

ICVA Bulletin

Highlights from October 2024



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Dear Reader,

Welcome to our October Bulletin. This month's edition covers:

- [Message from ICVA](#): Uphold commitments and protect progress
- [ICVA Updates](#): Upcoming publications and vacancies
- Forced Displacement: [UNHCR ExCom](#)
- [Humanitarian Financing](#): Annual Grand Bargain, new pooled funding and risk management
- [Humanitarian Coordination](#): IASC updates, Changes in humanitarian coordination Leadership and Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks
- [Transformations](#): Championing principles, Climate, Partnerships and PSEA
- [Regional Highlights](#): Insights on ICVA's work in MENA, East and West Africa, Latin America, and Asia-Pacific
- [Upcoming Events](#): Learning opportunities, upcoming events and new publications

If you would like to include relevant publications or events in the bulletin please contact edith.mecha@icvanetwork.org



Message from ICVA

Uphold Commitments, Protect Progress: A Call to Stand for Humanity

October 2024 has brought another critical turning point for humanitarian action with the [UK](#) and [Germany](#) declaring substantial funding cuts and [Ireland](#) missing opportunities to uphold its overseas aid commitments. Our world faces intensifying conflict, escalating climate disasters and record levels of forced displacement. The stark reality is that despite growing needs, funding restrictions now threaten the hard-won gains made in accountable, inclusive and effective humanitarian response by dismantling essential Nexus activities, anticipatory action and system-wide reform.

Just as individual aid projects cannot be implemented without the organisational apparatus to support them, principled and effective humanitarian response depends on preparedness and global partnerships. From frontline workers to policy makers, collaboration and coordination is essential to ensure the timely delivery of aid.

Humanitarian action today must navigate complex challenges, from a historic migration crisis affecting millions to a growing funding gap exacerbated by donor governments turning away from their commitments to spend 0.7% of their gross national income (GNI) on official development assistance. Nations are struggling to balance domestic concerns with international aid obligations often leading to decisions that weaken the support systems relied upon by those in crisis. In Sudan, where millions face starvation and continued conflict, we see the tragic impact of these funding cuts. ICVA has raised its voice to advocate for flexible, needs-based funding that allows agencies to respond effectively in crises.

In this moment, ICVA's mandate is more critical than ever: to amplify NGO voices, advocate for systemic change, and enable practical, sustainable solutions for the world's most vulnerable.

We call on our members to join us in urging donor governments to look beyond immediate economic pressures and honor their commitments to humanity and dignity. While donor advocacy is not without its risks, as one donor recently told me 'NGOs need to stop telling us we are doing everything right. We know we aren't. You need to tell us what we can do better.'

Not every donor is as open to feedback. ICVA helps mitigate the risks of speaking truth to power by drawing on the strength of collective advocacy. This past month, ICVA supported powerful NGO interventions at Geneva Peace Week, UNHCR's ExCom, AidEx, and the Grand Bargain Annual Meeting pushing for accelerated reforms in humanitarian financing, forced displacement and locally led decision-making.

ICVA has been at the forefront of the call for transformative change of the humanitarian system. I am particularly proud of ICVA's role in supporting refugee led organisations and opening the space for their participation in global policy dialogue. For the first time, a refugee-led organisation (RLO) drafted and delivered the NGO collective [statement](#) at the ExCom. RLOs are essential actors in policy, humanitarian and development responses, yet despite their essential contributions they face significant challenges in securing funding and face barriers to meaningfully participate in policy-making. ICVA is committed to advocating for equitable access to funding and decision-making for all partners, emphasising that inclusive humanitarian responses must involve RLOs as equal actors. The progress we have made with initiatives like the Grand Bargain is encouraging, but not enough. While reforms in localisation and financing are underway, too often these efforts are confined to

discussions without substantial follow-through. In 2025, ICVA will redouble our efforts to push for meaningful action through all our workstreams.

The challenges we face are daunting, but we are far from powerless. Our global network is comprised of dedicated NGOs and individuals who have the expertise, commitment, and resolve to drive change.

Now, more than ever, we must have courage. We must work together to hold donor governments accountable, push for structural reforms, and keep the voices of affected communities at the centre of our work.

Let us commit to action that reflects the urgency of this moment, and to a vision of humanitarian aid that is inclusive, impactful, and accountable.

