ICVA Bulletin

Highlights from April 2024



Dear Reader,

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 X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn, and YouTube for more updates.

Message from ICVA

In our April Bulletin, we are honoured to highlight a crucial advocacy initiative spearheaded by the Secretariat. In a letter addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, ICVA articulated a call for transparent, merit-based, and values-driven recruitment process for the next Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC).

Recognising the pivotal role of this position in guiding international humanitarian efforts, ICVA commended the exemplary leadership of Mr. Martin Griffiths during his tenure and emphasised the importance of his successor possessing the requisite profile, experience, and skills to navigate the complexities facing the global humanitarian landscape.

We underscored the significance of selecting a candidate with strong **humanitarian** credentials who can effectively lead the international humanitarian system, advocate for principled action, and foster coordination between UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. The letter emphasised the need for a recruitment process based solely on merit, decoupled from political ambitions, and underscored the importance of appointing a leader who champions gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

In alignment with the <u>Secretary-General's call to address the threats posed by conflict and climate change,</u> ICVA urged for the next ERC to prioritise protection, gender equality, and the empowerment of marginalised groups in humanitarian action. The letter emphasised the imperative of leveraging the collective strengths of humanitarian NGOs to alleviate human suffering and underscored the critical role of principled leadership in shaping effective humanitarian response efforts.

As we navigate the challenges of an increasingly complex humanitarian landscape, ICVA's advocacy is committed to promoting principled and effective humanitarian action, safeguarding human dignity, and advancing the well-being of conflict- and disaster-affected populations.

Dr Jamie Munn

Executive Director | ICVA

ICVA Updates

1. Available Online - ICVA 2024 Annual Conference Session One Summary Note



Thank you for participating in ICVA's 2024 Annual Conference on 21 March at Maison de la Paix, Geneva. The first session highlighted the significance of trust among NGOs in addressing humanitarian dilemmas and upholding principles. Key insights emphasised the importance of trust in enhancing collaboration and problem-solving for improved outcomes. Upholding principles, responsible dilemma resolution, accountability, and open dialogue are essential for fostering trust and guiding principled decisions.

Check out the <u>summary note</u> with the key highlights. Stay tuned for the recordings of sessions one and two in the May bulletin.

Forced Migration

2. UNHCR Online Regional Dialogue with NGOs in Europe

UNHCR in collaboration with ICVA organizes regular regional online dialogues with NGOs to identify opportunities for joint and complementary advocacy on various topics related to forced displacement and statelessness.

The first Dialogue on 'Education for refugee children in Europe' took place on 3 April, featuring speakers from The Including Children Affected by Migration Network, NGO Mondo, UNHCR, and UNICEF. The dialogue focused on examining the legal framework and data concerning the education of refugee children in Europe, as well as strategies to address critical gaps in receiving children and providing quality education within host country education systems. Participants discussed in specific the role of NGOs in supporting the education and integration of Ukrainian refugee children, highlighting contributions in advocacy, innovation, learning support, and connections with the Ukrainian curriculum. A recording of the discussion will soon be shared with registered participants.

3. UNHCR Global Consultations with NGOs

NGOs and UNHCR are preparing for the <u>2024 Global Consultations</u> on '**Solutions**, **Inclusion**, **Gender Equality**' to be held in Geneva from 11 to 13 June 2024. Preparations are based on the work from a Steering Group established earlier this year, including both NGOs and UNHCR. A main outcome of the consultations will be a set of recommendations focusing on the specific themes addressed in each session. The joint recommendations will be presented to the 74th UNHCR Executive Committee, in October, as part of a report on the Consultations. Check the <u>concept note</u>. More information will be shared soon.

For more information, please contact <u>davina.said@icvanetwork.org</u> and <u>loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org</u>.

Financing

4. The Grand Bargain Beyond 2023

Grand Bargain Secretariat Update

Current updates from the Grand Bargain Secretariat can be found here.

