



Forced Migration Working Group

ICVA's Conference Room, 26-28 Avenue Giuseppe-Motta
26 June 2019 (15:15-17:30)

Participants: ACT Alliance (online), APRRN (online), HAMI (online), Good Neighbors International, IDMC, IRC, Japan Platform (online), NRC, Plan international (online), Save the children (online), World Vision

Agenda:

- Information and discussion on the UNHCR-World Bank Joint Data Center and how NGOs will be able to connect to its work.
- Discussion on the GCR coming back on the 2nd GRF Preparatory Meeting
- Discussion on UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations dynamics and future
- Brainstorming process for the ExCom NGO side event

1) Information and discussion on the UNHCR-World Bank Joint Data Center

- ICVA shared previously documentations and the power point of UNHCR-World Bank Joint Data Center (JDC) presentation of 17 May
- The presentation was focused on the JDC background, missions & objectives, what it will cover. The idea is to have the joint exercise to develop socio-economic data on forced displacement including refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless, internally displaced persons, returnees and, host populations and focus on host countries.
- JDC four objectives are: 1) Ensure population and socio-economic data are systematically collected and analyzed, 2) Facilitate open access to forced displacement data, 3) Promote innovation to enhance forced displacement data, 4) Strengthen the sustainability of a global data collection system.
- The data is meant to become accessible to researchers, civil society, etc. to work on it (open source, although with data/privacy protection safeguards).
- JDC is not meant to be created forever. It is initially conceptualized as an initiative for the next 3 years, until stakeholder and donor can develop data on their own. A review will take place after 3 years to determine whether there is still a need for such a center.

On the Steering Committee

- Composed of UNHCR, WB and donors States. WB already appointed a director, Mr. Björn Gillsäter. UNHCR is still at the status to appoint a director.
- There are pushbacks from some States, i.e. Kenya, on why donors are at the steering committee and not host countries?
- One of the donor's country is Denmark. Hosting country too for the JDC, which will be based in Copenhagen.

On the Advisory Council

- Constituted of a range of stakeholders who will meet twice a year. Provide advice, guidance, suggestions but is not a decision body.



- The proposed members of the Council are 5 Member States, 5 other interested Member States, 2 contribution donors, 8 NGOs, 6 academic institutions, 2 Think tanks, 2 refugee voices, 5 UN agencies, 2 Multilateral development banks and 3 alternates for a total of forty participants.
- NGOs present at this FMWG meeting expressed unease and question marks as to whether sits on the Advisory Council would be permanent, especially for those who may fall under the category of experts. ICVA will ask clarity on it.
- ICVA is still waiting for the Advisory Council's ToRs and will share as soon as received.
- The 8 slots for NGOs will be "selected through relevant constituencies". This will be done through 4 NGO networks – APRRN, ECRE, ICVA, InterAction – which will call to nominate 2 representatives, one being the actual representative, the other being an 'alternate'. For ICVA to set up its own process, we will need more information on what they will need to do, the ToRs, etc.
- Apparently, no funding will be provided by UNHCR or WB (i.e travel to Copenhagen office twice a year) but ICVA will check this.
- First meeting of the JDC is in September 2019 so there is not that much time for a process to appoint 2 ICVA representatives.

Selection process among the NGO networks and ICVA

- The 4 networks are free to select their candidates as they see fit. At ICVA we will follow the same process of the IASC groups selection. ICVA will adapt the procedures used for e.g. the [June 2019 ICVA/NGO seat at the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation Steering Group \(IAHE-SG\)](#).
- Important aspects will be the deadline for application; how the NGO staff fits the selection criteria; relevant experience, CV, NGO setup and capacities, elements on role and responsibilities. The representative selected will have to commit to share information, collect inputs so ICVA membership is engaged in the process and she/he will represent ICVA as well as her/his organization. The selection process will start when the ToRs are available.
- NGOs members of multiple networks are encouraged to show interest through all the available channels, then the four NGOs networks should coordinate. ICVA will try to discuss this with other networks.
- Ideally the process would start in early July to give time for NGOs to put together applications. Finalization should be towards end of August. But all this depends on when we receive the ToRs.

Discussions

- Imprecision on the JDC Advisory Council at the moment. ICVA will ask clarifications to UNHCR and WB and will share the information.
- What is the profile to be a member of the Advisory Council? Technical or senior staff? ICVA assumption: a technical staff appointed for three years

2) Second preparatory meeting for the GCR

Quick summary

- 2nd preparatory meeting happened on 25 June. Notes will be shared asap.



