



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

ICVA BULLETIN

Highlights from February 2018

A message from the Executive Director

Endangering millions of people

The entire international aid sector is, rightfully, being shaken by the public revelations of NGO scandals. This is an unsettling and hard time for all of us. Urgent progress in the way we handle sexual harassment and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse is a priority. Successful interventions are only possible through effective collaboration across the whole of the humanitarian sector and a number of initiatives are on their way.

While we try to tackle the needed "zero tolerance", 250'000 aid workers are on the front lines in complex, unsafe conditions, providing assistance to victims of natural disasters and armed conflict. A small percentage of them have problematic behaviours. Condemning them all is endangering further millions of people.

Today, more than ever, it is about not losing sight of our mission, our common values, standards and shared interests in tackling these problems effectively.

Almost 400,000 civilians were trapped without access to humanitarian aid in Eastern Ghouta, a suburb of Damascus. In North Kivu, an increase of displaced to 1,2 million are in urgent need for a massive surge in humanitarian presence with effective assistance and protection while funding has been reduced by 50%.

There is an alarming increase in the denial of humanitarian access and in the threat to front line workers and human rights defenders.

Our ability to direct media and political attention to those most in need is clearly diminished today. Up to us to react rapidly, collectively.

Ignacio Packer
Executive Director | ICVA

Forced Displacement

1. The Global Compact on Refugees:

a. Webinar on 2018 process for a Global Compact on Refugees

On 6 February, ICVA organised a webinar for NGOs, Towards the Global Compact on Refugees: Where do we stand? Attended by 46 participants, this webinar was the opportunity to get up to speed with what happened in 2017 take a first look at the zero draft of the GCR's Programme of Action, and understand the 2018 process and channels of influence towards the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees. NGOs unable to attend can request the recording to ICVA Secretariat at secretariat@icvanetwork.org.

On 2 February, ICVA also organised a discussion among NGOs to gather reflections on the zero draft of the Programme of Action, which helped in gathering inputs for the NGO joint statements to be delivered at the first formal consultation. Note from this meeting will be made available to ICVA members on the website.

b. 1st Formal Consultations on the CGR, UNHCR

On 13 and 14 February, UNHCR organised the first formal consultation on the GCR's Programme of Action. NGOs were present and able to engage in the discussion through joint statements prepared for each agenda item, namely the principal modalities for burden and

responsibility-sharing, the support for the application of the comprehensive refugee response framework, as well as follow-up arrangements. Respectively, representatives from the Network for Refugee Voices, IDMC and ACT Alliance delivered the statements and ICVA would like to thank them one more time for this. NGOs stand ready to engage further in the process, through the upcoming second formal consultations, as well as additional parallel channels.

NGOs interested in providing inputs to the next joint statements for the formal consultations of 20-21 March should get in touch with jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org.

2. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and regular Migration (GCM): As co-convenor of the Action Committee on the Global Compacts, ICVA also contributes in the GCM with a focus on migrants in vulnerable situations and on the complementarity discussion between the two Global Compacts. ICVA contributed in New York to the Civil Society dynamics and to the 1st consultation and Multi-stakeholder hearings 20-23 February.

3. UNHCR Standing Committee on Operations 6-8 March: NGOs are now full speed preparing for the upcoming UNHCR Standing Committee on Operations. They will deliver 8 statements in relation to updates on the 5 regions, the CRRF update, the follow-up to the High Commissioner's Dialogue, as well as strategic partnerships, including coordination. Statements will be made available on ICVA's [dedicated webpage](#), as soon as delivered.

4. UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations: On Thursday 22 February, registration opened for the 27-29 June UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs, Putting People First. UNHCR Partnership Section and ICVA Secretariat are working closely to develop a meaningful agenda based on UNHCR and NGOs' inputs. Through last year's survey and a new call to the NGO community, ICVA will now look for NGOs to be focal points for each session, along with a UNHCR counterpart. Progress on preparation as well as all relevant information can be followed on UNHCR's [dedicated webpage](#), or can be asked to partnership@unhcr.org or secretariat@icvanetwork.org.

5. IDPs- meeting with Ms Cecilia Jimenez Damary (Special Rapporteur): On 22 February, ICVA had the pleasure of hosting a meeting with Ms. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, NGOs and interested UN Member States. On this occasion, Ms. Jimenez Damary briefed the audience on the findings of her recent mission to Libya, which will be the basis for her report to be presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2018. Notes from this meeting will be made available to ICVA members on the website and shared with participants.

