

# ICVA Bulletin

## Highlights from October 2023

The ICVA logo consists of the letters "ICVA" in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid blue circle.

A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

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### Dear Readers,

In this bulletin, we bring you the latest news concerning our focus areas: forced migration, humanitarian financing, and humanitarian coordination. We continue to transform the ICVA network to be more engaged in operationalising principled humanitarian action, in addressing the impact of climate change on humanitarian action, pursuing being globally distributed and locally rooted, being diverse, inclusive, and living our values, and proactively engaging in agile collaborative partnerships. Check more on the [transformations](#) of our ICVA 2030 Strategy. We also share our updates from our regional hubs and so much more.

Don't miss to follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#) for more updates.

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## MESSAGE FROM ICVA

### Charting a Course for Collective Impact

Welcome to the October 2023 ICVA Bulletin. Despite ongoing global challenges, at ICVA, we are dedicated to advancing humanitarian efforts and fostering collaboration.

I've just finished my first week back at ICVA, and it's been a pleasure to re-join this organization. In this time, I've seen the commitment of our team, network, and partners in promoting humanitarian values. Our collective focus is on making a positive impact in the lives of those affected by crises, emphasizing the fundamental principles of forced migration, humanitarian financing, and coordination.

In today's complex world, the ongoing struggles in the occupied Palestinian territories, Sudan, and Ukraine remind us of the critical need for humanitarian intervention and solidarity. While we offer our unwavering support to those affected, it's important to recognize that humanitarian responses alone can't address the root causes of these conflicts. Long-term solutions require political action, diplomacy, and international cooperation to tackle the underlying issues driving these crises. At ICVA, we understand the significance of not just immediate relief but also advocating for sustained efforts toward peace, security, and stability in these regions. Only by combining humanitarian aid with political engagement, can we address the root causes of conflict and strive for a more peaceful world.

As I consider ongoing events and ponder areas where ICVA can further support our membership, I want to focus on key themes shaping our path forward. Primarily, our task remains safeguarding and advocating for adherence to humanitarian principles, essential to our mission. We'll continue

championing the values that unite us and guide our actions.

ICVA also plays a crucial role in ensuring the visibility and voice of NGOs in the humanitarian arena. Moving ahead, I'll stress the need for greater NGO engagement, collaboration, and advocacy, hopefully thereby empowering our members to amplify our collective voice and impact internationally and nationally.

Similarly, our efforts will persist in strengthening our coordination and representation capabilities, ensuring NGOs are not just observers but active participants in dialogues with the United Nations, donors, and the broader international community. This participation forms the cornerstone of our mission to create a fairer, more compassionate, and equitable world.

Looking ahead, we face significant events: the Global Refugee Forum, Regional Humanitarian Partnership Weeks, and COP28, presenting unique platforms to effect change. ICVA will take a leading role in steering the dialogue, innovation, and collaboration required to meet our current challenges.

In closing, I deeply appreciate the trust placed in me to lead ICVA. As we pave the way for my tenure, I invite all to join in forging a journey filled with promise and purpose, to effect positive change in the humanitarian sector and beyond. Let's seize the opportunities with resolute passion and an unwavering spirit of optimism. Thank you.

**Dr Jamie Munn**

**Executive Director**

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## ICVA Updates



**WARMEST WELCOME TO OUR  
NEW MEMBERS!**

**JOIN US TO MAKE HUMANITARIAN  
ACTION MORE PRINCIPLED AND  
EFFECTIVE**

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**ICVA** | A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
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HUMANITARIAN ACTION

### 1. Meet our New Members

ICVA is growing and we are pleased to announce that the following organizations are now members of the ICVA network:

- [Gargaar Relief and Development Organization](#) (GREDO), Somalia
- [Horan Foundation](#), Turkey
- [IAHRA](#), Switzerland
- [R-SEAT](#), Canada

- [Global Interagency Security Forum \(GISF\)](#), UK

We look forward to working with them to make humanitarian action more principled and effective. [Learn more about our members.](#)

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## FORCED MIGRATION

### 2. UNHCR Online Consultations with NGOs

On 3 October, ICVA co-organized with UNHCR [an online consultation with NGOs](#) on “**Leveraging COP28 and the Global Refugee Forum 2023 for Joint Policy Engagement on Climate and Displacement**”. The panel included speakers from [the Norwegian Refugee Council](#), a youth refugee leader representing Refugee Child’s Coalition for Climate Action in Zimbabwe, disaster displacement and climate change experts as well as the UNHCR Special Advisor for Climate Action, and other representatives from his office. The discussions highlighted the need for strengthened collaboration among humanitarian actors and collective efforts to move forward. Convergence and coordination around the different initiatives, policies and advocacy were underscored, notably looking at the upcoming [COP28](#) and [the Global Refugee Forum](#), through the [multistakeholder pledge on climate action and finance](#).

