



# REGIONAL DIRECTIONS PAPER

Asia and the Pacific Region 2022-2024

**LIVING DOCUMENT**

**Latest update January 2022**



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

# | Table Of Contents

<u>Introduction .....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Humanitarian Trends in Asia Pacific .....</u>	<u>3</u>
• <u>Overall Objectives .....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Focus Areas .....</u>	<u>4</u>
• <u>Forced Migration (FM).....</u>	<u>4</u>
• <u>Humanitarian Coordination .....</u>	<u>6</u>
• <u>Humanitarian Coordination .....</u>	<u>8</u>
• <u>Cross Cutting Issues .....</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Policy Team Engagement .....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Priority Countries with ongoing crises .....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Priority Intergovernmental agencies .....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Priority Regional NGO Networks .....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Priority Regional Donors .....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Priority UN Agencies .....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Membership Engagement.....</u>	<u>9</u>

## Introduction

This paper presents a roadmap for the ICVA Asia and the Pacific (AP) Regional Hub, to support the Global ICVA 2030 Strategy.

## Humanitarian Trends in Asia Pacific

Asia-Pacific is home to a complex mixture of multi-layered threats: conflict, fragility, internal displacement, social and economic vulnerability, environmental degradation and climate change. Its sub-regions rank amongst those most natural hazard-prone in the world. Despite rapidly transforming economies, the region is also marked by stark inequalities. An effective approach to mitigation and response requires an improved understanding of the linkages between risks, which requires going beyond a single hazard approach.

Asia Pacific is also a region that has excelled in humanitarian innovation. It's increasing ownership of response to natural hazards at the country level, use of technology and history of dealing with climate-related hazards has helped it cultivate expertise that is useful across and beyond the region. It has also meant though that the UN system is not the dominant means of coordination in the region. Members need to engage with a diverse range of coordination mechanisms some of which are government led or spearheaded by regional bodies such as ASEAN and SPC. Increasingly member states that affect humanitarian policy and aid delivery in the region sit within rather than outside the region and thus there is a need to increase ICVA's ability to facilitate collective advocacy efforts at the regional level.

Many countries within the region are also influential donors to the humanitarian system including South Korea, Japan, Australia and China. Harnessing their involvement and facilitating their understanding of the issues facing NGOs is critical to improving humanitarian outcomes for affected people.

Utilising ICVA's ways of working this regional strategy seeks to meaningfully contribute to the implementation of ICVA's 2030 strategy in a way that is meaningful for the region and harnesses the unique assets in the region.

Active Responses	Affected by Sudden Onset	Donor and Policy engagement	Low priority
Myanmar	Philippines	Japan	Iran
Bangladesh	Pakistan	Korea	NZ
Afghanistan	Indonesia	Australia	Mekong-Viet/Camb/Laos
	Pacific	China	
		Thailand (as a regional hub)	
		India	

## Overall Objectives

1. To support members and NGOs to effectively engage in the humanitarian coordination and policy mechanisms/discussions.
2. Continue to be agile and able to respond to crises as they arise in the region.
3. To work more strategically and in partnership with members and external partners.
4. To facilitate efforts to improve collective advocacy by members and fora on regional humanitarian issues.
5. To highlight innovations in humanitarian assistance from the Asia Pacific Region.

## Focus Areas

### Forced Migration (FM)

2022-2024	2021 Progress	ICVA Added Value
<p><b>SSAR platform and regional coordination mechanisms on forced displacement.</b></p> <p>NGO understanding and engagement with the Afghanistan support platform remains low, although it has been initiated since 2018.</p> <p>This presents an opportunity to increase efforts at regional level to understand what opportunities there are for NGOs to be involved in the platform processes, particularly in light of the current Afghan situation and its potential broadening scope.</p> <p>ICVA will seek to do this work in collaboration with other members and networks such as ADSP.</p>	<p>Further consultations with UNHCR carried out on the platform however have not been followed up, the Afghan crisis presents new opportunities, and we have members in all affected countries.</p> <p>Partnerships with APRRN and ADSP have been strengthened and could be a good opportunity to take these activities forward. Members interested in engaging on these issues.</p>	<p>In line with FM focus and priorities.</p> <p>UNHCR has indicated that the platform will be an important part of their engagement on the Afghanistan situation.</p> <p>Consultations/analysis started in previous year.</p> <p>Opportunity for ICVA to build and engage its membership across all three countries.</p>
<p><b>Support members efforts to strengthen regional advocacy towards regional Member States in the region, particularly on issues of forced displacement. (Convene)</b></p>	<p>Build on work with fora in Japan/Korea/China/Australia/NZ</p>	