In solidarity,

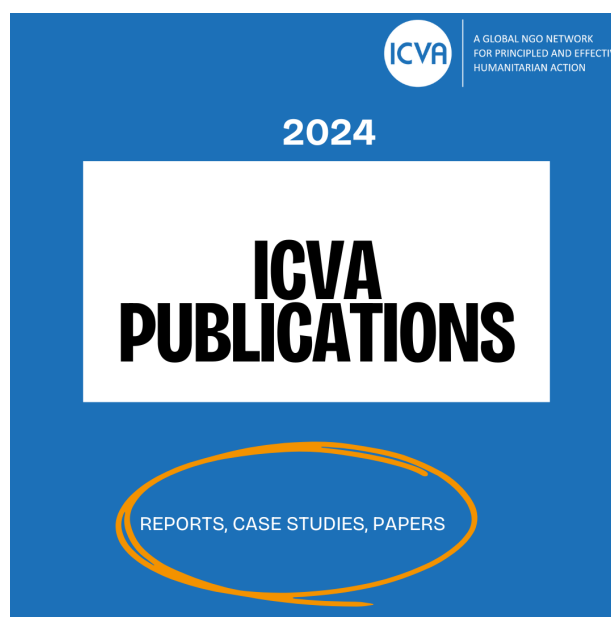


Dr Jamie Munn
Executive Director | ICVA

ICVA Updates

1. Upcoming ICVA Publications

ICVA is leading the following research and guidance and invites members and partners to contribute related work. We welcome discussions on collaboration for events and dissemination with the research leads.



Forced Migration:

International Protection in Latin America: 40th Anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration on

Refugees. This is an analysis of the protection context in Latin America and the Caribbean. The report will be unveiled as part of the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Declaration and will contribute to the upcoming Chile Declaration and Action Plan 2024-2034. Lead: [Lina Gomez](#).

Humanitarian Financing:

Pooled funds good practices and lessons learned in integrated programming and localisation, commissioned by The Aid Fund for Northern Syria. Lead: [Elise Baudot](#).

Humanitarian Finance Pocket Guides. A new series of Humanitarian Financing knowledge - sharing materials in pocket guides format, to meet the needs of NGO members. The guides cover a range of crucial topics including the humanitarian financing landscape; accessing funding from a variety of humanitarian financing sources, IASC and Grand Bargain processes; quality funding; UN/NGO and INGO/NGO partnership; and donor regulatory and compliance requirements. Lead: [Manon Glaser](#).

Humanitarian Coordination:

Localisation barometer. The Regional Barometer project aims to evaluate the progress of the localisation agenda in eight countries across West and Central Africa, highlighting achievements, challenges, and areas for enhancement. It seeks to bolster advocacy at national and regional levels to ensure sustainable localisation progress. The project employs a methodology that allows regional comparability while accommodating local adaptations, fostering the exchange of best practices among NGOs. Key milestones include finalising the Barometer tool in Mali and Burkina Faso by December and expanding to Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, DRC, and CAR with reports due by early 2025. A dedicated website for the project will launch in 2025, providing a hub for accessing reports and resources. Lead: [Adeline Benita](#).

Humanitarian Principles & Access:

Bureaucratic & Administrative Impediments (BAI) report. An overview of the impact of BAI on crisis-affected populations. Lead: [Jeremy Wellard](#).

2. Vacancies

ICVA is hiring for the following positions:

- A [consultant](#) to oversee data collection and analyse existing needs and gaps among local actors to enhance their coordination and leadership in Iraq. Apply by 19 November 2024.
- [NGO Forum Coordinator](#) for the Network for Iraq Organisations for Coordination and Cooperation. Apply by 19 November 2024.



[Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development](#) is hiring a Director. Apply

before 9 December 2024.

3. Meet our new Colleague

We are excited to welcome Issie Basile as Forced Displacement Officer to the team. Issie brings over eight years of experience engaging diverse stakeholders across crises and contexts, for the promotion of International Humanitarian Law, principled humanitarian access, and civilian protection from violence. Prior to joining ICVA, Issie was leading Action Against Hunger's advocacy and communications in the occupied Palestinian territory. As part of ICVA's Forced Migration team, Issie supports members in their work to ensure people are protected, and can access timely, quality and sustainable assistance and solutions. She holds a master's degree in International Development and Humanitarian Emergencies from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences.

Forced Migration

Forced Migration Snapshot

This month during UNHCR's ExCom, ICVA supported our members to deliver two powerful statements, coordinated delivery of the report by the NGO Rapporteurs on the Global Consultations, and organised a side event on **The Future of Action on Internal Displacement: NGO Perspectives**. Taking advantage of the simultaneous events in Geneva of the ExCom and the Grand Bargain Annual Meeting, ICVA co-hosted a reception on **Taking Localisation Further in Displacement and Statelessness Responses**.

4. UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award

The Nansen Award is presented every year to an individual or organisation that has taken extraordinary action to help people who are forcibly displaced or stateless. The award ceremony for the [Global Laureate](#) and the Regional Winners was held during the week of the UNHCR ExCom. Alongside representatives from the governments of Norway and Switzerland, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe and the Chairperson of UNHCR's Executive Committee, ICVA is on the Selection Committee of the [UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award](#). This year, Sister Rosita Milesi, a Catholic Sister, social worker, activist and lawyer who for decades has led efforts to include and support refugees and migrants in her native Brazil received the award.

[5. 75th Session of the UNHCR Executive Committee Meeting \(14-18 October\) - Geneva](#)

This year's ExCom highlighted the urgent need for inclusive and equitable responses to the global displacement crisis affecting 123 million people. In his [opening statement](#), UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, condemned the disregard for humanitarian law, which has endangered both civilians and aid workers, stressing the need to restore accountability to prevent worsening global displacement.

