



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

ICVA BULLETIN

Highlights from March 2019

Message from Executive Director

One step outside of our comfort zone.

It is hard for me to find words to express my feelings after what people are calling “*an incredible 2019 ICVA Annual Conference*”.

So many people told us about the information they gathered, ideas they exchanged with each other, the sense of connection they shared, during what seemed for many an important moment of the year.

We will soon be posting on our website the report of our Annual Conference and reports of the six strategic side meetings that took place 27 and 28 March 2019 under the theme “[Translating Commitments to Action](#)”.

The wrap up of the conference “[My take-aways in 1’000 words](#)” shares insights from the conference on good will, positive deviance, listening to people, trust and the power of not changing. It is followed by perspectives on ICVA’s future added value.

We now have the challenge of running [ICVA’s learning stream](#) throughout the year to reinforce the value of our central event theme: “Translating Commitments to Action”. We want to sustain the momentum and go one step further in what we did not achieve during the Annual Conference and the side meetings.

Today’s humanitarian environment is saturated with events. In participating to the ICVA Annual Conference and the subsequent learning stream, we want to make sure you are making good use of your valuable time and your generosity in inspiring and contributing to collective thinking.

We realize that we can do better and step further outside our comfort zone. We want to increase diversity of voices, the impact of messages and, when appropriate, the NGO unity in diversity.

If you didn’t get to attend the ICVA Annual Conference in 2019, please make sure you join our 2020 ICVA Annual Conference in Geneva on 17 March 2020, followed by side meetings on 18 and 19 March 2020.

We look forward to creating another impactful conference with you in 2020!

ICVA updates



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES **ANNUAL REPORT 2018**



1. ICVA 2018 Annual Report: ICVA's activities and achievements in 2018 can be found in our new annual report. Throughout the year we sought to harness ICVA's diversity, presence and position to advance NGO priorities in the areas of forced displacement, humanitarian partnership, coordination and financing. We also had a focus on accountability, shrinking space, localisation and the triple-nexus.

Download and read more in the [2018 Annual Report](#).

2. ICVA's 2015-2018 Impact Study: We are pleased to announce the publication of an external impact evaluation of our 2015-2018 strategy. The study looked at how ICVA has performed in the last four years while staying true to its four focus areas of forced displacement, humanitarian coordination, financing and partnership. While it is difficult to precisely describe the impact of ICVA's work, the report shows that being an analyser, coordinator, convener and trusted broker combined with our collaborative approach contributes to our success. Our work in building understanding of the humanitarian sector and its policies has been widely utilized and appreciated, though reaching greater numbers of small, less well-resourced NGOs, located in places closer to humanitarian crises continues to be a challenge. We have had considerable success in facilitating engagement on priority issues and processes for a diverse range of NGOs. Our regional hubs have been "force multipliers" for engagement and have the potential to go further. Want to know more?

Download and read the [full Report](#).

Forced migration

3. The Global Compact on Refugees:

- **NGOs meeting with UNHCR on the Global Refugee Forum:** On 4 March, ICVA organised a meeting for NGOs with Mr. Daniel Endres (Director, UNHCR's Division for Resilience and Solutions) and Ms. Perveen Ali (Senior Policy Advisor (Protection) and Head of the Global Refugee Forum Coordination Team). About 30 NGO representatives exchanged with UNHCR on the next phase for the Global Compact on Refugees, primarily the Global Refugee Forum. Updated information was provided on the organisational arrangements for the Forum, including opportunities for NGOs to engage in the preparations and the pledging process. Notes from the briefing are available to ICVA members [online](#).