### 3. UNHCR’s 74th Session of the Executive Committee

The [2023 Executive Committee Session](#) was held from 9-13 October in Geneva and was livestreamed. The Executive Committee gathered to advise on international protection, to consider and adopt UNHCR’s programme and budgets, agree on the programme of work of the Standing Committee for the commencing year and on the workplan (2024-2026) for the UNHCR Executive Committee Conclusions on International Protection, and elect [new](#) appointed officers.

#### NGO Collective Statement NGO delivered at the 74th Session of the Executive Committee

ICVA coordinated the collective NGO statement delivered by a representative from [the Asia Displacement Solutions Platform](#) on behalf of the NGO community. The statement focused on the imperative to build more durable solutions and expand solutions such as complementary pathways. The statement also shed light on conflicts and crises ongoing in the Asia Pacific region, highlighting specific protection concerns and the need to achieve lasting and durable solutions for Afghan refugees and Rohingya displaced populations. Read the [statement](#).

#### Report of the Regional Consultations with Non-governmental Organizations

This year, the report of the seven UNHCR regional consultations with non-governmental organizations was delivered at the 74th Session of the Executive Committee. The report summarised recommendations made on the main themes of the consultations on **Gender Equality and Solutions, with a focus on Inclusion of displaced and stateless people in national systems**. On gender equality, various recommendations were called for by UNHCR and NGOs including for Member States to regularly assess laws and policies to address gender issues, increase funding for actions against gender-based violence and to support gender equality initiatives. On solutions, recommendations focused on addressing the main barriers to inclusion for refugees. Particularly notable this year was the increased meaningful participation of local civil society organizations, especially those led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons. Read the [report](#).

#### NGO Side Event at the 74th Session of the Executive Committee

On 13 October, during the 74th session of the Executive Committee, an NGO side event titled “[Holistic approaches to expanding third country solutions: Exploring refugee protection and self-reliance](#)” **took place**. The event delved into the potential of refugee self-reliance programmes to pave the way for complementary pathways. Speakers from NGOs, including [Fragomen & Talent Beyond Boundaries](#), [Refugee Solidarity Network](#), [RefugePoint](#), and [Windle International Uganda](#) explored the interplay between protection interventions and self-reliance initiatives in countries of asylum and third country solutions. They highlighted the inherent possibilities of making more explicit connections between these components. An ensuing discussion shed light on existing opportunities, the challenges hindering refugee access to third-country solutions, and the obstacles faced when seeking asylum and protection. A summary of the event will soon be available on ICVA’s webpage.

## 4. Global Refugee Forum 2023

In preparation to the upcoming [Global Refugee Forum](#) (GRF), ICVA is convening a series of online meetings open to all interested NGOs. These meetings serve as a platform for sharing information, strategic planning, collaboration, and mobilising collective action in response to the current opportunities and shared concerns related to the GRF arrangements. If you would like to attend the meetings, please reach out to the contacts below.

ICVA is committed to furthering NGO engagement in the GRF, including organizing an NGO event and delivering a collective NGO statement during the GRF. More information will be shared in the November Bulletin.

For more information, please contact [davina.said@icvanetwork.org](mailto:davina.said@icvanetwork.org) or [loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org](mailto:loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org) or [gabriela.miranda@icvanetwork.org](mailto:gabriela.miranda@icvanetwork.org).

## 5. Migrants in Vulnerable Situations

### **IOM Consultation with NGOs on Localization and Accountability to Affected Populations**

The sixth annual IOM-NGO Humanitarian Consultation was held on 11 October in Geneva, Switzerland. The primary objective of this consultation was to engage with current and potential operational NGO partners involved in crisis responses. This year's event focused on the essential culture shift required to promote localization and meaningful participation. It also considered IOM-NGO collaboration to drive progress in operationalising localization at the field level and address existing gaps in ensuring that affected populations and their capabilities remain central to response efforts. ICVA contributed insights, underscoring the critical role of trust building, transparent communication and need for capacity strengthening.