The NGO participation at ExCom played a critical role in shaping the dialogue around displacement, gender equality, and statelessness. NGOs were at the forefront of these discussions, reflecting ICVA's ongoing commitment to advancing the protection, assistance and durable solutions for forcibly displaced and stateless people.



The NGO collective [statement](#) on the General Debate represented a significant milestone: It was the first ever drafted and delivered by a refugee-led organisation, [Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table](#) (R-SEAT).

The statement stresses the need for all stakeholders to address the public backlash against forcibly displaced and stateless individuals. It emphasised the critical role of refugee-led organisations in shaping humanitarian policies and called out double standards in international responses, urging the global community to prioritise protection, safety, and dignity for all displaced persons.



The NGO collective [statement](#) on International Protection was delivered by Plan International. The statement expressed serious concerns about the increasing trend of policies that externalise the responsibility of protecting refugees and asylum seekers. NGOs strongly urge states to guarantee protection of forcibly displaced people seeking international protection and humanitarian assistance.

NGO Rapporteurs Newcomers with Disabilities in Sweden and Church World Service co-reported on the NGO Global Consultations at the ExCom meeting. The [report](#) highlighted the ongoing commitment of UNHCR and NGOs to collaborate on operational, policy, and advocacy priorities with the aim of achieving gender equality and fostering solutions and inclusion for forcibly displaced and stateless individuals.

Reception at the sidelines of the 75th Session of the UNHCR ExCom and Grand Bargain Annual Meeting: Taking Localisation Further in Displacement and Statelessness Responses

ICVA, UNHCR, IFRC, and the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN in Geneva co-organised a reception aiming to mobilise further support for the [Multistakeholder Pledge](#) on Advancing Localisation in Displacement and Statelessness Responses, which was launched at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum. It was also an opportunity to explore synergies between the pledge and the Grand Bargain.



Nimo Hassan, Director of the Somali NGO Consortium and Chair of ICVA Board, addressed the importance of supporting frontline actors stressing the need to move from sharing ideas and discussions to taking concrete actions.

6. ExCom Collective NGO Side Event: The Future of Action on Internal Displacement: NGO Perspectives

Jan Egeland of the Norwegian Refugee Council provided opening remarks for this collective [NGO side event](#), which was moderated by Reshma Adatia, ICVA's Director of Network Engagement. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC), World Vision International and the Somali NGO Consortium provided their perspectives on how to maintain the recent momentum around internal displacement, leverage government engagement, and further deepen our collective efforts to improve outcomes for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

7. Report and Recommendations from the 2024 UNHCR Global Consultations with NGOs

The UNHCR and ICVA released the [report](#) from the 2024 Global Consultations with NGOs, held in Geneva from 11-13 June. The event focused on Solutions, Inclusion, and Gender Equality. The report summarises the discussions and provides [recommendations](#) to Member States, NGOs and UNHCR, and highlights the 2024 NGO award winners, including local organisations supporting forcibly displaced and stateless persons with disabilities, as well as those led by them.

- For more information, please contact davina.said@icvanetwork.org

Financing

8. Grand Bargain Annual Meeting (16 and 17 October 2024) - Geneva

During the [Grand Bargain Annual Meeting](#), ICVA brought forward our strong commitment to transforming humanitarian financing for frontline workers, including local and national NGOs.

Over the two-day meeting, ICVA leveraged insights from our extensive member network and the Humanitarian Financing Working Group to share our ongoing work in implementing the Grand Bargain commitments and highlight a few good practices achieved. ICVA's commitment to the Grand Bargain remains steadfast and we recognise that only bold, transformative action - not incremental adjustments - will address the structural funding issues and shift power towards local actors as promised.

ICVA's [written statement](#) underscored the necessity of coordinated efforts and learning

collectively through initiatives such as the Communities of Practice on Due Diligence Reform and Risk Sharing.

9. Pooled Funds

Community of Practice on Pooled Funds

ICVA and Start Network held a discussion among a diverse group of fund managers to discuss a community of practice (CoP) on humanitarian pooled funds. This meeting brought together a diverse group of fund managers from feminist, refugee-led funds, Start Network, Disaster Response Emergency Fund, Central Emergency Response Fund, Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPF), Near Change Fund, Sahel Regional Fund, the Myanmar Funds, and Aid Fund for Northern Syria, among others. The creation of a CoP was encouraged by donors and warmly welcomed by fund managers. The CoP looks to hold quarterly learning events, facilitate networking and information sharing among fund managers as well as collective advocacy with donors.

Presentation on Pooled Funds to the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) (24 October)

ICVA's Elise Baudot briefed the GHD on ICVA's initiatives to support pooled funds and localisation. These efforts include promoting good practices in risk sharing among donors, pooled funds, and NGOs; developing indicators for pooled funds; supporting local NGO voices in Country Based Pooled Fund governance via the Resource Facility; and launching a Community of Practice for pooled fund managers to share insights and improve funding access for local NGOs.

