



1962 - 2022

Collaborating for effective
humanitarian action

ICVA's Vision

The vision of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) is a world in which crisis-affected populations are effectively protected, assisted, and enabled to rebuild their lives and livelihoods with dignity.

ICVA's Mission

ICVA is a global network of non-governmental organizations whose mission is to make humanitarian action more principled and effective by working collectively and independently to influence policy and practice.

Foreword

Celebrating a legacy of impact.

The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) turned 60 in March 2022. It was founded in 1962 through a merger of three organizations working tirelessly for refugees and on migration issues. Since then, building cooperation on these issues has been at the heart of ICVA's work and will continue to be in the future.

Beginning with 60 members, ICVA was one of the first mechanisms for international non-governmental organization (NGO) cooperation. In the ensuing decades, it has expanded its focus to include protection, security, information sharing, UN and humanitarian reform, accountability, protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, complaints and investigation, humanitarian financing and capacity strengthening. It has grown into a diverse network of 140 NGOs, with an outreach of 8,000, operating in 160 countries at global, regional, national and local levels.

Forging a collaborative future for effective humanitarian action.

Throughout our 60th anniversary commemoration, we will highlight examples of ICVA's impact over the past six decades and thank the members, donors and staff who make our work possible. The next step in our evolution begins in 2022 with the ICVA 2030 strategy – which will root us more deeply in our vision and mission.

As we celebrate our legacy of impact, we will continue to examine the critical challenges of the future and redouble our commitment to making humanitarian action more principled and effective. ICVA will forever seek to promote and advocate for human rights and a humanitarian perspective in national, regional and global debates and responses. Our success will be defined by the degree to which we can grow together as a network, deliver an impact for people in crisis, and remain relevant and principled.

All of this is so much more than the sum of its parts.

Jane Backhurst

Chair of ICVA Board

Wossen Tesfay

Chair of ICVA at 60 Steering Committee

60 years of advocating as a collective NGO body to improve the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian response!

We were established in 1962 as the successor organization of the Conference on Non-Governmental Organizations interested in Migration, the Standing Conference for Voluntary Agencies Working for Refugees, and the International Committee for World Refugee Year.

ICVA is constituted today of 140 NGOs, with an outreach to 8,000 NGOs, operating in 160 countries with an estimated income of over USD 20 billion.

A lot has changed in 60 years.

The scale and complexity of the humanitarian work is very different to the 60s. Globally, humanitarian crises – such as armed conflict, forced displacement, natural disasters and major disease

outbreaks – affect more people today than at any point in recorded history. These crises have immense acute and long-term impacts on hundreds of millions of people, predominantly in low and middle-income countries.

The results over the decades achieved by staff of NGO and of other national and international organizations are a credit to the determination and capability of the humanitarian system and to those who support it.

However, the effects of the climate change and the response to the current pandemic have highlighted the fundamental cracks in the global system. It has brought inequality within and between countries into sharp relief, and severely tested our resilience as individuals, nations and as an international community.

The ICVA Strategy 2022-2030 (ICVA 2030), is the next step in our evolution as an NGO community, rooting us more deeply in our vision and mission.

While retaining our rootedness in principled humanitarian action we must take full advantage of our collective diversity, the value we all bring, our proximity to people in crises and our collaborative advantage to increase our impact; and to confront and respond to the impact of climate change and take our responsibilities in mitigating the root causes.

For ICVA to grow and achieve its potential we need to evolve and transform our network to grow and deliver the full potential. More than an organizational shift, this transformation is about the position we want ICVA to occupy in the sector for greatest impact, affirming our collective values and being clear what this means in practice.

The ICVA@60 commemoration events are an opportunity to learn from the past and make sure the aspirations in our ICVA2030 are 'evolutionary' in so much that we will build upon some directions already started and are 'transformative' because the changes will result in an ICVA Secretariat and ICVA network that works and feels quite different to ICVA today.

Ignacio Packer

Executive Director

The Beginning

- ICVA is founded through a merger of three organizations focusing on refugees and migration
- UNHCR presents ICVA with the Nansen Refugee Award
- Trusted partner of UNHCR

Overview

The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) was formed in Geneva in March 1962 through the merger of the Conference on Non-Governmental Organizations interested in Migration, the Standing Conference for Voluntary Agencies Working for Refugees, and the International Committee for World Refugee Year. It began with 60 members as one of the first cooperation mechanisms for non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and by the 1970s its membership had grown to 87.

ICVA's initial purpose was:

"To build cooperation in refugee matters and extend this out to other areas. To open doors to work in all areas of voluntary agency activity that could benefit from a structured liaison, coordination information exchange and professional services."

Areas of focus

ICVA was focused on both humanitarian assistance and development in the early days. As a coordinating body for NGOs, it quickly became a forum for discussion, advocacy and sharing experiences. It was also a valuable source of news and information for NGOs, governments and inter-governmental organizations.

Key activities

From the start, ICVA was a close and trusted partner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which enabled NGOs to take an active role in the work of the United Nations (UN).

In 1963, UNHCR presented ICVA with the prestigious Nansen Refugee Award, which recognises outstanding dedication and commitment to supporting people who are refugees, displaced or stateless.

ICVA established three commissions, on refugees and migration, social and economic development, and emergency aid. It represented its members, speaking on their behalf at United Nations and other meetings. Its international profile was raised with the formation of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) in 1972.

During this early period, ICVA was actively involved in migration and population issues, disaster planning, conflict situations, the six-day Arab-Israeli war in 1967, and a drought in the Sahel region of Africa.

ICVA at 60: a time

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Growth and expansion

- Regional meetings take place in Central America, the Horn of Africa and Sudan
- The Management for Development programme and the NGO Management Network are created
- A resource centre opens and ICVA publishes guidelines, statements and *ICVA News*

Overview

During the 1980s, ICVA grew in confidence, reach and membership. It elected a governing body of 20 members, who appointed an Executive Director. Two working groups emerged to address refugee and migration and development issues, and their sub-groups focused increasingly on Africa, Central America, China and the Middle East.