<p>Many of the Members States in the AP region are important actors in supporting humanitarian response in the region through diplomacy or direct aid.</p> <p>Many NGOs struggle though to target them effectively a different advocacy environment, relationships and approach is required.</p> <p>To support members to better position themselves to carry out collective advocacy towards member states in the region, particularly for displacement issues related to Myanmar/ Bangladesh and Afghanistan, ICVA will help convene diverse NGO actors and partners in the region on issues of strategy/ approaches and thematic areas. Work should include other more traditional Regional Donors who have influence as well.</p> <p>Activities may also include power analysis on select topics.</p>	<p>Ad Hoc Advocacy initiatives towards ASEAN have started.</p> <p>ICVA has facilitated a few discussions bringing together members from these countries on these issues so will build in existing GW.</p> <p>Greater recognition on the role of Asian Member states amongst members.</p> <p>Some initiatives already exist in the region e.g. APG and DRC Regional echo program on Rohingya. Would build on the work of members.</p>	<p>ICVA's diverse membership and connections to other regional bodies such as NGO fora, ADB, APPRN, APG, ASEAN makes it a valuable actor in supporting and convening members to strengthen their humanitarian advocacy efforts in the region.</p> <p>Improve advocacy engagement on regional humanitarian issues.</p> <p>Links to GRF commitments and support for responsibility sharing amongst states.</p> <p>Links to OSF grant and other work of members.</p>
<p><b>Co-organize regional consultations with UNHCR and APPRN ensuring solid involvement and contribution from NGOs and Refugee Led organizations.</b></p>	<p>We have supported the regionalization of UNHCR.</p> <p>Low priority but will work on if requested – noting there may be follow up after the HLOM.</p>	<p>Role of ICVA as a facilitator with UN.</p>

## Humanitarian Financing

2022-2024	2021 Progress	ICVA Added Value
<p>Continue Active participation in regional coordination platforms, and ensuring participation of NGOs.</p> <p>Develop live document of regional coordination mechanisms/opportunities for NGO engagement to share with ICVA membership.</p> <p>Advocate/share opportunities for NGO engagement as needed.</p> <p>Continue to co-host regional partnership week with OCHA and ADRRN to demonstrate the importance of collective action.</p>	<p>ICVA supported the engagement of members into relevant regional platforms.</p> <p>Brokered roles for NGOs in various adhoc coordination mechanisms.</p>	<p>ICVA is a trusted focal point for UN so can influence participation in forums.</p> <p>High visibility on the partnerships event- seen as bringing together the sector- allows big picture discussions.</p>
<p><b>Direct support to members and fora in selected crises, based on humanitarian caseload intensity of needs. This can include capacity support to fora and members, coordination and advocacy amplification as needed.</b></p> <p>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).</p> <p>Includes engagement with human rights actors to look at how HR and humanitarian work can complement in engagement with OHCHR etc. Capacity Development work feeds into trainings.</p>	<p>Afghanistan, Pakistan, Myanmar, and Bangladesh.</p> <p>Discussions with HR/ humanitarian started this year.</p>	<p>ICVA can be a trusted broker in these conversations.</p>