Grand Bargain NGO Constituency Call

The Grand Bargain NGO Constituency co-leads, NEAR and InterAction, held an update call on 23 April with NGOs signatories to the Grand Bargain where they discussed the new modus operandi of the Grand Bargain, which now has three Ambassadors and a strengthened Secretariat. The co-leads plan to conduct brainstorming sessions to set priorities for the next 18 months and the future of the Grand Bargain after its 3.0 iteration (2023-2026). The Facilitation Group meeting is scheduled for June and the Annual Meeting in October.

Facilitation Group Meeting with Grand Bargain Ambassadors

The Facilitation Group (FG) Sherpas (EU/DG ECHO, Germany, OCHA, UNICEF, IFRC, InterAction, NEAR) met with the Grand Bargain Ambassadors Manuel Bessler and Michael Koehler on 19 March 2024 in the margins of the European Humanitarian Forum in Brussels. Co-chaired by the EU/DG ECHO and OCHA, the meeting offered an opportunity to strategically steer the localisation agenda within the Grand Bargain, emphasising the importance of collaboration between the Ambassadors, the Facilitation Group Sherpa, and all Signatories to find practical solutions to existing challenges as essential to drive progress. Read the summary note.

Supporting Local Actors: Evaluation of Sweden's Application of the Grand Bargain Localisation Agenda

The <u>report</u> on Sweden's implementation of the Grand Bargain Localisation Agenda was launched on 12 April in Stockholm. It has been received positively by both the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and implementing development agency Sida. The report has also garnered interest from Sida's international partners and is already influencing change and action in line with its findings. A seminar was held to launch the report, which was recorded and can be viewed on the <u>EBA website</u>.

5. Access to Quality Funding



Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week: Funding Well Session

As part of the <u>Humanitarians Networks and Partnerships Week</u> in Geneva, CHS Alliance and ICVA held the official launch of the <u>Funding Well report</u>, which offers good practice examples from within and outside the humanitarian sector and a four step process towards values-aligned and trust-based solidarity. This report is the fourth in a series that began with "Working Well" in 2020, followed by "<u>Leading Well</u>" in 2021, and "Governing Well" in 2022. Funders shared their excitement for the report's proposed path to values-aligned, trust-based solidarity during an interactive in-person session.

6. Pooled Funds

Country Based Pooled Funding (CBPF) Resource Facility Update

ICVA has been providing support to enable local and national NGOs to participate in CBPF governance. This includes facilitating their attendance at the Pooled Fund Working Group biannual meeting in Oslo, Norway, scheduled for June. Additionally, ICVA is set to commence the mentoring support in the coming weeks.

For more information, please contact elise.baudot@icvanetwork.org and manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org.

Coordination

7. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals

Statement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Crushing Levels of Violence, Displacement Fuel Unprecedented Civilian Suffering

The IASC Principals released a statement on the deepening crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The escalating conflict has led to record levels of gender-based violence, displacement, and hunger in the eastern region, putting the country on the brink of catastrophe. Read the <u>Statement</u>.

8. Emergency Directors Group (EDG)

In late April, ICVA joined OCHA, NRC, WVI, InterAction, IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA, WHO and UNICEF in an Emergency Directors Group Mission to Sudan. The mission team held meetings with humanitarian actors in Nairobi and Port Sudan, with the aim to consider how the IASC system can better support the scale up of the famine prevention response in this most complex of operating environments. Following the mission, the EDG has committed to pushing forward high-level advocacy and making necessary operational changes to ensure the response can meet the challenges ahead.

For more information, please contact <u>jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org</u>.

Transforming our Network

9. Champion Principled Humanitarian Action

In April, Humanitarian Outcomes shared an Ethical Decision-Making Framework with <u>The Principled Humanitarian Action Steering Committee</u> members for review. Access the framework <u>here</u>.