- **First Global Refugee Forum preparatory meeting:** On 29 March, UNHCR organised the first in a series of three multi-stakeholder preparatory meetings for the Global Refugee Forum. ICVA has been asked to facilitate the drafting and delivery of collective NGO statements for this process. Two NGO statements were delivered on [Draft GCR indicators](#) and on the [Pledging process and sharing of good practices](#). Many thanks to all NGOs which contributed with inputs at short notice. Further details on preparations for the Forum can be found on [UNHCR's webpage](#). For further information on NGO engagement and how to contribute to statements, NGOs can contact jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org

4. UNHCR March Standing Committee: ICVA facilitated the drafting and delivery of seven collective NGO statements for the 74th Meeting of the High Commissioner's Standing Committee (5-7 March). The Statements focused on the situation in [Africa](#), [Americas](#), [Asia](#), [Europe](#), [MENA](#) as well as one statement each on [Partnership](#), and on [Preparations for the first Global Refugee](#). Many thanks to all NGOs which contributed with inputs. On 6 March, ICVA's Senior Policy Officer, Jerome Elie, also contributed to a side-event on "Expanding Labour Mobility Opportunities for Refugees in Africa". The next UNHCR Standing Committee will take place in June, particularly featuring exchanges on international protection and on the GCR.

5. UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations: UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations: Registration is open for the 2019 UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs (3-5 July). The deadline to register is 24 May 2019. UNHCR Partnership Section and ICVA Secretariat are working closely to finalise a meaningful agenda based on UNHCR and NGOs' inputs. Further information, including the concept note, a tentative schedule and details about the registration process and criteria, can be found on the website: www.unhcr.org/ngo-consultations. You can also contact partnership@unhcr.org or secretariat@icvanetwork.org

6. Forced Migration: The Civil Society Action Committee, co-convened by ICMC, NGO Committee on Migration and ICVA, is leading a consultation process on future civil society engagement in global migration governance. Interested? All the relevant

information can be found on the following NEW website: www.csengagement.org (key documents are available in English, Spanish, French and Arabic). Webinar on this consultation Wednesday, 17 April 2019, from 3:00-4pm. Please [register here](#) by 16 April.

The consultation of the UN Network on Migration (see [terms of reference](#)) with Civil Society and other Stakeholders on 4 April in Geneva, offered the opportunity for reflections and inputs on a first draft of the UN Network on Migration's work plan as well as on the terms of Reference for the Start-Up Fund for Migration. The Global Compact on Migration calls for the establishment of a capacity building mechanism in the UN.

7. Internally displaced persons (IDPs): On 8 March, ICVA hosted an informal roundtable discussion on the situation of internally displaced persons in Libya, with Ms. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons. Participants included NGO representatives and delegates from UN Agencies.

Financing

8. The Grand Bargain: The window for submission for the annual self-reporting to the Grand Bargain Secretariat is now closed. As with the 2017 reporting, ODI will again provide an independent analysis of the self-reports and of progress in the Grand Bargain overall. The Independent Annual Report will be released in advance of the Grand Bargain annual meeting of signatories, which will take place in Geneva the last week of June this year.

9. Harmonized Narrative Reporting Pilot: The Harmonized Narrative Reporting Pilot led by Germany and ICVA in Iraq, Myanmar, and Somalia is entering the final phase of the formal pilot, which will conclude at the end of May. For NGO partners participating in the reporting, either directly or as recipients of UNHCR or OCHA funding, please be sure to use the harmonized 8+3 reporting template for any remaining 2018 year-end reporting. Alex Gauss from GPPi is also conducting a final round of consultations with NGO partners at the country level to support the final review of the pilot. If you have any questions about the Harmonized Narrative Reporting Pilot, please contact jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org.

10. UN-NGO face-to-face meeting on UN contract analysis: On 28 March, NGO met in Geneva with representatives from UNHCR, OCHA, WFP, UNICEF, and UNFPA to discuss the initial findings from a new Oxfam-led analysis of UN partnership agreements. This initial dialogue was an important step forward in reviving the joint UN-NGO discussion on simplification and harmonization of systems and tools to help reduce burdens on partners and improve efficiency. It was generally agreed at the meeting to carry forward a quarterly virtual consultation on improving partnership between UN and NGOs, combined with an annual in-person consultation. Detailed notes on agreed next steps will be released shortly, as well as information on how to be engaged in the dialogue. For further information contact alon.plato@icvanetwork.org.

