

ICVA Bulletin

Highlights from July 2023



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

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 operationalizing 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.

Message from ICVA

ICVA's Achievements and Collaborations in Humanitarian Action in the First Half of 2023

As we approach the midpoint of 2023, ICVA takes pride in our significant achievements and collaborations in advancing collective goals. Together with our members and partners, we remain committed to effective and principled humanitarian efforts. In the first half of the year, ICVA supported in NGO interventions in [Afghanistan](#), Sudan and in response to the [earthquake in Turkey and Syria](#). ICVA also organised several meetings between the country NGO Fora in MENA and Africa, supporting peer to peer exchanges and learning. In addition, in three countries, ICVA and Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation provided a workshop for the NGO leaders on humanitarian negotiation, in response to the increased challenges of access faced by NGOs in many humanitarian contexts.

In March, we hosted our [2023 annual conference](#) on "The right time and the right place: Improving access to humanitarian quality funding". The Conference discussed key challenges in humanitarian financing and potential ways forward; the future of the Grand Bargain; climate financing and access to adequate resources for local and national NGOs.

The Conference helped further ICVA's positioning on the future of the Grand Bargain and led to ICVA's [endorsement](#) of the new Grand Bargain framework through 2026. In our efforts to support principled humanitarian action, ICVA will continue to align work on localization, participation, and financing at the country level with implementation of the Grand Bargain.

Pooled funding has also been an important focus of ICVA's work and in June, we published a comprehensive literature [review](#) of pooled funding. The review also identifies existing gaps in the literature which will be considered in our work in the future.

Addressing the impact of climate change we partnered with the International Medical Corps and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs to organise a [regional symposium](#) from 25-26 July. The symposium aimed at enhancing the NGOs capacity to effectively address the long-term impact of climate change on populations in East and Horn of Africa.

Additionally on 8 June, we held a webinar in collaboration with PHAP, exploring the synergy between [climate finance](#) and humanitarian response in tackling climate-related emergencies.

Our 2022 [Annual Report](#), reflecting on the first year of implementing our [ICVA 2030 strategy](#), is available online. We created the PSEA Community Outreach and Communication Fund [website](#), providing access to awareness raising materials in multiple languages developed by national and local NGO supported by the Fund.

In a number of regions, we co-hosted the [UNHCR - NGOs consultations](#), while also co-chairing together the prep work for the GRF pledge on [localization](#). Specific work has also been done with UNICEF and other UN Agencies to improve their partnerships with NGOs.

Looking ahead to the second half of the year, ICVA reiterates our dedication to promoting more principled and effective humanitarian action. We will continue working collectively to influence policy and practice, fostering a stronger and more resilient humanitarian ecosystem that truly serves people affected by crisis. This is also ICVA's message for World Humanitarian Day on 19 August.

ICVA Secretariat

ICVA

ICVA Updates

1. Call for Applications Open for Interagency Community Outreach and Communication Fund on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

**INTERAGENCY COMMUNITY OUTREACH
AND COMMUNICATION FUND ON PSEA**

Call for Applications
Deadline - 31 August 2023

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UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

The UNHCR and ICVA have launched the fourth round of the Interagency Community Outreach and Communication Fund on PSEA. The Fund provides rapid, targeted financial support to NGOs to develop and disseminate PSEA outreach and communication materials, and to make available to all IASC members and the wider sector the materials developed through the Fund for their further use or adaptation. Since 2020, the Fund has supported [49 projects](#). The deliverables created through the PSEA Fund projects are available and can be accessed on the [Deliverables Database](#).

The [online application form](#), available in English, French, and Spanish, can be accessed on the PSEA Outreach Fund website under the Call for Applications section. The deadline for applications is 31 August 2023 CoB CEST.

Remember, applications sent via email will not be accepted, so apply using the online application form available on the PSEA Fund [website](#).

Apply

Forced Migration

2. UNHCR 74th Executive Committee – NGOs Side Event, Call for Expressions of Interest

The [74th session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme](#) is scheduled for October 9-13, 2023. The suggested topic for the event, which will take place on Friday, 13 October, is "**Durable solutions and complementary pathways for displacement - The challenges and what the future holds?**".

