

ICVA Bulletin

Highlights from September 2023

The ICVA logo consists of the letters "ICVA" in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid blue circle.

A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Dear Readers,

In this bulletin, we bring you the latest news concerning our focus areas: forced migration, humanitarian financing, and humanitarian coordination. We continue to transform the ICVA network to be more engaged in operationalising 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 ICVA

Libya Humanitarian Crisis: A Multifaceted unprecedented Disaster

It has been nearly three weeks since Storm Daniel and subsequent dam failures, caused catastrophic flooding in Libya. Derna and several coastal cities in eastern Libya remain submerged, while the remaining areas are reduced to ruins. The sea conceals countless bodies, with over 4,000 recorded deaths and over 8,500 people missing. [IOM](#) reports over 40,000 internally displaced individuals, and an estimate by [UNICEF](#) suggests that at least 17,000 of them are children.

On September 23, the search and rescue operations in Eastern Libya officially concluded, but this did not mark the end of the country's woes. For those who cannot find their loved ones or offer a dignified farewell, the ongoing crises compounds their suffering amid this unprecedented crisis.

This catastrophe defies easy classification - it is neither a short-term crisis, a climate change crisis, conflict driven, nor a man-made disaster. Instead, it is a combination of all these factors, defying accurate statistical description of the tremendous loss of lives and damage inflicted upon the Libyan people.

Given this multifaceted crisis, we must consider both immediate emergency actions and sustainable long-term solutions for Libyans, refugees, and migrants from other nationalities residing in Libya. **Prioritising the most vulnerable including women, children, refugees, migrants, is crucial.**

ICVA members and partners have stepped up their aid efforts in affected areas. Their comprehensive response includes urgent healthcare, distribution of essential items, food, water, and immediate shelter solutions, and psychosocial first-aid services. Despite ongoing attempts to address damaged infrastructure and disrupted transportation, numerous access and logistical challenges persist, hampering relief

operations. **This underscores the need for enhanced collective efforts, immediate actions, and more effective coordination among all actors.**

ICVA actively supports its members and their response efforts. This includes facilitating effective and inclusive coordination, sharing information, and collecting feedback to advocate for principled and effective practices in the response efforts. ICVA also plays a vital role in monitoring and advising on humanitarian access for NGOs operating in Libya.

Lastly, ICVA remains steadfast in its advocacy efforts, emphasising the critical importance of engaging and providing financial support to NGOs, especially those at the local and national levels. NGOs are at the forefront of the response, and providing them with high-quality, timely, and flexible humanitarian financing is crucial for a timely and impactful response.

The road ahead is challenging, but with concerted efforts and a collaborative commitment, we can work to alleviate the suffering of those affected and pave a way for recovery and resilience in this new country facing an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe.

Eman Ismail

ICVA Regional Representative in MENA and Focal Point on Localization

ICVA Updates



1. Welcoming ICVA's New Executive Director

We are pleased to announce that Dr James Munn will officially join ICVA as the Executive Director on 1 November 2023.

Dr Munn brings a wealth of experience and expertise to ICVA. With over 16 years of experience in aid programming, strategic development, NGO coordination, and policy formation, he is well-equipped to lead ICVA forward. He has held various roles across NGOs and the United Nations, working at head office, regional and country levels. His career has been marked by a strong belief in the pivotal role NGOs play in finding solutions to global challenges. Dr Munn has also made significant contributions to research, focussing on gendered identities in conflict zones, aid accountability and transparency, and post-conflict nationalism.

At ICVA, Dr Munn will bring his expertise in strategic leadership, innovation, effective advocacy, and a steadfast focus on transparency, accountability, and coordination. His forward-thinking approach and commitment to driving positive change in the humanitarian sector align perfectly with the mission of ICVA.

We express our gratitude to the entire ICVA staff, and in particular to the extended leadership team led by Mirela Shuteriqi, during this transition period.