11. InterAction study on risk: In March, InteAction presented the second phase of its research on issues of risk and risk management produced by Humanitarian Outcomes. This work focuses significantly on the issues of risk transfer as funds move toward national level NGO partners, and provides a set of helpful conclusions and recommendations on how to strengthen partnerships. Download and read the [complete report](#).

Coordination

12. IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG):

- Throughout March the EDG had multiple calls on the scale up **response to Tropical Cyclone Idai** and resulting crises in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. ICVA actively contacted NGOs operating in the response to convey their key messages at the multiple calls on the crisis. See Mozambique Humanitarian Response plan <https://reliefweb.int/report/mozambique/2018-2019-mozambique-humanitarian-response-plan-november-2018-june-2019-revised>
- EDG also had teleconference calls on the **humanitarian situation in Burkina Faso**. NGOs have expressed concern about the increasingly complex security situation in the country affecting social cohesion, access to education, and the situation of the vulnerable IDP population. There was overall agreement to make protection a cross cutting issue in the response and to strengthen civil-military coordination capacity.
- IASC Humanitarian System-Wide **Scale-Up Activation Protocol for the Control of Infectious Disease Events**. The [protocol](#) is aligned with IASC Humanitarian System-Wide Scale-Up Protocols of November 2018 and is tailored to reflect the humanitarian response taking into consideration the potential evolution of an infectious disease event.

For more information contact emmanuelle.osmond@icvanetwork.org

13. IASC perational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG): the first OPAG meeting will take place in Geneva on 11 and 12 April. Two ICVA members have been selected to participate with ICVA at the OPAG. The organisations' representatives are Mary Pack, Vice President, Humanitarian Leadership and Partnerships at International Medical Corps (IMC), USA, and Azmat Khan, Chief Executive Officer Foundation for Rural Development (FRD), Pakistan. They will join Mirela Shuteriqi, ICVA director of Policy at the OPAG meetings.

(Reminder that under the [new IASC architecture](#) OPAG accountable to the ERC and the IASC Principals, and the 5 results group are accountable to the OPAG).

For more information contact mirela.shuteriqi@icvanetwork.org

14. IASC results groups: Appointment of the Co-Chairs of the IASC Results Groups as follows:

Results Group 1 - Operational Response:

Mr. Ramesh Rajasingham, Director, Coordination Division, OCHA
Mr. Julian Schopp, Director, Humanitarian Practice, InterAction

Results Group 2 - Accountability and Inclusion:

Mr. Sikander Khan, Director, Geneva Office of Emergency Programmes, UNICEF
Ms. Bernadette Castel-Hollingsworth, Deputy Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR

Results Group 3 - Collective Advocacy:

Mr. Dereje Wordofa, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA
Mr. Michel Anglade, Director and UN Representative, Geneva Advocacy Office, Save the Children

Results Group 4 - Humanitarian-Development Collaboration:

Ms. Marta Valdes Garcia, Deputy Humanitarian Director, Oxfam
Ms. Awa Dabo, Team Leader, Policy and Engagement Team, Crisis Bureau, UNDP

Results Group 5 - Humanitarian Financing:

Ms. Marcy Vigoda, Chief, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Branch, Humanitarian Financing and Resource Mobilization Division, OCHA
Mr. Jeremy Rempel, Head, Humanitarian Financing, ICVA

15. NGO Fora Support

· **South Sudan NGO Forum – NGO Recruitment Guidelines dissemination:** The NGO Forum in South Sudan has achieved a remarkable result working together with the Government around the NGO Recruitment Guidelines. The guidelines, attached for your reference, provides practical steps and requirements, for the recruitment of personnel in the NGO sector. Crucially they contain detailed guidance on how to conduct the recruitment in line with legal requirements and NGOs principles. We are convinced that the guidelines can provide useful information to NGOs and NGO Fora also outside South Sudan, providing a useful example and precedent toward a principled and legally bound process in all contexts. marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org.