ICVA members that are interested to co-lead preparation of the event, are kindly asked to submit an expression of interest by Thursday, 10 August close of business, to gabriela.miranda@icvanetwork.org. In your submission, please include a brief summary and outline how you envision the event and your initial thoughts on potential speakers.

3. Global Refugee Forum – 5th NGO Reference Group Meeting

The 5th NGO Reference Group Meeting for the 2023 Global Refugee Forum took place on 27 July. ICVA and other networks, members of the NGO Reference Group, participated to discuss updates about the pledging process, multistakeholder pledges in development, information on logistic details and actions taken to ensure inclusive participation. Members of the NGO reference group also took the opportunity to relay questions from their membership and to provide recommendations, notably to enhance inclusive participation and accessibility for persons with disabilities.

- For more information, please contact: gabriela.miranda@icvanetwork.org.
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Financing

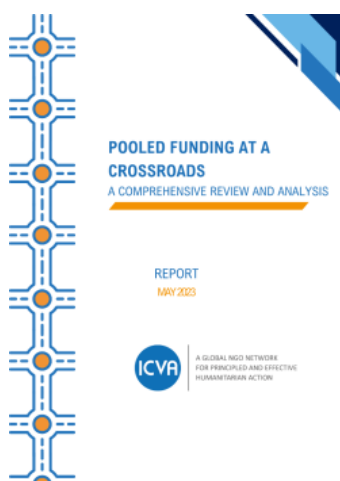
4. The Future of the Grand Bargain

Following the successful adoption of the proposed future direction of the Grand Bargain at the June annual meeting, the Facilitation Group has agreed on a transition period until early September when the new Facilitation Group members will formally take on their new role. Outgoing and incoming members will also meet in-person with the new Grand Bargain Ambassadors in early September to agree on priority action areas for the coming months. As previously shared, ICVA is rotating off the Facilitation Group and handing over to InterAction to fill the NGO networks seat. The local NGO network seat will transition from A4EP to NEAR. Check [current updates](#) on the Grand Bargain.

5. Pooled Funds

OCHA is currently in the process of finalising a second round of Under-Funded Emergency allocation through the CERF. This second round of funding is expected to total USD 120 million and will be allocated across 8 to 12 country locations. ICVA collected qualitative inputs from members to share with OCHA in July and the results of the selection process will be shared when available.

Following a short break over summer holidays, ICVA is continuing to work with donors to the Country Based Pooled Funds (CBPF) to agree on initial funding for a Resource Facility for Local Partner Participation. There was broad support to move forward with the plan to improve financial support for local participation in CBPF processes following the Pooled Fund Working Group in June, and ICVA is working with donors to solidify the funding needed to launch the facility before the end of the year.



Initial work on ICVA's Pooled Funding at a Crossroads [report](#) has completed and scoping work is underway on a phase II of the work. With the initial mapping, review, and gap analysis work complete, phase II is intended to focus more on practical tools for improved implementation of pooled funding, such as a resource repository for field staff, as well as filling in identified gaps in research and knowledge. If you would like to support additional ICVA work on pooled funding or want to engage in the identification of priorities, please contact manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org.

[Read the Report](#)

6. Risk Management, Counterterrorism Measures and Sanctions

The IASC Task Force 3 has been actively engaged in developing plans aimed at improving understanding of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2664 as well as the associated reporting requirements to ensure extension of the humanitarian exemption. ICVA continues to work closely with InterAction and the VOICE networks to support an improved NGO understanding of the implication of sanctions, the value of the humanitarian exemption provided under UNSC 2664, and the best way for NGOs to support the reporting required to continue UNSC 2664 exemptions. Of particular importance over the next few months is a clear, consistent approach to gathering inputs from NGOs for the required OCHA ERC reporting to sanctions committees at the end of the year. ICVA members interested in engaging more closely on COTER or sanctions issues should contact manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org.

- For more information, please contact jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org or manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org.

Coordination

7. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

IASC Principals Ad Hoc Meeting on the Situation in Sudan and Syria

On 19 July, the IASC Principals convened to discuss the situations in Sudan and North-West Syria.

