Dear Readers,

We hope you have registered to join us for an online event to commemorate our 60th anniversary on Wednesday, 18 May. This month, we share news about Syria ahead of the Brussels conference, our 2021 Annual Report and more information about our history. We also explore updates on forced migration, financing, coordination as well as climate action, child rights, safeguarding and the regional hubs. Plus, all the latest jobs and events.

If you have not registered yet for the ICVA at 60 online event, please register here.

Happy reading!

Message from Executive Director

The Future of Syria and The Region

The response to the Ukraine crisis has been tremendous. The solidarity shown by governments and citizens across Europe and further afield towards those fleeing from the crisis in Ukraine is commended. The commitments at the High-Level International Donors’ Conference for Ukraine in Warsaw on Thursday (5 May) are another testimony of the solidarity to Ukrainian people. The decision by the EU to apply the temporary protection directive to people leaving Ukraine provides the necessary legal safeguards on status and shows that together it is possible to uphold commitments to international refugee and human rights law.

Watching European nations open their minds and arms to millions of Ukrainians, we can’t help but compare the fates of the 12 million Syrians that have been uprooted by war.

As with the five previous editions, the sixth Brussels Conference on Supporting the future of Syria and the region (9-10 May) will also address the most critical humanitarian and resilience issues affecting Syrians and communities hosting refugees from Syria, both inside the country and in the region. The conference is expected to renew the international community’s political and financial support for Syria’s neighbors, particularly Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, as well as Egypt and Iraq. The conference is a vital opportunity to emphasis on the important role of the different civil society organisations in rebuilding their country, and in getting equally included in the dialogue to achieve a lasting and prosperous peace process.
Once the war finally comes to an end in Syria, acknowledging that the conditions for voluntary, safe and dignified returns are not yet met, the challenge is on rebuilding the country. Who will foot the bill remains an open one? While the destructive impact of 11 years of war in Syria is clear and present, to what extent does Russia’s invasion of Ukraine have an impact on the engagement from Western Nations?

As we approach Europe Day, on 9 May, a day to remember peace and unity after the horrors of World War Two, we are also to aspire for an engine of solidarity to deal with the humanitarian and economic fallouts well beyond Europe.

Ignacio Packer
Executive Director | ICVA

---

**ICVA Updates**

1. **2021 ICVA Annual Report**

   Hot off the press, the [2021 ICVA Annual Report](#) is out! The report mirrors the strength that ICVA and its members gain from our solidarity and common values. Explore our learnings from a year of coordination, cooperation and collaboration in humanitarian action.

---

**ICVA 60 Years Commemoration Events**

- **Commemoration Online Event** - 18 May 3:00 pm-4:30pm CEST
- **Commemoration Reception** - 18 May Geneva at 5:30pm -7pm CEST

**REGIONAL EVENTS:**

- Amman - 22 & 23 June
- Panama - 19 September
- Asia - TBC
- Africa - TBC

2. **Commemoration of ICVA 60 Online Event**
ICVA will be commemorating its 60th anniversary on Wednesday, 18 May 2022 from 3:00pm to 4:30pm CEST. There will also be events in ICVA’s four regional hubs (Africa, Asia and Pacific, MENA and Latin America) scheduled for different dates. These events offer an opportunity to learn from the past and make sure the aspirations in our ICVA 2030 strategy are “evolutionary” and “transformative”.

We will be hearing from three former ICVA Executive Directors: Cyril Ritchie, Ed Schenkenberg van Mierop and Nan Buzard. There will also be a panel discussion comprising of: Lisa Piper, ACBAR; Billa Moussa Sidibe, CARE International; Ghida Anani, ABAAD; Marvin Parvez, Community World Service Asia; Samer Daoudi, Palestinian NGO Network; and Mirela Shuteriqi, ICVA, around the topics in the transformations.

Please check the agenda for the online event and the speakers.

