

# ICVA Bulletin

Highlights from March 2023



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## Dear Readers,

In this bulletin, we share the most recent news related to our focus areas of forced migration, humanitarian financing and 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 ICVA2030 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 Executive Director

### Last Call.... Last “Message From Executive Director” From Me

March was another eventful month for ICVA as you will read in this edition of the ICVA Bulletin.

The [2023 Membership Day](#), a full day of meetings in Geneva, before the Annual Conference, provided an opportunity for a shared understanding of challenges and opportunities for the ICVA network. With reference to the [ICVA2030 Strategy](#) adopted by the ICVA General Assembly in 2021, the ICVA members forged action on collective capabilities, on championing principles of humanitarian action, and on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Attended in person in Geneva by over 200 participants, the [ICVA Annual Conference](#) had the theme, « *The right time and the right place: Improving access to humanitarian quality funding* ». I recommend you listen to the wrap-up [here](#).

We heard from the panelists and participants that there is not enough money. There is not enough money that arrives in the right place, in the right way, and at the right time. We discussed how we are struggling with tough questions we have faced for decades: the change of organisational culture and mind set, how to link to long-term solutions, how to localise, and how to put affected people at the centre of everything we do.

Given these challenges, we debated how we can act as NGOs and collectively. Topics bundled under (1) how we need to do even better with what we have, (2) how we need to continue to push for reducing the burdens on the humanitarian system, and (3) how we need to find new sources of funding to meet the humanitarian need.

The Annual Conference informed directly on the NGO's contribution to the future of the Grand Bargain continuation. How we need to continue to sharpen the Grand Bargain to increase our efficiency in the process and improve our chance of meeting objectives. It was the opportunity to remind the signing of the [Climate Charter](#), to announce the [ICVA learning stream 2023-2024](#), and renew the engagements of ICVA on the transformations of the [ICVA2030 strategy](#).

The Annual Conference also informed the delegation of ICVA members – including 30 leaders of national organisations - attending the [European Humanitarian Forum](#) the following week in Brussels.

Next Annual Conference is planned for Wednesday 21 March 2024.

I am convinced that ICVA is in a great place with an inspiring strategy, the “[ICVA2030](#)”, a “powerful” ICVA network, and committed individuals to the collective work of the ICVA Secretariat.

A powerful network made possible by the efforts worldwide of its members, donors, partners, and other stakeholders.

I decided to step down as Executive Director of ICVA at end of March 2023, after the Membership Day and Annual Conference 2023 in Geneva. Over five years at ICVA with emotions ranging from fulfilment to time anxiety, I have learnt a lot including walking the talk on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, which leads me to step down for more leadership diversity in our sector. It is not because I have “no longer enough in the tank” nor yet contemplating retirement. I will be moving to [the peace building sector](#), and I will stay connected to humanitarian actors. Stay in contact with me on [LinkedIn](#).

I thank all the wonderful and passionate people I have had the pleasure of meeting during my tenure at ICVA. Thank you for the heart-warming messages on my departure. At the occasion of the reception of the Membership Day, I shared the following [talk on leadership](#).

The ICVA Board has undertaken an extensive search over the last year to identify a replacement for me as the outgoing ICVA Executive Director. The Board has however decided to reopen the [recruitment process](#).

[Mirela Shuteriqi](#) who has been the ICVA Director of Policy since 2019 will be acting as ICVA ED from 1 April.

I am excited to hand over to Mirela. The ICVA Chief Operating Officer, Susan Wilding, will also be taking some of the ED duties and an Extended Leadership Team of ICVA senior colleagues has been appointed for this interim period.

Be well and stay safe,

**Ignacio Packer**  
**Executive Director | ICVA**  
**31 March 2023**

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## ICVA Updates

### 1. Available Online – ICVA 2023 Annual Conference Recordings



Thank you for attending ICVA's 2023 Annual Conference on 17 March in Maison de la Paix, Geneva. Thanks to all our 250 participants and speakers for your time and expertise. The all-day event provided an opportunity to take stock of the cross-cutting implications of financing issues in the humanitarian system and ways to take action to influence change.

Our distinguished speakers and attendees delved into four captivating topics and sessions:

- Setting the scene
- The future of the Grand Bargain
- Climate financing and humanitarian action
- Partnerships

Check out the four sessions recordings in English on our [website](#) and [YouTube](#). Stay tuned for the session's recordings in French and Arabic.

[Conference Recordings](#)

## 2. ICVA 2023 Membership Day



On 16 March in Geneva over 120 people representing 76 member organisations and from 40 countries participated in our annual ICVA membership day. During this interactive day members shared experiences on several topics including implementing humanitarian principles; diversity equity and inclusions, impact of climate change, access to vulnerable populations; and food security. The day finished with a tribute to Ignacio Packer, the outgoing Executive Director.

