

ICVA Bulletin-Highlights from January 2018

ICVA Secretariat

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To: ICVA Secretariat <secretariat@icvanetwork.org>;

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A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

ICVA BULLETIN

Highlights from January 2018

A message from the Executive Director

January was also:

Inequality treated by many as an afterthought in Davos, deadly attacks on civilians in Afghanistan, aid workers of Save the Children murdered in Jalalabad, fierce fighting in Aden, the fiasco congress of the national Syrian dialogue, US cuts on UNWRA funding, increased weather threats, misleading narratives, limited aid access into Eastern Ghoutan, non-refoulement obligations not respected, protesters killed in Kinshasa, daily worries for the people of Venezuela, investigations on NGOs in Pakistan...

After my first month at ICVA, one question weighs heavily: how can “humanity” and the guiding ideals of humanitarianism be broadly rediscovered?

Everyone loses in wars. There are no long-term winners. Fortunes are spent destroying societies and economies. Excessive technocratic approaches take away, essentially, the humanity at the heart of the humanitarian action and its principles.

The general requirement for building a harmonious society is for individuals, citizens, leaders from civil society organisations, UN, governments, private sector... to strive to overcome differences and respect international human rights, humanitarian, refugee and customary international law.

You have my renewed resolution and commitment for solidarity and compassion in daily life; dialogue and respect across divides. Unity in diversity.

Ignacio Packer / Executive Director ICVA



ICVA Updates



ICVA Annual Conference 2018

The [agenda](#) for the ICVA's Annual Conference 2018 "Navigating the Nexus: NGO Perspectives," be held in Geneva on 20 March 2018, is now available. We are pleased to announce that Mr. Fabrizio Hoschschild-Drummond, from the Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin of the World Bank Group, and Ms. Ursula Müller, Deputy ERC in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Due to limited space registration is currently only open to members. Registration for non-members will open soon.

For more information contact Nishanie.Jamayaha@icvanetwork.org.

17th ICVA General Assembly

For ICVA Members: This triennial gathering of ICVA members will take place on 21 March in Geneva. The General Assembly is a formal meeting of ICVA members which provides an opportunity to review of ICVA's work during the past three years, and presentation and discussion on the plans for the future. Members will adopt the Strategy for 2019-2021, and elect new Board members. The agenda for the day includes a Market Place and a World Café, so we are looking forward to dynamic engagement with our members.

For more information, contact secretariat@icvanetwork.org

Forced Displacement

1. Count Down to the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees' (GCR) Formal Consultations:

- On 31 January, UNHCR released the [zero draft](#) of the GCR's Programme of Action[SH1] .
- Member States and the NGO community are now preparing for the first round of formal consultations. ICVA will facilitate the drafting and delivery of an NGO statement for each GCR Formal Consultation agenda item. As per the [Roadmap](#), and as mentioned by the HC during the HC Dialogue, the formal consultations will use an "iterative" process: "Following each formal consultation, UNHCR will share a revised draft of the global compact on refugees, reflecting the key outcomes and suggestions received, which will serve as the basis for the next formal consultations." The Roadmap mentions that written contributions can still be shared with UNHCR as part of the GCR Formal Consultations process, following similar guidelines as last year.
- All the Formal Consultations take place in Geneva. Invitations have been sent, along with the [agenda](#), for the First Formal Consultation on 13-14 February
- UNHCR has created a [webpage](#) dedicated to the upcoming rounds of 6 GCR Formal Consultations, with the 2018 Roadmap and the schedule for the coming months. Please consult the [organisational note](#) for further information on the organisation of the consultations. To get involved contact Jerome.Elle@icvanetwork.org.

2. Follow-Up to the December High Commissioner's Dialogue: The 2017 UNHCR's High Commissioner on Protection Challenges took stock of the progress made and the lessons learned in the process leading to the Global Compact on Refugees. UNHCR's Summary Report of the Dialogue and summaries of the sessions, which can be found on their [dedicated webpage](#). This webpage also contains the HC's opening remarks and closing

statement as well as the remarks by Daniel Endres at the Special Session on lessons learned and good practices of the CRRF.

The [NGO key messages](#) for the Dialogue NGOs focused on putting refugees at the centre, refugee access to information, vulnerable populations, and put forward recommendations on the CRRF rollout stocktaking. In terms of follow-up, in addition to the GCR Formal Consultations, an update will be provided during the March UNHCR Standing Committee (6-8 March). NGOs have started preparing for this opportunity to deliver a statement on the matter.

3. UNHCR Reorganises Internally: UNHCR announced a few changes in the HQ organigram, particularly:

- 1) A reconfigured Partnership Service responsible for relations with humanitarian partners and NGOs, as well as UNHCR's engagement in inter-agency processes.
- 2) The creation of a Division of Resilience and Solutions, led by Mr. Daniel Endres, including a Service working on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and a Service geared towards partnerships and strategies with development actors and inclusion.
- 3) The Governance Service, led by Mr. Johan Cels, will become part of the Executive Office and will steer consultations with member states on the Global Compact on Refugees.
- 4) Mr. Volker Türk, Assitant High Commissioner for Protection, will supervise the Service's consultations with Member States on the Global Compact on Refugees and the new Division of Resilience and Solutions.

