



International Council of Voluntary Agencies
Conseil International des Agences Bénévoles
Consejo Internacional de Organizaciones Voluntarias

ANNUAL REPORT

2002

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ICVA MISSION STATEMENT

Adopted by the 12th ICVA General Assembly, February 2003

ICVA – AN ADVOCACY ALLIANCE FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) is a non-profit global association of non-governmental organisations that works as a collective body, to promote, and advocate for, human rights and a humanitarian perspective in global debates and responses. The heart of the ICVA mission is to support NGOs to protect and assist people in need, to address the causes of their plight, and to act as a channel for translating patterns and trends into advocacy.

ICVA seeks to strengthen NGOs as part of civil society, through the relationships among member organisations from around the world. It facilitates the sharing and creative use of practical experience and strategies to promote and protect human rights, including those of refugees and displaced peoples, and to provide humanitarian assistance from the perspective of justice and sustainable development. ICVA fosters partnerships among agencies for the sharing and dissemination of information to attain consensus among member agencies on prioritised issues in order to effect change, particularly at the international level.

ICVA advocates vis-à-vis governments and international agencies for a strong NGO role in efforts to secure human rights, prevent conflicts, prepare for disasters, and improve humanitarian responses to distressed populations. Through its cooperative and catalytic nature, it gathers and exchanges information and raises awareness on the most vital matters of humanitarian concern before policy-making bodies.

ICVA has been in existence since 1962. It works to secure the commitment of the world community to address injustice, ensure dignity and rights, and promote international strategies that attend to human needs. Today's NGO members are strengthened in their missions to provide global assistance through the power and persuasion of the ICVA alliance. Tomorrow's members will continue to enrich the network with experience and opinion and will strengthen the impact of this alliance in bringing about a just world.

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ICVA MEMBERS IN 2002

- ◆ ACTIONAID, *UK*
- ◆ Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA)
- ◆ Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB)
- ◆ Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), *Ethiopia*
- ◆ African Council for Adult and Continuing Education (ARCACE), *Kenya*
- ◆ African Refugee Foundation (AREF), *Nigeria*
- ◆ All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), *Kenya*
- ◆ AMEL Association (Lebanese Association for Popular Action) (AMEL)
- ◆ American Joint Distribution Committee (AJDC)
- ◆ Anatolian Development Foundation (ADF), *Turkey*
- ◆ Asian Institute for Rural Development (AIRD), *India*
- ◆ ASF-Dansk Folkehjælp (Danish People's Aid), *Denmark*
- ◆ Asociacion Nacional de Centros de Investigacion, Promocion Social y Desarrollo (ANC), *Peru*
- ◆ Association Béninoise de Lutte Contre la Faim et la Misère du Peuple (ASCOFAM), *Benin*
- ◆ Association for Sarva Seva Farms (ASSEFA), *India*
- ◆ Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB)
- ◆ Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development (AVARD), *India*
- ◆ Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA)
- ◆ British Refugee Council (BRC)
- ◆ Burmese Border Consortium (BBC), *Thailand*
- ◆ Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR)
- ◆ CARE
- ◆ Caritas Internationalis
- ◆ Chinese Refugees' Relief Association (CRRA), *Taiwan*
- ◆ Church World Service (CWS), *USA*
- ◆ Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA), *Ethiopia*
- ◆ Confederation of Environmental and Development NGOs of Central Africa (CONGAC), *Cameroon*
- ◆ Consejo de Instituciones de Desarrollo (COINDE), *Guatemala*
- ◆ Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- ◆ Disaster Mitigation Institute (DMI), *India*
- ◆ European Partnership of Relief Organisations (EPRO)
- ◆ EMO-BARAKA, Union Pour la Promotion du Paysan (EMO-BARAKA), *Burundi*
- ◆ Federacion de Organismos No Gubernamentales de Nicaragua (FONG)
- ◆ Fundacion Augusto Cesar Sandino (FACS), *Nicaragua*
- ◆ General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), *Jordan*
- ◆ Human Appeal International (HAI), *United Arab Emirates*
- ◆ Humanitaere Nothilfeprogramme – Weltweit (Humanitarian Cargo Carriers) (HCC), *Germany*
- ◆ Indian Institute of Youth and Development (IIYD)
- ◆ Individuell Människohjälp (Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief) (IM)
- ◆ INTERACTION (American Council for Voluntary International Action)
- ◆ InterAid International (IAI), *Switzerland*
- ◆ International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)
- ◆ International Islamic Relief Organisation (IIRO), *Saudi Arabia*
- ◆ International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- ◆ International Save the Children Alliance
- ◆ Islamic Relief Agency (ISRA), *Sudan*
- ◆ Italian Consortium of Solidarity (ICS)
- ◆ Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)
- ◆ The Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), *Jordan*
- ◆ Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights (LCHR), *USA*
- ◆ Lebanese NGO Forum (LNF)
- ◆ Liaison Unit of Non-Governmental Organisations of Seychelles (LUNGOS)
- ◆ Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), *USA*
- ◆ Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- ◆ Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS)
- ◆ Médecins du Monde (MduM)
- ◆ Media Action International (MAI), *Switzerland*
- ◆ Mission Armenia (MA)
- ◆ National NGO Council of Sri Lanka (NNGOC)
- ◆ Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- ◆ Office Africain pour le Développement et la Coopération (OFADEC), *Senegal*
- ◆ Refugee Children and Vulnerable Citizens (RCVC), *Tajikistan*
- ◆ Refugees International (RI)
- ◆ Rural Development Foundation of Pakistan (RDFP)
- ◆ Salvation Army International (SA)
- ◆ Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya Inc. (SARVODAYA), *Sri Lanka*
- ◆ Sierra Leone Association of NGOs (SLANGO)
- ◆ South African National NGO Coalition (SANGOCO)
- ◆ Stichting Vluchteling (SV), *The Netherlands*
- ◆ Sudanese Women General Union (SWGU)
- ◆ Télécoms sans Frontières, (TSF)
- ◆ Union for Support and Development of Afghanistan (VAF), *Germany*
- ◆ World Council of Churches (WCC)
- ◆ World Vision International (WVI)

