



# ANNUAL REPORT 2001

International Council of Voluntary Agencies  
Conseil International des Agences Bénévoles  
Consejo Internacional de Organizaciones Voluntarias

*The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), founded in 1962, is a global network of human rights, humanitarian, and development NGOs. Focusing on information exchange and advocacy, ICVA centres its efforts primarily on humanitarian affairs and refugee issues.*

*ICVA's goal is to serve as a focal point for the continuously growing global movement for voluntary action. Voluntary agencies – non-governmental organisations rooted in civil society – have an indispensable role to play in the influencing and setting of international policy given their field-based perspectives and experience. By harnessing that strength and translating what is seen on the ground to the policy level, ICVA works to ensure that a humanitarian perspective is injected into various humanitarian and refugee policy debates. ICVA acts as a channel for analysing patterns and trends seen on the ground into points of advocacy at the international level.*

*ICVA brings together NGOs from regions and countries around the world. ICVA supports the autonomy and work of NGOs in influencing national and international policies, protecting refugees and displaced peoples, providing relief and rehabilitation, fostering sustainable development, and in representing independent humanitarian views to peoples, governments, and intergovernmental organisations.*

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ICVA's work programme for 2001 was divided into five primary areas:

- ◆ information exchange (e.g. *Talk Back*, website, meeting reports)
- ◆ advocacy (e.g. IASC, UNHCR, IDPs)
- ◆ refugee policy (e.g. Global Consultations, pre-EXCOM)
- ◆ NGO alliances and cooperation (e.g. Sphere, Reach Out)
- ◆ internal organisation (e.g. Activity Reports, EXCOM, finances)

## FOREWORD FROM ICVA'S CHAIR

It has been said by many – representatives of NGOs, UN agencies, and governments – that if ICVA did not exist, it would have to be created. Fortunately, the ICVA membership realised that reality when it took the decision in 1997 to renew the mandate and refocus the direction of ICVA. No doubt remains in my mind that we took the right decision at that time.

Four years into the “new” ICVA, the challenges facing the organisation and the membership have not lessened. While 2001 marked another momentous year for ICVA as it moved further into ensuring its position as a global focal point for NGOs on humanitarian and refugee policy matters, there is still much work to be done in terms of getting humanitarian concerns on the agenda, ensuring that humanitarian principles are adhered to, and improving cooperation in working towards the better protection of populations in need. These challenges have been made all the greater with the “war on terrorism” that began in the aftermath of the 11 September 2001 attacks in the United States.

The input and contributions of ICVA's members helped to make 2001 a successful year. ICVA's information exchange with its members continued to improve via the newsletter, *Talk Back*, the website, and meeting reports. And in terms of advocacy, ICVA continued to act as an influential spokesperson for the NGO community in various international forums.

UNHCR's Global Consultations on International Protection were the focus of much of ICVA's work in 2001. Ensuring that NGO views were brought into the various forums of the Consultations was no small effort, but was helped by the fact that an NGO Liaison Officer was seconded to UNHCR's Department of International Protection. A series of efforts to have improved supervision of the Refugee Convention culminated in a meeting that looked at various options for a supervisory mechanism in December.

Among the services provided by ICVA to its members are the following: access and representation to forums where NGO participation is limited; mechanisms for information sharing; (joint) advocacy and lobbying; and the facilitation of NGO input and/or participation in major debates and discussions on humanitarian policy, which take place in Geneva, if not elsewhere as well.

Within the context of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, perhaps the most critical issue in which NGOs took interest was the response to internally displaced persons. ICVA continued to bring NGO perspectives to the table and, along with the other two NGO networks on the IASC, seconded an NGO person to the new IDP Unit within the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Other efforts undertaken by ICVA focused on various issues, including staff security, relations between humanitarians and the military, accountability, and human rights through humanitarian action.

Finally, the accomplishments of ICVA would not have been possible without the hard work of the too few, but dedicated, staff of the ICVA Secretariat, the strong support of the membership, partners in the NGO and UN communities, donors, and all the good friends and colleagues in, and outside of, the Executive Committee.

The celebration of ICVA's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2002 marks a turning point for the network as we embark on an era of increasingly restrictive government policies towards asylum seekers and migrants: now, more than ever perhaps, ICVA is needed to service and support its members.

With many thanks for the support to ICVA,

Anders Ladekarl  
Chair of the ICVA Executive Committee

ICVA continues to act as a focal point for NGO input into various UN policy-setting forums. ICVA facilitates NGO input into the UN's main humanitarian coordination body, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), its Working Group, and various Task Forces and Reference Groups of the IASC. In addition, ICVA facilitates NGO input into UNHCR's Standing and Executive Committees, which work to set vital refugee policy directions.

In all its efforts, one of the main *raison d'être* of ICVA is to bridge the gap between the reality on the ground and the policy-making level. Through its global membership and the direct communication that takes place between the membership and the Secretariat, ICVA provides a unique forum that allows for that reality to be brought to the policy-making levels.

