



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

ICVA BULLETIN

Highlights from November 2021

Dear Readers,

We wrap up the year with another packed bulletin starting on the state of protection at the forefront of critical debates and dialogue. Next, we dive into updates on forced migration, financing, coordination as well as child rights, climate action, safeguarding and the regional hubs.

Don't forget to check out our open vacancies and events. Also, stay tuned for the upcoming launch of our new website.

Happy reading and Happy holidays!

Message from Executive Director

Reducing Protection Risks

The impact of the pandemic, ongoing conflicts and the impact of climate change are fast deepening existing vulnerabilities and inequalities.

Protection is underfunded. Lack of resources is considered as one of the main obstacles to the implementation of the centrality of protection. We need to further explore more cost-effective approaches to support localised responses on addressing the protection issues and reducing protection risks.

Short-term, lifesaving assistance often does not protect from violence, coercion or deprivation. It does not either address the root causes of conflict and displacement or resolve the inequalities that catalyse vulnerability.

How can we learn from challenges and achievements of the international community and contribute to change in view of the ever-growing needs driven by conflict, climate crisis and disease as quantified also in the [Global Humanitarian Overview 2022?](#)

How can we, as humanitarian actors, improve our collective engagement, our capacity to mobilise other actors and to evaluate the commitments and progress towards reducing risks to affected populations? How can we better listen to their demands and contribute to their realisation?

We are closing the year with unprecedented protection challenges and an acceleration of discussions and initiatives as on the Strategic Priorities and IASC structures, the [IASC Protection Policy](#) review, the preparations for the Global Compact on Refugees [High-Level Officials Meeting](#), the dynamics of the [Grand Bargain 2.0](#), the [launch the Global Protection Cluster's annual Review of the Centrality of Protection](#), [the call of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action](#)...

ICVA works closely with UN partners, the signatories of the Grand Bargain and States to strengthen a system-wide approach to protection.

The Grand Bargain caucuses are starting their work as part of the new structure of Grand Bargain 2.0 focused on Cash Coordination, Quality Funding and the Role of Intermediaries. They are intended to focus on political blockages to implementation of Grand Bargain commitments. This will enable us to deliver better and enhance the centrality of protection throughout the intervention.

ICVA members and secretariat participate actively in inter-institutional coordination structures encouraging concerted and coordinated approaches to achieve shared protection objectives.

With the challenges demanding a more holistic approach to protection and the promotion of durable solutions, ICVA supports NGO engagement to the upcoming High-Level Officials Meeting.

As you will read in the edition of this ICVA Bulletin, the state of protection is at the forefront of critical debates and dialogue to drive collective reflection in terms of how the international community can rise together to meet the growing protection challenges communities face around the world.

Ignacio Packer
Executive Director | ICVA

ICVA Updates

1. We're Hiring

We are looking for people who are passionate about humanitarian work to join our team in the following positions:

- [Senior Technical Adviser on PSEA](#). Apply before 15 December 2021
- [ICVA Representative for West and Central Africa](#). Apply before 2 January 2022
- [ICVA Deputy Regional Representative Asia Pacific](#). Apply before 2 January 2022

We welcome you to send your applications before the deadline.

Meeting the objectives of the [ICVA 2030 Strategy](#), will come through collaborative efforts between the Secretariat, members and between members themselves, taking advantage of the knowledge and connectedness of members. The upcoming recruitments are part of the adaptation of the Secretariat to the Strategic Priorities.

Time to say Goodbye

Michael Hyden our Programme Director will be leaving ICVA after over 3 years of wonderful work. We are grateful for Michael's dedication and contributions, he has played an integral role in supporting management and implementation of programmes and activities at our regional hubs in Africa, Asia, MENA and Latin America. We wish him nothing but the best of success in all future endeavors. He will be greatly missed by everyone.

2. ICVA New Website Launch in January

We are thrilled to announce that we have launched a new website at <https://www.icvanetwork.org/> We created the new website to increase all our users' experience by making it easier for them to access information and resources on the site. Modern technology incorporated in the new website aims to make the site more inclusive of all our users and accessible to both English and non-English speakers. You are invited to explore the new website and share your feedback with us. There will be an official launch of the site in early January 2022.

