



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

ICVA BULLETIN

Highlights from April 2020

Message from Executive Director

The future of humanitarian NGOs

As we address some of the immediate challenges relating to [COVID-19](#), we are also looking at the longer term for NGOs and how to support the way NGOs navigate change. The future of NGOs in the humanitarian sector is not simply an important question for NGOs; it is an important question for the sector.

A question which is framed by ICVA in its [ICVA 2030](#) process looking at adaptations in the ways of working and at the future of ICVA's added value.

The current economic and political trends may well see a number of NGOs with insufficient resilience to survive the shocks. This may result in a consolidation within the NGO sector and a reduction in diversity and complexity of NGOs. The humanitarian system would in its turn be at risk of being less resilient than it is today.

International NGOs, national and local NGOs and community-based organisations need to find new ways of working together and with others and write the future of humanitarian NGOs. The choice we have is about adaptation, collaboration and re-discovering roles. This requires all of us to consider how power can be shifted, accountability improved, social connections built and trust strengthened.

NGOs themselves are best placed to [write their future](#), so long as they are able to act from a willingness to be reactive to the needs of the people they desire to serve, rather than protect the status quo within the system.

Ignacio Packer
Executive Director | ICVA

ICVA Updates



ICVA ANNUAL REPORT 2019

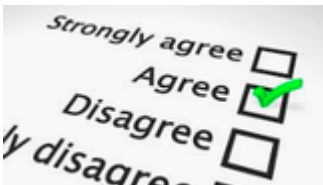
Read Report

ICVA's 2019 Annual Report

We invite you to discover ICVA's 2019 digital [Annual Report!](#)

This report is a summary of ICVA's key achievements throughout the year! The digital format reduces our environmental impact, links to our website, responds better to some special needs of readers and showcases some of our video content.

[Read now!](#)



Help shape the future of ICVA - Fill out the ICVA 2030 Survey

ICVA is planning a new strategy to propose at our General Assembly in May 2021. This strategy will be shaping the future of the ICVA Network. In order to create a well-informed strategy, focusing on humanitarian concerns that are relevant to our members and stakeholders, we need your input!

The survey is available in:

[English](#), [French](#) and [Arabic](#). It takes about 20 minutes to complete.

The **deadline is 15 May 2020**.

Over the next few months, you can provide your feedback on what ICVA should focus our strategy around. From now until September 2020 there are a variety of ways to share your thinking on the future of the humanitarian sector and the future of ICVA.

For more information see [ICVA 2030](#)

1. ICVA's work related to COVID-19:

As you will read in this Bulletin, ICVA is managing COVID-19 as a cross-cutting issue throughout the existing focus areas. We are focused on [7 priorities](#) to contribute to the response to the serious challenges to all our societies and to explore the opportunities to re-think the way of working and increase NGO influence in the humanitarian sector and beyond.

ICVA's COVID-19 Resources page:

ICVA has created a [resource page](#) that has a collection of guidelines, tools, statements, papers and useful links which are relevant to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Vacancy – Head of Humanitarian Coordination

ICVA has a vacancy for the position of Head of Humanitarian Coordination. See the [vacancy notice](#) for more information. The position is based in Geneva, Switzerland. **Deadline for applications is 29 May, 2020.**

Forced migration

3. Internal Displacement

On 20 April, ICVA and the Group of friends of the High-Level Panel, jointly organised an exchange with NGOs, Member States, the Panel Secretariat, and other stakeholders on the recent [call for written submissions and inputs](#) of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. The objective was to provide a space for collective brainstorming and exchange perspectives on the written submissions being prepared. Gathering over 90 participants, the meeting benefited from inputs from a variety of stakeholders, including representatives from Member States, the NGO community, the UN system, the Platform on Disaster Displacement, GP20 and the Joint IDP Profiling Service. Discussions were around the planned written submissions and opportunities for joining and supporting written submissions. The Secretariat of the High-Level Panel also contributed through opening remarks and inputs into the discussion. The revised deadline for written submissions is 8 May 2020. Notes from this meeting have been shared with ICVA members and a summary is [available here](#). For more information, contact jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org or visit ICVA's dedicated [webpage](#).