**Talk Back**

ICVA's newsletter, *Talk Back*, aims to provide a critical and constructive perspective on issues related to ICVA's main areas of focus. ICVA has been producing *Talk Back* since April 1999 and it is one of the cornerstones of ICVA's information exchange efforts. Serving as an advocacy tool, articles are written with information gathered from various sources, including from member agencies and partners – particularly those working on the ground. Special articles based on visits by ICVA staff draw on the efforts of ICVA members and partners in the field.

*Talk Back* is a primarily electronic newsletter that is distributed via e-mail and is posted on the ICVA website. It is published in English, French, and Spanish. Hard copy versions are produced, in limited quantities, for distribution at various forums in Geneva.

To subscribe to *Talk Back*, send an e-mail to [talkback@icva.ch](mailto:talkback@icva.ch) with the message *subscribe*, indicating your language preference.

# HUMANITARIANS AND THE MILITARY: MA

Since the mid-nineties, aid agencies have repeatedly expressed the view that the involvement of military forces in the provision of assistance leads to an unacceptable blurring of humanitarian identities and principles with political objectives and measures. Afghanistan saw the culmination of the blurring of mandates in October 2001, when in addition to the bombings on Afghan targets, the American forces also dropped food packets. The war against terrorism was given a humanitarian cover.

At the same time, however, many of the same aid agencies have also recognised that there may be circumstances where military support is needed in order to save lives and they are still trying to come to terms with the questions of when and how this military involvement can be supportive of their activities.

In an effort to help member agencies in their reflections, ICVA has actively raised several issues relating to the role of the military in humanitarian action with its members. In early 2001, ICVA pointed to the dangers of transforming guidelines intended for guiding military input in natural disaster response, known as the 'Oslo Guidelines,' into a framework for using military assets in complex emergencies. ICVA has also signalled the limited focus of the debate on the role to the military as it has often revolved around questions on the division of labour in relief activities, such as health care, water and sanitation, food distribution, and shelter. As a result, the debate has ignored the potentially more important area of how the military and humanitarians relate to each other when it comes to the protection and security of the beneficiaries.

**Comments on *Talk Back***

"We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our appreciation of your efforts and let you know that we often consult ICVA material, such as *Talk Back*, updates and online documents."

*Arnold Luethold, Deputy Head, International Organizations Division, ICRC*

"The issues of *Talk Back* are a really useful device for tracking evolving policy issues and their operational implications for NGOs and other humanitarian organizations. The topics addressed and the comments made are excellent and right on target."

*Larry Minear, Director, Humanitarianism and War Project at Tufts University*

"Just want to say that you have a very good publication [*Talk Back*]. Congratulations and keep up with your excellent work."

*Ed Tsui, Director, OCHA New York*

"I enjoy very much your publication – *Talk Back* – full of very helpful ideas in the humanitarian work."

*Ivana Wagner, Counsellor, Swiss Permanent Mission in Geneva*

# MAKING THE NEXT STEP

In a meeting organised by the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the British Ministry of Defence in July, the ICVA Coordinator, Ed Schenkenberg, was invited to present the views of NGOs on the role of the military in providing security for refugees in camp situations. NGOs have not yet reached a consensus on what the role of the military is in humanitarian action, but, at the same time, there is not much evidence of humanitarian NGOs' thinking on the role of the military in providing security and protection to refugees.

However, if the military wants to have a more meaningful role in humanitarian action, so that effective use is made of the complementarity of mandates, it should undertake tasks that only the military can perform. Providing protection from violence to refugee and displaced populations is a task that humanitarian organisations are unable to assume.

In examining the role of the military in providing security in refugee areas, the British-Canadian seminar, unfortunately, made little progress on several delicate issues. Military deployment in, and around, refugee and displaced camps may further jeopardise the humanitarian and civilian character of these camps. Yet, tasks, such as moving camps further away from international borders, the separation of armed elements from refugees, disarmament, and the arrest and detention of alleged war criminals, often go far beyond the capacity of local police forces or national military forces. But carrying out these tasks is easier said than done. Who and how to separate? And, if separation takes place, who ensures the detention and prosecution of alleged war criminals? These and other complicated questions remain on the table, but discussing them can be more productive than just focussing on the coordination and implementation of relief services.

## [www.icva.ch](http://www.icva.ch)

The ICVA website continued to function as an indispensable tool for making information available to ICVA's members and others, as witnessed by the rise in the average number of hits.

Many of the documents from restricted forums to which ICVA has access, such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, are posted on the members only part of the website. This username and password protected section of the website allows members to access recent documents, as well as older documents archived on the Information Resources page. In addition, discussion forums are available on various topics to allow members to provide information and views that can be viewed only by other ICVA members.

The website was improved in 2001 by adding several sections on various issues and events so that documents could be more easily located on topics, such as internally displaced persons (IDPs), staff security, accountability, and human rights and humanitarian action, among others.

The information on the Member Agencies page was expanded so that ICVA members logging into the website can access more detailed information about other members. The Calendar continues to be used to post events of interest to ICVA members and partners. Submissions to the Calendar can be made by sending an e-mail to [webmaster@icva.ch](mailto:webmaster@icva.ch).

