



REGIONAL DIRECTIONS PAPER

Africa Region 2022-2024

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A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

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Executive Summary

The Africa region is experiencing a spike in severe and chronic humanitarian crises in the recent years¹, exacerbated by conflict, increasing climate shocks and the Covid-19 pandemic. This has driven a reconsideration of the ICVA representation architecture, adding resources and expertise geographically, in key coordination hubs in the sub region. This results in the search for adequate financial resources, to ensure the sustainability of the investment for increased support for ICVA's members, which is done jointly between the Geneva Head Quarters and the Regional team.

The three focus areas (Forced Migration, Humanitarian Coordination and Humanitarian Financing) global focus remains pertinent to the region and will determine the major orientation of the network's regional representation. They are integrated within the plan for Africa.

In other terms, the region will continue its approach of representing and contributing the priorities of the focus area in the region. [In the period 2022/2024 the global log frame will be the operational framework of reference.](#)

The 4 top priorities for the incoming 2 years are:

- A. Enhance engagement with NGO Fora** (increased capacity/learning initiatives and influencing/advocacy) and individual members in existing crises and nurture relations in selected low intensity humanitarian context to ensure preparedness in case of deteriorating conditions. This can be sustained and replicated by SDC type of projects.
- B. Diversify relations with partners and stakeholders** (with a specific focus on National NGOs and Civil society networks, in the countries of focus) with active inclusion of regional and national 'Think Tanks, research groups and academia. This will include a minimum of one specific research or study, each year, on a topic of concern within Humanitarian Action, in Africa.
- C. Stabilize engagement and collaboration with the AU, the RECs** and Regional Inter-agency bodies and Regional IASCs, such as the IAWG, RHPT for EA but similar bodies for the other regions.
- D. Provide ad hoc support to NGO fora in key phases of crises (TBD/C).** Ad hoc support would not be an explicit priority but an ongoing tailored support to country Fora based on needs identified and via regular meeting with selected Fora and networks.

Expansion in the West and Central Africa region and consolidation of the current engagement in the Africa region will also take place in the strategic period.

¹ Protracted or very protracted crises such as Somalia, DRC, CAR, South Sudan, Nigeria, Cameroon, Nigeria and Mali (indicative list) have been joined by new crises of variable intensity and magnitude such as Ethiopia, Sudan, Mozambique, Madagascar and most of countries in the Sahelian belt. Other areas of concern for potential food and nutrition crises are the Southern Africa, including South Africa due to concerning economic and political trends.

Humanitarian Trends in The Region

Demography, slow development, wealth and social disparity and impact of climate change are among the elements likely to continue triggering conflict.

Covid-19 related needs will continue to insist in the region in proportion to prevalence, health consequences and impact of restriction of livelihood. Yet the current phase of the pandemic and the likely trends do not suggest Covid-19 to compare with conflict induced needs.

States assertiveness, reducing civil society space, limited use and impact of preventive diplomacy are likely to hamper unimpeded humanitarian access, this can materialize also with BAIs and increasing politicization of aid.

In turn, activities and results will be slow to achieve, inducing donors to withhold funding ('Donor Fatigue' in ongoing Humanitarian Crises or reticence to finance activities with uncertain access and operational freedom of humanitarian actors) with short term direct impact on the affected communities and midterm impact on agencies capacity and preparedness indirectly eroding the chances of Aps for prompt and solid humanitarian responses.

The persistently negative headlines often detract from positive changes taking place, as well as from the diversity of the region and its potential. ICVA, in the region will utilize these opportunities, e.g., possibilities of engagement with Government, regional bodies, women/youth groups networks, and linked to technology and infrastructure developments, accessibility and knowledge sharing opportunities.

Objectives in the 3 Focus Areas and Transformations

The regional representation will act as a bidirectional vector between ICVA secretariat functions and the needs of the network's members in operations.

Using the five transformations that the ICVA 2030 strategy envisions, and the strategic priorities for 2022-2024, the regional team in Africa will act based on indicative workplans and selecting opportunities or building dedicated activities as required and compatible with available or identifiable human, financial, time related resources.

Forced Migration

Forced migration (FM) will continue to be an overarching humanitarian theme in Africa in the incoming years. The work on forced migration will be:

- Expansion of the global thematic work to the country and regional level through the identification of opportunities and implementation of briefings, updates and exchanges on FM related issues with the membership in Africa.
- Support to Country Fora/members on identification and raising key advocacy/influencing messages on FM to Regional and Global platforms.
- Create a platform for Fora which focus on FM to exchange best practices. This will be built on the existing platforms created by ICVA.

- Support and advisory role to member involved in the creation of dedicated thematic working groups (such as REDSS, and discussions on the theme in WCA).
- Active role in the dedicated agencies (UNHCR and IOM) consultations with NGOs.

Humanitarian Coordination

Humanitarian coordination contributes in responding to specific needs in a region characterized by a variety of actors working in humanitarian affairs.

ICVA in the region will support in the following ways:

- Help NGOs strengthen their collective voice through NGO forums and will help them secure a seat at the table of existing coordination mechanisms (including those that start to emerge).
- Active participation to regional coordination platforms, including IASC related, and NGOs based in the 3 main sub regions.
- Direct support to members and fora in selected crises, based on humanitarian caseload intensity and needs. This support can consist in humanitarian capacity, advocacy, message echoing, support in resources identification, inclusion of NGOs in key roles in HCTs, Clusters and working groups.
- Briefing and exchanges between NGOs and key actors in the UN (e.g., RC/HCs, DHCs EDG, with donors and with hosting governments and institutions counterparts).
- In the next 2 years the region will be focussing specifically on the analysis and follow up of impact of its action and consequentiality of the efforts in advocacy within the inter-agency system and in relations to donors.