Areas of focus

ICVA continued to work in both the areas of humanitarian assistance and development during this period. The effect of the international debt crisis on people living in poverty came into sharp focus, and efforts were made to improve humanitarian responses to natural and man-made disasters.

Key activities

ICVA built and nurtured collaborative relationships between NGOs and inter-governmental organizations, including the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

In 1984, it delivered a series of management training workshops for senior NGO executives from regional and national coordinating bodies. This led to the creation of the Management for Development Programme – which helped NGOs improve their management practices – and the launch of the NGO Management Network.

By this stage, ICVA had become well established in its information-sharing role. It opened a resource centre and produced publications

and guidelines for NGOs. It published joint statements of collective views on matters such as refugees in Indochina, unaccompanied minors in southeast Asia, and the NGO approach to development. *ICVA News* was launched.

By the end of the 1980s, it was becoming increasingly clear that ICVA needed to become more inclusive of women and ethnic minority groups. It began to prioritise attracting members from less represented countries by promoting and establishing more regional and national NGO networks. ICVA organised the first meetings in Central America, the Horn of Africa and Sudan.

Crisis and rebirth

- A Code of Conduct emerges concerning humanitarian aid in disaster situations
- ICVA undertakes NGO coordination activities in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia
- The World Aid '96 exhibition ends in financial disaster, triggering a reevaluation of ICVAs focus
- ICVA reassesses its development and humanitarian focus
- A streamlined ICVA emerges, refocusing on refugees and the humanitarian agenda

Overview

As the new decade dawned, ICVA was playing an important role in the NGO sector. It was recognised as a unique global forum for NGOs to discuss opinions, share strategies and information, coordinate actions and forge partnerships. It provided an essential interface with governmental and inter-governmental bodies, enabling NGOs to participate in UNHCR's Partnership in Action Programme (PARinAC). ICVA generated an income of \$1 million and its membership increased to almost 100 organizations.

However, the 1990s did not end well for ICVA. It was becoming increasingly difficult to simultaneously pursue the two often conflicting agendas: humanitarian response and assistance on the one hand and social and economic development on the other. Disagreements and tensions built between members. Some expressed the opinion that ICVA was no longer relevant as a humanitarian organization, while others suggested that it wasn't doing enough to progress the development agenda. To make matters worse, ICVA invested heavily in the financially disastrous World Aid '96 exhibition, incurring a CHF 350,000 loss. Recriminations flew from all directions. Some members left to join competing NGO networks and ICVA was on the verge of closure.

ICVA survived this crisis by reinventing itself for the 21st century as a streamlined, forward-thinking humanitarian organization. It dropped its development agenda and focused entirely on supporting refugees and displaced people. It restructured itself, reorganised the Secretariat, and put a financial rescue package in place. A new ICVA was born.

Areas of focus

During the 1990s, ICVA continued to support its members to provide humanitarian assistance to people affected by conflict and disaster. Until its rebirth at the end of the decade, ICVA was also promoting the development of economic, environmental, social and cultural sustainability.

There was collaboration on advocacy, constituency building, capacity building, and other external challenges, such as building relationships with governments.

Key activities

Through its unique relationship with UNHCR, ICVA and members advocate for better protection of the rights of refugees, stateless persons, and other persons of concerns at UNHCR meetings. It was also a vital liaison facilitator between NGOs and inter-governmental organizations, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the World Bank, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and several other UN agencies.

ICVA also participated in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) from 1993 onwards.

During this decade, ICVA made efforts to address gender balance and equity in the representation

of women in committees and meetings. ICVA encouraged members elected to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) to be represented by women at least half of the time, and it established a standing committee on integrating women in decision-making.

Geographically, ICVA's attention was mainly on what was happening in Bosnia and other parts of the former Yugoslavia through offices in Belgrade, Sarajevo, Tuzla and Banja Luka. The humanitarian crisis in Rwanda was also a priority, and ICVA promoted and supported national and regional NGO networks in Africa, South Asia, Central America and Lebanon.

ICVA produced numerous publications, including a handbook for NGO cooperation at the field level. Its main journal *ICVA News* was renamed *ICVA Forum* – it later became *On the Record* and in 1999 *Talk Back*.

For the first time in 1996, the ICVA mission statement mentioned a Code of Conduct relating to humanitarian aid in disaster situations, the 1994 Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in disaster relief, designed to maintain the high standards of independence, effectiveness and impact.

In 1997 ICVA was part of the management committee to set up the Sphere Project in 1997, which defined a humanitarian charter and minimum standards of NGOs interventions in disaster response. And in 1999, the Reach out Refugee Protection Training project was initiated by NGOs and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, to train humanitarian staff in the basics of refugee protection.

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Humanitarianism and human rights

- ICVA increases its attention on protection, security and human rights
- ICVA works to build an NGO community and increase interactions with the UN
- 2005 sees multiple large scale crises: Hurricane Katrina, the Indian Ocean tsunami and Pakistan's earthquake
- ICVA plays a major role in the selection of a new UNHCR High Commissioner
- Principles of Partnership (PoP) forms the basis of inter-agency humanitarian work

Overview

ICVA arrived in the new millennium refreshed and with a clear purpose. Its 2003 mission statement focused on promoting and advocating for human rights and bringing a field-based humanitarian perspective into global debates and responses. There was no longer any reference to the development agenda.

Areas of focus

ICVA worked tirelessly to strengthen humanitarian principles and standards. It focused on protection, security and human rights, and the interface between NGOs and the military, all within the context of post 11 September 2011. Information-sharing, community-building and advocacy were core aspects of ICVA's work.

Key activities

ICVA supported humanitarian activities in many countries around the world, including Kosovo, Indonesia, Darfur, Uganda and Myanmar.

2005 was a year of catastrophic disasters. Hurricane Katrina, the Kashmir earthquake in Pakistan, and the tsunami in the Indian Ocean all highlighted the need for increased NGO capacity and improved coordination between the UN and other humanitarian organizations.

