

# ICVA Bulletin

Highlights from July & August 2024



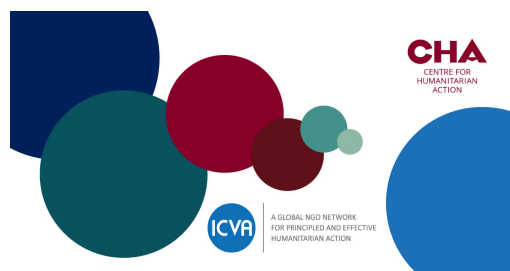
A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

**Dear Colleague,**

This month's bulletin highlights the latest news across our focus areas, including on forced migration, insights into humanitarian financing trends, developments in the IASC and coordination efforts, and initiatives to build better networks and our transformations. We also provide region-specific updates, links to the latest learning opportunities, vacancies and events.

Moreover, ICVA in partnership with the Centre for Humanitarian Action are delighted to launch the "[Humanitarian Takeaways](#)" a quarterly synopsis of must-read research on relevant topics for the humanitarian sector.

Each of the four yearly editions will feature relevant publications, emerging trends, and key findings ensuring you stay informed without having to sift through dozens of websites. Whether you are working in the field, at a regional office, or at headquarters, '[Humanitarian Takeaways](#)' aims to provide concise and impactful information to keep you up to date with the latest developments in the humanitarian landscape and support your work.



**Read the September Edition.**

**Jamie Munn**  
**Executive Director | ICVA**

Follow us on [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#) for our latest events, publications, news, and insights.

---

## Message from ICVA

### The Cracks in Coordination are Impacting Response Performance. We need to Address Them.

As part of ICVA's work to [demystify and strengthen coordination](#) and to inform the [IASC Deputies](#)' work on the erosion of trust, ICVA recently explored the team dynamics in Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) from the perspectives of over thirty NGO Forum representatives.

ICVA's new paper '[Cracks in Coordination: Trust & Engagement in Humanitarian Country Teams](#),' highlights that the team dynamics within HCTs deeply matter: The HCT's [purpose](#) is to ensure that 'inter-agency humanitarian action alleviates human suffering and protects the lives, the livelihoods and dignity of people in need.' HCT members are collectively tasked with negotiating humanitarian access, resolving response challenges and gaps, and ensuring the centrality of the protection of civilians. A HCT's performance has real implications for whether crisis affected communities' needs are met in line with their interests and how aid workers are supported to deliver response safely and effectively.



The majority of NGO representatives perceived HCTs to be information-sharing platforms rather than strategic leadership and decision-making bodies. Participants noted an absence of meaningful and constructive discussions, which are crucial for effective decision-making and ensuring buy-in to those decisions. As one NGO representative explained, 'HCT meetings are always crammed with presentations or long speeches from the Humanitarian Coordinator/ Resident Coordinator, there's never time for meaningful discussion. We've raised this issue, nothing has changed. It's hard not to think it's a deliberate tactic.'

The paper's findings echo those of recent Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations (IAHEs). In [Ethiopia](#), the IAHE found 'the HCT was everything but a team, leading to serious dysfunctionality,' while in [Afghanistan](#) considerable division and 'acrimony in the HCT' was reported.

The paper aims to identify behaviours that contribute to or erode HCT engagement and performance. The role of trust is consistently identified in [research](#) as the foundation of high performing teams. Investing in trust-building in HCT should help reduce the risk of tensions

developing and improve engagement, but more importantly contribute to improved response performance and better outcomes for crisis affected people.

Many of the issues raised can be quickly resolved and some efforts are already underway. For example, [ICVA](#) in collaboration with OCHA has started providing [HCT onboarding](#) sessions to address the low understanding of the purpose and priorities of HCTs. Engagement and inclusion could be improved by the Chair clearly communicating what decisions are to be made at the start of the meeting and providing dedicated time for structured discussions. Presentations could be pre-recorded (which also allows for closed caption translations) and shared with HCT representatives in advance. This approach ensures meetings concentrate on discussions and decision-making, rather than getting everyone up to speed.

The paper spotlights the cracks in coordination, but its intention is not to deepen them. I hope the results and recommendations will be taken seriously but not personally. By fostering trust and collaboration within Humanitarian Country Teams, we can ensure that our collective efforts have the maximum results for those who need it most.

