

ICVA Bulletin

Highlights from March 2022



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Dear Readers,

This week, we cover ICVA 60 anniversary, our statement calling for a principled and coordinated response in Ukraine and upcoming webinar on understanding and integrating climate and environment risk data into humanitarian action. We also explore updates on forced migration, financing, coordination as well as climate action, safeguarding and the regional hubs.

Registration is now open for the ICVA 60 on-line event on 18th May 2022. Please [register now](#).

Happy reading!

Message from Executive Director

Taking Action to Transform

Established in 1962 by a small coalition of refugee and migration focused NGOs, ICVA has grown into a diverse network of 140 NGO members and networks with an operational footprint of over 20 billion CHF, an outreach to over 8'000 NGOs and operating in 160 countries at global, regional, national and local levels.

In Amman, Panama, Nairobi, Bangkok and Geneva as well as on-line, we will gather this year to commemorate the 60th anniversary of ICVA. We do so with a sense of respect for the founders of ICVA. We consider the past as a powerful tool for shaping the future and for implementing collective strategies.

The urgency for organisations to come together, to act from the learnings of the past and to collectively fulfil the promises and commitments to people has rarely been greater.

As reported in the latest [ICVA External Impact Study](#) published in March, ICVA's achievements are many, and we owe the ICVA members and their personnel much gratitude and respect for supporting ICVA's mission to make humanitarian action more principled and effective by working collectively and independently to influence policy and practice.

However, as an NGO community, we have our moments of disappointment. Our world is not yet the world that our predecessors were discussing 60 years ago. It is afflicted by armed conflicts, growing inequality, climate change, pandemics, hunger, insecurity... People are forced to make dangerous journeys in search of refuge and safety. All this calls for greater action, for an increase of solidarity, influence, efficiency and collaboration rather than competition for limited resources, for our “egos and logos”.

Therefore, **we will not « celebrate »**. We will recall, learn and show respect but, above all take action. Guided by the [ICVA2030, the strategy 2022-2030](#) adopted by the ICVA General Assembly in May 2021, we have committed around five major transformations.

ICVA members’ overwhelming concern relates to the respect and protection of humanitarian space. We will further support the effective, appropriate translation of principles into practice (Transformation n°1). We will accelerate addressing the impact of ‘climate change’ on humanitarian action (Transformation n°2). We will realise the full value of our diversity through being inclusive and fostering participation to ensure our relevance, legitimacy and impact as well as truly living our values (Transformation n°3). We will further develop being globally distributed and locally rooted (Transformation n°4). We believe that more lives would be saved and more opportunities for promising futures made possible with better cooperation. We will reinforce our proactive engagement in agile collaborative partnerships (Transformation n°5).

Our commemoration is for ICVA’s history to instill a sense of identity and purpose and reinforce the ICVA 2030 ambitions that will hopefully resonate.

Ignacio Packer
Executive Director | ICVA

ICVA Updates



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

60 YEARS
1962-2022

**SAVE
THE DATE**

18 MAY 2022

ICVA 60 YEARS COMMEMORATION

ON LINE, IN PERSON AND REGIONAL EVENTS

1. ICVA 60 Commemoration On-line Event

Registration is now open for the ICVA 60 on-line event on Wednesday 18 May 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm CEST. Don't miss the opportunity to hear about our 6 decades journey and how through the ICVA 2030 strategy we are looking to transform the ICVA network to the future. We invite you to [register now](#) and join us.

[Register](#)

2. ICVA Statements on the Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis and Afghanistan

In light of the evolving humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, ICVA released a statement calling on the following:

- immediate cessation of hostilities, the protection of civilians, and adherence to international law.
- the respect and protection of humanitarian access and space.
- all humanitarian responders to engage in coordination mechanisms, to be inclusive and foster participation of local and national actors and prioritise accountability to affected populations.
- on governments to extend the same leadership and solidarity shown in response to Ukraine across all humanitarian crises globally.

Check out the [full statement](#) and engagements on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Forced Migration

3. UN Secretary-General's Draft Action Agenda for Internal Displacement

Following up on the 14 February meeting on the [Draft UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement](#), ICVA and InterAction finalised NGO written feedback based on contributions from both networks' membership. The feedback has been shared with the follow-up team to the UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda and is now available [here](#). A summary is also available in this joint [blog](#). It intends to help further strengthen the proposed mechanisms, particularly by suggesting ways to reinforce NGO contributions and the whole-of-society approach. It also comments on some of the High-Level Panel's proposals that are not reflected in the draft Action Agenda. Both networks will remain attentive to the finalisation and implementation of the Action Agenda.