One of ICVA's objectives during this period was to strengthen the NGO community and encourage inter-agency collaboration that would improve the quality of NGO work. The ICVA Secretariat was instrumental in developing the Principles of Partnership (PoP) initiative, endorsed by the Global Humanitarian Platform (GHP) in 2007. Recognising that this represented an opportunity for NGO voices to be heard, ICVA produced a publication entitled *Ten Practical Ways to Use the PoP* and incorporated it into its new member application process.

ICVA persevered with its efforts to facilitate NGO access to UN agencies and other international organizations. In 2005, ICVA was given a role in the selection process of any new UNHCR

Commissioner. It also became involved on several levels in shaping humanitarian reform at the UN – including benchmarking, standards, financing, and the appointment of Humanitarian Coordinators.

ICVA was also active in a range of other notable areas. It formed a task force on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse in refugee camps and continued to develop its Code of Conduct for humanitarian workers. In partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), it created an NGO reference group. It hosted the Building Safer Organizations (BSO) initiative between 2004 and 2007 to support agencies implementing proper complaints and investigation procedures. It supported the 2004 revision of the *Sphere Handbook* with a greater emphasis on human rights. ICVA was part of the Saving Lives Together oversight committee, a framework for improving security arrangements for NGOs and the UN working in the field.

Diversity, inclusion and global reach

- ICVA hosts the Sphere Project, an inter-agency initiative, between 2013 - 2016
- ICVA establishes regional hubs enabling it to expand its global representation
- The 2016 World Humanitarian Summit increases recognition of ICVA's value in the humanitarian sector
- ICVA collaborates with InterAction to set up a joint NGO coordination function
- Accountability and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse are prioritised
- ICVA supports NGOs to respond the COVID-19 pandemic

Overview

ICVA became more diverse and inclusive during this period, enabling local and national NGOs to get more involved and be better heard. It brought diverse actors together to harness the power of the collective. It expanded its global presence by establishing member-hosted regional hubs as a framework for national NGOs to engage internationally. ICVA also continued to stimulate NGO engagement in policy and advocacy issues through its coordination role with the UN and other international bodies. It cemented its position as a global information resource for learning and best practice. It built on these strengths and increased its membership, income, and staff numbers during this period.

Areas of focus

ICVA's key focus areas were forced migration and displacement, humanitarian coordination and finance, and cross-cutting issues of localization; safeguarding; gender; humanitarian, development and peace nexus; bureaucratic impediments to access; diversity, inclusion and equity. ICVA worked intensively in strengthening partnerships between NGOs and States, UN Agencies, regional organizations, and other stakeholders in the humanitarian setting in reference to the Principles of Partnership.

Key activities

Protection of the rights of refugees and vulnerable migrants has remained a priority area. ICVA and members contributed to various important global and regional policy making processes such as the Global Compact on Refugees, the Global Compact on Safe and Regular Migration, and the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement.

The UNHCR-NGO consultations co-organised by ICVA at regional and global level contributed to an enhanced partnership between UNHCR and NGOs. There are similar initiatives with IOM and with the UN Network on Migration.

ICVA enabled the participation of local and national NGOs in the different mechanisms of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), and with members is included in making strategic, policy and operational decisions with a direct bearing on humanitarian operations on the ground such as the Ebola response, the Syrian context, Sahel region, Yemen, Ethiopia. ICVA spearheaded the duty of care discussions in particular in 2020-2021 with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following the 2014 ICVA Annual Conference on "Show me the money", ICVA's work on humanitarian financing included Less Paper More Aid, an initiative to harmonise and simplify donor reporting requirements.

ICVA was involved in planning and shaping outcomes of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). In the same year ICVA co-chaired the first Sherpa meeting of the Grand Bargain, and has since been involved in its

implementation, and shaping the framework for the Grand Bargain 2.0.

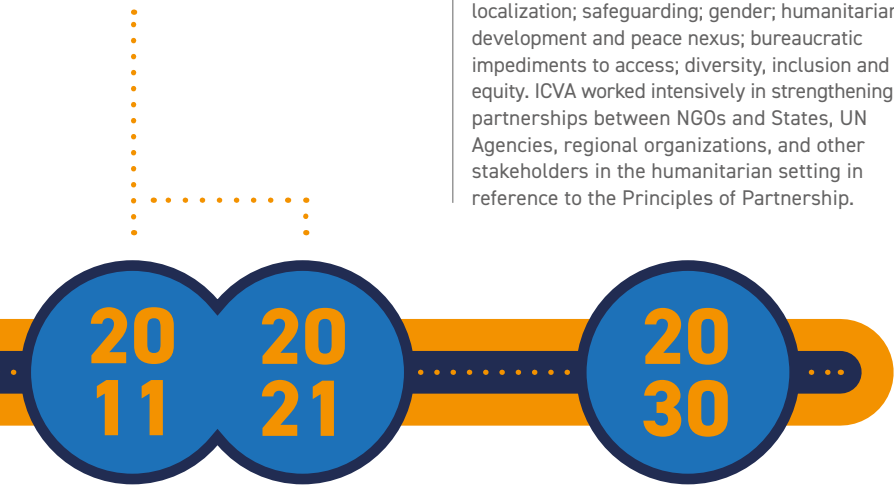
In 2013 ICVA opened its first regional hub in Bangkok, followed by Amman, Addis Ababa, Dakar, Nairobi, and a regional representation in Guadalajara for Latin America. ICVA published several publications on localization, one of many initiatives to provide greater field support to local and national NGOs carrying out humanitarian activities. This includes supporting country level coordination bodies, NGO fora, through organizational capacity development and advocacy support.

Since 2020, ICVA and UNHCR partner to manage the PSEA Community Outreach and Communications Fund, which invests in community-led efforts aimed at raising community awareness and ensuring that victims know where and how to safely report incidents.

ICVA was instrumental in developing and advocating for adoption of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations (2021). ICVA members committed to a climate and environment motion and action at the 2021 General Assembly.