4. UNHCR Standing Committee on Operations 6-8 March: Since mid-January, NGOs have started preparing for this important opportunity to deliver joint NGO statements during UNHCR Standing Committee on Operations. If you wish to contribute to the process but are not receiving e-mails, please contact Sophie.helle@icvanetwork.org.

5. UNHCR Issues Guidance notes on Procurement and Partnership

Agreement: UNHCR has released two new guidance notes related to NGO implementation of UNHCR-funded projects. What is new, according to UNHCR?

The [revised Guidance Note No. 4](#) on Procuring with UNHCR Funds: a) Provides further clarification and guidance on the processes and requirements when UNHCR entrusts funds to a Partner for the procurement of Goods and/or Services to assist refugees and other persons of concern; b) Introduces the UN/UNHCR Key Procurement Principles in the management of procurement processes undertaken by Partners; and c) simplifies the assessment of Partners for Pre-qualification for Procurement (PQP) status as well as describes the process of application for PQP.

The [Guidance Note No. 8 on the Management of UNHCR-Funded Partnership Agreements](#) does not introduce anything new, it formalises the revised standard formats of UNHCR-Funded Partnership Agreements, which have been aligned with UNHCR's Enhanced Framework for Implementing with Partners. It also outlines the main changes of the procedures for the effective management of Agreements, including steps leading to the signature of Agreements, transfer of funds to Partners, risk-based monitoring and project control.



6. Nansen Refugee Award 2018 Nominations close 8 February: UNHCR is searching for a hero supporting refugees, internally displaced and stateless people. Do you know an inspirational individual or group making a difference?

You have until midnight on 8 February to nominate someone. For more information and to nominate [click here](#).

The Nansen Refugee Award is delivered annually by UNHCR to an individual, group, or organisation in recognition of outstanding service to the cause of refugees, displaced or stateless people.

Humanitarian Financing

7. Grand Bargain Implementation Continues: On 23 January, the Grand Bargain "Facilitation Group" hosted a workshop for workstream "co-convenors" to take stock of progress and 2018 planning for the Grand Bargain. ICVA participated as a co-convenor, with Germany, of the harmonised and simplified reporting workstream; we are enthusiastically rolling out an "8+3" reporting pilot in Iraq, Myanmar, and Somalia. The localisation workstream, co-led by Switzerland and IFRC, has just reached a milestone with the completion of definitions of local and national actors (led by the Localization Marker Working Group housed in the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team). The next step is for organisations to adapt these definitions in their tracking systems. There seems to be consensus on the need to take a fresh look at the transparency workstream – with a follow-up conversation planned for March. The needs assessment workstream appears stuck, and people are still asking questions about how the humanitarian-development nexus workstream relates to external processes, like the UN's "New Way of Working." Although progress remains uneven across all ten workstreams, plans are underway for the commissioning of the next independent annual report, the planning of the 18 June annual meeting of Grand Bargain Signatories, and the outreach to the Grand Bargain "eminent person" Kristalina Georgieva who will be meeting with the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group on 7 March.

8. Humanitarian Financing Discussions Move Beyond the Grand Bargain: The 24-25 January work planning retreat of the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team Retreat included interesting discussions with the IASC Working Group co-sponsor (WFP's Gordana Jerger), the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group, and members of the Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative. The final 2018 workplan of the HFTT includes many elements related to the Grand Bargain (e.g. more effective, efficient and accessible funding; improved contractual arrangements; increasing transparency). However, the workplan also includes some new and important initiatives related to: system-wide approaches to closing the funding gap; addressing system-wide sharing of risk; and supporting humanitarian-development collaboration as appropriate. The election of an HFTT co-chair from the UN ended in a tie, and is yet to be resolved; ICVA will continue co-chairing from the non-UN side.

Humanitarian Coordination

9. The IASC In Flux:

Recruitment of a new Chief of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Secretariat has been delayed; an acting interim Chief is serving for now.

Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator Ursula Müller has invited her counterparts to a "Deputies' Forum" meeting - a new IASC grouping - to be held 6 February.

The joint IASC Working Group-Emergency Director Group meeting – originally meant to be held in autumn 2017 – has now been scheduled for 25-26 April - no set agenda.

The Principals will meet on 31 May in New York, with no set agenda. ICVA would like to see the agenda include: 1) UN reform – what will it mean for the IASC and humanitarians? 2) How to improve the IASC's work for affected persons and 3) How to strategically influence discussions around the New Way of Working, especially when it comes to inclusion and humanitarian principles.

10. IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG):

- **NGO EDG Seat:** As part of ICVA rotation system aiming for equal contribution, better transparency and stronger members' engagement, ICVA is pleased to inform you that Terre des hommes (Tdh) has been selected as the next NGO to join the EDG under ICVA umbrella, in replacement of ACF, and for a period of two years. Tdh will be represented at the EDG by Steven Fricaud, Tdh Director of Humanitarian Aid. Steven became the Director of Emergency Operations at Tdh in 2009 and the Director of Humanitarian Aid in 2016. Prior to that, Steven had further experience with Tdh at the Headquarters and in the field, as well as with Medecins du Monde and other NGOs.