6. UNHCR Restructures: As UNHCR experiences another restructuring, High Commissioner Grandi has decided to merge UNHCR's Inter-Agency Coordination Service and Partnership Section to create a new "Partnership and Coordination Service (PCS)." The new Service, headed by Arafat Jamal, will not manage all relationships directly, but will serve as a "node for a systematic, proactive approach." The team will maintain existing relationships as well as form new partnerships and linkages with the IASC, UN agencies, NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, and other organizations and networks.

7. APRRN-ICVA Dialogue on Rohingya Returns: On 6 February, ICVA and the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) co-hosted a multistakeholder dialogue to share information and discuss the situation regarding the return of Rohingya Refugees from Bangladesh to Myanmar, which was originally scheduled to commence on 23 January 2018 (this date has since been postponed indefinitely). The plan to begin a 2-year process of returning the Rohingya follows the signing of a bilateral agreement between the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar late last year. Many NGOs and other actors have voiced their clear concerns regarding the process and limited number of actors to be involved in it, along with questioning the voluntary nature of the returns. At this meeting, UN and NGO participants provided background to the situation and consolidated perspectives from Civil Society in both Myanmar and Bangladesh were shared. Participants discussed issues and highlighted possible next steps for stakeholders on both sides of the border, as well as regionally and globally. For more information contact Jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org

8. Belonging and Legal Identity: 28 February, in Tunis, Ministerial Conference "Belonging and Legal Identity" organised by the Tunisian Republic in partnership with the League of Arab States and UNHCR. Participation of Arab Member States: ministers, parliamentarians, representatives of relevant Ministries. NGOs were also present and able to engage in the discussion through statements. ICVA was invited to deliver a statement. The Ministerial Conference built on global and regional frameworks as well as regional developments reaffirming the importance of belonging, legal identity and women's nationality rights. Further work is however needed for an agreement around the draft Declaration presented outlining the Arab Member States commitment to enhancing the protection of women, children and families in the region by strengthening civil registration systems and access to nationality, with particular attention to individuals at risk.

Humanitarian Financing

9. Pledging Conferences to Support Operations: ICVA and its members have been in touch with OCHA to see how diverse NGOs could meaningfully contribute to important upcoming pledging conferences/ meetings to mobilise resources for Somalia (6 March in London), the Rohingya (7 March in Geneva), Yemen (3 April in Geneva), the DRC (13 April in Geneva), Syria (24-25 April in Brussels), and potentially Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region (June/July - TBC). The NGOs Forward initiative will be offering views to Member States on some of these key operations in advance. For more information, please contact nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org and/or emmanuelle.osmond@icvanetwork.org.

10. The Grand Bargain and Beyond: The recently expanded Grand Bargain Secretariat has increased its investment in communications. ICVA members can see its "[February Snapshot](#)", for updates on the process for self-reporting, the outcomes of the 23 January co-convenors technical workshop, and the 10 workstreams. The "sherpas" of the Grand Bargain signatories will hold their annual meeting on 18 June in New York. The meeting will be informed by an independent annual report to be written by ODI. (ICVA members can talk with ODI on 22 March, on the margins of our Annual Conference and General Assembly). ICVA and VOICE will hold a joint finance-focused workshop in Brussels on 28 March for NGOs to discuss implementation of the Grand Bargain but also how to find ways to close the funding gap. The IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team, co-chaired by ICVA, will create a learning lab on innovating financing. For more details, or to contribute, please contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org.

11. Less Paper More Aid: The work on the Harmonised Donor Narrative Reporting Pilot continues in Iraq, Somalia, and Myanmar. 2017 reporting for participating donors requiring calendar-year reporting is currently being collected. GPPi is also planning field visits in March to Nairobi for Somalia pilot partners and April to visit Myanmar partners. If your organisation is participating in the pilot, you can expect an individual communication to schedule the field visits. If your organisation is participating in the pilot, but has not received reporting templates from participating donors, or to find out more about the pilot, please contact Jeremy.Rempel@icvanetwork.org.

12. The IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team: held a successful retreat in January in Geneva to set a new workplan for the next two years. One element of the new workplan is a focus on risk management for humanitarian actors. ICVA will help lead a mapping of existing examples of research and examples of good practice of risk management in the humanitarian sector, which will build to an IASC position paper. If you have an interest in participating in the risk management discussion, or have examples of good practice that could be shared, please contact Jeremy.Rempel@icvanetwork.org.