10. Access to Quality Funding

Community of Practice (CoP) on Due Diligence Reform

The Community of Practice on Due Diligence Reform, launched by ICVA, HQAI, DRC, and SPONG, aims to harmonise due diligence processes for local and national NGOs (LNNGOs) and foster collaboration among international NGOs, donors, and local actors. In the first meeting on 10 October, members mapped ongoing initiatives, discussed collaboration, including setting up a mailing list and quarterly learning exchanges among practitioners, and identified areas to streamline due diligence requirements, reducing redundancy and supporting better alignment with local organisations.

11. Humanitarian Financing Working Group (HFWG) Meeting

The October HFWG meeting focused on enhancing humanitarian financing knowledge through co-designed pocket guides, with a call for more L/NGO engagement. Discussions included the Grand Bargain's impact, highlighting gaps in flexible funding accountability, financing challenges, and the disconnect between policy and field realities. Updates were shared on partnerships with WFP and UNICEF, alongside subgroup initiatives on climate finance and pooled fund risk management.

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

Coordination

12. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals

Statement by Principals of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee - Stop the assault on Palestinians in Gaza and on those trying to help them

The IASC principals released a statement urging all parties fighting in Gaza to protect civilians and call on the State of Israel to cease its assault on Gaza and on the humanitarians trying to help. Read the [statement](#).

13. Meeting with Representatives from OCHA's Centre for Humanitarian Data (30 October)

ICVA organised a meeting for its members with OCHA's Centre for Humanitarian Data to explore how the Centre can enhance support for NGOs. The discussions focused on key areas such as data responsibility, new workstreams on interoperability and data sharing, and the development of country-specific information sharing protocols. Secure methods for de-duplication and referrals were also addressed. Additionally, the Centre offers data science forecasts and analytics to aid Anticipatory Action and risk-informed programming, further supporting NGO activities.

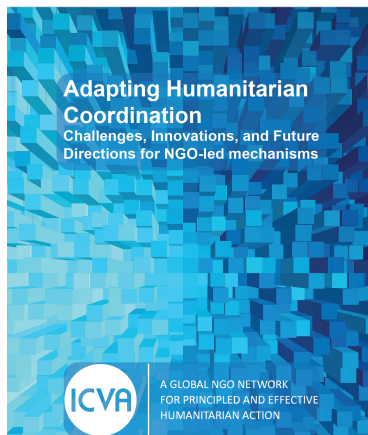
14. Localisation in Humanitarian Leadership



ICVA's recent [report](#) evaluates the quality of engagement and enabling factors for increased local/national NGO participation in IASC structures – beyond numbers. It examines existing global quantitative data from OCHA's Annual Coordination Mapping exercise. Additionally, the study gathers new quantitative data from [five focus countries](#) - Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somalia, Colombia, and Venezuela - to assess varying levels of participation by local and national NGOs. The goal is to identify good practices, barriers, and practical recommendations to improve the effective inclusion of L/NNGOs in coordination leadership.

- For more information, please contact jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org and gabriela.miranda@icvanetwork.org

15. NGO Fora Support



Adapting Humanitarian Coordination Challenges, Innovations, and Future Directions for NGO-led mechanisms

To deliver principled assistance, international and national civil society organisations, along with multilateral institutions are increasingly exploring or implementing alternative humanitarian coordination and response models, with varying success. ICVA [report](#) provides insightful analysis from four specific contexts, exploring their implications for both global and response-level humanitarian coordination.

16. Movements in Humanitarian Coordination Leadership

- **Lebanon:** Albert-Philip Burger d'Haem, ICVA's Policy and Practice Coordinator is providing remote support to the Lebanon INGO Forum.
 - **Nigeria:** Camilla Higgins has taken on the role of Nigeria INGO Forum Director.
 - **Sudan:** Iyad Agha and Fashion Mawere have assumed their roles as Sudan INGO Forum Director and Darfur INGO Forum Coordinator, respectively. Mr. Antoine Gerard has been appointed as the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan. Recruitment of the new OCHA Head of Office for Sudan is currently being completed and should be announced soon.
 - **Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPt):** Athena Rayburn is now the AIDA Director.
 - **Myanmar:** Joseph Kelly has been appointed as the Myanmar Forum Director.
 - **Bangladesh:** In the last few months, Marianna Närhi and Surkhana Sukarna Abdullah joined the NGO Platform for Cox Bazar as Coordinator and Co-Coordinator.
- For more information, please contact albertphilip.burger@icvanetwork.org

17. OCHA – ICVA Advocacy and Communications Team (ACT)

The ACT discussed the escalating Middle East conflict, its severe toll on civilians, and systematic attacks on the UN and humanitarian actors, including physical assaults, defunding, criminalisation, and media delegitimisation. Evacuation orders prevented speakers from OCHA Lebanon and Lebanon Humanitarian and Development Forum (LHDF) from joining, but Daniella Khalil from Amel Association represented LHDF, emphasising Lebanon's worsening humanitarian crisis and urging direct support for local actors. Amjad Shawwa from PNGO shared Gaza's dire situation, recounting how a temporary displacement stretched into a year and describing a recent deadly attack on a UN-flagged displaced persons camp. Both speakers stressed the importance of local actors and the need for external stakeholders to grasp local complexities.

