



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

ICVA BULLETIN

Highlights from August & September 2021

Message from Chair of the Board

ICVA's Membership in Action

There have already been two system-wide scale up activations, for Ethiopia and Afghanistan, since the new Board was elected by members at our General Assembly in May. Impediments to humanitarian access and safety are amongst the most extreme within both these humanitarian contexts, whether authorities have been recognised or not. System wide responses have been supported by a smooth transition in IASC Principals allowing for continuity and collegiality, marked by consensus, statements approved in less than 24 hours, and consistency in positions. Recent discussions have also demonstrated clarity in purpose, concluding with agreed priorities which balance diplomatic approaches and collective humanitarian action.

Yet alongside this, the effects of conflict, Covid-19, and climate change continue elsewhere, driving escalating hunger in crises such as South Sudan, Yemen, DRC and Syria. ICVA is galvanising NGOs globally in collaboration with UN agencies to call for famine prevention given the 300% increase in the numbers of people facing catastrophic hunger since the last NGO open letter six months ago. We are also working collectively to support equal access to Covid-19 vaccines. Within these crises, 55 million people are displaced and often left in the shadows. The report just launched by the High-Level Panel on IDPs, and informed by ICVA members, helped shine a light on their plight. This is critical work to ensure that our collective response supports anticipation, resilience, and that millions affected by protracted crises aren't forgotten. This is just a snapshot of the power of ICVA's membership in action.

The Board has continued to ensure oversight to the Secretariat's work in support of this action, meeting three times since election, including an inspiring meeting with all staff. And we extend a very warm welcome to Tearfund UK and ChildFund Alliance USA who have joined ICVA! As a Board, we have also invested in building the Board team, agreed the goals we need to meet as a Board by the end of our tenure in 2024, and discussed plans for a Board policy on diversity and inclusion. We will approve 2022 plans and budgets, and enabling strategies for HR, fundraising and communications, aligned with the 2030 Strategy, before the end of the year. However, in many ways, our 2030 Strategy not only already seems fit for purpose but is being tested and employed.

Jane Backhurst
Chair of the Board | ICVA

Get to know our Board Members



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ICVA Board



Africa Humanitarian Action
Mr Wossen Tesfaye



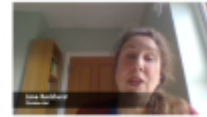
Amel Association International
Ms Virginie Lefèvre



Amity Foundation
Ms Chunxiang Ling



Concern Worldwide
Ms Réiseal Ni Chéilleachair



Christian Aid
Ms Jane Backhurst
Board Chair



Dignidad y Justicia en el Camino A.C. (FM4 Paso Libre)
Mr Luis Enrique Gonzalez



Islamic Relief Worldwide
Ms Shahin Ashraf



Translators Without Borders
Ms Aimee Ansari



War Child
Mr Ramin Shahzamani

ICVA Updates

1. Our New Members!

A warm welcome to our new members, **Tearfund and ChildFund Alliance**, on becoming part of our growing community. On behalf of our staff, board, and all of our members, we welcome you. We are also delighted to welcome to the team our new staff Edith Mecha serving as a Communications Officer and Eileen Morrow serving as a Senior Policy & Advocacy Officer.

2. New Learning Stream

Mark your calendars!

ICVA and PHAP launched their sixth online learning stream on [Climate Change and Humanitarian Action](#). This series will focus on practical ways of applying the recently launched [Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations](#) by sharing lessons learned on how the commitments can be translated into practice. Registration is officially open for our [first topic](#) on **Adapting to the impacts of the climate and environment crises** taking place on **14 October 2021 at 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm CEST**.

14 October 2021
14:00 - 16:00 (CEST)



The Climate Charter – A Practical Guide
**Session 1: Adapting to the impacts of
the climate and environmental crises**

Photo: Cecilia Schubert

phap.org/14oct2021

[Register Here](#)

If you missed the introductory webinar for this new learning stream that took place on **30 September**, you can watch it and listen [here](#).