4. Briefings on the Syria and neighbouring countries and on the Venezuela displacement crisis

In support of NGOs' work in both displacement situations, ICVA hosted two briefings for Member States and NGOs on the humanitarian situation in Syria on 31 March and the ongoing Venezuela displacement crisis on 30 April. The briefings were respectively co-organised with [Intersos](#), [Islamic Relief Worldwide](#), and [World Vision International](#) and by [HIAS](#), [Plan International](#), and World Vision International. The two briefings were an opportunity to offer details on the NGOs' operations, observations and challenges faced in addressing both crises, including considerations on the COVID-19 pandemic. These two events also intended to ensure continuity of engagement of the NGO community in view of the two related Pledging Conferences scheduled to take place in 2020.

5. UNHCR and NGO meetings on COVID-19 response, particularly in refugee settings.

During the past seven weeks, UNHCR has organised **weekly global exchanges with NGOs**, addressing topics such as communication in the pandemic context, common service delivery for the benefit of all humanitarian workers, and the role of the faith-based organisations. Notes from those meetings and relevant documents have been shared with members and ICVA continues to channel inputs and questions to UNHCR from its membership. Notes are also available to members on this [ICVA webpage](#). For more information, contact: jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org and Loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org

6. High Commissioner's ExCom briefing on UNHCR's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and operational priorities

On 22 April, for the first time in its history, UNHCR organised a virtual meeting of its Executive Committee. On this occasion, High Commissioner Filippo Grandi and his Senior Executive Team briefed Member States and other stakeholders on UNHCR's COVID-19 response. Based on NGO inputs, ICVA drafted and delivered an NGO statement highlighting five key messages on protection, durable solutions, continuity of service, financing priorities and mobilisation of the GCR arrangements to ensure solidarity and responsibility-sharing in the COVID-19 response. The Statement is [available online](#) and notes from this virtual briefing will soon be shared with ICVA members.

7. Global Refugee Forum follow-up

As part of [ICVA's GRF pledge](#) to support NGOs understanding and commitments on the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), on 9 April and 16 April, ICVA followed respectively the second meeting of the Action Group (originating from the Energy & Infrastructure co-sponsorship group) and the first meeting of the Jobs & Livelihoods co-sponsorship group. The Jobs & Livelihoods meeting was focused on a summary of pledges and outcomes in

Jobs & Livelihoods, a presentation of key joint pledges and on the future of the co-sponsorship group. Next meeting will be planned in May. The Action Group second meeting focused on the Clean Energy Challenge implementation, adaptation to the COVID-19 response, proposed activities for 2020, and suggestions for the Challenge governance structure.

ICVA also joined the GRF online briefing organised by the UNHCR Regional Bureau for East and Horn of Africa on 21 April. It included a briefing on key outcomes of the GRF, proposed steps to operationalise the GCR in the region, and a regional donor program presentation on contributing to GRF outcomes.

8. IOM- NGO Regional Humanitarian Consultation 2019:

We are pleased to share with you the [Executive Summary](#) from the IOM-NGO Regional Humanitarian Consultation held in October 2019 in Istanbul. The Consultation brought together 67 participants, including 47 representatives from 37 NGOs, and gathered perspectives and experiences from 18 countries.

9. Human mobility and Human Rights in the COVID-19 pandemic: Principles of protection for migrants, refugees, and other displaced persons

On 28 April, Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, Cornell Law School's Migration and Human Rights Program and The New School's Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility jointly released a 14-point series of principles to protect migrants, refugees and other displaced populations, as the world confronts the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. You can find the 14 Principles [here](#) and accompanying press release [here](#).