2. ICVA 19th General Assembly and 2024 Annual Conference

We have new dates for ICVA's 19th General Assembly and 2024 Annual Conference. These events will take place on 20 and 21 March 2024 respectively in Geneva. Stay tuned for more information.

3. Staff Update

We welcome our new team member: Nana Yaw as Cost and Management Accountant.

4. New Members

We are pleased to welcome [Global Hope Network International](#) as a member of ICVA.

FORCED MIGRATION

5. UNHCR's 88th Standing Committee

The 88th Standing Committee meeting took place on 13-14 September. Information on the meeting, including the agenda, reports, and updates, can be found on this dedicated [webpage](#). Direct Aid delivered the NGO collective statement, which is available [here](#).

6. UNHCR's Regional NGO Consultations for Europe

ICVA and UNHCR Regional Bureau of Europe co-organized the [Regional Consultations](#) with NGOs in Europe on 19-20 September at the CICG in Geneva. The event brought together over 100 NGOs and Refugee Led Organizations (RLOs) from across Europe to discuss inclusion in national education systems, social protection, non-discrimination and social cohesion. The outcomes of these consultations, along with the other regions' consultations will inform and provide input to the Global Consultations with NGOs in 2024.

7. Briefing for ICVA Members on the Global Refugee Forum (GRF)

ICVA held two online briefings on 27 September for its members regarding the [Global Refugee Forum 2023](#). The briefings, led by Ms. Perveen Ali, Head of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) Coordination Team and her team, provided an overview of the forum's [programme](#), protocol and logistics, and discussed the development of pledges and opportunities for engagement for NGOs. Members were given an opportunity to ask questions, share their experiences, and express their views. An [informal briefing](#) for pledge leads will be held on 18 October, where they can present their pledges and answer questions. On 17 November, the [GCR Indicator](#) Report's third edition will be launched in the morning, followed by an informal briefing on the protocol for the event.

Asia Pacific GRF Preparatory Meeting

ICVA, together with APRRN and APNOR, held a second meeting regarding the 2023 Global Refugee Forum on 7 September. This meeting brought together NGOs and RLOs who are working on initiatives together or attending the GRF to exchange plans and areas for further support. Participants discussed opportunities for collaboration and next steps, while UNHCR gave updates on the regional mega pledges. Another meeting is scheduled before the GRF. To participate reach out to Keya.sahachaudhury@icvanetwork.org.

For more information, please contact said@icvanetwork.org or loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org or gabriela.miranda@icvanetwork.org.

8. Migrants in Vulnerable Situations

Migrants in Vulnerable Situation

ICVA participated in the Second Session of the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) 2023, which happened on 5-6 October in Geneva. The theme was "Think about tomorrow, act today: The future of human mobility and climate change."

During the event, ICVA also attended a meeting organized by Amy Pope, IOM new Director-General with Civil Society organizations. She expressed her commitment to working closely with civil society to address current challenges in migration governance and ensure that migration contributes positively to the rights of migrants, development, and prosperity of their origin and host communities.

FINANCING

9. The Grand Bargain Beyond 2023

Current updates from the Grand Bargain Secretariat can be found [here](#). Access the Grand Bargain beyond 2023 framework in [English](#), [French](#) and [German](#).

Grand Bargain Ambassadors and Facilitation Group Meeting Summary Note

On 5 September 2023, the Grand Bargain Ambassadors (Jemilah Mahmood, Manuel Bessler, and Michael Köhler) met with the Facilitation Group (FG), Sherpas of both incoming, remaining and outgoing members (A4EP, ICVA, ICRC, UNHCR) in Geneva. This meeting was chaired by A4EP, and was followed by a meeting of the new Facilitation Group (EU/DG ECHO, Germany, OCHA, UNICEF, IFRC, InterAction, and NEAR) on 6 September 2023. The [summary note](#) highlights the plans for collaboration between the Ambassadors and the FG Sherpas, the strengthened role of the Secretariat, the key priorities for next year, and the expected contributions from the Signatories.