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

18. Humanitarian Networks Partnership Week (HNPW) (17 - 28 March 2025) - Online and Geneva

Session proposals for HNPW 2025 are being requested. The first week of HNPW (17 - 21 March) will be virtual, and the second (24 - 28 March) will be in person at the Geneva International Conference Centre. Interested parties can host sessions (remote, hybrid, or

in-person) focused on nine key areas like Accountability, Climate Crisis, and Pandemic Response. Session proposals are due by 8 December. Booth requests are due by 24 January (physical) and 14 March (virtual). For more details, contact gabriela.miranda@icvanetwork.org

Transforming our Network

19. Champion Principled Humanitarian Action

Intersos Rome Humanitarian Congress (11 October) - Rome

Intersos' [congress](#) explored the erosion of internal humanitarian law, the failure of leadership and politicisation of aid. Martin Griffiths opened the event, emphasising that attacks on UNRWA are attacks on the UN as a whole and highlighting the lack of principled mediation hindering ceasefire efforts in the Middle East.



ICVA's Eileen Morrow moderated a solutions-focused discussion with Fiona Terry from ICRC, Maher Alshoun from Intersos, and Ed Schenkenberg from HERE-Geneva, exploring potential solutions.

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

20. Address Impacts of Climate Change on Humanitarian Action

Statement by the Signatories to the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations Ahead of COP29

Ahead of COP29 this November, more than 440 signatories of The Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations, including ICVA, have released a [statement](#) calling for ambitious and concrete actions to support the communities least responsible for climate change but most affected by it.

21. Be Diverse, Inclusive and Live our Values

Safeguarding

Interagency PSEA Community Outreach and Communication Fund - 2024 Projects

The Interagency PSEA Community Outreach and Communication Fund, a joint initiative between UNHCR and ICVA has published the [project summaries](#) of the nine locally led projects funded in 2024. The projects aim to help communities know their rights and SEA survivors know how and where to safely report sexual abuse and exploitation. Since its inception, 56 projects have been backed. This year, the Fund is also supported by the Office of the Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OSCSEA), helping it to reach more people in need.



INTERAGENCY PSEA COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION FUND

2024 Project Summaries

October 2024



Online Conference: What's next for Safeguarding against Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment? (16 - 17 October)

ICVA's Alon Plato gave a keynote speech at the Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub (RSH) online conference under the theme 'What's Next for Safeguarding Against Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEAH)'. The event gathered civil society organisations, experts, and donors to discuss progress in SEAH protection and future advocacy plans. Key topics included safeguarding in challenging contexts, intersectionality, partnerships with smaller CSOs, and leadership for culture change, focusing on integrity, accountability, localisation, and decolonisation. As a RSH consortium member, ICVA highlighted the role of NGOs in the future of PSEAH, and especially the importance of localisation in a narrowing funding landscape. Check the [session recordings](#) and presentation slides.

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

22. Proactively Engage in Agile Collaborative Partnerships

AidEx 2024 (23 - 24 October) - Geneva

ICVA's Jamie Munn moderated a panel on the theme 'Saving Lives' or 'Life Saving' - What really matters? The session focused on balancing immediate life-saving actions with dignified long-term approaches, prioritising resources amidst constraints, ensuring equity in humanitarian aid, and merging dignity with life-saving efforts in challenging environments.



Additionally, ICVA's Albert-Philip Burger d'Haem participated in a session on adapting NGO coordination in complex and estranged settings. The discussion highlighted the unique challenges faced by NGOs in conflict zones and explored insights from ICVA's [latest research](#) on NGO-led initiatives to drive positive change in difficult environments. Watch the [session recording](#).

World Food Programme Annual Partnership Consultation 2024: (23 - 25 October) - Rome

ICVA's Jeremy Wellard participated in a panel on Assurance and Accountability on the second day of the [consultations](#). The session discussed challenges in humanitarian aid due to global crises and reduced resources, focusing on WFP's Global Assurance Standards, NGO-led solutions, and group work on key assurance pillars, aiming to enhance transparency, safety, and effective aid delivery. ICVA stressed the importance of prioritising people's needs over donor agendas, advocating for inclusive processes, genuine NGO partnerships, and practical risk-sharing. By leveraging local NGOs' expertise and strengthening capacity, ICVA advocates for collective accountability and sustained investment to enhance effective, people-focused humanitarian action.

Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus

IASC Second Mapping of Good Practice in the Implementation of Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Approaches, 2024 Synthesis Report

The [report](#) summarises the second phase of the initiative by IASC Task Force 4 on mapping good practices in implementing humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus approaches. It includes findings from 11 countries.