Forced Migration

3. Briefing on the Afghanistan Situation

On 26 August, UNHCR organised with the support of ICVA, a briefing for NGOs on the situation in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. UNHCR Assistant High-Commissioner for Operations and the Head of the Protection Office at the UNHCR Bureau for Asia and the Pacific provided a general overview on the displacement situation. There were discussions about operational aspects to “stay and deliver” in the country, protection issues such as women and minority rights and the need to mobilise support for neighbouring countries. Participants also exchanged on the importance of advocating for allowing access to territories for Afghan refugees and applying [UNHCR’s recent non-return advisory](#).

4. Externalization of Refugee Protection

On 13 September, ICVA organised an informal meeting between its members and UNHCR on externalization of refugee protection. Participants exchanged on the basis of UNHCR’s [Note on the "Externalization" of International Protection](#) of May 2021 and explored options for ICVA’s future activities on this most important topic. We will make available the notes from the meeting to ICVA members.

5. UNHCR 82nd Standing Committee

Thanks to the NGO inputs provided, ICVA coordinated the drafting of NGO collective statements on [The Grand Bargain](#) and [The Oral Update on the ExCom Conclusions](#) during the 82nd Standing Committee of 15-16 September. To ensure the Grand Bargain commitments are translated into concrete realities, NGOs notably insisted on the need for continued quality and flexible funding, upholding commitments to localisation and

strengthening quality partnership, while lightening reporting requirements. Work on this year's Executive Committee Conclusion focused on international protection and durable solutions in the context of a public health emergency. NGOs expressed their strong hope that this Conclusion be finalised and adopted. NGOs continued to be engaged in the process, including through a second meeting on this Conclusion with the ExCom Conclusion Rapporteur and UNHCR, held on 24 September. We will share notes from this meeting with participants.

6. Internal Displacement

On 21 September, a meeting was organized by [the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement](#), ICVA and [InterAction](#) with the aim of discussing NGOs' advocacy and communication plans after the release of the Panel's report [Shining a Light on Internal Displacement: A Vision for the Future](#). Particular attention was devoted to ensuring continued momentum and potential contributions to the recommendations follow-up. A summary note will be made publicly available. Since then, a number of ICVA members have issued press releases reacting to the Report's launch, including [Christian Aid](#), [Plan International](#), and the [Women's Refugee Commission](#). ICVA will continue to support NGO's collective engagement in the follow-up to the Panel's Report, starting with a focus on key recommendations that the Secretary-General can implement. More information on ICVA's work on the Panel is accessible [here](#).

7. World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement:

On 1 September, ICVA and some of its members attended the third meeting of the Strategic Advisory Council of the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center (JDC) on Forced Displacement, focusing on "Enhancing Safe and Responsible Data Access." This Council brought up exchanges around the importance of safe and responsible microdata access, the challenges, and need for the JDC to strengthen engagement with stakeholders such as NGOs. Read more on [the JDC webpage](#).

8. UNHCR and NGOs Regional Consultations in Europe – Localization of Humanitarian Action and Engagement with Communities in a Post-COVID-19 Context

Over three days of online consultations (21-23 September) and following a first session on EU affairs held on 6 July 2021, UNHCR and NGOs underlined the key role played by refugee-led organizations, especially in enhancing the inclusion of displaced and stateless people in Europe as well as the importance of accessing social protection schemes. Gathering some 130 representatives from NGOs across Europe, one of the outcomes was a set of joint recommendations to national authorities, European Union institutions, NGOs, civil society organisations and UNHCR on access to social protection and labour market inclusion, enhancing civic engagement, and refugee leadership. More information on these consultations co-organised by the UNHCR Bureau for Europe, [ECRE](#) & ICVA is accessible on [the dedicated webpage](#), including a [public note summarizing the events](#).

9. Global Refugee Forum (GRF) Follow-up: Local Integration

On 17 June, World Vision Zambia, UNHCR Zambia, and ICVA organised an online meeting focused on 'Advancing local integration in Zambia.' This meeting as linked to a 2019 GRF pledge from the Government of the Republic of Zambia. The [Summary Report](#) of this meeting will aim to inform discussions on durable solutions at the High-Level Officials Meeting of December 2021.

