



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## ICVA BULLETIN

Highlights from March 2021

**The ICVA Bulletin is translated in French, Spanish and Arabic!** You can find the translated versions and previous editions of the Bulletin on our [website](#).

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## Message from Executive Director

### NGOs and Vaccine Equity

Universal access to the COVID-19 vaccine is the only solution to end the pandemic and mitigate the deepening socio-economic inequalities caused by measures to reduce the spread of the virus. It is critical that the humanitarian community works together to support fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and treatment and ensure these efforts do not come at the expense of other lifesaving health and humanitarian interventions.

ICVA has helped coordinate [collective civil society outreach to states](#) and joined the [Vaccine Equity Declaration](#). We encourage NGOs to join the call for global, national and local leaders to accelerate the equitable rollout of vaccines in every country, starting with health workers and those at highest risk for COVID-19. This includes scaling up vaccine manufacturing and rejecting vaccine nationalism at every turn.

ICVA continues to support NGOs to try to [influence COVID-19 National Deployment and Vaccination Planning](#) (NDVP) in their countries/contexts. We must continue to highlight to states their responsibility to ensure all high-risk individuals and populations are included, independent of their residency and legal status.

In recent months, important work has been taking place to develop a Humanitarian Buffer for COVID-19 vaccines. Although in all cases the State should bear responsibility for ensuring access to vaccines for all, this buffer will be essential to cover vulnerable populations in situations where they are excluded from national efforts, whether on grounds of ethnicity, nationality, migration status, gender identity, poverty, or any other reason. NGOs have a key role to play in the implementation of the buffer, whether directly delivering vaccines in hard-to-reach areas, engaging communities to support vaccine acceptance, or providing information regarding gaps in ongoing national vaccination efforts.

In the preparatory stages of the humanitarian Buffer, ICVA has been working closely with members of the [GAVI CSO Constituency](#) and the GAVI Board to ensure clarity of understanding on the expected role of NGOs in the implementation of the buffer. The GAVI Board formally confirmed the [launch of the COVAX Humanitarian buffer on 22 March](#). With the IASC Emergency Directors Group recently designated as the decision-making body for the humanitarian buffer, this work will continue in the coming months.

We have reinforced our [team](#) to support NGOs regarding the establishment of the COVAX Humanitarian Buffer. It is a priority for ICVA for NGOs to be informing, and are informed by, key global Inter-Agency processes, including the EDG Decision Group (delegated to make the buffer allocations) and the Global Health Cluster COVID-19 Vaccine Working Group (monitoring COVAX rollout and gaps in National Plan coverage). ICVA's particular focus is on connecting these global discussions with the realities of NGO operations at country level, to ensure humanitarian buffer vaccination efforts reach those most in need with the support of NGOs at global, regional and national levels.

## ICVA updates



### 1. ICVA General Assembly 18 & 19 May 2021

ICVA's 18th General Assembly will take place on

- 18 May from 13.00-15.30 CEST
- 19 May from 13.00-16.00 CEST

**Participation:** We are looking forward to seeing many of you attend this online meeting. If you have not yet registered you can still do so by completing the [online registration form](#). More than one representative may attend, though each member organisation has only one vote.

**Agenda:** The General assembly will elect a new Board and Chair, approve the [ICVA 2030 strategy](#) and Strategic Priorities for 2022-2024, amend the [ICVA Statutes](#), and receive a report on the work of the network since the last General Assembly in 2018.

**More information:** More information can be found on the [ICVA website](#) or by contacting [secretariat@icvanetwork.org](mailto:secretariat@icvanetwork.org). Working documents and full agenda will be shared with all voting delegates and ICVA focal points shortly.

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## ICVA VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

25 & 26 MAY 2021

CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT AND  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION:

HOW CAN NGO'S MITIGATE AND ADAPT?

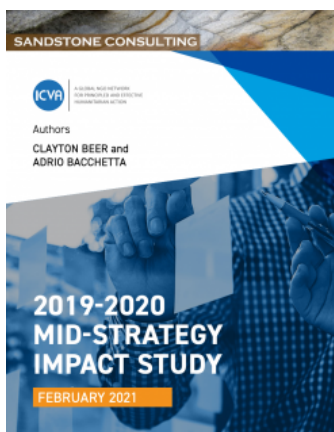
### 2. ICVA Annual Conference 25 & 26 May 2021 - Registration is OPEN!

