



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## ICVA BULLETIN

Highlights from May 2020

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### Message from Executive Director

#### Keep an eye on the moving pieces

There is some progress in **providing funding to NGOs on the front lines** of the COVID-19 response. However, more needs to be done in addressing the inconsistency in unlocking and disbursing funds to NGOs. Concrete proposals identified by the IASC Result Group on Humanitarian Financing co-chaired by OCHA and ICVA are being followed up at global and country levels.

**Calls for donors** to keep funding existing humanitarian plans as well as allocating new funding for COVID-19 have translated lately on pledging conferences on Venezuela and [Yemen](#) and the [Global Humanitarian Response Plan review](#) to which ICVA has been engaged. The next GHRP review is scheduled for 16 July. ICVA also engages with donor States individually in capitals and in countries of intervention as well as with the Good Humanitarian Donorship specifically on the impact of COVID-19 on principled humanitarian action and on the [UN Development System Reform and the potential implications for NGOs](#).

For mission driven organisations, income is an enabler rather than the purpose. It is about providing the resources to **achieve impact**.

[ICVA calls](#) for senior management of all humanitarian organisations to lead efforts on the implementation of 14 measures in **strengthening health, safety and security measures** for all humanitarian workers, especially national staff. Eligibility for [medical evacuations arrangements](#) includes INGO partners of UN and IASC in GHRP and HRP countries. ICVA is in dialogue regarding how to extend the Medevac system to staff of national organisations.

The **country focus** is crucial both on **localization** and funding flows and the response is not always adequate. You will read in the Bulletin on ICVA's region specific work, the [IASC Interim Guidance on Localisation and the COVID-19 Response](#), the research project examining the participation of national NGOs and NGO Fora within humanitarian country teams and how ICVA is strengthening [in-country NGO Fora](#) to promote enhanced NGO collective action at field level during the COVID-19 Response.

Following the ICVA 2020 Annual Conference "[An Honest Conversation on Risk](#)", the [Risk Management learning series](#) supported by [ICVA briefing papers](#) looked this week at "[Security Risk Management and Duty of Care in times of COVID-19](#)".

And you will read more in this Bulletin on the **Global Refugee Forum follow-up** activities: UNHCR [Pledges Dashboard](#), [Repository of Good Practices](#), [Good Practices](#). ICVA members shared [submissions](#) with the Secretariat of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. The Bulletin also covering the information, tools, resources and updates on civil society space in humanitarian action, the ongoing discussions on the NEXUS and the dynamic learning programme offered in the last weeks.

On the **longer term perspectives**, we invite you to join the collective conversation on "[The Future of Civil Society Organisations](#)" [workshop](#) on 17 June, and on our work on [ICVA 2030](#).

## ICVA Updates

# ICVA 2030 Your View Counts

### Help shape the future of ICVA - the ICVA 2030 Survey

Many thanks to all of you who have recently completed this survey. We can now share the [interim results](#).

We have also decided to reopen the survey until 15 July for others who wish to complete it. There are two new questions about how you think the long-term effects of COVID-19 will impact your organisation, and the humanitarian sector.

The links to the survey: [English](#), [French](#), [Arabic](#)

ICVA is planning a new strategy to propose at our General Assembly in May 2021. This strategy will be shaping the future of the ICVA Network. In order to create a well-informed strategy, focusing on humanitarian concerns that are relevant to our members and stakeholders, we need your input!

- Record a 90 second video giving your feedback. On camera answer the question, "What should ICVA focus on for the 2030 Strategy?" [Watch videos](#)
- Send us a written submission giving your feedback [communications@icvanetwork.org](mailto:communications@icvanetwork.org)
- For more information on [ICVA 2030](#), see our [Strategic Development Document](#).

### 1. ICVA Staff updates:

**Ms. Emmanuelle Osmond** left her position as ICVA Head of Humanitarian Coordination to start soon in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as the Deputy Head of the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. With her dedication and commitment to humanitarian operations at ICVA, Emmanuelle succeed in extending the space for NGOs in the various coordination mechanisms. ICVA wishes all the best to Emmanuelle with her new position and looks forward to continued collaboration. Mr. Jeremy Wellard, ICVA Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific is currently serving as Head of Humanitarian Coordination at ICVA.

### **Ms. Claire Whiting, has joined the ICVA team in MENA as interim MENA**

**Deputy Representative** for the upcoming three months. Claire has collaborated with ICVA over many years and brings to the role 15 years of relevant experience in the humanitarian field and has delivered excellent products and inclusive services to support humanitarian policy and practice.