10. Climate Change and Human Mobility



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UNHCR-NGO Monthly Consultation

Wednesday, 29 September 14:00 - 15:30 (CEST)

Theme: Climate Action: Disaster preparedness
and response

Speakers:



Benedetta Gualandi
Humanitarian
Program Lead and
Urban Resilience
Advisor, Oxfam South
Africa



Andrew Harper
UNHCR Special
Advisor on Climate
Action



Ezekiel Simperingham
Global Lead, Migration and
Displacement, IFRC



Robin Ellis
Deputy Director of
Division of Emergency,
Security and Supply,
UNHCR

Moderator: Stella Ogunlade, Chief of the NGOs and Civil Society Section, UNHCR

This meeting is organised by the UNHCR Partnership and Coordination Service and ICVA as part of monthly consultations to support exchanges between UNHCR and NGO staff on operational, policy and advocacy priorities.

UNHCR and NGOs Monthly Consultations:

On 29 September, UNHCR and ICVA co-organised a consultation with NGOs on "**Climate Action: Disaster Preparedness and Response.**" UNHCR, NGOs and speakers from [Oxfam South Africa](#) and [IFRC](#) discussed the connections between displacement, migration, and the climate crisis. Objective 2.3 of UNHCR Strategic Framework for Climate Action and UNHCR's role in responding to disasters was also discussed. Perspectives were also provided on the role of NGOs in working with governments in disaster risk reduction, anticipatory approaches in addressing displacement linked to the climate crisis, a natural hazard, or a disaster, particularly in terms of forecast-based financing anticipatory. Notes will be disseminated to participants.

Meeting on climate change and violence against women: Ms. Reem Alsalem, [UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences](#) and the [Women's Refugee Commission](#) organised with ICVA's support a thematic consultation on climate change and violence against women, including in displacement contexts. On 27 September, NGOs, civil society organizations, activists, academics, experts and UN and regional entities gathered virtually to discuss the potential priorities for the UN Special Rapporteur's mandate. We will keep ICVA members informed of potential further development.

11. The 2021 Nansen Refugee Award Laureate

Congratulations to the winner of this year's Nansen Award, the NGO [The Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development](#) which provides emergency services to internally displaced people in northern Yemen. Congratulations as well to the four regional winners of the Award from Burkina Faso, Pakistan, Honduras, and Serbia for their outstanding work for refugees and stateless people. You can learn more about the award and the winners [here](#).

- For more information, please contact: jerome.elie@icvanetwork.org and Loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org

12. Migrants in Vulnerable Situations

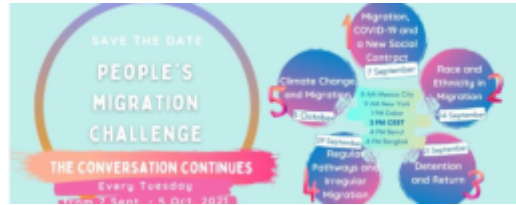
The following two initiatives around migration and ways to make our communities a better place to live caught our attention. Check them out and join the movement!



#ItTakesACommunity Civil Society closing event: "What Migrants Bring to My Community."

Watch the event [here](#).

[Join the Campaign](#)



People's Migration Challenge

Check out civil society mobilization webinar series on people's migration challenges.

[Webinar series](#)

Financing

13. Grand Bargain 2.0 Updates

We are happy to announce that since 28 September, ICVA took over the NGO representative role from SCHR in the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group. As previously noted in our [last bulletin](#), there will be a new second NGO position added to the Facilitation Group that will be filled by NEAR network for the next year. The incoming Facilitation Group members noted the significant work accomplished by outgoing group around drafting and facilitating agreement on the "2.0" proposal – now there is need to shift into implementation mode.

