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A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## ICVA BULLETIN

Highlights from November 2018

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### Message from Executive Director

#### Let's be inclusive to be successful

Inclusivity is a cornerstone of effective and principled humanitarian action.

An [independent study](#) on civil society space released in November by ICVA defines the potential role of ICVA in strengthening and supporting a more inclusive and diverse civil society. It also provides a collective perspective of civil society needs, some of which will be addressed in ICVA's [2019-2021 Strategy](#) kicking off next month. ICVA's next strategic period will be an opportunity to support emerging practices that contribute to more direct and inclusive resourcing of local civil society. Read [ICVA's statement on the study](#).

The decisive support for the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR) UN Member States showed two weeks ago is another illustration of inclusivity. The development of the Compact has opened up a historic opportunity to reinvigorate the refugee regime, providing a framework to catalyse international solidarity with refugees and host States. Read [ICVA's statement](#) on the GCR.

The Global Compact for Migration will in turn gather global attention this week as the international community gathers in Marrakech to bring a more dignified and inclusive response to migration. Looking ahead, ICVA now calls for all stakeholders to translate words into collective action.

When we feel threatened, we retreat into tribalism. When we feel mistreated and disrespected, we close ranks and become more us-versus-them. Let's build on hard won commitments and together continue the dialogue for a peaceful society.

**Ignacio Packer**  
Executive Director | ICVA

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### ICVA Updates



Translating  
commitments  
to action  
ICVA Annual Conference  
26 March 2019

### 1. Save the Date – Annual Conference 26 March 2019:

**Translating commitments to action:** Following the various commitments made through the World Humanitarian Summit, the Grand Bargain, the New York Declarations and the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration, the UN Reform process, the Localisation discussions- it is now time to take a hard look at how and what we, as an NGO community, should be doing to translate these commitments into action while putting people at the centre. Join us as we explore how we, as NGOs, are adapting to the different commitments, what changes we have made, and we can further improve practice. More information is available on the [ICVA website](#).

**2. Civil Society Space in Humanitarian Action:** An independent study carried out for ICVA provides a collective perspective of civil society needs and defines the potential role of ICVA in strengthening and supporting a more inclusive and diverse civil society. Read the [Executive Summary](#). The study identifies a wide variety of civil society needs, which include: accessibility and translation of documentation, support to national organisations and to NGO fora, advocacy support, research and data on the closure of civil society space, capacity building, among others. Some of these recommendations will find their way in our 2019-2021 Strategy and will reinforce our efforts to promote principled and effective humanitarian action.

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## Forced Displacement

### 3. The Global Compact on Refugees:

- At the UN General Assembly consideration of the Resolution on the work of the UNHCR ([Omnibus Resolution](#)), on 13 November, Member States showed decisive support for the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees. The NGO community has welcomed this strong affirmation of the Compact and is looking forward to the implementation phase, following the full completion of the adoption process in December. See statements from the Danish Refugee Council ([here](#)) and the Norwegian Refugee Council ([here](#)). ICVA's [statement](#) issued soon after the UN GA session, underlined that this was an important step forward in translating words into collective action.
- **Canada House of Commons Session on the GCR:** ICVA briefed the House of Commons Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration of Canada on the GCR. ICVA's Senior Policy Officer, Jérôme Elie, explained the origins of the Compact and presented ideas on how to realise its potential, emphasising the role of NGOs and the importance of putting partnerships at the center of implementation. Read the full [statement](#). Watch a [video recording](#), (intervention starts at 16:38:32). Other speakers included CARE Canada ([statements available](#)).
- **Meeting on the Global Broadband Plan for Refugees:** ICVA convened an exchange with Professor T. Alexander Aleinikoff, Director of the Zolberg Institute and former UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner on the [Global Broadband Plan for Refugees](#). Together with Mr. Blair Levin, Executive Director of the initiative, they presented the Plan, underlining the need to overcome key barriers to refugees' access to internet. Participants, including NGOs and Member States also discussed implications such as data protection and safeguards. The opportunities presented by the GCR and CRRF to expand broadband access for refugees were also discussed.

**4. High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges:** NGOs are gearing up for the HC Dialogue, which will take place in Geneva on 18 and 19 December. The theme this year is, "*protection and solutions in urban settings: engaging with cities*". The [website](#) for the Dialogue now has a logistics note in addition to a concept paper and a prospective agenda. It also includes key reference documents, including from several NGOs.

