

ICVA Bulletin

Highlights from January 2023



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Dear Readers,

In this bulletin, we share the most recent news related to our focus areas of forced migration, humanitarian financing and coordination. We continue to transform the ICVA network to be more engaged in operationalizing principled humanitarian action, in addressing the impact of climate change on humanitarian action, pursuing being globally distributed and locally rooted, being diverse, inclusive and living our values, and proactively engaging in agile collaborative partnerships. Check more on the [transformations](#) of our ICVA 2030 Strategy. We also share our updates from our regional hubs and so much more.

Don't miss to follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#) for more updates.

Message from Executive Director

Thousands of people have lost their lives after two devastating earthquakes struck the Turkey (Türkiye) and Syria borders. First responders – the majority of them Syrian and Turkish – are deployed and working at personal risk. The earthquake adds suffering on the millions living in displacement.

ICVA stands in solidarity and extends its deepest sympathies to the families of those affected.

Short and Long-Term Life-Threatening Consequences of Taliban Decrees

The “Decree” from the De Facto Authority Minister of Economy on 24 December, banning Afghan women from working in national and international NGOs has had immediate impact on humanitarian operations, with many NGOs temporarily pausing activities in which women cannot participate. More than 70 percent of programmes in Afghanistan are implemented by NGOs. The decree comes days after another edict to prevent women from going to university.

Since the Taliban takeover in August 2021 NGOs have faced a series of bureaucratic challenges to operating despite improved security in the country.

As the humanitarian system grapples with the ban and associated operational decisions, there is much attention on the immediate operational challenges as well as broader implications for humanitarian principles and rights-based approaches in Afghanistan and beyond.

NGOs and other humanitarian partners seize all opportunities and exceptions to the ban to continue delivering assistance in this evolving context. The pattern is however tied to the need for a political strategy on Afghanistan.

In this unfolding crisis ICVA Secretariat reinforces its support to [ACBAR](#), mixed NNGO-INGO forum in Afghanistan. ICVA engages with States and Donors and prioritize continued engagement with regional and Islamic actors where possible. The current situation has fully mobilized the IASC system at all levels and ICVA continues its role representing NGOs at the [IASC Principles](#), the EDG and other relevant groups. ICVA Secretariat is engaged and supports members around their positioning and public and private advocacy, by promoting international law and humanitarian principles.

Our ICVA 2030 strategy's [first transformation](#) is for ICVA to be a champion of principled humanitarian action, advocating for the respect and protection of humanitarian space and supporting the effective, appropriate translation of principles into practice.

This [edition of the Bulletin](#) refers to some of the complexity of the issue, the diversity of opinions of humanitarian actors and long-term implications for the broader humanitarian sector.

The [ICVA Member's Day](#) in Geneva on 16 March will be a key moment for the ICVA Members to discuss values and principles in the light of the major current humanitarian challenges such as Afghanistan. We will look at our collective progress on our ambitions set at the General Assembly 2021, the [ICVA 2030 Strategy](#) and [2022-2024 Strategic Proprieties](#).

We look forward to welcoming you in-person on 17 March in Geneva for the [2023 ICVA Annual Conference](#) "*The right time and the right place: Improving access to humanitarian quality funding*".

Ignacio Packer
Executive Director | ICVA

ICVA Updates



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
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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

1. ICVA Annual Conference 2023 and ICVA Membership Day

Join us on Friday 17 March at the Maison de la Paix in Geneva, for ICVA 2023 Annual Conference, to explore how we can increase access to humanitarian quality funding. The theme will be: **The right time and the right place: Improving access to humanitarian quality funding**. The all-day event will feature insights from keynote speakers, thought – provoking sessions, Q&A, and activities. The sessions will include:

- Setting the scene
- The Future of the Grand Bargain
- Climate Financing and Humanitarian Action
- Partnerships

The event will be in English with interpretation in Arabic and French. Recordings of the session will be made available after the event.

Make sure to check ICVA's 2023 conference [webpage](#) and the [concept note](#) for more information. Stay tuned for the conference agenda.

Use **#ICVAconference2023** to join the conversation on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

ICVA Membership Day

The [Membership Day](#) will be held on Thursday 16 March 2023 at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva. The event is only open to ICVA members and invited guests. This exclusive get-together will be a chance to share ideas on key topics of interest.