**Eileen Morrow**  
**Head of Policy and Advocacy | ICVA**

---

## ICVA Updates

### 1. We are Hiring

We are hiring for the following consultancy positions:



[Tender Call – Learning Programme of the Country-Based Pooled Funds \(CBPF\) Resource Facility for Local and National NGOs](#): We are seeking proposals to design

[Tender Call – Mentorship Programme of the CBPF Resource Facility for Local and National NGOs](#): We are seeking proposals to design and implement a comprehensive

and deliver a targeted learning program aimed at enhancing the capacity of Local and National NGOs in the governance of CBPF. Submit proposals by 13 September 2024 COB.

mentorship program as part of the CBPF Resource Facility in order to enhance the participation of Local and National NGOs in OCHA CBPF governance structures. Submit proposals by 13 September 2024 COB.

**Call for Tenders: Service Contract Progress of the Localization Barometer Project in Cameroon and Nigeria:** The Localization Barometer Project aims to develop both regional and country-specific methodologies to quantitatively and qualitatively assess localization in humanitarian responses. ICVA seeks contractors to manage and implement the project activities in [Cameroon](#) and [Nigeria](#). Submit applications by 17 September 2024.

## **2. Meet our New Colleagues**

We are excited to welcome to the team Reshma Adatia as Director of Network Engagement, Gabriela Miranda as Humanitarian Coordination Policy Officer and Gianmaria Dall'asta as Project Officer.

---

## **Forced Migration**

### **3. Quarterly Meeting with Office of Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement**

On 11 July, ICVA and InterAction co-convened a quarterly meeting for their respective membership and NGO fora with the Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions (OSA) to Internal Displacement. The meeting focused on progress made in Action Agenda pilot countries in the East Africa and Horn of Africa regions (Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan) as well as the internal displacement risks and increasing displacement trends caused by extreme weather events and other climate change-related factors. The objectives of the meeting were to facilitate cross-learning amongst NGOs and give in-country colleagues an opportunity to discuss good and promising practices with the Office of the Special Adviser (OSA) and consider how progress will be preserved when the OSA's mandate concludes at the end of 2024. Speakers included the UN Special Adviser Robert Piper and representatives from his office. NGO representatives from the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat, Somali NGO Consortium, and the Danish Refugee Council also made interventions. The meeting was moderated by Jamie Munn, Executive Director, ICVA and Julien Schopp Vice President Humanitarian Team, InterAction.

### **4. Informal NGO Dialogue with UNHCR on the Second Global Refugee Forum**

On 17 July, ICVA together with UNHCR's Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) Coordination Team, convened an informal dialogue with NGOs to discuss the second Global Refugee Forum (GRF) and related GCR arrangements. The December 2023 GRF brought together over 4,000 stakeholders with the aim to translate the principle of international responsibility-sharing into concrete action. More than 1,900 pledges were made, and NGOs made more than 20% of all pledges (including local NGOs). With this background, the dialogue allowed for an

exchange between NGOs and UNHCR to debrief on the Forum, reflect on good practices and lessons learnt, and ways forward in the GCR/GRF implementation. The meeting was moderated by Davina Saïd, Head of Forced Migration at ICVA and included insightful interventions from NGOs. Representatives from UNHCR's NGO and Civil Society Section and the Interim Head of the GCR Coordination Team also spoke.

## **5. Regional NGO Dialogue on Statelessness: 10 Years of the #IBelong Campaign in Europe: Good Practices and Next Steps**

On 23 July, ICVA together with UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Europe co-organised a [Regional NGO Dialogue on Statelessness](#). The event provided civil society organisations and people with lived experience of statelessness with an opportunity to reflect on the past 10 years of the #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness and discuss opportunities for further action, especially in the context of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness. Panellists from civil society including those with lived experience of statelessness delivered remarks about key achievements, good practices, remaining challenges and opportunities. The UNHCR Division of International Protection briefed on the Global Alliance to End Statelessness. A total of 80 participants from civil society and UNHCR offices in Europe attended the dialogue.

## **6. Global Refugee Forum - ICVA-InterAction Joint Blog Series**

As we mark six months since the second Global Refugee Forum (GRF), held in December 2023, InterAction and ICVA members are collaborating on a blog series to reflect on the GRF, focus attention on commitments, and strengthen transparency on progress since the first GRF in 2019. Over the next several months, the blog series will provide perspective on pledges and highlight where further action is needed. Read more [here](#).

- For more information, please contact [davina.said@icvanetwork.org](mailto:davina.said@icvanetwork.org).