## 5. The Global Compact on Migration:

- **Civil Society Action Committee:** Following its work around the [High Level Summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants in 2016](#), the [Civil Society Action Committee \(AC\)](#) co-convened by ICMC, the NGO Committee on Migration and ICVA played an important role in building upon and amplifying civil society's strategy, content, and political work around the [Negotiations on the Global Compact for Migration](#), at the same time closely tracking parallel developments around the [Global Compact for Refugees](#). The Action Committee's mandate will be extended for a transitional period through 2019. Looking into adapting to the fast changing environment ([here](#)), the Action Committee welcomes your thoughts and ideas on models of engagement. Please take the survey here in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#). Deadline for your input: 21 December 2018.
- **Migration Week:** A number of ICVA members and ICVA Secretariat are actively engaged in the Migration Week in Marrakech 4 to 11 December. This includes the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) - [Civil Society Days](#) (4 and 6/12); Common Space (5/12) and [Government days](#) (6 and 8/12); [People's Global Action](#) (8-9/12); 5th [Mayoral Forum on Mobility and Development](#) (8-9/12); [Youth Forum](#) (8-9/12); [10th Diaspora Development Dialogue](#) (8-9/12); [Global Compact – Side Events](#) (8-9/12) and [Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the Global Compact for Migration](#) (10-11/12).
- **Want to know more about the Global Compact**, its objectives, structure and possible implications for civil society, migrants and their communities? Download Civil Society Action Committee publication 'Introduction to the Global Compact' leaflet in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#).

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## Humanitarian Financing

**6. Less Paper More Aid – UN Harmonization:** On 12 November, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP launched the new the [UN Partner Portal](#) as part of an inter-agency initiative to harmonise systems. The UN Partner Portal supports the agencies' pledges to harmonise partnership management, invest in technology to enable better access to information, and strengthen engagement with all civil society organisations, including local partners. The initial version of the UN Partner Portal includes common registration for NGOs, and a common platform for access to calls for expressions of interest. Over time, it is anticipated that additional features will be added to the Portal, such as reporting features. NGO partners with current or potential funding from UNHCR, UNICEF, or WFP are encouraged to visit the UN Partner Portal website to register: [www.unpartnerportal.org](http://www.unpartnerportal.org).

**7. Learning Lab on Innovative Humanitarian Financing: Islamic Social Financing:** 28-29 November in Malaysia: ICVA, Mercy Malaysia, and the IASC conducted a Learning Lab on Islamic Social Financing in Kuala Lumpur with more than 30 participants from interested NGOs, UN agencies, government, and the banking sector. Experts and practitioners in Islamic Social Finance shared experiences and helped to shape an initial plan to improve the links between humanitarian response and Islamic Social Finance mechanisms. A summary report of the workshop will be issued later in December. If you are interested in participating in the ongoing discussion, please contact [Alon.plato@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Alon.plato@icvanetwork.org).

**8. IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team:** ICVA continues its work in the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team to support the identification of pilot countries to 'Contribute to aid effectiveness through more effective humanitarian-development funding flows and mechanisms'. The study will document the extent to which predictable, multi-year, flexible financing is made available at country level and to understand the ways in which funding matches collective outcomes or Interoperable' Humanitarian and Development Plan

financial requirements. The first mission for this study is planned in Chad from 29 Nov to 7 Dec. For more information on ICVA's work with the HFTT, contact [jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org](mailto:jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org).

## 9. The Grand Bargain:

- **Implementation in the field:** ICVA in Africa, has briefed NGOs on developments of the Grand Bargain, specifically on Workstream II, and describing its 5 points proposal to [Make the Grand Bargain Grand Again](#) to the participants of the Grand Bargain Workshop organized in Nairobi, Kenya on 14 November by [ODI](#) and [IAWG](#). Similarly, ICVA briefed the during the UNHCR Workshop to Strengthen capacity of the national responders in Kampala, Uganda on 21-22 November, which the network co facilitated. During the workshop, ICVA briefed the participants also on the key content of the recently launched briefing paper '[Localization examined](#)'.

- Summary notes of the **Grand Bargain High Level Meeting (HLM)**, which took place in the margin of the UN General Assembly, in New York on 23 September are now available. The Netherlands and the International Committee of the Red Cross, with the support of the Facilitation Group, are tasked to identify substantial political bottle-necks that are impeding the Grand Bargain advancement. Grand Bargain Eminent Person, Ms. Kristalina Georgieva is pleased to re-confirm that the Grand Bargain is moving in the right direction and that some successes have already been achieved. More information available on the [Grand Bargain website](#).