Throughout 2020 and 2021, ICVA worked to support members adjust to the substantial operational and financial challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic and follow up on equitable access to vaccines.

90% of ICVA members contributed to the ICVA 2030, the collective strategy, aspirational transformations and ways of working for the next decade.



Looking Ahead: ICVA 2030

Creating ICVA 2030

ICVA 2030 is our strategic vision for the next decade. Through an inclusive consultation process, we have looked beyond our usual three-year horizon and defined the network we need to become to maximise our relevance and effectiveness in the future. ICVA 2030 is about the impact of the collective missions of ICVA and its members – we can be more than the sum of our parts by working together to influence policy and practice in humanitarian action.

The humanitarian environment

The humanitarian environment is constantly evolving, and events have shown us how disruptive change can be over the last two years. The COVID-19 pandemic and global protests against racism, for example, have drawn attention to the effect of crises on the most vulnerable people. These events occurred against a backdrop of the impact of climate change, long-term shifts in the characteristics of crises, and the changing nature of conflict. Civic space is eroding. Power is shifting from west to east and north to south, and this is

likely to continue. Humanitarian action itself is becoming more complex and involves an increasingly wide range of actors. A networked approach is expected to significantly impact future humanitarian responses, so this is an important time to embrace diversity, inclusion, and collaboration.

The ICVA mission and added value

The ICVA 2030 consultations demonstrated a large amount of support for the network. We are committed to promoting principled and effective humanitarian action, and we play a unique and essential role within the humanitarian system. We bring value by explaining and analysing, convening and brokering, influencing and advocating, supporting and collaborating. Our identity and legitimacy are rooted in our diverse membership of local, national, regional and international NGOs, forums and networks.

Transforming our network

For ICVA to grow and achieve its full potential, we need to evolve and transform our network while remaining focused on our mission.

We have jointly committed to transforming the ICVA network in five ways:

- Championing principled humanitarian action
- Addressing the impact of climate change on humanitarianism
- Being globally distributed and locally rooted
- Embracing diversity and inclusivity and living our values
- Proactively engaging in agile collaborative partnerships

Focus areas

ICVA and its members have identified three focus areas to underpin the core elements of the work described in ICVA 2030.

- Humanitarian coordination
- Humanitarian financing
- Forced migration

ICVA's 18th General Assembly approved ICVA 2030 and Strategic Priorities (2022 - 2024) in May 2021.

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1963 Nansen Medal awarded to International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)

The Nansen Medal was this year awarded to the International Council of Voluntary Agencies "with a view to honouring all the agencies and their constituencies, as well as individual voluntary workers who have shared in the common effort of assistance to refugees", and in recognition of "the devotion and humanitarian spirit displayed by the agencies and their staff in the accomplishment of this task".

The International Council of Voluntary Agencies was established in Geneva, in March 1962, as the successor organization of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations interested in Migration, the Standing Conference of Voluntary Agencies Working for Refugees and the International Committee for World Refugee Year.

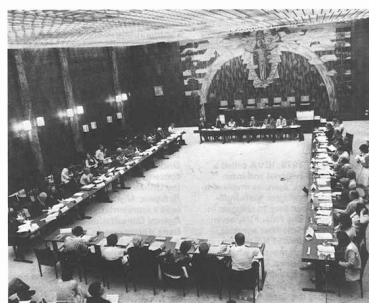
The seventy-four member agencies working for refugees represent a wide variety of religious faiths and humanitarian interests.

Replicas of the scroll and citation will be handed over to all seventy-four members of ICVA.



Photo: Interpress

Mr. Charles Jordan, President-elect of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, receives the Nansen Medal from Mr. Felix Schnyder, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Looking on is Dr. F. Wahlen, Federal Councillor and Head of the Political Department of the Swiss Confederation.



ICVA Indo-Chinese Consultation

Statement following ICVA Voluntary Agency Consultation on the Indo-China Refugee Problem

Motivated entirely by a spirit of compassion and compelled by the appalling conditions under which hundreds of thousands of our fellow human beings exist in refugee camps in Asia and deeply concerned for the needless loss of human life, over 150 international and national voluntary agencies directly involved in all phases of assistance to the Indo-Chinese refugees met in Geneva on 18 and 19 July, 1979 under the auspices of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies.

The participants on 18 July independently arrived at the same conclusions. They agreed to work on ICVA, the newspaper of the Stockholm Environment Conference, others on Plan, the newspaper of the 1974 World Population Conference in Bucharest.

Their concern is to report accurately, to further communication within the conference, to be a platform and, from time to time and entirely without presumption, a point.

For outside this conference, some 400 million people are waiting. They are the people of the developing countries who are suffering from malnutrition, from daily grumbling privation. It is a formidable task - and growing. From the better off, it deserves some answers.

The voluntary agencies' consultation place these conclusions before the governments assembled in Geneva.

1979 Indochine Conference



1966 ICVA board dinner for Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, newly elected UN High Commissioner for Refugees



Executive Director, Cyril Ritchie

A brief history of ICVA

The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) was established in Geneva in March 1962, as the successor organization of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations interested in Migration, the Standing Conference of Voluntary Agencies Working for Refugees and the International Committee for World Refugee Year.

The ICVA was created by the merger of three organizations: the International Committee for World Refugee Year (ICRWY), the Standing Conference of Voluntary Agencies Working for Refugees (SCVWR), and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA).

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International Council of Voluntary Agencies

ICVA



Mr. Henrik Boer, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies, whose statement on "International disaster relief: new problems, new solutions" is reported above, is shown here (center) discussing his statement in the Conference Working Group on Emergency Aid. Mr. H. Leila Kivela (left), Director of UNHCR, who chaired the Working Group and who was later elected to be the ICVA General Conference Chairman for the period 1968-71. (Right) Cyril Ritchie, Executive Director of ICVA.

Copyright: Portman Press Bureau Ltd



Prior to joining the ICVA Secretariat in early 1964, Cyril Ritchie served ICVA in other capacities, including as a member of the Governing Board in 1964. He is shown here (center right) as and friends at the top table are (from the left) Mr. H. Leila Kivela (left), Director of UNHCR, who chaired the Working Group and who was later elected to be the ICVA General Conference Chairman for the period 1968-71. (Right) Cyril Ritchie, Executive Director of ICVA.