PERMANENT OBSERVERS

- ◆ International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- ◆ International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- ◆ Médecins sans Frontières International (MSF)

FOREWORD FROM THE ICVA CHAIR (2002)

2002 marked another momentous year for ICVA as it moved further towards ensuring its position as a global focal point for NGOs on humanitarian and refugee policy matters.

2002 also marked the 40 year anniversary of the organisation. We took the liberty to celebrate this achievement at a reception hosted by the ICRC where it all started back in 1962. I believe that we had every reason in the world to celebrate the anniversary and to be proud of the fact that we have been able to stick together for all these years. The idea that was born 40 years ago is still alive and adds value to the international NGO community.

Though the idea behind the creation of ICVA has not changed over the years, the issues and the way we work have undergone major changes. These changes reflect the fact that the world of today is very different from the world of 1962. Even though the challenges are numerous and the resources are much too limited, ICVA has been able to make a difference to our members and to the victims of conflicts and other marginalized groups. They may be modest differences, but, nevertheless, a difference that is visible.

Through our privileged and friendly relations with various UN humanitarian and human rights agencies and other major players in the international arena, we are able to influence governments' decision-making on refugee and humanitarian policy, on guidelines for working with IDPs, for the use of military assets in humanitarian assistance, standards for humanitarian assistance, and the development of accountability mechanisms for humanitarian aid and the behaviour of aid workers, as well as many other issues of importance to our members.

The quality of our work, interventions, and representation at UNHCR's Executive and Standing Committees, at Inter-Agency Standing Committee meetings, in the Sphere management committee and numerous other meetings reflects the collective knowledge and know-how of our members. But without ICVA's small, highly professional, and committed staff, we would not have been able to make such a difference. I want to pay tribute to this effort.

During the past five years, I have had the great privilege of chairing the ICVA Executive Committee. It has been an honour to serve ICVA during both difficult and challenging times. It has been great fun to work with so many committed and intelligent persons serving ICVA and our common objectives. Elizabeth Ferris of the World Council of Churches has now taken over as Chair. I wish her and the new EXCOM all the best and great success.