## Meeting Reports

A third tool in ICVA's information exchange efforts are the meeting reports that are written for members. These reports, produced following meetings with restricted access, provide a background on the meeting, a summary of the meeting and a critical perspective on what transpired. The Forum on Afghan Refugees and Displaced Populations that took place in October 2001 was a meeting report that many members found particularly useful at a time when many questions surrounded the future of Afghanistan.

In addition to meeting reports, ICVA often produces notes for the file to provide updates on various forums. Notes for the file are disseminated on a regular basis to the NGO Reference Group on IDPs and provide updates on the work of the Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement, as well as on forthcoming missions of the Network or IDP Unit within OCHA. Being part of this, mainly electronic, forum is open to NGOs by writing to [secretariat@icva.ch](mailto:secretariat@icva.ch).

## ADVOCACY

### IASC

Members' input is essential in bringing field-based perspectives to the table of the main body for humanitarian coordination: the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). At the same time, however, it is not always easy for ICVA members to see the direct value and benefits of the IASC process and decisions. But, as such policy decisions influence field operations, the importance of ensuring the incorporation of NGO perspectives cannot be underestimated.

The independence of humanitarian action is one of ICVA's main concerns in relation to the IASC as the UN agencies seem to be dominated by the UN Secretariat's policy of coherence between political and humanitarian objectives. In terms of its interventions in the IASC, ICVA has been actively involved in the debates on internally displaced persons, the interdependence of UN and non-UN agencies in staff security, the human rights and humanitarian action interface, relations with the military (Military and Civil Defence Unit – MCDU), and armed escorts.

# A STEP FORWARD IN IDP PROTECTION?

The main problem in responding to the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is on the protection front. While assistance is a relatively easily achievable task, the protection side is often more challenging. Too frequently, NGOs working in the field see the protection of IDPs as a gap that needs to be filled.

The debate over who, or which organisation, within the UN system has the responsibility to ensure the protection and assistance of IDPs continued in 2001. The Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement, which was created the year before by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), continued to carry out its work in looking into the UN's response and suggesting changes.

In March 2001, the Special Coordinator on Internal Displacement who led the Senior Network, released a preliminary draft paper suggesting some recommendations to improve the UN response to IDPs.

ICVA took the lead in drafting a paper, in consultation with InterAction, that provided some NGO views on the response to internal displacement. While NGOs felt that they should not advocate on the particular institutional arrangements proposed by the Special Coordinator, they did feel that it was important to bring to the attention of the IASC some key principles and issues that needed to be addressed in order to ensure an improved response to the protection and assistance needs of IDPs.

The need to reinforce the centrality of protection as a common responsibility for UN and non-UN actors alike was seen as essential. NGOs called for efforts to develop a dedicated responsibility for

### IDPs

ICVA continued its role on the Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement during the formation of the IDP Unit and afterwards, bringing to the forum the views of NGOs. The NGO Reference Group on IDPs, formed in 2000, continued to provide a forum for NGOs to meet virtually via e-mail to follow the work of the Senior Network and to provide input into debates surrounding the formation of the new Unit. The Reference Group also served as a body that helped to identify the NGO candidate for the new IDP Unit. The Reference Group, which is open to all NGOs interested in IDP issues, continues to be regularly updated on the work of the Senior Network and the Unit and is regularly approached on points of debate within the Senior Network and for input. To be added to the electronic mailing list of the Reference Group, write to [secretariat@icva.ch](mailto:secretariat@icva.ch).



the protection of IDPs within the UN system. Under the current UN system, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) could be regarded as having a comprehensive protection mandate for IDPs, but that responsibility has yet to be sufficiently fulfilled. In the interim, in order to ensure protection at the field level, it was suggested that the best way forward might be to appoint a specific UN agency or actor, which is operational, on a case-by-case basis. In addition, NGOs pointed out that in all cases of internal displacement there is a need to ensure increased humanitarian access globally, an improved response that is better coordinated, and the enhanced accountability of all actors.

Towards the end of 2001, the Special Coordinator on Internal Displacement suggested that the way forward for the UN to ensure an improved response would be to set up a small, non-operational unit within the UN to support the work of UN agencies and particularly the Humanitarian and Resident Coordinators who, within the UN system, are currently responsible for ensuring a coordinated response to IDPs on the ground.

The Unit would be formed with staff secondments from a few UN agencies and from the NGO consortia. Despite NGO reservations as to whether or not the creation of another body within the UN would solve the issues identified by NGOs, the three NGO consortia on the IASC nonetheless agreed on a seconded to be part of the Unit. Located within the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Unit started its work at the beginning of 2002. NGOs continue to follow its work while continuing to call the UN to account on its response to the protection and assistance needs of IDPs, while recognising that, as NGOs, we also hold a great responsibility in meeting those needs.