On 25 and 26 May 2021 ICVA will host its second virtual Annual Conference on the

theme: **Climate, environment and humanitarian action: How can NGOs mitigate and adapt?**

[The conference](#) will focus on the role that NGOs will play in adapting the way we work to be better prepared to climate and environment change and shocks and deliver so that we leave no one behind, especially in the humanitarian context when delivering programmes to support refugees, displaced and vulnerable migrant populations.

Register!



### 3. ICVA's 2019-2020 Mid-strategy Impact Study

This [Impact Study](#) takes stock of the impact ICVA has achieved just over midway through its 2019-2021 Strategy. The key question being investigated is “*What has been the impact of ICVA’s efforts in influencing and amplifying NGO perspectives in humanitarian dialogue and policies across each of the four selected focus areas and other issues arising for the period 2019-2020?*” The methodology comprised a document review, interviews with selected stakeholders, and a review of the substantial existing data from ICVA’s recent 2030 consultations with members.

## Forced Migration

### 4. Global Refugee Forum follow-up

#### Legal aid in humanitarian settings to foster protection and durable solutions

On 4 March, [INTERSOS](#) and ICVA jointly organised a [webinar on “Fostering protection and durable solutions through legal aid in humanitarian settings”](#) based on INTERSOS’ GRF pledge to produce a “[Provision of Legal Aid in Humanitarian Settings - Lessons Learned Paper](#)”. The objectives of the webinar were to highlight the **INTERSOS’ GRF commitment**, while discussing the importance of humanitarian legal aid as a foundational support for ensuring protection and achieving durable solutions for forcibly displaced populations. Gathering NGOs, Member States, UN Agencies, and International Organisations including the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, the Global Protection Cluster Coordinator and UNHCR, the event also aimed to help galvanise further pledges in the area of legal aid. Especially considering the chronic lack of funding in this area.

### 5. UNHCR-NGOs meeting on GRF High-Level Officials Meeting

On 11 March, ICVA organised a lively exchange between NGOs and the UNHCR Global Refugee Forum Team looking at the roadmap towards [the High-Level Officials Meeting](#) (14-15 December 2021), progress and implementation on GRF pledges and the Indicators Framework process. Participants also discussed NGOs’ important role and contributions to these processes and priorities around pledge implementation in particular pledges focused on age, gender and diversity; statelessness; child protection; and refugee meaningful participation. Notes will be soon shared with participants and [accessible](#) to ICVA members.

### 6. UNHCR 80th Standing Committee

Thanks to valuable NGO contributions, ICVA coordinated the drafting and delivery of seven NGO statements during the [80th meeting of the Standing Committee](#) on 23-25 March. The

statements focused on [International protection and durable solutions in the context of a public health emergency](#), [Strategic Partnership including coordination](#) as well as the regional updates on [Europe](#), [the Middle East and North Africa](#), [Africa](#), [the Americas](#), [Asia and the Pacific](#).

### **7. UNHCR and NGOs monthly consultations**

On 31 March, UNHCR and ICVA co-organised a consultation with NGOs on “UNHCR’s reforms of the framework for funded partnerships.” The consultation was an opportunity to assess progress made last year to improve UNHCR’s framework for funded partnerships and to examine how to further improve planned reforms. NGOs emphasised the opportunity to ensure greater accessibility to UNHCR partnership for local, national and refugee-led organisations. Notes from the meeting and documents will be disseminated to participants and will be also available to ICVA members on [our webpage](#). More information on the monthly consultations is also accessible on the [UNHCR website](#).

### **8. High Level Panel on Internal Displacement exchange with NGOs**

On 25 March, ICVA organised a meeting with the Head of the Secretariat of the High-Level Panel, Assistant Secretary-General Mr. George Okoth-Obbo and his colleagues. On this occasion, NGOs and the Secretariat exchanged on the Panel’s work progress, shifts needed to better prevent, respond and achieve solutions to internal displacement, and potential follow-up to the Panel’s report. For more information on ICVA’s work on the Panel, [see here](#).