[Explore more](#)

Forced Migration

3. NGO ExCom Side Event Summary

The summary of the NGO side event on "Refugee protection: Share - not shift - responsibility!" organised by ICVA on 8 October in the margins of the UNHCR Executive Committee meeting is [now online](#). The summary offers perspectives from NGOs and Refugee-Led Organizations about externalisation trends, costs associated with such practices, ways to mobilise for more constructive practices such as complementary pathways and legal avenues, and the critical role of refugees and community-led organisations in driving solutions.

4. Global Refugee Forum follow-up and Global Compact on Refugees Implementation - Preparations for the High-Level Officials Meeting

The preparatory roundtables ahead of the High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM) started in mid-November with the launch of the first [GCR Indicator Report](#) featuring a number of ICVA members and other NGOs. Read more information on [UNHCR dedicated webpage](#). ICVA is supporting NGO engagement through information dissemination and coordinating the development of a Joint NGO Statement to be delivered at the HLOM. ICVA particularly organised an online meeting on 24 November among NGOs to discuss the preparations for and involvement in the HLOM, including priorities for the joint statement. The drafting process for this statement is in its second-round phase and inputs are welcome until 8 December.

5. UNHCR and NGOs Monthly Consultations

On 3 November, UNHCR and ICVA co-organised a consultation with NGOs on "**Resettlement and Complementary Pathways**." The consultations focused on solutions for refugees, current challenges linked to the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent humanitarian emergency in Afghanistan. The consultations also drew on the [Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways](#), called for in the Global Compact on Refugees. Additionality, quality, quantity, equity, transparency, and accountability of third-country solutions were the key elements that shaped the exchanges between UNHCR and NGOs, including a speaker from [RefugePoint](#). Notes will soon be shared with participants.

In November, ICVA also participated in two workshops as consulting partners on the Monitoring and Evaluation plan for the Three-Year Strategy as well the next phase after the Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways.

6. Comprehensive Solutions Strategy for the Situation of Ivorian Refugees

On 18 November, ICVA and UNHCR organised an online briefing for NGOs on the recently issued [Comprehensive Solutions Strategy for the situation of Ivorian refugees](#), including UNHCR's recommendations on the applicability of the cessation clauses. UNHCR Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa and the UNHCR Division of International Protection presented an overview of the Ivorian refugee situation, components of this new strategy and its implications on solutions as well as the strategy implementation in the West and Central Africa region. The relevance and impact of the strategy for other regions that host Ivorian refugee populations was also discussed. The briefing was an opportunity to discuss the potential role for NGOs, in terms of protection issues, legal aid, self-reliance, and advocacy.

7. Nominations for the 2022 Nansen Refugee Award

The UNHCR is always on the lookout for a person or organisation who has dedicated themselves to helping refugees, internally displaced people or stateless individuals. Every year they select one person or group that embodies these qualities in their work for the prestigious award called Nansen Refugee Award. The nomination period for the 2022 award is now open until midnight CET on 20th February 2022. So, if you think someone deserves recognition then [nominate them now](#) before time runs out.

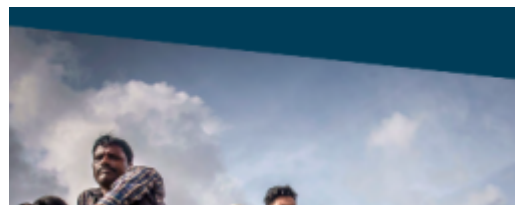
- For more information, please contact: jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org and loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org

8. Migrants in Vulnerable Situation



Launch of the Mixed Migration Review 2021

On 30 November, the Mixed Migration Review 2021 was launched. The report explores mixed migration as a lens to look at contemporary patterns of forced and voluntary human mobility and immobility, within and across borders and as politics and policies. Read more in the [report](#).



Launch of OHCHR's report: Human Rights, Climate Change and Migration in the Sahel

On 11 November, OHCHR launched through a web story in [English](#), [French](#) and [Arabic](#) its report [Human Rights, Climate Change and Migration in the Sahel](#). The report provides an overview of interactions between climate change and migration through a human rights lens, with a focus on the Sahel region as a case study. It calls for prevention and mitigation measures.