Humanitarian Coordination

13. IASC Update:

- The IASC Principals will come together (virtually) in March for an ad hoc meeting on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and sexual harassment in the workplace.
- The co-chairs of the IASC Task Team on AAP/PSEA are stepping down. Those interested in filling this role are requested to contact the IASC secretariat (IASCcorrespondence@un.org, laurilak@un.org) by 9 March.
- A joint meeting of the IASC Working Group and Emergency Director's Group (EDG) will take place in New York on 26 April. Their agenda is yet to be determined.
- The "Review" of the IASC Subsidiary Bodies has been completed and endorsed. Co-chairs will be informed, shortly.
- The IASC's previous "Gender Marker" has been revised into a draft new "Gender and Age Marker" (GAM). DERC Ursula Mueller has circulated the draft to the IASC Working Group for clearance on a "no objection" basis by 9 March. For more details, contact Melissa.Pitotti@icvanetwork.org.
- The IASC "Deputies Forum" will meet on 9 May in Geneva, ahead of the IASC Principals meeting on 31 May.

Humanitarian Partnership

14. Civil Society and humanitarian crises: CIVICUS speaks with Jeremy Wellard, ICVA Regional Representative for Asia, on the role of civil society organisations in responding to humanitarian crises, the impact of restrictions of civil society space on humanitarian response, and the challenges civil society actors encounter in coordinating with other responders and with government agencies. Read the [full interview](#). As a network, ICVA is grappling with these issues and would like to learn from civil society organisations in other sectors facing similar challenges. Contact Jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org for more information.

15. Meeting with IGAD on 'State of Humanitarian Situation' 9 March in Nairobi: Following the IGAD workshop on the "State of Humanitarian Situation in IGAD's region" held in Kenya in late 2017, ICVA is organising a **debriefing session, consultation and reflection with NGOs**, with the presence of Mr. Farah Abdulsamed, Senior Advisor, Political & Humanitarian affairs, IGAD, and the Consultant who facilitated the works and drafted the report of the workshop. More information contact Marco.Rotelli@icvanetwork.org or Addis.Tesfa@icvanetwork.org

16. "Agenda For Humanity Workshop Summary" The first [Annual Synthesis Report](#) on progress since the World Humanitarian Summit was launched in December 2017, based on the reports of 142 stakeholders who reported on their progress in implementing commitments to advance the Agenda for Humanity.

OCHA's Project Coordinator for WHS follow-up, Ms. Kathryn Yarlett, briefed ICVA and IASC members on highlights in progress and gaps since the Summit. Participants were also briefed on the second annual self-reporting exercise for 2017 that was launched through the Platform for Action Commitments and Transformation on 8 January, allowing ICVA Members an opportunity to find out more and ask questions on the reporting process. The platform is now open for the annual self-reporting for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017. The deadline for reporting is 3 April 2018. You can find more information on the reporting process at <https://www.agendaforhumanity.org/report-guidance>

Field Support

17. NGO FORA Support Programme: Thanks to ECHO's contribution, ICVA continues to provide support to in-country humanitarian NGO fora and engage with national, international or mixed NGO fora. Support can be provided upon requests from the fora themselves and

aim at supporting organisational capacity development in strategic planning, governance, and human resource management; strengthening NGO fora advocacy and echoing views at global and regional levels; and promoting the pivotal role of NGO fora amongst the broader humanitarian community. To read more about the NGO fora Support Programme, click [here](#) or contact emmanuelle.osmond@icvanetwork.org. Next visits to take place in the coming weeks/months should be in Bangladesh, Gaziantep, and Mali.

18. APRRN-ICVA Dialogue on Rohingya Returns - 6 Feb: Around 30 participants, a mix of NGOs and UN agencies, joined the ICVA and the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) multistakeholder discussion on 6 February in Bangkok.

UNHCR and civil society from both Myanmar and Bangladesh shared perspectives on the situation. The return of Rohingya Refugees from Bangladesh to Myanmar was originally scheduled to commence last week on 23 January 2018, however these have now been postponed, reportedly due to issues with processing documentation. The plan to begin a 2-year process of returning the Rohingya follows the signing of a bilateral agreement between the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar late last year. Many NGOs and other actors have voiced their clear concerns regarding the process and limited number of actors to be involved in it, along with questioning the voluntary nature of the returns. Although it is positive to hear that Bangladesh delayed the commencement of the returns at the last minute, presumably in response to questions along these lines, there are still many concerns remaining.

For more information contact Jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org

Humanitarian Learning Stream



19. Learning Stream – 12 April

ICVA's and PHAP's third online Learning Stream: Demystifying the Humanitarian, Development and PeaceNexus will start on 12 April 2018. [Register now](#). In the coming months, ICVA and PHAP, will collectively be organising six live interactive online learning events, as part of the learning stream on the humanitarian development peace nexus. The sessions objectives are to provide those working in NGOs and IGOs with a stronger understanding of the various humanitarian coordination mechanisms.