ICVA Webinar on the Grand Bargain Beyond 2023

On 18 October from 14.00-15.30 CEST, ICVA will host a webinar for its members and NGO Fora at the regional and country level to discuss the Grand Bargain beyond 2023. The webinar will provide updates on the key changes to the Grand Bargain for 2023-2026 implementation; and highlight the global priorities of the Grand Bargain with a specific focus on the relevant country-level structures and priorities; and gather reactions and identify where country-level priorities for humanitarian finance align with Grand Bargain implementation, with a particular focus on local actors.

10. Access to Quality Funding

The WFP NGO Unit September workshop for its NGO partners presented the measures for the FLA Review Round II. The workshop focused on FLA continuity and extensions, invoicing and financial tracking. Partners raised thoughtful questions about WFP's contingency planning and communications related to funding uncertainty or shortfall, coordination among UN agencies on reducing administrative burdens, and the availability of training and guidance in local languages. The briefing and discussions in the Q&A sessions will be summarised and shared with partners by the WFP NGO Unit.

11. Pooled Funds

Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPF)-NGO Dialogue Platform and Platform Advisory Group

From 1 September 2023, International Rescue Committee and Field Medical Foundation, Yemen will serve as the NGO co-chairs for the CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform, working alongside OCHA to promote communication with the wider NGO community involved in CBPFs. Their experience as members of the Dialogue Platform Advisory Group and their organizations' involvement with CBPFs will be invaluable. The Syrian NGO Alliance, Action Against Hunger Spain, and People in Need will join the PAG for a two-year term starting on the same date. ICVA will temporarily remain on the PAG until a global NGO network member is confirmed.

Pooled Fund Working Group (PFWG) Webinar: Centrality of Protection and CBPFs

On 19 September, the PFWG held a webinar focusing on the Centrality of Protection and CBPFs. To support CBPF managers in implementing the [CBPF Global Guidelines](#) around protection, a guidance note will be shared. This note will be used to facilitate cross-learning and experience-sharing among the various

Funds.

12. Risk Management, Counterterrorism Measures and Sanctions

BHA Partner Meeting on Reporting Requirements Revision

On 19 September, BHA held a meeting with its US-based NGO partners to announce new reporting requirements concerning UNSC Resolution 2664. These will be incorporated into all new awards and will alter existing ones as per expired licenses or under the purview of the new General Licenses. The new requirements involve incidental payments and require semi-annual reporting (March 31 and September 30) from all partners to BHA. The Assistance and Policy Directives of BHA are slated for an update that will feature not only these new provisions but also additional details on the new language.

The US is coordinating closely with peer donor states on the broader implementation of UNSC R2664 and these new requirements relate to understanding the impact of the resolution and the General Licenses, including risks faced by their partners and bank derisking. Concerns related to data protection were raised by partners, as the information they share could become politicised if made public under a FOIA request.

World Food Programme (WFP) Annual Partnership Consultations

WFP will hold its Annual Partnership Consultation 2023 on 30-31 October at the WFP headquarters in Rome. Remote participants will be able to join the event online. This year's consultation will be at CEO level to provide the new WFP Executive Director, Ms. Cindy McCain, the opportunity to jointly strategise on how to strengthen a common response to the ongoing global food crisis.

For more information, please contact jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org or manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org.

COORDINATION

13. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Deputies Group Meeting

On 28 September, the IASC Deputies held an in-person meeting. They discussed three key topics:

- 1) Addressing the impact of climate crisis;
- 2) Closing the funding gap, including links to development, climate and private sector funding; and
- 3) Addressing the Lack of Acceptance and Erosion of Trust.

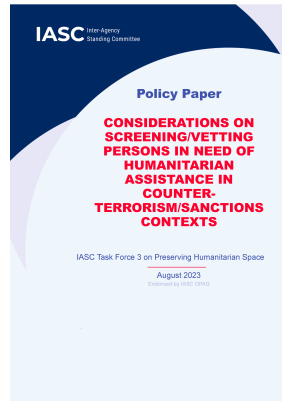
14. Meeting with Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA

ICVA is organizing a virtual meeting on 11 October for its members with Joyce Msuya, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator at OCHA. During the meeting, members will have the opportunity to directly engage with Ms. Msuya and discuss key challenges facing the humanitarian sector and how best to work jointly to address them. For more information, please contact mirela.shuteriqi@icvanetwork.org.