Register for the event

3. Meet our New Colleagues

We are excited to welcome to the team:

- Ms Asma Saleem serving as ICVA new Deputy Regional Representative for the Asia Pacific. Asma is based in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Ms Adeline Benita serving as ICVA Representative for West and Central Africa. Adeline will initially be based in Bamako and will switch to Dakar in July.
- Mr Albert-Philip Burger, who has been covering for West and Central Africa since July 2021 is handing over to Adeline and switches to a new position as NGO Fora Programme Coordinator.

Forced Migration


On 4 April, InterAction and ICVA organised an online meeting with the World Bank Group, to discuss the World Bank’s World Development Report for 2023, which intends to focus on cross-border mobility of refugees and migrants. Gathering thirty NGOs, this event was an opportunity to exchange views with Mr. Xavier Devictor, Co-Director of the 2023 World Development Report, on the framework of the report, as well as the key issues and messages that could be included. Follow-up discussions and opportunities for ICVA members to engage on this topic will be organised in the coming months.

5. Third Country Solutions Strategy Workshop

On 21-22 April, ICVA’s Head of Forced Migration joined a multi-stakeholder Third Country Solutions Strategy Workshop convened in Geneva by UNHCR’s Resettlement & Complementary Pathways Service, Division of International Protection. Following the completion of the Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways, as well as consultations held last year, this workshop intended to lay the foundations for a successor process for continued focused actions to increase third-country solutions. Further information on this process will be shared in June, at the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR). In line with its longstanding engagement with the Global Compact on Refugee and its solutions focus, ICVA will continue to contribute to this process.
6. UNHCR Quarterly Consultations with NGOs

On 27 April, UNHCR and ICVA co-organized the second UNHCR-NGO Quarterly Consultations of the year on "Co-designing UNHCR-NGO Recommendations on Localization and Climate Action". With insights from Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, COHERE, and UNHCR, the objective was to present a set of preliminary recommendations for the UNHCR Global Consultations with NGOs. Several feedbacks received during the meeting will feed into the document, which will be finalized on the basis of the June Global Consultations. Notes on this second Quarterly Consultation will soon be disseminated to participants.

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

7. Migrants in Vulnerable Situation

IMRF: Civil Society Preparatory Day, 15 May 2022, 09 am to 5 pm EDT (New York)

Registration is now open for the Civil Society Preparatory Day. This preparatory meeting aims to share and consolidate the key civil society joint inputs and points of engagement for the May 16 Multi-Stakeholder Hearing and the rest of the IMRF. Register to join the meeting.

---

Financing

8. The Grand Bargain 2.0 Explained – An ICVA Briefing Paper (2022)

Following the ‘Grand Bargain explained’ paper published in March 2017, ICVA has drafted the ‘Grand Bargain 2.0 explained’ briefing paper to support humanitarian actors, particularly NGOs, to better understand and engage in this new phase of the Grand Bargain 2.0 from 2021 – 2023. ICVA will also create a companion web version of this briefing paper that will be updated to reflect changes as they occur. This web version will be shared in the next bulletin.

9. Free Guides on Risk Management for NGOs and Their Staff

ICVA and DisasterReady partnered to create mobile guides on “Risk Management in Practice” and “Risk Management and Funding Partnerships” for humanitarian aid and development staff to better identify and manage risks arising from funding partnerships. From the guides, you will learn best practices for managing operational challenges and risks affecting funding partnerships in the humanitarian sector. Explore them.

- For more information contact jeremyrempel@icvanetwork.org.
Coordination

10. Ukraine Response: Coordination Support for NGOs

ICVA continues to contribute to the strengthening of NGO coordination in the Ukraine response through the deployment of NGO Coordination support for the response, as well as through partnerships with national NGO leaders. The humanitarian response continues to be scaled up, and NGOs must adapt to the changing situation with ongoing efforts supported by ICVA to improve NGO understanding and engagement with various coordination mechanisms, including the pooled fund. Support is also needed to strengthen collaboration between NGOs and to work towards improved advocacy and localization efforts in the response.