10. Action Committee open civil society webinar: Countering Negative Narratives on Migration

On 22 April, the Civil Society Action Committee organised an open civil society webinar to discuss how NGOs can actively engage to counter negative narratives on migration without reinforcing existing negative perceptions, how positive messages and calls for support can be shared more effectively, and the specificities of advocating for the protection of migrants in the midst of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Financing

11. IASC Humanitarian Finance Results Group (RG5) and COVID-19: IASC RG5, co-chaired by OCHA and ICVA, continues to focus on humanitarian finance issues linked to the COVID-19 response. The group previously issued common advocacy messaging to donors on the need for improved funding flexibility available [here](#). Efforts are now focused on developing a more detailed proposal for a harmonised approach to funding flexibility among IASC members, focused on no-cost extension, budget flexibility, reprogramming, and due diligence/risk management processes. A final agreement is planned for approval before the end of May.

RG5 has also been tasked by the IASC Principals to develop solutions for unlocking NGO access to funding available through the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan. Inputs from ICVA members, particularly on field-based experiences with access to COVID-19 funding through UN agencies or government donors, will be important to ensure we identify blocks, and build strong mechanisms for improved NGO access to funding. For more information, or to share feedback, contact jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org

12. Donor advocacy and COVID-19: In preparation for the ICVA briefing with states on COVID-19 preparedness (link to notes available below under Coordination), current top priorities for donor advocacy on humanitarian finance were developed. Current top priorities include:

1. Non-diversion of funds for COVID-19: ongoing humanitarian operations must continue to receive support, with new resources added to meet COVID-19 needs.
2. Improved funding flexibility measures: donor conditions must be flexible enough to enable partners to respond effectively to humanitarian needs in the changing pressures of

COVID-19.

3. Support for the diversity of NGO actors as direct as possible - including local and national partners.

4. The global emergency supply system - including the UN Common Services Plan - must be funded to support effective response.

5. There is an urgent need to adopt strategies to ensure long-term funding sustainability for humanitarian operations; the economic crisis following COVID-19 threatens to significantly reduce available humanitarian funds over the next year.

13. Risk management series: ICVA will plan to continue its focus on risk management with a new instalment in the briefing paper series on risk to be released in May. This paper will focus on security risk management issues for NGOs and will be paired with a PHAP webinar scheduled for 4 June on the dual challenge of staff care and security risk management. More details to be shared in the coming weeks. For more information, contact alon.plato@icvanetwork.org

Coordination

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

14. IASC Principals:

Ad hoc Principals meetings were convened on 2, 9 and 28 April in order to discuss the COVID-19 response, including an update on efforts to strengthen resource mobilisation for the [Global Humanitarian Response Plan \(GHRP\)](#) and its revision, humanitarian access and vulnerability, the health situation, a proposed collective service for risk communication and community engagement, logistics, medevac and duty of care.

15. IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG):

On 6 April, the EDG had a call to the situation in Syria, focusing on the impact and implications of COVID-19 and the operational challenges in the North-East and North-West of the country. On 9 April, the EDG met virtually to agree on a list of countries to be included in the next iteration of the GHRP. On 10 and 16 April, then, the EDG reviewed updates on COVID-19 developments and planning for the next iteration of the GHRP, were briefed on the WHO-hosted Supply Chain Interagency Coordination Cell and its work and discussed sustaining operations and overcoming urgent operational challenges. On 21 April, they organised a call to discuss updates on COVID-19 developments, notably on the work of the WHO-hosted Supply Chain Interagency Coordination Cell in ensuring PPE pipelines to field operations, on WFP-led plans for the set-up of common logistics services and on the GHRP revision process. On 24 April, the EDG met to have a discussion on the situations in Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso and Cameroon.

ICVA has participated in the IASC EDG Task Force on Operational Practices: Maintaining Operational Continuity and Responding to New Threats. Participants produced a description of challenges, key aspects and potential solutions based on the exchanges of the group. ICVA has reached out to members to highlight innovative actions promoted by NGOs and the specific role of national actors. Feedback has been shared with the EDG to inform decisions.

16. Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG)

OPAG held its first virtual meeting on 30 March 2020. The primary objective of the meeting was to discuss how the OPAG could step up efforts to support the IASC's response to COVID-19. This was also an opportunity to discuss the resulting impact of COVID-19 on priority areas of work assigned to the IASC Results Groups. The meeting participants aimed to ascertain what activities would continue, be postponed, or re-oriented to support the COVID-19 response. As a follow up to the OPAG's decision, all Results Groups are currently convening to discuss how best to reprioritize and re-sequence their workstreams in support of the COVID-19 response by identifying (a) activities/deliverables that will be postponed, (b)

activities/products that can still be delivered, and (c) new deliverables that will need to be prioritized in support of the COVID-19 response. A summary record of the meeting can be [found here](#).

