ANNUAL REPORT
1989 - 90
ICVA is grateful to the following donors for their support during the fiscal year 1989/90:

Australian International Development Assistance Bureau
Canadian International Development Agency
Finnish International Development Agency
International Organization for Migration
Netherlands Government
Norwegian Government
Swedish International Development Authority
The Ford Foundation
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From the Chair of the Executive Committee

The December 1989 ICVA General Assembly in Santo Domingo has become a watershed in the life of ICVA. Three significant new directions that emerged in Santo Domingo set ICVA on a new course.

Firstly, ICVA is developing a new participatory style and is striving to become a membership-led organization.

Secondly, ICVA continues to seek increased membership and participation of NGOs from the South. The two Vice-Chairs of ICVA are both from the South - Dr. Abdalla Suliman Elawad from the Islamic African Relief Agency (Sudan) and Mr. Edwin Zablak from the Fundación Augusto César Sandino (Nicaragua).

The third significant new direction for ICVA - advocacy - harks back to ICVA’s early days when the Council had significant impact advocating adequate assistance and justice for the refugees and displaced people of Europe following World War II. ICVA members are looking to their Council to take a stronger advocacy role on contemporary issues of refugees and displaced people and in support of sustainable development.

Voluntary organizations, or NGOs, have entered a new phase in their development. Sought after by governments from the North and South, as well as UN and international agencies of all shades of opinion, there are high expectations that NGOs can help break the nexus of increasing poverty and environmental degradation world-wide.

These high expectations and challenging opportunities demand more effective organization, improved management, increased accountability and detailed reporting. At risk is the flexibility and openness of NGOs to new approaches. ICVA’s Institutional Development Programme can do much to assist Southern NGOs cope with these new challenges and demands.

But fundamental issues about the nature and role of NGOs are also being raised and demand attention. Among these issues are the needs and potentials for greater cooperation in the global NGO movement, the role of NGOs in defending humanitarian space, and the NGO role in strengthening civil society so that people may participate effectively in emerging democratic systems.

At an organizational level, the division of ICVA’s work into refugee, displaced and migrant concerns, sustainable development, environment and population, and human rights has less and less meaning. Whether people flee because of fear of persecution, lack of food and employment, or fear of illness from pollution, their needs are the same and their human rights need protecting. If there is not renewed international commitment to development assistance and effort to ensure that development does not degrade the environment, people in many developing countries may have no option but to move in search of a better life, and education and opportunity for them and their children.

As ICVA members, we must find new ways of acting together in our search for a more just, participatory and sustainable international, social and economic system.

Russell Rollason
Executive Director
Australian Council of Overseas Aid (ACFOA)
Overview

1. 1989-1990 was the year of renewal within ICVA, with significant changes to the organization's philosophy, structure and ways of working.

2. The high point of the year, indeed of the last five years, was the General Assembly held in Santo Domingo in December 1989. Meeting under the challenging theme of BUILDING SUSTAINABLE NGO PARTNERSHIPS: GLOBAL SOLIDARITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF THE PEOPLE, it was the arena for discussion on the priorities, programmes and statutes for ICVA in the coming years.

3. The General Assembly, hosted by ICVA member SOLIDARIOS, discussed four main issues: effective partnerships for sustainable development; solidarity with displaced peoples; institutional development: strengthening NGOs and community groups; and «bringing it all together», a strategic approach.

4. The first part of the meeting included both ICVA member and non-member agencies in a forum to discuss the main theme, followed by a «business session» for member agencies only. In all discussions, it became apparent that NGOs have a crucial role to play in advocating alternative approaches to the problems of debt, environment and South/North relations.

5. Three new directions for ICVA were set by the Santo Domingo Assembly: advocacy; renewed emphasis on South/North partnership; and, reshaping of ICVA into a member-led organization.