2. Staff Update

We welcome Nkirote Laiboni as ICVA Deputy Representative for East and Southern Africa.

Forced Migration

3. High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges

The High-Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges took place on 7-8 December 2022 in Geneva with a focus on 'Development Cooperation' to advance protection, inclusion, and solutions for displaced and stateless persons. Thanks to NGOs' various contributions, one collective NGO statement was delivered by the International Rescue Committee during the Dialogue, highlighting key recommendations to improve development cooperation in taking early action, inclusion of displaced people and the pursuit of durable solutions. Check the [written and oral versions](#) of the statements.

One of the expected outcomes of the Dialogue was also to launch concrete [multi-stakeholder initiatives](#) to address specific challenges related to the theme of the Dialogue. ICVA particularly contributed to two innovation labs where NGOs and other stakeholders are involved. First, through '[Better Lives Now](#)', co-convened by [The Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative](#) and the Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration, U.S. Department of State, that aims to explore challenges, alongside best practices, and emerging approaches, to support refugee self-reliance. Second, through '[Shaping the Future Living as Neighbours](#)' innovation lab that aims to advance efforts and programmes to meaningfully enable faith actors, as well as humanitarian and development actors, to better support displaced people and host communities.

Several notes of the Dialogue have been shared with ICVA members and more information on the Dialogue is accessible on [UNHCR website](#) including [International Rescue Committee speaker's corner](#) on 'The Cost-of-Living Crisis for Urban Displaced People in East Africa: The Role of Inclusive Social Protection'.



4. Report on the Role of Local and National NGOs in the Refugee Response in Ukraine's Neighbouring Countries

The report, [Mapping and rapid assessment of existing national NGO coordination mechanisms focusing on Hungary, Poland, Romania, and the Republic of Moldova](#), was commissioned by UNHCR and ICVA to provide a comprehensive overview of the local and national NGO coalitions, consortia, networks, initiatives, and platforms that are actively involved in responding to the needs of refugees from Ukraine in Hungary, Poland, Romania, and the Republic of Moldova. The report sought to analyze both the capacities and needs of these NGOs and existing NGO coordination mechanisms as they work together to fill in service provision gaps while avoiding duplication of humanitarian efforts.

[Read More](#)

5. Call for Expression of Interest: Reference Group Review of Humanitarian Responses to Internal Displacement

In follow-up to the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel and Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, the IASC decided to commission an Independent Review of Humanitarian Responses to Internal Displacement. The Humanitarian Policy Group at ODI in partnership with the Institute of Development Studies will carry out the review. The [Terms of References for the Review](#) also foresee the establishment of and outlines the core functions of a Reference Group that would support the Review Team to whom it will “*provide advice and serve as a sounding board*”.

In the interest of ensuring diverse representation of NGO perspectives in the reference group, ICVA is now seeking nomination of one national NGO ICVA member to the group. Interested NGO members are invited to contact for further information coordination@icvanetwork.org.

6. The Global Compact on Refugees and Global Refugee Forums

In 2023, ICVA will continue supporting NGOs' engagement with the Global Compact on Refugees and Global Refugee Forums processes through information dissemination, analysis, and convening of stakeholders. Activities include the coordination of collective NGO statements to be delivered at three formal preparatory meetings for the second Global Refugee Forum taking place in December. Learn [more information](#) on related UNHCR briefings and meetings.

- For more information, please contact: jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org and loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org.

7. Migrants in Vulnerable Situations

Migrant Rights Initiative

The Migrant Rights Initiative has recently published an interactive data visualization of its [Migrants Rights Database](#) to shed light on the human rights of all migrants, featuring 36 countries and nearly 70% of the world's migrants. With its intuitive navigation system in three

Financing

8. The Future of the Grand Bargain

In December and January, the **Grand Bargain Facilitation Group** (FG) continued to discuss (virtually and in person) at the **technical focal point level** to assess inputs received from Signatories and to refine the potential options for the way forward. The primary focus of discussions so far has been on the scope, timeline, and resourcing areas of the Grand Bargain. In the weeks ahead, discussion will shift to focus on the structure, governance, and accountability.