Over the past five years, I never once felt that ICVA lost its relevance to its members, partners, or the world. And, I am still convinced that if ICVA did not exist, we would have to reinvent her.

Anders Ladekarl
Chair of the ICVA Executive Committee

ADVOCACY

GUIDELINES ON MILITARY AND CIVIL DEFENCE SUPPORT FOR HUMANITARIAN AID

A joint effort of a group of States and humanitarian agencies to draft guidelines on the use of military and civil defence assets (MCDA) in support of UN humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies came to fruition at the end of 2002. While these guidelines cover only a small part of the much larger issue of the relationship between the military and humanitarian agencies, several agencies, including ICVA, had expressed serious reservations about the guidelines earlier in the year. The draft did not properly reflect essential humanitarian principles nor did it emphasise the points that military support for humanitarian aid should be a last resort and that it can only be provided under civilian coordination. Although pressure was put on ICVA and the other agencies to withdraw the reservations, the opposition resulted in a much better final document that humanitarian actors, governments, and the military can use in their work.

The unit responsible for facilitating the drafting process of the guidelines, the Military and Civil Defence Unit (MCDU), which is housed in OCHA, was the subject of an inter-agency review in which ICVA also participated. The review, led by Martin Griffiths, concluded that MCDU has the potential for facilitating the coordination process that deals with the humanitarian-military interface and in advocating humanitarian principles in this process. Unfortunately, little follow-up to the conclusions and recommendations has been seen since the review was completed.

FIELD-BASED NGOs NEED TO COORDINATE ON POLICY AND ADVOCACY: SUPPORTING NGO COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

As a Geneva-based network of NGOs, ICVA is often seen as the coordinator of the NGO community. Governments, international organisations, and others look to ICVA as a focal point for representation and NGO coordination. Clearly, ICVA is involved in the coordination of humanitarian policy and NGO positions at the global level.

At this level, ICVA has been actively participating in NGO-led policy initiatives, such as the Sphere Project and the Reach Out Refugee Protection Training Project. Both initiatives are trying to improve the quality of humanitarian response: Sphere through the establishment of a humanitarian charter and minimum norms in four assistance sectors, and Reach Out through the training of humanitarian NGO staff on refugee law, with a view to integrating protection elements into assistance programmes.

It is rare that ICVA gets involved in operational coordination, as this best happens at the field level. On special occasions, however, at the request of members or close partners, ICVA can support NGO coordination structures on the ground, particularly with regards to their role in the coordination of policy issues and advocacy. ➤

NGOs FIND INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE WITH THE IASC

NGO access to the primary international body for humanitarian coordination, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), remains limited to three NGO networks – ICVA, InterAction, and the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response. Yet despite this limited presence, NGOs were able to have some of their concerns heard in the IASC. NGO presence helps to provide a ‘reality-check’ through the sharing of practical information and field experience. As part of the IASC process, European and Geneva-based NGOs have been meeting on a monthly basis with UN agencies and international organisations since the beginning of 2002. The goal of these meetings is not only information-sharing, but also trying to insert NGO thinking into inter-agency coordination on humanitarian issues. Over the year, NGOs presented their views and information for discussion on countries, such as Angola and Chechnya, and on themes, such as the relationship with the military and sexual exploitation by aid workers.

IMPROVING STAFF SECURITY THROUGH COLLABORATION

The work done by UN and non-UN actors on improving staff security during 2000 and the final recommendations adopted in 2001 provide practical guidance on ways to improve staff security through collaboration. Efforts to disseminate the recommendations and implement them need to be continued. It seems that too often, humanitarian actors are not aware of the recommendations, the “menu of options” that were developed, or the consultant’s report, which offers further insights into the staff security issue. These results of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee’s Task Force on Staff Security should not be forgotten, particularly when security is becoming a greater challenge for humanitarian actors. Any comments and suggestions on the recommendations can feed into follow-up that the IASC Working Group is to do.