6. ICVA members want their Council to take a stronger role in advocacy on behalf of refugees and displaced people, as well as on issues of sustainable development. In its early years, ICVA was a strong public advocate on behalf of the refugees and displaced people of Europe following World War II. A similar strong and public stand is needed today on behalf of the people of the South.

7. The Santo Domingo conference gave high priority to increasing Southern NGO participation in ICVA and called for a renewed emphasis on South/North NGO partnership.

8. The third clear message from ICVA members is that they want to be more involved in setting the priorities and programmes for the organization. ICVA members are looking for a more participatory style in ICVA.

9. The Santo Domingo General Assembly also laid the foundations for new policies and practices in ICVA on the involvement of women in the life and work of the Council. The Assembly adopted amendments to the statutes aimed at increasing the participation of women in the Executive Committee and established an Ad Hoc Group on Integrating Women in Decision-making.

ICVA is an association of agencies rather than persons, making it difficult to ensure that member agencies will choose women to be the representatives to ICVA. However, the statutory amendments seek to ensure that at least half the member agencies on the Executive Committee are represented by women at least 50% of the Committee's meetings.

ICVA has adopted an action plan entitled «Partners: Promoting the Inclusion of Women's Concerns and Contributions». 
10. Effective advocacy needs fast and effective communications. With this in mind, ICVA has begun to explore participation in global electronic mail networks. It is hoped that this will provide increased communication and coordination among ICVA's Northern and Southern members, with other NGOs and voluntary agencies, and with intergovernmental organizations.

11. Work on sustainable development continued, together with increased attention to gender issues, to integrating women in decision-making, and to advocacy for sustainable development, including statements on Earth Day (22 April 1989) and on Human Rights. Attention was given to the work of the South Commission, to building South/North partnerships, and to establishing and facilitating voluntary agency relationships for the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

12. Throughout the year, ICVA maintained close ties with a number of intergovernmental organizations, particularly the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the World Bank, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and the United Nations Development Programme.
REFUGEES AND MIGRATION

13. A slowdown in international response to the needs of refugees and displaced persons, together with increasingly stringent immigration laws throughout the world, stimulated ICVA to actively pursue its efforts to coordinate and support initiatives for Northern and Southern refugees, as well as to promote international cooperation at all levels. In September 1989, the report and recommendations of the ICVA Consultation on Uprooted People and Development, financed by UNDP, UNHCR and the Government of the Netherlands, was endorsed by the Executive Committee and then widely distributed. Specific recommendations were made on a development approach to uprooted people and on project funding.

Africa

14. Following SARRED (the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa) meeting in 1988, ICVA and several member agencies participated in a UNDP-supported mission to Namibia to identify NGOs working there, to participate in an NGO needs-assessment, and to explore opportunities for NGO capacity-building. The report was submitted to ICVA in September 1989.

15. In Sudan, ICVA investigated possibilities for a peace initiative with various NGOs to facilitate the delivery of emergency items to that strife-torn state. This was followed by an appeal to the UN Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative to coordinate aid within the extremely complex Sudanese context.

Central America

16. ICVA played a key role in ensuring NGO participation in the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) in Guatemala City in May 1989. The Conference provided the possibility for local agencies to voice their position clearly before the international community, and promoted agency networking and independent regional initiatives. It was subsequently described as a unique regional effort to tackle the interlinked problems of development, displaced persons and refugees. ICVA also facilitated the drafting and wide circulation of an NGO statement and supported a continuation of the consultative process of NGOs in the region.

17. Despite the ongoing conflict in El Salvador, massive repatriation suddenly became an urgent demand on the part of Salvadoran refugees in the Honduran border camps. ICVA actively promoted information exchange and meetings to organize the staged return of Salvadorian refugees to their country. At the ICVA General Assembly in Santo Domingo in December 1989, ICVA decided to send a mission to the country and to appoint a consultant, based at the Secretariat in Geneva, to work as a «focal point» on El Salvador.