### **Briefing of the Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration**

The UN Network on Migration is holding a briefing for Member States, civil society and other stakeholders, which will take place in a hybrid format at the CICG in Geneva and online on 23 November 2023, 15:00-17:00 CET. Interpretation will be available in English, French and Spanish. [Register](#).

### **Roadmap: Stakeholder Engagement in Regional Review of Global Compact for Migration (GCM) Processes**

The UN Network on Migration has released the [Roadmap for Stakeholder Engagement in the Regional Reviews of the GCM](#), which outlines opportunities for engagement and the timeline for stakeholders across all five Regional Reviews of the GCM in the coming year. Access the French and Spanish [versions](#).

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe pre-consultation regarding the second round of the Regional Reviews of the GCM will take place on 14 November and is aimed at stakeholders in the UNECE region. Interpretation in English, Spanish and Russian will be provided. [Register](#).

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## FINANCING

## 6. The Grand Bargain Beyond 2023

### **Grand Bargain Secretariat update**

Current updates from the Grand Bargain Secretariat can be found [here](#).

### **Grand Bargain NGO Constituency Call**

On 3 October, the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group NGO Representatives from InterAction and NEAR Network organized the NGO constituency to provide feedback on the Facilitation Group discussions held with the Grand Bargain Ambassadors in Geneva and discuss NGO priorities for 2023-2026. During this meeting, the NGO Signatories emphasised the significance of access to the Grand Bargain Ambassadors, accountability regarding commitments and outcomes, defining the role of Communities of Practice, clarifying expectations for engagement at the country-level, and considering increased funding cuts while

framing the Grand Bargain.

## **ICVA Grand Bargain Webinar**

On 18 October, ICVA organized a webinar for its members and NGO Fora on the future of the Grand Bargain beyond 2023. The webinar, attended by 46 participants, featured speakers from NEAR Network and InterAction. They provided valuable insights into the current global priorities of the Grand Bargain and discussed its implications for country-level implementation. The session also facilitated a discussion among participants to gather their reactions and identify areas of alignment between country-level priorities for humanitarian finance and Grand Bargain implementation, with a specific focus on local actors. The recording of the webinar will be available soon on our website.

## **Due Diligence Passporting: A Possible Solution to a Locally-Identified Challenge**

Seven international NGOs, including CAFOD, Christian Aid, CRS, Kerk in Actie, SCIAF, Trócaire, and Tearfund, collaborated to develop a unified due diligence tool, referred to as a "passporting tool." This tool was created after building on the previous work done by CHS Alliance, HQAI, and Start Network on enhancing due diligence processes. They worked with Humentum for a year to create this tool. Read more about the [tool](#).

## **7. Access to Quality Funding**

### **Flexible Funding 2022: Annual Report on Impact of Flexible Resources**

In 2022, the World Food Programme (WFP) was able to provide essential food aid to almost 160 million people, responding to the worst hunger crisis in 70 years. This was made possible through the receipt of \$1.3 billion in flexible funding, which included unearmarked multilateral contributions, contributions to the Immediate Response Account, and softly earmarked contributions. These flexible funds amounted to 9.2% of WFP's total contributions, allowing for efficient prioritisation and swift reaction to humanitarian needs. Read more in the [Annual Report](#).

## **8. Pooled Funds**

### **Emergency Relief Coordinator Approves \$15 Million CERF Rapid Response Allocation**

Since 7 October 2023, the situation in Israel and the Gaza Strip has escalated, causing severe humanitarian consequences. In response, the Emergency Relief Coordinator approved \$15 million from CERF to aid in immediate relief efforts in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. This funding will supplement an ongoing allocation under the oPt Humanitarian Fund, which will be reprioritized to respond promptly to the crisis in Gaza. Additional donations and contributions are under discussion to refill the oPt Humanitarian Fund, which will be depleted following these allocations.

### **Central Emergency Response Fund, Report of the Secretary General**

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has played a significant role in the global humanitarian response for 2022, as outlined in the [report of the Secretary-General](#). Despite the increasing need for aid worldwide, the CERF has provided \$734.6 million in life-saving initiatives to 42 countries, the second-highest amount in the Fund's history. CERF has also approved four loans amounting to \$57 million, and received \$611.9 million in donations for the year, placing it within the top four yearly incomes. Continued support from Member States and donors is critical for CERF to meet its yearly funding target of \$1 billion, as stated in the General Assembly resolution 71/127.

