



Management response to the recommendations of the 2022 “Review of ICVA’s Support to NGO Fora (2018-2021)”

The [Review of ICVA’s Support to NGO Fora \(2018-2021\)](#) is a study undertaken by the Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG) on behalf of ICVA’s secretariat in 2022, and aimed at addressing two main objectives:

- To review the effectiveness and relevance of ICVA’s work to support international and national NGO Fora on their advocacy, coordination, and engagement priorities.
- To give evidence-based forward-looking recommendations for ICVA’s ongoing work with NGO fora, considering the findings of the review and the expressed needs of NGO Fora.

At the highest level, the review finds that “ICVA has been largely effective in supporting NGO fora to positively influence humanitarian action”. It also provides a number of recommendations which were duly considered by ICVA. In order to respond to these recommendations, ICVA commits to the following actions:

Recommendations and actions

Recommendation 1: Establish clear, shared expectations by agreeing on objectives and processes for ICVA's support for NGO fora.

Action:

ICVA will introduce a regular needs assessment process. The process will aim at clearly identifying the specific needs of the various fora supported through the program, including those needs that are specific to national NGO fora.

Based on the needs assessment, ICVA will identify those areas it is best suited to offer support, and those areas will be clearly communicated to the fora. ICVA will also look at individual fora capacity and how it can support them to prioritize its engagement where it is most needed and where it would be most capable.

ICVA will also introduce a process to track and review activities that arise through engagement with the fora, including defining and tracking the intended impact of long-term activities.

Recommendation 2: Leverage hybrid communication, ensuring that in-country face to face interaction still has an important role to play in relationship building.

Action:

ICVA will establish an agreed frequency and modality of communications with all fora it engages with. The frequency will be based on the scope of needs in each country and the level of engagement of ICVA.

ICVA strongly believes in the value of in-person exchanges and will continue supporting in-person meetings when feasible and while balancing costs and benefits.



For those organizations, especially national NGO fora, facing difficulties in accessing effective remote communication, ICVA will look at potential avenues of support, including advocacy through its support for localization and direct financial support through its NGO fora capacity fund.

Recommendation 3:

Ensure accountability is built into the agreements on activity planning.

Action:

As mentioned under recommendation 1, ICVA will introduce a process to track and review activities that arise through engagement with the fora.

ICVA will ensure regular feedback is provided when information is sought to feed into the regional and global debates. This will include how the information was used and the outcome of the process.

Clear and simple reporting processes will be developed, emphasizing lessons learned for all activities.

Recommendation 4:

Be explicit about the reciprocal nature of the relationship.

Action:

ICVA will improve its communication on its ability to provide support to locally identified issues. This will include better outlining its areas of focus, its role and place in the various systems of humanitarian coordination, and what ability it has to influence said systems.

When seeking information to inform global sector priorities, ICVA will clearly communicate why that information is needed, what process the information will feed into, and as mentioned in recommendation 3, provide feedback on the outcome.

ICVA will engage with its sister networks (including InterAction and NEAR) to map collective work and inform the NGO fora on the differences in scope and complementary between the work of the various networks.

Recommendation 5:

Continue and make more explicit a stream of work focused on supporting national NGO fora.

Action:

ICVA will continue to address the specific needs, priorities and expectations of national NGO fora, in promoting their role and importance and increasing the scope of their representation in the global debates.

ICVA will also continue to develop specific learning streams aimed at NNGOs and provide them with specific funding opportunities through its NGO fora capacity fund.

ICVA will drive evidence-based strengthening of the representation of national NGOs and national NGO Fora in national and sub-national coordination structures.

ICVA has already planned several activities for 2022 focused on supporting national NGOs, including:

- A leadership exchange to be held in Geneva in October, aiming at reinforcing links between NNGO fora and Geneva-based international organizations;



- The Women's Humanitarian Leadership Training programmes for local and national women-led NGOs, which will focus on strengthening leadership, collective advocacy, donor and partner engagement and policy influence;
- A localization baselining exercise in four countries aimed at assessing the current state of the localization agenda based on concrete criteria, such as participation in humanitarian coordination or independent access to funding.

Recommendation 6:

Continue and expand exchange and peer-to-peer learning opportunities within and between regions.

Action:

While discontinued during the COVID crisis, in-person peer-to-peer exchanges within the regions have resumed in 2022, and ICVA will continue to support these activities with future plans for inter-regional exchanges.

ICVA will continue to ensure opportunities for the participation of NGO Fora in regional and global membership and partnership events.

September 2022