The Humanitarian Access Working Group discussed the Humanitarian Access Ecosystem, a framework developed by ICVA. This framework aims to enhance traditional access frameworks by addressing various constraints and enablers affecting humanitarian access and outcomes. The document is being finalised and will soon be accessible to the public.

ICVA is launching a website on Humanitarian Access and welcomes submissions of tools, websites, research, or resources related to humanitarian access. Share your inputs with eileen.morrow@icvanetwork.org.

10. Address Impacts of Climate Change on Humanitarian Action



Announcing the Establishment of the Charter Secretariat

We are delighted to announce the establishment of the Climate and Environment Charter Secretariat, with the support of USAID/BHA and ECHO. The Secretariat aims to assist signatories in implementing the commitments of the Charter by offering technical guidance, knowledge-sharing, promotion, dissemination, and advocacy services. Following a rigorous recruitment process, Ms. Natasha Westheimer and Ms. Nishanie Jayamaha have been appointed as the co-coordinators of the Charter Secretariat. ICVA will provide administrative support to the Secretariat, while a Board comprising the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and ICVA will establish a governance mechanism for the Secretariat. Two other signatory organizations and one supporter will join the Board as non-permanent members. To apply for a seat on the Board, please contact secretariat@climate-charter.org by 4 June. The Secretariat will hold a webinar on 30 May 2024 to introduce the Charter Secretariat and its functions. Read the full announcement.

11. Be Globally Distributed and Locally Rooted



Webinar on Elevating Local Voices in International Humanitarian Events

ICVA organized a webinar on elevating local voices in humanitarian events on 2 May. The webinar, moderated by ICVA's Communications Officer featured speakers from local, national and international humanitarian organizations who shared experiences and insights to address challenges hindering the participation of local organizations in international humanitarian events. Key discussions centered on the persistent obstacles faced by local NGOs, emphasising practical solutions such as early planning, partnerships, and integrating costs into project budgets to enhance local engagement in global forums. Discussions also highlighted the development of Standard Operating Procedures - Enabling Participation of National NGOs and Civil Society Organisations in International Events, ICVA Speakers Bureau and Member States Briefing Guidance to streamline the participation of local NGOs in global forums.

The IASC Task Force 5 on Localisation

In April, The IASC Task Force 5 on Localisation resumed its monthly meetings to discuss previous actions and plans for the future. A series of webinars have been planned to explore the implementation of the IASC Guidance on involving local actors in humanitarian coordination. On 18 April, there was an IASC Webinar on implementing the guidance in the MENA region, where guest speakers shared their recommendations and lessons learned.

Iraq Localisation Baseline

ICVA in collaboration with local NGO network The Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organizations and Humanitarian Advisory Group, alongside other key NGOs operating in Iraq,

commenced the research and analysis process to develop locally relevant indicators for benchmarking and measuring the progress of localisation in Iraq. The Localisation Measurement Framework and Tools will inform the design of the research process and indicators. This initiative aims to create a clear roadmap that NGOs and partners can use in their collective advocacy to advance the localisation process in their context.

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

Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus (HDPN)

Series of Peace Dialogues

IASC Task Force (TF) 4 is committed to strengthening the peace dimensions of the Nexus approach and promoting effective strategies for practitioners in conflict-affected settings.

To achieve this goal, TF4 arranged two dialogues on "Livelihoods and Decent Jobs for Peace" and "Building Resilience Through Disaster Risk Reduction in Fragile and Conflict Affected Areas" on 17 and 24 April respectively. Check the <u>recordings</u>.

IASC Guidance Note: Advancing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Approach Through IASC Global Clusters

The guidance note aims to assist cluster coordinators in promoting synergy and coordination between humanitarian, development, and peace efforts for better outcomes. The note emphasises collaborative analysis, planning, and programming, and calls for joint coordination with development and peace actors led by the RC/HC. Access the guidance note and the checklist.