At the end of January, the FG met at **Sherpa-level** to assess the common ambition for the future of the Grand Bargain in terms of scope and timeline. Based on discussions at the end of 2022, the NGO Constituency broadly favours expanding the use of the unique platform offered by the Grand Bargain to improve focus on shrinking humanitarian needs and broadening the resource base. NGOs also support the enabling priorities of Quality Funding and Localization/Participation, in addition to recognizing that data transparency is a critical area to effectively measure progress on those enabling priorities. Based on the proposed timeline, Constituency consultations will continue in February to discuss the proposed options and seek input from Signatories. ICVA will convene a second NGO Constituency Consultation in early February.

9. The Asia Pacific Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week

The event was held in early December focused on navigating operational contexts complicated by climate change, political instability, economic downturn and shrinking of humanitarian space. As part of the event, ICVA facilitated a session on the future of the Grand Bargain with the A4EP and NEAR networks to examine the implementation status of the Grand Bargain commitments, the findings of the survey on the future of the agreement and explore how to ensure the meaningful participation and representation of Asia-Pacific humanitarian actors in the process.

- For more information, contact jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org.

10. Access to Quality Funding

In early December, ICVA welcomed the launch of the [IASC Guidance on the Provision of Overheads to Local and National Partners](#). The guidance draws on research carried out by the IASC Results Group 5 on Humanitarian Finance and provides recommendations for how to improve current policy and practice to ensure that local and national partners can access overhead funding. If you missed the launch event on 5 December, Development Initiatives has shared the [recording](#) alongside a short [blog post](#). Roundtable discussions around the guidance will be organized from February 2023 at national level to ensure change is driven both from HQ and country levels. IASC will support the dissemination of the guidance among donors and facilitate discussions around its implementation.

As part of the **Global Humanitarian Policy Forum (GHPF)** on December 7-8, ICVA co-organized an interactive session on Localization and Accountability to Affected People, which explored what success would look like in moving localization from policy to practice and how to successfully anchor humanitarian action in the priorities of local communities. Recommendations from the various panel discussions included calling for the establishment of a credible database acknowledging networks at local level, collective advocacy around risk-sharing and ICR policies and improving preparedness and response capacities in local communities. Explore [more information](#) on the GHPF.

In line with the resolution and the overarching aim of mitigating the unintended humanitarian impact of UN targeted sanctions, the Graduate Institute and NRC launched the **revised version of the [UN Sanctions App](#)** which maps all UN sanctions and where they are applied, including their impact on humanitarian action and local communities.

11. UN Partnerships and Donor Conditions

Following the Annual Partnership Consultations (APC) of WFP, ICVA continues to coordinate with InterAction to debrief on the APC and follow up on the WFP Partner Survey preliminary results presented during the consultations.

12. Pooled Funds

After a long process, ICVA welcomed the publication of the [revised OCHA Country-based Pooled Funds \(CBPF\) Global Guidelines](#) on 7 December. The priority and challenge for the CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform for the coming period will be to ensure the rollout of the Guidelines is prioritized.

ICVA participated in the December **Pooled Fund Working Group thematic meeting** on lessons learned from the Regionally hosted Pooled Fund pilot launched in 2021 and the possibilities of any wider applications of the model in other regions. In consultation with members, ICVA passed key NGO messages on the continued importance of the OCHA CBPF in supporting humanitarian response and ensuring the effective channeling of resources to frontline responders, the importance of exploring ways to improve on the model and expand access to pooled fund for NGO partners in the field, and the need for a clear strategic regional direction for the Regionally hosted Pooled Fund moving forward.

The ICVA **consultancy on 'Pooled Funding at a Crossroads'** continues to progress towards its objectives of (i) providing ICVA members with a catalogue of existing pooled funding opportunities in 10 selected countries, and (ii) to inform ICVA's future research and advocacy approach with a focus on accessibility and the quality of funding for ICVA members. Preliminary findings were presented to the Humanitarian Finance Working Group by the consultants from HERE-Geneva at the HFWG retreat in January and led to rich discussions that will inform the work of the ICVA and the HFWG on the topic moving forward.

- For ICVA members interested in joining the Humanitarian Finance Working Group or engaging more directly in the work on UN partnerships, contact manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org.

Coordination

13. Inter-Agency Standing Committee - IASC

IASC Deputies Group

IASC Deputies Group met in January to discuss IASC engagement in COP28 and Strengthening the IASC Approach to Early Warning and Anticipatory Action; the Independent Review of Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement; and the Emergency Relief Coordinator's Flagship Initiatives. Check available [background documents](#).

