

Subject: ICVA Bulletin-Highlights from February 2019

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From: ICVA Secretariat <secretariat@icvanetwork.org>



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

ICVA BULLETIN

Highlights from February 2019

We mourn the loss of lives in the 10 March East African crash. Our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of colleagues and others we have lost.

Ignacio Packer, ICVA ED, on behalf of the ICVA Secretariat

Message from Executive Director

Are we being impactful?

ICVA's new strategic period is just kicking in. While we are already busy engaging with our members and preparing our upcoming [ICVA Annual Conference](#), "Translating Commitments into Action", let's also take a step back and consider our impact.

Impact is about "marked effect or influence". And this is what ICVA cares about. In order to achieve our mission of influencing humanitarian policy and practice we need to better define, understand and leverage our impact. This is a core element of our new [Strategy](#), which stresses our efforts to measure and report on performance targets, and regularly commission assessments of our work and impact. Our recent [Theories of Change](#) aim to serve as a reference to decide priorities and determine investments of energy.

Sometimes figures speak for themselves, sometimes measuring impact is subtle. But in many cases, we have more impact than we think. We recently commissioned an independent review of our impact from 2015 to 2018 which highlights ICVA's added value.

Supporting evidence highlights the value of our contribution, and appreciation of our role as a trusted broker and convener. Results from this study will be shared at the end of the month at the Annual Conference and will help guide our efforts in remaining accountable amongst others to our members.

ICVA will strive to live up to this high level of accountability, choosing our priorities wisely to continuously increase impact for the benefit of our members and the populations they serve.

Ignacio Packer
Executive Director | ICVA

ICVA Updates



1. Our Annual Conference is this month!

Joining the discussions on “[Translating commitments to action](#)” will be **Mark Lowcock**, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator; **Filippo Grandi**, the High Commissioner for UNHCR; **Ambassador David Donoghue**, Chair of the Board of Trustees of Conciliation Resources; **Ms Shaheen Kassim-Lakha**, Director of International Programmes Conrad Hilton Foundation, and **Ms Mayumi Endo**, Deputy Director, Development Cooperation Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Check out the [overview agenda](#) and [background reading](#).

2. New Director of Policy: It is our great pleasure to announce that, on 1 April, Mirela Shuteriqi will be joining the ICVA Secretariat as Director of Policy. Mirela is a human rights lawyer from Albania with a long track record on humanitarian and development issues. Mirela combines experience at national level, regional and global level with the Albanian Media Institute, the NGO sector and, more recently, with UN agencies. Mirela will be succeeding Melissa Pitotti.

Melissa has been key in the development of ICVA in the recent years and has led a number of policy initiatives with ICVA since 2012. We are most grateful to Melissa. No doubt that many of us will remain in contact with her.

3. Vacancy: ICVA is seeking a policy officer to support our work related to forced migration. For more information see the [vacancy notice](#).

Forced Migration

4. Global Compact on Refugees

· **UNHCR briefing on complementary pathways:** On 8 February, ICVA attended a briefing organised by UNHCR’s Division of International Protection on complementary pathways. Increasing opportunities for complementary pathways is a key objective of the three-year resettlement strategy, one of the key responsibility-sharing mechanisms in the Refugee Compact. The discussions aimed at building consensus on what is meant by complementary pathways, with participants underlining the importance of additionality. NGOs actively participated in the discussions highlighting the criticality of partnerships with States and the private sector in unlocking economic and educational pathways for refugees. Notes from the briefing will soon be made available to ICVA members.

- **Meeting on GCR indicators:** In late February, ICVA organised a meeting with Mr. Ewen Macleod, Special Adviser on Development at UNHCR, who is coordinating the process to develop indicators for the Global Compact on Refugees within the UN's Refugee Agency. At the meeting, Mr. MacLeod outlined recent progress made in the process as well as next steps. NGOs remain interested in contributing to collective reflections on relevant GCR indicators.