**Mr. Obele Oluchukwu Iheakandu**, is Christian Aid's Programme Coordinator, based in Abuja, Nigeria and has been seconded to ICVA from May-December 2020. Obele will act as ICVA's COVID-19 support officer and support to NGO Fora.

### 2. New Members:

ICVA is pleased to announce that the following organisations are now members of the ICVA network:

- [Amity Foundation](#), China
- [Humanitarian Response Network of Canada](#) (HRN), Canada
- [Kerke in Actie](#), Netherlands
- [International Lifeline Fund](#), USA
- [Secours Islamique France](#) (SIF)
- [South Sudan NGO Forum](#), South Sudan
- [Tamdeen Youth Foundation](#), Yemen
- Titi Foundation, South Sudan
- [War Child Holland](#), the Netherlands
- [Yemen Family Care Association](#) (YFCA), Yemen

### 3. Duty of care:

In the face of COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring adequate duty of care for all humanitarian workers, national staff first and foremost, has become even more of a priority. To guide efforts, [ICVA calls](#) for renewed commitments to prevention through strengthening occupational security, safety and health measures for all humanitarian workers.

### 4. ICVA's COVID-19 Resources page:

ICVA's Covid-19 [resource page](#) has a collection of guidelines, tools, statements, papers and useful links which are relevant to the current COVID-19 pandemic.



ICVA ANNUAL REPORT 2019



## ICVA's 2019 Annual Report

We invite you to read ICVA's 2019 digital [Annual Report!](#)

Read now!

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## Forced migration

### 5. Global Refugee Forum follow-up:

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, GRF follow-up activities have picked up in May, with further updating and developing of the UNHCR [Pledges Dashboard](#) and the [Repository of Good Practices](#). UNHCR [still welcomes Good Practices](#), in particular those that demonstrate how the GCR contributes to the COVID-19 pandemic global response.

UNHCR also released the [Outcome Document](#) of the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, which features the NGO community as the highest number of pledging entities. UNHCR launched a mechanism for [tracking pledges implementation](#) and requesting stakeholders to provide relevant updates on their pledges. ICVA submitted information for this follow-up process and invites its members (and other stakeholders) to contribute to this major element of the accountability system embedded in the Compact and the Forum.

Follow-up activities in which NGOs were involved also included the work of the [GRF Education Co-sponsorship Alliance](#) and the [Clean Energy Challenge](#). Based on its pledge, ICVA's involvement focused on Durable Solutions, contributing on 15 May to a [GRF Solutions co-sponsorship group](#) meeting, which focused on trends and pledges analysis and options for future engagement. Notes of the meeting will be soon shared with ICVA members. ICVA also contributed to several discussions linked to NGOs engagement with the 2020 [Annual Tripartite Consultations on Refugee Resettlement](#) (ATCR) and the [Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways](#). ICVA suggested updating a recent UNHCR paper on "[The role of the GCR in the international response to the COVID-19 pandemic](#)" with added focus on durable solutions. For more information on the GRF follow-up, contact: [jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org](mailto:jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org) and [Loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org)

### 6. UNHCR and NGO meetings on COVID-19 response:

In May, UNHCR continued to organise weekly global exchanges with NGOs, addressing topics such as localization and COVID-19 prevention and response; the role of the World Health Organisations' partnership with UNHCR and NGOs; protection from sexual exploitation and abuse in the pandemic context; as well as the potential of the Global Compact and Refugee Forum in responding to COVID-19 challenges. Notes from those meetings and relevant documents have been shared broadly with NGOs and are also available to members on [ICVA's webpage](#). For more information, contact: [jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org](mailto:jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org) and [Loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org)

#### **UNHCR Regional Bureau for the Americas:**

On 27 May, ICVA's Senior Policy Officer on Forced Displacement co-moderated an **online briefing with NGOs organised by the UNHCR Regional Bureau for the Americas, focusing on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for displaced population in the region**. Focusing on Brazil, the Caribbean, and Northern America, the meeting covered situation and trends analyses, examples of NGO implementation reality and their adaptation to COVID-19 in the Americas, as well as information about UNHCR's own efforts to be more flexible and responsive. This was the third meeting of this kind, the first two organised earlier in May and tailored to Spanish speaking audiences in Southern and Central America. UNHCR will soon be disseminating results from those meetings. For more information, contact [jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org](mailto:jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org)

#### **7. Internal Displacement:**

In early May, several ICVA members shared written submissions with the Secretariat of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. Those submissions, along with others from various stakeholders are [now online](#). The Panel also launched [six thematic workstreams](#) as a framework for organising and advancing the substantive work of the Panel on: Generating political will, responsibility, and capacity; Preventing displacement; The role of the international system to facilitate solutions, including through the "Nexuses"; Promoting innovative financing opportunities; Leveraging the role of the private sector; Improving data and evidence. Interested NGOs in contributing to the workstreams are invited to contact the Panel.