17. Update on IASC Results groups:

RG1 Operational response: RG1 met on 22 April to discuss key results and decisions taken by OPAG and reprioritise in light of the impact to the COVID-19 response.

RG2 on Accountability and Inclusion: No news this month.

RG 3 collective advocacy: No news this month.

RG 4 Nexus:

The IASC RG4 met on 6 April, 2020. Notes from the meeting are [available here](#).

The Community of Practice on the Nexus will meet on 14 May, 2020 at 2.30PM CET. OPT and Danish Church Aid who work on the Nexus in South Sudan will be presenting. For more information contact Marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org

RG5 Humanitarian Finance: See update above under 'Financing'.

18. ICVA briefing with States on NGO preparedness and response to COVID-19

On 24 April, ICVA organised a States Briefing on NGOs COVID-19 Response. NGOs from Pakistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and ICVA staff shared examples of NGOs preparedness and response to COVID-19 pandemic. Notes of the meeting can be [accessed here](#).

19. Private sector engagement

Engaging with private sector leadership platforms and networks, ICVA is part of the discussion on how **businesses can support charities and NGOs'** work during and post COVID-19. ICVA ED shared key messages on a [web conference](#) organised by [Impact17](#), [Alliance4Impact](#), [Meaningful Business](#). ICVA joined the [COVID Social Sector Mobilization Platform](#) convened by the World Economic Forum which brings together leading organisations and actors from civil society, social innovators and the philanthropic community to respond to the immediate crisis and shape the medium-term policy and action that will be needed post-crisis.

Working with [Alliance4Impact](#), Dr Ahmed Al-Meraikhi, Special Advisor to the UNSG is inviting **NGOs to share information on their humanitarian emergency health-related partnerships** with the private sector, international organisations and United Nations agencies. [Questionnaire and request for research learnings and feedback](#): Deadline 21 May, 2020.

20. NGO ForaSupport

ICVA has convened regional and inter regional calls gathering together NGO Fora at country level from Asia and the Pacific, MENA, Africa and LAC regions. Fora representing national, international or both categories of NGOs have been exchanging particularly on COVID-19 adaptations, operational continuity and promising practices to overcome new challenges.

ICVA is facilitating the INGO Regional Directors meetings in Nairobi. The meetings are composed of Directors of INGOs, largely ICVA members, and often members of the Inter Agency Working Group Africa (IAWG Africa) a network of NGOs operating in the region. Directors exchanges around topic of interest, including operational aspects, NGOs space and challenges, opportunities for partnership, domestication of global policies at regional level and provide inputs to the works of global bodies, such as the IASC.

For more information contact: marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org

Navigating change: cross cutting issues

21. Localization

ICVA contributed to the development of the forthcoming IASC Interim Guidance on Localization in the COVID-19 response, to be published shortly.

ICVA continued to provide guidance to Humanitarian Advisory Group through the Research Advisory Committee for the Humanitarian Horizons Research Programme, funded by DFAT. The latest publication from this research stream considered localization in the 2019 [Bangladesh flood response](#).

22. Child rights:

UNICEF-NGO Consultations for Partnership in Humanitarian Settings

Following the UNICEF-NGO Consultation for Partnership in Humanitarian Settings, held in Geneva end of last year, ICVA and UNICEF shared in April 2020 the [comprehensive report of the consultation](#), and the [Key Recommendations](#) document, where UNICEF proposes concrete measures to address several selected recommendations coming from the consultation. ICVA will facilitate follow up with UNICEF in order to discuss engagements and track progress.

