



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

2023  
Annual Conference

Date: 17 March 2023

Venue: Maison de la Paix, Geneva

## Theme: The right time and the right place: Improving access to humanitarian quality funding

#ICVAconference2023

### CONCEPT NOTE

ICVA Annual Conference, 17 March 2023  
Geneva, Switzerland

#### *The right time and the right place: Improving access to humanitarian quality funding*

##### Background

In 2016, on the eve of the World Humanitarian Summit, OCHA estimated a gap of USD 16 billion in unmet humanitarian need; by August 2022, this had grown to more than USD 33 billion. With an unprecedented level of forced displacement, food insecurity, climate crisis, and armed conflict, humanitarians are reaching more people than ever before yet falling further and further short of meeting global needs. Covid-19 response and the looming global debt crisis continue to further impact the humanitarian system with lingering effects on global health and financial systems.

The challenge of resourcing humanitarian action is not new. Much of the motivation for the World Humanitarian Summit was centered on the challenge on reducing the humanitarian finance funding gap, notably making aid more efficient, reducing funding burdens on the system, and expanding the donor base.<sup>1</sup> Efforts such as the Grand Bargain and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus grew out of this work and are still active today. However, despite an increased focus on elements of humanitarian finance, both humanitarian needs and the gap in funding continue to grow.

Addressing the shortfall in humanitarian financing does not only involve finding more money. Solutions must also be found internally within the humanitarian system, including what we define as humanitarian space, and how we coordinate humanitarian action among aid agencies, other stakeholders and across humanitarian-development—peace and climate silos. Improved access to quality funding that is flexible and committed over longer periods of time is an important commitment linked to these solutions. We should also be forward-looking how we can effectively anticipate and respond to global trends that increasingly affect humanitarian space and action: climate crisis, food insecurity, pandemic response, and the rise in protracted crises.

<sup>1</sup> See the report of the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing from January 2016: "[Too important to fail – addressing the humanitarian financing gap](#)".

Ultimately, we, as the NGO community need to identify ways in which we can influence donors and other stakeholders to fund in ways that reduce burdens on the system. We must also examine potential changes in our own behavior to improve efficiency and ensure that funds effectively reach frontline responders as directly as possible.

#### Approach:

ICVA's Annual Conference will bring together members, States, donors, UN agencies, experts and other stakeholders to share their experiences, lessons learned, challenges and ways forward around these issues. The **Annual Conference will be held on 17 March** and will be preceded by an **ICVA Membership Day on 16 March** which will provide an opportunity for NGOs to further engage and interact around the theme of improving access to quality funding.

#### Objectives:

- Increase awareness and establish common understanding of the key challenges in humanitarian finance, including the need to look for solutions across the system, not limited to increasing funding volume.
- Examine the options for the future of the Grand Bargain and solidify NGO support for a preferred way forward.
- Discuss the state of the localization agenda, with a particular focus on further joint efforts to ensure effective resources and support are accessible by local partners.
- Support peer exchange on NGO efforts to link climate action and financing opportunities to strengthen humanitarian action.

#### Outcomes:

ICVA will produce an outcome document capturing key learning from the Annual Conference and Members' Day which will serve as foundation for ICVA's policy and advocacy work in the year ahead. Members should also come away from the event with a clearer understanding of the cross-cutting implications of financing issues in the humanitarian system and a better understanding of where they can individually take action to influence change. The Annual Conference will be organized prior to the 2023 European Humanitarian Forum and the Grand Bargain Annual Meeting, providing an opportunity to bring collective NGO messages to those discussions.

#### Resources:

- Current **updates on the Grand Bargain** via the Secretariat are provided [here](#).
- The Center for Global Development produced an assessment of the current system titled [Fit for the Future: Envisioning New Approaches to Humanitarian Response](#).
- Development Initiatives provides an excellent **annual review of global humanitarian assistance**, includes elements of humanitarian finance, available [here](#).
- OCHA has provided a helpful **overview of the need to adapt humanitarian action to climate change** [here](#) and an analysis of growing needs: [No return to Normal: The growing humanitarian climate emergency](#).

**Registration** for the Annual Conference will be open from the first week of November. To Register [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ICVA\\_2023\\_registration](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ICVA_2023_registration)

**More information:** Please visit our [website](#) for more information.