ICVA collaborates with the High-Level Panel Secretariat to connect NGOs to efforts to organise consultations with IDPs and host communities in key countries. For more information on ICVA's work related to the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, contact [jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org](mailto:jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org) or visit [ICVA's webpage](#).

#### **8. The World Bank Group consultation with ICVA members on a new Refugee Policy Review Framework:**

As part of the IDA 19 Window for Host Communities and Refugees, World Bank Group (WBG) committed to "conduct a systematic review of refugee policy and institutional environments" in eligible countries. On 8 May, ICVA organised a lively consultation between its members and the WBG on this new Refugee Policy Review Framework. During the meeting, the WBG welcomed NGOs' inputs and feedback on the Framework's methodology and priorities. Notes will be shared soon with ICVA members and follow-up activities organised in the near future.

#### **9. International Donors Conference in solidarity with Venezuelan refugees and migrants:**

On 26 May, the European Union and Spain, together with UNHCR, IOM, convened a virtual International Donors Conference in solidarity with Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the countries of the region, amid COVID-19. The Conference aimed to mobilise resources; sensitise the international community; and facilitate stronger and coordinated engagement from key actors. Over €2.5 billion were pledged through a mix of loans and grants. ICVA supported its members' engagement through information sharing, and analysis, particularly working to connect regional level advocacy with the global network. [ICVA members joined other civil society organisations](#) in advocating for funding to be allocated to organisations that have local presence and to people with greatest needs, also highlighting the for increased dialogue and civil society participation in inter-agency coordination mechanisms. Notes from the conference will be circulated and ICVA will keep its members apprised of the next steps. More information on the conference can be [found here](#).

## 10. Vulnerable migrants:

On 19 May, ICVA, Civil Society Action Committee and International Migrants Bill of Rights Initiative organised a webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on the rights of migrants. Speakers included States representatives, leaders of civil society organisations and academics and was attended by over 300 participants. The webinar focused on the challenges migrants face, and some good practices undertaken by national and local governments to ensure that on their territory all have equally access to health care and protection against COVID-19. Other measures undertaken to address the specific vulnerabilities faced by some migrants, especially those in an irregular situation were also discussed. The recording is [accessible here](#).

A new United Nations Policy Brief on [COVID-19 and People on the Move](#) analyses the additional challenges that internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants might face as result of COVID-19 and related measures. The paper highlights several positive steps undertaken by governments and calls for more to be done.

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## Financing

### 11. COVID-19 response and funding flexibility:

Over the past month, ICVA has worked closely with IASC Humanitarian Finance Results Group (RG5) colleagues to develop a set of harmonised approaches to funding flexibility. These detailed approaches are based on the four key areas previously identified as priorities for increased flexibility: no-cost extensions, budget flexibility, reprogramming, and simplified due-diligence and risk management process. A final draft will go to OPAG the second week of June, with the intent to issue a final document before the end of the month.

Although joint agreement between IASC members is in progress, individual agencies have already issued guidance based on the discussions completed so far, including [OCHA Country Based Pooled Funds](#), [UNHCR](#), and [UNICEF](#). Additional agencies are expected to develop guidance on the completed funding flexibility document agreed by the IASC. For more information, contact [jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org](mailto:jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org)

### 12. Unlocking NGO access to COVID-19 funding:

As of 4 June, approximately USD 2.3 billion in funding was recorded by OCHA FTS against the COVID-19 GHRP appeal of USD 6.71 billion. However, only 54 million USD of these funds were recorded as disbursed to NGOs (approximately 2.3%). It is universally recognised that NGO access to COVID-19 GHRP funding needs to be expanded quickly to ensure that NGO partners can meet needs in the field. The IASC Principals tasked RG5 at the end of April to develop a set of proposals to unlock NGO access to COVID-19 funding. In May, RG5 presented the IASC Principals with four proposals for further consideration:

- Strengthen national NGO involvement in planning and coordination processes
  - Capitalise on pooled fund mechanisms and consider opportunities for further effectiveness and efficiency gains to improve funding to NGOs
  - Increase funding pass-through to NGOs via UN agencies, NGO consortia, and other means
  - Ensure timely and disaggregated reporting of funding flows from UN agencies to NGOs
- Once feedback is received from IASC Principals, work will continue in June to engage in more detailed discussion and planning around these four proposals. ICVA will seek input from members as details emerge.