15. IASC Policy Paper, Considerations on Screening/Vetting Persons in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Counter-Terrorism/Sanctions Contexts

This IASC endorsed [Policy Paper](#) was initiated under the Result Group that morphed into IASC Task Force 3 in 2021. It sheds light on the complex balance between humanitarian principles and compliance with counter-terrorism and sanctions measures, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that assistance is provided based on humanitarian needs while addressing the challenges posed by donor requirements.

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



16. Humanitarian Access Influencing

IASC Task Force 3 on Preserving Humanitarian Space

NRC and OCHA have completed a series of four webinars for field colleagues on the UNSC Resolution 2664 and the annual reporting of the ERC to UN Sanctions Committees (two in English and two in French). The deadline for inputs to OCHA for the annual reporting mandated by the resolution is 30 September.

IASC Task Force 3 was briefed by the members of the Presence, Proximity, Protection consortium (NRC, ACF, HI, MdM) on their research and recommendations. These included: solutions to bank derisking, and the impact of CT measures and sanctions on principled humanitarian action. The consortium also presented a toolkit to monitor the impact of sanctions and CTM on humanitarian aid. More information in [Safeguarding Humanitarian Banking Channels](#) report and [Use of Money or Value Transfer Services by Non-Governmental Organisations](#). Discussions also featured the persisting banking issues in Libya in the context of the Storm Daniel flood responses.

Consultants have been hired to create a Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments (BAI) report by October. This report will identify the major BAI impacting humanitarian response efforts at country-level and suggest key indicators for monitoring BAI as a framework. Key informant interviews will be conducted to supplement the report with specific case studies in the coming weeks.

For more information, please contact eileen.morrow@icvanetwork.org and manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org

Transforming our Network

17. Champion Principled Humanitarian Action

The ICVA Humanitarian Access Working Group is working on a concept note for the development of “Principled Humanitarian Action Decision-Making Guidance for Aid Agencies & Coordination Mechanisms”. The specific objective of the work is to improve the ability of individual aid agencies, NGO fora and coordination mechanisms to navigate contextual dilemmas and promote principled and effective humanitarian action to the greatest extent possible to support the best outcomes for crisis-affected populations.

For more information, please contact eileen.morrow@icvanetwork.org.

18. Address Impact of Climate Change on Humanitarian Action

Joint Call for Action by Humanitarian, Climate and Development Organizations on Loss and Damage Fund

[Climate Action Network - International \(CAN-I\)](#) and [International Council of Voluntary Agencies \(ICVA\)](#) invite you to [sign-on](#) to the Joint Call for Action by Humanitarian, Climate, and Development Organizations on the Loss and Damage Fund. The initiative aims to raise support and resources to

address the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities. The signed Joint Call for Action will be released in time for the fourth Transitional Committee (TC4) meeting on 17 October, where decisions regarding the Loss and Damage Finance mechanism will be made. This will also serve as a preparation for COP28.

Please check more information in the [Joint Call for Action](#) document. Complete the [sign-on form](#) to add your organization's name to the list of signatories by 10 October at 15:00 GMT.

Virtual Consultation on Climate Change in Iraq

On 28 September, over 20 local, national, and international NGOs working in Iraq participated in a virtual consultation on climate change. The consultation focused on four key guiding questions regarding policy framework, coordination structure, technical capacity, and access to resources for climate change. Participants shared valuable information and first-hand feedback on the urgent needs and key constraints faced in Iraq when addressing climate issues. The results of the consultation will be consolidated and shared with participants before being shared with the IASC to inform the development of the IASC roadmap on climate.

For more information, please contact nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org.