On Sudan, the IASC Principals supported the need for stronger advocacy with parties to the conflict calling for their respect for International Humanitarian Law, the protection of civilians, removal of bureaucratic impediments and on donors to provide more resources. They highlighted the need to reinforce and support local capacities and provide assistance to host communities including in neighboring countries aligned with the regional response.

On Syria, the ERC briefed Principals on his efforts with Security Council members on securing cross-border deliveries of humanitarian assistance into northern Syria from Turkey, including regarding the extension of the resolution, and options for the continuation of monitoring mechanisms for assistance. Members shared their observations on the ERC's efforts and approach, as well as the implications for civil society organizations in-country should they be expected to take on a bigger role on assistance.

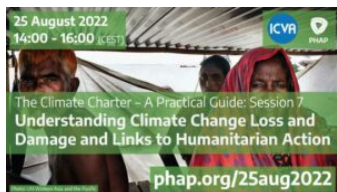
Extension of IASC Subsidiary Structures to June 2024

The ERC has extended the mandates and work plans of IASC subsidiary structures until June 2024, in order to provide uninterrupted support for operations. After the extension comes to an end, a six-month period of consultation has been proposed to be allocated to collectively agree on new priorities and streamline subsidiary structures for greater efficiency in addressing emerging challenges. This approach is expected to enhance IASC capacity to respond and adapt to changing needs in the field.

- For more information, please contact jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org.
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Transforming our Network

8. Address Impact of Climate Change on Humanitarian Action



Webinar: Loss and Damage: How can Humanitarian NGOs Engage?

Loss and Damage was the topic of a recent [ICVA and PHAP webinar](#) aimed at exploring how humanitarian NGOs can engage with this emerging concept. The session delved into what Loss and Damage is and how it can be supported by existing humanitarian finance mechanisms. The webinar also highlighted the losses and damage experienced by people, communities, and governments, and how appropriate funding for loss and damage could reduce the impact of crises with a short-term, protracted, or slow onset. This session has set the stage for further discussions between the Climate and Humanitarian sectors about how to work together to support and advocate for Loss and Damage finance. ICVA plans to share more information on upcoming dialogues with its members.

[Loss and Damage Webinar Recording](#)

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

Region Specific

9. Africa

East and Southern Africa

UNHCR-NGO Regional Consultations for Southern Africa

ICVA and UNHCR co-organised on 5-6 July 2023 the third UNHCR-NGO Regional consultations for Southern Africa. With a primary focus on enhancing the rights and inclusion of forcibly displaced people in national policies and services, this two-day event comprised approximately 100 representatives from numerous international and national civil society organizations, including refugee led ones. The consultations provided a platform for open discussions on effective partnerships, role of women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, opportunities, and challenges, while enabling participants to share potential solutions to common issues. The recommendations drawn from this event will inform regional priorities and organizational strategies of UNHCR, NGOs, and other civil society actors in the Southern Africa region. Furthermore, this information will be presented at the annual meeting of the UNHCR's Executive Committee in October 2023, the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva in December 2023, and the forthcoming global NGO consultations in Geneva in June 2024. Read more in the [Press Release](#).

Strengthening Local Humanitarian Action to Respond to Climate-induced Emergencies

Eastern Horn of Africa Regional Symposium

25-26 July 2023

Nairobi, Kenya



Avec la
participation
de



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In partnership with the International Medical Corps and with support from the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs - France, ICVA organised a two-day regional symposium on 25-26 July to strengthen the capacity of NGOs to address the severe and long-term impacts of climate change on affected communities in the East and Horn of Africa. Over 25 participants from local and national NGOs in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia shared lessons learnt and information about the latest regional and global policy discussion to effectively address the long-term impact of climate change on populations in East and Horn. Check more information in the [Concept Note](#).

- For more information, please contact addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org or nkirote.laiboni@icvanetwork.org.

West and Central Africa

Regional NGO Fora Workshop

In July ICVA organised a regional NGO Fora workshop, with the participation of representatives from NGO and INGO forums of 10 West and Central African countries. The workshop aimed to strengthen links between the NGO platforms, foster knowledge exchange and improve coordination and advocacy at the regional level. Prior to the event participants were consulted on topics to be covered. Based on this feedback, the workshop focused on forum governance; humanitarian coordination architecture; localization; humanitarian access; and nexus. The programme also included meetings with humanitarian donors and diplomats and other actors invited as guests. Overall, the workshop successfully facilitated collaboration and knowledge sharing among the participating organizations.