---

# **Financing**

## **7. The Grand Bargain (GB) Beyond 2023**

### **Grand Bargain Secretariat Update**

Current updates from the Grand Bargain Secretariat can be found [here](#).

### **Facilitation Group Sherpa Meeting with Grand Bargain Ambassadors**

On 12 June, the Facilitation Group Sherpas held a virtual meeting with Grand Bargain Ambassadors Jemilah Mahmood and Michael Koehler, co-chaired by InterAction and UNICEF. The discussions centered on defining success for 2026 and advancing the Grand Bargain commitments in preparation for the 2024 Annual Meeting. Read the [summary note](#) for key discussions and actions agreed upon to accelerate progress and enhance humanitarian impact.

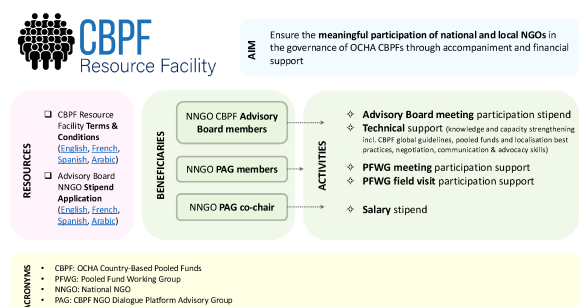
## Dialogue between Grand Bargain Ambassadors, the Facilitation Group and Signatories

On 20 June, Grand Bargain Ambassadors Jemilah Mahmood and Michael Koehler, along with Facilitation Group Co-Chair Hazel de Wet (UNICEF), met virtually with Grand Bargain Signatories. The meeting focused on accelerating the implementation of commitments to achieve transformative impact by 2026. Key discussions covered boosting accountability, leveraging existing commitments, enhancing collaboration, and addressing challenges like aid conditionality and funding transparency. Read more in the [summary note](#).

## 8. Pooled Funds

### CBPF Resource Facility Update

Access the [CBPF Resource Facility overview](#), which includes links to the National NGO Advisory Board Members stipend application and the [Terms and Conditions](#) of the Resource Facility, available in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic. For any questions related to the CBPF Resource Facility, please contact [resource.facility.cbpf@icvanetwork.org](mailto:resource.facility.cbpf@icvanetwork.org).



## Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Underfunded Emergencies (UFE) 2024 Round II Allocations

The Acting Emergency Relief Coordinator [announced](#) the CERF 2024 second round UFE, with over one-third of the new funding directed to Yemen (\$20M) and Ethiopia (\$15M) to address hunger, displacement, disease, and climate disasters. Additional funds will aid conflict-affected countries like Myanmar, Mali, and Haiti, as well as those facing El Niño impacts. Detailed information, including the [decision note](#) and UFE methodology, is available on the CERF's UFE [webpage](#).

## 9. Risk Management, Counterterrorism Measures and Sanctions

### Risk Sharing in Humanitarian Contexts Research

ICVA has launched a deep dive research on risk sharing among grantees and sub-grantees of pooled fund mechanisms, building on invaluable work by the [Risk Sharing Platform](#) co-led by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ICRC and [InterAction](#). The study in preparation for a workshop in December in Bangkok looks at risks faced by local and national NGOs and international NGOs and how these are managed and shared in the context of pooled funding mechanisms. The goal is to identify obstacles, best practices, and solutions that can be scaled across similar high-risk contexts, enhancing global humanitarian responses.

- For more information, please contact [elise.baudot@icvanetwork.org](mailto:elise.baudot@icvanetwork.org) and [manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org](mailto:manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org).

---

## Coordination

### 10. ICVA Humanitarian Coordination Working Group

The Humanitarian Coordination Working Group will resume regular meetings from September, with an invite and agenda to be sent to the working group mailing list directly.

### 11. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals

The former Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), Martin Griffiths, finished his posting on 30 June. The IASC Principals have not met since then, with the selection process for the next ERC still ongoing and this is reportedly the longest gap in leadership of the IASC since the position of ERC was created.

### 12. Emergency Directors Group (EDG)

The EDG has continued to meet weekly, with recent discussions on staff detentions in Yemen, the response in Occupied Palestinian Territory, the preparedness situation in Lebanon, the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sahel, and the scale-up of the response in Sudan, including the cross-border response from Chad.