### 13. Data collection on COVID-19 funding:

In order to support the work to improve pass-through of COVID-19 funding to NGOs, ICVA will be conducting a survey during the first part of June. This work will be supported by Plan International and will seek to develop a more accurate picture of the levels of funding that are reaching frontline responders as well as the degree to which flexibility measures have been communicated to partners. Results will also be aggregated with similar efforts underway by Interaction, Norwegian Refugee Council and others. Ideally, a more solid base of financial data on COVID-19 funding and usage will feed into an improved update to the COVID-19 GHRP scheduled for July 2020. When survey materials are received, your quick

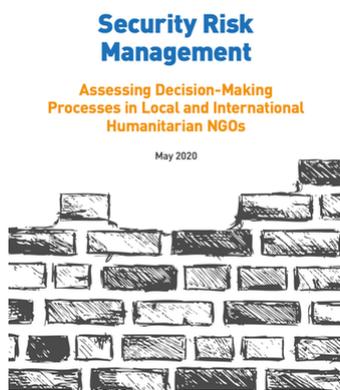
response will help greatly in the efforts to understand funding challenges and address them.

#### 14. OCHA Pooled Fund Working Group:

The next Pooled Fund Working Group (PFWG) meeting will be held virtually on 12 June. Included in the agenda is a point on funding flexibility measures, including a discussion on effectiveness to date. ICVA will collect inputs from members prior to the PFWG, including at the next Humanitarian Finance Working Group meeting scheduled for Wednesday 10 June. To join the Finance Working Group meeting, or share inputs on efforts to implement funding flexibility measures in OCHA CBPFs, contact [alon.plato@icvanetwork.org](mailto:alon.plato@icvanetwork.org)

#### 15. Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD):

- GHD co-chairs, Switzerland (SDC) and the European Union (ECHO), invited OCHA, IFRC and ICVA (ED) to contribute to the GHD expert-level virtual exchange (30 April) on the "Insights on operational impediments to humanitarian action in the context of COVID-19."
- ICVA (ED) also contributed to the GHD expert-level virtual exchange (28 May) on the UNDS Reform with a contribution reflecting on NGOs' insights on the impact of the UNDS reform.
- On 5 June, the IASC Principals met with GHD co-Chairs on the quality and flexible funding in the context of COVID-19 and on the support to frontline responders



### New Publication!

**16. Risk Management Series:** ICVA released the second instalment in the briefing paper series on risk, focusing on [Security Risk Management](#) in the humanitarian sector, with a focus on decision-making processes in local and international humanitarian NGOs. The study is a concise version of a longer report made by Emanuel Hermann and Silvan Oberholzer from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva. The researchers conducted interviews with local and international NGOs, UN agencies, experts and donors.

**The paper was followed with an ICVA-PHAP webinar** on the challenges of security risk management and Duty of Care during COVID-19. You can watch the [recording here](#).

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## Coordination

#### 17. COVID-19 GHRP Update:

In response to feedback from NGOs on the process for developing the initial GHRP, ICVA supported efforts to strengthen NGO engagement in the GHRP revision process, at global, regional and national levels. The [updated Global Humanitarian Response Plan](#) has been expanded in response to increasing needs in the COVID-19 emergency. It includes nine additional vulnerable countries: Benin, Djibouti, Liberia, Mozambique, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Togo and Zimbabwe, and programmes to respond to the growth in food insecurity.

#### 18. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

##### IASC Principals:

Ad hoc Principals meetings were convened on 7 and 21 May in order to discuss the COVID-19 response. Topics included an update on efforts to strengthen resource mobilisation for the [Global Humanitarian Response Plan](#) (GHRP) and its revision, humanitarian access and

vulnerability, the health situation, a proposed collective service for risk communication and community engagement, logistics, medevac and duty of care. ICVA led discussion on localization in the COVID-19 context.

[07 May](#) - an *ad hoc* IASC Principals meeting to discuss the COVID-19 response, including a discussion on the topics of Localization and Protection from Sexual Exploitation (PSEA) and Abuse and Sexual Harassment.

[21 May](#) ad hoc IASC Principals meeting to discuss the COVID-19 response, including an update on the health and on logistics.