IASC Principals and ERC Discussions with NGOs

On 24 December, **The Taliban issued a decree banning Afghan women** from working for NGOs, which had an immense impact on the humanitarian sector in the region. In response, ICVA has been collaborating with its members, especially the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief, to ensure that the perspectives of NGOs are represented in different forums such as the IASC principals and ERC discussions. NGO members have made high-level visits to emphasize the importance of having women included for effective response. As noted in the forward of the bulletin, ICVA continues to support its members working in Afghanistan to try and meet the overwhelming humanitarian need.

IASC Regional Directors

The **IASC Regional Directors Meeting** was held on 8 December in Bangkok in person for the first time since 2019. The focus of the discussion was on improving coordination across the development and humanitarian pillars of the UN, to improve planning and response in the region. Following this discussion, ICVA will support a mission to the Philippines with OCHA and DCO to learn from existing coordination mechanisms and potential opportunities.

Civil 7 (C7) Process

On 1 January 2023, **Japan assumed the G7 Presidency** and the Japan Civil Society Coalition is acknowledged to coordinate the Civil 7 (C7) process. In 2023, ICVA will continue to co-lead the **Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict** with ICVA member Japan Platform. Check out [more information](#).

- For more information, contact jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org.

14. Humanitarian Access Influencing

Taskforce 3 – Discussion on the GA Resolution 2664

GA Resolution 2664 was the main point of discussion at the Taskforce 3 meeting in January. Due to the advocacy of the humanitarian community to the UN Security Council and its Member States, the UNSC has adopted the historic [UNSC Resolution 2664](#) which provides a “humanitarian carveout” – standing humanitarian exemption – to asset freeze measures imposed by UN sanctions regimes. The landmark resolution, penned by the US and Ireland, will make it easier for humanitarian assistance to be provided in contexts with UN-designated individuals or groups. Also discussed at the meeting was ICRC's Global Mapping of Armed Groups was discussed, as well as Myanmar's Organization Registration Law and its implications on NGOs.

ICVA Humanitarian Access Working Group

Representatives from OCHA, IRC and Stichting Vluchteling discussed their work on access negotiations and highlighted the importance of organizational policies, training, and clarity on roles and responsibility.

- For more information and expressions of interest, contact eileen.morrow@icvanetwork.org.

15. COVID-19

The Covid-19 Vaccine Deliver Partnership will end in March 2023 and will host a global summit, 'Global stock taking of COVID-19 Vaccinations in Humanitarian settings and the contribution to broader pandemic preparedness,' in February to discuss the contribution of vaccinations in humanitarian settings to broader pandemic preparedness. Discussions will feature review progress in reaching high-risk groups with COVID-19 vaccinations in humanitarian settings; identifying critical bottlenecks to vaccination in humanitarian settings and identifying actionable recommendations aimed at specific stakeholders to address the needs in humanitarian settings for this and any future pandemic.

In preparation for the summit, three working groups have been established. ICVA will chair the Working Group on "Leveraging humanitarian architecture and humanitarian actors in pandemic response". ICVA member INTERSOS will cochair the Working Group on "Health Systems Strengthening and Pandemic Preparedness and Response in humanitarian settings." ICVA has engaged national and international NGO members to participate in the groups. The outcomes of the discussions are being documented on a white paper.

- For more information and expressions of interest, contact eileen.morrow@icvanetwork.org.

Transforming our Network

16. Champion Principled Humanitarian Action

ICVA and Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN) have jointly developed a comprehensive **High-Level Negotiation & Influencing Programmes for Humanitarian Leaders**, designed to help NGO leaders effectively manage complex humanitarian programmes. This intensive experiential course will be delivered by senior humanitarian practitioners with significant operational and negotiation experience in eight different humanitarian contexts.

Country Directors from international, national, and local NGOs will learn how to structure, support, and execute successful negotiations to better meet the needs of crisis-affected populations through a collaborative approach by discussing common positions, exploring contextual dilemmas, and reflecting on their own experiences. The workshop is highly interactive with hands-on activities that facilitate peer exchange: participants are encouraged to identify access impacts based on their context, share their personal experiences with one another, and learn from each other's solutions.