### 13. Interagency Humanitarian Evaluations

Following the request of a number of IASC members including ICVA, the IASC has committed to develop a Management Response to the global, system-wide recommendations from the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations (IAHE) of the collective responses in [Afghanistan](#) and [northern Ethiopia](#). This presents an opportunity to use the findings of the IAHEs for ongoing advocacy efforts. Additionally, a broader analysis of recent IAHEs will be conducted in the future.

- For more information, please contact [jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org](mailto:jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org).

### 14. NGO Fora Support

ICVA offers tailored support for NGO forum governance and humanitarian coordination. The governance sessions cover the roles of the general assembly, steering committee, and hosts. They are available as informal advice or structured 90-minute presentations aimed at NGO forum directors, steering committee members, and forum participants. The humanitarian coordination sessions feature 90-minute presentations explaining the IASC coordination architecture, engagement strategies, and ways to influence global structures. They target senior NGO staff at the field level, such as country directors. All sessions are free and available on-demand.

- For more information, please contact [albertphilip.burger@icvanetwork.org](mailto:albertphilip.burger@icvanetwork.org).



## 15. OCHA – ICVA Advocacy and Communications Team (ACT)

The ACT met in July and August to prepare for the [World Humanitarian Day](#) and the Act for Humanity Campaign. Over 400 aid agencies signed the [Open Letter to the Member States](#) of the UN General Assembly calling for the protection of civilians, including their staff. The cost of inaction and the escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Sudan and Yemen were discussed. A learning event on harmful information was also conducted.

- For more information, please contact [eileen.morrow@icvanetwork.org](mailto:eileen.morrow@icvanetwork.org).

---

## Transforming our Network

### 16. Champion Principled Humanitarian Action

ICVA with the [Principled Humanitarian Action Steering Committee](#) have developed facilitator guidance and tools for strengthening decision-making clarity among humanitarian leaders in the face of humanitarian dilemmas. These tools have been tested and refined with NGO fora and ICVA members. If you wish to have a workshop on principled humanitarian action and navigating humanitarian dilemmas, contact [eileen.morrow@icvanetwork.org](mailto:eileen.morrow@icvanetwork.org).



### Launch of the Fourth Edition of the Professional Standards for Protection Work

ICVA contributed to the fourth edition of [The Professional Standards for Protection Work](#). This edition was developed through an ICRC-led consultation process that included UN agencies, NGOs, and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It reflects shared thinking and constitutes a set of minimum but essential standards aimed at ensuring that protection work carried out by human rights and humanitarian actors in armed conflict and other situations of violence is safe and effective.

