

ICVA Bulletin - highlights from April 2019

ICVA Secretariat

Fri 03/05/2019 14:54

To: ICVA Secretariat <secretariat@icvanetwork.org>



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

ICVA BULLETIN

Highlights from April 2019

Message from Executive Director

Words kill

Words can be instruments of violence and can be as deadly as a machete, a gun or a bomb.

As Sri Lanka reels from the Easter Sunday bombings, its leaders dispute apparent intelligence failure, assign blame and respond to the violence. The decision to block most social media after the attacks may have been motivated by security concerns, but left a vacuum of information, fueling confusion and giving little reassurance to a population that hoped to have left daily terror in its history.

In the wake of the Sri Lanka bombings, leaders of the world were quick to denounce these acts of terrorism. But in many cases, these are the same leaders scapegoating and using a toxic, dehumanising “us and them” rhetoric.

In this instance, as in many others, even without evidence, public opinion is fueled by suspicions and rumors that even further divide, including of “retaliation”.

Words have consequences. Silence can be deadly.

The “us and them” rhetoric creates a more divided and dangerous world and has an increasingly pervasive impact on policy and action. Governments have diluted the UN rape-in-conflict resolution, turn a blind eye to war crimes, push through deals that undermine the right to claim asylum, [pass laws that violate free expression](#), unlawfully send refugees back to countries where their rights are at risk and promote distrust and fear.

We need a “they are us” rhetoric such as with the immediate New Zealand leadership declaration about Muslim victims in Christchurch. This reminds the world how unity can be brought from a tragedy, how words of tolerance reduce marginalisation of communities and societal polarisation.

Ignacio Packer
Executive Director ICVA

Forced migration

1. Global Compact on Refugees: ICVA continues its involvement to support NGO engagement with the implementation of the various elements of the Compact, contributing to exchanges with UNHCR and other actors. ICVA is particularly working to familiarise NGOs with the recently issued guidance on [Pledges and Contributions](#); [Good Practices and Co-sponsorship mechanisms](#). Note that UNHCR has also released a [short summary of discussions](#) held during the first preparatory meeting as well as a [Note for Discussion on the Asylum Capacity Support Group](#). ICVA also contributed to discussions related to the three-year strategy on resettlement and complementary pathways foreseen in the GCR.

2. UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations: UNHCR has updated the draft agenda for the 2019 UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs (3-5 July). The new version can be found [here](#), particularly featuring a reorganised third day focused on the role of NGOs in broadening the base of support and in mobilising engagement towards the Global Refugee Forum around the five thematic priorities: education, jobs and livelihoods, energy and infrastructure, solutions, and protection capacity. NGOs interested in participating are reminded that the **deadline for registration is 24 May** (more information on the [UNHCR dedicated page](#)).

Note that UNHCR is also working to organise consultations at regional level. While the **Africa Regional consultations have been postponed**, a consultation for the MENA region is set to take place in Amman, Jordan on 20-21 June. UNHCR has **opened registrations for this event in Amman over the period 25 April to 6 May**. Interested NGOs should consult [this web page](#).

3. Vacancy at UNHCR: In relation to [Volker Türk's appointment as Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination](#), UNHCR is identifying suitable candidates who may be interested in being considered for the post of Assistant High Commissioner for Protection (TOR), together with candidates from within UNHCR. Applications should be sent to recruitment.AHC-P@unhcr.org by 20 May 2019.

4. Venezuelan humanitarian crisis: On 12 April, ICVA hosted a discussion with NGOs and other actors on the situation of Venezuelan women and children seeking refuge with a particular focus on the protection of women and girls. This meeting took place on the occasion of the release of the Women's Refugee Commission's report: [The Time to Act is Now: Addressing Risks of Exploitation for Venezuelan Women and Children Seeking Refuge](#).

5. ICVA will be participating in the IGAD Regional Secretariat Conference on Forced Displacement and Mixed Migration in the East and Horn of Africa (8-10 May 2019) in Nairobi, Kenya. More information contact Addis.Tesfa@icvanetwork.org

6. Internally displaced persons (IDPs): As a member of the GP20 Steering Group and IDP Participation workstream, ICVA contributed to the organisation of an upcoming webinar on **Confronting the Barriers to IDP Women and Girls' Participation in Humanitarian Settings** (8 May, 9am NY / 3pm Geneva / 5pm Nairobi time). This will be an opportunity to learn about the linkages between gender equality and internal displacement as well as IDP women and girls' participation in Niger, South Sudan and other contexts. Further details, including online connection details available [here](#).