## **9. Risk Management, Counterterrorism Measures and Sanctions**

### **IASC Task Force 3 on Preserving Humanitarian Space**

The task force held a meeting on 25 October on the EU Counter-Terrorism Directive, aid diversion, feedback from briefings of the ERC to Sanctions Committees as per UNSC Resolution 2664 and the upcoming anniversary of the Resolution. The EU Council, Commission, and Parliament are engaged in an EU CT Directive process, aimed at harmonizing sanctions violations across the 27 EU Member States. The trilateral dialogue has resulted in drafts of legislation, with ongoing negotiations on issues beyond humanitarian safeguards.

For more information, please contact [manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org](mailto:manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org).

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## COORDINATION

### 10. Engagement with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

#### IASC Principals and Emergency Directors Group (EDG) Meetings on oPt

In October, the IASC Principals and EDG held several meetings to discuss the escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza Strip, oPt, and its wide-ranging implications for the region. The complex and politicised nature of this situation was emphasised repeatedly, underscoring the need for urgent attention to the protection and humanitarian needs of people in the oPt, as well as consideration of broader regional and global humanitarian implications. Upholding [International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law](#) was highlighted as essential to ensuring unimpeded access for humanitarian supplies and staff and protection of civilians.

On 7 November, the IASC Principals will convene an in-person meeting in New York, while the EDG will continue to hold regular meetings in the oPt and maintain focus on other major crises.

#### IASC Deputies

On 28 September, the IASC Deputies convened a meeting that centred on tackling the impact of the climate crisis, improving humanitarian financing, and addressing the erosion of trust. Productive discussions and frank exchanges were held among the participants, resulting in several next steps to be taken. These included advocacy initiatives utilising IASC key messages at COP28 and beyond, completing the IASC Roadmap for Climate and Environment Action for approval and implementation, planning a dedicated discussion on innovative financing, and exploring cost-efficient approaches to humanitarian funds utilisation.

#### Lack of Acceptance and Erosion of Trust: Identifying Key Areas for Action

Following the discussion of the topic of Erosion of Trust at the IASC Deputies meeting in late September, ICVA has continued to support work that is being led by Islamic Relief (on behalf of ICVA) and UNICEF on the Erosion of Trust in the humanitarian system. This includes a focus on specific relationships integral to the humanitarian mandate, encompassing:

- Communities
- Humanitarian partners
- Humanitarian staff including national staff
- The global community at large
- Donors
- National governments and authorities

A working group has been established and during the month agreed to focus its efforts on developing more around humanitarian partners, the global community at large and national governments and authorities.

### 11. Meeting with Joyce Msuya, OCHA Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator

On 11 October, ICVA organized a virtual meeting for members with Joyce Msuya, OCHA Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator. During the meeting, members had the opportunity to directly engage with Ms. Msuya and discuss key challenges facing the humanitarian sector and how best to work jointly to address them. Check the [recording](#).

### 12. Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG)

On 17 October, the OPAG held a meeting with an agenda to support IASC Task Forces in finalising key deliverables on localization and AAP, strengthen IASC collaboration with the Grand Bargain, gain an understanding on efforts to prioritise humanitarian appeals and lighten the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC), and have a briefing on progress of the Secretary-General's Common Agenda and planning for the Summit for the Future.

During the meeting, the OPAG discussed ways to support IASC Principals' efforts to create humanitarian space and promote support for International Humanitarian Law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The

next OPAG meeting is scheduled for 21 November and will focus on the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation (IAHE) on Afghanistan.

For more information, please contact [jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org](mailto:jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org).

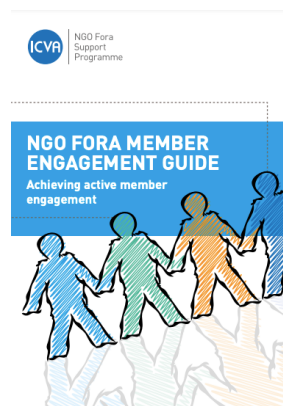
### 13. NGO Fora Support

#### NGO Fora Members Engagement Guide

ICVA NGO Fora Members engagement guide is now available in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic. This document outlines the core principles of fora governance and provides guidelines for establishing a roadmap to improve member engagement. You can access the document on our [website](#).

In addition to the document, we offer on-demand training and counselling sessions on NGO fora governance. Interested NGO fora are invited to contact the respective ICVA regional team for more information.

For more information, please contact [albert.burger@icvanetwork.org](mailto:albert.burger@icvanetwork.org).