- **Global Refugee Forum:** The first-ever Global Refugee Forum will take place on 17-18 December 2019. In the lead up to the Forum, UNHCR will organise three preparatory meetings in Geneva. NGOs will have opportunities to contribute through collective statements, coordinated through ICVA. The first preparatory meeting will be held on 29 March 2019. More information on the roadmap towards the first Global Refugee Forum can be found [here](#). NGOs are also encouraged to consult the recently launched UNHCR dedicated [web page](#) for further information, including future background documents.

- **GCR discussion at UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations (3-5 July):** The Annual Consultations, co-organised by ICVA and UNHCR, dedicate substantial time to discussing the GCR implementation, particularly planning for the Global Refugee Forum and how NGOs can best contribute. NGOs are looking forward to ensuring this represents a major and concrete landmark on the way to the Global Refugee Forum.

5. Chad workshops on CRRF and whole-of-society: Thanks to support from the US Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), ICVA and UNHCR facilitated two whole-of-society workshops in N'Djamena, Chad on 11-12 February. The meetings aimed to reinforce the understanding of the whole-of-society approach and contribute to the CRRF implementation in Chad. Gathering NGOs, UNHCR, the Chadian refugee administration and other actors, the workshops highlighted important dimensions linked to promoting refugee inclusion and self-reliance particularly through a *villagisation* strategy and projects supported by the World Bank and the European Union. The workshop was also an opportunity to increase understanding of the recently adopted Refugee Compact and helped participants consider how to engage with the Global Refugee Forum. A report is currently being drafted.

6. Rohingya Refugee Response Plan: On 15 February, ICVA attended the Rohingya Refugee Response Plan, where the Government of Bangladesh, UNHCR and IOM presented the 2019 plan to respond to the Rohingya crisis. Underlining the importance of addressing root causes, panellists also stressed the need for continued humanitarian assistance. A group of three NGOs also delivered a [statement](#) highlighting the importance of focusing on education.

7. Migration and development: On 26 and 27 February (New York) ICVA Secretariat and ICVA members contributed to the [UN DESA Expert Symposium on International Migration and Development](#) and the [UN High-Level Debate on International Migration and Development](#). Exchange and planning on opportunities for addressing issues related to migration and development took place in the high-level political forum on sustainable development to be held in July and September 2019. As well discussion on collection and use of migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

With a Secretariat staffed by ICMC and CCRM, the Civil Society Action Committee co-convened by ICMC, NGO Committee on Migration and ICVA is connecting, analysing and supporting civil society organisations on the GCM implementation, follow-up and monitoring (GFMD, UN Migration Network, Migration Trust Fund, International Migration Review Forum, country-level guidance).

8. Consultation of the United Nations Network on Migration (TOR Network) with civil society on 4 April in Geneva. The Network seeks to ensure action by the UN system in support of implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. The meeting will discuss the workplan and priorities of the Network, the [start-up fund](#) called for in the Global Compact for Migration, and engagement of civil society in the Network. Please confirm participation asap and no later than 21 March 2018 to Network Secretariat unmignet@iom.int

9. IOM-NGO Humanitarian Consultations report: Since 2015, ICVA and IOM have been jointly organising the [IOM-NGO Humanitarian Consultations](#). Last September, the 2018 Consultation focused on internal displacement and gathered representatives of 39 NGOs from 20 countries. The report from this event is now [available online](#).

Humanitarian Financing

10. The Grand Bargain

a. Grand Bargain briefing to NGOs regional offices Nairobi: Hosted by IRC, ICVA presented an update on the work of the GB workstreams to interested NGO regional staff on 12 February in Nairobi. At the regional and national levels, there continues to be an interest in understanding how the Grand Bargain can be implemented to improve the work of field practitioners. Regional staff were also encouraged to review the focus and co-leads for Grand Bargain workstreams of interest (available [here](#) in the ICVA Grand Bargain Explained paper), and to approach regional representatives of workstream leads to help advocate for improved knowledge and development of Grand Bargain-linked activities in the field.

b. Grand Bargain self-reporting: NGO signatories to the Grand Bargain are reminded that the deadline for the 2018 self-reporting process is rapidly approaching. All signatories should have received the new reporting template directly from the Grand Bargain Secretariat, which must be completed and returned by **23 March** to be published on time and included in the combined analysis. This year, signatories are requested to focus on 11 core commitments and associated key indicators that were developed following the 2018 Grand Bargain annual meeting. ODI in the UK will again provide the annual independent report that assesses overall Grand Bargain performance across workstreams.