<p><b>Support fora engage in humanitarian architecture.</b></p> <p>Includes work with Chinese NGOs.</p> <p>Will include work and discussions on principals in complex settings with a focus on local and diverse actors.</p>	<p>Builds on existing work with networks in Japan/Korea/China.</p>	<p>Continue building relationships with China, Japan, Korea, and Australia.</p> <p>Builds partnership with new members and partners such as Genveea Call, ICRC, and OHCR.</p>
<p><b>Support regional analysis of emerging access issues.</b></p> <p>Access risks for local actors (analysis Afghanistan/ Myanmar).</p> <p>Digital safety/civic space/ ctms.</p> <p>Humanitarian principles in dual madate areas.</p>	<p>Furthered partnerships with bodies that specialize in these areas of access. Bodies such as ICNL/Access Now/ Humanitarian Security/ Centre for humumanitarian negotiations.</p>	<p>ICVA can amplify the commonalities between access issues across the region.</p> <p>Prioritisation may depend on funding around this issue</p>
<p><b>Identify some core areas of collaboration with the Pacific.</b></p> <p>Explore how ICVA and members can best support Pacific Resilience work.</p>	<p>Have not yet successfully built this relationship. Need to make decision if possible.</p>	<p>ICVA's IASC position and regional networks offer opportunities that maybe unique to Pacific colleagues.</p> <p>Sharing of good practices between PAC/ LAC.</p>
<p><b>Establish systematic fora exchange program including interregional.</b></p>	<p>There have been adhoc meetings based on thematics but would like to systematize more.</p>	<p>Convening capacity - support both regional and interregional exchange.</p>

## Humanitarian Coordination

2022-2024	2021 Progress	ICVA Added Value
<p><b>Support learning on Grand Bargain and UN financing mechanisms.</b></p> <p>Case studies/documentation in the region on operationalizing risk sharing with local actors (Myanmar).</p> <p>Documentation/regional sharing on diversifying funding models.</p>	<p>Joint workshops already happening.</p> <p>Many current crisis in the region involve risk transfer not sharing. There is a need to explore ways members can be responsible partners and intermediaries.</p>	<p>ICVA GB facilitator.</p>

## Cross Cutting Issues

2022-2024	2021 Progress	ICVA Added Value
<p><b>Look at intersection between Climate change and nexus discussion.</b></p> <p>Build relationships with climate change actors.</p>	<p>ICVA has led a number of consultations in the region on climate change including, UNHCR and ECHO etc. However, most has been ad hoc.</p>	<p>ICVA 2030 strategy.</p> <p>Both key areas for members. For the region it is a unique way to look at nexus discussions.</p>
<p><b>Strengthen NGO engagement in AAP PSEA processes.</b></p>	<p>Supported regional PSEA network connect with members etc.</p>	<p>Partnership depending.</p> <p>ICVA well connected to the the regional network.</p> <p>Opportunity to strengthen NGO engagement in country level PSEA networks.</p>



## **Policy Team Engagement**

- Share key issues arising from members in the region relating to focus areas
- Highlight good examples related to focus areas
- Provide talking points as needed to policy team
- Seek expertise and collaboration from the policy team when needed
- Amplify messages/opportunities from Focus Areas

## **Priority Countries with ongoing crises (with HRP/JRP)**

- Afghanistan
- Myanmar
- Bangladesh

## **Priority Intergovernmental agencies**

- ASEAN Secretariat
- AHA Centre

## **Priority Regional NGO Networks**

- ADRRN
- APRRN
- APG
- NEAR Network
- START network

## **Priority Regional Donors**

- Australia
- China
- Japan
- Republic of Korea

## **Priority UN Agencies**

- UNOCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Country Offices in Priority Countries
- UNHCR Regional Office for Asia, Country Offices in Priority Countries
- IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Country Offices in Priority Countries

## **Membership Engagement**

Regional representatives focus on developing and maintaining relationships with ICVA's members at several levels.

- Members based in the region
- Member representatives at the regional level
- Country Offices of members

Deepening membership engagement and how to strategically connect members is ongoing work.



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## Regional Hubs

### **Africa**

Nairobi, Kenya  
Dakar, Senegal

### **Asia-Pacific**

Bangkok, Thailand  
Islamabad, Pakistan

### **MENA**

Amman, Jordan

### **Latin America**

Guadalajara, Mexico  
(Representation)

## Geneva Office

Humanitarian Hub, La Voie-Creuse 16, 1202 Geneva  
[secretariat@icvanetwork.org](mailto:secretariat@icvanetwork.org)  
[www.icvanetwork.org](http://www.icvanetwork.org)