- For more information, please contact adeline.benita@icvanetwork.org or fatoumata.konate@icvanetwork.org.

10. Asia and the Pacific

Emergency Preparedness Working Group Meeting (EPWG)

On 6 July 2023, the EPWG co-led by ICVA, OCHA, and IFRC held a meeting featuring topics on climate change, disaster risk reduction, and anticipatory action in the Asia-Pacific region. The EPWG discussed the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage, the El Niño declaration, and the regional mapping of anticipatory action mechanisms. Additionally, the meeting focused on the increased frequency, intensity, and co-location of heatwaves with other hazards in the region and learned from ICVA member, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), on their experience and initiatives in preparing for these events.

ICVA Asia Pacific Mission to the Philippines

ICVA conducted a mission to the Philippines from 18 - 28 July 2023 aiming to strengthen NGO engagement and influence in humanitarian coordination and policy processes at both regional and global levels. The mission team held consultations with key stakeholders, including the Humanitarian Country Team, OCHA, government agencies, UN agencies, international and national NGOs, local networks, the Asian Development Bank, and the private sector. Additionally, a visit to Mindanao provided valuable insights into the humanitarian context in the region, which has been grappling with armed conflicts, displacement, poverty and inequality for several decades, severely impacting millions of people.

- For more information, please contact keya.sahachaudhury@icvanetwork.org or asma.saleem@icvanetwork.org.

11. Latin America

Cartagena D+40

ICVA invites regional academics who have conducted research on the Cartagena Declaration to participate in the 40th anniversary commemoration of Cartagena. Our aim is to align with humanitarian principles and foster stronger engagement with local organizations addressing human mobility issues. An in-person meeting is planned to take place in Bogota, Colombia, on 15-16 September. Participants will have the opportunity to deliberate and reflect on Cartagena Declaration's significant achievements and potential impact in the region. The meeting agenda will revolve around themes, such as admission, protection, reception, and case management. It will also aim to address the pressing issue of climate displacement and protection in such contexts. We look forward to a meaningful and impactful gathering that will further strengthen our collective efforts in addressing human mobility challenges in the region.

Regional Fora Exchange

ICVA is organising a regional meeting in Bogota, Colombia and we invite members of ICVA network, particularly the leaders of Humanitarian Forums and Coalitions in the Americas and the Caribbean. This in-person meeting will take place on 13-14 September and promises to be a dynamic platform for collaboration and knowledge sharing. The main objective of the meeting is to facilitate an exchange of information and experiences among the participants. By coming together, we aim to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and barriers faced by humanitarian Fora and networks in the region fostering a supportive environment for problem-solving and innovative solutions. The participants will explore linkages and share good practices and engage in debates and learning with respect to the integration of humanitarian aid, development, and peace in humanitarian contexts. A significant focus of the meeting will be on developing a comprehensive regional and local advocacy strategy. By collaborating we can amplify our voices and advocate for positive change to benefit the communities we serve.

- For more information, please contact lina.gomez@icvanetwork.org.

12. MENA

Collective statement Condemn Killing of World Food Programme Staff and Urge for Accountability and Protection of Humanitarian Workers in Yemen

International NGOs and Civil Society Organizations came together to issue a statement, signed by 121 civil society organisations and 30 INGOs operating in Yemen, condemning the killing of a staff member of World Food Programme in the country. The statement expresses profound sadness and calls on all parties to the conflict to ensure the safety and protection of humanitarian workers in Yemen, emphasising the need for accountability and justice for the victims and their families. Read the statement by [Civil Society Organizations in Yemen](#) and the [INGOs](#).

OPR Mission to Review the Inside-Syria Earthquake Response

ICVA participated in an Operational Peer Review (OPR) mission from 2-14 July to evaluate the earthquake response inside Syria, including cross-border modalities. The objective of the mission was to assess the effectiveness, quality, and limitations of the humanitarian system in responding to the earthquake. Field visits were conducted in Government -controlled areas, NW Syria as well as in Gaziantep, Turkey. The mission's recommendations will be shared with the IASC Principals and translated into an Action Plan for operational improvement.