1963 General Conference



Sudanese Vice President Abel Alier and ICVA's Executive Director discussing voluntary agency contributions to national development.

International Council of Voluntary Agencies

ICVA

NEWS

July 1979

No. 82

In this issue:
ICEM Special Session
Viewpoint on Viet Nam
Report on the Arusha Refugee Conference
Focus on 'Help the Aged'
Migrants in Europe and the World
New Section: Letters to the Editor



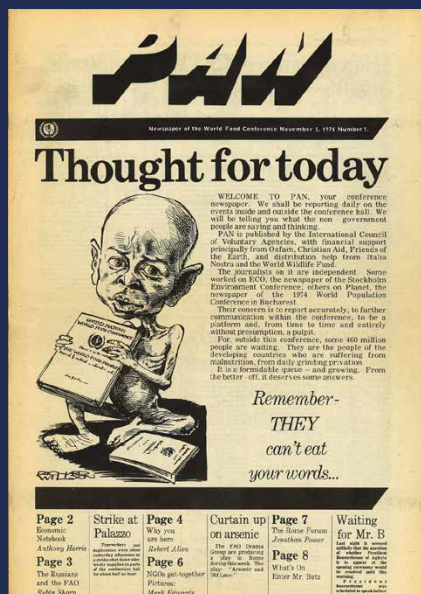
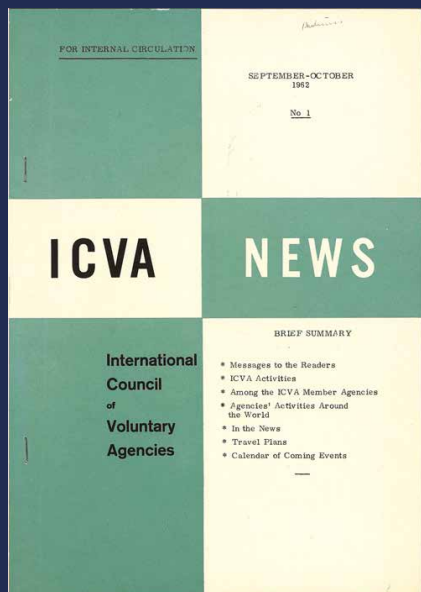
left to right: Richard Taylor, World University Service, Sally Taylor, Hans Dell, UN, FAO (PHOTO CADOUX, Genève)



speaker: Cyril Ritchie, ICVA (PHOTO CADOUX, Genève)



speaker: Eugene Ries, chairman of the ICVA Governing Board (PHOTO CADOUX, Genève)



1982 ICVA General Conference Sri Lanka

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La *Realidad* de la Ayuda

Una evaluación independiente de la ayuda internacional

NGO GLOBAL FORUM AND
ICVA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ADDIS ABABA[illegible]

OPENING AND CLOSING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[illegible]

Survival

How can you be sitting there
Telling me that you care
That you care
When every time I look around
The people suffer in waiting
In everywhere, in everywhere
I tell you what
Some people got everything
Some people got nothing
Some people got hopes and dreams
Some people got no aim it seems

**A Global NGO Forum
— & —
ICVA General Assembly**

Sponsored jointly by:
ICVA International Council of Voluntary Agencies
CRDA Christian Relief and Development Association, Ethiopia
CEVO Consortium of Ethiopian Voluntary Organizations
IAG Inter-Africa Group
UNECA United Nations Economic Commission for Africa



Return Information Initiatives

for
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Directory of agencies providing information
to Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced P



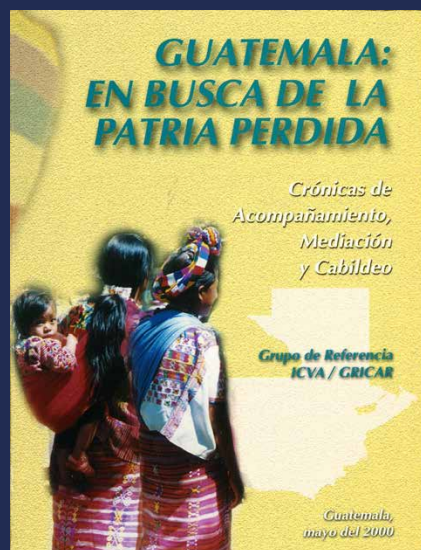
International Council of Voluntary Agencies