14. IASC Humanitarian Finance Results Group (RG5) - *No updates*

Coordination

15. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

The IASC Principals: Mr. Martin Griffiths, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) and Chair of the IASC, convened ad hoc IASC Principals meetings on 16th of August on Afghanistan, on 10th September on Syria, Lebanon and Afghanistan and on 4th October to discuss the situation in Ethiopia, including the expulsions of humanitarian staff by the Government of Ethiopia. The IASC Principals issued a [statement](#) on 18th August on their determination to stay in Afghanistan and to deliver.

The ERC, Mr. Martin Griffiths, met with NGOs on his recent visits to Syria, Lebanon, Afghanistan and Ethiopia. ICVA ED, Ignacio Packer met the ERC, including at the beginning of his mandate, to share ICVA membership perspectives to support on priority setting.

IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG): The EDG focused its attention on the situation in Afghanistan, including discussions regarding the activation of a System-Wide Scale Up for the response.

Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG):

- On 8 September, OPAG held a meeting on Engaging with Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG).
- The IASC Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings: With means of verification (Version

2.0), developed by the Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support In Emergency Settings (MHPSS RG), were also endorsed. Check out more information [here](#).

16. Update on IASC Results Groups

RG 1 Operational Response:

- **Subgroup on Localisation:** The Results Group held a meeting in September with an attendance of 8 local NGOs from 4 regions: Asia, MENA, Africa and Latin America. Discussions were around revising the workplan till the end of 2021, the [localization guidance](#) on strengthening the participation, representation and leadership of local and national actors in IASC humanitarian coordination mechanisms, and coordinating with the Grand Bargain 2.0 Workstream. This is to ensure harmonization with the work of the RG 1 IASC sub-group on localization. You can find resources shared by all sub-group members in this [online repository](#).

RG 1 Subgroup on Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments (BAI):

The subgroup, co-chaired by ICVA and InterAction, has finalized the draft of a new Framework for Addressing Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments to Humanitarian Action. The draft is now with RG1 members for final review before proceeding to the OPAG for endorsement in the coming weeks. If you would like to review the draft at this stage, please email coordination@icvanetwork.org

RG 2 Accountability and Inclusion: *No updates*

RG 3 Subgroup on Climate Change: This year's [World Humanitarian Day](#) was marked on 19 August with a key message on #TheHumanRace: a global challenge for climate action in solidarity with people who need it the most. We echo the call that "Solidarity begins with developed countries fulfilling their decade old pledge of \$100 billion annually for climate action in developing countries." You can join the campaign and challenge [here](#).

RG 4 Nexus: The Result Group met and discussed the way forward of the group until the end of the year. The focus was on supporting the country level with a flow of tools and information and by providing learning opportunities. In addition, the CoPN will host countries examples in October. Stay tuned for the confirmation of dates. A set of podcasts are being programmed to keep practitioners informed on the latest updates.

Finally, the works around the Nexus Academy, described in our previous bulletin is progressing.

RG 5 Humanitarian Finance: *No updates*

17. COVID-19 Vaccines

The newly recruited Senior Policy & Advocacy Coordinator, Eileen Morrow, will be moving forward the work of Sophia Battas the former COVID-19 vaccination consultant. Eileen will focus on strengthening advocacy and the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccinations to persons of concern and humanitarian staff, including national and local NGOs. She is a member of the UN /NGO vaccine task force looking at the challenges of low vaccine uptake among humanitarian personnel.

- If you wish to join the ICVA Working Group for COVID-19 Vaccines and the Humanitarian buffer, please email eileen.morrow@icvanetwork.org with your contact details.

18. High-Level Events

Several important events took place recently, related to the global humanitarian situation with interventions from ICVA members as well as from ICVA Chair, Jane Backhurst ([High-level meeting on 4 October](#)) and ICVA ED, Ignacio Packer ([High-level meeting on 13 September](#)).

- [High-Level Event on Anticipatory Action: A Commitment to Act Ahead of Crises](#) on Thursday, 9 September.
- [High-level Ministerial Meeting on the Humanitarian Situation in Afghanistan](#) on Monday, 13 September.
- [High-level Event: Action in Support of Preventing and Ending Famine Now](#) on Monday, 4 October.