Global Community of Practice on the Nexus

On 8 April, the Global Community of Practice of the Nexus, co-chaired by ICVA, discussed the Flagship Initiative in the Philippines. The dialogue focused on lessons learned, the best ways to support HDP-Nexus interventions via the UN system, and the mainstreaming of the Nexus.

The next community of practice session on the Nexus will take place on 9 May 2024 and will be entitled, "Unlocking the HDP Nexus: A Practical tool for Global Cluster Coordinators." More information will be shared via the ICVA Nexus Working Group.

DAC-UN Dialogue Meeting

The DAC-UN Dialogue Meeting was held on 4-5 April 2024, where participants discussed the HDP Nexus. Day 1 was open to INCAF observers, as well as civil society organizations. ICVA attended the meeting and outlined their achievements and challenges in addressing forced displacement through nexus approaches.

For more information, please contact stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org.

12. Be Diverse, Inclusive and Live our Values

Child Rights

2024 UNICEF-NGO Consultations: Partnering for Children in the Climate Crisis

On 16-17 April, UNICEF and ICVA co-organized the <u>2024 global Consultations</u> in Geneva, focusing on "Partnering for Children in Climate Crisis." Over 145 participants from various organizations attended, including ICVA members and other international and national NGO representatives, colleagues from UNICEF country offices, regional offices, HQ divisions as well from other UN agencies. The goal was to facilitate meaningful dialogue and improve partnership on programmatic and policy issues related to climate change. Under the 'climate umbrella', the discussions covered subjects such as Nexus work, accountability to affected persons and community engagement, localisation, quality funding, and equitable partnerships. The event was a success, with insightful conversations and a number of important solution-oriented recommendations. A report summarising the discussions and the recommendations will be made available soon.

For more information, please contact vania.gobbo@icvanetwork.org.

13. Proactively Engage in Agile Collaborative Partnerships

European Humanitarian Forum (EHF) 2024, Co-Host Statement

On 18-19 March, the EHF was held in Brussels, co-hosted by the European Commission and the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The event brought together almost 5000 participants from various sectors, including the EU, crisis-affected countries, donors, and partner organizations. The forum emphasised the need for flexible and qualitative funding to address the needs of affected communities. Participants also called for stronger government ownership, burden-sharing, coordination, and financing in protracted crises. The event highlighted the importance of protection and complementary approaches and addressed issues of compliance with International Humanitarian Law in armed conflicts. Read the full statement from the co-hosts.

Region Specific

14. Africa

West and Central Africa

Launch of the LOCAL Project (Lowering Compliance Burdens for Local Actors)

The LOCAL Project, focused on alleviating the administrative burdens for local and national organizations in proposal submissions, was officially launched through workshops held in Burkina Faso and Dakar on 23 and 25 April. These sessions were attended by international and national NGOs, donors, and OCHA with the goal of raising awareness about the project and gathering insights to guide its future activities. The project is led by a consortium spearheaded by the Danish Refugee Council in partnership with the Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative, SPONG (National NGOs Forum in Burkina), and ICVA.

Nexus Funding Facility (NFF)

On 3 May ICVA organized a consultation involving representatives from the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and NGOs from the Lake Chad Basin region and Dakar. The objective was to gather feedback on the implementation of the pilot phase of the Nexus Funding Facility (NFF), designed to create a fund with a regional governance body to support Nexus activities or programs. Prior to the meeting, the NGOs worked together to formulate essential recommendations and critical points to convey to GFFO. A detailed document containing these key messages is being developed and will be shared with GFFO.

Report on the Malabo Conference

The High-Level Conference on the humanitarian situation in West and Central Africa, initially scheduled for 23-26 April in Malabo, has been postponed to November upon the request of the host country. New dates will be communicated later. ICVA is working alongside OCHA West and Central Africa office to ensure and coordinate NGO participation in the event. For more information, check the Regional Working Group Alert Note on Food Security and Nutrition Security Situation in the West and Central Africa Region in English and French.