Financing

9. Grand Bargain 2.0

Two new caucuses have now started work as part of the new structure of Grand Bargain 2.0 focused on Cash Coordination and the Role of Intermediaries. These caucuses are intended to focus on political blockages to implementation of Grand Bargain commitments. ICVA is currently engaged in the caucus on Cash Coordination which will focus on solutions for leadership and organisation of cash programming coordination in humanitarian operations. Check out information on an overview of the criteria for [establishing caucuses and FAQ](#), the [basic strategy and timeline](#) for the Cash Coordination Caucus , and documents for [the Intermediaries Caucus](#). Updates on the status of caucus discussions and other elements of Grand Bargain implementation will be discussed at the ICVA Humanitarian Finance Working Group and Grand Bargain NGO Constituency calls.

A third caucus on Quality Funding is also under development, and the Facilitation Group is currently working to identify the top political blockages that should be prioritised for action. ICVA is currently coordinating with NGO colleagues to identify priorities from the NGO perspective and will provide updates through the Finance Working Group.

10. OCHA Country Based Pooled Funds (CBPF)

The Pooled Fund Working Group members are currently working with OCHA to provide inputs on proposed revisions to global guidance in the CBPF Operational Handbook. Proposed revisions will include updates to existing chapters as well as new chapters focused on localisation and resource mobilisation. The final revised Handbook should be ready by early 2022.

11. Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Under-Funded Emergencies (UFE)

CERF is now planning for an initial distribution of supplemental funding to UFEs for early 2022. In its role on the UFE Working Group, ICVA will provide inputs from the NGO perspective into the priority UFE list during the month of December. Due to the limited timeline, feedback and requests will be communicated to the members in the Finance Working Group mailing list.

12. IASC Humanitarian Finance Results Group

RG5 remains active within the IASC structure through at least the end of the calendar year. No new objectives have been added to the group, but work continues in the three primary focus areas of funding flexibility, cascading of overhead (indirect costs) practices and benefits to all partners, and agreement on common definitions of cost classifications. ICVA is currently focused on follow-up with UN agencies on harmonisation of funding flexibility measures. UNICEF, Oxfam, NRC, and UNHCR are leading efforts on cascading of overheads and common cost classifications. The outcome of these deliverables should be ready in early 2022.

- To be added to Finance Working Group mailing list, contact alon.plato@icvanetwork.org.

Coordination

13. ICVA Support Mission to Afghanistan

Since the fall of the previous government on 15 August, the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan has been much discussed at global and regional level. From 28 October to 10 November, ICVA's Head of Coordination undertook a mission to Afghanistan to discuss with NGOs and their partners which areas should be prioritised for advocacy and support from the international community. Discussions highlighted that despite the significant challenges for response there is now an open chance to reach people with urgently needed assistance, including in areas that were largely inaccessible prior to August 15. However, this window may close if humanitarian actors lose the trust of authorities and communities or cannot effectively maintain donor interest and mobilise cash and funding at the requisite scale. The mission report (available to members on request) summarises key findings and highlights some priorities for NGO support and advocacy in country and at regional and global levels.

14. Launch of 2022 Global Humanitarian Overview

On 2 December, OCHA launched the [Global Humanitarian Overview](#) (GHO) 2022 with events in Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, London, Stockholm, and Washington D.C. In 2022, 274 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection. This number is a significant increase from 235 million people a year ago, which was already the highest figure in decades. The Global Humanitarian Overview for 2022 outlines requirements to support 182 million of the world's most vulnerable people at the cost of US\$41 billion – a 17 per cent increase from last year. This includes significant increases in requirements for Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Lebanon, Yemen and Somalia compared to the initial GHO figures for 2021.

15. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

The IASC Principals

The IASC Principals met on 16 November to discuss the situation in Ethiopia and Afghanistan. Discussions focused on contingency planning, enablers of humanitarian action, the impacts of sanctions and banking restrictions and the clarification of humanitarian and related development narratives. Summary recording of discussions available on request.

IASC Principals, including ICVA Chair and ICVA ED, made a collective [statement on Climate](#) ahead of Cop26 and a statement, along with Gavi, on [delivering Covid-19 vaccines to the most vulnerable people in the world](#).

Deputies Forum

Two meetings of the Deputies Forum took place in November. On the 17th of November, the Deputies considered the External Review of IASC engagement on protection against sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH). The Deputies also discussed the independent review of the humanitarian system to further strengthen the quality of the IASC response in contexts of internal displacement with a concrete term of reference for the review to be shared soon.

The meeting on 22nd of November, the discussion focused on the IASC strategic Priorities 2022-2023, the way forward with IASC structures and the terms of reference for the Deputies Forum. You can read the summary record of the two meetings [here](#).

IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG)

A [summary analysis](#) of three recent Peer to Peer Support Unit missions, to Libya, Ethiopia and the DRC was shared to EDG and Operational Policy and Advocacy Group members. ICVA secretariat and members participated in each of these missions, contributing to this collective interagency support. Analysis highlighted the following common themes: the need for more effective localisation and stronger engagement with national and local NGOs; a clear gap on accountability to affected populations and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse; inadequate or outdated coordination structures, and a disconnect between the leadership and operations in the field; the need for enhanced security management and duty of care for staff; and the lack of a common Humanitarian Country Team narrative on the humanitarian situation.

Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG)

On the 23rd of November, OPAG held a face-to-face meeting to discuss accountability to affected populations (AAP); the findings of Peer-to-Peer Missions organised in 2021; and the centrality of protection. Under AAP, the members considered the progress report of the Result Group 2 on Accountability and Inclusion as well as the draft proposal from the IASC OPAG Task Force on system Wide Change for Collective Accountability to Affected Populations. Discussions on the centrality of protection focussed on updates regarding the ongoing IASC Protection Policy Review and the drafting of the Centrality of Protection Benchmarks. Check out a detailed agenda and the meeting's [background documents](#).

16. Update on IASC Results groups

RG 1 Operational response: No updates

RG 1 Sub-group on Localization: No updates

RG 1 Subgroup on Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments (BAI):

The window for feedback on the new Draft IASC Framework on BAI has now closed. The document is now in the final stages of review and editing before submission to the IASC for endorsement and sign-off. Addressing BAI will remain a priority for the IASC in 2022 and the work of this sub-group will be carried forward under the new structures, including supporting the roll-out and implementation of the framework.

RG 2 Accountability and inclusion: No updates

RG 3 Subgroup Counter Terrorism: No updates

RG 3 Subgroup on Climate Change: No updates

RG 4 Nexus: The IASC Result Group number 4 call in November was postponed. The Community of practice on the Nexus was held regularly on 18 November featuring Lebanon. A panel composed of UN representatives, National and International NGOs presented challenges and achievements in the Nexus approach in Lebanon, debating about the macro aspects of the approach as well as diving in the specific aspects on Health and Child Protection.

Meanwhile, a Pop Up Session of the Community of Practice will host the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement to share their [final report](#) that was launched a few weeks ago. Stay tuned for the exact date and time of this session. Further, the Result Group is currently compiling a report on key activities carried out in 2021.

The group also launched the Nexus Collection Podcast series on 2 December.

Listen to Episode 1 on [delivering the Nexus with a spotlight on Jordan](#).

RG 5 Humanitarian Finance: *See updates above under financing*

17. COVID-19 Vaccines

The [UN System-wide vaccination campaign](#) has obtained 600,000 COVID-19 vaccines for UN and NGO staff, whose agencies supported the implementation of the UN's mandate and are unable to access vaccines through other means. National NGO staff have also been included in this programme and the logistical details of this are being addressed – please contact the in-country [vaccine focal point](#) or [Eileen Morrow](#) for more details.

[The Humanitarian Buffer](#) is approving applications and vaccines have been dispatched to Thailand and Iran. The buffer is a measure of last resort and governments are asked to include populations of concern in their national vaccine deployment plans instead of using the buffer. All national and international humanitarian agencies are eligible to apply to the Humanitarian Buffer, including NGOs. NGOs must be able to demonstrate that there is a clear gap in vaccine coverage that the agency is able to access the population of concern in question, and that they have both the experience and the necessary competence to deliver successful vaccination campaigns in a humanitarian setting.

- If you wish to join the COVID-19 WG mailing list, email eileen.morrow@icvanetwork.org. The next Working Group meeting is on 15th December online.

18. NGO Fora Support

Adaptations of the ICVA regional team in Africa are ongoing considering the increasing humanitarian needs and thus requests to support our membership in their humanitarian assistance and protection. Specifically, thanks to the support received from members and active institutional fund raising, the reopening of the in persons presence of ICVA personnel in the West and Central Africa Humanitarian Hub in Dakar is planned for the 2nd Quarter of 2022 as well as mainstream of the main ICVA hub in Africa in Nairobi.

We have been working with the humanitarian team in Niger (OCHA and NGOs) to define ways to enhance engagement with Humanitarian National NGOs and their platform.