### 3. New Members

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

- [Bondeko Refugee Livelihoods Centre](#)
- [Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative](#) - HQAI, Switzerland
- [Link2007](#)- Cooperazione in Rete, Italy
- [Mothers School Society \(MSS\)](#), Palestine
- [Non-governmental Organisation Resource Center \(NGORC\)](#), Ukraine
- [People in Need \(PIN\)](#), Czech Republic
- [Rumah Zakat Foundation](#)
- [Sphere India](#), India
- [Zamzam Foundation](#), Somalia

### 4. We are Hiring

We are hiring for the following positions – Executive Director, Head of Forced Migration, and an Interim ICVA MENA Deputy Regional Representative. Check more details on our [website](#).



[More Information](#)

## Forced Migration

### 5. UNHCR and NGOs Quarterly Consultations

Based on the same model as the UNHCR Quarterly Consultations with NGOs that took place in [2022](#), this year, online Consultations between UNHCR and NGOs will continue to take place regularly and co-organised by UNHCR and ICVA. The first online consultations took place on 2 March, on "**Increasing access to asylum through improved asylum capacity**". Speakers from [The Refugee Consortium of Kenya](#) and UNHCR lively exchanged on the [Asylum Capacity Development evaluation](#) of UNHCR's support for Strengthening National Asylum Systems and this year's plans to establish a [dialogue platform for the Asylum Capacity Support Group](#), one key arrangement of the Global Compact on Refugees. Notes will soon be disseminated to participants. Access more information on the [Consultations](#).

### 6. UNHCR 86th Standing Committee

From 7 to 9 March 2023, five [NGO statements](#) were delivered and coordinated by ICVA at the 86<sup>th</sup> meeting of UNHCR's Standing Committee focusing on Asia and the Pacific, Europe, the Americas, the Middle East and North Africa, and Africa. Thanks to the NGOs' inputs, the collective NGO statements notably highlight the multiple protection risks and lack of ability to access durable solutions faced by refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, and stateless populations across the above regions. Specific NGOs' analyses as well as recommendations can be read in all the statements.

## 7. Side Event of the 86th Meeting of the Standing Committee

On 7 March 2023, ICVA, UNHCR, and the EU Delegation to the UN and other international organisations in Geneva organised a side event to the UNHCR 86th Standing Committee. Drawing on a [rapid assessment report](#) commissioned by ICVA and UNHCR in 2022, the event focused on the role of national and local NGOs as frontline actors to support refugees from Ukraine in its neighboring countries. Check out [more information](#).

## 8. Solutions to Internal Displacement

On 29 March, ICVA and InterAction organized the first meeting for this year between their members and the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, Mr. Robert Piper. This meeting facilitated exchange on the Special Adviser's recent and upcoming [country visits](#), the [31 UN Commitments of The UNSG's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement](#) and related NGOs engagements. The coalition of 14 NGOs in the East and the Horn of Africa region - [the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat \(ReDSS\)](#) – shared reflections on their coordinating role for durable solutions in the region, international and regional policy dynamics around the refugee contexts and internal displacement issues as well as on government ownership and leadership. NGOs such as [Save the Children](#) particularly shared insights on the “[Checklist](#) for child-sensitive national and local durable solutions strategies to address internal displacement”. The exchange also focused *inter alia* on Data and Financing for solutions to internal displacement. Key takeaways notes will be circulated to members. InterAction and ICVA will continue to facilitate cooperation and synergies.

## 9. Global Compact on Refugees & 2023 Global Refugee Forum

The first [NGO Reference Group](#) of the year took place on 22 March and ICVA continued its engagement within the Group. The agenda notably included updates on the preparations for the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) and initial thoughts on the GRF program preparations. ICVA shared notes and a background presentation of the meeting with its members.

In connection with the preparations for the second GRF, the [summary](#) and the [recording](#) of the first quarterly informal briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) was held on 6 March and accessible on [UNHCR's dedicated webpage](#). Updates were particularly emphasized on several GCR initiatives including the three Support Platforms.

## 10. UNHCR, Guidance on Localisation in UNHCR-led Coordination Structures

As part of its localisation commitment, UNHCR released a guidance note on [Localisation in UNHCR-led coordination structures](#) for its staff (namely sector leads, programme and inter-agency coordinators) to ensure the engagement and inclusion of refugee-led organizations (RLOs) and local organisations in coordination structures and planning cycles.