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## Humanitarian Coordination

### 10. IASC Update:

#### a. Emergency Directors Group:

- The EDG met twice during November to discuss the ongoing response to the Ebola outbreak in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. As of 1 December, a total of 440 cases with 392 confirmed cases and 255 deaths have been reported. The humanitarian community continues its efforts to contain and eradicate the disease. For updated information, kindly refer to the [WHO situation reports](#).

- On 26 November, the EDG met to discuss about the current developments in the situation in Yemen that is of very high concerns of all humanitarian actors.

- Next EDG meetings: on 5 December there will be an EDG call on the situation in Libya. And in 2019, there will be a 2-day in person meeting starting on 31 January which includes the Operations Annual Review and Humanitarian Coordinators performance appraisals.

**b. IASC Principals:** ICVA received feedback from members to prepare for the IASC Principals in person meeting on 3 December in Geneva. Both the ICVA Chair, Anoop Sukumaran, and the Executive Director Ignacio Packer, attended the meeting, The agenda included discussions around Yemen, Syria, Venezuela and Afghanistan, Humanitarian diplomacy and PSEA/SHA.

**c. Engagement with leadership:** During the month of November, ICVA organised meetings with the Resident Coordinator, the UNICEF Representative, UNDP and WFP Country Directors in Zimbabwe. NGOs also met with Najat Rochsi, DSRSG/RC/HC in Central African Republic, with Mamadou Diallo, DSRSG/RC/HC in Haiti and with Marta Ruedas, the DSRSG/RC/HC in Iraq.

Upcoming in December: meeting the HoOCHA in Turkey based in Gaziantep, on 4 December, the Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan on 11 December, the Resident Coordinator in Iran on 13 December, and the Humanitarian Coordinator in Jordan also on 13 December.

For more information on any of the above contact [emmanuelle.osmond@icvanetwork.org](mailto:emmanuelle.osmond@icvanetwork.org)



**11. NGO FORA Support Programme:** From 7 and 9 November, ICVA gathered 16 national NGO fora in Geneva, from the Philippines to Afghanistan, Syria, Cameroon or DRC. It was an opportunity to meet amongst peer and exchange around different issues such as governance of a forum, strategy planning, developing joint advocacy for a network, localization, PSEA and fundraising.

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## Humanitarian Partnership

### 12. Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus (HDPN):

- ICVA participated to the **IASC Humanitarian Development Nexus Task Team (HDNTT) workshop on Collective Outcomes**, hosted by WFP in Geneva, which produced the IASC view on the subject to inform decision making in the United Nations Joint Steering Committee.

- ICVA has created an informal ICVA Working Group on the Nexus looking at sharing information on reform, adjustments, new policies and field guidance of member NGOs vis à vis the Nexus. we are interested to hear if your organisation is developing or has rolled out new policies related to the Nexus and wish to share your knowledge and reflections. To obtain more information on the HDPN, or join the dedicated working group, kindly contact [marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org](mailto:marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org)

- During 2018 ICVA has worked closely with ACBAR, (NGO forum in Afghanistan), to help NGOs in Afghanistan to develop a better understanding of the **Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus in Afghanistan**. This work resulted in a dialogue with donors in Kabul in August, where NGOs presented a shared position on how to move forward work on the Nexus in Afghanistan. A follow on meeting and Workshop was held on 29 November in Geneva hosted by ICVA and ACBAR on Afghanistan on taking these discussions to a global platform.

**13. African Union Annual Humanitarian Symposium – 26-30 November, Nairobi:** The AU's 6th annual humanitarian symposium brought together member states and other stakeholders in preparation of the "[\*Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa\*](#)". ICVA and members were invited to attend and present on various panels and in working group sessions. Participants exchanged views and experiences on a range of subjects including disaster response and management of humanitarian response in Africa: linkage of national, regional and global policies on refugees and migration; and the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency. The theme of the year will officially start at the AU's summit in February 2019. More information contact, [Addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org)

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## Humanitarian Learning

**14. ICVA Humanitarian Learning Stream:** On 8 November, ICVA-PHAP organised a webinar on "[\*Localization: Perspectives on change\*](#)" and heard from different actors' experiences working towards greater localization of humanitarian action. The discussion provided an overview of the concept of localization, how it has evolved, and how it is currently used. Participants learned more about how governments, non-State donors, private sector actors, and diaspora actors see current opportunities, challenges, and future trends. The impact of localization initiatives on principled and effective humanitarian action was also examined. The webinar built on ICVA's briefing paper "[\*Localization Examined\*](#)" which aims to help NGOs better understand the perspectives of a range of diverse actors towards localization, with the ambition to prompt further discussion and action.