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## Transforming our Network

### 14. Address Impact of Climate Change on Humanitarian Action

#### Over 200 Humanitarian, Climate and Development Organizations join Forces to Push for Greater Financial Support for Loss and Damage

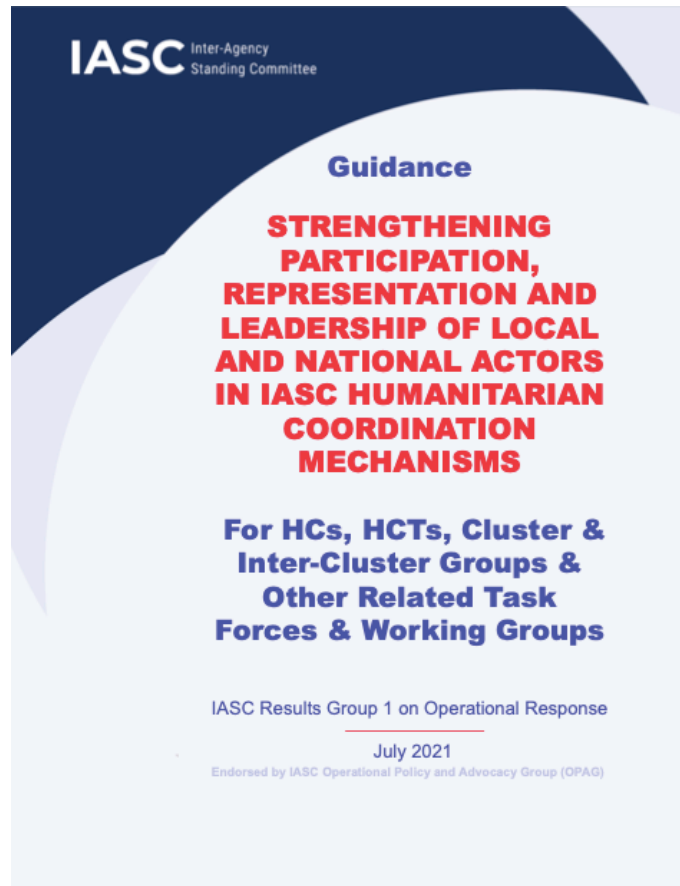
In our September bulletin, we highlighted the collaboration between ICVA and Climate Action Network-International (CAN-I) in launching a [Joint Call for Action on a Loss and Damage Fund](#). More than 200 organizations involved in humanitarian, climate and development work on a global to country level have already joined this call, advocating for more financial support for the loss and damage fund. The Joint Call and the [list of signatories](#) can be found on this [dedicated webpage](#). We are still accepting endorsements for the call, and the webpage will be regularly updated.

Signing onto the Joint Call is a critical first step to bring the need for establishing a Loss and Damage Fund, aimed at assisting communities adversely affected by climate change, to the attention of governments.

We encourage all organizations to join this initiative by adding their signatures to the Joint Call.

For more information, please contact [nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org](mailto:nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org).

### 15. Be Globally Distributed and Locally Rooted



## The IASC Task Force 5 on Localization

The IASC Localization Task Force hosted a webinar on 2 November. The focus of the webinar was on the implementation of IASC Localization Guidance in West Africa. The main objective was to stress the substantial transformation occurring within the humanitarian sphere, where there is a growing emphasis on empowering local and national actors (L/NAs) as leaders in humanitarian responses.

To support localization efforts in humanitarian coordination structures worldwide, the IASC developed guidance on [Strengthening Participation, Representation and Leadership of Local and National Actors in IASC Humanitarian Coordination Mechanisms](#). This guidance draws from over 100 research pieces and best practices to offer actionable recommendations on integrating L/NAs into humanitarian coordination structures.



## Conference on Supporting Local Actors across the HDP Nexus

From 5-6 October, ICVA MENA Regional Representative, along with ICVA members, participated in the “Supporting Local Actors Across the HDP Nexus” conference. This conference, a collaboration between MoFA Denmark, IFRC, and USAID, brought together a diverse range of local and national



actors. ICVA played a pivotal role by facilitating group discussions and serving as a panellist. Our contributions not only provided valuable insights for evaluating and improving Nexus policy and practices but also encouraged the participation of local actors. Our goal was to ensure that the voices of these actors were heard, allowing them to advocate for necessary progress, discuss existing challenges, and explore potential solutions.