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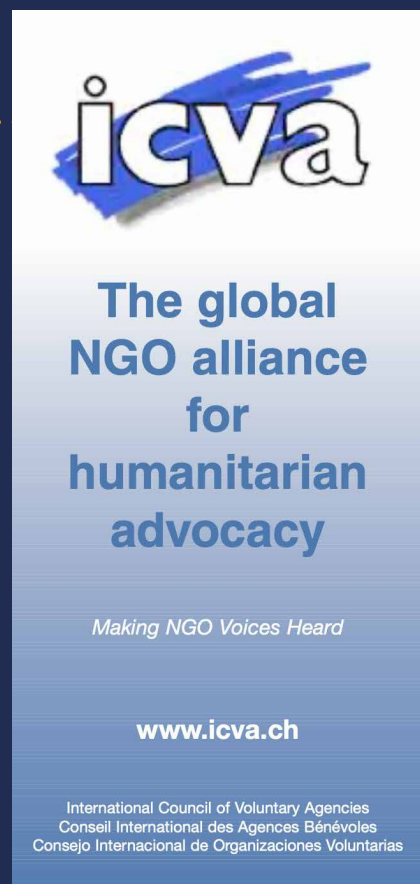
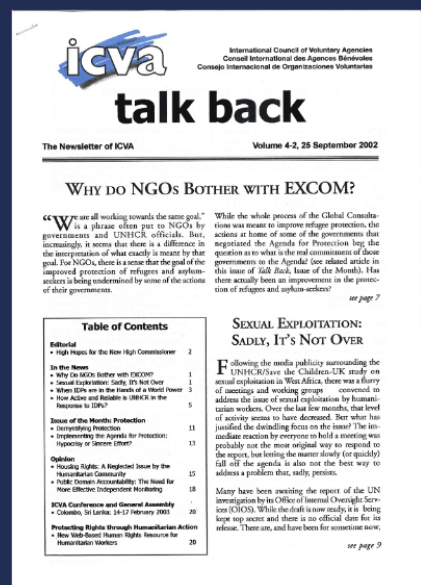
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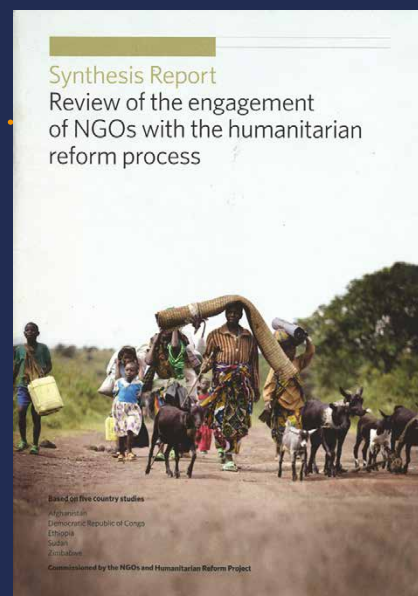
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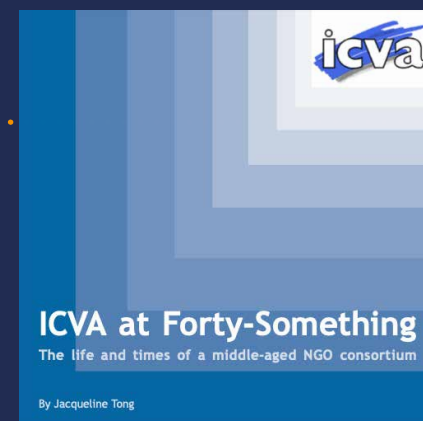
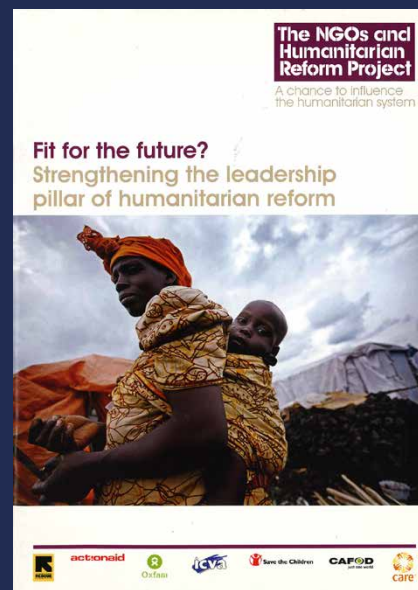
2000 Guatemala in search of the lost homeland



Executive Director, Ed Schenkenberg



2008 Ed Schenkenberg and Manisha Thomas



Paul O'Brien Chair ICVA 2009-2012



Tom Getman Chair ICVA 2006-2009



Beth Ferris Chair ICVA 2003-2006



2014 National NGO meeting



2014 CoC training West Africa



2015 ICVA board elected



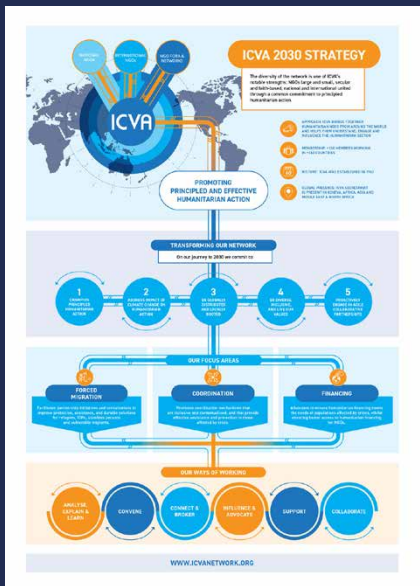
2015 West Africa NGO workshop



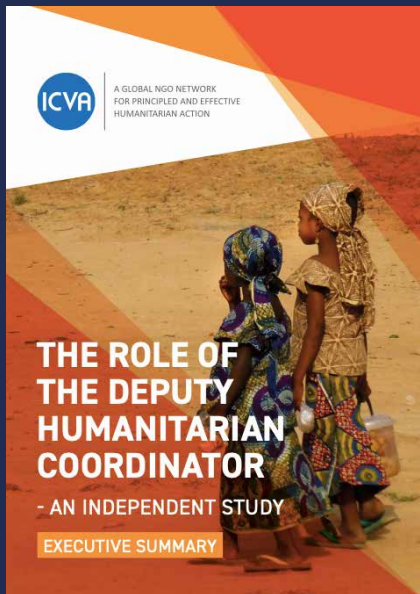
2015 Penny-Lawrence, 16th General Assembly