Navigating Change: Cross Cutting Issues

19. Localization

Localization Baseline Project

In August, ICVA in partnership with the Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG) and the Yemen Civil Society Network launched the localization baselining project. This initiative will support a process for identifying these needs and contextualizing the research and development of tools to ensure they are fit for purpose. Further, ICVA and HAG team conducted several meetings with the Country Directors in Yemen, the RC and Deputy RC OCHA in Yemen, and INGOs Advocacy and Policy Working Group to discuss this initiative.

Localisation Strategy Development Workshop in Iraq: ICVA presented opening remarks at the NCCI (Mixed Fora in Iraq) Localisation Strategy Development Workshop. **Stephanie Yousef**, ICVA (MENA) Regional Deputy Representative presented the main elements about the localisation, definitions, its main pillars and the key opportunities and challenges as well as a discussion with NGOs on how to advance the role of local actors in Iraq.

Brown Bag: Localization in Humanitarian Leadership

Eman Ismail, ICVA (MENA) Regional Representative participated in the Brown Bag event on “**Localization in Humanitarian Leadership**.” The event was co-hosted by the [Local, Faith and Transformative Partnerships Hub](#) and the [Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance](#).

Ms. Eman advocated for quality funding and localization which are some of the main elements in the [Grand Bargain](#). A discussion with 60 USAID/BHA staffs occurred around the opportunities and challenges surrounding greater localization in humanitarian coordination.

- For more information, please contact: eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org

20. Child Rights

Global Forum for Children and Youth: Making it Count: Localisation and Humanising Education in Emergencies Data

On 5 October, Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies (EIE), Switzerland and UNESCO co-hosted this [event](#) to highlight the voices and experiences of local EIE actors involved in data collection, processing and use. Participants exchanged on the challenges local actors face around the collection of education in emergencies data and explored the opportunities and evidence-based approaches for most effective and efficient humanitarian action for education.

Global Forum for Children and Youth, 7- 9 December 2021

The inaugural Global Forum for Children and Youth (#ChildrenYouthForum) will virtually convene children and young people together with leaders from the United Nations, government, business, philanthropy and civil society. Key focus will be on issues that are top of mind for children, young people and families and that require immediate attention as the

world allocates resources for 2022 and beyond. Participants will brainstorm and accelerate proven and new solutions, inspire commitments to create change, and mobilize resources to advance child rights to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

21. Civil Society Space in Humanitarian Action

The OECD Development Co-operation Directorate has just adopted the recommendation on “[Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance](#).” The recommendation provides guidance on **how donor countries can better work with civil society actors**, while also encouraging them to take action to enhance their effectiveness, transparency and accountability. ICVA members shared their suggestions during the consultation of the draft recommendations.

Guidance for Field Protection Clusters for Meaningful Engagement with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI)

Human Rights Engagement Task Team launched its guidance for Field Protection Clusters for meaningful engagement with NHRI. The Guide outlines the relevance of NHRIs for Protection Clusters, what can be achieved through collaboration, and practical considerations for Protection Clusters to take into account when engaging with these institutions. Read it [here](#).

- For more information, please contact: nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org

22. Climate and Environment

Planet: Red Summit on 12 - 14 October 2021

In the absence of statutory meetings this year, the IFRC and ICRC we will convene the [Planet: Red Summit](#). The aim of the event will be to share experiences, showcase the power of local action to drive global impact, and together, to contribute solutions that alleviate and ultimately prevent the worst human consequences of climate change and pandemics. ICVA's Executive Director, Ignacio Packer, will be speaking at the **virtual High-Level Discussion on the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations on 12 October at 13:00 CET**. To attend events during the Summit, [register here](#).

Here is your chance to make a difference!

If you have not yet signed the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations, then now would be an excellent time. Sign [here](#).