4. Forced Migration Review (FMR): Climate Crisis and Displacement

The latest [FMR issue is now online](#) and includes a major feature on 'Climate crisis and displacement: from commitment to action.' Authors examine how high-level policy commitments can be translated into concrete action in order to address the impacts of the climate crisis on human mobility. This issue includes articles written by several ICVA members and an analysis by the [ICVA Head of Forced Migration, Dr. Jerome Elie](#), of how climate change was addressed by the [High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement](#) and the ongoing process to develop the UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement.

5. UNHCR 83rd Standing Committee

ICVA coordinated the drafting of [NGO collective statements delivered at UNHCR's 83rd Standing Committee](#) (8-10 March) with regional updates on Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the Middle East and North Africa. Thanks to the NGO inputs provided, the statements comprised several recommendations to UNHCR and Member States on protection and durable solutions for forcibly displaced population and stateless communities in all regions. The [Statement on Europe](#) particularly highlighted key NGO messages on the Ukraine situation.

6. ExCom Conclusion on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

On 24 March, ICVA organised a meeting between NGOs, UNHCR and the 2022 ExCom Rapporteur, Mr. Jorge González Mayagoitia (Mexico) on this year's Executive Committee's Conclusion on International Protection focused on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). The meeting was an opportunity for the ExCom Rapporteur, Ms. Madeline Garlick, Chief, Protection Policy and Legal Advice, Division of International Protection and Mr. Pieter Ventevogel, Senior Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Officer to present updates on the ongoing process. NGOs provided comments on priorities and recommendations on MHPSS, particularly on the need for significant additional funding to host countries, gender rights, and the implementation of policies and guidelines. [ExCom Conclusions](#) are adopted each year by consensus. Although not formally binding, they are relevant to the interpretation of the international protection regime. In 2022, the ExCom Conclusion focused [on international protection and durable solutions in the context of a public health emergency](#). ICVA's work with NGOs on the ExCom Conclusion will continue throughout 2023.

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

7. Migrants in Vulnerable Situation

International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) 2022 Website now Open

The [website](#) provides information on the agenda, resources, registration and the programme. Application for side events during the forum is now open until 8 April 2022. There will be a total of 20 side events that will provide an opportunity to discuss good practices, challenges and recommendations to further the implementation of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.



Repository of Practices

Now live, the [Repository of Practices](#) showcases replicable practices to inspire those working to implement the Global Compact for Migration from global, national, regional and local levels. Over 100 practices have been submitted so far, with new practices published on a regular basis, once endorsed through the peer review process.

Financing

8. Grand Bargain 2.0 Implementation

The Quality Funding Caucus formally launched on 11 March with an initial focus on improvements to multi-year flexible humanitarian funding. Although the Grand Bargain caucuses are intended to be closed groups with a small group of signatories focused on resolving specific political issues, the results of caucus discussions are typically relevant to a larger range of signatories. Progress of the caucus and any relevant requests for inputs in the dialogue will be shared through the ICVA [Humanitarian finance Working Group](#). Details of the concept for the quality Funding Caucus are available on the Grand Bargain website [here](#).

A new Grand Bargain [bi-monthly newsletter](#) was also released by the Secretariat at the end of March, with detailed updates on implementation of Grand Bargain 2.0.

- For more information contact jeremyrempel@icvanetwork.org.

9. Cash Programming Coordination

The recommendations passed to the IASC by the Grand Bargain Cash Caucus for a standard cash programming coordination structure were officially endorsed by the IASC OPAG in March. This new model will provide a standardised structure for cash coordination at both the global and country levels. A transition period will be required for existing Cash Working Groups to be aligned with the new model, and relevant updates will continue to be provided through both the ICVA Humanitarian Finance and Coordination Working Groups as appropriate. Details of the endorsed model can be found on the IASC website [here](#).

10. OCHA Country Based Pooled Funds

The final round of revisions of the CBPF Global Guidelines was completed by the Pooled Fund Working Group in March. These new guidelines should be finalised in the coming days and will be shared with ICVA members once complete. A discussion between OCHA and the members of the OCHA NGO Dialogue Platform is scheduled for early April. Once the revisions to the Global Guidelines are completed there will be a process to ensure that the operating manuals for the individual pooled funds are aligned as needed.