2017 Annual Conference



Executive Director, Nan Buzard



Logo evolution

Acknowledgements

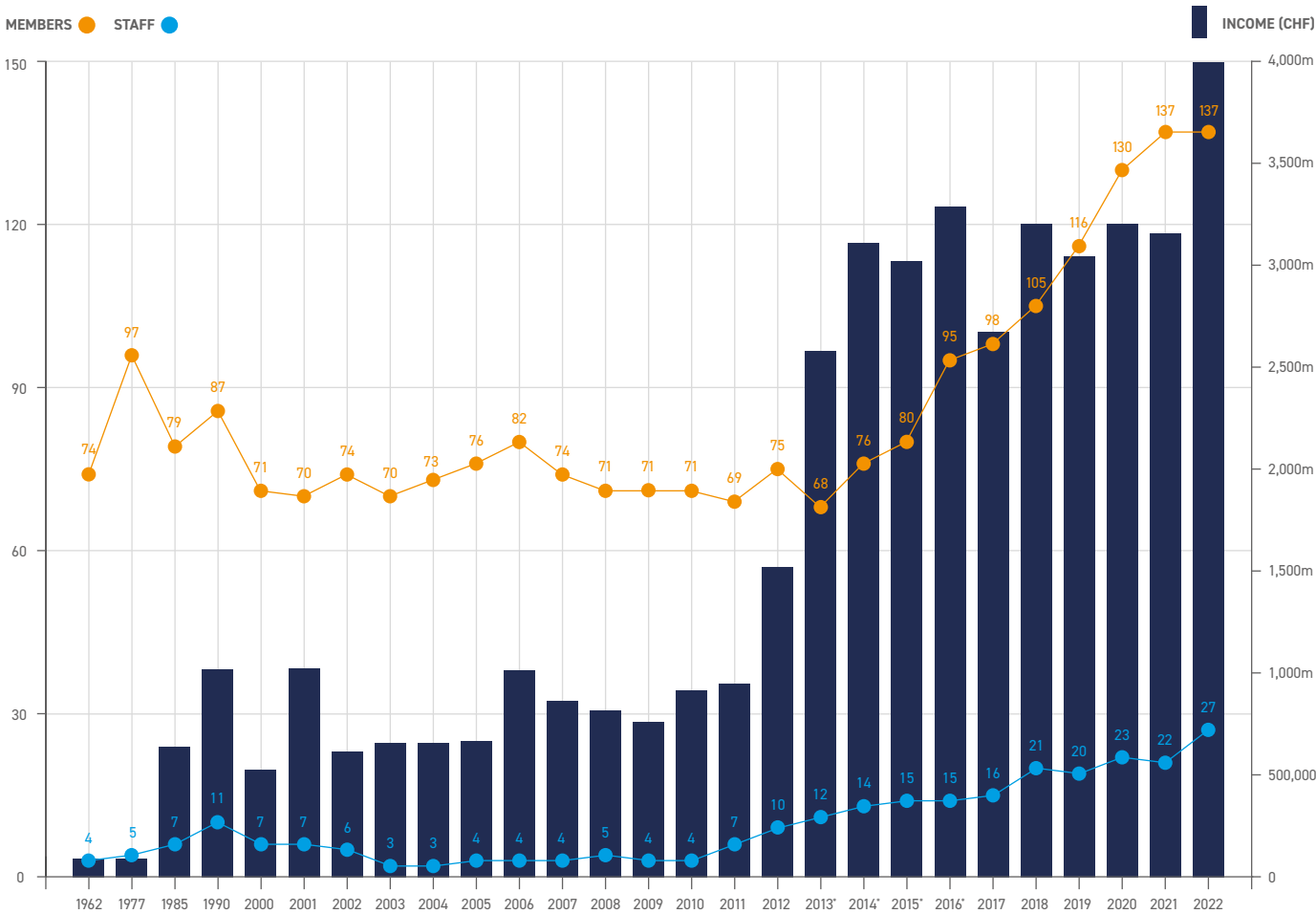
Our thanks go to the ICVA Secretariat for their support and guidance as we produced this document to commemorate our 60th anniversary. In particular, we would like to thank Robert White, who conducted the interviews and recorded the history of ICVA.

We are grateful to our interviewees for sharing their valuable time, knowledge and insights: Jane Backhurst, Nan Buzard, Elizabeth Ferris, Thomas Getman, Penny Lawrence, Steven Muncy, James Munn, Eunice Ndonga, Paul O'Brien, Faizal Perdaus, Cyril Ritchie, Ed Schenkenberg, Rudiger Schoch, Anoop Sukumaran, Wossen Tesfaye, and Roger Yates.

The resources we used in our research can be found in the ICVA archives. They include publications and notes from annual conferences and general assemblies, past editions of *ICVA News*, *Forum*, *Talkback* and *Bulletin*, annual reports, case studies, impact studies and previously published histories. Most of the documents can be found at www.icvanetwork.org.

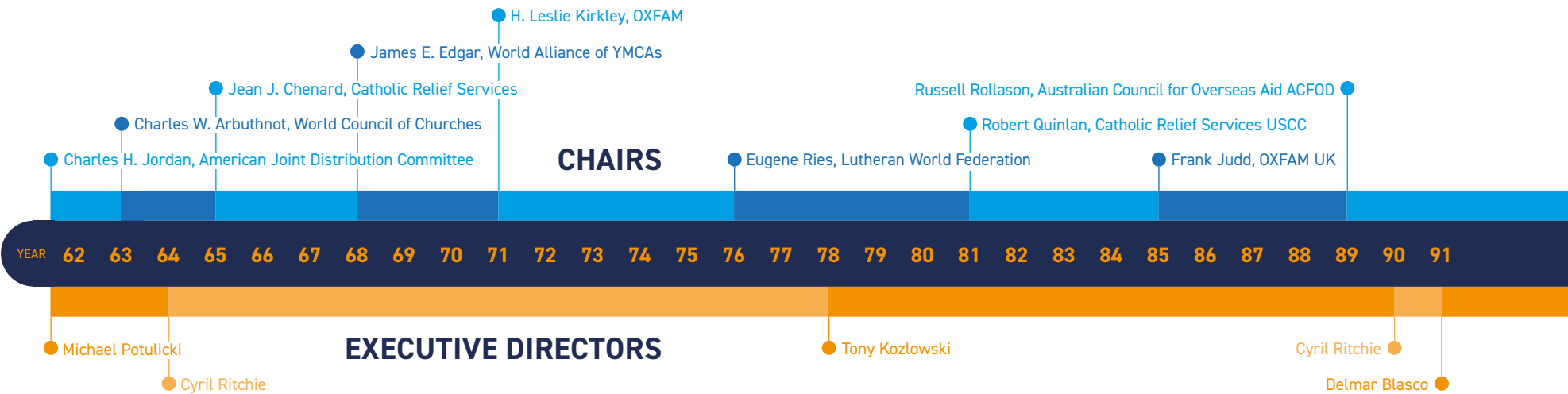
Annexe 1: The evolution of ICVA

The table below illustrates how ICVA has grown over the last 60 years regarding international members, staff and income received.