11. Harmonized narrative reporting pilot - final phase: The Harmonized Narrative Reporting Pilot currently led by Germany and ICVA, and underway in Iraq, Myanmar, and Somalia, is scheduled to formally come to an end in May 2019. As part of the final review process, GPPi will be conducting field visits and data collection with selected pilot participants. It is important to note that although the pilot will formally end, it is not expected that participants will stop using the harmonized “8+3” template immediately. ICVA and Germany are currently working with participating donors to arrange for a smooth transition from pilot phase to implementation. OCHA and UNHCR have already embedded the 8+3 template guidance into their reporting process for all partners globally, France is now doing the same, and hopefully other donors will be encouraged to do so before June. Updates on progress will be shared directly with participants and via the ICVA bulletin when available.

12. UN contracts discussion: Oxfam is currently working to coordinate a discussion among NGO on recommendations to improve and harmonise the conditions of UN humanitarian partnership agreements with NGOs. This work is currently focused on agreements with OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, and UNFPA. ICVA is engaged to help look specifically at the question of improved harmonisation across UN agencies. Initial results should be available later in March and will be used to support a face-to-face dialogue with UN agency representatives.

13. OCHA Pooled Fund Working Group – NGO engagement: The next meeting of the Pooled Fund Working Group (PFWG) is scheduled for June 2019. In the lead-up to the meeting ICVA will seek to develop a more systematic approach to gathering input from NGO

partners to help ensure that the small number of NGOs invited to the PFWG are able to represent the NGO voice and concerns well. Norwegian Refugee Council, which is currently the Chair of the NGO Dialogue Platform on Pooled Funds will hold a meeting with NGOs in Juba, South Sudan on 6 March, and the outcome of that dialogue will also help to inform the NGO approach for the next PFWG. If you would like to be further engaged in providing input into the next PFWG, please contact alon.plato@icvanetwork.org.

Humanitarian Coordination

14. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) new architecture: On 31 January 2019, the ERC Mark Lowcock shared the final version of the IASC Architecture Reform and the [2019-2020 IASC workplan](#). Key features of the new structure include the creation of an Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG) to drive the strategic policy work of the IASC and five time-bound Results Groups.

OPAG Co-Chairs: Following the IASC February call for co-chairs, Ms. Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director, World Food Programme (WFP), and Mr. Geir Olav Lisle, Deputy Secretary-General, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), have been appointed as co-chairs of the Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG).

OPAG NGO Seat: The OPAG will be composed of one representative from each IASC member, at Director level (or equivalent). ICVA, as an NGO consortium standing invitee at the IASC, can be joined by two other NGO representatives. ICVA launched a call for interest for the two ICVA-NGO seats at the OPAG. Applications to be sent to secretariat@icvanetwork.org before Tuesday 19 March 2019.

For more information contact Emmanuelle.osmond@icvanetwork.org.

The **five Results Groups** are tasked by the OPAG to deliver on normative outputs under each of the five strategic priorities: Operational response, Accountability and Inclusion, Collective Advocacy, Humanitarian Development Collaboration, Humanitarian Financing. All existing IASC Task Teams and Reference groups have been sunsetted and some will be absorbed into the new Results Group. The new co-chairs of these results groups are still to be announced.

15. IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG):

The **6 February EDG call** discussed the situation in Venezuela. While there is no official recognition of a humanitarian crisis, based on the limited available information, humanitarian needs in the country are high and growing. The importance of ensuring the humanitarian-development nexus guides the response was highlighted, as the quicker the underlying development issues are addressed the faster humanitarian needs can be addressed. The EDG will continue to support the capacity scale-up and enhance coordination of the response.