OCHA also announced during the March Pooled Fund Working Group meeting that the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund will see a significant scale up in 2022. More than \$100 million has now been pledged by donors for the fund, up from just over \$10 million in 2021. This new funding will be channelled through a combination of local and international NGOs as well as the Red Cross and UN agencies. Stay tuned for more details through the ICVA Humanitarian Finance Working Group.

11. CERF COVID-19 NGO Allocation Review

An [independent review of the CERF Covid19 NGO allocation](#) has now been completed. This special allocation was announced in June 2020 as part of the efforts to improve the speed of funding to frontline NGOs during COVID-19 response. Although CERF funding is not directly accessible by NGOs, this special allocation was arranged through IOM with a target of \$26 million to NGOs in 6 countries. The review provides a positive overall overview of the special allocation, with recommendations for consideration in any future allocation targeting NGO partners.

- For more information contact jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org
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Coordination

12. Coordination Support for the Ukraine Crisis Response

A priority focus for ICVA in March has been support to coordination for the Scale Up of the response to escalating conflict in Ukraine. ICVA contributed to multiple Principals and EDG discussions on the response, established an active working group with over 100 members, and has participated actively in the Geneva Based Operations Cell for the response and other coordination groups to support proactive information flow and analysis for NGOs. To support the initial stages of NGO coordination and information management for the response, Zofia Okueniewska joined us on secondment from Save the Children, initially embedded in the Geneva Operations Cell and subsequently for two weeks in Poland engaging with various coordination mechanisms being established in Poland and Ukraine. During this month a recruitment process was conducted, and we are pleased to welcome Martin Chatelet to the ICVA team, on a 3-month contract to support the next phase of NGO Coordination for the response. Martin brings extensive experience in NGO coordination in some very complex settings and we look forward to his support and leadership in strategising how to establish an effective NGO coordination mechanism for the response, given the unique requirements of the situation in Ukraine, particularly at sub-national level. Recognizing the importance of understanding and engaging with local and national Ukrainian CSO/NGO actors in the response, ICVA has also entered into a partnership with the Ukraine NGO Resource Centre to provide information and analysis that will support the engagement and representation of local and national actors in the coordination of the response. The ICVA team has also provided support regarding NGO registration in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, advocacy for the response and addressed topics related to financing and cash coordination.

13. Briefings with Humanitarian Leadership

ICVA hosted hybrid briefings (in-person at the ICVA office in Geneva and online) for members with three senior humanitarian leaders during March; Daniel Endres, Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for East Africa, Denise Brown, DSRSG/RC/HC for the Central African Republic and Suzanna Tkalec, Deputy HC for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Discussions focused on the specific challenges of these contexts, how coordination can better support NGO action, financing mechanisms, and the key advocacy messages that could be amplified from global level in support of the responses.

14. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

The IASC Principals

IASC Principals reached consensus on the [cash coordination model](#) as proposed by the Grand Bargain cash coordination caucus.

IASC Principals Ad Hoc Meetings on Ukraine were convened by the ERC on 4th March, 14th March and 23rd March. Follow-up actions include to immediately activate the IASC Humanitarian System-Wide Scale-Up Protocols (04/03); more clearly articulate the humanitarian needs and the responses of all IASC members and partners in Ukraine, as well as the secondary impacts of the crisis on other operations worldwide (14/03); and publicly communicate what humanitarian partners are seeking to do and what is being done to address the scale of needs (23/03).

IASC Deputies Group

IASC Deputies Group met on 28 March. The first topic on the agenda was the follow up to the external Review of the IASC's Approach to PSEAH. A draft PSEAH Strategy 2022-2026 was discussed, with some requests to sharpen the focus of the strategy, work on a clear workplan with roles and responsibilities as well as ensure that implementation is systematically monitored. It was decided to submit the Strategy to the IASC Principals for endorsement.

The second topic covered on the agenda regarded the Review of Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement. The subject had been discussed also previously by the Deputies Group. Therefore, in this round of discussions, the Deputies Group decided to:

- endorse the concept note by ensuring a sharpened focus of the Review by prioritizing coordination, leadership and protection;
- build upon the model and lessons learnt of the Review of the implementation of the IASC Protection Policy; and
- support advocacy efforts with donors to fund the Review.