Resources Mobilization by National NGOs: Focus on French-speaking Sahel Region

This research initiative by Efiscens aims to provide insights into opportunities for national NGOs to secure resources effectively. With support from West Africa Civil Society Institute and other networks, a survey has been launched to collect input from over 1,000 individuals involved in the sector, ensuring comprehensive and representative statistics on resource mobilization strategies. If you are part of an NNGO, INGO, donor, UN agency, or similar organization operating in the French-speaking Sahel region, please take the survey in English or French.

For more information, please contact <u>adeline.benita@icvanetwork.org</u> or <u>fatoumata.konate@icvanetwork.org</u>.

15. Asia and the Pacific

Emergency Preparedness Working Group Meeting

On 4 April, the Emergency Preparedness Working Group held a hybrid meeting to discuss critical issues affecting the Asia-Pacific region. The group focused on key topics such as the Dzud Response in Mongolia and OCHA's revision of Mongolia's Dzud Response Plan due to increased livestock mortality, the evolving situation in Myanmar, the forced returns of Afghan refugees from Pakistan with emphasis on the need for safe, dignified, and voluntary repatriation; and the establishment of the Regional Humanitarian Fund for Asia-Pacific.

For more information, please contact keya.sahachaudhury@icvanetwork.org or asma.saleem@icvanetwork.org.

16. Latin America

Mainstreaming Gender-Based Violence Risk Mitigation

The Inter-Agency Coordination on GBV Guidelines is inviting applications for an online course on Integrating Gender-Based Violence Risk Mitigation into Humanitarian Action. The course will be conducted in Spanish for the first time. Applicants must complete a self-paced e-learning course prior to applying before the 10 May deadline. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the course administrator at IAGBVRMcourse@gmail.com.

Pooled Funds Update Regional Humanitarian Fund

In April OCHA conducted meetings in Colombia and Haiti to introduce the updated Pooled Funds Regional Humanitarian Fund to the Humanitarian Country Teams and key stakeholders. This initiative, leveraging successful CBPF management and insights from the inaugural Regional Humanitarian Fund in West and Central Africa, aims to provide a more flexible and regionally-focused approach to humanitarian funding. Approval for this initiative has been granted in Latin America and the Caribbean (initially allocating funds to Colombia and Haiti), and in the Asia Pacific region. Moving forward, targeted consultation meetings with regional leaders, donors, and NGOs will take place, with face-to-face discussions scheduled in Colombia and continued remote support in Haiti.

Cartagena D+40

The upcoming Cartagena D+40 preparatory meeting in Brasilia, Brazil on 16-17 May will feature the participation of the Inter-American Bank and the World Bank, along with other development actors. The meeting will follow a similar format to the February gathering in Mexico, with five segments that concentrate on regional solutions. These segments will specifically address social and economic inclusion, resettlement and access pathways, return mechanisms, and regional cooperation. The LAC RDM Coalition, comprising ICVA members, will participate in the meeting. ICVA will continue supporting its members through the LAC RDM Coalition and ensure effective communication of the outcomes derived from these preparatory meetings.

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

17. MENA

Gaza Crisis

ICVA continues its support to NGOs in MENA by organizing meetings with key partners like OCHA ROMENA and UNRWA, in addition to regular NGO Forum Exchange with Jordan, Palestine, and Egypt. ICVA is actively involved in regional advocacy working groups and maintains regular exchanges with OCHA Jerusalem Advocacy Working Group.

ICVA representatives attended a meeting on aid routes to Gaza and received updates on the UN 2720 Mechanism and database, as well as priorities from the Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator. In response to the crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, 13 NGOs including ICVA issued a <u>warning about regional escalation</u> and the UN Relief Chief emphasised the need for <u>safety of aid workers and civilians</u> in Gaza. The Humanitarian Country Team released a <u>Flash Appeal</u> for \$2.8 billion to meet critical needs in Gaza and the West Bank. An Independent Review Group was appointed to <u>assess</u> the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. Additionally, MSF released a <u>report</u> on the destruction of the healthcare system in Rafah.