The reports and recommendations from the Task Force are available on ICVA’s website: <www.icva.ch/cgi-bin/browse.pl?doc=doc00000234>.

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A trip of the ICVA Coordinator in March 2002 looked at NGO coordination mechanisms in Afghanistan and what support ICVA could provide in order to strengthen these mechanisms. In the first weeks and months of a humanitarian crisis, the focus of humanitarian coordination is almost exclusively on technical and operational affairs: who does what, and where. What is crucial, however, is that operations are informed by, or incorporate, policy and protection issues. In the Afghan context, the role of the military in the aid effort and the protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees were (and are) but two of the pressing issues that NGOs faced. To a certain degree, initiatives such as Sphere and Reach Out offer a framework for analysis for NGOs in dealing with these issues.

The ICVA Coordinator's trip found that there had been little discussion among NGOs about these issues at the time. Since the spring of 2002, however, the two leading NGO bodies, the Agency Coordination Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR) and the Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB), have been able to step-up their activities and have played an active role in coordination on NGO policy and advocacy. Some NGOs developed a Sphere initiative and ACBAR has been very outspoken on the US-led initiative to set up Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), which mix humanitarian, development, and military profiles into one entity.

For NGO coordination to be effective, it must link operational and policy issues and focus on advocacy. Humanitarian action and coordination are not just about the delivery of services and the division of labour. Humanitarian coordination is a much broader concept that should focus on the complementarity of agencies and actors – not on the “one-size-fits-all” approach. The aim is not to agree on one position or policy, but to ensure that NGO and civil society concerns and thinking are not overlooked. At the same time, however, NGOs must always ensure that they are not co-opted and avoid their participation being merely token.

UNHCR

REFUGEE PROTECTION CONSULTATIONS END, BUT WORK STARTS NOW

With the adoption of the Agenda for Protection by UNHCR's Executive Committee, the Global Consultations on International Protection, set up by UNHCR to reinforce the protection of refugees, came to an end. The real work, however, started with the Agenda's endorsement. The value of the Consultations will only be proved if the implementation of the Agenda will help to bring an end to the increasingly restrictive policies vis-à-vis refugees and asylum-seekers seen in a number of Western and developing countries. In this sense, mechanisms must be developed to hold governments accountable for their commitments towards implementing the Agenda. On the international level, NGOs will be continuing their advocacy on the need for a forum where violations of the rights of refugees can be discussed and where governments can be held accountable.

In 2002, ICVA undertook a review of its refugee policy work over the past three years, as a lead-up to the ICVA General Assembly. The review, carried out by a consultant, highlights ICVA's work in the context of the Global Consultations, but notes that the focus needs to shift more to the field level. Field-based NGOs' information, monitoring, and advocacy in refugee protection will be crucial in moving the six goals of the Agenda for Protection forward. The recommendations of the review were incorporated into ICVA's Strategic Work Plan 2003-2005.

UNHCR AND ICVA

One of ICVA's most important functions continues to be the facilitation of NGO input into UNHCR's Executive and Standing Committee meetings throughout the year. With only one NGO statement permitted per agenda item, the coordination of statements is a challenging, but fruitful effort given the appreciation expressed about the quality of the NGO statements. NGOs are able to provide an honest assessment of the state of refugee protection, which UNHCR and other States are often not able to do. By calling UNHCR and States to account for refugee protection failures, the hope is that positive changes result for refugees. (All the NGO statements can be found on the ICVA website: www.icva.ch.)

ICVA continued to co-host the UNHCR-NGO Pre-Executive Committee Consultations (Pre-EXCOM), the largest annual event bringing together UNHCR and NGOs. Improvements continued to be made in the format of the meeting with various panels on thematic issues and regions. Among the discussions were refugee security, staff security, standards, IDPs, and prevention of sexual exploitation. The efforts are meant to open up the discussion between UNHCR and NGOs, but the link between Pre-EXCOM and EXCOM still needs to be strengthened. The report of Pre-EXCOM is available on ICVA's website (www.icva.ch).