IASC OPAG

OPAG held two meetings in March. In the first meeting, OPAG members discussed and agreed on the new task forces' co-chairmanship as per below:

- Task Force 1: Centrality of Protection – InterAction and UNHCR
- Task Force 2: Accountability to Affected People – CHS Alliance, IFRC, and WFP
- Task Force 3: Preserving Humanitarian Space (BAI & COTER) – NRC and OCHA
- Task Force 4: Humanitarian-Development Collaboration and its Linkages to Peace – Oxfam and UNDP
- Task Force 5: Localization – NEAR Network, Titi Foundation, and UNICEF

ICVA members are co-chairing on behalf of the collectivity and with the support of the Secretariat the TF 2, TF 3, TF 4 and TF 5.

The second meeting of OPAG focused on the Associated Entities and namely the Global Cluster Coordination Group, the Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, the Humanitarian Program Cycle Steering Group and the Reference Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action. OPAG decided to extend the term of all these IASC Associated Entities until December 2023, provided some guideline for their work in the future and set up a system of periodical feedback to OPAG.

15. Address COVID-19 Vaccine Inequity in Humanitarian Settings

On 2 March, ICVA hosted a meeting between members engaged in COVID-19 vaccine delivery and Ted Chaiban, Global Lead Coordinator for Covid-19 Vaccine Country Readiness and the Vaccine Delivery Partnership. The Vaccine Delivery Partnership is targeting 34 countries, including 17 humanitarian contexts: Afghanistan, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, DRC, Ethiopia, Haiti, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria Arab Republic and Yemen. Countries were selected based on low vaccination coverage (10% or less, as of January 2022) and are off-track to reach 70% vaccination target by mid-year.

The Vaccine Delivery Partnership aims to ensure an effective global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and support COVID-19 vaccine country readiness and delivery. This includes coordinating interagency efforts to forecast vaccine needs and provide financial and technical assistance to overcome bottlenecks in country-level implementation.

The work intends to mobilise humanitarian agencies and NGOs and to bundle COVID-19 vaccination delivery with other humanitarian interventions. During the meeting, members discussed the importance of meaningfully engaging with NGOs and local CSOs, accountability to affected populations, delivery costs, a programmatic approach to vaccine delivery and ensuring existing humanitarian needs are prioritised and funding opportunities.

- For more information, contact eileen.morrow@icvanetwork.org.

Transforming our Network

16. Champion Principled Humanitarian Action

Humanitarian Access:

ICVA hosted member in the first in a series of discussions on humanitarian access challenges and actions to addressing them in Yemen, Ukraine and Afghanistan. These meetings aim to connect members from local to global level to develop a shared understanding of the drivers and trends of access impediments, jointly agree actions and communications, and analyse the implications of various approaches to addressing access impediments on principled and effective humanitarian assistance.

ICVA also hosted a briefing from HERE Geneva on their [research findings](#) on Principled Humanitarian Programming in Yemen. The project aimed to understand the challenges and decision-making processes related to humanitarian negotiations, access, and coordination that organisations pursue to uphold principled humanitarian action in Yemen.

- For more information contact coordination@icvanetwork.org.

49th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council (28 February – 1 April 2022)

The Council discussed the human rights situation in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Libya, Venezuela, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, among many others. The Council also addressed a wide range of human rights matters. Explore the [various resolutions that were adopted, documents and proceedings](#).

- For more information see ICVA's [Civil Society Space](#) webpage or contact: nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org.

17. Address Impact of Climate Change on Humanitarian Action

Humanitarian Aid Donor's Declaration on Climate and Environment

The [declaration](#) was officially validated by the European Council at the last European Humanitarian Forum on 21-23 March 2022. The document promotes a humanitarian response system that prevents, prepares, anticipates and responds to climate and environment challenges. It complements the [Statement of Commitment on Climate by Humanitarian Organisations](#) (2020), signed by 10 organisations, and the [Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations](#) (2021), now signed by over 220 organisations.



Webinar: Understanding and Integrating Climate and Environment Risk Data in Humanitarian Action (28 April 2022)

ICVA and PHAP are organising the 5th session of the [Learning Series on Climate Change and Humanitarian Action](#) with a focus on Commitment #4 of the [Climate and Environment Charter](#) on **28thApril 14:00 – 16:00 CEST**. The commitment encourages organisations to better understand climate and environmental risks in order to calibrate responses adequately. The webinar aims to provide insights on:

- Why climate and environmental risk data important in humanitarian contexts
- The benefits of sharing data from meteorological, agriculture, private sector and governmental sources to inform both humanitarian and developmental programmes
- How humanitarian actors access, use this data and analysis for planning and programming?