For more information see the [ICVA website](#), or contact Nishanie.Jayamaha@icvanetwork.org

20. Participate in the Caux Forum: Initiatives of Change Switzerland is organising the [Caux Forum 2018](#) this summer from 28 June to 5 August. Early-bird registration starts on March 1. Don't forget to check out the programme and [register here](#). [Initiatives of Change Switzerland](#) will also be facilitating a session during ICVA's 2018 Annual Conference on Navigating the Nexus: NGO Perspectives. You will get to see a glimpse of the type of facilitation they do during the Caux Forum. It is also worth checking out the beautiful [Caux Palace - Conference and Seminar Center](#), which can be rented for your seminars, retreats and trainings.

ICVA Updates



ICVA Annual Conference 2018

We are all set for ICVA's Annual Conference, focused on the Navigating the Nexus. We look forward to an engaging day, as we look at the "triple nexus"- the interconnection between humanitarian action, development and peace. The [agenda](#) with the full line up of speakers is now available. Registration is now closed, as we have reached full capacity for the conference space.

17th ICVA General Assembly

With over 70 members registered for the 17th General Assembly, the full agenda for the day includes dynamic conversations about the implementation of [ICVA's 2019-2021 Strategy](#), showcasing of members initiatives, and elections of the new Board. For more information see the [ICVA website](#).

23. Vacancies: ICVA is seeking a Director of Programmes (applications due 26 March) and a Communications Officer (applications due 15 March). Applications welcome! Click [HERE](#) for further details.

New and Noteworthy

24. Examining humanitarian principles in changing warfare: [The Mosul Trauma Response: a case study](#) looks at the trauma response during the Battle of Mosul, one of the largest urban sieges since World War II, where for the first time, the World Health Organisation played the leading role in coordinating trauma care in conflict. It was the first time that both a civilian trauma system was attempted in such a frontline setting and the UN sent humanitarians within minutes of the frontline to deliver trauma care in close coordination with the military.

25. Millions of people in Lake Chad Basin remain in desperate need of aid: The 24 February marked the anniversary of the 'Oslo Humanitarian Conference on Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region', where fourteen donors pledged \$672 million to scale up and strengthen the response to urgently assist the affected people in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria for 2017 and beyond. Today, with \$460 million almost fulfilled for 2017, the pledging conference is considered to have been a success, and the funds raised to be partially responsible for forestalling famine. Yet due to continuing conflict, the Lake Chad Basin remains an acute and ever evolving humanitarian crisis. Continued and expanded delivery of aid is required in 2018. Read the statement by 22 active INGOs providing life- saving assistance in North-East Nigeria, and their call for continued and expanded delivery of aid.

Forthcoming Events

ICVA Meetings and Events

2018

March 20: ICVA Annual Conference, Geneva

March 21: ICVA 17th General Assembly, Geneva

March 22: Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) Meeting

March 22: Grand Bargain Focus Group Discussions with Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

March 22: Discussion on "The path towards a Global Compact on Refugees"

March 23: ICVA-SCHR workshop on the impact of UN reform on NGOs, Geneva

Other Meetings and Events:

March 5-7: International Humanitarian Aid & Development Conference, Dubai

March 6-8: UNHCR 71st Meeting Standing Committee, Geneva

March 8: Manila Earthquake Simulation Exercise, Manila

March 12-15: 2nd negotiations on the Global Compact and Migration (GCM), New York

March 15: IASC ad hoc Principals meeting on PSEA and SHW

March 20- 21: 2nd formal consultations on the GCR, UNHCR, Geneva

March 20-23: Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) Regional Consultative Committee (RCC), Bali

March 27: International Dialogue on Migration, New York

March 28: ICVA-VOICE finance-focused retreat, Brussels

April 10-11: 3rd formal consultations on the GCR, UNHCR, Geneva

April 25-26: IASC Working Group-Emergency Director Group meeting

May 8-9: 4th formal consultations on the GCR, UNHCR

May 9: IASC Deputies Forum, New York

May 31 - IASC Principals Meeting, New York

June 12-13: 5th formal consultations on the GCR, UNHCR

June 19-21: UNHCR 72nd Standing Committee on Protection, Geneva

June 19-2: ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, New York

June 20: World Refugee Day

June 25-26: Annual Tripartite Consultation on Resettlement, Geneva

June 25-29: UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations, Geneva

July 3-4: 6th formal consultations on GCR, UNHCR

July 9-13: Intergovernmental Negotiations of GCM (6/6)

July 16-19: Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

August 19: World Humanitarian Day

September 19: Second anniversary of the adoption of the New York Declaration

October 8-9: IASC Working Group meeting

October: UNHCR Executive Committee Meeting (Geneva)

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