



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Concept note NGO Fora Exchange program

Context

ICVA is actively supporting Humanitarian NGOs coordination through direct engagement in a range of issues, from promotion of aggregation and collective work, guidance on governance structure, information sharing, capacity building, learning opportunities and advocacy on the importance of NGOs coordination with donors and agencies.

Fora can be divided in three categories based on their membership: a. International, b. National and Local, c. Mixed.

In the 2 years of support provided ICVA has witnessed a variety of capacities and ultimately impact on the intended targets. With exceptions, the INGO and Mixed fora appear to benefit from a higher level of experience, resources and set of methodologies applied. This allow them to improve their action year by year, remaining relevant to their purpose and adjusting in changing circumstances.

Conversely, National and Local NGOs fora are often facing challenges related to lack of opportunities for capacity building, funding and tend to struggle in the identification of governance structures that allow stability and continuity in their activities.

National and Local NGO fora are also, recurrently, more isolated and, for the nature of their constituency, cannot benefit from the cross pollination of knowledge generated for instance by international staff turn over from a forum to the other. With the exception of ICVA and few other opportunities, they tend also to be less connected to international networks that enable the circulation of information, knowledge and ultimately capacity.

Rationale for an ICVA intervention

Based on the different levels of capacity and opportunities and the cultural and professional isolation of the National and Local NGOs Fora, ICVA has identified the opportunity to reduce this gap, by acting as an agent for improved networking and an enabler of information, knowledge and capacity sharing, this is added to the various general workshops organized for National and Local NGOs Fora.

Objective

To provide the National and Local NGOs Fora with learning opportunities by exposing them to the work and activity of structured and performing fora in a form of learning exchange programme.

Activities:

1. As preparatory steps, ICVA will ask the the identified fora to produce SWOT analysis and matrixes interfacing the weaknesses and issues to be addressed by the visiting fora and the strengths and services offered by the host. The matrix will be used to find the appropriate links in order to pair the fora in working couples.
2. Representatives of selected National and Local NGOs Fora will be hosted by International or Mixed ones for defined period of time. During this trip the fora will collaborate in sharing information, best practices, reflections on governance structures. The visiting representative will be invited to observe the general activities of the hosting forum, participating to meetings, both internal and external and interacting with the members of the Steering Committees etc..
3. The visitors will be also meeting external actors and key persons that can provide information, guidance. This will include OCHA representatives, donors, ECHO and others.
4. The visits will be anticipated by a preparatory period, during which ICVA and the hosting Fora, will share, describe and explain the key information, targeting the main gaps and weaknesses that the visit intends to address balanced according to the role and mandate of the visitors, whom should in any case in position to graps and contribute at all levels of work planned.
5. ICVA will assist and provide support to both fora during the time of the visit, either remotely or in person where applicable. Pre and post visit questionnaires will be provided to track the achievements and the room forimprovement.
6. The visits will be followed by a follow up period, during which all parties commit to maintain the relations tight and contacts frequent to ensure that doubts, further requests for information are addressed