Financing

7. The Grand Bargain: On the 7 April, ICVA MENA organised a session with the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPI), updating the NGOs community in Amman on the humanitarian reform agenda and the new harmonized reporting template. A particular emphasis on the lessons learned from the pilot countries harmonizing reporting template ("8+3 template"), set to become the new global standard on project reporting. Germany and ICVA co-convened the Work Stream on Harmonizing and simplifying reporting requirements.

8. IASC Humanitarian Finance Results Group (RG): As noted below, the new IASC RG on Humanitarian Finance is in the last stages of finalising a workplan to guide the group through early 2020. Work will be focused on two strategic priorities: deepening and widening the resource base to reduce the humanitarian funding gap; and supporting the implementation of more flexible and simplified funding models, including multi-year funding, reduced earmarking, and harmonised UN systems. NGO membership in the RG is currently more limited than in the past, so we are working between the networks (ICVA, InterAction, and SCHR) to try and balance representation in the group. For ICVA members, we will also work through the ICVA Humanitarian Finance Working Group to share updates and gather input

from members who are not officially part of the IASC RG. If you have questions, or a specific interest in the topics above, contact jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org.

Coordination

9. Inter-agency Standing Committee (IASC) updates:

Emergency Directors Group (EDG): On 18 April, the EDG discussed the situation on Syria with the RHC, Panos Moutzism the Deputy RHC, Mark Cutts and the Syria HC a.i. Fran Equiza. Mathieu Rouquette, the representative of the SIRF, was also invited to the conversation. The discussion mainly focused on the humanitarian coordination architecture of the Syria response.

Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG): Established as part of the IASC reform, the OPAG supports the normative and strategic policy work of the IASC, including on system-wide policy matters with direct bearing on humanitarian operations. OPAG is responsible for overseeing the work of the Results Groups (RGs). The discussions on this first meeting held in Geneva 11-12 April 2019 focused on the membership and working methods of OPAG and the five RGs, as well as their linkages with other existing structures. Drive is for OPAG and the RGs to be effective, nimbler, results- and field oriented. There was also a strong call for a high participatory process and diversity in membership. Although it was decided that membership remains limited to IASC members to ensure accountability, the RGs were asked to reach out to all relevant stakeholders and involve them in the process. ICVA's advocacy on diversity and ensuring national NGOs from countries ranking high in the [Human Development Index](#) met success. OPAG also looked at the draft working plans of the RGs, which will be finalised once the recommendations given by OPAG are reflected.d.

Country and regional updates from humanitarian leadership: During April ICVA hosted discussions with NGOs and the following humanitarian coordination leaders: Ute Kollias HoOCHA Mali, Aenes Chuma, RC/HC a.i. for Ethiopia, Ian Ridley, HoOCHA Afghanistan, and Geoge Khoury, OCHA Regional Director MENA. For more information about these meetings contact Emmanuelle.Osmond@icvanetwork.org

10. Protecting civilians in armed conflict: Yemeni and global NGOs have called on the French government to stop arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the Emirates, and the German government to extend its moratorium of arms sales to Saudi Arabia. More information [in English](#), and in French [here](#) and [here](#).

11. ECOSOC:

The **2019 Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS)** will be held in Geneva from 24-26 June. Its overarching theme "*Promoting action to save lives, reach those in need and reduce humanitarian risk, vulnerability and need: looking towards the seventieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the climate summit called for by the Secretary-General*" emphasises, inter alia, the importance of connectivity between climate change and human actions. The HAS will include a General Debate, 2 high-level panels, action on the annual ECOSOC humanitarian resolution and around 15 side events. For more information, please consult this [webpage](#).

ECOSOC Consultative Status: Application deadline is 1 June 2019. The NGO Branch of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs invites those among civil society who do not yet hold ECOSOC consultative status to apply in order to be considered to participate in all relevant events at the UN, including those on international migration under the auspices of the General Assembly. Click on the following for [more information](#). Read the [NGOs Guide on Consultative Status](#). To apply [click here](#).

12. NGO Fora Support:

Fora exchange programme: ICVA conducted the first exchange programme from 6-13 April 2019. The peer to peer exchange included selected fora from Africa and Asia. Peers from three international and mixed fora, the Somalia NGO Consortium (Somalia), the NIF

(Nigeria) and ACBAR (Afghanistan) met in Hargeissa, Somaliland to discuss and exchange on best practices and innovative approaches to membership engagement, governance and capacity building. ICVA will build on this experience and facilitate further exchanges. For more information contact Addis.Tesfa@icvanetwork.org.