This webinar is part of the “Navigating Change” Learning Stream which includes a total of six webinars, briefing papers and other resources. All practitioners interested in humanitarian policy issues, particularly NGO staff, are encouraged to attend.

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

**15. Graduate Certificate of Humanitarian Leadership:** Do you want to become a more effective leader in humanitarian emergencies? Applications for the Graduate Certificate of Humanitarian Leadership 2018 November intake are now open. The Graduate Certificate of Humanitarian Leadership (formerly the Humanitarian Leadership Programme) will help you develop the necessary skills, behaviours and confidence to be the best leader you can be. Interested? [Download the Information Pack](#) now. Want to apply? Head to the [Centre for Humanitarian Leadership](#).

**16. Negotiating for Humanitarian Access Playbook:** Aid workers often must negotiate with local populations, governments, and informal and formal authorities to ensure humanitarian access. Restricted access can undermine response efforts and compromise the safety of you and your teams. This interactive playbook from Mercy Corps provides critical negotiation skills for various scenarios so you can continue to help the most vulnerable populations. [Start learning](#).

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## New and Noteworthy

**17.** Two papers on **civil society space** from [ATHA](#), a program of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative's Humanitarian Academy at Harvard. [Fragile Future: The human cost of conflict in Afghanistan](#) and [Humanitarian Access Obstruction in Somalia: Externally Imposed and Self-inflicted Dimensions](#).

**16.** Joint launch of the **Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) 2019** and **World Humanitarian Data and Trends 2018** takes place in December in Geneva.

Read the [reports](#).

Watch some videos:

VIDEO 1: [Why we need a Global Humanitarian Overview](#)

VIDEO 2: [Why do humanitarian crises disproportionately affect women?](#)

VIDEO 3: [Why is food insecurity rising?](#)

VIDEO 4: [Why do humanitarian needs remain so high?](#)

**19. SOHS 2018: How is the humanitarian system performing?** Published every three years by ALNAP, the 4th edition of the [State of the Humanitarian System Report \(SOHS\) 2018](#) covers a period during which the geopolitical landscape has changed, with powerful effects on the context and practices of humanitarian action. Irregular migration, epidemics and conflict have stretched the capacity of the humanitarian system and are reshaping the relationships not only within it, but also with development actors, governments and civil society organisations, amongst others.

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## Forthcoming Events

### ***ICVA Meetings and Events***

**December 11-13:** ICVA Asia Regional Members and NGO For a meeting, Bangkok

**2019**

**March 26:** ICVA Annual Conference, Geneva

### ***Other Meetings and Events:***

**December 3:** IASC Principals Meeting, Geneva

**December 4:** Joint launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) 2019 and the World Humanitarian Data and Trends Report 2018, Geneva

**December 5-6:** BBR Training, Yaounde, Cameroon

**December 6-7:** WFP Annual Partnership Consultation

**December 4-7:** Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), Marrakech

**December 6-7:** WFP Annual Partnership Consultation, Rome

**December 8:** Mayorol Forum, Marrakech

**December 8-9:** Youth Forum on Migration, Marrakech

**December 6-11:** CWSA Refresher ToT on Enhancing Collective Quality and Accountability to Affected Populations (Q&AAP), Bangkok

**December 7-11:** CWSA Workshop on Managing Complaints Response Mechanism (CRM), Bangkok

**December 10-11:** Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the GCM, Marrakech

**December 11:** Asia Regional Launch of Sphere Handbook Revision and ALNAP SoHS Report

**December 12:** Regional Innovation Forum, Bangkok

**December 17:** Briefing on the global refugee forum and on the impact of hosting refugees, UNHCR, Geneva

**December 18-19:** High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, UNHCR, Geneva

**2019**

**January 31- February 1:** IASC EDG meeting, Geneva

**February 4-8:** Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW) 2019, Geneva

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