#### **IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG):**

The EDG met on 5 May and discussed several topics related to the COVID-19 response and the GHRP revision. ICVA raised issues regarding blockages in funding reaching NGOs in the field and the need for better tracking funding flows to NGOs. The EDG also moved to focus on sharing of practice and experience between operational settings, through a joint Peer to Peer ([P2P](#)) and [EDG Webinar Series](#) that aims to bring forward and highlight critical operational issues faced by HCs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and provide an opportunity to share guidance and lessons learned, as well as allow space for exchanges among HCs. Three webinars took place in May and the recordings are available online.

ICVA also contributed to the **EDG Task Force** on operational continuity and innovation, bringing contributions from the perspectives of members, including mid-sized organisations and national organisations.

#### **Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG):**

As an online alternative to the OPAG annual meeting, the OPAG held virtual meetings on 21 and 28 May with combined thematic focus along with reporting back from IASC Results Groups.

The meeting on 21 May focused on how to operationalise a [global collective service for Risk Communications and Community Engagement \(RCCE\)](#) while building upon existing structures. Also discussed was [progress made by Results Group 2](#) on Accountability and Inclusion on the OPAG-agreed 2020 workplan and its reprioritisation as a result of COVID-19. A summary record can be [found online](#).

The meeting on 28 May focused on donor conditionalities/flexibility and reporting in light of COVID-19 as well as the progress update from Results Group 5 on Humanitarian Financing, which ICVA co-chairs.

The next OPAG meeting will take place on 4 June, focusing on the topic of localization.

An updated list of the [Co-Chairs of the IASC OPAG and Results Groups](#) has also been released.

#### **Update on IASC Results groups:**

**RG 1 Operational response:** No updates

**RG 2 Accountability and Inclusion:** No updates

**RG 3 Collective Advocacy:** No updates

#### **RG 4 Nexus:**

The IASC RG4 Community of Practice on the Nexus (CoPN) met on 28 May, featuring the OpT and South Sudan. The RCO from Jerusalem presented the current status of the Nexus setting in the OpT and updated the participants on the current adaptation to the COVID-19. ICVA members, Danish Church Aid, has presented the finding of [their study on the role of Faith Based Organisations on the Nexus in South Sudan](#).

The CoPN keeps growing and its ToRs have been updated.

The IASC RG 4 is working to better shape the Peace pillar into the Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus. A dedicated working group is working at a draft document that will be shared for comments soon.

RG4 has been tasked by the IASC principals to work on common indicators to create a process checklist to support complementarity planning processes. ICVA is contributing to the work bringing the experience and views of its members. Documents will be shared in due course through the ICVA Nexus working group.

For more information on the Nexus contact, [Marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org)

**RG5 Humanitarian Finance:** See update above under 'Financing'.

#### **19. 2020 ECOSOC HAS:**

The 2020 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) will be held virtually on **9-11 June 2020**. A Transition event focusing on the Central Sahel will kick off this year's ECOSOC HAS week, followed by high-level panels on health challenges, combating and preventing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), new technology and innovation and on improving humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons. Refer to the [ECOSOC HAS website](#) for the detailed agenda of the high-level panels and side events and more information.

#### **20. NGO ForaSupport:**

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, ICVA has organised a project that will support NGO Fora through localization/partnership efforts in global humanitarian responses. This project: **"Strengthening in-country NGO Fora to promote enhanced NGO collective action at field level during the COVID-19 Response"** is committed to NGO Fora's approach to reinforce localization to address humanitarian needs in-country. The project will commence from June-December 2020 and seeks to provide support through resources and structured assistance to/with selected NGO Fora in some of the key areas of humanitarian response. This includes: Collective NGO Action, Information Sharing, Capacity Building, Promotion of Learning Opportunities and Advocacy; and guidance on governance and membership-related issues in the context of COVID-19 outbreak.

See the link for more details in [English, French or Arabic](#)

For more information contact: [Obele.Oluchukwu@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Obele.Oluchukwu@icvanetwork.org)

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## Navigating change: cross cutting issues

#### **21. Child rights: UNICEF NGO Briefings**

In 5 May, UNICEF, ICVA, Interaction and SCHR organised the second webinar of the NGO briefing series on COVID-19 response, which was identical to the first one on 28 April. Both webinars were well attended and created an opportunity for the NGOs to ask concrete questions to UNICEF on its COVID-19 response, partnership with NGOs and flexibility in partnership policies and procedures. Based on questions received, UNICEF has drafted a FAQ document. Further online discussions are also jointly organised by UNICEF, ICVA, Interaction and SCHR focusing on Implementation of the Flexibility and Simplification measures, Education, Child Protection, Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH), etc. The FAQ and all the information on past and upcoming NGO webinars can be [found here](#).