Humanitarian Financing

As the specific objective in this thematic area is [Humanitarian financing meets the needs of populations affected by crises](#), ICVA in Africa will:

Relay and support the activity of the Financing team by facilitating the collection of information about financing issues of ICVA membership and regional audience with particular focus and analysis of C/RBPF and GB 2.0

Create and maintain relations with the key players of the Grand Bargain 2.0 at the regional and country level and arrange learning events and workshops

Assist in the mapping analysis and understanding and dissemination of knowledge of non-UN financing mechanisms pertinent to the members, with the possibilities of exploring one research piece on non-UN financing options for Africa (Faith based/Foundations etc.)

ICVA will also continue in advocating on behalf of the membership for quality, timely and predictable funding at the regional level with donors and partners

As a convener, ICVA will also facilitate briefing opportunities to the regional and National Fora from the Finance Audience.

Transformations and Inter-Regional Engagement

ICVA in the region will work on the transformations that are set out in the global strategy, namely:

- Champion principled humanitarian action
- Address the impact of 'climate change' on humanitarian action
- Be globally distributed and locally rooted
- Be diverse, inclusive, and live our values
- Proactively engage in agile collaborative partnerships

As transformations in the system are approaching, ICVA will help [NGOs champion principled humanitarian action](#). To this end, ICVA Regional representatives in Africa will work to:

- Promote the aggregation and coordination between NGO fora and an active participation in humanitarian coordination mechanisms
- The principles of partnership will also be widely promoted and disseminated, both amongst the membership and to all partners and stakeholders.
- Identify resources, financial and HR, to propose surge capacity in case of need for Fora.

For the three thematic areas, ICVA will disseminate knowledge and promote outreach campaigns.

Transformation is also where most of the inter-regional exchanges and works can happen. Specifically, on cross cutting issues, such as Localization, PSEA, Nexus.

Target Countries/Stakeholders and Partners

In the region, ICVA will select and work on countries which have a humanitarian crisis and regional coordination mechanisms. To this end, ICVA will engage with Members, NGO Fora, other NGOs networks on thematic issues and non-humanitarian actors. We plan an increased engagement/links between Fora. Relevant UN bodies, both at national and regional, depending on the context, which work on or have an impact on humanitarian action will also be key interlocutors. Finally, intergovernmental bodies, as well as some member states, which have humanitarian frameworks will also be involved.

Relations with Permanent Missions (mainly in Geneva) of Humanitarian operations hosting countries will be enhanced.

ICVA will work according to a tiers of priority countries and 'situations', while allowing space for ad hoc initiatives. Specific contexts may be allocated to a different tier, reflecting context changes.

TIER 1:

Lake Chad Bassin (Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, Tchad)

Central Sahel (Mali, Burkina Faso)

East Africa/Horn (Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia)

Central Africa DRC, CAR

TIER 2:

Mozambique, Sudan*, Uganda*, Burundi, Tanzania*, and Madagascar.

TIER 3:

Southern African countries and Coastal West Africa countries (unless emergencies arise).

Despite the humanitarian situation in the country being considered of secondary level, the countries marked with a () will receive a specific focus due to ongoing priority initiatives of the organization (Localization, Certification, and inclusion in specific project lots)

CRITERIA FOR ENGAGEMENT IN THE CONTEXTS:

By default: where the context shows those elements of ICVA mission and strategy. I.e., we shall be able to justify the non-engagement in those contexts.

By Choice: where there will be strategical and/or tactical opportunities. I.e., We shall be able to be able to justify why we have engaged.

Opportunities in the Region Resourcing and Measuring Impact

Increased partnerships with Research institutions and Think Tanks, within the regions, will increase ICVA's ability to generate evidence-based advocacy and influence for membership to promote principled and effective humanitarian action.

The consolidation of the ICVA presence and partnership with donors in the continent with a focus on multiyear partnership, and years of investments with members, UN, Donors, and institutional actors, will enable a strategic partnership with members in specific issues.

Among the priorities we list:

- Action to increase access negotiation capacity
- Initiatives to promote principled management of refugees and displacement affairs, including on durable solutions
- Initiative to ensure actual collaboration among NGOs beyond the public narrative
- Monitoring and progresses of ICVA action

We will use general tools to monitor consequentiality of the action, but also global tools such as the impact study and specific project related tools to monitor and evaluate impact and learning.

Membership Engagement

For the relevant strategic period, the ICVA in Africa will engage with members and potential members by organizing presentations on ICVA, at regional level (in the Humanitarian Hubs in the region) and country level by leveraging the members presence.

While ICVA will maintain its regional presence pitched at the regional level (and not at the country level), relations with individual members, specifically when crucially engaged with fora, will be enhanced. This will be done respecting the existing collectives and the members internal lines of management.

ICVA will also interact with non-members to garner interest and consolidate the network of useful contacts. ICVA in the region will reach out and enhance engagement with organizations that are less represented in the membership e.g., National/Civil society networks and women networks to increase the interaction with strategic members and members who are Headquartered in the region and provide tailored briefing to new members in the region with linkage to their focal points.

Due attention will be given to maintain the membership involved in the elaboration of new tools.



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Regional Hubs

Africa

Nairobi, Kenya
Dakar, Senegal

Asia-Pacific

Bangkok, Thailand
Islamabad, Pakistan

MENA

Amman, Jordan

Latin America

Guadalajara, Mexico
(Representation)

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