- For more information on any of the above topics, contact: [jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org](mailto:jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org) and [Loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org)

### **9. Migrants in vulnerable situation**

#### **International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) 2022: Civil Society Priorities Webinar Series**

Jointly organised by 7 Global and Regional Civil Society Networks, this webinar series, which runs from 13 April to 18 May 2021, marks the start of an extended global civil process highlighting priorities on the ground and bringing to light ambitious interpretations of the Global Compact for Migration and states obligations under it. This will be the beginning of an extensive and inclusive civil society mobilisation culminating in the International Migration Review Forum. You can [register](#) for all 5 webinars and access the [concept note](#) of the first webinar on Migration, COVID-19 and a New Social Contract.

#### **Model International Mobility Convention**

The [Model International Mobility Convention](#) (MIMC), which is sponsored by the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, proposes a global, comprehensive and cumulative legal framework for international mobility, with the goal of reaffirming the existing rights of mobile people as well as expanding those basic rights where warranted. The project currently focuses on the principles that should inform a global and equitable approach to sharing the responsibility for refugee resettlement. A recent focus has also been on how worker visas can be a complementary pathway for refugee resettlement, with an interesting article published in [Newsweek](#).

#### **It Takes a Community Campaign - Launch**

The “*It Takes a Community*” campaign, initiated by the [GFMD Ad Hoc Working Group on Public Narratives on Migration](#), aims to celebrate how all people, regardless of where they are born, can contribute to making our communities feel like home, highlighting how migrants and their fellow community members are working together to make the places where they live and work more productive, innovative, caring, safe and welcoming. [Join the campaign!](#)

### **International Migration Law Initiative**

The International Migration Law Initiative, organised by ICVA, the Civil Society Action Committee and the International Migrants Bill of Rights, held its 8th session in March. The session focused on statelessness in the context of international migration. The speakers, Melanie Khanna, Senior Legal Coordinator and Section Chief, Statelessness, at UNHCR and Laura van Waas, Co-Director at the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, presented the international legal framework relating to statelessness and illustrated the link between statelessness and migration. The session also delved into ongoing NGO work promoting the rights of stateless people globally and [UNHCR's #IBelong initiative](#) to end statelessness in the world.

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## **Financing**

### **10. IASC Humanitarian Finance Results Group (RG5):**

The OCHA Co-chair for RG5 has now fully transitioned to Alice Sequi, Chief of the Pooled Fund Management Branch for OCHA. During March, RG5 sub-groups focused on indirect costs (overheads) and on nexus financing. UNICEF and Oxfam are co-leading work to map out current IASC member practices on indirect costs. This work will eventually support a dialogue on how to better harmonise indirect cost practices across agencies and their partners, including ensuring policies are cascaded equally to local partners. Final work is also underway, led by Development Initiatives, to draft a synthesis document outlining current efforts to identify financing tools and approaches to support the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. In April RG5 will also restart a dialogue on funding flexibility with the intent to develop a proposal for incorporation of funding flexibility measures as standard practice in UN-NGO partnerships by June 2021.

### **11. UN Harmonisation and Simplification of Partnership Agreements:**

As a follow-up to the 2019 Oxfam-led analysis of UN partnership agreements, ICVA has been facilitating the work of a group of NGOs to update that analysis and recommendations based on revisions to partnership agreements documentation in 2019 and 2020. Work is currently underway to review agreements and supporting documentations for UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, OCHA CBPF, and UNFPA. Starting in April, bilateral discussions will be scheduled with individual agencies to discuss key partnership issues and the potential for simplification. These bilateral discussions are planned to feed into a joint NGO-UN dialogue on harmonisation across agencies later in the spring. Improved engagement with local partners on UN partnership agreements remains a high priority for ICVA, and local members who have an interest in the discussion are encouraged to contact [alon.plato@icvanetwork.org](mailto:alon.plato@icvanetwork.org).

### **12. Due Diligence session at the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships**

**Week (HNPW):** This year the HNPW will be held virtually and spread out over several weeks. ICVA will participate in a session planned by CHS Alliance titled: "Tiered due diligence and sector-wide passporting: A pathway to inclusion and efficiency" on 29 April at 15:00 CEST. This session will examine the potential for common due diligence practices as part of partner selection, with a particular focus on the value of simplifying due diligence processes for local partners. Confirmed participants include CHS Alliance, ICVA, IDEA (Pakistan) and Start Network. [Click for more information and to register.](#)

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## Coordination

### 13. COVID-19 Vaccines

#### COVAX Humanitarian Buffer

Following its initial approval of December 2020, the GAVI Board, on 22 March 2021, approved reserving 5% of [Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment \(AMC\)](#) funding for doses to be deployed via the COVAX Humanitarian Buffer, noting that this will be progressively financed as AMC funding increases. The Gavi Board also approved delegating decision making on Humanitarian Buffer dose allocation to the IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG).