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



## 11. Migrants in Vulnerable Situations

### Launch of Migrant Rights Database

The Migrant Rights Initiative has released the [Migrant Rights Database](#). This revolutionary database provides an in-depth, empirical analysis of how 36 countries provide legal protections to migrants and implement their obligations under international law. An approximate of 70% of the global migrant population is covered by this study, with more nations to be added soon.

### Mixed Migration Review 2023: Short Essay Competition – Alternative Perspectives

The Mixed Migration Review is a platform for different voices in the migration debate. They are inviting young researchers and writers on migration to enter a short essay competition with the 5 winners having their essays published in a section of the MMR2023 dedicated to "Alternative Perspectives" and receiving a prize of USD 1,000 each. To enter, abstracts of no more than 250 words should be submitted by 5 May 2023. Check out more [information](#).

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## Financing

## 12. The Future of the Grand Bargain

### NGO constituency discussion, Future of the Grand Bargain

On 15 March, ICVA convened NGO constituency members to dig deeper into the options under consideration for the future of the Grand Bargain. NGOs have broadly supported creative approaches to using the unique platform of the Grand Bargain in new ways to help reduce the burdens on the humanitarian system. While most NGOs still support a longer-term vision for the Grand Bargain, there is agreement that setting clear milestone objectives for 2026 is a key short-term goal. It was also agreed that there is a need to develop a clear, durable structure for the Grand Bargain that will not require significant changes if work continues past 2026.

### NEAR Position Paper, “Reflecting on the Grand Bargain after 6 Years”

NEAR consulted as a Secretariat, with its Leadership Council and members around the following questions: Is the Grand Bargain worth our time? Will we see any change, improved trust, better quality funding and more sustainability if we remain engaged? And if so, then when? Read more in the [position paper](#).

### Grand Bargain Secretariat Updates

#### Caucus on Funding for Localisation

On 30 March, NEAR Executive Director Hibak Kalfan and Eminent Person Jan Egeland invited the members of the caucus on Funding for Localization to take stock of the progress made, endorse the outcome document, and agree on the next steps. Members of the caucus agreed to (i) measure funding to Local and National Actors (LNAs) channeled directly or via one intermediary, (ii) report all funding to LNAs through publicly available platforms (FTS and/or IATI) with all available information on provider, recipient organization and location, and (iii) develop individual roadmaps for when and how the 25% target will be reached. A collective monitoring framework accompanying these commitments is being finalised and will be shared widely in the coming weeks.

## 13. Access to Quality Funding

### Funding Well Project Joint Implementation by ICVA and CHS

ICVA and CHS will start jointly implementing the “Funding Well” project from April, which aims to address how donors can become more effective funding partners, through trust, flexibility, covering real costs, implementing the Core Humanitarian Standard, and with a focus on foundations and pooled funds. Through creative methods, the project will crowdsource insights and co-create an actionable way forward related to issues of quality funding, the funding gap, the need for a menu of funding options and data, which can be fed into processes underway to advance the Grand Bargain. The project is expected to conclude in June 2023, an important month for the Grand Bargain 2.0, ECOSO HAS and the Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative.

The project will build on the CHS [2020 Working Well report](#) carried out with aid workers, the [2021 Leading Well report](#) carried out with CEOs and the [2022 Governing Well report](#) carried out with governing board members.

## 14. UN Partnerships and Donor Conditions

### UNICEF, Revised Partnership Documents

Over past weeks, ICVA bolstered its engagement with UNICEF Division of Data, analytics, planning and monitoring (DAPM) in consultation and on behalf of its members around the [revised Programme Cooperation Agreement](#) (PCA) 2023. ICVA has coordinated negotiations to resolve red lines concerns from some partners on the new PCA, to enable the swift signature of the new PCA and to prevent further delays in programme implementation. UNICEF will organize a webinar with partners to present a formal global rollout plan for the new PCA, as well as key changes in the document. Further information will be shared in the coming weeks.

### DG ECHO, Guidance on Partnerships and Localisation

DG ECHO released a guidance note on Partnership and Localization: [Promoting Equitable Partnerships with Local responders in Humanitarian Settings](#). The guidance document ways of translating the Grand Bargain commitments into concrete action, at both headquarters and field office levels, through its advocacy, normative work, and programming. In this document, ECHO acknowledges and seeks to contribute to the powerful dynamic in favour of reform in the humanitarian sector, with strong expectations of significant recognition of L/NAs as protagonists in responding to crises, including their taking enhanced leadership roles in humanitarian contexts.