Partnership Management Between UNICEF and Civil Society Organisations in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Guiding Principles and Efficiency Measures

As a result of ongoing discussions with ICVA and its sister networks SCHR and Interaction, on 8 April, UNICEF shared some guiding principles and efficiency measures on partnership with civil society in the context of COVID-19 response. By committing to the principles of budget flexibility, adaptive programming, meaningful partner interaction and UN harmonisation, UNICEF is adjusting its procedures of partnership management with NGOs by reviewing and issuing new simplification and flexibility measures. The Guiding Principles can be [found here](#).

UNICEF NGO Briefings

Following the Guiding Principles, UNICEF and the three NGO consortia: ICVA, SCHR and InterAction, launched a series of UNICEF-NGO briefing webinars on Humanitarian partnerships in COVID-19. As part of the ongoing dialogue between UNICEF and its partners and a follow-up to the above communication to all partners on 8 April, this series of webinars aims to ensure that the impact of COVID-19 and the response needed is discussed and built upon jointly by UNICEF and NGO partners to ensure better collaboration on the ground in our collective response for children. Two general webinars, which covered general aspects of UNICEF's response as well as operational questions, took place on 26 April and 5 May and will be followed by three more thematic/regional webinars. Further information will be shared soon. For more information, please contact: vania.gobbo@icvanetwork.org

23. Rights of persons with disabilities

No-one should be left behind in the COVID-19 response. Therefore, ICVA member, [Humanity & Inclusion](#) is organising on the 7 May 2020 from 3:30-5:00pm CES, a webinar dedicated to "Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Humanitarian COVID-19 Response". The webinar will bring together global and in-country technical inclusion experts to discuss key barriers and risks for persons with disabilities in the humanitarian COVID-19 response and provide key recommended actions. [Register here](#).

Further guidance on inclusion of persons with disabilities in COVID-19 response

The Secretary-General has issued a Policy Brief on a [disability- inclusive response to COVID-19](#), which makes important recommendations for ensuring that persons with disabilities are included in all aspects of response to COVID-19. Important actions to be taken in humanitarian contexts include improving accessibility of WASH facilities; provision of information about COVID-19 in multiple and accessible formats; distribution of additional or disability-specific hygiene items and supplies; targeted shelter assistance for at-risk individuals to allow for physical distancing; and providing alternative arrangements for food and non-food items distribution to households of persons with disabilities.

On 19 March, the International Disability Alliance (IDA) published a list of main barriers that persons with disabilities face along with some practical solutions and recommendations. [This document](#) is based on inputs received from its members around the world aiming to assist global, regional, national and local advocacy to more efficiently address the range of risks persons with disabilities face.

There was also a [Joint Statement: Persons with Disabilities and COVID-19](#), issued by the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on behalf of the Committee, and the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility.

24. Safeguarding

PSEA Outreach and Communication Fund: UNHCR and ICVA launched the **Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Outreach and Communication Fund**. The Fund will provide rapid, targeted financial support for NGOs to develop and disseminate PSEA outreach and communication material that is context-specific and culturally appropriate. You can find [more information and the application form here](#). For queries please contact, PSEAFund@icvanetwork.org

25. Civil society space in humanitarian action

International Centre for Not-for profit Law (ICNL) have established a [tracker to monitor government responses to the pandemic](#) that affect civic freedoms and human rights, focusing on emergency laws. At present, there are **82 countries** that have **emergency declarations**, **94 countries** with measures that **affect assembly** and **25 countries** with measures that **affect expression**. The COVID-19 Civic Freedom Tracker is a collaborative effort by the ICNL, ECNL, and our global network of partners, with generous research support from the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Fionnuala D. Ní Aoláin. This is an ongoing effort, and you are welcome to email them at epage@icnl.org and simona@ecnl.org to share additional resources that would improve the monitoring.

Scanning the Horizon Annual Meeting 2020 (Online this year): Complex potential futures: Exploring the interconnectedness of global trends

The Annual Meeting of the international civil society futures platform [Scanning the Horizon](#) will take place in two split meeting formats between May (online) and September/October (online). The May format will include setting up small working group collaborations to develop new trends analysis as inputs to the September/October convening.