IDPs

The recommendation of the UN's Special Coordinator on Internal Displacement to set up a small, non-operational unit within the UN to support the response to IDPs came to fruition at the beginning of 2002. The IDP Unit, placed in OCHA and reporting directly to the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), started work as of 1 January 2002. With staff seconded from UN agencies, the NGO consortia, and IOM, the Unit was to support the work of the ERC and improve the work of UN Country Teams on the collaborative approach. The idea was that after a year, the Unit would be evaluated for its effectiveness.

ICVA supported the work of the Unit, although the fears that the Unit would not be able to solve the UN's problems in adequately addressing the needs of IDPs continued to exist. It was also felt that the commitment of agencies to supporting the Unit and the collaborative approach could be questioned. The NGO Reference Group on IDPs continued to be updated and consulted by ICVA on the work of IDPs. NGOs interested in being added to the Reference Group's e-mail list should write to: secretariat@icva.ch.

THE CHALLENGES OF COMBATING SEXUAL ABUSE

During the first few months of 2002, many humanitarian workers were caught off-guard when it was revealed in the media that sexual exploitation and abuse were ongoing in refugee camps in West Africa. It was alleged that peacekeepers, humanitarian workers, refugee and community leaders, teachers, and others were trading money and goods (as meagre as biscuits and plastic sheeting) for sex with refugee children.

Everyone acknowledged that if such abuse was taking place in West Africa, the chances of it happening elsewhere were quite high. To make matters worse, there was a certain crisis in partnership between UNHCR and NGOs that emerged, as the study that uncovered the problem in West Africa had been commissioned by UNHCR and Save the Children UK. The initial lack of any sharing of the findings by UNHCR led many NGOs to question UNHCR's commitment to partnership with NGOs in ensuring better refugee protection. The realisation eventually came about on UNHCR's side that there is an interdependence between UNHCR and NGOs on the ground. The organisational distinctions that we make in the humanitarian community are not often noted by those with whom we work. UNHCR, other UN agencies, NGOs, and governments soon all worked together to tackle the problem of sexual abuse and exploitation.

The need to "clean up" the humanitarian house, rightly, became an immediate priority. The quick reaction was to get to writing and implementing codes of conduct to address the problem. Discussions took place about developing a common code of conduct for humanitarian workers. The challenge with codes of conduct, however, is that once staff sign them, how can their implementation be guaranteed? How far can a code of conduct go in terms of delineating staff behaviour outside office hours? Are all staff – national, international, and refugee staff, for example – subject to the same codes of conduct? How much do the personal actions of an aid worker reflect on the organisation for which s/he works? ►

ICVA

ICVA'S CONFERENCE AND 12TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 12th ICVA General Assembly (GA) was set to take place in 2002, with a preceding Conference on *NGOs in a Changing World Order: Dilemmas and Challenges*. The ICVA Executive Committee had decided to hold the GA in India, with ICVA member the Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development (AVARD) hosting the event. Given the political tensions between India and Pakistan early in 2002, the EXCOM felt that another location might be easier for logistical reasons. The National NGO Council of Sri Lanka (NNGOC) offered to host the GA and Conference later in 2002. Preparations were well underway for both events, but, unfortunately, inadequate funding meant that the events had to be postponed until February 2003 when they were held in Geneva, Switzerland. The Conference was held from 14-15 February 2003 and the General Assembly was held on 16-17 February 2003. A special issue of *Talk Back* was produced in preparation. Background documents for the Conference and General Assembly, as well as the Conference report and minutes from the General Assembly, can be found on ICVA's website on the Information Resources page (www.icva.ch). ►

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There is no “quick fix” solution for organisations trying to put a stop to sexual exploitation or abuse. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) formed a Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The Task Force developed core principles to be incorporated into organisations’ codes of conduct, as a minimum. A Plan of Action was also developed by the Task Force, which outlines several steps that must be taken by the humanitarian community to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation and to respond to survivors’ needs. IASC members committed to taking forward the plan of action and ensuring incorporation of the common elements into their codes. Interestingly, several NGOs felt that the common elements did not go far enough in terms of drawing lines for staff.