19. Be Globally Distributed and Locally Rooted

Conference on Supporting Local Actors Across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus:

ICVA will contribute to a two-day conference hosted in Copenhagen by Denmark, IFRC, and USAID in October. The conference aims to establish a common agenda and provide actionable recommendations related to improving coordination and collaboration across the HDP nexus. Specifically, the conference will focus on integrating local actors into planning and processes from the outset; strengthening the institutional capacities and collective resilience of local actors; maximising the effectiveness of existing funding streams; overcoming barriers for local actors in accessing higher quality nexus funding; and incorporating and leveraging climate finance. The conference is a timely opportunity to bring together stakeholders across the HDP nexus to discuss and address the challenges and opportunities of supporting local actors.

IASC Localization Task Force (TF)

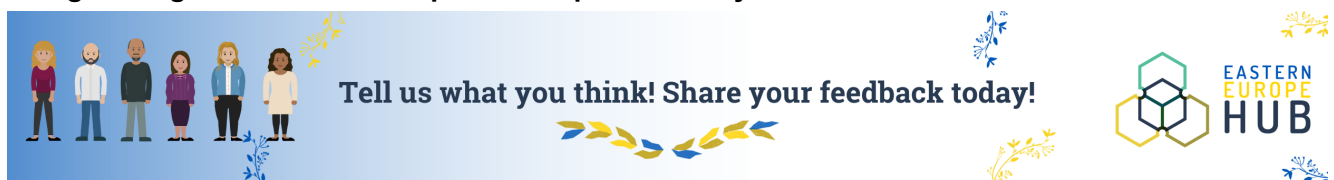
The TF continues to hold monthly meetings to execute the agreed workplan priorities. ICVA co-leads the workstream dedicated to putting the IASC guidance into action, and aims to ensure the significant participation of local actors in the humanitarian coordination architecture.

For more information, please contact eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org.

20. Be Diverse, Inclusive and Live our Values

Safeguarding

Safeguarding Hub Eastern Europe - Participants Survey



The Safeguarding Hub Eastern Europe is closing on 31 October. However, all of its resources, including the Safeguarding Matters e-learning course, will still be available online. If you have used the Hub's resources and services, we encourage you to participate in a 15-minute survey to assess the programme's impact. Complete the [survey](#). Your feedback will help us to improve our safeguarding support for organizations in Eastern Europe.

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

21. Proactively Engage in Agile Collaborative Partnerships

Call for Proposal for Humanitarian Talks for the European Humanitarian Forum (EHF) 2024

The third edition of the EHF will take place in Brussels from 18-19 March 2024. It will be co-hosted by the European Commission and Belgium in its capacity as Presidency of the Council of the EU. The event will offer an opportunity to further strengthen the cooperation and partnership among countries affected by crises, donors, international stakeholders, the EU, and its Member States.

ICVA has joined the EHF Task Force (TF) presenting in the group NGOs together with VOICE. It is also working with the other members of the TF to ensure participation to the Forum of diverse NGOs and Civil Society Organizations, including national and local NGOs from various countries in crisis. The call for proposal for Humanitarian Talks for the European Humanitarian Forum 2024 is now available and can be found [here](#). NGOs can submit their proposals to EU-HUMANITARIAN-TALKS@ec.europa.eu by 30 October CoB. Partners can also submit topic proposals to the Partner's segment, which will take place on 20 March. Submit to ECHO-APPEL@ec.europa.eu by 30 October CoB.

Region Specific

22. Africa

East and Southern Africa

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Regional Protection Workshop

On 19-20 September, ICVA participated in the annual thematic workshop on protection and migration in the greater Horn of Africa region, hosted by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The workshop facilitated discussions on significant protection issues and challenges within the region, including gender-based violence in South Sudan, the Sudan crisis, forced displacement, and the effects of drought on the Horn of Africa. Outcomes from the workshop will inform SDC's annual strategic planning and programmatic focus.