#### **22. Gender:**

On the 7 May, ICVA contributed to the GenCap and ProCap Advisory Board meeting, which aimed at discussing and agreed on the Project's response to COVID-19 and a proposed ReDesign in the project. The ReDesign recognises the need to provide timely and quality support to field leadership by prioritising the speed and quality of deployments; the need for a stronger overall analysis of needs in relation to protection and gender but also the

importance of linking this up to existing analysis being done by other entities in a complementary fashion; the role of the Projects in particular in relation to IASC priorities and IASC and IASC-associated entities (EDG, P2P); a holistic approach to capacity development; and advocacy. As such it was supported and agreed by the Advisory Board.

### 23. Safeguarding:

**Update on the PSEA Outreach and Communication Fund:** in April ICVA and UNHCR Launched the PSEA Outreach and Communication Fund, aiming to provide rapid, targeted financial support for NGOs to develop and disseminate PSEA outreach and communication material that is context-specific and culturally appropriate. By the application deadline on 15 May, more than 1200

applications were received, confirming that there is indeed significant need for outreach on PSEA. The selection process is now well under way and will be finalised by a Steering Group comprising experts from NGOs and UN agencies. For more information contact [alon.plato@icvanetwork.org](mailto:alon.plato@icvanetwork.org).

**Launch of the Inter-Agency PSEAH Learning Package:** on 13 May the long-awaited 'Saying No to Sexual Misconduct' training package on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment was launched. The interactive package, to which ICVA has contributed, aims to raise awareness among staff and ensure they have the skills and tools to define, detect and respond to sexual misconduct. [You can access the full package on the IASC website](#). For more information contact [alon.plato@icvanetwork.org](mailto:alon.plato@icvanetwork.org).



## New Publication!

### 24. Civil society space in humanitarian action:

ICVA just released "[The Future of Civil Society Organisations](#)" a publication in collaboration with [Bond](#), [CIVICUS](#), [CONCORD Europe](#), [Forus International](#), [ICSC](#), [Climate Action Network](#), and [InterAction](#) (networks of civil society organisations).

*Challenges from COVID-19 bring new opportunities for the future of civil society organisations. In a series of articles ICVA's ED, Ignacio Packer, along with other leaders of civil society networks & platforms share their thoughts and identify possible new directions that civil society organisations may want to go.*

[Read now](#)



### The future of civil society organisations in light of Covid-19- Virtual Meeting

**June 17, 2020 - 14:00 to 16:00 CEST**

The current challenges and opportunities brought by the COVID-19 pandemic call for a conversation over the transformations we want to see in society, and in the humanitarian, social justice and environmental sectors.

We are also holding a [two hour webinar](#) to explore this conversation with a group of leaders of civil society networks and platforms.

[Register](#)

For more information, tools, resources and updates on civil society space and action, please email [nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org](mailto:nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org) to be included in ICVA's Working Group on NGO Space (ICVA members only).

## 25. Localization:

Through the IASC Results Group 1 Sub-Group on Localization, ICVA contributed to the development of the [IASC Interim Guidance on Localisation and the COVID-19 Response](#). This note has been developed in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 and its likely impact on humanitarian operations around the world, building on work done by the Grand Bargain Localisation Workstream. It provides guidance as to how the international humanitarian community can adapt its delivery modalities in response to COVID-19 consistent with existing commitments on localization of aid, strengthening partnerships with local and national actors, and operating effectively in an environment affected by COVID-19.

ICVA and the London School of Economics completed a research project examining the **Participation of National NGOs and NGO Fora Within Humanitarian Country Teams**. Research confirmed the perceived importance of investing in localization by HCT members, despite the obstacles and challenges reported. NNGOs were seen as the best positioned actors to inform other HCT members on local needs and perspectives as well as cultural, political, and contextual specificities of the humanitarian crises. Despite this shared view amongst national and international actors, the research highlighted significant ongoing challenges to HCTs to engage NNGOs effectively in most cases. [The research paper can be found here](#)

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## Region Specific

ICVA regional teams have been working intensively with inter agency coordination groups to ensure national and international NGO involvement and active contribution to the ongoing preparedness and response to the COVID19, including to liaise at the country, regional and global level.