19. World Food Programme's Annual Partnership Consultation (APC) 2021 Key Takeaways and Highlights

ICVA participated in the three-day consultations. ICVA's Director of Programmes moderated a session looking at concrete examples of effective localisation strategies that WFP and its cooperating partners can jointly follow up on and implement. Read the [main takeaways](#) from all the sessions.

World Food Programme Launches the New Field Level Agreement (FLA) Template

The new template is designed to make the FLA lighter and easier to manage and is also an important step towards digitisation. See more information about the [new template](#) and the [legal changes](#).

Navigating Change: Cross Cutting Issues

20. Child Rights

UNICEF Global Forum for Children and Youth, 7-9 December 2021

UNICEF and the governments of Botswana and Sweden are hosting the inaugural Global Forum for Children and Youth. The forum will be a space that enables brainstorming on solutions as well as commitments that will accelerate progress in meeting Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Check the [agenda and more information](#).

21. Global Future Council – Fragility and Resilience

Hosted by the World Economic Forum, ICVA ED, Ignacio Packer, has joined the [Global Future Council on the New Agenda for Fragility and Resilience](#). The council's aim is to provide guidance and support in implementation to the international humanitarian and development actors. They also support the private sector in its work to improve support to local actors and facilitate responses to strengthen long-term community resilience.

22. Civil Society Space in Humanitarian Action

Joint civil society statement on outcomes of the UNGA 76 Third Committee

17 NGOs that closely follow and engage with the Third Committee joined together to publish a joint statement on outcomes of this 76th session. The statement includes observations on both thematic and country-specific resolutions including the atrocities committed against humanity in Syria, human rights abuses of Rohingya Muslims, and the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities among others. [Read the full statement](#).

Trust Conference 2021

From the need to build more inclusive and sustainable economies post-pandemic to surging attacks on media freedom and emerging digital rights risks, Trust Conference 2021 tackled some of the most critical issues of our time. Watch all [day one](#) and [day two](#) recordings.

Protecting Civilians in Urban Warfare

Towards a political declaration to address the humanitarian harm arising from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

Between 2011 and 2020, at least 238,892 civilians died or were injured because of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. Under the leadership of Ireland, a diplomatic process has been ongoing since October 2019 to draft an international political declaration, guiding States in changing and adapting their policies and practices on this specific matter. The new round of informal consultations will take place in Geneva on 2, 3 and 4 February 2022. See information on [registration, relevant documents, including submissions](#) from previous consultations.

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

23. Climate and Environment Action

ICYMI: Recordings from our Recent Webinars

Did you miss ICVA and PHAP webinar on Maximising the environmental sustainability of our work? No worries: here is a quick replay!

Watch and listen to the [YouTube and Podcast recording here](#).

The webinar was part of the **Learning Stream on [Climate Change and Humanitarian Action - The Climate Charter a Practical Guide](#)**. We heard from **ECHO DG** on the new Minimum Environmental Requirements that will come into play from 2023 onwards, and from **ICRC** and **ACTED** on how they are developing environmentally sustainable policies, strategies and mainstreaming them into their programmes and operations.

See the recording of other previous webinars on [Adapting to the Impacts of the Climate and Environmental Crises](#) and [Introduction: The Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations](#).

Elsewhere, ALNAP Lessons Paper on '[Adapting humanitarian action to the effects of climate change](#)' presents overarching lessons for humanitarian practitioners working in areas that have been or might be affected by climate change. It includes specific advice on 'imperfectly understood disasters', such as tropical storms, and offers insight from new weather events such as heatwaves.

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

24. Safeguarding

IASC PSEAH External Review: As part of its 2021 IASC PSEAH Championship, UNFPA has commissioned an external review of the work of the IASC on PSEAH since the last review that was carried out in 2010. ICVA was part of the Advisory Group to the current review and so were several of its members, ensuring that the voices and efforts of NGOs are represented in the review. On 23 November ICVA participated in a high-level roundtable event on the external review, where principals, donors and NGOs could voice their support or concerns regarding the report. We will share the review report once it is available.

- For more information, contact alon.plato@icvanetwork.org.

Region Specific

25. Asia and the Pacific

In November, ICVA co-facilitated a discussion on adapting humanitarian action to the impacts of climate action, with the Regional ECHO office in Asia Pacific. This consultation was part of a series of discussions led by the ECHO regional office in the lead up to the European Humanitarian Forum to be held in Brussels in 24 – 26 January 2022. Other topics which ICVA members contributed to include localisation and humanitarian access. During the session on Climate change, ICVA highlighted the climate and environment charter, and heard from partners on the need for more integrated risk analysis, and cohesion between climate and humanitarian financing in the region.