A code of conduct is only one of many steps that need to be taken by organisations. An overall change of culture within organisations is ultimately what is required. No longer can incidents go unreported or not investigated. There must be reporting mechanisms put in place – for those with whom we work and for staff – that allow people to safely express their concerns without fear of repercussions. But once those reports have been made, mechanisms must also be put in place that ensure investigations look into those reports. Many NGOs may not be able to develop their own investigations’ capacity, but working together is one solution.

Despite the good work done in trying to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation, there is still much more to be done. Delicate issues around involving national law enforcement and police bring a whole other range of issues for humanitarian organisations to consider. Are national laws in-line with standards expected of an NGO’s staff? Should NGOs report incidents to police who are known to be disrespectful of human rights? The challenges are not easily overcome, but humanitarian agencies will have to continue to confront them as long as sexual exploitation and abuse persist.

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The EXCOM felt that the GA would be an appropriate time to reaffirm the direction in which ICVA’s work had progressed since 1998 and submitted a new mission statement to be adopted. The mission statement, describing ICVA as *An Advocacy Alliance for Humanitarian Action*, was adopted by the GA in February 2003.

40 YEARS OF ICVA

On 6 March 2002, ICVA celebrated 40 years of existence. In order to mark the occasion, a special section on the website was created that looked at ICVA’s history and looked forward to the 12th ICVA General Assembly and the Conference preceding it. A “birthday” celebration was held at the International Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent – an appropriate venue given that ICVA’s first home was at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Ruud Lubbers, and the President of ICRC, Jakob Kellenberger, reflected on the work and importance of ICVA at the event.

THE RECENT PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE NEAR FUTURE: ICVA RETREAT

In preparation for the ICVA General Assembly, the Secretariat felt that a reflection with some ICVA members and partners would be a helpful way to look at ICVA’s work from the perspective of both “insiders” and “outsiders”. A day and a half retreat was organised with a small number of NGO, UN, and government representatives. A frank and honest debate reviewed and analysed ICVA’s failures, achievements, and performance from 1999 onwards and also proposed concrete suggestions for ICVA’s Strategic Work Plan 2003-2005. The ideas and discussions that resulted contributed to the Work Plan and to the ICVA Review 2000-2002.

Dear ICVA,

Congratulations on the 40th anniversary from a former Board member (1980s with the British Refugee Council).

I continue to believe strongly in the value of an organisation such as ICVA and wish you continued life and success over the next ten years.

*Martin Barber
Chief, UN Mine Action Service*

On the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of ICVA I should like to congratulate ICVA, its Executive and Secretariat – and wish you all the best for the future. ICVA is, and will be, necessary more than ever.

I wish you all a good celebration and successful planning of your next General Assembly... I follow ICVA and its Talk Back with interest and enthusiasm.

*With regards and respect
from a supporter,*

*Arne Piel Christensen
Chair of VOICE
(Voluntary Organisations
in Cooperation in Emergencies),
Former Secretary-General of
the Danish Refugee Council,
Former Vice-President of ICVA*

*Happy birthday to ICVA!
Through all the ups and downs,
ICVA has provided an essential
coordinating and information-
sharing function, which in turn
has helped its members and the
UN system promote refugee
protection. Your work has played
an important role in saving
many lives. What you do, what
you help us the members do
together, is very much
appreciated.
All best wishes for the next forty
years!*

With warm regards,

*Ralie Deffenbaugh
President, Lutheran
Immigration and
Refugee Service*

TALK BACK

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES (ICVA)

VOLUME 4-1, 21 MARCH 2002

Editorial

- ◆ Band-Aids for Humanitarian Workers

In The News

- ◆ Power and Privilege
- ◆ Aid, NGOs, and Somalia's Security
- ◆ Protection for Civilians in Liberia Needed Now