*2013-2016 includes Sphere

Annexe 2: ICVA Chairs & Executive Directors



Annexe 3: Annual Conferences & General Assemblies

YEAR	GENERAL ASSEMBLIES	LOCATION	THEME
1962	Constituent Meeting	Geneva	
1963	General Conference	Geneva	Voluntary agencies' new approaches to human needs in new circumstances
1965	3 th General Assembly	Geneva	Dynamic development
1968	4 th General Assembly	London	Human needs and social justice
1971	5 th General Assembly	New York	International voluntary action for human needs
1976	6 th General Assembly	Leysin, Switzerland	Social injustice: our response
1981	7 th General Assembly	Colombo, Sri Lanka	The role of voluntary agencies in building a new world community
1985	8 th General Assembly	Dakar, Senegal	Development in an age of social crisis: the challenge to voluntary agencies
1989	9 th General Assembly	San Domingo, Dom. Rep.	Building sustainable NGO partnerships: global solidarity and empowerment of the people
1994	10 th General Assembly	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	NGO global forum on building sustainable societies
1999	11 th General Assembly	Geneva	Rebirth of ICVA
2003	12 th General Assembly	Geneva	NGOs in a changing world order: dilemmas and challenges
2006	13 th General Assembly	Geneva	NGOs: The principles and politics of humanitarian action
2007	Annual Conference	Geneva	How compatible are UN coherence and humanitarian partnership?
2008	Annual Conference	Geneva	The essential humanitarian reforms
2009	14 th General Assembly	Geneva	Changing the humanitarian community
2010	Annual Conference	Geneva	Partnership for a change?
2011	Annual Conference	Geneva	Does size matter?
2012	15 th General Assembly	Geneva	Adjusting to reality?
2013	Annual Conference	Geneva	Innovation! It doesn't have to be like this
2014	Annual Conference	Geneva	Show me the money
2015	16 th General Assembly	Geneva	The principles of partnership
2016	Annual Conference	Geneva	Complementarity in humanitarian action
2017	Annual Conference	Geneva	How can civil society understand and navigate a changing world?
2018	17 th General Assembly	Geneva	Navigating the nexus: NGO perspectives
2019	Annual Conference	Geneva	Translating commitments to Action
2020	Annual Conference	Geneva and online	Protecting principled humanitarian action: an honest conversation on risk
2021	18 th General Assembly	Geneva and online	Climate, environment and humanitarian action: How can NGOs mitigate and adapt?

Annexe 4: Further Reading

ICVA Histories

- [ICVA – a brief history \(1977\)](#)
- [ICVA at 25 years and beyond \(1987\)](#)
- [ICVA at forty-something \(2009\)](#)

ICVA Brochures

- [ICVA at a glance \(2022 - 2024\)](#)
- [ICVA at a glance \(2019 - 2021\)](#)

ICVA Strategy

- [ICVA 2030](#)
- [ICVA strategic priorities \(2022 - 2024\)](#)
- [Enabling strategies \(2022 - 2024\)](#)
- [\(Communications, Funding, Human Resources, Membership\)](#)

ICVA Bulletin

- [Bulletin years](#)
- [Talk Back volumes 1 to 9 \(1999 - 2010\)](#)

ICVA Statutes

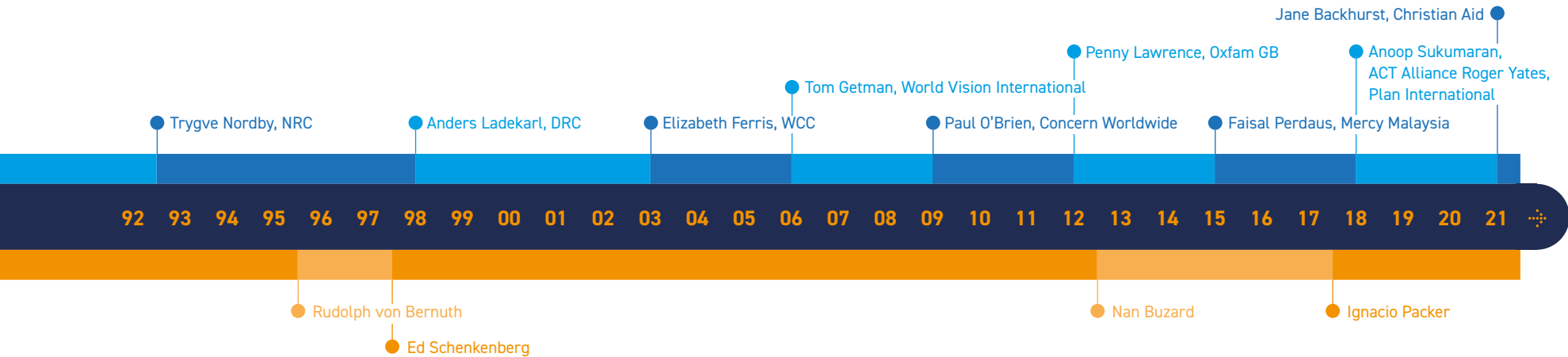
- [Statutes 2021](#)

ICVA Annual Reports

- [2000 - 2020 Annual Reports](#)

ICVA Impact Studies

- [Impact study report \(2015 - 2018\)](#)
- [Mid-strategy impact study \(2019 - 2020\)](#)
- [Case studies \(2019 - 2020\)](#)





A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

60YEARS
1962-2022

ICVA – International Council of Voluntary Agencies

Africa

Dakar, Senegal
Nairobi, Kenya

Asia- Pacific

Bangkok, Thailand

Latin America

Guadalajara, Mexico

MENA

Amman, Jordan

As from 01 July 2022

Geneva, Switzerland

NGO Humanitarian Hub,
La Voie-Creuse 16, 1202 Geneva

26-28 Avenue Giuseppe Motta, 1202 Geneva
secretariat@icvanetwork.org
www.icvanetwork.org