### **Input to UNHCR's Governing Bodies**

While Member States have been generally appreciative of the interventions of NGOs in UNHCR's Executive and Standing Committees because of their quality and field-based perspectives, NGO participation remains limited because of the current EXCOM rules. ICVA acts as the NGO focal point for facilitating NGO interventions to these governing bodies, but, at the same time, strives to increase NGO participation.

NGO statements to UNHCR's Standing and Executive Committees are available on ICVA's website: [www.icva.ch](http://www.icva.ch) (*Information Resources, UNHCR-Related Documents, NGO Statements*).

### **Staff Security**

In 2000, a Task Force on Security was set up by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Working Group to look at the cooperation between UN agencies and NGOs on security matters. With a secondment facilitated by ICVA, the Task Force was able to convene two consultations with UN and non-UN humanitarian actors to discuss inter-agency collaboration on staff security.

The Task Force produced a set of practical recommendations that could easily be implemented by UN and non-UN humanitarian actors. Some of the recommendations were included by the UN Security Coordinator in the UN field security handbook. In addition to the recommendations is an annex containing a list of areas of common security concerns that could serve as a "menu of options" for security collaboration between UN organisations and their IGO/NGO partners in the field. Practical checklists for each of the items in the menu of options were also included in the consultant's report.

The recommendations of the Task Force, the menu of options, the consultant's report, as well as the reports of the two consultations, are available on the ICVA website: [www.icva.ch](http://www.icva.ch) (*Information Resources, Task Force on Staff Security*).

**Global Consultations  
on International  
Protection**

NGOs participated extensively in all meetings of the three tracks of the Global Consultations: UNHCR's process to reinforce the international refugee protection regime. The focus of Track I was a 12 December meeting at the Ministerial level to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention. Track II was formed by a number of experts' meetings on detailed legal questions. And, Track III saw meetings of the UNHCR Executive Committee that looked at open questions with regards to the application of the Convention. The main product has been the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the 12 December meeting, which is to be further elaborated in an "Agenda for Protection" in 2002.

# IMPLEMENTATION, NOT THE CONVENTIO

In commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, UNHCR organised the Global Consultations on International Protection in 2001. As in many other international standard-setting processes, NGO advocacy and lobbying has been critical in at least ensuring that governments did not digress from existing obligations. In recent years, the international climate has not seen a positive trend in the international protection of refugees and the challenge for the Global Consultations was to address and, if possible, reverse this trend.

ICVA played a leading role in facilitating and promoting NGO interventions at the meetings of the Consultations. Early on in the process, NGOs agreed that the main problem is not the Refugee Convention itself (as several government representatives and politicians in their home countries had made public statements about the need to 'modernise' the Convention), but implementation of the Convention. There was also consensus that UNHCR has not been able to perform its supervisory role adequately.

Following endorsement by ICVA's Executive Committee, ICVA engaged with a team at the University of Michigan, led by Professor James Hathaway, in a project to research options for a new supervisory mechanism that would monitor implementation of the Convention. This project produced seven papers presenting options derived from existing mechanisms that are used for other human rights treaties. These papers were discussed at an NGO meeting, organised by ICVA and which brought together NGOs from around the world, on 11 December, i.e. one day before the Ministerial Meeting, the highlight of the whole Consultations process.

## **UNHCR-NGO Partnership**

The UNHCR-NGO pre-EXCOM Consultations, scheduled in the last week of September, is the best moment in the year to take stock of UNHCR-NGO partnership, which continues to be both a source of optimism and frustration. The 2001 pre-EXCOM meeting saw increased dialogue through inter-active panel sessions on various topics, including migration and IDPs, and working sessions on capacity-building of national NGOs, staff security, and refugee children. But more needs to be done in order to really use the opportunity of such a large NGO gathering with senior UNHCR officials and to engage in a meaningful consultation that also includes governments.

The annual NGO statement to the EXCOM, presented by ICVA, emphasised the need for the international community to observe the rights of refugees in the context of the Afghanistan crisis. ICVA's Refugee Policy Officer spent two weeks in Southern Africa discussing national and regional issues with relation to UNHCR-NGO cooperation. In reviewing the Partnership in Action process (PARinAC), both NGOs and UNHCR officials made it clear that the quality of the partnership depends on an open dialogue in which constructive criticism plays a vital role.

# N, IS THE PROBLEM

The report of the NGO meeting, available on ICVA's website, concludes that action is needed on three levels: 1) with States in promoting a new supervisory mechanism; 2) with UNHCR in appointing an Advisory Group that could help the High Commissioner in better performing UNHCR's supervisory role; and 3) with NGOs in consolidating NGO monitoring of the Convention.

In early reactions, governments indicated that a new mechanism for the Convention's supervision would be a non-starter because no one wants more obligations. In essence, what this demonstrates, however, is a serious problem in how governments are unable and unwilling to hold each other accountable by engaging in an open, meaningful dialogue.

The interest of NGOs to take part in the Consultations process included having ICVA partly support an NGO staff position in UNHCR for continued liaison between UNHCR and NGOs in order to ensure complementary, mutually reinforcing, activities.