- Please contact eileen.morrow@icvanetwork.org for more information.

17. Address Impact of Climate Change on Humanitarian Action

Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations

In a project funded by DG ECHO, Groupe URD has been **mapping climate and environment resources and experts** that could help implement commitments 1 and 2 of the Charter, as well as analysing any obstacles that may prevent access to these resources. The deadline has been extended to 15 February 2023. ICVA encourages members who have not already completed the consultation form to do so. Check [the form](#).

The **Humanitarian Carbon Calculator** became available on the Climate Charter website in January 2023. It is a key new resource for organizations in the humanitarian sector and provides the framework and methodology for calculating an organization's direct and indirect emissions. Access the [tool and related resources](#).

The Charter has 333 signatories to date, including ICVA. ICVA invites its members who are not yet signatories to familiarise themselves with the Charter and contact ICVA with any queries, challenges or issues that may hinder them from signing up or being able to realistically meet the Charter commitments. Access the [Climate Charter website](#).

Climate and Environment Action Compendium

We are doing an **update to ICVA's Climate and Environment Action Compendium**, please send us any new projects/initiatives, tools or reports from your organization that you would like to be showcased in the compendium to climate@icvanetwork.org. Explore the [current compendium](#) (best experienced in Google Chrome).

[Read the Document](#)



- For more information on ICVA's activities, including the [Learning Stream on Climate Change and Humanitarian Action](#), visit the [Climate and Environment webpage](#). If you have any questions and/or would like to join the Climate Change Working Group please email: nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org.

18. Be Globally Distributed and Locally Rooted

Localization

The IASC Localization Task Force 5 (TF5) workplan includes as a priority **compiling good practices on the** meaningful participation, representation, and leadership of local actors in humanitarian coordination mechanisms including women-led organizations and approaches to involving affected people. To this end, the TF5 has developed a [template](#) for collecting good practices on localization. This template is based on the IASC guidance on “Strengthening Participation, Representation and Leadership of Local and National Actors in IASC Humanitarian Coordination Mechanisms”. It is intended for TF5 members and can be disseminated to their local and national partner NGOs and local actors’ organizations. For submission, you are encouraged to use the template and guiding questions and instructions, then submit to: IASCcorrespondence@un.org. The deadline for submission is on 10 February 2023. The final objective is to produce a best practice learning paper and to widely disseminate.

For any questions, contact Kore at Kore@fao.org and Eman Ismail at Eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org

Insights from the Global Humanitarian Policy Forum

ICVA co-organized an interactive session with OCHA during the 11th Global Humanitarian Policy Forum, held on 7-8 December 2022 to reflect on the state of the world at the end of 2022 and the immense risks and opportunities for humanitarian action in the years ahead. This session was entitled 'As Local as Possible, As International as Necessary: What Does Success Look Like'. The event was attended by over 6,000 participants from 145 different countries and included various UN agencies.

OCHA and the United Nations Foundation, together with FAO, ICVA, the IFRC and WFP, virtually convened the forum under the theme, Global Crises, Local Solutions: Reducing Needs and Vulnerability Sustainably. Panelists during the session highlighted the importance of investing in locally-led solutions that can address the growing needs of people. They pointed out that it is essential to strengthen local capacities and improve partnerships between global, regional, and local levels. Their emphasis on this matter was a result of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) which had strongly called for such initiatives.

Humanitarian Development Peace (HDP) Nexus

Nexus Academy for 2023

The first cohort of the Nexus Academy for 2023 has begun. The Nexus Academy aims to bring together four cohorts of students to learn and develop their understanding of Humanitarian, Development and Peacebuilding (HDP) in crisis-affected contexts. For those interested in becoming part of the academy, applications will be opening soon. In addition to this, those who want to get an introduction to HDP, and the Nexus approaches can take advantage of The Nexus Essentials Course. This free online course consists of five modules and can be accessed [here](#).

Nexus Approaches in Humanitarian Settings

The Global Protection Cluster has disseminated a Guidance Note for the Protection Cluster on Nexus Approaches in Humanitarian Settings to help protection cluster coordinators apply nexus approaches in a practical way. [Read more on it.](#)

- To join the ICVA NEXUS Working Group mailing list, send an email to stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org.