11. Saving Lives Together

ICVA joined the Saving Lives Together Oversight Committee meeting to discuss the ongoing commitment and engagement of both UN and NGO partners towards this initiative to enhance security collaboration between the UN Security Management System (UNSMS) and NGOs. The meeting highlighted the need to collectively understand and collaborate in addressing the impacts of security threats to support the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance. ICVA is currently seeking a new member representative to join the SLT Working Group and support ongoing implementation of the framework, please contact jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org for more information.

12. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

The IASC Principals

The ERC convened on 14 April an ad hoc IASC Principals meeting to discuss the situation in Ukraine. He briefed on his recent visits to Moscow and Kyiv as part of the efforts to explore agreements for humanitarian pauses and corridors. The follow-up actions of the meeting include to strengthen the scale-up assistance, including by empowering and providing assistance through local partners, where possible and to sustain operational focus and advocacy on other crises beyond Ukraine, including by increasing advocacy and attention to the secondary impacts of the crisis.

Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG)

OPAG convened on 26 April to discuss the findings and recommendations of the IASC commissioned independent “Review of the implementation of the IASC Protection Policy.” The Review, which was conducted by the Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) at ODI, reflects input of 700 people, including feedback from IASC members. It reaffirms the importance of the centrality of protection. It also identifies barriers and blockages and makes recommendations for how the humanitarian system could address them and bring about real change as the protection risks of ongoing crisis are significant. The drafters of the Review presented the main findings and recommendations followed up by a discussion with OPAG members. The finalised Protection Policy Review report is planned to be presented to IASC Principals and the IASC is expected to agree a management response to guide future action.
13. NGO Fora Support Programme:

ICVA is setting up the next phase of the NGO Fora Support Programme. The NGO Fora Support Programme includes a centralised support desk function, small grants to NGO Fora and a series of exchange workshops for NGO Fora staff.

- For more information contact albertphilip.burger@icvanetwork.org.

14. Address COVID-19 Vaccine Inequity in Humanitarian Settings

On 26 April, ICVA held an online workshop on COVID-19 vaccination in humanitarian settings. ICVA members and local partners from Sierra Leone, DRC, Yemen, Lebanon, Nigeria, South Sudan and HQ joined the discussion around barriers, opportunities and emerging best practices on COVID-19 vaccination response. Key emerging recommendations included: a) the need to embed NGO participation in planning and decision-making on response instruments from the global to the local level and b) health systems must be strengthened and mainstreamed.

The Global Health Cluster COVID-19 Task Team focal point presented a landscape overview highlighting the continued importance of COVID-19 vaccination as it remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. In low income countries just 8.4% of the 565 million people eligible for vaccination are fully vaccinated.

ICVA exchanges regularly with the COVAX Vaccine Delivery partnership led by Ted Chaiban, which is the key mechanism for resolving vaccine inequity in humanitarian settings. The CoVDP was established in December 2021 to help countries reach the 70% WHO COVID-19 vaccination coverage target. The CoVDP is targeting 34 countries, over half of whom are managing significant humanitarian needs and refugee populations. The CoVDP partnership welcomes interested NGOs and humanitarian agencies to engage with their Country teams and in their micro-planning, and is making funding available for NGOs to support COVID-19 vaccination in humanitarian settings.