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

## 16. Be Diverse, Inclusive and Live our Values

### Safeguarding

#### Webinar on the Common Approach to Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment

ICVA, as a consortium partner of the Safeguarding Resource & Support Hub (RSH) is set to play an active role in an upcoming panel discussion. This discussion serves as a launch platform for a worldwide consultation on the draft Common Approach to Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment (CAPSEAH). The CAPSEAH initiative seeks to provide comprehensive guidance aimed at enhancing and harmonising the efforts of all stakeholders in the humanitarian, development, and peacekeeping sectors in the realm of protection from SEAH. This initiative is expected to contribute significantly to the global discourse on PSEAH. ICVA also sits on the CAPSEAH's international Steering Committee. The webinar will be held on 8 November 2023, from 13:30 to 15:00 (UK time) and will be conducted in English, with closed captioning available. [Register](#).



**Webinar**

RESOURCE & SUPPORT HUB CAPSEAH  
Common Approach to Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment

**Launch of global consultation of the Common Approach to Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment**

1:30 - 3:00pm (UK time)

The event will be held in English and closed captioning will be provided.

8 November, 2023

LIVE WEBINAR

#### Brown Bag Session on Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub Programme in South Asia

ICVA, in partnership with the Asia Pacific regional PSEA network, conducted a session on the RSH programme, which operates in twelve national hubs across four regions, including South Asia. The session focused on safe partnerships with CSOs and presented the RSH programme's opportunities for regional and national hub level engagement. The discussion saw participation from various local and national NGOs, INGOs, and NGO networks across the Asia Pacific.

#### RSH Annual User Survey 2023

RSH is seeking feedback from its users about a variety of the services and products that are made available. The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Access the [survey](#).

For more information, please contact [alon.plato@icvanetwork.org](mailto:alon.plato@icvanetwork.org).

## 17. Proactively Engage in Agile Collaborative Partnerships

#### ICVA Calls for Stronger Partnerships between World Food Programme and NGOs

At the 2023 WFP's Annual Partnership Consultation held in Rome from 30-31 October, ICVA applauded the WFP's efforts to improve partnerships with NGOs but emphasised that more needs to be done due to the challenging humanitarian landscape. ICVA recommends creating a specific action plan with key areas focused on enhancing equality in partnerships, providing flexible and long-term funding, effective communication and strategic planning with NGOs, and building partnerships with development, climate actors, financial institutions, and private sectors. More information about the consultations can be found on the [WFP-APC2023 website](#).

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## Region Specific

### 18. Africa

#### East and Southern Africa

##### **Strengthening Local Humanitarian Action in Response to Climate-Induced Emergencies**

On 16-20 October, International Medical Corps in partnership with ICVA, organized a 5-day workshop in Nairobi aimed at strengthening local humanitarian action for climate-induced emergencies. The workshop brought together over 25 participants from six local and national NGOs to engage in peer-to-peer learning and discuss topics such as climate change programming, PSEAH within organizations, project cycle management and effective humanitarian leadership and governance. ICVA's ESA Deputy Regional Representative and speakers from NEAR Network, ECHO, and FAO led discussions on the Grand Bargain and other critical elements concerning localization.

For more information, please contact [addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org](mailto:addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org) or [nkirote.laiboni@icvanetwork.org](mailto:nkirote.laiboni@icvanetwork.org).

#### West and Central Africa

##### **Support to the Symposium on Localization of Humanitarian Aid in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

On 1-2 October, ICVA's Deputy Regional Representative participated in the Localization Symposium where the international community and the government convened. With the support of ICVA through the National NGO Forum (CONAFOHD), members of the Forum based on different provinces in the country were able to take part in the event. The Symposium resulted in the creation of a localized definition of localization in DRC, the establishment of the National Reference Group, and the formulation of an action plan to be finalised in the next steps.

##### **Regional IASC (R-IASC) Meeting**

On 26 October, the R-IASC co-led by ICVA and OCHA held a meeting where they focused on three subjects. The first was analysing potential risk scenarios and identifying the region's role in addressing them through an action plan. The second involved receiving feedback on humanitarian priorities in the Sahel region, which generated interest among sub-regional agencies and diplomats for future collaboration. Lastly, the group adopted the Terms of Reference, but no agreement was reached on online participation. The two co-leads will meet to formulate a proposal to present to the members at the next meeting.