3RP Regional Technical Committee and Regional Steering Committee Meetings

ICVA participated in two virtual meetings in July - the 3RP Regional Technical Committee and Regional Steering Committee meeting. The discussions were about the progress of the Management Response to the 3RP Evaluation and a debrief on the 7th Brussels Conference. Key regional trends and developments, including climate issues and NGO engagement, were also addressed. The upcoming 3RP planning workshop, scheduled for September, was also discussed, with emphasis on NGO involvement in finalising the workshop's content.

ICVA MENA Regional Representative spoke at the Brussels VII conference side event, which brought together participants from civil society, UN, private sector, and donor. The event focused on integrating humanitarian and development approaches to strengthen national and local capacities amidst forced displacement. The side event was hosted by the 3RP in collaboration with UNDP, UNHCR, and the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, with support from UNFPA. For more details refer to the [summary note](#).

Community of Practice Network Event on the HDP Nexus in Libya

On 20 July, the Community of Practice Network on Nexus (COPN), co-led by WFP and ICVA, hosted an online learning session focused on the progress of the HDP Nexus in Libya.

The session shed light on the ongoing humanitarian-development transition in the country, exploring challenges, successes, and lessons learnt.

Key speakers who provided valuable insights included Head of Office of the Deputy Special Representative of Secretary-General, the Libya INGO Forum Advocacy Adviser, and the Head of Programme of the Danish Refugee Council, Libya. The event provided a collaborative platform for knowledge exchange and sharing, showcasing the efforts to strengthen the HDP nexus in Libya.

- For more information, please contact eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org or qingrui.huang@icvanetwork.org.

Learning Opportunities

13. ICVA Humanitarian Learning Stream

The [Learning Stream](#) is an opportunity for NGO staff to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the humanitarian sector. It includes webinars, short videos, and briefing papers that unpack vital humanitarian issues that NGOs often encounter. Explore the various courses and resources.

14. ALNAP Learning Links

ALNAP's [Learning Links](#) provides access to over 800 reports, analyses, blogs, and multimedia resources created over a span of 25 years, organised into subject areas aligned to academic courses and programmes with a humanitarian focus.

New and Noteworthy

15. “Without papers, there is no life.”: Legal barriers in access to protection for unaccompanied children in Greece

A [report](#) by Save the Children International identifies the legal barriers faced by unaccompanied child refugees and migrants in Greece, showing how a lack of civil documentation negatively affects their rights, safety, and security.

16. 100 Days into the Conflict in Sudan: An Emerging Picture of the Humanitarian Impact

IMPACT Initiatives [brief](#) provides an overview of the Sudan crisis at 100 days and highlights findings from recent assessments to understand the humanitarian impact of the conflict.

17. Sphere Handbook now Available in Ukrainian

The [2018 Sphere Handbook](#) has been made available in Ukrainian, among other languages, and serves as a valuable resource for knowledge and best practices learned from responses to crises around the world.

Agenda

September 1: Third Formal Preparatory Meeting for the Global Refugee Forum, Geneva

September 4-6: [African Climate Action Summit](#), Nairobi, Kenya

September 4 – 8: [Africa Climate Week](#), UNFCCC, Nairobi, Kenya

September 7: UNICEF dialogue with CSO partners responding to the Ukrainian crisis.

[Register](#).

September 13-14: UNHCR 88th Standing Committee

September 19-20: UNHCR Regional Consultations Europe

September 28 – October 3: [Contextualising Safeguarding, Community Engagement & Communication 5-day Workshop](#)

September TBC: UNHCR Regional Consultations Western and Central Africa

October 9-13: UNHCR 75th Executive Committee

October 9-12: [Middle East and North Africa Climate Week](#) (MENACW 2023), UNFCCC, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

October 18: Third Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees, Virtual

October 23-27: [Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week](#) (LACCW 2023), UNFCCC, Panama City

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

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

December 12: Advance side events Global Refugee Forum

December 13-15: Global Refugee Forum

2024

March 19: ICVA General Assembly

March 20: ICVA Annual Conference

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