- For more information, contact eileen.morrow@icvanetwork.org

Transforming our Network

15. Champion Principled Humanitarian Action

Civil Society 7 Summit

ICVA along with Action Against Hunger Germany Co-Coordinated the Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict Working Group for the Civil Society 7 summit that was held in 4-5 May. The group included over 40 representatives of NGOs globally including a number of ICVA members. The working group met throughout March and April in developing the proposed five concrete recommendations to the G7. At the Civil Society 7 Summit the Working Group presented the recommendations and led a Roundtable on ‘Closing the Gap: Between early warning and anticipatory humanitarian action’ with contributions by the Somalia NGO Consortium and the Start Network.
16. Address Impact of Climate Change on Humanitarian Action

The Civil Society 7 Summit

ICVA also engaged in the Climate and Environment Justice Working Group for Civil 7. The Working Group purposes to ensure that the mandatory measures and concrete actions of the Paris Agreement as well as the Sustainable Development Goals are ambitiously pursued and implemented by G7 governments.

The Civil 7 Summit was coordinated by ICVA member VENRO, the Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs, and the German NGO Forum on Environment and Development. Learn more about the summit.

ICVA and PHAP Webinar - Understanding and Integrating Climate and Environment Risk Data in Humanitarian Action(28 April 2022)

The webinar was held on 28 April and speakers shared insights on:

- Operational implications of using data supported evidence in policy and for decision-making and programming – early warning, early action, preparedness and effective response to limit displacement
- Challenges, opportunities and ways forward for the humanitarian system on incorporating climate/environment risk into needs analysis, programme design and implementation
- Access to data and data availability to local and international actors to minimise the climate risks to most vulnerable populations

- For more information visit ICVA’s Climate and Environment webpage, or contact nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org

Check the recording on our website
17. Be Globally Distributed and Locally Rooted

Nexus

- For more information on the work of ICVA on the HDP Nexus kindly contact marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org.

18. Be Diverse, Inclusive and Live our Values

Child Rights

2022 Virtual Annual Meeting of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action

This Annual Meeting will be held virtually on the 20 - 22 June under the theme, Promoting the Centrality of Children and their Protection in Humanitarian Action through Accountability, Localisation and Working Across Sectors. The meeting represents a forum to drive discussions on the transformation of the Alliance strategy into a concrete and ambitious strategic plan. Register now.

ICVA participated to the event ‘15 Years of the Paris Principles and Commitments: lessons learnt and ways forward for the implementation of action to prevent child recruitment in armed conflict and support reintegration’ on 4 May 2022

As 112 States have endorsed by now the Paris Principle, this event, co-organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Labour Organisation and Save the Children, offered the opportunity to hear a range of perspectives on the progress made and challenges faced to end the unlawful recruitment and use of children associated with armed forces and armed groups and to ensure that children are successfully reintegrated into their families and communities.

Gender

ICVA Secretariat joined the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies. The Call to Action is a multi-stakeholder initiative launched in 2013 to fundamentally transform the way gender-based violence is addressed in humanitarian emergencies. The aim is to drive change and foster accountability so that every humanitarian effort, from the earliest stage of a crisis, includes the policies, systems and mechanisms to mitigate gender-based violence risks, especially violence against women and girls, and to provide safe and comprehensive services to those affected by gender-based violence.

ICVA commitments relate to the Call to Action Outcomes on Advocacy and Localisation:

- Advocate for implementation of system-wide and institutional policies and capacity to address GBV, strengthen gender equality, and ensure accountability, including in key strategic humanitarian documents.
- Support local actors, particularly women’s organisations, to lead and engage in GBV coordination and on gender equality coordination, and in Humanitarian Country Teams, pooled fund steering committees, and other relevant humanitarian architecture.

27 ICVA members have joined so far the Call to Action. We encourage all to follow suit.
A Scoping Study – What Role Should ICVA Play in Enhancing Member’s work on Gender in Emergencies?

This scoping study finds that ICVA is currently engaged in a number of workstreams that contribute to or are complementary with the gender equality in humanitarian action agenda, such as the strong work with local women-led organizations. Check out more findings and the management responses.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding Resource & Support Hub (RSH)

The RSH is delivered by a consortium led by Options, with Social Development Direct (SDDirect), ICVA, Terre des hommes, Sightsavers and Translators Without Borders.