([REGISTER ONLINE](#) 18-20 May 15:00-17:00 CET)

This [short survey](#) will help identify preferred lines of enquiry for a joint civil society 'post-COVID 19 world: 'Signals for the sector' mapping exercise (May-September 2020). Results up until 15 May will be presented on 20 May at the above online Scanning the Horizon meeting.

Region Specific

ICVA regional teams have been working intensively with inter agency coordination groups to ensure national and international NGO involvement and active contribution to the ongoing preparedness and response to the COVID19, including to liaise at the country, regional and global level.

26. Asia and the Pacific Region:

UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) and ICVA **convened a Dialogue with Regional NGOs on the COVID-19 Response**. 60 NGOs (89 individuals) representing rights and advocacy, refugee communities, humanitarian responders, UNHCR, and others joined the meeting which took place online on Thursday, 9 April. A summary note is available on request to Jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org

The Regional IASC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG), where ICVA is co-chair, convened a Meeting on **Preparedness for Response in a COVID-19 Environment: Lessons from the TC Harold Response** on Thursday 30 April. This meeting drew on the operational experience of agencies responding to the recent Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Harold, which struck Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. As the first scale up of an emergency response requiring international assistance since the COVID-19 outbreak, this response provides ample opportunity for learning to inform preparedness efforts. Participants discussed top lessons learned by each agency which were linked to the impacts of COVID-19, areas where flexibility and adaptation were evident, and highlighted key operational challenges to inform future preparedness efforts. A summary note is available on request to Jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org

ICVA participated in a webinar convened by UNDRR on [Combating the dual challenges of climate-related disasters and COVID-19](#), a key issue as countries in the Asia-Pacific region enter their cyclone, drought, heatwaves or monsoon seasons. Discussion focused on how countries could confront a major climate-related or other disaster on top of ongoing prevention, response, and recovery measures to deal with COVID-19. A [brief](#) was produced reflecting the interventions and feedback from the 16 April webinar.

27. Africa Region:

ICVA participated in the Regional IASC meetings for West Central Africa, Southern Africa and the Regional Humanitarian Partnership team meetings for Eastern Africa. NGOs are developing ways to treat COVID-19 as a high-level cross cutting issue affecting operations and managed to articulate exchanges around operational continuity. Specifically, Eastern Africa focused on the local dimension and the role of local actors. Southern Africa on the perspective of the region in the next months and the relation with the SADC in this particular phase. Among the rest West and Central Africa invited the DSRSG/RC/HC in CAR to brief the participants on the current situation in the country.

ICVA organised a meeting between the **Regional Directors of members NGOs based in Nairobi** covering Eastern and Southern Africa and UNHCR at global and regional level, to exchange on the agency institutional reform on partnership and current adaptation to COVID-19 challenges.

The ICVA Africa team has exchanged with **ICNL and with Trust Law** offices in Africa, to explore ways to partner and enhancing the reach to ICVA members on humanitarian and civil society space and legal aspects pertinent to NGOs. Opportunities for direct exchanges of NGOs with the two organisations will be organised in the incoming weeks.

ICVA Africa team is discussing with START network on potential partnership in the recently opened **START Hub in DRC** and new potential hubs in Africa, with a clear focus on the complementarity between international and national actors.

We are also exploring with HQAI potential partnership for verification paths for national NGOs in Africa. We will keep our members informed about the developments.

For more information contact: marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org or

28. MENA Region:

ICVA joined a meeting on "**The Role of Youth and Civil Society in Shaping the MENA Energy Transition – Projections on COVID19 Recovery Opportunities.**" It was organised by the Regional Climate and Energy Project MENA at the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. Guest speaker discussed issues and put forward recommendations related to climate change and energy transition and discussed what will be the role of youth and civil society organisations in the energy transition in MENA related to COVID-19 pandemic issues and prior. View the [recording of the webinar and the speakers presentations](#).

Dialogue between UNHCR and NGOs on COVID-19 issues on 30 April, 2020:

ICVA convened a dialogue with NGOs in the MENA region in which NGOs and UNHCR shared information and discussed their strategies related to the COVID-19 crisis. During the meeting Regional UNHCR team presented a brief about UNHCR strategy, advocacy efforts with donors, inclusive protection strategy related to COVID-19 response, and measures related to partnership agreement.