· **NGO fora exchange program** In the framework of ICVA's support to NGO Fora we have launched the pilot phase of the NGO fora exchange programme. The first exchange will be hosted by the Somalia NGO consortium (SNC) and will bring three fora from different regions together to learn from each other. Together with the SNC, participating fora are the Nigeria International Ngo Forum and ACBAR NGO Forum in Afghanistan. The peer to peer exchange will include sharing best practices on governance and member engagement, and lessons learnt. It will also focus on specific approaches linked to the innovative NGO twinning programme that ACBAR and the SNC has conducted. Participants will spend approximately 10 days working together across different countries in the Horn of Africa. See the [concept note of the initiative](#). More information contact Addis.Tesfa@icvanetwork.org

· **Our www.ngocoordination.org website has a new look!** The revised site aims to allow easy access to essential resources for NGO coordination in humanitarian access. The French and Arabic version will be available in the weeks to come. Please share any materials you would like to see featured on the website by sending an email to: ngocoordination@icvanetwork.org

. **Power of Collective Action:** ICVA released a video about the importance of collective action in delivering humanitarian assistance.

[Watch the video.](#)

Feel free to share it with your networks to illustrate how fora work towards effective and principled humanitarian action.



Navigating change: cross cutting issues

14. Humanitarian-development nexus:

A [joint steering committee](#) (JSC) has been set up to advance humanitarian and development collaboration. This new mechanism established by UNSG as part of UN reforms (see [TOR for committee](#)). A JSC delegation (UNDP and OCHA, but without agency affiliation) mission in Burkina and Niger to perform a country review in the framework of the priority countries set by the UN Deputy SG took place in March. ICVA has worked with the mission's leaders to ensure meetings with NGOs in Ouagadugu to hear NGOs positions, recommendations, concerns and contributions. For more information contact Marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org

15. Localization:

ICVA's Executive Director, Ignacio Packer, in collaboration with representatives of ICVA members the Refugees Consortium of Kenya (RCK) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) facilitated a debate among NGOs in Nairobi on the challenges surrounding the localization debate. Discussions based around elements in ICVA's briefing paper *Localization Examined*, bringing in participants' experiences and the state of the localization process in the region. More information contact marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org

16. Civil society space:

ICVA preparing for a support service to NGOs in NGO Bills across Africa. In Africa, a growing number of countries are currently revising or planning to revise NGO legal frameworks and NGO bills. So far, the processes have proven to challenge NGOs

legal and operational space, in some cases, with mounting restrictions and obstacles to principled aid. Based on the experiences collected, including in Nigeria, Chad, Central African Republic, Somalia and South Sudan, ICVA is looking at practical ways to support its members and the NGO community in general. We are drafting terms of reference for a consultancy to support mapping and analysis that can help and guide, in a tailored way, NGOs, Fora and organisations engaged with governments on NGO Bills processes. Contact marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org to share interest, specific needs and experience.

17. Safeguarding:

- ICVA has joined the **Cross-Sector Safeguarding Steering Group (CSSG)**, a forum focused on delivering the [18 October 2018 Safeguarding Summit Commitments](#). Convened by DFID, the CSSG is composed of independent voices and representatives from key organisations across the sector: donors, private sector, CDC & Gavi, research funders, UN, IFIs and NGOs (Bond and ICVA). The forum, in a light touch process, will report back on progress on delivering commitments from the October summit.

- The Department for International Development (DFID) is seeking to convene an **Independent Reference group (IRG)** (see [Terms of Reference](#)) to provide technical support and guidance to inform DFID's approach to work on tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in the aid sector. The IRG will be made up of no more than 20 individuals (of which at least two from NGOs). If interested, please ensure completed forms are returned by 1st May to a-grindle@dfid.gov.uk.