EDG NGO seat: As part of ICVA rotation system aiming for equal contribution, better transparency and stronger members' engagement, ICVA is pleased to inform you that Chris Gad from Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has been selected to join the EDG under ICVA umbrella for the next two years. He replaces Jose Barahona from NRC. Chris is the Head of Emergencies at DRC. He has been engaged in various aspects of humanitarian and emergency work for more than 30 years, covering roles in NGOs as well as in UN organisations, from point-of-delivery to overall operational planning, strategy and leadership. We thank the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Jose Barahona, NRC Emergency Response Director, for their active engagement in the EDG during the last two years.

For more information contact Emmanuelle.osmond@icvanetwork.org

16. Engaging with humanitarian leadership:

RC Syria Crisis: In the build up to the Conference on supporting the future of Syria and the region on 12-14 March in Brussels, ICVA members and NGOs met with Panos Moutziz, Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis, and Mathieu Rouquette, Syria INGO Regional Forum Representative (SIRF). During the meeting participants shared updates on the ongoing challenges in the region, discussed the 2019 Humanitarian response plan, and shared information on the preparations of the upcoming conference in Brussels.

HC/RC of Jordan: ICVA MENA organised a meeting for NGOs with the HC/RC of Jordan, Mr Anders Pedersen to discuss partnership and ways to go forward in advancing NGOs collective efforts

17. Yemen pledging conference: On 26 February, the United Nations and the Governments of Switzerland and Sweden convened the third [High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen](#) in Geneva. In order to ensure that humanitarian operations will be sustained and scaled up, donors have pledged US\$ 2.6 billion, which represents an increase from last year's total pledges of US\$ 2.01 billion. Most donors (16 so far) have increased their pledges with significant increase from KSA, UAE, UK, EU, Germany and Canada.

18. Workshop on Joint Advocacy for Humanitarian NGO Fora/network in Bangkok, Thailand: From 25-27 February 2019, 18 participants from 18 different NGO fora/networks in Asia, MENA and Africa region took part in ICVA's workshop on joint advocacy for humanitarian NGO fora, as part of its ECHO-funded "support to NGO Fora Programme". The two and a half day workshop provided an opportunity for the participants to have a more holistic understanding in using advocacy as an effective tool to strengthen their collective voice to government authorities, UN agencies, and donors. External partners UNHCR, OHCHR, OCHA, Fortify Rights and Trustlaw shared their perspectives in joint advocacy at global and regional levels. The participants provided valuable inputs in the advocacy needs and action points in their respective country/region which will guide ICVA's further efforts in this area.

19. Review of the coordination structure for the refugee response in Bangladesh: A team from UNHCR, IOM, UNDP and ICVA undertook a [review of the coordination structure of the refugee response in Bangladesh](#). The review considered numerous reports and evaluations of the response generated over the past year as well as the results of a Lessons Learned Workshop, which took place in Cox's Bazar on 12 September 2018. A mission by the review team to Bangladesh took place from 20-25 October 2018. The purpose of this report is to present proposals to the Principals of UNDP, IOM, ICVA and UNHCR for adjustments to the coordination structure in Bangladesh. The final report will also be shared with the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, for his information.

20. 2019 ECOSOC Humanitarian Aid Segment and its side events will take place on 24-26 June 2019 in Geneva. Ambassador Omar Hilale, PR of Morocco to the UN in New York and chair of the ECOSOC HAS, has exchanged with ICVA as part of a first round of consultations including themes and outcomes to a more action-oriented and inter-active approach and the increase of attendance of high-level to the side events. The overall theme of the ECOSOC HAS 2019 will be set end of March. NGOs are invited to express "broad interests" for side-event themes to the ECOSOC Bureau to carayanides@un.org and smith78@un.org. Deadline: Thursday **14 March 2019**.

Navigating Change: Cross Cutting Issues

21. African Union 32nd Ordinary Session: The AU has [officially launched](#) the AU 2019 theme year. This year will be marked by a number of thematic meetings which provides an opportunity to ICVA members and the broader humanitarian community with space to interact influence. The assembly has further decided that for the 2019 theme that the

President of Guinea will be the champion. ICVA was present at the launch by participating at the high-level round table on root causes and durable solutions jointly organised by AU and the UNHCR.