Decision-making process, operational modalities and accountability mechanisms for the [Humanitarian Buffer](#) are now under development. NGOs are to be represented in the EDG Decision Group and are well placed to contribute to the process at country, regional and global levels.

We are pleased to welcome Sophie Battas, who has joined ICVA as a consultant to support NGOs regarding the establishment of the COVAX Humanitarian Buffer. Sophie will help to ensure NGOs are informing, and informed by, key global Inter-Agency processes, including the EDG Decision Group (delegated to make the buffer allocations) and the Global Health Cluster COVID-19 Vaccine Working Group (monitoring COVAX rollout and gaps in National Plan coverage).

We have established a new ICVA Working Group to focus specifically on issues related to COVID-19 Vaccinations. This will become the main point of communication regarding process and will provide a separate channel to ICVA's Humanitarian Coordination and Regional Working Groups.

- If you would like to designate any contact(s) in your organisation to join this Working Group, please email [Sophie.battas@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Sophie.battas@icvanetwork.org) with the details.

### 14. UN System-Wide Vaccination Efforts for Staff

Discussions on vaccination roll-out for UN (and partner) staff have been ongoing within the UN for the past few months. Headed by the UN Secretary General's Vaccine Deployment Working Group, this is a UN-system-wide effort and focused broadly across development-peacekeeping-humanitarian sectors. The UN-led effort has also been considering inclusion of some NGO staff under their protocols. ICVA has recently been invited to join a sub-working group of this Task Force looking at the eligibility and inclusion of NGO staff in this vaccine rollout effort.

The NGO message on eligibility has been clear - that any system-wide approach must be genuinely inclusive and equitable. Eligibility should cover the staff and dependents of all NGOs working in the humanitarian system, specifically including those working for local and national NGOs who are most likely to be at risk. Efforts have been made to try and address this point through the working group, the EDG, and at more senior levels. In March, NGO Consortia Principals met with Mark Lowcock to raise shared views and concerns regarding the process and the implications on the humanitarian system. ICVA and others will continue to advocate at the most senior levels for the commitment of the UN system to take a genuine system-wide and inclusive approach to eligibility.

- For further information please contact [jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org](mailto:jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org)

#### Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

##### 15. The IASC Principals:

IASC Principals' [released a statement](#) expressing concerns on Gender-Based Violence in Tigray region of Ethiopia.

With consultation with IASC Principals, the CCCM Cluster in Ethiopia was reactivated under the co-leadership of IOM and UNHCR, with the NGO ANE, ICVA member, as cluster co-

coordinator /co-chair.

The IASC Principals met on the work of the *SG's High-Level Task Force on Preventing Famine*. The High Level Task Force on Famine in collaboration with the IASC members are to reinforce a system-wide approach to preventing famine in the countries facing immediate risk of imminent famine in 2021 (currently Yemen, South Sudan, NE Nigeria, potentially Burkina Faso). The Task Force in collaboration with IASC Principals are to develop advocacy messages and suggested actions covering the next six months with a focus on resource mobilisation; improving humanitarian access; and ensuring better collaboration on data to preventing famine.

## **16. IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG):**

### **Selection of EDG Representatives**

In March a selection process for ICVA members to join the IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG) was conducted. The EDG has a focus on current crises and ensuring support is mobilised as required to meet urgent strategic and operational needs on the ground. NGOs are represented at the EDG through the three NGO Consortia members of the IASC – ICVA, InterAction and SCHR. Each of the consortia is allocated three seats, one seat for the Secretariat and two seats filled by operational NGO members on a rotational basis. Since January 2016, ICVA has implemented a rotational system for NGO representation on the EDG, which ensures opportunity for increased participation, contribution and transparency. Selection is on a combined individual and organisational basis and each NGO EDG Representative takes on the role for a 2-year term.

With the selection process now complete, we are pleased to announce that effective 12 April Anne Reitsema, International Programme Director for Medair, will join the EDG to replace Isabelle Moussard Carlsen, Director of Operations, Action Against Hunger (ACF). From 01 June, Deepmala Mahla, Vice President for Humanitarian Affairs for CARE USA will replace Christian Gad, Head of Emergencies, Danish Refugee Council (DRC). We acknowledge the important contributions Christian and Isabelle have made in representing NGO perspectives at the EDG and look forward to continued strong collaboration with Deepmala and Anne.