Indochina

18. The persisting economic difficulties and human rights problems in Viet Nam caused ICVA to urge NGOs and intergovernmental agencies to increase assistance to the country. In view of growing voluntary repatriation of Vietnamese, ICVA sent a mission to Viet Nam in late 1989 to discuss with government officials the possibilities for NGO assistance to the returnees and their reintegration in their communities.
19. In both September and December 1989, ICVA urged the cessation of military aid to the different Cambodian factions, a return to negotiation and restrictions on the use of the Cambodia seat at the United Nations. To UNHCR's Executive Committee, ICVA recommended the provision of protection against forcible removal of Cambodian refugees in Thailand and urged the sending of fact-finding missions within Cambodia to gauge realistically the situation of displaced persons and refugees.

Middle East

20. ICVA continued its efforts to improve inter-NGO contacts in Lebanon and the Occupied Territories, working with UNRWA and several local and regional NGOs. ICVA was instrumental in arranging for members of the Lebanese NGO Forum to meet with senior officials in the UN, UNDRO and with various Ambassadors to the UN in Geneva.

Europe

21. The increased restrictions on refugee immigration in Europe has led to detailed and painful debate within NGOs and intergovernmental agencies. With the dismantling in 1989-90 of the Iron Curtain, the possibility loomed that large movements of peoples may occur in the near future. Closer communication among governments and NGOs is being fostered, and ICVA is promoting NGO contacts within Europe, between Europe and North America, and between Europe and the South.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

Making Common Cause Internationally (MCCI)

22. The policy statement and action plan «Making Common Cause Internationally», that promotes cooperation among NGOs dealing with development, environment and population issues, continued to be formally endorsed by voluntary agencies around the world. As a result of its increasingly widespread acceptance, it is influencing the policies of NGOs towards a more integrated approach.

South/North NGO Relations

23. ICVA’s Policy Guidelines on Relations Between Southern and Northern NGOs emerged from a lengthy consultation within ICVA’s membership. The final text was endorsed by the Executive Committee in September 1989. These Guidelines now serve the broader voluntary agency constituency, well beyond ICVA, as a framework for the new types of partnerships that will characterize the future of South/North links. Promotion of the principles embodied in the Guidelines among NGOs, and intergovernmental and governmental donors was begun, and subsequently a Task Group on Building South/North partnerships was formed to carry this process forward.

The China Desk

24. A grant from the Ford Foundation enabled ICVA to set up a China Desk, which acts as a centre for information exchange for NGOs interested in or already cooperating in China. Biannual newsletters were distributed to inform NGOs about the various channels of cooperation, governmental and non-governmental, that exist in China today. Project proposals in summary form were made available, informal meetings to exchange experiences were organized, and regular contacts were maintained with both NGOs and governmental organizations in China. The ICVA China Desk also was the catalyst for and secretariat to a meeting of NGOs with CICETE (China International Center of Economic and Technical Exchanges).

NGO Working Group on the World Bank

25. ICVA is the Secretariat of the NGO Working Group on the World Bank and services the joint NGO-World Bank Committee. During the course of the year, two sets of NGO-World Bank meetings were held. The principal agenda items included debt, poverty alleviation, structural adjustment, and access to Bank information. Among the NGO challenges were concerns about positive conditionality, social audit, the democratization of development and popular participation. An important part of the discussion was to focus on «Bank/NGO Relations - NGO guidelines for collaboration with the World Bank and direct funding». The NGO Working Group produced a position paper on its views of the World Bank policies and operations, which was subsequently adopted by ICVA’s Executive Committee.

Sustainable Development from an NGO Perspective

26. Building strong ties and efficient partnerships promotes greater sustainability. ICVA’s Executive Committee formally endorsed an «NGO Definition of Sustainable Development» prepared by members of the Working Group on Sustainable Development, Environment and Population. This was incorporated into the second edition of the policy statement «Making Common Cause Internationally» and was a further step in fostering a broad-based constituency committed to the ethical and policy goals established by these documents.
Statement on Earth Day

27. To mark Earth Day (22 April), ICVA's Working Group on Sustainable Development, Environment and Population issued a statement addressed to governments, intergovernmental organizations, and multilateral lending institutions calling for a people-centred and participatory approach to ecologically sustainable development.