19. Be Diverse, Inclusive and Live our Values

Child Rights

2022 Annual Progress Report: Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies

The Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies presented its [2022 Annual Progress Report](#), outlining the inspiring actions and initiatives taken to elevate political commitment, catalyze joint action across stakeholders, and maximize impact through evidence.

Gender

Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies

The Call-to-Action Progress [Report](#) for 2021 is now available for the public. 2021 marked the first year of the Road Map 2021-2025 of the Call to Action. Drawing on 55 partner reports, data collected, and additional materials, this report outlines the global efforts taken by partners across the globe to make progress against gender-based violence in emergency contexts. Explore the [Call to Action's website](#) for more information.

Persons with Disabilities

Disability and Older Age Inclusion in Humanitarian Action: Innovation Catalogue

The Humanitarian Innovation Fund's 2020 [Gap Analysis](#) identified a number of gaps in the inclusion of older people and people with disabilities in humanitarian responses. To address these gaps, Elhra developed a [catalogue](#) that profiles innovations that seek to address some of the gaps. The catalogue also provides evidence of the experiences and barriers to inclusion that older people and those with disabilities face across various humanitarian themes, contexts, and settings.

Safeguarding

PSEA Community Outreach and Communication Fund Database

The PSEA Community Outreach and Communication Fund Database has been updated and can now be accessed through [ICVA's website](#). The database comprises of over 45 materials,

including print, video, audio, and community discussion guides, in some 40 languages, tailored to reach over 20 different Age, Gender, Diversity profiles, developed, used, and disseminated by NGOs during the implementation of their PSEA Fund projects. This resource is freely available to all IASC members and PSEA stakeholders to use and adapt it according to their needs.

After the successful conclusion of the third round of PSEA Outreach and Communication Fund, 15 carefully selected projects are now finalising the implementation of their 2022 initiatives.

IASC PSEAH Workshop

From 23-26 January, ICVA joined IASC for a four-day Technical Workshop in Nairobi to address Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment. Participants included members of the of the IASC Technical Advisory Group on PSEAH, PSEA coordinators from the field and donors who discussed ways of aligning policies with field challenges, identifying priorities for 2023, reviewing implementation of the 5 years [IASC PSEAH strategy](#) and workplan, and to exchange with donors about progress and resources needed.

- For more information, contact alon.plato@icvanetwork.org.

20. Proactively Engage in Agile Collaborative Partnerships



European Humanitarian Forum (EHF) 2023

The Forum convenes a powerful alliance of change-makers from humanitarian organizations, policy experts and decision makers, to discuss game-changing ideas on topics like boosting resources for aid, increasing funding quality and creating sustained commitment from the wider aid community in anticipation of climate-related crises.

EHF is also a key moment for ICVA as we will be facilitating the attendance of 35 national NGO leaders, traveling from the ICVA Annual Conference to participate to the EHF in Brussels. ICVA has also been co-organizing with ECHO the regional “warm up sessions” for the EHF.

Check the full [programme and register](#) by 9 March.

Region Specific

21. Africa

East and Southern Africa

Launch of a Learning Programme - Collectively Influencing Change in Complex Contexts

ICVA is launching a Learning Programme aimed at members and the secretariat of NGO Fora and networks in Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan. The specially tailored curriculum will be delivered in weekly online sessions in February and a face-to-face workshop on 28 and 29 March in Nairobi. This workshop will be focused on peer learning and how to strengthen links between influencing at the local, national, regional, and international level. On 30 March, there will be a NGO Forum/Network Directors from Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan Communities of Practice meeting.

- For more information contact Maxine Clayton: advocacysupport@icvanetwork.org.

West and Central Africa

High-Level Conference on Lake Chad Region



ICVA Representative for West and Central Africa joined [The Third High-Level Conference](#) on the Lake Chad region that was held in Niger from 23 to 24 January 2023. Co-organized by Germany and Norway, the United Nations (OCHA/UNDP), and the host country of Niger, the conference looked at solutions that require coordinated approaches between actors involved in humanitarian, development, peace, and stabilization efforts to address increasingly growing challenges that are affecting more and more people. Humanitarian actors stressed the need for

Humanitarian actors stressed the need for adequate financial support and political commitments regarding key issues such as protection of civilians and civilian rights.