## **17. Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG):**

The IASC's OPAG met to look at opportunities and challenges to address bureaucratic and administrative impediments and mitigating the impact of counter-terrorism legislation on humanitarian action. For more information, contact: [mirela.shuteriqi@icvnetwork.org](mailto:mirela.shuteriqi@icvnetwork.org)

## **18. Update on IASC Results groups:**

### **RG 1 Operational response:**

#### **Sub-group on Localization**

Throughout March, ICVA supported the IASC RG1 in finalising the selection of 8 local actors to join the IASC RG1 Subgroup on Localisation as members.

(For more on Localization, see the MENA Region section below)

#### **Sub-group on Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments**

Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments (BAI) are intentional or unintentional practices and policies that significantly hamper the ability of frontline humanitarian actor to provide assistance to affected people in a safe and unfettered manner. These issues disproportionately impact NGO operations, however as the COVID-19 response has highlighted they are increasingly impacting UN efforts as well. Collective action is needed to try and address these challenges. This project, co-led by InterAction and ICVA and supported by RG1 members, is focused on understanding the types of Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments faced by operational NGOs and UN agencies in their work and the approaches taken to navigate these at national and sub-national levels when engaging with host governments, non-state armed groups, donors or operational partners.

From 1 March, three country-level case studies currently in progress, in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Venezuela. These case studies will help develop an evidence base to highlight

approaches to addressing these issues by individual organisations and at interagency level in different contexts. The case studies commenced on 1 March, with the data collection phase and focus-group interviews scheduled to take place until mid-April. Partners in country are supporting this project including by ensuring the HCT, Access Working Group and any other relevant bodies are well informed of the importance of these efforts and there is sufficient space to discuss and engage with these efforts.

**RG 2 Accountability and inclusion:** No updates this month.

**RG 3 Collective advocacy:**

**The RG3 climate change sub-group** met on 30 March. During the meeting the following topics were discussed: (i) The Climate theme for this years World Humanitarian Day. (ii) an update on the Climate and Environment Charters and (iii) a discussion on joint RG3 climate initiative ahead of COP26 in line with sub-group's advocacy strategy.

**RG 4 Nexus:**

ICVA is sustaining the effort of dissemination of tools developed by the Result Group and its members at the country level. We will be starting a series of webinars to bring together NGO practitioners at the country and regional level, to give updates on the latest policy products and to facilitate exchanges.

In March, an initiative launched to map good practice in the implementation of Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN) approaches at country level. Results will be available later this year. The Resident Coordinator Offices are the main recipient of the IASC RG4 communication for this initiative and we invite NGOs to liaise with the RCOs in order to ensure full involvement and engagement.

For more information contact [marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org](mailto:marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org) and join the ICVA Nexus working group.

**RG 5 Humanitarian Finance:** See update above under 'Financing.'

**19. ECOSOC HAS**

The 2021 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) will be held from 23-25 June 2021. A transition event will take place on 22 June, followed by high-level panels focusing on health care in times of COVID-19, innovation and protection of data and humanitarian action and climate change. Refer to the [ECOSOC HAS website](#) for more information.

**20. NGO Fora support:**

Through the framework of the support project to NGO fora in the East Africa region, ICVA is strengthening its support to NGO fora in Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. A senior profile dedicated to supporting NGO forums in the four countries has been recruited. This support will include learning opportunities, as well as other substantive support. Furthermore, ICVA is in discussion with various partners to provide training opportunities for NGO Forums on the topics of PSEA and Gender aspects.

ICVA increased support to West and Central Africa with a specific focus on three key contexts: Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon and Central African Republic. The aim is to ensure enhanced proximity with the members and fora working in the region. We will also continue the financial support to NGO fora in Cameroon, both national and international NGOs, so to maximise the results of the support provided in 2021 aiming at improving humanitarian coordination and interaction among national and international actors.