### 17. Be Diverse, Inclusive and Live our Values

#### Child Rights

#### 2024 UNICEF-NGO Consultations Report

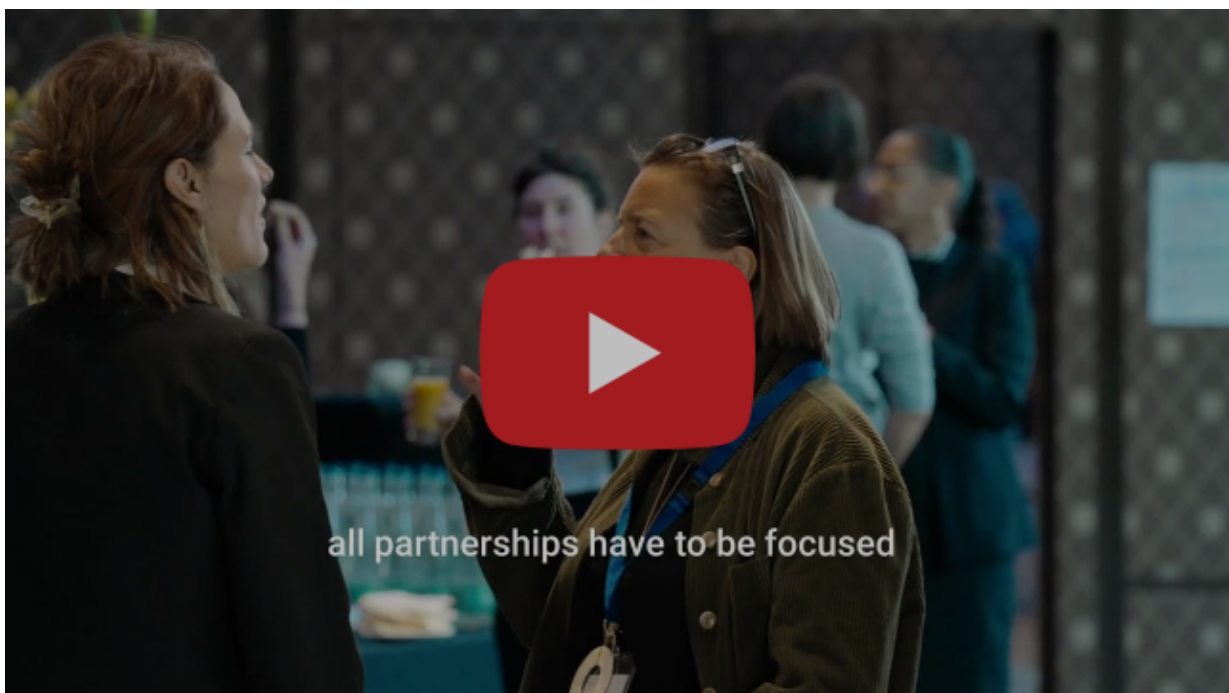


The report from the 2024 UNICEF-NGO Consultations held in Geneva from 16-17 April under the overarching theme of “Partnering for Children in the Climate Crisis” is out.

Jointly written by ICVA and UNICEF, the report outlines seven priority follow-up actions, key recommendations, and summarises key points from the six sessions of the two day event. This event gathered 145 participants, including representatives from 36 international NGOs, 21 national NGOs, 4 NGO networks, 4 United Nations agencies, along with UNICEF and ICVA colleagues.



[Read the report.](#)



Watch the above [video](#) introducing the UNICEF-NGO Consultations. Stay tuned for upcoming information from ICVA and UNICEF on the follow-up workshops linked to prioritised recommendations from the Consultations.

- For more information, please contact [vania.gobbo@icvanetwork.org](mailto:vania.gobbo@icvanetwork.org).

## Safeguarding

**Interagency Community Outreach and Communication Fund on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)**



In July, UNHCR and ICVA launched the fifth round of their Interagency PSEA Community Outreach and Communication [Fund](#). This year, the Fund is also receiving the support of the Office of the Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse ([OSCSEA](#)), helping the PSEA Outreach Fund to reach more people in need. The call for applications received nearly 2'000 applications from all parts of the world and covering all humanitarian contexts. The applications are now being reviewed and evaluated by a panel of experts from NGOs and UN agencies to select the successful applicants. We are grateful for the overwhelming interest shown in the PSEA Community Outreach and Communication Fund.

- For more information, please contact [alon.plato@icvanetwork.org](mailto:alon.plato@icvanetwork.org).

## **18. Proactively Engage in Agile Collaborative Partnerships**

### **Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus**

#### **Nexus Academy: Call for Applications**

Nominations are now open for the 10th and 11th trainings of the Nexus Academy, which is part of the DAC-UN Dialogue. The 10th cohort runs from 19 September to 10 October, while the 11th cohort runs from 19 November to 12 December. Applications are open until 6 September for the 10th cohort and 13 September for the 11th. The Academy is an online training program held every Tuesday and Thursday. It consists of 7 core modules developed through consultations and taught in English.

To be eligible for the Nexus Academy, you must be currently employed with an agency that participates in the DAC-UN Dialogue, an NGO/CSO partner, or a stand-by capacity with a demonstrated commitment to nexus approaches. [Apply now](#). For any questions, clarifications, or support contact [nexus.academy@undp.org](mailto:nexus.academy@undp.org).

- For more information, please contact [stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org](mailto:stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org).

## Region Specific

### 19. Africa

#### East and Southern Africa

#### ICVA's Collaborative Leadership Initiative



In July, ICVA, in collaboration with the South Sudan NGO Forum and its member Women and Children Protection Initiative, launched a leadership program for local women leaders and their organisations. This initiative is part of ICVA's efforts to support local and national NGOs, including those led by women and refugees, in decision-making and humanitarian coordination structures. In collaboration with UNOCHA and UN Women, ICVA is mapping Women-led Organisations (WLOs) across South Sudan to provide evidence of their status, institutional capacities, and engagement in coordination structures, aiding future engagement and advocacy.

Additionally, in July and August, ICVA hosted a four day leadership training workshop in Juba for 30 WLOs from South Sudan. The workshop aimed to improve their leadership skills, advocacy, coordination, and fundraising abilities. UNOCHA, UN Women, and NGO Forum experts provided guidance on humanitarian financing, coordination, and donor engagement. The training resulted in stronger partnerships between WLOs and UN agencies and identified action points for UNOCHA. It also provided a platform for WLOs from across the country to collaborate on collective advocacy efforts.