Field Warm Up Sessions to Inform EHF Discussions

The European Humanitarian Forum 2023 takes place in Brussels in March and DG ECHO Regional Office in Dakar, supported by Egmont Royal Institute, ICVA and the Regional Task Force on Access and Humanitarian Principles, is organizing two field warm up sessions to inform the discussions. The sessions will take place on 7 and 8 February and will focus on 'Addressing access impediments through humanitarian diplomacy'.

- For more information or to be included in the ICVA Africa Working Group List, please contact addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org or adeline.benita@icvanetwork.org.

22. Asia and the Pacific

2022 Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week (RHPW)



ICVA along with UN Humanitarian, Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network, and Community World Service Asia hosted a RHPW event in Bangkok from the 9th to 14th of December. This face to face gathering of humanitarian professionals and experts focused on collaboration and opportunities for good practices. In addition to the RHPW, ICVA organized a regional members day, which provided an opportunity for ICVA members to network and exchange strategies for meeting the current challenges in the industry. ICVA is committed to continuing these events as part of their mission to strengthen relationships between members. Check ICVA [website](#) for more information.

Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week 2022

National Humanitarian Network National Assembly

On January 23, ICVA was invited to the National Humanitarian Network National Assembly to discuss the topic “Locally Rooted & Globally Connected” in a panel discussion with representatives from CHS Alliance, NEAR network, START Network, and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center. ICVA's Deputy Regional Representative highlighted the importance of local engagement through representation, creating space and opportunities for local networks and NGOs, as well as connecting global policy dialogue to local actors.

Regional Women's Humanitarian Leadership Training Programme

ICVA, in collaboration with UN Women, organized a four-day Regional Women's Humanitarian Leadership Training from 6 - 8 December 2022. This program was designed to strengthen the leadership skills of women-led Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Society Organizations in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar. During the training, participants were given the opportunity to hone their collective advocacy skills to promote policy influence and more effective interactions with donor partners. In addition, the program focused on connecting women across the region to encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing.

- For more information about ICVA's work in Asia and Pacific, contact keya.sahachaudhury@icvanetwork.org or asma.saleem@icvanetwork.org.

23. Latin America Region

Humanitarian Negotiation

From the 20- 24 February, the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation will be hosting a workshop for Central America on Humanitarian Negotiation, in Spanish. This event is designed with professionals in mind, equipping them with essential skills and strategies needed when engaging in negotiations under humanitarian contexts. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

International Organizations speak out Against New Venezuelan Bill

International Organizations have come together to sound the alarm over a new bill in Venezuela that threatens civil society organizations. Approved on 24 January 2023, this legislation proposes an unprecedented level of control and regulation with draconian measures for any organization not granted authorization or accreditation by the government putting basic freedoms at risk. In a joint statement, international organizations urge the international community of democratic countries to reject the bill and the Venezuela government to end the criminalization of human rights defenders. Check the statement in [English and Spanish](#).

Colombia's Human Rights Situation

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (CIDH-IACHR) has issued their First Follow-up in depth report examining their three-day working visit to Colombia in June 2021 during the national strike protests. It includes follow up recommendations for restoring human rights and peace within affected communities.

- For more information or to be included in the ICVA Latam mailing list, contact lina.gomez@icvanetwork.org.

24. MENA

European Humanitarian Forum (EHF) Regional Warm-Up Session

The EHF regional consultation took place in Amman on 18 January 2023 in a hybrid format and focused on informing the EHF session on “Soaring humanitarian needs and limited resources: engaging non-traditional donors and new sources of financing.” Participants discussed a new “humanitarian narrative” in which humanitarian aid is framed as an investment and a common good, and how new sources of funding can be mobilized in this context. Actors from the international NGOs/ Local NGOs and UN agencies discussed how to get more commitment from aid organizations to provide assistance in a more efficient and effective manner. Notes from this session will be made available within the next month and will aim to inform the EHF that will take place in March 2023.

Visit to Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)

ICVA Deputy Regional Representative visited OPT where they had meetings with several key stakeholders, including ICVA member PNGO, and members of the INGO Forum, AIDA, and OCHA and WFP. These meetings provided a platform for insightful and meaningful discussions on a variety of topics including the current situation in OPT, localization, the Nexus, and the launch of the [2023 Humanitarian Response Plan](#) and the UNSDCF launch of the collective outcomes.