As a follow-up of their extensive participation, NGOs have started reflections on the benefits of the Global Consultations process. For many NGOs, "Did the regime for international protection show an improvement in practice?" is the ultimate question. While the jury may still be out on this question, what is clear for ICVA is that standard setting in refugee protection is only meaningful if the standards do not just remain in meeting rooms in Geneva, but are actually translated into action that truly protects refugees where they are living.

## NGO Liaison Officer

In support of NGO contributions to the Global Consultations, ICVA facilitated the secondment of an NGO Liaison Officer, Ms Eve Lester, to UNHCR's Department of International Protection during 2001.

## MIGRATION

As migration has become a hot topic in international affairs, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and NGOs need to engage in order to determine how best they can cooperate, not only in operations, but also at the policy-making level given its new unit for policy and research in migration trends. An editorial comment in *Talk Back 3-2* called for IOM to take a more rights-based approach in its work, citing several examples in which the agency neglected or ignored the rights of beneficiaries. NGOs have indicated that they will increase their scrutiny of IOM.

## OVERSEEING THE REFUGEE CONVENTION

**Working Papers  
presented to the  
NGO 11 December  
meeting,  
"Overseeing  
the Refugee  
Convention,"  
a collaboration of  
ICVA and the  
Program in Refugee  
and Asylum Law,  
University of  
Michigan, Prof.  
James Hathaway**

No. 1: *Reporting*,  
Archana Pyati  
No. 2: *Complaints*,  
Vanessa Bedford  
No. 3: *General  
Comments*,  
Elizabeth Marsh  
No. 4: *Investigative  
Capacity*,  
Barbara Miltner  
No. 5: *NGO/National  
Linkages*,  
Jennifer G. Pasinosky  
No. 6: *UN Linkages*,  
Aiman Mackie  
No. 7: *Coordination  
with UNHCR and  
States*,  
Tracey Glover,  
Simon Russell

*The papers are all  
available on the ICVA  
website ([www.icva.ch](http://www.icva.ch)),  
Information Resources  
page.*

# HUMANITARIANS MAKING HUMAN RIGHTS

**The Sphere Project:** [www.sphereproject.org](http://www.sphereproject.org)  
Implementation through more training exercises at the field level and sustained support to some 20 agencies piloting Sphere in their programmes (including three southern-based ICVA members) were the priorities for the project in 2001. Not only did ICVA continue its participation in the management of the project, but the ICVA Coordinator also helped to facilitate a training workshop on the Humanitarian Charter in Zimbabwe in March 2001.

The single biggest challenge for the project is to ensure the application of the entire handbook in emergency operations by all humanitarian actors, while ensuring that the quality debate surrounding humanitarian action is not reduced to an evaluation of a set of technical standards, as warned by a number of NGOs.

Increasingly, humanitarian actors are recognising that they have a role and responsibility to ensure that human rights form the basis of their work. The methods NGOs have taken to incorporate human rights into their daily work varies widely: some NGOs have adopted rights-based programming, others have developed human rights training for their staff, while others have started deploying “protection officers” or humanitarian affairs officers to their operations to ensure that human rights are taken into consideration in their programmes.

In an attempt to bring together various humanitarian actors who have developed human rights training materials for their staff, ICVA and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) co-hosted a Workshop on Human Rights Training for Humanitarian Actors in November 2001. The workshop, held in Geneva, brought together representatives from NGOs and UN agencies who have been focusing on human rights issues within their organisations.

Prior to the workshop, there had been little contact between various human rights training initiatives and programmes. The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to share their experiences with regards to such programmes and to look for ways in which their work could be shared with others.

While the workshop was intended to be a forum for moving forward on practical human rights training, there was an inevitable, and welcome, focus within the discussion on policy issues related to the role that humanitarian organisations can, and should, play on human rights issues. There

## **Reach Out:** [www.reachout.ch](http://www.reachout.ch)

The inter-agency training project to introduce staff of humanitarian NGOs to refugee protection principles really took off in 2001: the steering committee, of which ICVA is a member, elected a Chair, agreed on a training schedule, and developed plans for the future of the project. ICVA stressed the linkages with existing processes and projects such as the UNHCR-NGO Partnership in Action process (PARinAC) and the need to ensure that protection training be part of a comprehensive plan of NGOs to fulfil their protection responsibilities.

## **Field-Based Perspectives**

With funds received for a project to improve the input of field-based NGOs, ICVA was able to bring an NGO representative from Khartoum to a meeting of the International Advisory Committee on Sudan in December in Geneva to bring the field-based perspective to the dialogue taking place at the international level.

# TS A PRIORITY

was a call for OHCHR to take a much more active role in terms of working with humanitarian actors on human rights. The need was expressed for OHCHR to develop a policy for working with humanitarians and that OHCHR had a responsibility to increase its role in protection in humanitarian crises. An earlier editorial in *Talk Back* 3-1 also called on OHCHR to engage in humanitarian crises to ensure that humanitarian responses address human rights issues right from the beginning of crises.