- **EDG meeting:** took place in Geneva on 30-31 January. As part of this annual meeting, the EDG conducted the performance appraisals of Humanitarian Coordinators who had been in post for at least six months during 2017. Through the ICVA, InterAction and SCHR survey, NGOs contributed to this process. Also on the agenda during this two day meeting was the annual operation review of the four current L3 operations (Syria, Yemen, Iraq, DRC), the high-risks contexts and other large-scale or complex operations. There were reflections around the primary obstacles of effective delivery of humanitarian aid and protection and how to increase collective accountability within the IASC membership.

Humanitarian Learning

11. ICVA's and PHAPs third online Learning Stream: Demystifying the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus will start on 12 April 2018. [Register now](#). As part of the learning stream on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, this event will be the first session of six live interactive online learning events that ICVA and PHAP will be organising in the coming months. The purpose of these sessions is to provide NGOs and aid workers with a stronger understanding of the efforts to overcome the divide between the humanitarian, development, and – when appropriate – peace communities. For more information see the [ICVA website](#), or contact Nishanie.Jayamaha@icvanetwork.org

12 April 2018, 10:30 - 12:00 (Geneva time)
Learning Stream on the Humanitarian-
Development-Peace Nexus

PHAP ICVA

The "nexus" explained: How and when
do humanitarian, development, and
peace action come together?

Register at
phap.org/12apr2018

Photo: UN Women/Carlos Nunez/ICVA

12. Opportunity for ICVA members to "beta test" new humanitarian certifications and earn free credits: PHAP would like to invite members of the ICVA network to contribute to the development of the [PHAP Credentialing Program](#) by "beta testing" the new and updated certification assessments. The beta testing may be done either in person in [Nairobi, Kenya \(14-16 February\)](#), [Amman, Jordan \(25-27 February\)](#) and [other locations](#), or [online](#) with a live proctor ensuring test security via webcam. The assessment forms undergoing beta testing in this round include the updated assessment forms for the three certifications launched last year (1) [humanitarian ecosystem](#), (2) [legal frameworks](#), and (3) [humanitarian principles](#). Assessment forms for the new certifications that will be launched in April this year, in (4) [MEAL](#), (5) [cash transfer programming](#), and (6) [humanitarian needs assessment](#). The beta tests typically take between 45 and 60 minutes to complete. As a thank you, **all beta testers will be awarded one free credit for the official certification assessment** for each beta test they complete (value US\$65-80 each). PHAP looks forward to seeing you in one of the beta tests!

New and Noteworthy

13. Get Field Ready: John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health together with Massachusetts General Hospital, Project Hope and Humanitarian U will be providing a Humanitarian and Disaster Response Simulation Training from 5 to 8 April 2018. The training is designed to simulate a complex humanitarian emergency that requires a comprehensive understanding of war, natural disasters and forced displacement, and the impact of cultural contexts on the affected populations. Participants are immersed in the simulation for the whole weekend, working in multidisciplinary, NGO-based teams, each tasked with a series of activities serving the fictional populations. To register visit:

www.projecthope.org/simulation

14. How do you speak Humanitarian? Have you ever been left with the impression that, while we all use the same words in the humanitarian sector, they don't have the same meaning to all of us? To analyse this diversity of "humanitarian languages", the Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action (CERAH) and its partners are launching an Encyclopedia for Humanitarian Action. To explore what humanitarian practitioners perceive as priority concepts, we are launching a consultative survey. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to be filled. So go ahead and [do the survey!](#)

For more information on the Humanitarian Encyclopedia [watch this video](#) and checkout [their website](#).

Forthcoming Events

ICVA Organised events

February 1: ICVA Members West Africa, Dakar

February 6: Webinar on 2018 process for a Global Compact on Refugees

February 9: Meeting on "Repositioning the UN development System to deliver on 2030 Agenda", Geneva

February 19: Humanitarian Financing Working Group Meeting, Geneva

February 28: Webinar: UNHCR-NGOs Annual Consultations and new registration system

March 20: ICVA Annual Conference, Geneva

March 21: ICVA 17th General Assembly, Geneva

April 12: Webinar: Demystifying the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus

Other Meetings and Events:

February 2: Regional IASC West And Central Africa Meeting, Dakar

February 5-9: Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week, Geneva

February 6-9: Asia Resilience Conference in Bali, Indonesia

February 7: Regional Humanitarian Partnership Team, Nairobi

February 9: Meeting on "Repositioning the UN development System

February 12-15: Australasian Aid Conference, Canberra

February 13-14: 1st Formal Consultations on the CGR, UNHCR

February 20-23: Multistakeholder Hearing on GCM and Intergovernmental Negotiations on GCM, New York (1/6)

February 26-27: Humanitarian Forum, Riyadh

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 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: Internal Dialogue on Migration, New York

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 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 19-22: 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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