NGO flood appeal: International Consortium for Refugees in Iran (ICRI) appeals to interested NGOs to facilitate cooperation in response to the recent floods in Iran. For more information [see appeal](#) or contact icriprojects@outlook.com

Navigating change: cross cutting issues

13. Humanitarian-development nexus:

ICVA will join WFP to co-facilitate a **community of practice on the humanitarian-development nexus**, an activity included in the work of the IASC Result Group 4. For more information contact Marco.Rotelli@icvanetwork.org

The **2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction** will take place in Geneva from 13-17 May 2019. This event is the leading vehicle of the international community for wide-ranging and comprehensive discussions on understanding and managing risk and is a key global event for UNDRR (formerly UNISDR) that brings together actors working in key themes of resilience, disaster risk management and climate change. More information [click here](#).

14. The new World Bank Group strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence: ICVA participated in a consultation meeting organised by the World Bank Group on its new strategy for [Fragility, Conflict and Violence](#). The World Bank Group is developing its first formal strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV). The objective of the strategy is to address the drivers of FCV in affected countries and their impact on vulnerable populations, with the goal of contributing to peace and prosperity. To ensure the strategy benefits from a wide range of inputs, the WBG has organised two phases of consultations with stakeholders during which [NGOs are invited to give their feedback and inputs](#).

See also [ICVA 2018 World Bank briefing paper](#).

15. Localization:

Understanding Capacity and Complementarity: ICVA participated in a workshop series organised by ODI-HPG on the topics of capacity and complementarity as it relates to the localization of humanitarian action. The [two-year project](#) sought to clarify these concepts, and explore the capacity of local, national and international actors to respond to humanitarian needs in different contexts.

World Humanitarian Action Forum: Planning for the 2019 World Humanitarian Action Forum is now underway. The event will take place in Istanbul on 15-16 October, hosted by the Humanitarian Forum and the Turkish Red Crescent Society. ICVA is supporting preparations through the Steering Groups on topics of Localization and Finance. Other groups are focused on Resilience and Conflicts. For more information, contact whaf@humanitarianforum.org.

Bangladesh Rohingya Response: ICVA is supporting the NGO Platform for the Bangladesh Rohingya Response with the establishment of its new Localization and Partnerships Working Group which will work to help the platform's members in their approach to [principled partnerships](#) and how to engage on issues related to localization. The NGO Platform is currently recruiting a [Partnership Coordinator](#) to support the work of this group.

ICVA has also advised on the **TORs for a Localization Task Force** which will be formed to develop a Localization Roadmap for the response, following the recommendations made by the [Grand Bargain Localization Workstream Mission](#).

16. PSEA Coordinator Consultations: On 8-9 May, IOM will hold a consultation of the future role of protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) Coordinators. The

workshop aims to identify how best to build the capacity of existing and future in-country PSEA Coordinators. ICVA has been invited to attend the workshop to contribute to discussion on how engagement of NGOs and in-country NGO networks in collective PSEA programs can be strengthened. If you have had experience with PSEA coordination in your context and would like to make any comments, please direct these to ICVA Director of Policy Mirela Shuteriqi Mirela.shuteriqi@icvanetwork.org by COB 7 May.

New and noteworthy

17. Sphere Handbook – New training pack: Sphere has just released an updated version of its [comprehensive training pack](#) to support humanitarian professionals wishing to learn more about Sphere and humanitarian standards or deliver training themselves.

18. Caring for Children Moving Alone: Online course - Learn about unaccompanied and separated refugee and migrant children. Starts 27 May for six weeks. Free. [More information.](#)

19. Building a better response: This project is celebrating the milestone of having reached 50,000 registrants to the e-learning course. Learning resources are available at: www.BuildingABetterResponse.org

20. Large-Scale UN Response Needed to Address Health and Food Crises in Venezuela: [Human Rights Watch report](#) on the extent of the humanitarian crisis Venezuelans are fleeing, and the impact on health systems in receiving countries.

21. Solving stateless in Europe: European Network on Statelessness – publishes [new strategic plan 2019-2023](#)

Forthcoming events

May 5-6: IASC Humanitarian Coordinators' Retreat, Lausanne

May 7: Humanitarian Donor Evolution and Importance of Partnerships, Geneva

May 8: Member States briefing on the Sahel, OCHA, Geneva

May 9: Member States meeting on DRC meeting, OCHA, Geneva

May 10: Member States meeting on Ida and Kenneth, Geneva

May 13-17: Global Platform for DRR, Geneva

May 16: IASC Results Group 5 (Finance) F2F, Geneva

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

May 23-24: Global Protection Cluster Annual meeting, Bangkok

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 4-7: OECD Civil Society Days, Paris

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

June 26-18 July: Caux Forum 2019 – Developing the human potential for global change

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 Dialogue on Migration, Geneva

October 15-16: World Humanitarian Action Forum, Istanbul

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

November (TBD): IASC OPAG Meeting

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

ICVA
Avenue Giuseppe-Motta 26-28
Geneva, GE CH 1202
Switzerland
secretariat@icvanetwork.org
www.icvanetwork.org



[Unsubscribe](#)