- For more information visit ICVA's [Climate and Environment](#) webpage or contact: nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org

Region Specific

23. Asia and the Pacific

Afghanistan

The escalation in the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan has been one of the key issues affecting the region in these last months. ICVA has and continues to work in collaboration and in support of members at regional and global level to address key operational and policy issues. Through each of the different focus areas for ICVA we are concentrating on supporting and facilitating, interagency and NGO exchanges, highlighting NGO views at IASC discussions, and information exchange on both the situation in Afghanistan and the surrounding countries.

On the 13 September at the high-level meeting on Afghanistan, donors pledged 1.2 billion dollars to the humanitarian situation. A number of members spoke at the event including ICVA's Executive Director, Ignacio Packer, who highlighted the centrality of protection and the need to ensure space for NGOs to operate independently and in a principled manner. Check out [ICVA statement](#).

Myanmar

In August the national cluster system was activated in Myanmar in response to the changing nature of the humanitarian situation. ICVA held a briefing for the INGO forum to highlight different opportunities for NGOs to engage and influence the evolving coordination mechanisms in the country.

Inter and Intra Regional Exchange

Over the last few months, the ICVA Asia - Pacific has supported various levels of exchange between members across the region and globe. In August, Human Initiative, a member from Indonesia, shared experiences with the Lebanese National NGO forum on how they moved from a domestic focus humanitarian organisation to a more global facing organisation. Elsewhere, the regional representatives from ICVA Mena and Asia - Pacific shared lessons on engagement of local actors in different coordination systems with a Danish collective of DCA, the Maternity Fund, and Sex and Samfund and their national partners. ICVA has also connected different fora in the region to support each other on issues regarding setting up PSEA systems and exploring alternative humanitarian financing models for local actors.

Emergency Preparedness Working Group

In collaboration with OCHA and IFRC co-chairs, ICVA organised the September regional Emergency Preparedness Group meeting which amongst discussing the food and health situation in Afghanistan and updates in Myanmar, looked at seasonal forecasts in the region. Highlighting potential return of La Nina conditions, which may exasperate drought conditions in Afghanistan and surrounding countries, increase rainfall in parts of south-east Asia and the Pacific, thus having a potential impact on crops and food security in different parts of the region. For more information connect with FAO country or regional offices.

- For more information about ICVA's work in Asia and Pacific, contact Keya Saha-Chaudhury, sahachaudhury@icvanetwork.org

24. Africa

2021 UNHCR NGO Consultations

Southern Africa Regional UNHCR Consultation:

ICVA in the Africa region co-convened several UNHCR NGO consultations on 1-3 September. These consultations spanned the three regional bureaus for southern Africa for UNHCR covering themes like climate action, partnership and the GCR. ICVA Africa Regional Representative key message to the participants was on the need for joint responsibility to constructively track and monitor the progress, achievements, and challenges. ICVA MENA Regional Representative also participated in the consultations as a key panelist in the panel "**Localization of humanitarian action and engagement with communities.**" Key message was on how international and national actors can coexist and coordinate effectively, share opportunities and combine advocacy efforts. Recommendations were also shared on how localization can be operationalized in the region, showcase best practices, and identify steps to further empower actors.

Western and Central Africa (WCA) Regional UNHCR Consultation:

ICVA MENA Regional Representative, Eman Ismail, participated as a moderator for the panel "**Localization of Humanitarian Action and Engagement with Communities in the COVID-19 Context.**" The panellists reflected on how the localization agenda has evolved in WCA, explored good practices of local and national actors, including refugee-led organizations, contributing to COVID-19 prevention measures and community-based protection initiatives. Steps and recommendations to strengthen collaboration between UNHCR and local national actors in view of protecting and finding solutions for the forcibly displaced were also shared.