##### **Challenges faced by Local NGOs in Humanitarian Coordination Mechanisms**

On 27 October, ICVA participated in a panel discussion on the challenges of international partnerships at the first pop-up campus organized by BIOFORCE. The theme of the event was "Localization and Humanitarian Responses: Progress since Implementation and Perspectives." The discussion highlighted the complexities of coordinating international actors, including strategic conflicts, cultural and linguistic barriers, and resource asymmetry. ICVA highlighted the challenges faced by national and local NGOs in the humanitarian coordination mechanism, the main framework for partnership within the international community and local actors as well as the support it provides to address these challenges.

For more information, please contact [adeline.benita@icvanetwork.org](mailto:adeline.benita@icvanetwork.org) or [fatoumata.konate@icvanetwork.org](mailto:fatoumata.konate@icvanetwork.org).

## 19. Asia and the Pacific

### South Asia consultation on IASC Climate Roadmap

On 12 October, ICVA hosted a virtual consultation in South Asia focused on the IASC's Climate Roadmap. The consultation provided a platform for humanitarian practitioners working in different countries and sectors to contribute insights and recommendations concerning the targeted actions essential to tackle climate change effectively.

The IASC sought to ensure a common approach to addressing climate change within the humanitarian community. The participants included local and international NGOs, whose contributions included adapting policy to the local context and advocating for locally led solutions. Feedback collected during this event will inform the IASC's roadmap development.

### New Monitoring Toolkit: Analysing Restrictive Measures' Impact in Humanitarian Action

ICVA invited NGOs in the Asia Pacific region to the launch of a new monitoring toolkit developed by Action Against Hunger, Humanity & Inclusion, Médecins du Monde, and the Norwegian Refugee Council, as part of a consortium project on "Building capacity to safeguard humanitarian space". The toolkit contains indicators, tools, and guidance to collect data on how sanction regimes and counterterrorism measures negatively affect humanitarian access and quality. It also offers suggestions on how to use the data for engagement with stakeholders. Participants provided feedback and suggestions for improvement during a presentation followed by a Q&A session and discussions on opportunities and challenges.

### 2023 High-Level Meeting on Rohingya Refugees: The Road to the Global Refugee Forum

On 17 October, ICVA and its members took part in the 2023 High-Level Meeting on Rohingya Refugees, organized by UNHCR and co-hosted by the governments of Bangladesh and Thailand. The meeting aimed to reaffirm the international support for the Rohingya refugees and their host countries, and to mobilise pledges for the upcoming Global Refugee Forum. Four thematic sessions focused on protection, solutions, responsibility-sharing, and regional cooperation, with NGOs providing their perspectives and experiences. The meeting resulted in a [public statement](#) expressing solidarity, recognising needs and rights, and outlining pledges and commitments by various stakeholders. These will be further presented at the Global Refugee Forum.

For more information, please contact [keya.sahachaudhury@icvanetwork.org](mailto:keya.sahachaudhury@icvanetwork.org) or [asma.saleem@icvanetwork.org](mailto:asma.saleem@icvanetwork.org).

## 20. LATIN AMERICA

### Principles of Partnership Workshop and Cartagena Declaration 40th Anniversary

In February 2024, ICVA will be hosting two events in Bogotá - the Principals of Partnership Workshop and a meeting to reflect on the 40th anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration.

For more information, please contact [lina.gomez@icvanetwork.org](mailto:lina.gomez@icvanetwork.org).

## 21. MENA

### Hostilities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Region

As stated in the [Statement by Principals of the IASC](#), for almost a month, the world has been watching the unfolding situation in Israel and the oPt. The escalating loss of lives and devastation has caused profound shock and sorrow. The ICVA MENA team is currently collaborating with OCHA, NGO Forums, and regional INGO directors to support coordination and information-sharing in the region.

### Middle East and North Africa Climate Week 2023

ICVA MENA Regional Representative attended the MENA Climate Week 2023 held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The event provided a platform for policymakers, practitioners, businesses, and civil society to exchange ideas on climate solutions, barriers to overcome, and opportunities realised in the region. Attended by actors from different sectors, the week-long event consisted of various panels and thematic sessions.

For any follow-up inquiries about the conference, contact [eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org](mailto:eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org).

## ICVA Capacity and Innovation Fund 2023-2024

We are delighted to announce the selection of No Border Humanity Organization (NBHO) and ISTIDAMA Green Smart Cities NGO as the recipients of ICVA's Capacity and Innovation Fund 2023-2024 in Iraq. The purpose of this fund is to enhance the participation and influence of local and national NGOs in the humanitarian coordination structure, with a particular emphasis on addressing capacity-sharing, learning, and advocacy needs. Between October 2023 and June 2024, the two proposed projects, namely Empowering Communities through Collective Advocacy for Humanitarian Coordination and Localization by NBHO and Sustainable Mitigation and Adaptation Simulation Tool for a Better Community by ISTIDAMA, will be implemented.