Gender Issues

28. Growing from a concern in the Working Group on Sustainable Development, Environment and Population, the need to confront gender issues has become a key issue in ICVA's agenda. One central element of the gender approach is about integrating women's concerns and perspectives as key to real participation and sustainable development. The need for awareness of gender issues was also the motivation for a «Statement by Women Participants» at the 1989 General Assembly, setting the tone for the development of a more participatory strategy within ICVA. This has led to the decisions mentioned in paragraph 9 above.

UNCED 1992 Becomes a Focus

29. The 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development became a major target for ICVA's advocacy efforts for sustainable development. A Task Group on Advocacy for Sustainable Development was set up and given a mandate that includes the production of a policy paper on sustainable development issues in three major areas: the macro level (development models, democracy, debt), NGO identity (security, partnership, cooperation, cooption, alternative financing strategies) and popular participation (including human rights).

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

30. Institutional development for NGOs is essentially a strategy to help create and strengthen a self-sustaining community of diverse local development institutions, particularly in the South. Within this definition, ICVA continued to play a vital role as Secretariat for the world-wide NGO Management Network.

31. During the year, ICVA facilitated numerous seminars and training courses on various aspects of institutional development, with particular reference to the training of management trainers and advisers in Geneva and around the world. The NGO Management newsletter was issued quarterly, complete with helpful tips and techniques, reference sources and calendar of coming events. During the year, a French language version was launched and a Spanish edition was planned.
CONDUCT OF ICVA'S BUSINESS

32. In 1989-1990, the 91st, 92nd and 93rd sessions of the Executive Committee (known, prior to December 1989, as the «Governing Board») took place.

33. Five new membership applications were approved: Armenian Association of America, Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción (Costa Rica), Association for Sarva Seva Farms (India), International Save the Children Alliance, and Organisation canadienne pour la solidarité et le développement. The Japanese NGO Center for International Cooperation became an associate member. The Christian Children's Fund (USA) rejoined ICVA as a full member.

34. The names of agencies and persons who served ICVA and conducted its principal business in 1989-90 are given in the annexes to the present report, as are the summary figures for that fiscal year.

35. ICVA thanks each and every one of its members, its leaders and its donors for their participation in 1989-90 in advancing - often against substantial odds - the cause of social justice that underlies everything ICVA undertakes.
ICVA Structure

Member Agencies

(The number of affiliated agencies totalled 87 in March 1990; the agencies accepted as members in the course of the year under review are indicated by *).