East Africa CoPn (Plus) Meeting - Humanitarian Financing and Grand Bargain 2.0

Jeremy Rempel, ICVA's Head of Humanitarian financing, provided an update on Humanitarian Financing and the Grand Bargain 2.0, at the East Africa (CoPn+) meeting on 16 September. The CoPn (Plus) involved an invite to all members of the Fora in Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

- For more info about East Africa CoPn (Plus), please connect with advocacysupport@icvanetwork.org

In September, the Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA), Training of Trainers (ToT) programme for the NGO Fora Secretariat and members in Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan was launched. The Peer-Peer network of the new GiHA Trainers, will continue via a dedicated online platform, developed as part of the programme. It will be provided support by both ICVA Africa and GenCap, in the implementation of their country training roll out. In January 2022, a follow up, live event will be held with participants of the programme, exploring opportunities to build further a regional 'surge capacity' of GiHA Trainers. For more information, please connect with Maxine Clayton advocacysupport@icvanetwork.org.

ICVA supported the Peer-2-Peer (P2P) Mission to the DRC which took place from 5 September to 18 September. The mission aimed at providing recommendations to review the current humanitarian coordination architecture. It was run through 15 workshops in 6 locations, including Goma and Kinshasa, for a total of close to 200 participants. This will result in an HCT action plan to be released in early October, followed by an EDG review 6 months after.

- For more information or to be included in the ICVA Africa Working Group List, please connect with marco.rotelli@icvanetwork.org or Addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org

25. MENA Region

MENA Members and NGO Fora Meeting

On 28 September, the annual ICVA MENA Members and NGO Fora meeting took place virtually. The meeting included global/regional updates; a comprehensive update on Grand Bargain II: Looking at the implications of the Grand Bargain II on NGOs work; Global updates on NEXUS and a panel discussion on NEXUS in MENA. The meeting was attended by 68 members from different countries in MENA (Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Jordan, Turkey, Gulf countries, etc), local and international NGOs representatives who shared their questions, inputs to inform ICVA strategy and priorities workplan for 2022.

Case Study

ICVA launched the report **"The Evolution of Syrian NGO Networks: The Role of Humanitarian Response and Long-Term Prospects."** The study examines the emergence of Syrian NGO networks by describing the networks, the timeline of their establishment and activities, size, membership criteria, and their evolution individually and in coordination. Read the report [here](#).

NGO Fora Support Programme in MENA: A meeting with representatives from three Local NGOs fora in MENA was conducted to coordinate and exchange expertise around the NGO fora support programme that is awarded to the Palestinian NGO Network, Syrian Women led Network and Syrian NGO League. The representatives from the different fora shared information about the current progresses in implementing different initiatives, challenges they face and exchanged information with other peer NGO representatives. ICVA will continue its support to the NGO fora by providing the required tools, information and resources.

Meeting with RC and DRC in Yemen: A discussion with RC and Deputy RC in Yemen took place to inform them about ICVA work and support to NGOs in Yemen. Also, to get a brief about the current situation in Yemen and to amplify different advocacy asks coming from NGOs members about access and funding issues. ICVA team informed OCHA team about the localisation initiatives that ICVA, HAG and the local NGOs in Yemen are participating in.

Panel of “The Role of and Space for Civil Society and Local Communities in Humanitarian Coordination Mechanisms”: This panel was organized by DanChurchAid, Maternity Foundation and the Danish Family Planning Association (partners of related Global Focus Capacity Strengthening Initiative).

Eman Ismail, ICVA (MENA) Regional Representative and **Keya Saha-Chaudhury** ICVA Regional Representative in Asia participated with a number of CSOs and NGOs members on a discussion about advancing the role of local actors. Key reflections were on how the coordination and accountability mechanisms should work and how they work in practice. The panel also aimed to enhance knowledge among CSOs on existing coordination mechanisms related to Gender Equality and SRHR in Humanitarian settings.

- For more information or to be included in the ICVA MENA Mailing List, please connect with eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org or stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org

26. Latin America Region

UNHCR NGO Consultations for the Latin America & the Caribbean

On 8, 9 & 10 September, UNHCR and ICVA co-organised the 2021 Regional NGO Consultations. Key discussions focused on localization and supporting those who are delivering aid locally as well as climate action and how to work together to meet the challenges that climate change present for those forcibly displaced. Ignacio Parker, ICVA ED gave a keynote speech noting that the engagement of UNHCR with NGOs in Latin America remains very articulate and offers the basis for ever improving partnership models. You can read more about the discussions [here](#).