The RSH launched a new tool, “Communication with children pocket guide.” This guide provides information and guidance to organisations on talking to children about child safeguarding. Access the guides in English, Amharic, Afan Oromo, Somali and Tigrigna. In addition, RSH has produced two tip sheets on safeguarding in formal and non-formal educational settings. They provide guidance on existing policies, laws, and risks.

RSH E-Learning - Safeguarding Matters

All 5 modules of the e-learning course are available in English, and modules 1-4 are live in Amharic, Arabic, French, Hausa and Swahili. Take the course and obtain your certificate!

CLEAR Global’s PSEA Glossary

As co-consortium member of Resource & Support Hub, CLEAR Global, has launched a multilingual PSEA glossary developed in collaboration with IOM, CHS Alliance, RSH, CDAC Network, UNICEF, and other members of the IASC. The glossary covers 208 terms in 29 languages. Program staff, volunteers, translators, and interpreters working in various contexts can use this practical resource to understand unfamiliar terms, check definitions, select the appropriate word and prepare for challenging conversations.

Job Openings

RSH Eastern Europe is now live and are recruiting for three National Associates in the region. Check out the National Associate, Romania, National Associate, Poland, and National Associate, Moldova positions and apply.

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

19. Proactively Engage in Agile Collaborative Partnerships

Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (HNPW) Events
The HNPW has begun with a wide array of events that you can join virtually and face-to-face. There are events around topics like Climate Change, Humanitarian-Development Peace Nexus, localization, protection and inclusion, and Preserving & Expanding Humanitarian Space. Check out more information on the HNPW website.

---

**Region Specific**

**20. Africa**

**The Fourth (4th) Ordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons**

In advance of the African Union’s (AU) Humanitarian Summit which will be held in Malabo Guinea, the AU held the experts session of the Specialised Technical Committee on Migration, Refugees and Internally displaced persons. The meeting focused on validating an important legal instrument that will contribute to the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency, Migration governance within and outside the continent and several policy documents that will enhance effective governance of migration, refugees and IDPs issues in the continent as well as a progress report on the implementation of the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in Africa. The Meeting will also prepare for the Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference that will take place from 25 – 27 May in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

ICVA and a number of its members will take part in the Summit.

- 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

**Joint NGO Statement on Horn of Africa (HoA) Hunger Crisis**

Ahead of the donors convening in Geneva from 25 April 2022, ICVA joined 53 NGOs and NGO networks to call for an urgent and substantial step-up in funding and leadership to respond to the hunger crisis in the HoA. ICVA Chair, Jane Backhurst, joined the High-Level Roundtable on the Horn of Africa Drought event co-hosted by the European Union and OCHA on 26 April where she read the joint NGO statement. Check out the statement and online engagement.

- For further details please contact: Maxine Clayton, advocacysupport@icvanetwork.org

**21. Asia and the Pacific**

Asia Pacific has been collaborating with partners and member agencies to prepare workshops and events that will be happening in the month of May. The workshop “Coordination in humanitarian contexts for Chinese INGOs” details were devised in collaboration with the Amity Foundation to improve Chinese NGOs’ grasp of international humanitarian coordination networks and NGO functions for effective humanitarian response. The session will take place during the second week of May. Similarly, the regional team is closely working with ICVA, APRRN, and PRRIA (Protecting Rohingya Refugees in Asia) partners to convene virtual workshops on “Broadening Coordinated Advocacy in the Region to Address Humanitarian and Peacebuilding Challenges in Post-coup Myanmar and Rohingya Displacement” on 10 and 17 May 2022.
In addition, ICVA will be participating in Global Platform on DRR to strengthen the voice of NGOs on anticipation action and DRR to contribute in Sendai Framework at regional level.