- For more information, please contact [addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org](mailto:addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org) or [nkirote.laiboni@icvanetwork.org](mailto:nkirote.laiboni@icvanetwork.org).

#### West and Central Africa

#### Participation in Pledge for Change Meeting in Dakar

On 13 August, ICVA participated in a meeting with Pledge for Change during the visit of the Pledge Director in Dakar. Pledge for Change embodies the commitment of 13 international NGOs and 50 supporters from various civil society organisations. The meeting explored how to support local leadership in West and Central Africa, identify and connect with existing initiatives, and leverage the support of the Pledge for Change secretariat in the region.

### **Regional IASC Meeting (RIASC)**

On 29 August, ICVA co-led the RIASC meeting. The meeting covered the UN regional Directors' mission to Central Sahel, including relations with local authorities and adapting assistance accordingly. WHO presented an update on the Mpox epidemic in the region. Additionally, the upcoming Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) conference for the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin in Jeddah on 26 October was discussed, including details on organisation and participation.

### **Participation in NRC's Regional Workshop on Partnership**

On 30 August, ICVA participated in a meeting organised by NRC to discuss localisation initiatives and strengthening the capacities of local actors. ICVA presented its initiatives to improve networking between INGOs and NGOs in the region, and efforts to build the capacities of NGOs and national NGO forums. Projects such as the Regional Barometer, mini grants for national NGOs and NGO forums, and the LOCAL project aimed at reducing due diligence processes for Local and National NGOs were highlighted.

### **Sahel Regional Fund (SRF): A Year in Review**

This summer, the [Sahel Regional Fund](#) reflected on its first year in operation and submitted its first annual report. The Fund management team is now preparing for a busy season of calls for proposals throughout the rest of the year. The board is concentrating on raising more funds to support future initiatives in the Sahel region.

- For more information, please contact [adeline.benita@icvanetwork.org](mailto:adeline.benita@icvanetwork.org) or [fatoumata.konate@icvanetwork.org](mailto:fatoumata.konate@icvanetwork.org).

## **20. Asia and the Pacific**

### **Mapping of Women-Led Organisations**

On 19 August, the regional Gender in Humanitarian Action group [launched the mapping of women-led and focused organisations](#) to provide more visibility and partnership opportunities. The dashboard is regularly updated and ICVA members and partners have contributed to it. If you are a national or local, women-led organisation that meets the criteria, please upload your organisational profiles [here](#).

### **Collaboration to Increase Resilience to Climate-Induced Displacement in Asia**

In July ICVA attended the policy dialogue on the Risk Index for Climate Change in Bangkok. IOM, the University of the Philippines Resilience Institute, and the Asian Institute of

Technology are collaborating on an initiative to increase understanding of the impacts of climate change on migration and displacement. By bringing together experts and practitioners in the region, improved forecasting will support governments and communities to increase the resilience of populations most likely to be impacted by climate-induced displacement. The initiative aims to avert or address loss and damage. For more information on how to engage regionally on the topic of climate displacement, please contact us at [asiaevent@icvanetwork.org](mailto:asiaevent@icvanetwork.org).

### **ICVA and Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN) Workshop**

In July, ICVA and CCHN held a three-day workshop for 22 Country Directors, Deputy Country Directors and Senior Managers to discuss humanitarian access and high-level engagement. The workshop focused on negotiation tools and global perspectives. Participants engaged in group work and role play to contextualize these tools to their existing access constraints, dilemmas, and negotiation challenges. As part of ICVA's principled engagement work, participants will join the CCHN Community of Practice and work with ICVA to discuss specific negotiation challenges with the INGO forum.

- For more information, please contact [keya.sahachaudhury@icvanetwork.org](mailto:keya.sahachaudhury@icvanetwork.org) or [asma.saleem@icvanetwork.org](mailto:asma.saleem@icvanetwork.org).

## **21. Latin America**

### **Cartagena+40 - Chile Declaration and Plan of Action**

The Cartagena+40 process is continuing with the development of the Chile Declaration and Action Plan 2024-2034. This plan will be implemented over the next ten years and will be adopted in December in Santiago, Chile. In August, Chile held a virtual meeting with local and international NGOs including ICVA members to present the initial draft of the plan. In September, a hybrid meeting was held at the UNHCR headquarters in Geneva where local and national organisations, and academia were present to negotiate and discuss the plan. The plan is aimed at addressing the challenges faced by refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons in the region. The adoption of this plan will be a significant step towards ensuring the protection and inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons in the region.