South Sudan NGO Forum Advocacy Strategy Development Workshop

In collaboration with ICVA the South Sudan NGO Forum is working to strengthen its collective advocacy action. In September, ICVA and the South Sudan NGO Forum secretariat organized an inception workshop that brought together over 15 representatives from local, national, and international NGOs operating in South Sudan to discuss the current humanitarian context and identify obstacles and opportunities for coordination and advocacy. Participants offered insight on advocacy priorities and ways in which the Forum and its members can operationalise advocacy opportunities. Several NGO representatives on the Forum's Steering Committee and Advocacy and Communications Working Group participated in the event.

The outcome of the workshop will inform the development of a five-year advocacy strategy for the Forum.

For more information, please contact addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org or nkirote.laiboni@icvanetwork.org.

West and Central Africa

Regional IASC (R-IASC) Meeting

R-IASC convened a meeting on 7 September to discuss the current situation in Niger and regional efforts to address the crisis. Representatives from NGOs in Mali, Chad, and Niger were invited to share their perspectives and present recommendations for regional support.

Counterterrorism Measures and Sanctions on Humanitarian Access

On 11 September, three meetings were held in Dakar to discuss the impact of counterterrorism measures and sanctions on humanitarian access. Guests from Action Against Hunger (ACF), Handicap International (HI), and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) attended and presented outcomes from a consortium working on "Building Capacity to Safeguard Humanitarian Space." The Regional Access and Humanitarian

Principles Task Force, led by NRC and OCHA, discussed the impact of counterterrorism measures on humanitarian assistance and access coordination. Several case studies on the impact of counterterrorism measures in the region were discussed, along with a monitoring tool to collect quantitative and qualitative data on how these measures restrict humanitarian action.

ICVA held two meetings. The first was a deep-dive discussion between humanitarian donors such as Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), and Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM) and INGOs. The focus was on access coordination and existing obstacles to negotiations with non-State Armed Groups. The second meeting was a working session/brainstorming session with NGOs around the counter-terrorism and sanctions monitoring toolkit.

UNHCR's Regional NGO Consultations for West and Central Africa

ICVA co-organized the UNHCR Regional NGO Consultations for West and Central Africa on 12-13 September. The event brought together 200 participants from UNHCR's main NGO partners, ICVA members, and local and national organizations to discuss a range of topics, including the second Global Refugee Forum, inclusion of forcibly displaced people in Social Protection System, Against the odds: Advancing Gender Equality, Protection monitoring and community-based data collection, Return and reintegration in conditions that meet international standards, and UNHCR programme reforms and partnerships. Following the discussions, participants made recommendations that were shared with the Global Refugee Forum team. These inputs will guide the Global Consultations with NGOs in 2024.

For more information, please contact

adeline.benita@icvanetwork.org or fatoumata.konate@icvanetwork.org.

23. Asia and the Pacific

NGO Briefing on SSAR Support Platform, Global Refugee Forum, and Afghanistan Pledge

ICVA, along with UNHCR and ADSP, held a briefing on 11 September to discuss the [SSAR Support Platform](#), [the Global Refugee Forum](#), and the [ReSolve Pledge for the Afghanistan Situation](#). The 20 participants, from Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan, were briefed on the latest challenges and opportunities for supporting the resilience and solutions for displaced Afghans, particularly in Pakistan and Iran. The briefing featured presentations from the SSAR Support Platform Secretariat, the core Core Group deputy chairs from the Netherlands foreign office, UNHCR Policy Unit Regional Bureau, and NGOs working in the region with the aim of increasing collaboration with civil society actors and the support platform. In August, ICVA and ADSP released an [explainer](#) on the Platform.

UNHCR Regional Consultations with NGOs in Asia and the Pacific

On 14-15 September, ICVA, APRRN, and APNOR jointly organized the UNHCR Regional Consultations with NGOs in Asia and the Pacific on the theme of "Promoting Inclusion for Sustainable Solutions" in Bangkok. The event brought together 180 participants from 161 organizations and 19 countries to discuss legal pathways, socio-economic inclusion, and meaningful participation of refugees in national systems. The outcomes of the consultations will be presented at the 74th session of the Executive Committee of UNHCR in October 2023 and will inform collaboration between regional networks leading up to the 2024 Global Consultations. Read the [press release](#).