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

Region Specific

23. Africa

East and Southern Africa

Snapshot of the Region

The International Crisis Group [reports](#) of rising tensions in the Horn of Africa region in September and October 2024 with concerns that the ongoing regional dispute between Ethiopia and Somalia, largely over [Ethiopia's port deal](#) with Somaliland on one hand and [Somalia's ties with Egypt](#) on the other, could have humanitarian implications in a region that is already grappling with internal conflicts and climate crises. Ethiopia's neighbour Sudan, which has been in conflict since April 2023, would especially be at risk were regional tensions to escalate. Already, Sudan is grappling with a displacement crisis in which over 8.2 million people have been displaced within the country since the conflict broke according to [IOM](#) estimates. Access to humanitarian services remains a challenge for the 25 million

people in need of assistance in Sudan, and a recent [joint donor statement](#) by 11 key bilateral donors called for the parties to the conflict in Sudan to stop blocking humanitarian access. This included the government of Sweden which has also [announced](#) that it is increasing its humanitarian assistance to Sudan by SEK 50 million. The Eastern and Horn of Africa region is also grappling with infectious disease outbreaks including [MPox](#) and [cholera outbreaks](#) in South Sudan and Sudan.

In Southern Africa, UNOCHA [reports](#) that over 26 million people in 12 countries are affected by acute food insecurity, which is primarily driven by continuous climatic shocks.

In response, ICVA has been actively engaging with national NGOs and their forums to ensure they are informed about the evolving humanitarian framework and to foster genuine partnerships within this space. However, challenges related to budget constraints, accessibility issues, and bureaucratic impediments (BAI) remain significant obstacles in the region. Additionally, there is heightened concern over the limited visibility of certain slow-onset crises, which risks delaying necessary responses. A key priority moving forward is to follow up on recommendations from the Emergency Directors Group (EDG), particularly in relation to cross-line and cross-border operations in Sudan, to enhance the efficacy of humanitarian efforts.

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

West and Central Africa

Snapshot of the Region

West and Central Africa is facing numerous humanitarian crises, including escalating conflicts and climate-induced disasters such as extreme weather events, which recently led to severe flooding in the region. This has exacerbated vulnerabilities, leading to widespread displacement, severe food insecurity, and a protection crisis where civilians are increasingly at risk of violence. Challenges in the region are compounded by restricted access, donor disengagement resulting in funding shortfalls, and political instability, especially in the Sahel area. Despite these challenges, there are opportunities to enhance coordination among humanitarian actors, governments, and regional bodies. Strengthening the capacity of local actors and implementing approaches like the Nexus and climate adaptation strategies could help address these critical concerns and improve the region's resilience.

ICVA is actively advocating for stronger leadership by local actors within the humanitarian response framework. This includes developing tools, such as the Localisation Barometer, to build advocacy capacities and advance the localisation agenda. The Localisation Barometer has been finalised in Mali and Burkina Faso, with a report underway, and it's currently being launched in the Lake Chad Basin, aiming to expand across eight countries. ICVA is also working to foster better NGO coordination with external stakeholders and engage states in the Central Sahel at a high level. Recently, ICVA strengthened relationships with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), improving NGO visibility at the High-Level Conference in Jeddah through a video presentation. Furthermore, ICVA is focused on reinforcing ties between the donor community and NGOs, especially national ones, to ensure a more directed flow of resources. A [Virtual High-Level Briefing](#) on the Central Sahel, scheduled for 19 November, aims to engage humanitarian and development donors in supporting these ongoing efforts.

Donors' Conference to support Displaced Persons and Refugees in the Sahel and Lake Chad Region at OIC Headquarters in Jeddah (26 October)

The [Donor/Pledging Conference](#) featured a high-level session on humanitarian challenges in the Sahel and Lake Chad region, with member states announcing financial grants to support these areas. ICVA played a key role by producing a [video](#) highlighting the humanitarian and development challenges in the region, as well as the significant efforts by NGOs to address the needs of vulnerable populations. The video was presented at the conference in Jeddah. Additionally, ICVA submitted a private letter to the organisers, advocating for greater NGO involvement and providing key recommendations to shape the discussions.

- For more information, please contact adeline.benita@icvanetwork.org or fatoumata.konate@icvanetwork.org

24. Asia and the Pacific

Snapshot of the Region

Australia published their [Humanitarian Policy](#) in October, with three priorities: disaster preparedness and mitigation, crisis response and reinforcing the international humanitarian system including strengthening adherence to international humanitarian law. Recognising the need for aid to increase to meet these goals, [The Safer World for All Campaign](#) is calling for a commitment to raise Australian foreign aid to 1% of the federal budget.

Iranian authorities announced a controversial plan in September to deport two million undocumented Afghan refugees over six months, raising significant humanitarian concerns. Iran is not alone in its approach; other countries in the region, such as Pakistan and Turkey, have also increased deportations of Afghan nationals in recent years, with severe humanitarian consequences. Advocates emphasise that all returns should be safe and voluntary, especially given Afghanistan's fragile situation, with an economy in crisis and deteriorating rights for women and girls. A large influx of returnees could place immense strain on Afghanistan. About 5 million Afghans are displaced outside of Afghanistan, 90% of which are hosted by Iran and Pakistan highlighting the urgent need for shared responsibility among states, as outlined in the GRF Multi-Stakeholder Resolve pledge. Recent [data](#) from the Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) and Humanitarian Access Working Group investigates the cumulative impact of restrictions on women in Afghanistan, affecting their ability to access humanitarian services and intensifying the challenges faced by women and girls.