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## Navigating Change: cross cutting issues

**21. Child rights**

**UNICEF-NGO webinar: "the CCCs- a new tool to partner with UNICEF"**

As a follow-up the 2020 UNICEF-NGO Partnership in Humanitarian Action Annual



Consultation “Working Together to Address Emerging Challenges,” which took place virtually in November 2020, UNICEF and ICVA are pleased to invite interested members to participate in an open dialogue around the recently revised Core Commitments for Children (CCCs). The focus of the discussion will be to foster understanding on what the revision of the CCCs entails and how the CCCs can be used as a partnership, programming and accountability tool by partners. The virtual session is tentatively set for Thursday 6 May, 07:30 EDT/13:30 CEST, with more information to be shared soon. For any questions, please contact: [vania.gobbo@icvanetwork.org](mailto:vania.gobbo@icvanetwork.org)

## **22. Civil society space in humanitarian action**

Islamic Relief has prepared a briefing note, “[Financial Inclusion for NGOs: Why should you care?](#)” *on the challenge of financial access and bank “de-risking” for NGOs*. The briefing note includes some background on the issues and the impact, and a series of recommendations for governments, lawmakers and banks. Misinterpretation of counter-terrorism financing measures by a number of governments and some financial institutions has led to the “de-risking” of humanitarian charities and the disruption or denial of legitimate humanitarian aid. This is having devastating unintended consequences for some of the world’s most vulnerable people.

This is a widespread challenge across the sector. However, some sections of civil society – such as Muslim faith-based, diaspora and local NGOs - are disproportionately impacted. Islamic Relief hopes that ICVA members and partners will find this briefing note useful and welcome others to join them in taking this forward. For more information, contact [Osmawani.osman@irworldwide.org](mailto:Osmawani.osman@irworldwide.org)

- For more information see ICVA’s Civil Society Space webpage or contact: [nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org](mailto:nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org)

## **23. Climate and Environment action:**

### **Climate and Environment Charter for humanitarian organisations – 27 April, 14:00-15:00 (CEST)**

ICVA, EHAN, IASC, IFRC, and the ICRC will be co-hosting an event at the HNPW on the Climate and Environment Charter. The session will offer an opportunity to hear from local, national, and international NGOs and agencies on the contents and purpose of the Charter. Organisations will share insight and ideas about how the Charter can be used, tools that may be available to help implement it, and what organisations of different scale and capacities can do to support one another. The panel discussion will be followed by a moderated Q&A. [Registration for the event is open.](#)

- For more information see ICVA’s [Climate and Environment](#) webpage or contact: [nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org](mailto:nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org)

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## Region Specific

### **24. Asia and the Pacific**

#### **UN SG’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement**

On 25 March the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, together with ICVA, held an online consultation with NGOs, ICRC, IFRC, PDD and GP20 participants. The event was opened with remarks by the ASG George Okoth-Obbo and had a presentation from the Secretariat, followed by an open discussion.

#### **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) 2004 Disaster and Emergency Assistance Policy (DEAP) Revision**

In March the Asian Development Bank (ADB) held a consultation for interested stakeholders

to help the bank improve its 2004 Disaster and Emergency Assistance Policy (DEAP). The Revised DEAP will provide an updated policy framework to enhance strategic guidance for ADB's assistance for disasters and emergencies, covering risk reduction, preparedness, and response. For more information [see here](#).

### **What is the role of aid to middle-income countries? A view from China**

On 25 March, the Center for Global Development (CGD) hosted a panel discussion on what the Role of Aid in Middle-Income Countries is. It considered the role China is playing as a new donor in MICs, what China's strategy is, and whether it responds to its experience as an aid recipient. [Ranil Dissanayake](#) presented the findings of a [research project](#) conducted by CGD in 2020, which looked at the use of aid in MICs and how to maximise its potential for greater development impact. The presentation was followed by a panel discussion between academia representatives and development policy experts. [Watch the recording](#).

- For more information on the working happening in the Asia region, contact: [Keya.Sahachaudhury@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Keya.Sahachaudhury@icvanetwork.org)

## **25. Africa Region**

The unfolding of multiple humanitarian crises is putting heavy pressure on Humanitarian NGOs.

As the **crisis in Tigray** worsens ICVA has intensified its support to both the Humanitarian NGOs Forum in Ethiopia (HINGO) and to the NGO fora in Sudan.

**Food insecurity** : although the drastically increasing number of people facing hunger, starvation or famine is not limited to Africa, the situation in South Sudan is one of growing concern. ICVA is supporting members through the work of the [South Sudan NGO Forum](#).