MEMBERS

ACORD (UK)
ActionAid (UK)
Adventist Development and Relief Agency, International (USA)
African Association for Literacy and Adult Education (Kenya)
All Africa Conference of Churches (Kenya)
American Council for Nationalities Service (USA)
American Friends Service Committee (USA)
American Joint Distribution Committee (USA)
* Armenian Assembly of America (USA)
Asian Institute for Rural Development (India)
Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (Philippines)
* Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción (Costa Rica)
* Association for Sarva Seva Farms (India)
Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development (India)
AUSTCARE (Australia)
Australian Council for Overseas Aid (Australia)
Baptist World Alliance Relief Program (USA)
British Refugee Council (UK)
Canadian Council for International Cooperation (Canada)
Care International (France)
Catholic Relief Services - USCC (USA)
Centro Dominicano de Organizaciones de Interés Social (Dominican Republic)
* Christian Children's Fund (USA)
Christian Relief and Development Association (Ethiopia)
Church World Service (USA)
Concern (Ireland)
Conseil des Organisations non gouvernementales d'Appui au Développement (Senegal)
Danish Refugee Council (Denmark)
Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (FRG)
Diakonia (Sweden)
Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church (USA)
The Experiment in International Living (USA)
Food for the Hungry International (Switzerland)
Free China Relief Association (Republic of China)
Fundación Augusto César Sandino (Nicaragua)
Fundación Dominicana de Desarrollo (Dominican Republic)
Grupo de Tecnologia Apropiada (Panama)
HelpAge International (UK)
HIAS - Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (USA)
Individuell Människohjälp/The Swedish Organization for Individual Relief (Sweden)
InterAction - American Council for Voluntary International Action (USA)
International Catholic Child Bureau (Switzerland)
International Catholic Migration Committee (Switzerland)
International Federation for Family Life Promotion (USA)
International Institute for Rural Reconstruction (Philippines)
International Planned Parenthood Federation (UK)
International Rescue Committee (USA)
* International Save the Children Alliance (Switzerland)
International Social Service (Switzerland)
Islamic African Relief Agency (Sudan)
Jesuit Refugee Service (Vatican City)
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service of the Lutheran Council in the USA (USA)
Lutheran World Federation (Switzerland)
Maendeleo ya Wanawake Organization (Kenya)
Norwegian Refugee Council (Norway)
NOVIB (Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation (Netherlands)
Ockenden Venture (UK)
OISCA-International (Japan)
* Organisation Canadienne pour la Solidarité et le Développement (Canada)
OXFAM (UK)
PACT, Private Agencies Collaborating Together (USA)
Rädda Barnens Riksförbund (Sweden)
Raphaels-Werk - Dienst am Menschen Unterwegs e.V./Service to Migrants (Germany)
Redd Barna (Norway)
Réseau Africain pour le Développement intégré (Senegal)
Rural Development Foundation of Pakistan (Pakistan)
Salvation Army (UK)
Sarvodaya (Sri Lanka)
Save the Children Fund (UK)
Solidarios/Council of American Development Foundations (Dominican Republic)
TechnoServe, Inc. (USA)
Tolstoy Foundation, Inc. (USA)
Union nationale des Maisons familiales rurales d'Education et d'Orienteation (France)
World Alliance of Young Men’s Christian Associations (Switzerland)
World Concern (USA)
World Council of Churches (Switzerland)
World Council of Credit Unions, Inc. (USA)
World ORT Union (UK)
World University Service (Switzerland)
World University Service of Canada (Canada)
World Vision International (USA)
Zambia Council for Social Development (Zambia)
Zimbabwe Freedom From Hunger Campaign (Zimbabwe)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

* Japanese NGO Center for International Cooperation (Japan)

PERMANENT OBSERVERS

Caritas Internationalis (Vatican City)
International Committee of the Red Cross (Switzerland)
League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Switzerland)
Components of the ICVA Structure

Executive Committee
Chair: Russell Rollason, Australian Council for Overseas Aid

Committee on Finance and Administration
Chair: Midge Béguin-Austin, World Council of Churches

Working Group on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants
Chair: Poul Brandrup, Danish Refugee Council

Sub-Group on Africa
Chair: Damien Ngabonziza, International Social Service
Contact Group on Southern Africa
Chair: Kaanaeli Makundi, Lutheran World Federation
Sub-Group on Central America and Mexico
Chair: Ximena Erazo, World University Service
Sub-Group on Refugee Children and Adolescents
Chair: Shepard Harder, International Save the Children Alliance
Sub-Group on the Middle East
Chair: Desmond Carragher, Diakonia (Sweden)

Working Group on Sustainable Development, Environment and Population
Chair: Perdita Huston, International Planned Parenthood Federation

Task Group on Advocacy for Sustainable Development
Lead agencies: Servicio, Desarrollo y Paz A.C. (Sergio Aguayo) and Episcopal Church Center of the USA (Carolyn Rose-Avila)

Task Group on Building South/North Partnerships
Lead agencies: Zimbabwe Freedom From Hunger Campaign (Joyce Chikara) and World Vision International (Suzanne Wavre)

Specialized Working Groups
NGO Working Group on the World Bank
Chair: Bernd Dreesmann (Deutsche Welthungerhilfe)/Enrique Fernandez (SOLIDARIOS)

NGO Management Network Secretariat
Executive Committee
(as on 31 March 1990)

The Executive Committee decides ICVA policy. Issues raised in the Working Groups and Sub-Groups, which affect the organization as a whole, are referred to the Executive Committee for decision.