Women-Led Organisations (WLO) Refresher Meeting

On 31 January, ICVA held a refresher meeting for the select WLOs from countries such as Jordan, Turkey, Libya, Syria, Egypt, Iraq, and other nations that had taken part in its WLO program. This gathering focused on the 2023 priorities for these organizations, upcoming collaborative meetings, partnerships and any associated learnings and challenges.

ICVA in MENA and Hosting arrangement with Finn Church Aid

Starting from this year, ICVA in MENA team are being hosted by FCA in Amman, Jordan. FCA has offered to provide the ICVA team with the required support and for exchange experience on partnership, localisation and Nexus. We thank FCA team for the great cooperation and support.

- For more information or to be included in the ICVA MENA Mailing List, contact eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org or stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org.

Learning Opportunities

25. Massive Open Online Course - Localizing the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees: Territorial Action on Human Mobility

[Register](#) for this free online course and learn about the role of local and regional governments in shaping human mobility governance and contributing to global progress. The course was developed by UCLG as part of the Mayors Mechanism (GFMD).

26. Responsible Data Management in Emergencies

Discover how to safely and responsibly manage data collected from people with Humanitarian Leadership Academy's [free course](#). Learn the techniques needed for humanitarian actors to ensure that gathered information is handled ethically.

27. An Introduction to Soil Water & Vegetation Conservation for Watershed Management

Are you ready to take the plunge into learning about soil water and vegetation conservation for watershed management? Medair has created a [free course](#), best for those looking to enhance their knowledge in this field. Create an account at DisasterReady.org to access it.

New and Noteworthy

28. Embodying Change Podcast: Episode on The Pledge for Change with Degan Ali of Adeso

This [episode of the CHS Podcast](#) uncovers how past experiences and successes like the Charter for Change and the Grand Bargain shaped the Pledge for Change 2030, and even greater commitment towards positive social change.

29. Voices from ALNAP's first 25 years

In a recent [blog](#), Ignacio Packer, ICVA Executive Director, reflects on ALNAP's commitment to learning and his aspirations for the network's continued growth in order to make an even greater impact globally.

30. Global Report on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement: Implementing National Responsibility

The [report](#) reviews 30 years of experience with domestic law and policymaking on internal displacement in line with international standards.

31. "They told me they couldn't help me: Protection Risks Facing Non-Ukrainian Asylum Seekers and Refugees Fleeing Ukraine to the EU"

A recent [report](#) from HIAS Europe and Right to Protection demonstrates that people who were seeking asylum or held protection in Ukraine prior to the war have faced significant barriers to protection and integration when secondarily displaced to the EU.

32. Addressing the Protection Gap – Human Mobility and the Climate Crisis in International Frameworks

This [analysis](#) by ACT Alliance and Bread for the World aims to provide a better understanding of the relationship between human mobility and climate change.

Agenda

February 7-8: [Latin America and Caribbean Shelter & Settlements Forum 2023](#)

February 9: [ICVA co-hosts the Geneva Launch of the of the newly enhanced BBR E-Learning tool](#)

February 27: Yemen 2023: High-level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen, Geneva

March 6: First Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees, Geneva

March 7-9: UNHCR 86th Standing Committee, Geneva

March 16: [ICVA Membership Day, Geneva](#)

March 17: [ICVA Annual Conference, Geneva](#)

March 20-21: [European Humanitarian Forum](#)

March 28 – 29: Learning programme - Collectively Influencing Change in Complex Contexts

April 17-28: [9th Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week \(HNPW 2023\)](#)

April 26-28: [2023 Humanitarian Leadership Conference](#)

May 17: Second Formal Preparatory Meeting for the Global Refugee Forum, Geneva

June 7: Second Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees, Virtual

June 14-16: UNHCR 87th Standing Committee

June 20: World Refugee Day

June 21-23: [ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment - Geneva](#)

September 1: Third Formal Preparatory Meeting for the Global Refugee Forum, Geneva

September 13-14 or 14-15 (TBC): UNHCR 88th Standing Committee

October 9-13: UNHCR 75th Executive Committee

October 18: Third Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees, Virtual

November 17: Fourth Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees, Geneva

December 12: Advance side events Global Refugee Forum

December 13-15: Global Refugee Forum

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