We are connecting with members working in **Madagascar** in relation with the food security crisis in the Grand Sud which recently prompted the [release of a Flash Appeal](#). Violence and displacement in Northern Mozambique continues and are closely monitored by the IASC Emergency director Group. ICVA has communicated its availability to take part in a support mission.

ICVA has exchanged with the [CCCM Cluster in Somalia](#) about funding for local and national actors as they continue to support displaced populations through multiple channels. ICVA is supporting a cluster workshop on this subject planned for early April.

ICVA is working alongside the Zambia and Uganda NGO community in the framework of the Global Compact for Refugees and strengthening relations with members and NGO fora working in Burundi.

- For more information or to be included in the ICVA Africa Working Group, contact: [marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org](mailto:marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org) or [Addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org)

## **26. MENA Region**

### **Localisation**

On 3 March ICVA MENA hosted a virtual report launching event on our report entitled, "[Localisation in Humanitarian Leadership: Profiling National NGO Engagement in International Humanitarian Coordination Structures in the MENA Region](#)." During the event, ICVA shared the findings and recommendations of the research and hosted a panel discussion entitled, "Strengthening the collective efforts to advance localisation in MENA region." This panel was moderated by Ashraf Al Msalam, head of the steering committee for the Syrian Networks League (SNL), and the panellists were Samer Daoudi, Policy Adviser at Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network; Hiba Alhaji, Civil Society

Strengthening Specialist at UNDP and Georges Ghali, Regional Humanitarian Campaign Lead at Oxfam; The full report in both Arabic and English along with the summary can be [found here](#).

ICVA's MENA Representative is engaged at the HPF/HCT Localisation Task Force supporting both the Jordan INGO Forum (JIF) and the Jordan National NGOs Forum (JONAF) in their efforts to finalise a localisation framework in Jordan.

- For more information on localisation, contact: [Eman.Ismail@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Eman.Ismail@icvanetwork.org)

### **Syrian NGO Network Engagement and Partnership Programme**

As part of the Syrian NGO Network Engagement and Partnership Programme between ICVA & UNDP, ICVA held an in-person training in Gaziantep, Turkey from 15-19 March on Good Governance & Strategic Planning to 12 Syrian Networks. The purpose of this training was to strengthen the skills of the Syrian Networks related to these topics and enhance their understanding of the different regional and global models and have in depth discussions about the processes needed to review the networks governance and their strategies. This comprehensive training also focused on gender equality and women's empowerment, disability inclusion and youth engagement. One-on-one coaching will also be provided to Syrian networks in order to develop a strategic framework.



### **Yemen Pledging Conference**

The High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Situation in Yemen was held virtually on 1 March. For the event, ICVA submitted a joint [recorded statement](#) given by ICVA's Executive Director and ICVA Member and Union of CSOs Representative, Abdu Ahmed Al-Qubati.

### **Brussels V Conference**

The Brussels V Conference took place on 29 &30 March. ICVA engaged NGOs by sharing information, supporting on various side events and providing regular updates to members throughout the conference.

- For more information about the working happening in the MENA region, contact: [Eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org) and [stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org](mailto:stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org)

### **27. Latin America Region**

FM4 and ICVA work closely with the the NGO Fora in Colombia and Venezuela. Particular attention on food insecurity derived from humanitarian crises in Honduras and Venezuela.

- For more information about the work happening in the Latin America region, contact: [lina.gomez@icvanetwork.org](mailto:lina.gomez@icvanetwork.org)

## Learning Opportunities



### 28. Webinar: Risk Management and Funding Partnerships, 28 April, 15:00 – 16:30 (CEST)

Risk management practices are playing an increasingly important role in partner selection and engagement when NGOs receive funding from UN agencies or government donors. Join ICVA and PHAP for this upcoming webinar where we *examine the role of risk management in good funding partnerships as NGOs engage with external funders*. You can [Register](#) for the webinar now. This webinar is part of the Learning Series on [Risk Management in Practice](#). You can find the previous webinar recordings and podcasts on the site.

Register!