Chair:
* Australian Council for Overseas Aid - Russell Rollason/Wendy Rose

Vice-Chairs:
* Fundación Augusto Cesar Sandino - Edwin Zablah/Ruth Marcenaro
  Islamic African Relief Agency - Abdalla Suliman Elawad

Treasurer:
* World Council of Churches - Midge Béguin-Austin

Elected Members:
* African Association for Literacy and Adult Education - Seydou Sall/M. Machila
* American Council for Voluntary International Action (InterAction) - Peter J. Davies/Carolyn Long
  Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development - Antonio B. Quizon
  Canadian Council for International Cooperation - Tim Brodhead
  Catholic Relief Services - Robert T. Quinlan
  International Planned Parenthood Federation - Perdita Huston/Cyril Ritchie
  International Save the Children Alliance - Shepard Harder
* Lutheran World Federation - Brian Neldner
  OXFAM - Frank Judd
* Rural Development Foundation of Pakistan - Sadiq Malik/Rifat Rashid/Najuba I. Khan
  Solidarios - Enrique Fernandez
  World University Service - Nigel Hartley

Co-opted Members:
* Episcopal Church of the USA - Burgess Carr/Sarah Dresser
  Réseau africain pour le développement intégré - Mazide N'Diaye

Chairpersons of Working Groups:
  Working Group on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants - Poul Brandrup
  Working Group on Sustainable Development, Environment and Population - Perdita Huston

* These eight agencies undertook to be represented by a woman at at least 50% of the meetings.
Secretariat
(as at 31 March 1990)

The Secretariat provides the programme support and administrative infrastructure for the activities of the organization.

Executive Director:
Senior Programme Associate for Humanitarian Issues:
Adviser on Institutional Development:
Programme Associate for Development Issues:
NGO/Liaison Officer of the World Bank/NGO Committee:
China Desk Officer:
Consultant for El Salvador Initiative:
Executive Assistant:
Administrative Assistant:
Secretaries:

Anthony J. Kozlowski
Jean-Pierre de Warlincourt
Piers Campbell
Marie-Claire Pret
Maria Elena Agüero de Arando
Loo-Wen Chow
Carole Schwartz
Pauline M. Silvestri
Joyce Mathys
Myriam Lavanchy
Nelly Buchard
Financial Review

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<td>El Salvador</td>
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<td>Management for Development</td>
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<td>Namibia Mission</td>
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<td>North South Relations Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupied Palestine Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refugee Policy Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>SANGO / SIDA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third World Members at General Conference</td>
<td>48,423.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third World Participation</td>
<td>11,445.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP - Africa</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unenet</td>
<td>(1,575.15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uprooted Peoples Consult.</td>
<td>(214.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Bank/NGO Liaison 1989</td>
<td>77,878.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Bank/NGO Liaison 1990</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve Accommodation/Equipment</td>
<td>16,546.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve Exchange Fluctuations</td>
<td>30,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve Home Leave/Repatriation</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve Personnel Vacation</td>
<td>32,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve for special studies</td>
<td>9,589.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>350,804.44</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) was founded in 1962. It is an international association of non-profit, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) - or private voluntary organizations (PVOs), as they are also known - active in the fields of humanitarian assistance and development cooperation. ICVA is dedicated to enhancing the development and greater effectiveness of such organizations and their activities through discussion, networking and collaboration. Through ICVA's international forum, NGOs share views and experiences with each other and, in the process, gain insights, new ideas, advice and support for their programmes.

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