Issue of the Month: Protection Training

- ◆ Don't Just Train
- ◆ Reach Out – Improving Refugee Protection: How Far Have We Come?
- ◆ Enhancing the Protection of Civilians in Conflict Situations: Ecogia Protection Seminars

Focus on Burundi and Tanzania

- ◆ When Going Home is Not an Option

ICVA Turns 40

- ◆ New Section of Website Launched

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VOLUME 4-2, 25 SEPTEMBER 2002

Editorial

- ◆ High Hopes for the New High Commissioner

In The News

- ◆ Why Do NGOs Bother with EXCOM?
- ◆ When IDPs are in the Hands of a World Power
- ◆ Sexual Exploitation: Sadly, It's Not Over
- ◆ How Active and Reliable is UNHCR in the Response to IDPs? By Roberta Cohen

Issue of the Month: Protection

- ◆ Demystifying Protection
- ◆ Implementing the Agenda for Protection: Hypocrisy or Sincere Effort?

Opinion

- ◆ Housing Rights: A Neglected Issue by the Humanitarian Community, By Scott Leckie
- ◆ Public Domain Accountability: The Need for More Effective Independent Monitoring, By Edward Girardet

ICVA Conference and General Assembly

- ◆ Colombo, Sri Lanka: 14-17 February 2003

Protecting Rights Through Humanitarian Action

- ◆ New Web-Based Human Rights Resource for Humanitarian Workers on the ICVA Website (www.icva.ch)

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ICVA has been producing *Talk Back*, its primarily electronic newsletter, since April 1999. Back issues of *Talk Back* are available on ICVA's website: www.icva.ch on the *Information Resources* page. *Talk Back* is generally published in English, French, and Spanish.

Articles in *Talk Back* are written with information gathered from various sources, including from member agencies and partners.

To subscribe to *Talk Back*, send an e-mail to talkback@icva.ch with the message *subscribe*, indicating your language of preference (English, French, and/or Spanish).

Comments on *Talk Back* are welcome: talkback@icva.ch.

INFORMATION

WEBSITE – PROTECTING RIGHTS THROUGH HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Reference Group on Humanitarian Action and Human Rights produced the IASC publication *Growing the Sheltering Tree: Protecting Rights through Humanitarian Action*. The book collects various examples of ways that humanitarian workers have protected rights through innovative programmes.

As a follow-up to the workshop co-hosted by ICVA and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on *Human Rights Training for Humanitarian Actors*, held in November 2001, and to provide an electronic home for *Growing the Sheltering Tree*, the Reference Group supported the creation of webpages on ICVA's website (www.icva.ch) dedicated to *Protecting Rights through Humanitarian Action*. Along with electronic versions of *Growing the Sheltering Tree*, the webpages provide documents and links related to training and toolkits, including manuals and guidelines, and other resources, such as information-sharing resources, case studies, and policy documents. The webpages are also meant to make *Growing the Sheltering Tree* a living document by allowing humanitarian workers to provide their own examples of how they have protected rights through their programmes. If you have such examples, please send them to webmaster@icva.ch for posting.

ICVA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2002

Chair: Mr. Anders Ladekarl, *DRC*

Vice-Chair: Dr. Elizabeth Ferris, *WCC*

Treasurer: Ms Roswitha Dinger, *LWF*

Mr. Kebede Asrat, *CRDA*

Mr. Jim Bishop, Mr. Rick Augsburg, *INTERACTION*

Mr. William Canny, *ICMC*

Mr. Paul Meijs, *CARE*

Mr. Mamadou Ndiaye, *OFADDEC*

Mr. Tom Getman, *WVI*

Mr. P.M. Tripathi, *AVARD*

ICVA SECRETARIAT 2002

Mr. Ed Schenkenberg van Mierop, Coordinator

Ms Manisha Thomas, Humanitarian Affairs Officer

Ms Dominique Gilliéron, Secretarial Assistant

Ms Tina Pfenninger, Finance Officer

Ms Lieske Pott Hofstede, Programme Advisor

Mr. Jan Ven, Programme Advisor

FINANCES

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002 with comparative figures
(all figures in Swiss francs)