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

22. Latin America

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

23. MENA

Brussels VI Conference: "Supporting the future of Syria and the region"

In May 2022, the European Union and the UN will co-chair the 6th Brussels Conference on supporting the future of Syria and the Region. During the conference the international community will address the situation in Syria and reconfirm political commitments to mobilise financial support. Visit the Brussels conference website for more information on the meetings and side events.

ICVA will be participating in the side event on “Localizing the response to the Syria crisis in Lebanon: towards complementarity, effectiveness and accountability” on 5 May from 9:30-11:30 (Brussels) organised by Lebanon Humanitarian and Development NGOs Forum (LHDF) and the Working Group for Persons Affected by the Syrian Crisis (PASC-WG).

Resource Safeguarding Hub (RSH) - MENA

RSH Hub in MENA has launched an “Ask an expert service,” where your organisation or your partner organisations in Jordan, Syria, or Yemen can reach out and speak to a specialist for safeguarding advice. The service matches CSOs with free SEAH/safeguarding expertise. Email RSH MENA directly. Watch the animation for more information (in Arabic, with English subtitles).

RSH MENA Hub took civil society organisations on "A Safeguarding Journey" in three different locations, Syria, Yemen and Jordan, in March 2022. During the three-day training, participants explored the meaning and definitions of safeguarding, the role and expectations of the local organisations, the approaches to safeguarding, as well as the role and responsibilities of the individuals within an organisation.

MENA Regional NGO Fora Exchange Workshop

ICVA In MENA will be hosting a two day Regional NGO Fora Exchange Workshop in Amman, Jordan in June 2022. International and Local NGO Networks will be invited to the meeting to foster links and enable the exchange of information, learning, interaction, coordination, and networking between the networks throughout the region. For more information, email icvamena@icvanetwork.org
New report - Education Interrupted: Prioritising Early Recovery in the Education Sector in Syria

Save the Children has released a report ahead of the Brussels VI Conference on Syria, which will take place on 9-10 May 2022. The report calls for pragmatic and concrete joint actions from practitioners and donors alike to advance Syrian children’s right to quality education.

- 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

Learning Opportunities


The page aims to inform governments, humanitarian organisations, students and media representatives of the latest research papers on the health situation of those fleeing Ukraine or trapped in the country.

New and Noteworthy

25. Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA), carried out by UN Women and CARE International

The RGA includes primary data of women and men’s lived experiences in the war from Ukraine, as well as a review of available secondary data. It proposes recommendations for humanitarian actors on the different needs and priorities of women and men.

26. Education in Emergencies

On the 12 May, the Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies launches its 2022 – 2025 Strategy to collaboratively advance Education in Emergencies for children and youth.

27. IASC Statement on Accountability to Affected People

The statement endorsed by ICVA affirms the commitment of the IASC to ensure that Accountability to Affected People is central to principled humanitarian action.

28. Protracted Displacement Economies Website

The aim of this website is to help realise the vast economic potential of displacement-affected communities around the world. Explore more about their focus and activities.

29. Scoping Study to Analyse Operating Conditions of Civil Society in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Opt)

The International Civil Society Centre commissioned a scoping study to analyse operating conditions of civil society in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). The study found that accessing funding was a main constraint for CSOs working in the oPt in general, and especially for Palestinian CSOs.
Agenda

May 2-20: Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (HNPW) 2022
May 9-10: Brussels VI Conference "Supporting the future of Syria and the region"
May 17-20: International Migration Review Forum
May 18: ICVA @60 Commemoration
May 25-27: African Union Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference, and Extraordinary Summit on terrorism and unconstitutional changes of regime in Africa

June 7-10: UNHCR Global Consultations with NGOs on Localization and Climate Action
June 20: World Refugee Day
June 21: UN Humanitarian Affairs Segment
June 22-23: ICVA@60 Commemoration Event in Amman
June 28-30: UNHCR 84th Standing Committee Meeting
30 June and 1st July: Grand Bargain Annual Meeting

August 19: World Humanitarian Day

September 19: ICVA@60 Commemoration Event in Panama