- A [dedicated webpage](#) on the Inter-Agency Scheme for the Disclosure of Safeguarding-related Misconduct in Recruitment Process within the Humanitarian and Development Sector is now available. The ICVA Secretariat has signed up to this scheme.

- [Fund for investigations into sexual exploitation, abuse, and sexual harassment](#). To bolster confidence that reported incidents of SEA or sexual harassment will be investigated quickly and competently, OCHA has established an [investigations fund](#). The fund provides rapid grants to IASC organisations and affiliated partners who lack access to sufficient dedicated or internal investigations capacity for cases of SEA against beneficiaries or Sexual Harassment against Aid Workers.

New and Noteworthy

18. Call for information and materials: Understanding and Measuring the Effectiveness of gender-based violence (GBV) Risk Mitigation in Emergencies: UNICEF and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) are conducting a two-year research project (2019 – 2020) focused on better understanding how humanitarian actors and service providers in emergencies are reducing the risks of gender-based violence in

their work. See their [Call for Materials](#). This research project is strongly aligned with the IASC GBV Guidelines roll-out that has taken place since 2015. For more information on the GBV Guidelines, visit gbvguidelines.org.

19. Launch of the report “[More Than One Million Pains”: Sexual Violence against Men and Boys on the Central Mediterranean Route to Italy.](#)” The Women’s Refugee Commission is undertaking a 3-country exploratory study on sexual violence against refugee men and boys, including those with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. The findings and recommendations in this report aim to help international and national humanitarian agencies improve protection mechanisms and strengthen services for at-risk men and boys and male sexual violence survivors in Italy.

20. A Middle East and North Africa network of refugee-led organisations to increase refugee self-representation in policy discussions. In Fall 2019, the Global Refugee Led Network (GRN) will facilitate a Summit in Turkey for refugee leaders in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) to build a MENA chapter of the Network. For more information [click on this link](#).

21. Digital technologies: The United Nations Department for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue have just launched the “[Toolkit on Digital Technologies and Mediation in Armed Conflict](#)”, a resource that explores the opportunities and risks that digital technologies offer to the field of mediation in conflict analysis, engagement with parties, inclusivity and strategic communications.

Forthcoming Events

May 13-17: Global Platform for DRR, Geneva

May 22-24: 2019 Asia Pacific humanitarian Leadership Conference, Melbourne

May 23: Civil Society meeting for Closing the Gaps, Oslo

May 23-24: Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises high-level international conference, Oslo

May 29: IASC Principals meeting, Geneva

June 20: World Refugee Day

June 18-20: 75th UNHCR Standing Committee meeting, Geneva

June 19-20: UNHCR NGO MENA regional consultations, Amman

June 24-26: ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), Geneva

June 25: Second preparatory meeting for Global Refugee Forum, Geneva

June 27: Grand Bargain Sherpa meeting, Geneva

June 28: Good Humanitarian Donorship High Level Meeting, Geneva

July 1: Refugee Legal Empowerment convening, Geneva

July 1-3: Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR), Geneva

July 3-5: UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations, Geneva, Geneva

August 12: 70th anniversary of Geneva Conventions
August 19: World Humanitarian Day

September 17-30: 74th Session of the UN General Assembly, New York

September 18-19: UNHCR 76th Standing Committee Meeting, Geneva

September 23: UN 2019 Climate Summit, New York

September 30 to October 9 : 74th Session of the UN General Assembly – General debate, New York

October 7: 65th Anniversary Nansen Refugee Award, Geneva

October 7-11: UNHCR 70th Executive committee meeting

October 15-16: IOM's International Dialogue on Migration, Geneva

November 14: Third preparatory meeting for Global Refugee Forum, Geneva

November 25-29: Global Forum on Migration, Quito, Ecuador

November 26-29: IOM – 110th Council, Geneva

December (TBD): IASC Principals meeting

December 5: UNHCR Pledging Conference, Geneva

December 9-12 : 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent - "Act today, shape tomorrow", Geneva

December 17-18: 1st Global Refugee Forum, Geneva