On 2 September, ICVA joined an event organized by local humanitarian organizations together with UN agencies, donors, international NGOs, and diplomats. The aim of the meeting was to assess the complex humanitarian emergency in Venezuela, specifically the humanitarian needs, gaps, and challenges. Key recommendations to the Humanitarian Coordinator were to effectively promote humanitarian space that is safe and to prepare and implement contingency plans to respond to security incidents affecting humanitarian workers.

- For more information or to be included in the ICVA Latam Mailing List, please connect with lina.gomez@icvanetwork.org

Learning Opportunities



27. The School of International Futures (SOIF) has some upcoming free introductory training sessions and policy assessment. First training is - Introduction to Intergenerational

Fairness on 12 October. You can register [Here](#). The second training will be on: Getting started with Policy Assessment for Intergenerational Fairness 20 October. Register [Here](#).

28. Courses for Humanitarian Professionals: Want to sharpen your competences around humanitarian work? Check out these new courses offered by [Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies](#).

New and Noteworthy

29. Discussion Series on Ensuring Safety and Security of Humanitarian Workers: The European Union, France, Germany, Mexico, Niger, Norway and Switzerland organised in March- June 2021 a discussion series on ensuring the protection, safety, and security of humanitarian workers and medical personnel in armed conflicts. ICVA participated and contributed to the four discussions that took place. Check out more details on the discussion series and the outcome document [here](#).

30. Briefing on the New World Food Programme (WFP) Strategic Plan on 12 October from 14.00 – 15.30 CET online

WFP's new Strategic Plan is due to be endorsed by the WFP Executive Board in November right after APC 2021. The briefing will include a walkthrough of the plan, the principles, pathways and cross cutting issues that will lead their work throughout the next five years and will be an opportunity to reflect on how it will impact their way of working together. More information will be shared soon. You can register [here](#) for the event.

31. Launch of 2021 Global Hunger Index on 14 October 16:00-18:00 CEST

Welthungerhilfe, Concern Worldwide, and KfW cordially invite you to join high-ranking experts from policy, academia, and civil society in discussing the next steps needed on the international agenda to deliver real change for the millions of people suffering from hunger and conflict. The event will be held in English, and simultaneous translation into German and French will be provided. Register [here](#) for the event.

32. Call for Expressions of Interest to Join the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) Steering Committee:

The first revision of the CHS to ensure it stays fit for the purpose of improving support for people and communities affected by crises is starting soon. Do you work with a national organisation that has experience in responding to crises in Africa, the Middle East or Latin America? Have you experienced being part of a disaster affected community and being a recipient of humanitarian assistance? If you can bring these or other relevant experiences, please [apply](#) before **15 October**.

Agenda

October 4-8: UNHCR 72nd Executive Committee

October 4-8: Alliance 2021 Annual Meeting for Protection Children in Humanitarian Action

October 12-14: Planet: Red Summit

October 14: ICVA-PHAP webinar: Adapting to impacts of the climate and environment crises

October 20: Partnering for Climate Crisis Emergencies

October 19-21: 2021 ALNAP Meeting – Learning from disruption: evolution, revolution or status quo?

October 21: Expert roundtable on climate finance in conflict and fragile settings

October 27: UNHCR consultation on modalities and programme for the High-Level Officials Meeting (Global Compact on Refugees implementation/Global Refugee Forum follow-up)

November: Continental Humanitarian Summit and Donors/pledging conference by the African Union (AU) in Equatorial Guinea.

December 9-10: Global Humanitarian Policy Forum (GHPF)

December 10: Human Rights Day

December 14-15: High-level officials' meeting (Global Compact on Refugees implementation/Global Refugee Forum follow-up)

2022

January 24-26: European Humanitarian Forum

March 09: ICVA@60 and ICVA2030

May 2-20: 8th Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW 2022)

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