- Co-conveners were announced: Turkey, Ethiopia, Germany and Costa Rica. One more country from Asia might come, might be Pakistan.
Co-conveners role: working with UNHCR to reach out the “missing middle”.
Co-hosts role: Switzerland and UNHCR, will organize meetings and events a week before the GRF; send the invitations, etc.
Co-sponsors role: act as “champion”, organized meeting, campaigning, emulate the other to match the pledges.
- Next co-sponsorship groups meeting: mid-July.
- How is all that going to be to organize? ICVA’s understanding is to have a role, an impact you need to be a co-sponsor. Will be more likely to be more visible, have influence on the GRF agenda, etc. The co-sponsorship system is basically a soft version of the pay-to-play principle used by the Obama administration when organizing the Leaders’ Summit in 2016.
- How does it work with thirty groups with different weight and different focus? How will it play out? Open questions at this stage.
- Strategic way for NGOs to engage? We can ask UNHCR to give us a list of those engaged in each group and sub-theme if possible. UNHCR mentioned that Education and Protection capacity are less covered for now. ICVA encourage NGOs to ask questions to UNHCR during the Annual Consultations. Would be useful to have a clear response on the themes which raised a lot of interest, what are those which did not.
- IRC is happy to share template excel live document that could then be collectively updated on the current co-sponsors and with the mention “not formal, not official document”.
- What is the role of the Focal Point announced? One of the roles is to convene and coordinate group but how? If there is no capacity at UNHCR, will we get out of the meetings with concrete actions?
- On the structure of the Forum, reading the background note is useful.
- Few interventions from refugees, the Global refugee-led network announced pledges and asked for participation from States and multi-stakeholder.

3) UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations

- Being held from 3 to 5 July 2019.
- More and more complicated to work with UNHCR on the organization of the Annual Consultations. Not just because of some individuals. Also experienced lack of coordination between UNHCR sections that create an added amount of work. Also increased interest from management which could be seen as positive but also means decisions taken jointly by ICVA and the Partnership Section, based on NGO inputs, have often been overruled and changed unilaterally by UNHCR over the past 2 years.
- Coming change in UNHCR staff in the partnership section.
- On regional consultations, one happened on 20-21 June 2019 in the MENA region, it was a failure, no space for NGOs consultations, no real discussions, participation open to a variety of actors making this event nothing like a consultation with NGOs and very few UNHCR staff presence.
- Supposed to have Annual Consultations in Africa, in America and in Asia but no update on it.

Discussions

- ICVA overview. Don't have clear division of role and concept for the consultation. UNHCR-NGO co-designing of consultations that were a space for mutual exchanges was the initial concept but it is more and more turned into to a model where UNHCR decides everything alone. However, this is not clearly stated (e.g. UNHCR could say that their vision now is that they want to consult us on topics they select).
- There are some reforms to explore but how open will UNHCR be? An idea might be a smaller event in Geneva, connected with the regional ones? Or a smaller meeting, building on a report from NGOs presented to the HC and to which UNHCR should respond?
- The current Annual Consultations are a presentation series, a conference and not a consultation. Plus, the panelists only have forty-five minutes to speak.
- One question is about the concrete outputs and commitments coming out of the consultations. It is not the right format to reach concrete outcomes. Too many people, no process to decide on action points, no resources for real follow up.
- What is the evaluation at the end of the consultations? There is an evaluation form to fill in after the consultations (in paper and online for a rather short time) but experience seem to show that most of those filling in the forms are those who are satisfied with the consultations.
- More and more a multi-stakeholder approach / whole of society approach, when it comes to academic, refugees, private sector. This is changing the nature of the consultations in a big way and reducing the space for NGOs. Besides, ICVA has no expertise on organizing consultations for a variety of actors. ICVA has resisted this trend but fear it will only increase in the future. Are we seeing the end of UNHCR-NGO consultations?
- Wondering if there is a space to discuss about the feedback of the organization. Voice what you think as NGOs.
- Might have a different perception between NGOs based in Geneva and NGOs based in the field who have less opportunities to be in contact with UNHCR HQ.
- What can be done better? What methods can be used? Happy to have suggestions and ideas.

4) ExCom NGO side event

- Wait for NGOs proposals.
- Received one proposal on reintegration by DRC linked to (re)integration.
- We can focus on what will be the main priority in 2020.
- Could be linked to GRF although that might be a bit of a repeat from last year. We could focus on area of focus or on one GCR mechanism, e.g. ACSG, 3-year resettlement and complementary pathways strategy.
- There will probably be an NGO side event on Statelessness linked to the High-Level segment and ICVA hopes (will check) whether this would be in addition to the usual ICVA organized NGO side event or replacing it.
- Could also look at IDPs, maybe in connection to the High-Level Panel on IDPs.