Engaging with Contingency Plans - An introduction for Interagency Working Group Members

ICVA co-organized a webinar on Engaging with Contingency Plans in collaboration with OCHA, the Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA), Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE), Accountability to Affected People (AAP) & Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and the Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG). The webinar aimed to encourage participation and input from national and local organizations, particularly women-led ones, in interagency contingency planning in the Asia-Pacific region. It covered the UN-led contingency planning process and how to address cross-cutting issues such as gender, AAP, and PSEA. Over 100 participants from various sectors and countries attended the webinar. Best practices for civil society involvement in contingency planning were identified. Recommendations were made to better support national and local organizations in this area. Watch the [recording](#).

UNDRR-UNITAR High-Level Dialogue and Launch of the E-Learning course on "Scaling Up DRR in

Humanitarian Action"

On 6 September, ICVA participated in a panel at the UNDRR and UNITAR joint High-Level Dialogue and Launch of the E-Learning Course based on the Checklist on "Scaling Up Disaster Risk Reduction in Humanitarian Action". The panel emphasised the need for systemic risk considerations in humanitarian contexts and increasing disaster risk reduction (DRR) in humanitarian settings. It also introduced the new e-learning course based on the [Checklist](#) guidance document. ICVA highlighted the role and perspective of civil society organizations in DRR and emphasized the need for more coordination and collaboration among different stakeholders.

ICVA participates in Asia Pacific CHS Revision Consultations

ICVA supported and participated in the Asia Pacific Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) revision consultations on 27-28 September. The first day, CHS members updated the group on their work and shared organizational approaches. On the second day, participants analysed the latest draft of the Core Humanitarian Standards. More than 80 attendees from across the region participated and exchanged their experiences. The comments collected from the consultations will be collated with other regional feedback to finalise the standards.

For more information, please contact

keya.sahachaudhury@icvanetwork.org or asma.saleem@icvanetwork.org.

24. LATIN AMERICA

ICVA's participation in the Coalition for Venezuela's General Assembly

ICVA will participate in the fifth general assembly of the [Coalition for Venezuela](#). In the panel discussion titled "Localization, Triple Nexus Structure and Sustainability," ICVA will highlight its involvement in the region and share insights into its localization approach. The assembly will cover a range of topics related to Venezuela's current situation.

Issue-based Coalition (IBC) Human Mobility

The Network of Latin American and Caribbean Environmental Funds (REDLAC) health cluster, IOM, and UNHCR have collaborated to launch the IBC Human Mobility [Dashboard](#). The dashboard is a tool that allows easy access to information on human mobility trends, needs, and specific situations in the region. This includes departure data from Colombia, transit information from Darién-Panamá and Honduras, returnee statistics from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, asylum application figures from Mexico and Costa Rica, migrant encounters in Mexico and the US southwest border, and missing migrants.

For more information, please contact lina.gomez@icvanetwork.org.

25. MENA

UNHCR MENA Regional Consultations focus on solutions, inclusion and gender equality

The UNHCR MENA Regional Consultations with NGOs and Civil Society took place on 25 September, 2023, focusing on the theme of "Solutions with a focus on Inclusion and Gender Equality". The discussions covered key issues including integration, gender and protection, and economic opportunities at both policy and implementation levels. Assistant High Commissioner for Protection Gillian Triggs opened the event, and the closing remarks were delivered by ICVA's MENA Regional Representative Eman Ismail and Rachel Manning, Strategic Partnerships Advisor at the UNHCR MENA Regional Bureau.

On 26 September, an online learning opportunity in Arabic on the Fundamentals of UNHCR's work was provided, giving an overview of UNHCR's mandate. ICVA also highlighted its priorities in MENA, emphasising principled partnerships and localization.