[Book your seat now!](#)

18. Be Globally Distributed and Locally Rooted

Localisation

Localisation is one of the transformation areas in ICVA 2030 strategy in which ICVA focuses on supporting the local actors through influencing the overall humanitarian architecture, and sometimes national architecture, in order to create an enabling environment and inclusive humanitarian leadership. ICVA is dedicated on strengthening the existing capacities of local actors so they can coordinate effectively and take the lead on different collective advocacy actions.

In a summary, ICVA in its approach and interventions focuses on:

- Enhancing the meaningful participation of local actors in the leadership, decision-making in the humanitarian coordination platforms.
- Increasing and supporting the existing capacities of local, national, and local NGO coalitions and responders with a focus on strengthening the leadership for local women-led NGOs and refugee-led initiatives.
- Collating and developing an evidence-based documentation and research that feed into a collective advocacy action, and serve as a reference for members in their advocacy and policy efforts
- Understanding better and working to reduce barriers that prevent local and national actors from advancing their leadership and humanitarian response growth. Focusing on improving the quality of partnership and working with NGO fora to support and complement their advocacy action.

Finally, the Localisation baselining initiatives are ongoing in Yemen, Uganda and Cameroon to develop a localisation framework/baseline. This process is carried out by local actors and INGOs in the selected countries and in collaboration with [Humanitarian Advisory Group \(HAG\)](#). The [Localisation Measurement Framework and Tools](#) will be contextualised by in-country partners during this process providing an approach to measure progress on localization in a holistic way. The framework looks at localisation under seven interlinked priority areas: partnerships, leadership, coordination and complementarity, participation (accountability), policy influence and advocacy, capacity, and funding.

- For more information on Localisation, please connect with eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org.

19. Be Diverse, Inclusive and Live our Values

Safeguarding

Launch of the Partnerships and PSEA Report

On 16 March 2022, ICVA co-hosted with the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) and Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office a launch event for the Partnerships and PSEA report. The report is the result of an analysis of recent case studies and was commissioned from GCPS Consulting by SCHR and ICVA, with technical support from UNHCR. The report focuses on the important role played by partnerships in addressing allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) against aid workers. Read the [full report and watch the launch event recording](#) and presentation.

- For more information, contact alon.plato@icvanetwork.org.

Safeguarding in Humanitarian Emergency

The Resource and Support Hub (RSH) has created a dedicated webpage on [Safeguarding in a humanitarian emergency](#) that is useful to civil society organisations who are new to safeguarding and who have safeguarding experience. It has information and resources that are especially relevant or have been adapted for an emergency context.

Virtual Training Opportunity: Safeguarding Matters

RSH has developed a series of five [online training modules called Safeguarding Matters](#). These modules are FREE, interactive and use scenario-based learning to support organisations navigate safeguarding challenges and create safer work environments. Each module is accompanied by safeguarding notifications which provide additional learning prompts and provides a certificate of completion. Modules are available in English, French, Amharic, Swahili, Hausa, and Arabic.

How Organisations of Persons with Disabilities are Keeping People Safe

RSH and The Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities, Nigeria (JONAPWD) conducted research with organisations of persons with disability (OPDs) to understand how OPDs are keeping people safe, and what further support they need to strengthen their organisational approaches to safeguarding persons with disabilities. The research took place in 6 states and the Federal Capital Territory in Nigeria at the end of 2021 and involved 40 OPDs. Read the [full report](#) and the executive summary and one-page summary.

French and Swahili Hubs

The RSH have hubs in [French](#) and [Swahili](#) where you can find training and resources in those languages. If you would like to receive the latest news and be invited to upcoming events - [sign up for their newsletter](#).

- For more information, contact kriss.uyoga@icvanetwork.org.

20. Proactively Engage in Agile Collaborative Partnerships

European Humanitarian Forum (EHF)



The EHF took place on 21 -23 March in Brussels. A number of ICVA members participated. Important moments for formal and informal meetings for ICVA Secretariat, represented by ICVA MENA Regional Representative and ICVA Executive Director. Eman Ismail, ICVA MENA Regional Representative participated as a panelist on the Kick off panel to share the feedback and recommendations that came from the INGOs and NNGOs during the Regional EHF Consultations coorganised by ICVA. Eman also participated on the panel titled '[Aid under fire: protecting humanitarian actors and fighting](#)'.