	2002	2001
INCOME		
Membership fees	186,413.17	194,931.74
DANIDA via Danish Refugee Council (DKK 400,000.00)	78,000.00	101,247.95
Norway - Ministry of Foreign Affairs via Norwegian Refugee Council (NOK 200,000.00)	39,400.00	46,714.48
Swiss Government DDC/SDR	50,000.00	50,000.00
UNHCR, Switzerland (USD 21,935)	32,288.30	0.00
DGIS-Netherlands Ministry for Development Cooperation	0.00	33,444.00
Participations in Support Services from Projects	25,720.94	98,289.92
Reserve liquidation	20,000.00	0.00
IM World Aid loan-related adjustments	77,131.25	0.00
Ford Foundation, USA project balance to core	10,968.07	0.00
Miscellaneous	6,296.55	5,369.14
Adjustment on 2001 payables	890.64	
Exchange rate gain and bank interest	102.65	307.15
Project income/project fund balances	96,554.03	500,939.64
Total income	623,765.60	1,031,244.02
EXPENSES		
Core salaries	269,446.10	258,585.82
Consultancy fees	12,280.75	7,073.42
Social Charges	65,065.55	59,478.15
Provident Fund	34,222.50	29,648.20
Other Personnel charges	875.00	478.40
Website related charges	10,896.64	4,733.70
Executive Committee/General Assembly	20,526.90	18,169.82
General Assembly reserve	0.00	10,000.00
Office supplies/equipment/maintenance	18,016.81	14,133.03
Travel and representation charges	12,505.06	16,131.90
Publication and translation costs	11,795.22	29,879.14
Office rental and utilities	40,821.90	33,266.90
Postage and telecommunication costs	19,603.91	27,215.40
Audit and legal fees	3,000.00	3,000.00
Debit interest	0.00	9,800.00
Bank charges, exchange rate adjustment	8,294.64	5,667.44
40th Anniversary ICVA	9,123.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	290.00	4,022.35
Project expenses	81,077.57	443,738.36
Year-end balance for projects	22,233.21	57,201.28
Total expenses	640,074.76	1,032,223.31
Excess of income over expenses or - expenses over income	-16,309.16	-979.29

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Discussions were on-going within the ICVA Executive Committee concerning the formulation of a new fee structure for ICVA members. The plan is to increase the overall income from membership fees in order to cover a larger percentage of ICVA's core costs. The new structure was to be approved by the 12th ICVA General Assembly in 2003 and applied from 2004 onwards.

FINANCES

BALANCE SHEET STATEMENT as at 31 December 2002 with comparative figures (all figures in Swiss francs)

	31/12/2002	31/12/2001
ASSETS		
Petty Cash	337.40	629.05
Cash in bank accounts		
UBS CHF	3,079.48	46,321.89
UBS USD (USD 3,499.41)	4,849.85	67,629.25
Accounts receivable and prepaid expenses		
Accounts receivable	6,195.33	131,834.66
Taxes on interest income	123.55	87.65
Prepaid expenses	3,326.00	0.00
	17,911.61	246,502.50
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	12,742.60	138,107.16
IM World Aid (member loan due 31.12.98)	145,465.00	179,500.00
Accruals & Provisions	700.00	0.00
Restricted Funds /reserves	26,343.00	46,343.00
OHCHR, Switzerland	17,527.40	17,527.40
Stichting Vluchteling, Netherlands (USD 2,887.00)	4,705.81	4,705.81
Ford Foundation, USA (USD 6,734.00)	0.00	10,968.07
Wellspring Advisors, USA	0.00	24,000.00
WHO-OMS, Switzerland	1,385.90	0.00
Accumulated deficit carry over at 31.12	-190,958.10	-174,648.94
	17,911.61	246,502.50

SUPPORT TO ICVA PROJECTS

- ◆ DFID, United Kingdom for ICVA Information System
- ◆ Unicef for *Protecting Rights through Humanitarian Action* webpages

AUDIT REPORT

Full audit report available upon request: secretariat@icva.ch.



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