## 15. Pooled Funds

### Pooled Funds Working Group (PFWG) Thematic Webinar, Roll-out CBPF Global Guidelines

Following a consultative revision process with funding partners and PAG members, OCHA published the [revised Country-Based Pooled Funds Global Guidelines](#) in December 2022. A PFWG thematic webinar was held on 22 March to update funding partners and PAG members on the plan to roll-out and monitor the implementation of the revised CBPF Global Guidelines. The roll-out plan covers sensitisation, guidance papers, trainings, GMS adaptation, translations, revision of country operating manuals and monitoring. A detailed note on the roll-out plan has been shared with the Humanitarian Finance Working Group members.

### Country Based Pooled Fund (CBPF) Earthquake Response in Syria

As part of the thematic PFWG webinar, OCHA shared an update on CBPF pledges and allocations for the Syria and Türkiye earthquake response. Updated data are available on the [CBPF Data Hub](#) and [Pooled Funds Data Hub](#). As of early April, 97.1% of the \$17.2m allocated through the SCHF went to NNGOs and 2.9% to INGOs, and 23.4% of the \$52.7m allocated through the SHF went to NNGOs, 28.5% to INGOs and 48.2% to UN agencies.

### **Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocation & Under-funded crises (UFE) First Round**

The UN Secretary-General recently [announced](#) the allocation of \$250M from CERF to countries facing underfunded emergencies and high levels of food insecurity. ICVA coordinated its members' inputs in the CERF 2023 first UFE prioritisation process. Access the [ERC decision note](#) on the first UFE round of 2023. The record \$250 million allocation from the CERF will help people in 19 countries. This includes 8 countries – Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen – that are home to more than 20 million people just one step away from famine. In addition, the funds will bolster the humanitarian response in underfunded crises – in Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Honduras, Kenya, Lebanon, Madagascar, Pakistan, and Sudan – to combat food insecurity and address the impacts of climate change and protracted crises.

### **CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform: Proposal for a Resource Facility to Support Local Actors' Participation in CBPF Discussions**

Building on the PFWG biannual meeting in January 2023 and the priority areas identified to support CBPF localization efforts, a proposal for a resource facility to support the in-person participation of local actors in CBPF discussions is under review by the CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform. The purpose of the resource facility would be to ensure the sustainable in-person participation of local actors in relevant CBPF meetings at the country and global levels.

- For more information, contact [jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org](mailto:jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org) or [manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org](mailto:manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org).

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## Coordination

### **16. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Deputy Group**

IASC Deputy Group met in March to discuss various issues related to bolstering diversity and inclusion, strengthening partnerships with development organizations, improving humanitarian response for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and engaging with COP28. The meeting took place at and was hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, with its Director General welcoming the participants and emphasising the commitment of FAO to the joint work under IASC and the importance of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. For more on the meeting, please see [here](#).

### **17. Emergency Directors Group (EDG)**

#### **NGO Representatives on the EDG**

ICVA has opened a call for expressions of interest to represent ICVA members at the IASC Emergency Directors Group. Since January 2016, ICVA has implemented a rotational system for NGO representation on the EDG, which ensures opportunity for increased participation, contribution and transparency. Selection is on a combined individual and organisational basis and each NGO EDG Representative takes on the role for a 2-year term. The closing date for nominations is 21 April 2023. For more information contact Jeremy Wellard at [jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org](mailto:jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org).



## **EDG Mission to Haiti**

Senior representatives of ICVA members World Vision International and Concern Worldwide, joined an EDG Mission to Haiti from 14-16 March. Over 50% of the population in Haiti have humanitarian needs and the situation is deteriorating rapidly, increasing the pressure on the humanitarian response, which urgently needs to be strengthened. The mission team made recommendations around operational presence, advocacy, and donor engagement. The report from the mission and summary of the debrief is available to ICVA members on request.

## **18. The Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG)**

The OPAG of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee convened on 23 March. Participants discussed:

- OPAG's role in providing leadership on normative issues and on change processes to drive forward operational impact and deliver a more accountable and effective response; and
- Progress made and challenges encountered by IASC Task Forces on Humanitarian Development Collaboration and Linkages to Peace, Accountability to Affected People, the Centrality of Protection and on Humanitarian Space with a focus on Counter-Terrorism and Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments.

Check out the [action points](#) agreed on.

## **19. Operational Peer Review Mission to Ukraine**

ICVA's Head of Humanitarian Coordination and a senior representative of Save the Children joined the Operational Peer Review (OPR) mission to Ukraine from 19-31 March. OPR missions are a formal support mechanism that is deployed after an IASC Scale Up Activation is declared. The mission, led by an experienced former RC/HC aimed to support ongoing efforts by in-country leadership to improve humanitarian action in Ukraine, including through reviewing the structures and support in place at national and sub-national levels, and identifying the additional support that would be required from IASC organizations at the country and HQ levels to maximize effectiveness of the humanitarian action.