ICVA, OCHA and ADRRN will host the next regional humanitarian partnership week virtually between the 31st of January to the 6th of February 2022. The discussions will build on the [recommendations and report from last year's meeting](#). A concept note will be shared with members and partners outlining the topics for discussion and various ways to contribute.

The last Emergency Preparedness Working Group meeting in November highlighted changes to the Humanitarian Response Plan processes in Afghanistan and Myanmar. It also explored organisational plans to address the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and the seasonal forecasts likely to affect the remainder of the year and early new year.

- For more information about ICVA's work in Asia and Pacific, contact Keya Saha-Chaudhury, keya.sahachaudhury@icvanetwork.org.

26. Africa Region

European Humanitarian Forum Field Consultations

In November, ICVA in Africa (Dakar and Nairobi) supported the EU Africa regional consultations that are key in preparation for the upcoming European Humanitarian Forum on 24 - 26 January next year. In Dakar office, consultations were held on 16 and 18 November on field perspective on how to engage with non-state armed groups and why and on civil-military coordination as an enabler for International Humanitarian Law. In Nairobi office, consultations were held on 17 and 22 November on Enhancing Humanitarian Space: Access and Protection of Humanitarian Workers and on Impact of Climate Change on Humanitarian Actions. The recommendations will be collected in a one-page report, that will then be presented at the EHF by a rapporteur selected by ECHO.

For further information about the consultations, please contact:

For the Dakar consultations: Albert-Philip Burger d'Haem, ngosupport@icvanetwork.org

For the Nairobi consultations: Addis Tesfa, addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org

Building a Better Response (BBR)

The dates for the **BBR** face to face workshop in Nairobi has now been confirmed for the 1-3 March 2022. This workshop is for NGO Fora, secretariat and members, in Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

Horn of Africa Looming Food and Nutrition Crisis

Many agencies including the **Somalia NGO Consortium** are calling for immediate action in response to expectations of rising food and nutrition insecurity in the region. Analysts predicted that rainfall levels will be at their lowest from mid-November through December 2021, which could have a particularly devastating impact on those already struggling under severe food insecurity caused by several shocks such as consecutive poor rainy seasons or forecasts of zero available rain across multiple months this year. Currently, ICVA Africa is working with the Somalia NGO forum, on its Hunger Crisis Advocacy messaging and plan.



Stakeholders Workshop on Protracted Displacement with National NGOs in Tanzania

ICVA's Director of Programme, Michael Hyden, joined a stakeholder's workshop on protracted displacement organised by DIGNITY Kwanza on 18 - 19 November 2021. He shared an overview of ICVA's perspective on localisation of humanitarian response and called upon strengthening of national actors.

African Union Symposium

The African Union held a humanitarian symposium in November titled planning meeting towards 2022 humanitarian summit. Key focus was on: addressing nutrition and food security challenges in the humanitarian space; link between climate change, disasters and displacements in Africa; Covid-19 and health challenges in humanitarian space in Africa as well as resource mobilisation and humanitarian financing. Several ICVA members were present at the meeting with ICVA emphasising that financing and access go hand in hand and accountability to affected population should always be at the centre of any discussion.

- For more information or to be included in the ICVA Africa Working Group List, please connect with marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org or addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org.

27. MENA Region

European Humanitarian Forum Field Consultations

In November, ICVA in MENA supported the EU MENA regional consultations that are key in preparation for the upcoming European Humanitarian Forum on 24 - 26 January next year. The three-day consultations on 22, 24, and 25 November were on Climate Change and Humanitarian Needs, Protecting Civilians and Essential Civilian Infrastructure in Urban Warfare, and Humanitarian Access. ICVA will be supporting in putting together a 1-2-page outcome briefing with recommendations for each consultation.

Promoting Principled and Effective Humanitarian Action, From Local to Global

On 11 and 12 November, ICVA in MENA conducted an in-person workshop with local Turkish NGOs around promoting principled and effective humanitarian action. The first day of the workshop examined joint coordination, collective advocacy, and insights on localisation and NEXUS. The second day of the workshop was about CHS and partnership.