## 26. Asia and the Pacific:

### **Discussion with Donors on COVID-19 and humanitarian response in Asia-Pacific:**

Following the launch of the updated GHRP, the WHO CPRP and a range of other country and regional plans, OCHA hosted a discussion on 14 May with key humanitarian donor agencies including ECHO, OFDA/USAID, DFID, DFAT, SDC and NFAT on their strategic perspective on how the response to COVID-19 and to other humanitarian challenges in the region will evolve. During the meeting, ICVA raised a few key points particularly around systematic support to NGO networks, support to the continuity of non-COVID humanitarian programs, and donors' role in advocacy with governments, etc.

### **Completion of CSO consultation process for the drafting of ASEAN AADMER Work Program 2021-2025:**

In order to have a better understanding on how the AADMER Work Programs have been implemented at national and local level as part of the efforts from ASEAN CSOs to support the development of the new AADMER Work Program 2021-2025, ICVA facilitated a CSO consultation process in four selected countries including Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines. The process was organised by the national NGO networks respectively including CHF Cambodia, LRC and INGO Forum in Myanmar, HFI Indonesia, and CODE-NGOs and CFSI in the Philippines, with strong support from ASEAN Partnership Group (APG) members. As one of the key outcomes of this process, a report and a summary notes highlighting some of the key collective recommendations and advocacy messages have been developed and shared with ASEAN.

For more information contact, [Qingrui.Huang@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Qingrui.Huang@icvanetwork.org)

## 27. Africa Region:

### **Donors:**

ICVA has facilitated multiple meetings between members and key donors, to have discussions about the actual status of COVID-19 related funding. Among the many aspects,

the issue of UN pass-through funding to NGOs, through existing and new mechanisms has been debated, with very minimal funding actually reaching the NGOs. This aspect has been escalated to the global level to find appropriate solutions.

On 2 June ICVA and its members contributed to a meeting with Geneva based Donors, organised by SCHR providing relevant inputs from the country and regional level.

**COVID-19:**

ICVA Africa is contributing to the works of regional IASC in Southern and West and Central Africa as well as the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Team for Eastern Africa. Bringing elements around NGOs involvement in the current COVID-19 planning and response and about the many preexisting crises in Africa.

ICVA Africa is planning an exchange between **Trust Law** and ICVA members on a Legal Health Check for Non-Governmental Organisations. An exchange considered particularly relevant also in this phase of additional rules and restrictions, impacting on access, Duty of Care and legal status of NGOs.

ICVA is working with OCHA and DCO to provide relevant representation on the situation in the **Central Sahel** during the imminent ECOSOC HAS.

ICVA has added National NGO fora to its regional support, including in Somalia and DRC.

For more information contact: [marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org](mailto:marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org) or [Addis.Tesfa@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Addis.Tesfa@icvanetwork.org)

**28. MENA Region:**

**High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen, 2 June 2020:**

The Virtual High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen convened by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Nations, to raise needed funds for life-saving humanitarian response in Yemen. More than 130 governments and other donors, international humanitarian organizations and aid officials met virtually to announce pledging and to raise awareness about the rapidly deteriorating situation in Yemen. The United Nations and NGOs announced that they need \$2.4 billion USD to respond through the end of the year, including \$180 million for COVID-19 response. But funding is falling dramatically short. You can find full [recording of the event here](#).



**ICVA Representative in MENA read out [ICVA's Statement](#) during the conference:** ICVA had the opportunity to bring inputs from ICVA members in complementarity with the collective messages of INGOs, and incorporating the statement and key messages from local NGOs and NGO networks in Yemen. (Click below to hear ICVA's statement)

OXFAM, DRC, SC and IR also read statements during the conference. We will share NGOs statements with you as soon as possible. [Click here](#) to find an overview of the conference and full documentation.

[Watch here!](#)

**Meeting with members in MENA region and UNHCR MENA Regional Bureau:**

ICVA convened a meeting with MENA members and UNHCR MENA Regional Bureau to discuss UNHCR strategy, response and approaches related to COVID-19 response. More than 30 members and NGO networks from the MENA region participated at the virtual meeting. For more information [see here](#).

**Localization and COVID-19 Webinar:**

ICVA MENA participated in a global webinar on Localization and COVID-19. The online

session was organised by the **Urban Settlement Working Group co-chaired by Impact Initiative, Interaction and CRS**. ICVA's presentation focused on enforcing localization in a complicated context and ensuring participation of local NGOs in coordination and planning mechanisms.