There was much discussion during the workshop about the advantages and disadvantages of developing a core training module on human rights. In the end, however, workshop participants felt that what was currently needed was a platform where organisations could share information on human rights training with other organisations. It was suggested that a website be created that could house various documents related to human rights and humanitarian action. By creating such a platform, organisations could ensure complementarity in their work, as well as avoiding the reinvention of the proverbial wheel.

The workshop was an extension of the work carried out by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Reference Group on Human Rights and Humanitarian Action. In 2001, ICVA continued to represent the three NGO networks of the IASC (ICVA, InterAction, and the Steering Committee on Humanitarian Response) on the Reference Group. The proposal for the website on human rights and humanitarian action was followed-up by the Reference Group with the suggestion that ICVA provide the home for the website, which it will pursue.

## QUOTES FROM NGO STATEMENTS IN THE GLOBAL CONSULTATIONS

### NGO Statement on Responsibility-Sharing, 8 March 2001

*"...It is undeniable that the rich need to help the poor, who are protecting the majority of refugees. However, at a time of increasing wealth for the rich, development aid has decreased, rather than increased and some countries offset within their aid budgets their own costs of receiving asylum-seekers. NGOs believe that off-setting the costs of receiving asylum seekers is deplorable, particularly where this includes the cost of often illegal and arbitrary detention..."*

### NGO Statement on the Migration-Asylum Nexus, 28 June 2001

*"...While the cornerstone of globalisation has been the increased international flow of trade, capital, information, and services, the right to freedom of movement for many people – especially poor migrants, refugees and asylum seekers – has been severely curtailed. Governments in both the North and South have become more active in trying to limit the movement of people into their territories..."*

## QUOTES FROM NGO STATEMENTS IN THE GLOBAL CONSULTATIONS

### NGO Statement at the Ministerial Meeting,

**12 December 2001**

*"...Refugees genuinely trust in international law, in particular the Refugee Convention. Regrettably, a large number of refugees are wrongly denied protection. The main reason is the misinterpretation of the Refugee Convention and a lack of understanding of the refugee situation, especially in the case of women..."*

Monireh Moftizadeh, former refugee, working with refugees in the UK at present.

### NGO Statement on Reception Standards for Asylum Seekers, 12 December 2001

*"...States argue that they cannot afford proper reception standards for asylum seekers. But what of the human cost of inadequate reception standards?..."*

**SUPPORT TO ICVA  
PROJECTS**

**Refugee Policy  
Programme**

- ◆ Sida, Sweden
- ◆ UNHCR
- ◆ Wellspring  
Advisors, USA

**NGO Liaison Officer  
for Global  
Consultations**

- ◆ Ford Foundation,  
USA
- ◆ Norwegian  
Refugee Council,  
Norway
- ◆ Stichting  
Vluchteling,  
Netherlands
- ◆ UNHCR

**OHCHR/ICVA  
Workshop on  
Human Rights  
Training**

- ◆ OHCHR

**ICVA Information  
System**

- ◆ DFID,  
United Kingdom

# FINANCES

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES**  
**1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001 with comparative figures**  
**(all figures in Swiss francs)**

	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Membership fees	194,931.74	190,514.09
DANIDA via Danish Refugee Council (DKK 500,000.00)	101,247.95	102,750.00
Norway - Ministry of Foreign Affairs via Norwegian Refugee Council (NOK 250,000.00)	46,714.48	46,520.00
Swiss Government DDC/SDR	50,000.00	50,000.00
DGIS-Netherlands Ministry for Development Cooperation	33,444.00	0.00
Reserve liquidation	0.00	31,534.87
Miscellaneous	5,369.14	6,517.53
Exchange rate gain and bank interest	307.15	1,751.30
Project income	500,939.64	103,806.14
Participation in support services from projects	98,289.92	60,517.25
<b>Total income</b>	<b>1,031,244.02</b>	<b>593,911.18</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Core salaries	258,585.82	239,943.99
Consultancy fees	7,073.42	7,300.00
Social charges	59,478.15	52,960.56
Provident fund	29,648.20	28,553.05
Other personnel charges	478.40	828.00
Staff training	0.00	851.40
Website related charges	4,733.70	3,042.20
Executive Committee/General Assembly	18,169.82	19,878.14
General Assembly reserve	10,000.00	10,000.00
Office supplies/equipment maintenance	14,133.03	34,919.95
Travel and representation charges	16,131.90	17,420.03
Publication and translation costs	29,879.14	8,479.18
Office rental and utilities	33,266.90	6,661.35
Postage and telecommunication costs	27,215.40	25,873.93
Audit and legal fees	3,000.00	6,934.75
Debit interest	9,800.00	9,800.00
Bank charges, exchange rate adjustment	5,667.44	1,211.00
Miscellaneous	4,022.35	0.00
Project expenses	443,738.36	103,806.14
Year-end balance for projects	57,201.28	0.00
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>1,032,223.31</b>	<b>578,464.16</b>
<b>Excess of income over expenditures or expenditures over income</b>	<b>-979.29</b>	<b>15,447.02</b>