Check out: main outcomes and documents linked to the various [forum sessions](#), recordings of the corresponding sessions and the NGO Joint [Statement](#) ahead of the European Humanitarian Forum **on the Impact of Counterterrorism Measures and Sanctions on Humanitarian Action**.

World Economic Forum's Global Future Council (GFC) on the New Agenda for Fragility and Resilience

ICVA Executive Director is member of the World Economic Forum's GFC on the New Agenda for Fragility and Resilience. Recent output of the GFC are [guidelines](#) aimed at guiding public and private actors –at local, national and international levels on how to work in concert to better meet the needs of communities in crisis and to develop thriving and resilient economies.

Partnerships with the European Philanthropy Sector

Key partners from the European philanthropy sector launched 'Philanthropy for Ukraine' & 'NGOs for Ukraine' online portals. The initiative, led by Philea and supported in the early stage by ICVA, aims to better coordinate the efforts, initiatives and calls for donations from the European philanthropy sector and NGO community in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. Learn more about the [portals and the key partners behind them](#).

Region Specific

21. Africa

Incoming ICVA Representative for West and Central Africa

We are delighted to announce that Ms. Adeline Benita has been appointed as the new ICVA Representative in Dakar, Senegal with a specific focus on humanitarian contexts in West and Central Africa. Adeline will take on her new position starting in May. She brings with her a wealth of experience in Humanitarian Aid in Africa, MENA and LAC with a specialisation in NGO coordination. She joins ICVA from her current position of Humanitarian NGO Forum Coordinator in Mali.

We would like to sincerely thank the group of ICVA members that have made these progresses possible by resourcing the specific program. Without them we would not be at this stage.

Peer to Peer Support Mission to Mozambique

In late February, ICVA supported participation of NGO representation in the Peer-to-Peer Support mission to Mozambique. The report from the mission has now been released and is available to ICVA members on request. Key recommendations focus on the involvement of NGOs in rapid response mechanisms and the establishment of a national NGO forum. ICVA has previously led exchanges, including with the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator, on similar topics and the reinforcement of NGOs platforms has been discussed with members, and we look forward to seeing the recommendations taken forward in the coming period.

CAR Briefing

ICVA has organised an exchange with Denise Brow, DSRSG/RC/HC for the Central African Republic and Members NGOs. The well-attended hybrid meeting, touched on issues related to access, funding and the potential impact of the Ukrainian crisis on non-State actors operating there.

DRC Briefing

ICVA has facilitated an exchange on operations in DRC with the DHC, Suzanna Tkalec. Among the topics covered are the concerns around adequate funding and increasing bureaucratic and administrative impediments that are particularly affecting NGOs' ability to operate. Participants agreed to collaborate towards the consolidation of the revised humanitarian architecture – roughly outlined during the 2021 P2P mission and now being honed by the HCT, as well as the decentralisation of the pooled funds and increasing National NGO access to the HCT.

- 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

Building a Better Response Training Program in Nairobi

29 participants drawn from NGO fora secretariats, steering committees and members from Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia benefitted from a training on strengthening capacity for coordination in Humanitarian Response. This was the first training programme for the region, dedicated solely to nominations from the Fora and facilitated by ICVA. The training was organised by the Building a Better Response Program in collaboration with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. Regional Donors and OCHA were invited to meet and exchange with participant to enrich the training curriculum with direct experiences from the regional perspective.

- For further details please contact: Maxine Clayton, advocacysupport@icvanetwork.org

22. Asia and the Pacific

NGO Discussions on the Evolving Afghanistan Humanitarian Crisis

In the lead up to the Afghanistan pledging conference on 31st March, ICVA convened two events, one for members and one with donors, UN and policymakers on the evolving situation. Both events were an opportunity to highlight how NGOs are delivering amidst very challenging circumstances and what support is needed from the international community at regional and global level. The virtual event, "*Afghanistan- The evolving humanitarian situation since August 2021*", included a panel involving National and INGO representatives discussing findings from three recent reports released by [ICVA](#), [ACBAR](#) and [NRC](#) on the challenges posed by the changing humanitarian context and recommendations on how to engage constructively on the way forward. It was attended by donor agencies (FCDO, EU, DFAT, USAID, etc.), permanent representatives and policy level heads, UN agencies (UNDP, OCHA, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, etc.), and NGOs with representation from the country to HQ level. Based on these discussions and input from Members, ICVA Chair, Jane Backhurst provided a statement from the floor at the Afghanistan Pledging conference. Check the full statement on our [website](#) and [social media](#).