ICVA hosts NGO Meeting on Libya Flood Response

On 28 September, ICVA facilitated an NGO meeting to discuss the ongoing response to the floods in Libya. The meeting was well-attended by local and international NGOs, who shared their experiences and challenges of the response. Key challenges highlighted at the meeting included humanitarian access restrictions, funding and resource limitations, lack of coordination in the areas, and the capacity of local NGOs. ICVA intends to use this meeting as an opportunity for NGO members to gather, exchange

knowledge and experiences, and identify priority actions to influence stakeholders and provide the required support. The ICVA MENA will also assess the situation in Libya and provide further meeting opportunities in the coming weeks as needed.

For more information, please contact eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org or qingrui.huang@icvanetwork.org.

Learning Opportunities

26. Wider Impacts of Shelter and Settlements Online Course: InterAction and USAID/BHA are offering this free course that explores the implications of shelter and settlement assistance on individual roles and highlights collaboration opportunities. Access the course by [signing up](#) for a free DisasterReady account.

27. Learning Resources to Support the Humanitarian Responses in Morocco and Libya: The Humanitarian Leadership Academy has compiled a set of free, open-access learning resources to support those working on the humanitarian efforts in [Morocco](#) and [Libya](#). The resources are available in English, Arabic and other languages.

New and Noteworthy

28. Step Up Fund: Call for Proposals: The Dutch Council for Refugees Step Up Fund is open for proposals on refugee protection and inclusion. NGOs in Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Poland and Spain can apply for grants of up to 10,000 Euro to increase their organizational capacity. [Apply](#) before end of 9 October 2023.

29. 2022 State of the Humanitarian System Report: Reflections for Utilisation: The [report](#) from All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) reflects on the findings and implications of ALNAP's 2022 State of the Humanitarian System report for different actors across the world.

30. Experiences, Needs and Aspirations of Children, Adolescents and Caregivers Displaced from Ukraine: IMPACT Initiatives and Save the Children International conducted a [mixed-method child protection and cash assessment](#) to understand the needs and experiences of Ukrainian refugee children and their caregivers in Europe.

31. CLEAR Global Research on Language in Digital Inclusion: The study is on language in digital inclusion efforts and how these affect speakers of marginalised languages. Share your experiences if you work with [minority or marginalised](#) language speakers or have been involved in [developing digital technology](#) for marginalized communities.

Agenda

October 11: IOM NGO Consultations on Culture Change on Localization and Meaningful Participation

October 11: Members virtual discussion with Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA

October 12: A practitioner-donor dialogue on Mutual Aid: Supporting crisis-affected communities to help each other. [Register](#)

October 9-12: [Middle East and North Africa Climate Week](#) (MENACW 2023), UNFCCC, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

October 9-13: [UNHCR 74th Executive Committee](#)

October 17: RSH Webinar on Power, privilege and the role of leaders in safeguarding: Promoting and creating a safe and inclusive culture in civil society organisations. [Register](#)

October 18: [Third Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees, Virtual](#)

October 18: How is humanitarian learning and training adapting to global changes and trends in the sector? [Register](#)

October 23-27: [Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week](#) (LACCW 2023), UNFCCC, Panama City

October 30: [Call for Proposal for Humanitarian Talks for the European Humanitarian Forum 2024](#)

October 30-31: WFP Annual Partnership Consultation, Rome and Hybrid

November 8-10: ICVA event: Rome NGO Network Exchange

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

November 29: Virtual Launch of the Mixed Migration Review 2023 "Regional issues through regional perspectives". [Register](#)

November 30 - December 12: [COP28](#)

December 11-13: [Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week-Asia Pacific 2023](#)

December 12: Advance side events Global Refugee Forum

December 13-15: [Global Refugee Forum](#)

2024

January 10-11: [International NGO Conference](#): The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Facilitating the Integration of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants in Social and Protection Systems in European Contexts

March 18-19: European Humanitarian Forum 2024

March 20: ICVA General Assembly 2024

March 20: European Humanitarian Forum 2024 Partner's Day

March 21: ICVA Annual Conference

April 29 to May 10: Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week, remotely (April 29 to May 3) and in Geneva (May 5-10)



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