



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

20 April 2022

Ms. Lotte Machon
State Secretary for Development Policy
Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dear Lotte Machon,

The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) welcomes the 2021-2025 Road Map for the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based violence in Emergencies (Call to Action). We affirm the goal and the three objectives and affirm the core principles of the Call to Action.

The **goal** of the Call to Action is to drive change and foster accountability within the humanitarian sphere so that every humanitarian effort, from the start, includes the policies, systems and mechanisms necessary to provide safe and comprehensive services to those affected by gender-based violence (GBV), to prevent GBV, and mitigate GBV risks, especially violence against women and girls.

Objectives

1. Establish specialized GBV services and programs that are accessible to anyone affected by GBV and are available from the onset of an emergency.
2. Integrate and implement actions to prevent GBV and to mitigate GBV risk across all levels and sectors of humanitarian response from the earliest stages of an emergency and throughout the program cycle.
3. Mainstream gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout humanitarian action.

Core Principles

- Accountability to affected populations is paramount in implementing the Call to Action. The meaningful participation and leadership of affected populations, in particular women and girls, must be ensured.
- GBV and gender inequality are inextricably linked. To end gender-based violence, systemic equality between women and men must be established.
- Women and girls are a priority focus for Call to Action because of their documented higher risk of GBV, the overarching discrimination they experience, and their lack of safe and equitable access to humanitarian assistance.
- An intersectional approach is key for effective survivor-centered programming. This requires an understanding of how aspects of a person's social and political identities might combine or intersect to heighten protection risks.
- The engagement, leadership and participation of local organizations and local leaders, particularly women and women's organizations, is critical to effective humanitarian action.
- Sustained collective action and accountability by all partners in the humanitarian system—at every level and across all sectors—are essential to achieve the goal of the Call to Action.

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DENMARK
*Global lead
2021–22*



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We will implement organizational policies on gender-based violence and gender equality in humanitarian action and on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. Our policies are available here: [ICVA Strategy 2030](#) ; [Diversity Policy](#); [Safeguarding Policy](#).

As a Call to Action partner, ICVA is committed to ensuring implementation of the Road Map and will submit an annual public report on progress in meeting commitments. Here is our list of commitments, which can be shared publically:

Commitment #1

1. Partner name: International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
2. Joint Commitment: No
3. Location of the planned work: Global
4. Outcome and Key Action Area in the 2021-2025 Road Map to which commitment is linked:

1.6 Advocacy: Advocate for implementation of system-wide and institutional policies¹⁷ and capacity to address GBV, strengthen gender equality, and ensure accountability, including in key strategic humanitarian documents.

5. A clear, concise, and measurable commitment statement worded as an outcome or action:

In partnership with members, ICVA will influence IASC policies, partnerships and practices to strengthen system-wide efforts on addressing GBV, promoting gender equality, PSEAH and ensuring accountability

6. Additional narrative as relevant:

ICVA is a standing invitee to the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee](#). It is in this capacity that ICVA worked to influence the IASC priorities for the period 2022-2024, making sure that gender equality and empowerment of girls and women is included. Now that such a priority is recognized and IASC is starting to deliver on the 2022-2024 priorities, it is crucial for ICVA to continue to work and represent NGO voices through the IASC Task Forces, OPAG, EDG, the Deputies Group and the Principals to ensure that system wide policies and initiatives undertaken by IASC promote gender equality, PSEA, address adequately GBV and ensure accountability.

7. Timeframe for completion and benchmarks over the life of the 2021-2025 Road Map: 2025

8. Information on how the partner will measure progress for annual reporting:

Progress measurement will be based on the ICVA internal monitoring, evaluation and reporting system and the website.

ICVA will report on numbers and content of ICVA contribution to IASC draft policies, statements and other initiatives, which aim to address GBV, promote gender equality, PSEAH and ensure accountability.

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Commitment #2

1. Partner name: International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
2. Joint Commitment: No
3. Location of the planned work: Global
Outcome and Key Action Area in the 2021-2025 Road Map to which commitment is linked:

1.6 Advocacy: 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.

4. A clear, concise, and measurable commitment statement worded as an outcome or action:

ICVA will support NGOs through capacity strengthening to implement system-wide and institutional policies to address GBV, strengthen gender equality, and ensure accountability, including in key strategic humanitarian documents

5. Additional narrative as relevant:

ICVA will ensure that members and other NGO partners are aware of the various system-wide policies and tools developed on addressing GBV, promoting gender equality, PSEAH and ensuring accountability. Various webinars will be developed to discuss with members on these new tools (covering at least 50% of them) and few capacity and resource enhancement opportunities will be provided to members to support them in implementing the policies. Such activities are necessary to address the current gap between policies and practices and ICVA sees itself playing an important role in this direction supporting members' work on the ground.

6. Timeframe for completion and benchmarks over the life of the 2021-2025 Road Map: 2025

7. Information on how the partner will measure progress for annual reporting:

Progress measurement will be based on the ICVA internal monitoring, evaluation and reporting system and the website, where the webinars will also be made public.

ICVA will report on the number of initiatives (webinars, papers produced, face-to-face meetings, peer-to-peer exchanges etc) and their content.

Commitment #3

1. Partner name: International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
2. Joint Commitment: No
3. Location of the planned work: Global
4. Outcome and Key Action Area in the 2021-2025 Road Map to which commitment is linked:

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2.5 Localization: Support local actors, particularly women's organizations, 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.

5. A clear, concise, and measurable commitment statement worded as an outcome or action:

ICVA will support local actors, particularly women's organizations, to lead and engage in GBV response and gender equality coordination at all levels

6. Additional narrative as relevant:

ICVA will conduct five capacity strengthening and leadership initiatives (training on leadership, advocacy and PSEAH) for local and national NGOs, in particular women leaders and support their engagement in GBV response and gender equality coordination at all levels. Such activities respond to current identified gaps on participation of local actors in humanitarian coordination mechanisms and especially women leaders who play a crucial role on the ground in preventing and responding to GBV.

7. Timeframe for completion and benchmarks over the life of the 2021-2025 Road Map: 2025

8. Information on how the partner will measure progress for annual reporting:

Progress measurement will be based on the ICVA internal monitoring, evaluation and reporting system, which will record the initiatives conducted and their participants. Information will be made available also on the website. ICVA will report on the number and content of the capacity strengthening initiatives, participation of local actors and women local leaders.

We will contribute to the collective work of the initiative, including participation in working group meetings and the annual partners' meeting, as resources allow.

Mirela Shuteriqi, Director of Policy is designated to be our focal point.

ICVA looks forward to working with our partners to ensure the success of this critical initiative.

Kind Regards,
Ignacio Packer
Executive Director
ICVA



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