In addition, ICVA's Asia Pacific regional representative attended an informal regional discussion on the UN Secretary-General's **draft action agenda on internal displacement** on 29th March to highlight the issues and drivers concerning displacement in the Asia region.

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

23. Latin America

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

24. MENA

Resource Safeguarding Hub - MENA

In March 2022, a three-day interactive training entitled, “A Safeguarding Journey” targeting local actors in three different locations, Syria, Yemen, and Jordan took place. The purpose of the training was to improve the knowledge and understanding of local actors in safeguarding and the various approaches. Participants included 15 local actors in Syria, 12 in Jordan, and 15 in Yemen representing a total of 42 local organisations. They gained insight on the meaning and definitions of safeguarding, the role and expectations of the local organisations, the approaches to safeguarding, as well as the role and responsibilities of the individuals within an organization. Tools in Arabic were provided. After completion of the training, the 42 organisations will benefit from six months of coaching and mentorship to support them meet safeguarding requirements.

Yemen Pledging Conference Financial Announcements 2022

The Yemen Pledging Conference took place on 16 March 16th, 2022. Thirty-six donors pledged nearly \$1.3 billion for humanitarian response in Yemen. Check the [financial announcements and reactions](#) from co-hosts.

Yemen Collective Action Meeting

ICVA secretariat team in MENA and Geneva organised a member’s discussion to jointly analyse key access challenges and for members to share their influencing and advocacy engagements, identify gaps and engagement opportunities, and set priority actions for collective action. Discussions also touched on the significant access issues, the importance of ongoing dialogue with authorities and a key strategy of national NGOs to gain acceptance and access, and the Importance of ensuring coherence among NGOs when dealing with different stakeholders and advocacy targets. For more details about this discussion and follow up, please contact ICVA MENA team.

- 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

Learning Opportunities

25. Course: Cash and Voucher Assistance in Humanitarian Crises: What Works? 6-17 June 2022

This [course](#) by [Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies](#) aims to build students’ practical skills to design, implement and monitor projects using Cash and Voucher Assistance as well as build their critical and reflexive skills on the topic of cash and voucher assistance. Register now.

26. Partnership Brokers Training for Humanitarians in Geneva, 17 -20 May 2022

The Partnership Brokers Association and Impact17 will conduct a 4-day course providing

people working in and on humanitarian partnerships with frameworks, insights, techniques and skills that are essential competencies for fulfilling organisations' humanitarian mandates. Find more information about the [course](#) and how to [apply](#).

New and Noteworthy

27. ICVA Executive Director, Ignacio Packer, highlights in a recent blog six [key priorities](#) on working in response to the Ukrainian crisis. They include supporting an adaptive approach to planning, funding and implementation as well as anticipating that the situation will lead to a large-scale protracted displacement and refugee crisis

28. Leading Well: Aid Leader Perspectives on Staff well-being and Organisational Culture

This [paper](#) by ICVA and CHS Alliance adds to the ongoing discussion on staff well-being in the humanitarian space and provokes necessary discussion on how we can evolve as individuals, organisations, and a system trying to meet the needs of people in crisis.

29. Research Opportunity!

The call for evidence-based practice in humanitarian action and development is increasing - but is it helping or hindering the strengthening of local action and actors? How can we improve on how evidence is defined and applied? Please share your thoughts and participate in a short interview as part of this research project, led by RMIT University, Australia, on the impact of evidence in aid. Contact: julia.hartelius@student.rmit.edu.au.

Agenda

April 26: ICVA workshop on COVID-19 vaccines for vulnerable populations in humanitarian and fragile contexts. Contact coordination@icvanetwork.org to register

May 2-20: Registrations are open for the 8th [Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks \(HNPW\) 2022](#)

May 17-20: International Migration Review Forum

May 18: [ICVA @60 commemoration](#)

May 25: Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference, and Extraordinary Summit on terrorism and unconstitutional changes of regime in Africa

June 7-10: UNHCR Global Consultations with NGOs on Localization and Climate Action

June 20: World Refugee Day

June 21: UN Humanitarian Affairs Segment

June 28-30: UNHCR 84th meeting of the Standing Committee

June TBD: Grand Bargain Annual Meeting

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