The meeting allowed different inputs and questions from NGOs to Regional UNHCR team, and different recommendations were shared related to community engagement and refugee participation at the decision making level, localization, effective engagement at GHRP discussions and planning, resources and funding, donors strategies, etc. For more information contact, Eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org

Learning Opportunities

29. Learning Programme on International Migration Law (IML): A new learning opportunity for NGOs:

ICVA, Civil Society Action Committee (AC) and the International Migrants Bill of Rights (IMBR) Initiative at Cornell University have the pleasure to announce the launch of a joint online learning programme for NGO staff working on migration. Through a combination of theoretical approaches and concrete interventions by NGOs and discussions, this series of webinars will provide an understanding of international legal frameworks relevant to migration governance to better equip NGO staff to play a broader role within the whole of society approach and to be able to support both migrants and States of origin, transit and destination to ensure compliance with the international legal framework.

For more information, please consult the [concept note](#) and [register here](#).

To kickstart the discussion, a special session on the potential impacts of COVID-19 and related measures on the rights of migrants is organised for **Tuesday, 19 May 2020 at 15:00 CEST**. Further information on speakers and logistic details for this webinar will be shared soon.

30. Responding to COVID-19: Guidance for humanitarian agencies

ALNAP published a [new paper](#) which provides practical guidance for developing an effective health response to COVID-19 in low to middle income countries. The review was written in partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and the Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action (CERAH), and includes a foreword by the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Sir Mark Lowcock.

A webinar on **14 Actions for humanitarians responding to COVID-19** to discuss the above paper will take place on Tuesday 12 May, 15:00 – 16:00 (CET). You can [register here](#).

31. PHAP launches new online community for humanitarian practitioners

The COVID-19 pandemic is creating new humanitarian concerns in populations worldwide and affecting the work of humanitarian practitioners in all parts of the sector. In this new operational environment, it is more important than ever that we can learn from each other across sectoral and geographical lines. In response to requests from association's members

and wider network, [PHAP](#) recently launched a new version of its online community to facilitate the provision of timely, practical information and resources in response to questions that arise in practitioners' day-to-day work, drawing on the tremendous amount of experience among those working in and with the humanitarian sector.

32. CERAH has a great 2 for 1 offer on Executive Short Courses - all of which are online during the current COVID-19 crisis. For more information see their [website](#).

New and noteworthy

33. Three universities (Johns Hopkins, LSTMH and CERAH) have created the [COVID-19 Humanitarian platform](#) to gather, curate, analyse, interpret and disseminate COVID-19-specific and -sensitive interventions that are being implemented in a variety of humanitarian settings. The goal is to facilitate the sharing of context-specific field experiences about how humanitarian programs are responding to and being adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic. To share experience contact: covid19humanitarian@gmail.com

34. Innovation Challenge Call: UNDP has recently partnered with Hackster.io to launch a [COVID-19 Detect & Protect Challenge and build a global platform](#) of open-source solutions that can help tackle COVID-19 in developing countries. The new design challenge is a call to action for all hardware and software developers, product designers, scientists, hackers, makers, innovators and inventors to come up with innovative ideas to cost-efficiently support COVID-19 response efforts, notably to detect cases, prevent the spread of the disease, and protect individuals and societies. You can find new innovation challenge (running until June 30) [here](#).

Mark your agenda

May 7-8: European Network on Statelessness Conference: Addressing Statelessness in Europe, Spain - Postponed

June 4: ICVA-PHAP webinar on staff care and security risk management

June 9-11: 2020 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

June 12: OCHA Pooled Fund Working Group, New York

June 17-19: UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations, Geneva

June 20: World Refugee Day

June 25: Grand Bargain Annual Meeting, Geneva

June 26: IASC Principals Meeting, Geneva

July 7-9: 78th UNHCR Standing Committee, Geneva

August 19: World Humanitarian Day

September 16-17: 79th UNHCR Standing Committee, Geneva

October 5-9: 71st UNHCR Executive Committee, Geneva

December 14: UNHCR's 70th Anniversary

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