ICVA continues to collaborate with members and networks to improve humanitarian outcomes for populations in Myanmar and surrounding countries where over a third of the population is considered in need and over 3.1 million have been displaced. Support includes pursuing greater funding and awareness of the crisis and following up on recommendations from the EDG for Myanmar.

Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) 2024: (14-18 October) - Bangkok



ICVA's Asma Saleem moderated a [session](#) on 'Moving from the Margins to the Mainstream - Progress and Gaps in Effective Inclusive DRR in Asia Pacific' at the APMCDRR. The session was led by Catholic Relief Services and focused on collaborative efforts among governments, civil society, and local actors to enhance inclusive disaster risk reduction. The discussions aimed to mainstream effective and inclusive DRR strategies in one of the world's most disaster-prone regions.

Understanding the Global Compact for Migration Consultation process in Asia Pacific: (25-26 October)

ICVA and the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network organised a webinar for ICVA members and other non-governmental organisations working on forced displacement. The event aimed to explore how NGOs can effectively contribute to the Global Compact for Migration process and consider if it presents an opportunity to address challenges arising from mixed migration flows.

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

25. Latin America

Snapshot of the Region

The limited visibility of the displacement and humanitarian crises in the region in global discussions and funding prioritisation remains a significant concern. While the crises in Haiti and Venezuela have garnered some attention, the rising internal displacement in Mexico and violent crime in Ecuador are attracting little global attention and support. While concrete data on the humanitarian impact remains scarce, anecdotal evidence suggests a rise in food insecurity and displacement, particularly affecting children.

Update on Cartagena +40 Process

On 14 October, Chile shared the draft Chile Declaration and Action Plan 2024-2034 with NGOs, Refugee-led organisations, and civil society, following multiple negotiation rounds among states. ICVA members attended a virtual meeting held on 24 October that discussed

Version 2 of the Declaration, focusing on terms like human mobility and the triple nexus to better address regional migration challenges. Progress was made on gender and intersectionality, and inclusion of women and girls in development programs. Consensus was reached on the International Protection chapter, while the Disasters and Adverse Effects of Climate Change section still posed challenges. Chile emphasised the need for ongoing monitoring and coordination of the Plan of Action. The Cartagena +40 Declaration and Plan of Action is set for adoption on 11-12 December in Santiago, Chile.

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

26. MENA

Snapshot of the Region

Prolonged conflicts and escalating violence in Gaza and Lebanon, coupled with broader regional instability, are driving widespread displacement, leaving millions in urgent need of assistance. In addition to the internally displaced populations within Gaza and Lebanon, Syrians are facing forced deportations from neighbouring countries, including Lebanon and Turkey. According to UNHCR's protection monitoring report from August 2024, 66% of 'returnees' to northwest Syria reported being coerced into returning. They identified primary challenges such as lack of safety, limited employment opportunities, restricted access to education, insufficient permanent housing, inadequate services, and restricted freedom of movement.

In Yemen, Libya, and Iraq, ongoing challenges include limited humanitarian access to affected people, safety concerns, and the complex transition from immediate humanitarian aid to recovery and durable solutions.

ICVA continues to engage in regular meetings with the NGO Fora (including Egypt, oPt, Lebanon, Jordan, and regional Syria), OCHA, and the Regional Advocacy Working Group, alongside ad hoc meetings with donors, UNRWA, UN, and regional directors. These sessions focus on raising awareness, fostering connections, sharing information, and unifying advocacy efforts.

ICVA Statement – UNRWA's Mandate Must Be Respected

Following the Israel parliament's decision to end UNRWA's operations, ICVA released a [statement](#) urging Israel to respect UNRWA's mandate, warning that restricting its work will worsen the catastrophic humanitarian crisis and disrupt essential services for Palestine refugees. ICVA stresses that UNRWA is critical for the humanitarian response and calls on Israel to honor international obligations to allow UNRWA to continue its operations.

International Conference in Support of Lebanon's People and Sovereignty (24 October) - Paris

The [Conference](#) took place in Paris and was initiated by President Macron in collaboration with the United Nations. The conference successfully raised \$1 billion, with \$800 million allocated for humanitarian aid and \$200 million for security forces. Key contributions included €96 million from Germany, €10 million from Italy, £10 million from the UK, \$6.6 million from Australia and additional pledges from Ireland, the Netherlands, Luxembourg,

and others. The event gathered over 70 nations and organisations to support Lebanon's humanitarian and security needs. Listen to the UN Secretary-General's [video message](#).

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

Learning Opportunities

27. ICVA Climate Change and Humanitarian Action Learning Stream: The learning stream offers a platform for the humanitarian community to learn how to minimise climate impact and increase environmental sustainability. This aligns with the commitments of The Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations. Explore the [webinar recordings and resources](#).