Capacity Strengthening Program and Learning for Yemen CSOs Network

ICVA in MENA concluded the capacity strengthening program and learning for Yemen CSOs Network. The program targeted 10 members of the Yemen CSOs network for a tailored training with supporting tools and resources to strengthen their skills on humanitarian coordination, good governance, and strategic planning. Currently, a tailored coaching to the network is being conducted including examining and strengthening existing strategies and plans.

Strengthening in-country NGO Fora Collective Action through Developing and Rolling out a Localisation Baseline and Measurement Framework

Through a project funded by the Hilton Foundation, ICVA together with the Humanitarian Advisory Group is working to further strengthen progress on localisation at the country level. This is through supporting NGO networks and partners to identify areas for collective action. Work on this project started in November with the overall purpose to support locally led humanitarian action at the country level through the production of contextualised evidence.

High Level Regional Water Event

On 17 November, ICVA MENA attended the High-Level Meeting within the 13th session of the Arab Ministerial Water Council on “Water Scarcity: A Challenge to the Sustainable Development in the Arab Region.” The meeting was hosted by UNICEF and took place in recognition that the water scarcity challenge in the Arab Region is more pressing now than ever before. The water crisis, increasing population and urbanisation, and climate change add even more strain on countries' ability to achieve sustainable development goals by 2030 or uphold basic human rights such as access to clean water and sanitation facilities.

Regional Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) Working Group (WG)

ICVA Representative in MENA Region and the focal point on Localisation, Eman Ismail, participated in the regional GiHA WG meeting with the co-chairs of the group. She provided inputs and presented the key elements of the recent IASC Guidance on the meaningful participation and ICVA report on the meaningful participation of local actors in the humanitarian coordination structural platforms in the region. The group has regional representation from UN bodies, NGOs and the IASC Regional Emergency Gender-Based Violence Advisor. It is co-chaired by UN Women, OCHA and CARE. The group strives to better inform gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian action; this includes supporting for protection-centered or human rights focused work, as well as empowering women in all aspects of humanitarian decision making.

- For more information or to be included in the ICVA MENA Mailing List, please connect with eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org or stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org

28. Latin America Region

The Colombian Fora hosted a joint meeting between the Venezuelan INGO Fora and the LAC RMD Coalition led by Save the Children. During this encounter a series of reflections and experiences were shared including on gaps in knowledge of joint issues at the border; reference systems lacking in each country and cross-border and access in territories of control with armed groups. Read more on the [issues discussed and outcomes](#).

The meeting led to planning of follow-up work between forums in the region to broaden the discussion and share joint experiences.

- For more information or to be included in the ICVA Latam Mailing List, please connect with lina.gomez@icvanetwork.org.

Learning Opportunities

29. Looking to increase your Knowledge in the Humanitarian Sector?

The Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies has published its new courses for the academic year 2021-2022. This includes a Master, Diploma, and Certificate, plus a range of short courses, all looking at different aspects of humanitarian action. Explore the full [course list](#) and more information.

New and Noteworthy

30. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Protection Policy Implementation Review and ECHO-funded Protection Advocacy Project. Complete the survey by 12 December

Share your experience and opinions on protection by taking part in the [survey](#).

31. Committing to Sustainable Humanitarian Action: The Swedish Red Cross invites Nordic-based humanitarian organisations to join an interactive online session on 14 December for discussions around the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations. [Register](#).

32. READY is creating a Digital Library of Stories Developed and Narrated by Humanitarian Personnel. The project aims to highlight the real-world application of integrated activities during emergencies, discover trends and successes that others can learn from - and ultimately inspire others in this sector to work more closely together. Submit your [story](#).

33. The Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies has recently launched an improved and expanded Humanitarian Encyclopedia Platform. Explore exciting features like the [concepts and community](#), the new [humanitarian concepts](#) every week and [join the online community](#).

Agenda

December 9-10: [Global Humanitarian Policy Forum](#) (GHPF)

December 10: [Human Rights Day](#)

December 14-15: High-Level Officials' Meeting (Global Compact on Refugees implementation/Global Refugee Forum follow-up)

December 14: Shifting Power in Forced Displacement: Pathways Toward Equitable Partnerships: Geneva and hybrid panel discussion. Asylum Access. (Global Compact on Refugees implementation/Global Refugee Forum follow-up)

2022

January 24-26: [European Humanitarian Forum](#)

March 09: ICVA@60 and ICVA2030 commemoration

May 2-20: [8th Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week](#) (HNPW 2022)

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