Norwegian Refugee Council; Oxfam; Plan International; RefugePoint; Save the Children; Women Refugee Commission; World Vision International

1. Update on UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations:

- Registration: **Please remember that registration process is happening on a first-arrived first-served basis.** Once the limit of participants is reached (500), it will not be possible to register anymore. FYI, as of 17 March, there were 238 registered participants.
- ICVA looked into the possibility of having one badge to share among different people of the same organization. Unfortunately, for security reasons, this is not an option. Moreover, badges will only be valid for those 3 days of Consultations. The badges do not give access to other Geneva events organized this same week.
- Possibilities to increase live streaming for each session is being assessed, in order to ensure participation from abroad.
- Draft – NGOs' Expected Outcomes for the 2017 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations: Since there is no existing document stating the agreed objectives and expected outcomes of UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations, ICVA developed a draft of NGO's expected outcomes for this year's consultations. The content of this document has been used to develop the UNHCR-ICVA concept note on the UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations (which you can find online). Yet, we feel it is important that NGOs clarify their expectations out of the Consultations. **ICVA is therefore still seeking feedback from members on the draft NGOs' Expected Outcomes.**
- State of preparation:
 - o The Steering Committee, composed of ICVA, UNHCR Partnership Section and NGO Liaison person from the CRRF Task Team, are finalizing the NGO and UNHCR coordinators for each of the sessions. The process has been delayed given the uncertainty of the CRRF until lately and the involvement of the CRRF Task Team late in the process. **NGOs are welcome to reach out to ICVA if they would like to suggest speakers/experts that would fit with themes suggested in the different sessions. A table with names of UNHCR-NGO coordinators will be shared as soon as it is final.**

Reactions:

- It seems like it will be one of the key events towards the development of the Global Compact on Refugees. It would be interesting to think of the sessions coordinators and their role to play in ensuring a meaningful climax.

- An idea could be to organize a meeting with NGO coordinators and maybe also invite UNHCR Partnership Section and/or a joint meeting between NGO and UNHCR coordinators.
 - ⇒ ICVA will look into this option.
 - ⇒ ICVA has been invited to a meeting UNHCR Partnership Section organized with the coordinators a month ago, where there was some further clarification on the designation of NGOs coordinators (ICVA clarified the importance of having a diverse and balanced approach with UNHCR coordinators, and to be in touch with ICVA so to avoid duplication of efforts and few “usual suspects” NGOs dominating the Consultations).

2. March Standing Committee statements & ExCom Conclusions:

- As drafter leaders are reaching the finalization stage, **the FDWG was the opportunity to go through each statement and asked draft leaders whether they needed any further inputs/feedback.**
 - The Africa statement was still looking a bit weak with needs for further inputs on South Sudan; MENA statement was lacking some inputs on Egypt; CRRF statement was being transformed to a more pessimist tone given the latest developments.
 - There was some collaboration with UNHCR counterparts on the Emergency Preparedness statement.
 - There will not be an NGO side-event on ExCom conclusions at SCOM.
- On ExCom Conclusions: A meeting with UNHCR and the ExCom Rapporteur ahead of the Standing Committee was announced on 6 March, 2pm GVA time (to be confirmed next week).
 - This meeting may help in developing the statement on the ExCom Conclusions as well as in mapping how NGOs could work with the ExCom Rapporteur and UNHCR in 2017.
 - The idea would be to repeat this kind of meetings, (the Rapporteur and Madeline Garlick are quite open to NGOs inputs) and see how we can work together along the year.

3. Update on the CRRF/Refugee Compact:

Briefing on ICVA mission in Uganda:

At the last minute, ICVA was invited to follow UNHCR CRRF Task Team. Despite some complications (such UNHCR Uganda not fully aware of ICVA presence until late), ICVA decided to go and see how to make the best out of this opportunity.

- **A meeting with ICVA members in Kampala was organized:** The Task Team joined the meeting, as well as someone from the branch office (Donor Relations Officer).
 - ⇒ Interestingly, the meeting and mission helped realize that there is not only a need for buy in from civil society, but also from UNHCR staff. UNHCR staff is not always aware of what the CRRF and GCR are. This explains a bit the lack of engagement with NGOs since UNHCR staff does not know clearly what the CRRF is about. There is still quite some work to be done there.
- **First-hand feedback on the mission:**
 - For NGOs, first actual consultation with NGOs on the CRRF. NGOs feel that the process is not only driven by UNHCR, but also by the national authorities.
 - On future opportunities: End of March, there will be a "Uganda Solidarity Conference" organized by the gvt and the UN (High Commissioner is going, maybe Daniel Endres, and UNHCR involved in the development of the conference). If the HC comes, NGOs could potentially prepare a letter to him. The event could be an opportunity for NGOs to

organize themselves around the CRRF. NGOs in Uganda may follow-up on their activities and engagement, as well as this latter opportunity.

- **Key take-aways:**

- The UNHCR mission was not well prepared in terms of objectives, hearing from NGOs and their initiatives linked to the CRRF, identify gaps, ICVA could not see the development of a framework in itself.
 - Uganda South West is quite a specific place: much more advanced in all the elements of the CRRF than in other regions of Uganda (integration in the district development plan, refugee inclusion, partnerships between NGOs, private sector, etc.), but it is not necessarily representative of the whole country, especially for the north which deals with emergency).
- ⇒ So far in the process, there is a feeling that UNHCR CRRF TT is identifying what looks like the CRRF and trying to repackage it as CRRF. But there is no visible development of a framework in itself.