### **Fora Exchange in Latin America and the Caribbean**

The annual meeting of Humanitarian Forums from the region will take place in Bogota, Colombia, on 26-27 September. The meeting will include international, mixed, and local NGO Forums from Colombia, Venezuela, Haiti, Ecuador, Guatemala, and the LAC RMD Coalition. The purpose of the meeting is to share experiences and discuss topics related to governance, financing, and humanitarian architecture. This will be an opportunity for organisations to exchange ideas and collaborate on ways to improve their humanitarian efforts.

- For more information, please contact [lina.gomez@icvanetwork.org](mailto:lina.gomez@icvanetwork.org).

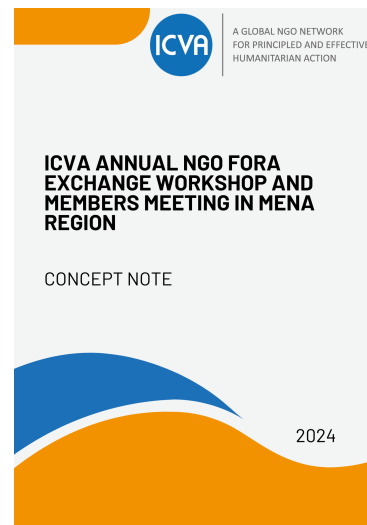
## **22. MENA**



## ICVA Annual NGO Fora Workshop, 8 - 10 October 2024

ICVA is organising the annual in person [NGO Fora workshop](#) in Amman on 8-10 October. This year's theme is focused on enhancing NGO coordination to promote effective humanitarian collaboration in challenging environments. The workshop will bring together NGO network representatives from various countries in the MENA region.

During the workshop, ICVA will also host a networking reception where members, NGO networks, and UN agencies can connect and share ideas.



### **Syria: Hear Our Voice ‘Civil Society Conversations on the Humanitarian Responses to the Syrian Crisis**

The Hear Our Voices conference in 2023 was a success, and the steering committee comprising representatives of different fora, ICVA, coordination mechanisms in and out of Syria and 3RP countries has decided to make it an annual event. This will give CSOs a chance to speak up about the Humanitarian Response in Syria and the surrounding areas. The second conference was held in Jordan in September, with over 100 actors from different CSOs, INGOs, and coordination mechanisms attending. The conference focussed on Early Recovery and Resilience, internal displacement in Syria, inclusion of refugees and the Nexus, and Localisation of Humanitarian Action in Practice. ICVA's MENA Representative has been working with other NGO networks to develop the agenda and organise the conference. Read more in the [Press Statement](#).

### **Gaza Crisis**

ICVA continues its support to NGOs in MENA by connecting and arranging meetings with key partners like OCHA ROMENA, UNRWA, and donors, and facilitating regular exchanges with Jordan, Palestine, and Egypt. ICVA also maintains its active presence at the regional advocacy working group, and regular exchange with the OCHA Jerusalem Advocacy Working Group. In July, ICVA convened a meeting between UNRWA and NGOs to discuss access and operational capacities in hard-to-reach areas, UNRWA developments, and future preparedness. Additionally, ICVA met with the NGO liaison from the office of Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza to learn about office priorities, inclusivity of NGOs, and future preparedness.

### **Potential Regional Escalation**

In response to the Gaza crisis, Houthis in Yemen and Hezbollah in Lebanon have launched several attacks on Israel. OCHA released a statement on [preventing region-wide escalation](#). ICVA is actively involved with the regional NGOs on preparedness action for potential regional escalation.

- For more information, please contact [eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org](mailto:eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org) or [stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org](mailto:stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org).

---

## Learning Opportunities



**23. Webinar - Catalysing Change: How Innovative Financing Can Fuel Humanitarian Progress:** ICVA and Humanitarian Leadership Academy are organising this webinar on 19 September. The webinar will explore cutting-edge financing models and their practical applications, with a focus on emerging trends that can enhance the impact and sustainability of humanitarian efforts.

[Register now.](#)

Secure your spot by meeting the deadline

### ONLINE COURSE ON PROTECTION IN MIXED MOVEMENTS

28 October – 29 November 2024  
2-3 sessions per week (live/self-paced)  
Registration deadline: 7 October 2024

 International Institute of Humanitarian Law - Sanremo, Italy  
Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law

**24. Online Course on Protection in Mixed Movements:** This [course](#) by International Institute of Humanitarian Law aims to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of mixed movements and the related legal and policy frameworks, as well as skills in implementing protection-sensitive entry systems.