Brussels Conference on Syria VIII

The European Union is hosting the <u>eighth Brussels Conference</u> on "Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region" in Brussels. The conference includes a Day of Dialogue with Syrian civil society which took place on 30 April at the European Parliament in Brussels. There will also be a Ministerial Segment on 27 May at the EU Council, as well as several side events and a cultural program.

Escalating Regional and Internal Conflicts are Threatening the Lives of People in Syria

The Syria INGO Regional Forum, consisting of 68 humanitarian organizations working in Syria, issued a warning that the increasing number of attacks in the country poses a severe threat to the already dire humanitarian situation. The attacks are causing harm to civilian infrastructure, restricting access to essential services, and putting people's lives at risk. The Forum <u>calls on all parties</u> involved in the conflict to immediately stop all hostilities, protect civilians in accordance with international law, and adhere to the international humanitarian law.

Yemen: Pre-Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)

DG ECHO and Sweden jointly organized a Pre-SOM on 24 -25 April. ICVA MENA Regional Representative took part in it and held a follow-up meeting with ICVA Members in Yemen at the ICVA office. The consultation was interactive, with participants forming groups to discuss various themes such as general protection concerns, humanitarian access barriers, localisation, climate change, humanitarian space, nutrition and food security, and health. They came up with recommendations to feed into the upcoming SOM in Brussels. NGOs and international organizations present in Yemen compiled a document highlighting their collective priorities and recommendations for the sixth SOM.

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

Learning Opportunities

- **18. Security Risk Management Essentials Certificate:** Developed by GISF and DisasterReady, this <u>free program</u> is designed for humanitarian or development staff to learn essential security risk management practices and principles.
- **19. Supply chain e-learnings:** Save the Children International has partnered with Humanitarian Leadership Academy and HELP Logistics, with support from Amazon, to develop a series of supply chain e-learning courses for humanitarian professionals. Check the <u>courses</u>.

New and Noteworthy

- **20.** What is the Future of Global Collaboration to drive Accountability to Affected People? ICVA and CHS Alliance have launched a survey to gather insights on enhancing local to global collaboration for a more accountable humanitarian system. The survey aims to address challenges in meeting Grand Bargain Localisation Commitments and empowering local actors in driving impactful change. Take the <u>Survey</u>.
- **21. Language and Digital Humanitarian Action:** Clear Global and GSMA <u>report</u> demonstrates the need for digital humanitarian services to be available in multiple languages, showcasing two platforms Mobile Vaani and Loop that are working towards inclusion for marginalized language speakers.

Agenda

May 14: Launch of the Global Report on Internal Displacement, Geneva and online

May 21-22: IOM, First session of the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM): Facilitating Regular

Pathways to a better future: Harnessing the power of migration, New York

May 27-30: CCHN Peer Workshop on Humanitarian Negotiation in MENA

May 30: Webinar to introduce Climate Charter Secretariat and functions

May 31: Applications for UNHCR's Refugee-led Innovation Fund

June 11-13: UNHCR-NGO Global Consultations, Geneva

June 20: World Refugee Day

June 24: Second quarterly informal briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees

June 24-28: 2024 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment and ECOSOC Meeting on the Transition from

Relief to Development, New York

July 1-3: 90th Meeting of the UNHCR Standing Committee, Geneva

August 19: World Humanitarian Day

September 4: Third quarterly informal briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees

September 12-13: 91st meeting of the UNCHR Standing Committee, Geneva

October 14-18: 75th plenary session of the UNHCR Executive Committee, Geneva

November 20: World Children's Day

November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

December 2: Fourth quarterly informal briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees

December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 10: Human Rights Day



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