22. Humanitarian Development Nexus:

- With the new architecture of the IASC the Humanitarian Development Nexus Task Team (**HDN TT**) is no more, and the new entity is the Result Group: Humanitarian Development Collaboration. Co-chairs to be nominated.
- **Coordinating across the nexus:** The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) [Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus](#) was adopted by the DAC at its Senior Level Meeting on 22 February 2019. CSOs views and inputs on the recommendations were channeled through the DAC CSO Reference group. The DAC Recommendation also aims to strengthen coordination, programming and financing to address risks and vulnerabilities, strengthen prevention efforts and reduce need in order to ensure that we reach the furthest behind. A common set of principles for OECD-DAC members in their collaboration with the multilateral system.

23. Localisation debate in Nairobi: on the 12 March ICVA's Executive Director, Ignacio Packer, in collaboration with representatives of the network's members the Refugees Consortium of Kenya (RCK) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), will facilitate a debate among NGOs aiming at unpacking the localization achievement and gaps, sharing experiences and lessons learned. Discussion will build on ICVA's briefing paper [Localization Examined](#), and will go beyond, based on participants' experiences, perceptions and views, trying to highlight different feature, opportunities, challenges and state of the localization process in the region, in Africa and globally. For more information contact Marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org

24. Follow up to the 2018 Safeguarding conference in London: ICVA organised and hosted a meeting (15 February) with donors on some of the ICVA priority [Commitments](#) made at the Safeguarding Summit in London last year. In particular **Safeguarding Donor Commitment 6** : "to review best practice and lessons from [ombudsman schemes](#)" and **Safeguarding Donor Commitment 19** on [resource and capacity building hub](#) on SEA-SHW for smaller organisations.

25. UNICEF-NGO Consultations: ICVA is convening a series of meetings with NGOs to discuss the possible added value of regular consultations between UNICEF and NGOs to strengthen humanitarian partnership for better results for children. If you are interested in these meetings, please contact secretariat@icvanetwork.org

New and Noteworthy

26. Sharing key humanitarian concepts: The CERAH is launching the **Humanitarian Encyclopedia** platform in late 2019. The platform will provide a space for humanitarian actors to learn and share their knowledge on key humanitarian concepts, such as "protection", "resilience", etc. Please write to joy.muller@graduateinstitute.ch if you are interested in the project. Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action (CERAH) is a joint centre of the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

27. Localization in Vanuatu: ['Localisation in Vanuatu: Demonstrating change'](#). Led by PIANGO and HAG, this report published in January 2019 provides a baseline snapshot of

localisation in Vanuatu.

28. Humanitarian Leadership and the Future of Humanitarian Action is the theme for the 22-24 May [2019 Asia Pacific humanitarian Leadership Conference](#), to be held in Melbourne. The [call for abstracts](#) is open.

29. Disasterready.org have a series of courses relevant to relief and development. Checkout their website <https://www.disasterready.org/> for more information.

Forthcoming Events

ICVA Meetings and Events

March 26: ICVA Annual Conference, Geneva

March 27 and 28: ICVA Annual Conference side events, Geneva

Other Meetings and Events:

March 5-7: 74th UNHCR Standing Committee meeting, Geneva

March 13-14: Conference on Supporting the future of Syria and the region, Brussels

March 18-20: BBR workshop, Bangkok

March 25: IASC HFTT retreat (to be confirmed), Geneva

April 4: Consultation with civil society on UN Migration network

May 13-17: Global Platform for DRR, Geneva

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

May 29-31: Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), Geneva

May 31: IASC Principals meeting, Geneva

June: 70th anniversary of Geneva Conventions

June 20: World Refugee Day

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

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

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

July 3-5: 2019 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations, Geneva, Geneva

August 19: World Humanitarian Day

September 17: 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: October 9: 74th Session of the UN General Assembly, New York

October 7-11: UNHCR 70th Executive committee meeting

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

November 25-29: Global Forum on Migration and 6th Migration Mayorol Forum, Quito, Ecuador

December 5: UNHCR Pledging Conference, Geneva

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

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