[Register now.](#)

---

## New and Noteworthy

**25. Trends in Sexual Exploitation, Abuse & Harassment in the Aid Sector:** The CHS Alliance [report](#) delves into findings from a pilot report and six months of data on SEAH incidents, highlighting the need for improved policies, strategies, and actions to address this complex issue in volatile contexts.

**26. "We were seen, but were we heard?" Meaningful Refugee Participation at the Global Refugee Forum 2023, an Assessment by R-SEAT:** The [report](#) assesses the participation and perspectives of refugees in the Global Refugee Forum, highlighting barriers to their involvement and providing recommendations for future meetings of the global refugee regime.



**27. A War on People: The Human Cost of Conflict and Violence in Sudan:** MSF [report](#) draws on medical and operational data, along with patient testimonies, to provide a snapshot of violence in Sudan where MSF is working. It highlights patterns of violence, features of abuse, and health consequences for affected populations.

**28. Water War Crimes: How Israel has Weaponised Water in its Military Campaign in Gaza:** Oxfam's [report](#) reveals that the Government of Israel has weaponized water against Palestinians, violating human rights and international law in the current military operation in Gaza.

**29. Five Organisational Pathways for Enabling Meaningful Refugee Participation: A Step-by-Step Implementation Guide:** Cohere's [report](#) provides a step-by-step guide for international organisations to promote meaningful participation and leadership among refugees through strategies such as equitable partnerships and high-quality funding.

**30. Global Protection Update: The Continuity of Protection in a Context of Mission Withdrawals:** Focusing on second quarter 2024, [Global Protection Update](#) outlines the worsening state of civilian protection due to rising violence and conflicts, resulting in many casualties and mass displacement. It offers country-by-country updates on emerging protection trends and risks, with a focus on the challenges posed by UN mission withdrawals. The report highlights the efforts of Protection Clusters to maintain protection continuity amid these complexities.

**31. “I want a peaceful sky”: Education and Children’s Wellbeing in Wartime Ukraine:** Save the Children’s [report](#) highlights the devastating impact of the ongoing war in Ukraine on children's education and mental health, with two-thirds of children in frontline regions unable to attend school in person and almost half relying on remote education due to safety concerns.

**32. If Bullets Miss, Hunger Won’t - Beyond the Numbers: Hunger and Conflict in Sudan:** Mercy Corp, Norwegian Refugee Council and Danish Refugee Council / Dansk Flygtningehjælp [report](#) discusses how the conflict and violations of humanitarian law in Sudan have caused widespread suffering and starvation throughout the country.

**33. Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector (GADRRRES) Multilingual Glossary:** The [glossary](#), created by Clear Global in collaboration with GADRRRES, aims to improve communication and understanding in disaster risk reduction and resilience education by providing standardized terminology in 15 different languages.

**34. Security Risk Management (SRM) Strategy and Policy Development: A Cross-Functional Guide:** Global Interagency Security Forum and International Location Safety’s [guide](#) aims to help NGOs develop and implement a strong security risk management strategy and policy at an organisational level.

**35. Catalogue of Quality Funding Practices to the Humanitarian Response: 2nd Edition:** NRC’s [catalogue](#) highlights quality funding practices for humanitarian response and supports crisis responses across the humanitarian-development nexus.

## Mark your Agenda: Upcoming Events

**September 12 - 13:** [91st meeting of the UNCHR Standing Committee](#), Geneva

**September 19:** Catalysing Change: How Innovative Financing Can Fuel Humanitarian Progress. [Register](#).

**September 19 - 21:** [3rd Research Conference on Forced Displacement](#)

**September 21:** [Building a Better World Together: The Future of Humanitarian Action \(IASC High-Level side event at the Summit of the Future Action Days\)](#)

**September 23:** [Webinar: Addressing Sexual Misconduct Trends in the Aid Sector](#)

**October 14-18:** [75th plenary session of the UNHCR Executive Committee](#), Geneva

**October 16 - 17:** [Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub online conference](#)

**October 23-24:** 13th annual [AidEx](#) conference 2024, 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](#)

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

**December 18:** International Migrants Day

Forward the Bulletin to a Colleague



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

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