For more information, please contact [eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org](mailto:eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org), [stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org](mailto:stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org) or [qingrui.huang@icvanetwork.org](mailto:qingrui.huang@icvanetwork.org).

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## Learning Opportunities

**22. Humanitarian Leadership Academy: Response Learning Hub:** The Hub provides up-to-date and relevant learning resources to support global humanitarian responses. Access resources on the [Gaza Israel crisis](#).

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## New and Noteworthy

**23. The Global Hunger Index 2023:** The [report](#) published by Welthungerhilfe and the Alliance 2015 partner Concern Worldwide shows that progress against hunger worldwide is stagnating, with young people, particularly women, being disproportionately affected due to increased poverty and food insecurity caused by multiple crises.

**24. Global Girlhood Report 2023: Girls at the Centre of the Storm – Her planet, her future, her solutions:** Save the Children's [report](#) explores how the climate crisis is negatively impacting girls' rights and features stories of girls advocating for climate action in their communities.

**25. Overcoming the Fragility Barrier: Policy Solutions for Unlocking Climate Finance in Fragile States:** Mercy Corps' [report](#) proposes policy recommendations to bridge the climate finance gap in fragile and conflict-affected settings, emphasising the integration of peacebuilding into climate action and improved coordination among actors in these regions.

**26. Leaving No One Behind: A Green bargain for People and Planet:** Oxfam International's paper provides a [guide](#) to understanding how climate and humanitarian finance can coordinate more effectively to respond to the climate crisis.

**27. In Plain Sight: The Human Cost of Migration Policies at Greek Sea Borders:** Médecins Sans Frontières's [report](#) highlights the physical and psychological suffering endured by those seeking safety and protection in Greece due to violence and pushbacks at their borders.

**28. The Nexus in Practice: The Long Journey to Impact:** NRC's [research](#) aims to examine the operationalisation of the Nexus approach in five case studies, and to provide practical field examples, good practice, and lessons learned for evidence-based decision-making on the advancement of the Nexus.

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# Agenda

**November 8:** Webinar on the Common Approach to Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment. [Register](#).

**November 8-10:** ICVA Event: Rome NGO Network Exchange

**November 9:** [Global Perspectives 2023](#)

**November 9:** The State of Humanitarian Innovation: What has it achieved and where is it going. [Register](#).

**November 17:** Fourth Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees, Geneva

**November 17:** Internal Displacement and Solutions" Conference - Call for Papers

**November 21 - 23:** [Online Peer Workshop on Humanitarian Negotiation | Sudan](#) **November 22:** [Webinar | MENA Region Perspectives on Localisation](#)

**November 25:** Celebrating the 25-year anniversary of the Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies. [Register](#)

**November 28:** ALNAP: [Going further than feedback: Changing the humanitarian system to support accountability](#)

**November 28 - 30:** [Online Peer Workshop on Humanitarian Negotiation | Nairobi - East and Southern Africa](#)

**November 29:** Virtual Launch of the Mixed Migration Review 2023 "Regional issues through regional perspectives". [Register](#).

**November 30 - December 12:** [COP28](#)

**November 30:** Artificial intelligence: disruption or opportunity for humanitarian aid? [Register by 20 November](#).

**December 6:** CERF High-Level Pledging Event for 2024, New York (In-person)

**December 11:** Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) Launches in Geneva, Addis Ababa, Doha

**December 11-13:** [Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week-Asia Pacific 2023](#)

**December 12:** Advance side events Global Refugee Forum

**December 13-15:** Global Refugee Forum

**December 14 –15:** Global Humanitarian Policy Forum

## 2024

**January 10-11:** [International NGO Conference](#): The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Facilitating the Integration of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants in Social and Protection Systems in European Contexts

**February 20:** [Humanitarian Xchange](#)

**March 14-15:** Call for Papers - Internal Displacement and Solutions" Conference. [Deadline](#) for proposals is 17 November 2023.

**March 18-19:** European Humanitarian Forum 2024

**March 20:** ICVA General Assembly 2024

**March 21:** ICVA Annual Conference

**April 29 to May 10:** Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week, remotely (April 29 to May 3) and in Geneva (May 5-10)

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