**BALANCE SHEET STATEMENT**  
**as at 31 December 2001 with comparative figures**  
**(all figures in Swiss francs)**

	<b>31.12.01</b>	<b>31.12.00</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Petty cash	629.05	765.25
Cash in bank accounts		
UBS CHF	46,321.89	63,165.10
UBS World Aid CHF	0.00	1,863.32
UBS USD (USD 41,490.34)	67,629.25	23,532.79
Accounts receivable and prepaid expenses		
Accounts receivable	131,834.66	19,006.09
Taxes on interest income	87.65	0.00
Prepaid expenses	0.00	2,879.40
	<b><u>246,502.50</u></b>	<b><u>111,211.95</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	138,107.16	68,688.60
IM World Aid (member loan due 31.12.98)	179,500.00	179,500.00
Accruals and provisions	0.00	350.00
Restricted funds/reserves	46,343.00	36,343.00
OHCHR, Switzerland	17,527.40	0.00
Stichting Vluchteling, Netherlands (USD 2,887.00)	4,705.81	0.00
Ford Foundation, USA (USD 6,734.00)	10,968.07	0.00
Wellspring Advisors, USA	24,000.00	0.00
Accumulated deficit carry over	-174,648.94	-173,669.65
	<b><u>246,502.50</u></b>	<b><u>111,211.95</u></b>

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

The ICVA EXCOM has been debating various methods by which to improve the membership dues structure of ICVA. With the objective of raising the level of income from membership fees that cover ICVA's costs, the EXCOM aims to propose several options for a possible revised dues structure to the membership in 2003.

## SUPPORT IN-KIND

The state government of Geneva provided a rent subsidy to ICVA covering two and a half months of ICVA's office rental costs in 2001.

## AUDIT REPORT

Full audit report available upon request:  
[secretariat@icva.ch](mailto:secretariat@icva.ch).

*Volume 3-1,*  
28 February 2001

*Volume 3-2,*  
30 April 2001

*Volume 3-3,*  
28 June 2001

*Volume 3-4,*  
12 September 2001

*Volume 3-5,*  
1 October 2001

ICVA has been producing *Talk Back* since April 1999. It is published in English, French, and Spanish. Back issues of *Talk Back*, ICVA's primarily electronic newsletter, are available on ICVA's website: [www.icva.ch](http://www.icva.ch) on the *Information Resources* page.

Articles in *Talk Back* are written with information gathered from various sources, including from member agencies and partners.

To subscribe to *Talk Back*, send an e-mail to [talkback@icva.ch](mailto:talkback@icva.ch) with the message *subscribe*, indicating your language preference (English, French, and/or Spanish).

Comments on *Talk Back* are welcome: [talkback@icva.ch](mailto:talkback@icva.ch).

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- ◆ Reindorp, Nicola and Peter Wiles. *Humanitarian Coordination: Lessons from Recent Field Experience*. London: ODI, June 2001. (*Talk Back* 2-1 and 2-4)
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- ◆ Hilhorst, Dorothea. *Enhancing the Quality of Humanitarian Assistance*. Paper for the International Working Conference: Enhancing the Quality of Humanitarian Assistance. Netherlands, October 2001. (*Talk Back* 3-4)
- ◆ *Humanitarian Action: Learning from Evaluation*. ALNAP Annual Review Series. London: ALNAP, 2001. (*Talk Back* 2-1)

## ICVA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE

The ICVA General Assembly, which will bring together ICVA members, will be held from 14-17 February 2003 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The General Assembly will be preceded by a two-day Conference on *Strengthening NGO Partnerships in a Globalising World: From Global Rhetoric to Local Reality*. The Conference will be organised around three sub-themes:

- ◆ Partnerships between Northern and Southern NGOs
- ◆ NGOs in a Changing World Order: Defenders of Civil Society?
- ◆ NGO Partnerships in Addressing "Forgotten Crises"

Details on both events can be found on a special section of the ICVA website ([www.icva.ch](http://www.icva.ch)) dedicated to ICVA's history and the General Assembly and Conference.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership in ICVA is open to international NGOs, regional NGOs, and national NGOs that have linkages with local NGOs (i.e. networks and consortia).

Details on membership requirements, as well as membership application forms, are available on the ICVA website:

[www.icva.ch](http://www.icva.ch) on the *About ICVA* page.