For more information contact, [Eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org)

## 29. Latin America Region:

**ICVA in collaboration with FM4 Paso Libre, Dignidad y Justicia en el Camino A.C.**, participated in the OCHA-ROLAC meetings. Due to the expansion of COVID-19 in vulnerable areas in the region, a concern has been raised about some vulnerable groups, particularly indigenous people. A group of local and national representatives from several NGOs and leaders of indigenous people are working to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 within these groups. Information related to COVID-19 is being translated, culturally adapted and disseminated through available channels to promote actions to address the social determinants of health that affect prevention in vulnerable groups.

**The region is preparing for hurricane season.** There is fear over the challenges and added stress that hurricane response could face around health care, jobs and livelihood and access to services, due to the increased challenges caused by COVID-19.

The ICVA-FM4 team has exchanged with Trust Law offices in Latin America, to explore ways to partner and enhance the reach to ICVA members on humanitarian action and legal aspects pertinent to NGOs in the region.

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## Learning Opportunities

**30. Share Field Experience:** Three universities - Johns Hopkins, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Geneva Centre of Education and Research in Humanitarian Action (CERAH) have created the COVID-19 Humanitarian [platform](#) to gather, curate, analyse, interpret and disseminate guidance and field experiences from humanitarian organisations responding and adapting to COVID-19 in humanitarian settings. The goal is to facilitate the sharing of context-specific field experiences as well as technical guidelines across all areas of humanitarian intervention.

There is a "Share Field Experience" tab at the top of the site to submit your context-specific adaptations and innovations. They are also conducting **brief interviews** with colleagues in the field, summarising their experiences, and uploading it to the website in standardised forms, noting the busy schedules of humanitarian actors. Share your experience on the site or get in touch with them at [covid19humanitarian@gmail.com](mailto:covid19humanitarian@gmail.com) should you wish to participate in an interview.

## 31. Safeguarding VR:

[Safeguarding Virtual Reality](#) is an innovative training experience which uses virtual reality (VR) and is accessible on mobile phones and VR devices. It's developed by the Humanitarian Leadership Academy in collaboration with BODYSWAPS®, an immersive learning platform, alongside leading safeguarding professionals/experts from across the sector.

## 32. Part-Time Blended Learning Course in Humanitarian Action:

Despite these challenging times, the Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action continues to run its flagship part-time blended learning course "Designing Strategies and Projects in Humanitarian Action", which offers eight months online learning with a two-week residential course in Uganda. This course offers the opportunity for students to apply their learning directly and immediately to their own work and find solutions to the benefit of your organisation and programmes. Registration Deadline 30 June. Course

start date: 7 September

For more information [see here](#) or contact: [Helena.merelo@unige.ch](mailto:Helena.merelo@unige.ch) (Course coordinator)

**For more learning opportunities:** see ICVA's [Learning opportunities and resources](#) page or contact: [nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org](mailto:nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org)

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## New and noteworthy

### UNITED NATIONS REFORM and Potential Implications for NGOs

May 2020



### New Publication!

#### 33. *United Nations Reform and its implications for the NGOs*

The new [ICVA paper](#) on UN Reform explains the changes expected and discusses the positive aspects of the reform. It also points out some concerns and ways forward from an NGO perspective.

[Read now](#)

#### 34. What is the role of innovative finance in rethinking and resourcing problem solving in the humanitarian space?

A webinar on 10th June organised by IMD will share some lessons learned from the making of the first humanitarian impact bond. Discussions will then center around the current innovation pipeline, including from a COVID perspective. [Register here.](#)

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## Mark your agenda

**June 3:** ICVA-PHAP webinar on staff care and security risk management ([see recording](#))

**June 9-11:** 2020 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

**June 12:** OCHA Pooled Fund Working Group, Virtual

**June 20:** World Refugee Day

**June 25:** Grand Bargain Annual Meeting, Virtual

**June 26:** IASC Principals Meeting, Geneva

**July 7-9:** 78th UNHCR Standing Committee, Geneva

**August 19:** World Humanitarian Day

**September 16-17:** 79th UNHCR Standing Committee, Geneva

**October 5-9:** 71st UNHCR Executive Committee, Geneva

**19-23 October:** WFP Annual Partnership Consultation (APC)

**December 14:** UNHCR's 70th Anniversary

ICVA  
Avenue Giuseppe-Motta 26-28  
Geneva, GE CH 1202  
Switzerland  
[secretariat@icvanetwork.org](mailto:secretariat@icvanetwork.org)  
[www.icvanetwork.org](http://www.icvanetwork.org)



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