### LEADING WELL:

Aid leader perspectives on staff well-being and organisational culture



CHS Alliance

ICVA

Leading Well: Aid leader perspectives on staff well-being and organisational culture

### 29. Leading Well: Joint publication with ICVA & CHS Alliance

At the end of the tumultuous year of 2020, CHS Alliance and ICVA invited 15 humanitarian leaders from among their shared members to participate in a project exploring the risks and opportunities associated with staff well-being and organisational culture. The paper, "[Leading Well: Aid leader perspectives on staff well-being and organisational culture](#)" is now available on the ICVA website. You can also listen to a [podcast](#) discussing several of the themes from the paper that has been released as part of the Embodying Change series. As a reminder, in December we received a preview of the paper in form of a webinar organised together with PHAP, with the recording available [here](#).

Read now!

### 30. The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action: MOOC on Protecting Children in the Context of COVID-19 and other IDOs

This second edition of the massive-open online course "Protecting children in the context of COVID-19 and other IDOs" is focused on the implications of COVID-19 and other person-person transmitted IDOs in humanitarian and development settings for children's well-being and protection. The course, designed for child protection professionals around the world, begins on 12 April 2021 and is now open for [registration](#). You can find more information [here](#).

### ICVA's Learning opportunities and resources page:

ICVA's [learning resource page](#) is a curated list of learning and training programmes. Please share with us any interesting opportunities that would be useful to include on the webpage. For more information contact: [nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org](mailto:nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org)

## New and Noteworthy

### **31. Research on “Principled Humanitarian Action in Conflict Contexts – Understanding the role of Partnerships”**

The study commissioned by a coalition of organisations - Caritas Norway, DanChurchAid (DCA), Kindernothilfe (KNH), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA) - gives voice to local actors in South Sudan and Nigeria on how humanitarian principles are operationalised and understood and how they link to (or are detached from) partnership principles.

- [Read the full report](#)
- [Read the key messages](#)

### **32. ACAPS Global Risk Analysis**

In the latest [Global Risk Analysis](#), ACAPS outlines eight key contexts where a notable deterioration in humanitarian needs may occur within the next six months. The report also includes an update of the risks identified in October 2020.

### **33. VENRO Guidelines for Development Projects and Programmes**

What makes NGO development projects effective? This is the question that the VENRO handbook, “[How to turn good intentions into effective projects](#),” seeks to answer. The handbook aims to support organisations in their efforts to align their work with the [VENRO guidelines](#) and addresses questions concerning project design and dialogue with partners, as well as the culture and attitude within organisations.

### **34. Launch of the Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies**

Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the Global Education Cluster (GEC), the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE), Switzerland, UNICEF, the University of Geneva, UNESCO and UNHCR are delighted to announce the launch of the Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies. The Hub is an ambitious commitment towards the realisation of the right to education for crisis-affected and displaced children and youth through the strengthening of policy and integrated approaches, the collaboration of international Geneva actors and the boosting of country-level impact of education in emergencies preparedness measures and responses. For more information, please visit the Hub’s [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) accounts.

### **35. BST Impact: Partners in Your Sustainability Journey**

[BST Impact](#) offers advisory services on how to do better on societal sustainability and governance based on the SDGs and importantly on international legal standards. While BST may focus mostly on private sector actors – due to the urgent need to create better sustainability strategies and real impact in the sector– BST also welcomes working with local authorities, academia and NGOs, and is involved in policy making with a variety of public actors.

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## Mark Your Agenda

**April 19- 7 May:** Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (online)- [register](#)

**May 18-19:** [ICVA General Assembly](#) (online)

**May 25-26:** [ICVA Annual Conference](#) (online)

**May 25-27:** International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) on the theme “Accelerating integrated action on sustainable development: migration, the environment and climate change”

**May 28-29:** World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center - 2nd Research conference on forced displacement - **postponed to 2022**

**June 23:** UNHCR informal briefing on the preliminary outcomes of stocktaking to date for the High-Level Officials Meeting (Global Compact on Refugees implementation/Global Refugee Forum follow-up)

**June 25:** Commemoration of the World Refugee Day

**July 5-7:** UNHCR 81st Standing Committee

**July 28:** 70th anniversary of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees

**August 19:** World Humanitarian Day

**August 30:** 60th anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness

**September 15-16 or 22-23:** UNHCR 82nd Standing Committee

**October 4-8:** UNHCR 72nd Executive Committee

**October 27:** UNHCR consultation on modalities and programme for the High-Level Officials Meeting (Global Compact on Refugees implementation/Global Refugee Forum follow-up)

**December 14-15:** High-level officials’ meeting (Global Compact on Refugees implementation/Global Refugee Forum follow-up)

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