# ICVA MEMBERS

- ◆ ACTIONAID, *UK*
- ◆ Adventist Development and Relief Agency, International (ADRA)
- ◆ Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB)
- ◆ Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), *Ethiopia*
- ◆ African Council for Adult and Continuing Education (ARCACE), *Kenya*
- ◆ African Refugee Foundation (AREF), *Nigeria*
- ◆ All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), *Kenya*
- ◆ AMEL Association (Lebanese Association for Popular Action) (AMEL)
- ◆ American Joint Distribution Committee (AJDC)
- ◆ Anatolian Development Foundation (ADF), *Turkey*
- ◆ Asian Institute for Rural Development (AIRD), *India*
- ◆ ASF-Dansk Folkehjælp, *Denmark*
- ◆ Asociacion Nacional de Centros de Investigacion, Promocion Social y Desarrollo (ANC), *Peru*
- ◆ Association Béninoise de Lutte Contre la Faim et la Misère du Peuple (ASCOFAM), *Benin*
- ◆ Association for Sarva Seva Farms (ASSEFA), *India*
- ◆ Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB)
- ◆ Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development (AVARD), *India*
- ◆ Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA)
- ◆ British Refugee Council (BRC)
- ◆ Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR)
- ◆ CARE
- ◆ Church World Service (CWS), *USA*
- ◆ Chinese Refugees' Relief Association (CRRA), *Taiwan*
- ◆ Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA), *Ethiopia*
- ◆ Confederation of Environmental and Development NGOs of Central Africa (CONGAC), *Cameroon*
- ◆ Consejo de Instituciones de Desarrollo (COINDE), *Guatemala*
- ◆ Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- ◆ Disaster Mitigation Institute (DMI), *India*
- ◆ European Partnership of Relief Organisations (EPRO)
- ◆ EMO-BARAKA, Union Pour la Promotion du Paysan (EMO-BARAKA), *Burundi*
- ◆ Federacion de Organismos No Gubernamentales de Nicaragua (FONG)
- ◆ Fundacion Augusto Cesar Sandino (FACS), *Nicaragua*
- ◆ General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), *Jordan*
- ◆ Human Appeal International (HAI), *United Arab Emirates*
- ◆ Humanitaere Nothilfeprogramme – Weltweit (HCC), *Germany*
- ◆ Indian Institute of Youth and Development (IIYD)
- ◆ Individuell Människohjälp (Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief) (IM)
- ◆ INTERACTION (American Council for Voluntary International Action)

- ◆ InterAid International (IAI), *Switzerland*
- ◆ International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)
- ◆ International Islamic Relief Organisation (IIRO), *Saudi Arabia*
- ◆ International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- ◆ Islamic Relief Agency (ISRA), *Sudan*
- ◆ Italian Consortium of Solidarity (ICS)
- ◆ Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)
- ◆ The Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), *Jordan*
- ◆ Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights (LCHR), *USA*
- ◆ Lebanese NGO Forum (LNF)
- ◆ Liaison Unit of Non-Governmental Organisations of Seychelles (LUNGOS)
- ◆ Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)
- ◆ Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- ◆ Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS)
- ◆ Médecins du Monde (MDM)
- ◆ Media Action International (MAI), *Switzerland*
- ◆ Mission Armenia (MA)
- ◆ National NGO Council of Sri Lanka (NNGOC)
- ◆ Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- ◆ Office Africain pour le Développement et la Coopération (OFADEC), *Senegal*
- ◆ Refugee Children and Vulnerable Citizens (RCVC), *Tajikistan*
- ◆ Refugees International (RI)
- ◆ Rural Development Foundation of Pakistan (RDFP)
- ◆ Salvation Army International (SA)
- ◆ Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya Inc. (SARVODAYA), *Sri Lanka*
- ◆ South African National NGO Coalition (SANGOCO)
- ◆ Stichting Vluchteling (SV), *The Netherlands*
- ◆ Sudanese Women General Union (SWGU)
- ◆ Terre Vivante (TV), *Mauritania*
- ◆ Union for Support and Development of Afghanistan (VAF), *Germany*
- ◆ World Council of Churches (WCC)
- ◆ World Vision International (WVI)

## OBSERVERS

- ◆ Caritas Internationalis
- ◆ International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- ◆ International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- ◆ Médecins sans Frontières International (MSF)

## ICVA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2001

### Chair:

Mr. Anders Ladekarl,  
*DRC*

### Vice-Chair:

Dr. Elizabeth Ferris, *WCC*

### Treasurer:

Ms Roswitha Dinger, *LWF*

Mr. Kebede Asrat, *CRDA*  
 Mr. Jim Bishop, Mr. Anthony Kozlowski, *INTERACTION*  
 Mr. William Canny, *ICMC*  
 Mr. Paul Meijs, *DRA/CARE\**  
 Mr. Mamadou Ndiaye, *OFADEC*  
 Mr. Eric Ram, *WVI*  
 Mr. P.M. Tripathi, *AVARD*

\* DRA became CARE Netherlands in 2001. CARE was co-opted to the EXCOM until the next General Assembly.

\*\* CESEM, which was represented on the Executive Committee by Ms Rosario Sanchez, ceased to exist in 2001. The position has been left vacant until the next General Assembly.

## ICVA SECRETARIAT 2001

### Coordinator:

Mr. Ed Schenkenberg van Mierop

### Refugee Policy Officer:

Mr. Simon Russell

### Humanitarian Affairs Officer:

Ms Manisha Thomas

**Assistant:** Ms Dominique Gilliéron

**Finance Officer:** Ms Tina Pfenninger

### Programme Advisor:

Ms Lieske Pott Hofstede

**Programme Advisor:** Mr. Jan Ven



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