28. Mastering Complex and High-Stakes Negotiations: This [course](#), offered by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, will equip you with essential skills to confidently plan and manage challenging negotiations.

New and Noteworthy

29. ICVA: Shaping the Future of Humanitarian Action in International Geneva: In this [blog](#), ICVA's Jamie Munn highlights ICVA's pivotal role in shaping humanitarian action in International Geneva since 1962. Discover how ICVA strengthens NGO voices to shape global policies, champions local leadership and reforms in humanitarian financing, upholds humanitarian principles and protection, and supports climate and anticipatory action initiatives.

30. Falling Short? Humanitarian Funding and Reform: The Development Initiatives [report](#) highlights the challenges in humanitarian funding, noting a significant shortfall in 2023 with a funding gap of \$32 billion. Despite historically high international assistance, many needs remain unmet. The report calls for improved funding strategies and transparency to better address humanitarian needs.

31. Crossing The Bridge: A Practical Guide to Support Good Intermediary Practice: A new [guidance note](#) by GLOW Consultants (Private) Limited, Pacific Islands Association of Non Governmental Organisation (PIANGO), and Humanitarian Advisory Group provides a practical guide for intermediary organisations to strengthen their partnership approaches, and highlights the role of donors and other funding instruments to catalyse this process.

32. Request for Concept Notes Open Now - Apply for an Innovation Grant: What Works to Prevent Violence is now accepting [applications](#) from organisations or consortia led by Women Rights Organisations in the Global South for innovation grants to reduce violence against women and girls in humanitarian or development contexts.

33. Humanitarian Takeaways: The next issue that will be out in December will focus on politicisation of aid. Please share any relevant articles and reports to goda.milasiute@chaberlin.org.

34. Risk, Protection and Locally-led Humanitarian Response a Practical Guide to Responsible Partnerships: Nonviolence Peaceforce (NP) presents a practical guide on risk, protection, and locally-led humanitarian response, emphasising responsible

partnerships. This toolkit advances NP's responsible partnership approach and provides practical guidance to support local organisations not only as implementers but as key civil society leaders in their own protection and initiatives.

35. Neutrality, Access, and Making Localisation Work: The GISF [paper](#) delves into the complexities of neutrality, particularly its role in humanitarian access and acceptance-based strategies designed to ensure aid reaches and is accepted by target communities. It also explores how partnerships between local and international organisations can enhance acceptance but may also affect perceptions of neutrality.

Mark your Agenda: Upcoming Events

November 4 - 14: [GPC Global Protection Forum: The Future of Protection](#)

November 11 - 22: [The UN Climate Change Conference COP 29, Baku, Azerbaijan](#)

November 12: [ICVA Humanitarian Coordination Working Group Meeting](#)

November 13: [Virtual Launch of ICVA's Localisation in Humanitarian Leadership Report](#)

November 18: [Joint ICVA-Interaction consultation with OSA on Solutions for IDPs](#)

November 18 - 23: Strengthening Local Humanitarian Leadership: Building Resilience and Partnerships for a Locally-Led Future in Pasifika

November 18 - 26: [African Union \(AU\) Humanitarian Symposium](#)

November 19: [Virtual High-level briefing](#) 'Crises in the Central Sahel: Adaptation, Resilience, and NGO Leadership in the Face of Growing Challenges'

November 19: [SEAH Accountability: Elevating Standards in the Private Sector](#)

November 20: [World Children's Day](#)

November 20 – 21: [Annual Partners Meeting of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence \(GBV\) in Emergencies \(Call to Action\)](#)

November 21: [ICVA Humanitarian Financing Working Group Meeting](#)

November 25: [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#)

November 26-28: [115th Session of the IOM Council](#)

November 26 – December 3: [ICVA Coordination Support Mission to Yemen](#)

December 2: [Fourth quarterly informal briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees](#)

December 3: [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)

December 4: [Global Humanitarian Overview 2025 Launch](#)

December 4: [ODI-HPG International Dialogue on Financial Barriers and Opportunities for Humanitarian Action Under Sanctions](#)

December 4-6: [Humanitarian Negotiation Workshop](#), Bangkok

December 5: [ICVA Humanitarian Financing Working Group Meeting](#)

December 8 - 9: [Resourcing Resilience: Masterclass on Mobilising Resources for Women, Girl, & LGBTIQ+ Organisations](#)

December 10: [Human Rights Day](#)

December 10 - 12: [Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week \(RHPW\) – Asia Pacific 2024](#)

December 11-12: [Presentation of the Action Plan Chile \(Cartagena Declaration\)](#)

December 13-14: [Strengthening Humanitarian Partnerships Through Effective Risk-Sharing](#)

December 18: [International Migrants Day](#)

2025

March 17 – 28: [Humanitarian Networks Partnership Week](#)

Forward the Bulletin to a Colleague

Subscribe to ICVA Bulletin



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Copyright (C) 2024 International Council of Voluntary Agencies. All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

International Council of Voluntary Agencies NGO Humanitarian Hub La Voie-Creuse 16 Geneva 1202 Switzerland