NGOs' take on the CRRF:

On Uganda:

- Perception that there is a pressure on Uganda to show that this is an advanced model, but there is no look into the root causes: Could it be because of the risk of decrease of funding given that no refugees are coming to Europe?
 - There were already a lot of things ongoing before speaking about the CRRF. Uganda is 20% funded. This is a great way to get the attention back.
- Lack of localized knowledge that the CRRF exists and/or what it is.
- It looks like UNHCR's current approach in Uganda is to look at what can be branded as CRRF but without detailing how those good practices could be further developed and supported, within an organized approach. Not clear whether there is the same scheme in Tanzania, where there may be less good examples to build on.
- On developing an institutional framework in Uganda to ensure CRRF is linked to everyone and take it forward: UNHCR, along with national authorities is developing a Secretariat, which could potentially help to trickle down at the community level.
- When looking at other regions in the country:
 - There is a crisis with refugees coming in in Northern Uganda. There is no time to think of what the CRRF is. The reality is a daily response to massive influx. UNHCR and partners are just struggling with daily challenges.
 - On the current main challenges: Self-reliance in agriculture; Capacity strengthening in terms of public administration (Need for huge investment in planning unit engagement).

On the CRRF roll-out:

- We still miss what we want from the CRRF. It seems that we miss on this huge opportunity of global responsibility.
- Uganda is a good example that could be used in other places
- This mission was very much about awareness raising - but still a lot of work within UNHCR and on what the CRRF is about
- **It seems that annex I will not be touched:**
 - A programme of action will be developed with elements to build on. This is the part governments will be consulted on, what will be negotiated with gvts. The programme of action will be looking at the practical application of the CRRF in terms of expanding partnership, looking at some thematic discussions (root causes, gender, livelihoods) and ensuring some level of coherence between the two compacts (rescue at sea, for example).

- There will be regional consultations on the migration compact. The refugee compact is looking how they can piggy bag on this and have more focus group discussions with refugees on the refugee compact.
- The CRRF roll-out will also be looking at the Brazil Declaration & San Jose Statement, and they want best practices and gaps from NGOs.
- Responsibility sharing stays the big elephant in the room

NGOs' initiatives & engagement on CRRF:

- ACT Alliance: Initiative to look at capacity building between South Sudan and Uganda on reporting on HR issues - but not necessarily linked to the CRRF neither the root causes
- Caritas Internationalis Uganda is already closely collaborating with the office of the PM. They are currently signing a MoU. It potentially be linked to the CRRF.
- The new Reference Group being created could also be a good place for NGOs' engagement. ICVA received a first draft and is waiting for comments back.
- On the meeting with Daniel Endres: It stays pretty vague in terms of timeline, objectives, etc. NGOs need to think on what we want from the CRRF, how to approach it, etc. ICVA will work to set up a new meeting with Daniel Endres
 - ⇒ **ICVA is still looking forward to inputs from members on the matrix mapping channels of opportunities for engagement on the CRRF.** Among the new stepping stone, on 25 March there will be a Special Summit on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees organized by IGAD and UNHCR. There could potentially be space for NGOs to engage.
 - ⇒ A separate strategic meeting on the CRRF only will be organized asap in order to plan the future meeting with Daniel Endres and our strategic engagement.

On the Migration Compact: IDC

- Coordination meeting on the migration compact was organized with very few number of people in the room
- In April –May, OHCHR will be hosting an informal discussion on the Migration Compact here in GVA
- In September in Vienna, there will be an informal thematic discussion on smuggling & trafficking
- **IOM started a consultation process with civil society: Colin Rajah will be the liaison person** between IOM and NGOs on the Migration Compact (but based neither in NY nor in GVA). NGOs are interested to link up with him
- The regional economic forum will be used for the regional consultations. This an IOM-led process
- UN economic commission -led: regional economic commission: Compact has 6 thematic consultations with regional versions of those organized at the sub regional level, which creates an issue of engagement for civil society.
- There is no clear clarity on where the money comes from.

On the Action Committee:

- Next meeting will take place on 9th March. ICVA had a discussion with ICMC last week, who will develop a first draft of the agenda
- **With the Action Committee's new structure, it becomes open to anyone interested in either the refugee-side, the migrant-side, or the campaign through the sub-groups.**
- UN Special Rapporteur on Migration went out with his last thematic report, which is a very ambitious agenda for migrants. There will be a NGO strategic meeting on March 31 in order to

make sure the migration compact goes forward. ICVA's Nan Buzard also received an invitation, ICVA will try to meet up with his staff.

4. Discussion with IOM: IOM seems to be rethinking its relationship with NGOs

There seems to be some willingness from IOM to engage more with NGOs and structure it further.

- ICVA recently had a meeting with the IOM International Partnership Division. They showed interest in getting more involved with ICVA and its members, through e.g. the IOM-NGO Humanitarian Consultations; the status of Observer for NGOs to the IOM Council; exchange of information; possible joint events, etc.
- IOM is thinking of bringing back their relationship at field level. In this regard, an idea could be to have the IOM-NGO Humanitarian Consultations one year in GVA, one year in the field.
- They are also willing to looking at a more structured approach to the NGOs that are observer to the Council, with for example, the possibility of having ICVA coordinating the delivery of joint statements.
 - ⇒ FDWG members seemed interested in those new options, although introducing joint statements at IOM Council should not erase the existing possibility for individual NGOs of providing statements.

5. AOB:

The next FDWG will take place on 21st March, at 2pm.