## **20. Member States Briefing on Afghanistan with National and Regional NGOs**

On 15 March, ICVA convened a discussion between representatives of Member States and NGOs on the current situation in Afghanistan and the longer-term outlook for accessibility of aid and protection amidst a series of restrictions levied on women and girls over the past eighteen months, shrinking their right to education and their role in the public sphere.

The meeting prioritized national and regional NGO perspectives with speakers representing Nai Qala, ACBAR and Community World Service Asia. The discussion focused primarily on the difficulties faced by aid agencies in accessing vulnerable communities, with bureaucratic red tape and a challenging security environment making it hard to deliver aid and support services. Key recommendations featured the long term and predictable funding, continuous dialogue with the de facto authorities and advocacy on women rights on education and right to work.

## **21. ICVA/REACH Dialogue on Humanitarian Prioritization: Principles, Ethics and Realities**

On 15 March, ICVA in partnership with REACH held a members dialogue addressing the

question: *Is there in fact an 'ethical and fair' way to prioritize meeting people's needs, within the bounds of humanitarian principles, human rights, and political realities?* The discussion began with a hypothetical case study, where a series of choices were presented to three speakers representing different positions. The speakers presented a stylised response to the case study, explaining how each different imperative would require a specific choice and prioritization decision to be made. The session continued as an open dialogue on the challenges of prioritization amongst the members participating.

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

## 22. NGO Fora Support

ICVA organized a tailored training session for NGO area managers of Hatay hub (Turkish earthquake response) to enhance their know-how on humanitarian coordination architecture, humanitarian principles and core humanitarian standards. Adapted training courses on the topic of humanitarian coordination (IASC system global and country-level) for area managers, country directors or forum directors and fora steering committees are available and can be arranged on demand, to be provided online. For more information, contact your ICVA regional representative.

- For more information, contact [albertphilip@icvanetwork.org](mailto:albertphilip@icvanetwork.org).

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# Transforming our Network

## 23. Champion Principled Humanitarian Action

### Champion Principled Humanitarian Action

One of the sessions at our Membership Day on 16th March, was around our Transformation 1 "Championing Principles Humanitarian Action" within the global context.

Participants heard from IHH and Save the Children talk about the challenges of implementing humanitarian principles within the current Syria conflict context and Turkey /Syria earthquake. The challenges are not new - timeliness of response, funding, political dynamics, restrictions on accessing people in need, partnerships - and all challenge the principles of neutrality, independence, impartiality and humanity. The participants then discussed the issues and their experiences in small groups.

### World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Health for Peace Initiative

The WHO has launched the [Global Health for Peace Initiative](#), which aims to link health interventions and peace by "strengthening the role of WHO and the health sector as influencers of peace". Some civil society organisations have voiced concerns about the current wording of the draft, and MSF has published a [briefing paper](#) outlining these concerns. The paper calls among others for further consultations with CSOs and health professionals.

- Please email: [nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org](mailto:nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org) for more information.

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

## Climate Advocacy



During ICVA's Membership Day on 16 March, there were breakout discussions on climate advocacy, particularly around COP28, and members shared their views on the priorities. This is part of ICVA's process of reaching out to engage membership more on the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Climate Sub-group, which includes developing an action plan for COP28 and climate advocacy in 2023.

Following the Membership Day discussions, ICVA has also sent out a call for input on the IASC Engagement in UNFCCC COP28 action plan to the Climate Change Working Group.

## Environment and Emergencies Forum (EEF)

ICVA attended the EEF in Brussels on 22 and 23 March. Recordings of the two days are now available on the [EEF website](#) including the breakout session 'Adapting Humanitarian Operations to the Climate Crisis', which was moderated by ICVA's Learning and Climate Change Coordinator, Nishanie Jayamaha.



### Study: Implementing the Climate Charter – Analysis and mapping of expertise available to signatories on the implementation of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations

European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid has published the above [study](#) that produces a snapshot of the support available to signatories of the Climate Charter to implement commitments 1 and 2 and analyses potential gaps and barriers. This study was central to the European Humanitarian Forum discussions about next steps.

- For more information on ICVA's activities, including the [Learning Stream on Climate Change and Humanitarian Action](#), visit the [Climate and Environment webpage](#). If you have any questions and/or would like to join the Climate Change Working Group please email: [nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org](mailto:nishanie.jayamaha@icvanetwork.org).

## 25. Be Globally Distributed and Locally Rooted

## **IASC Localization Task Force 5**

During the monthly TF5 meeting an update was presented by the three workstreams on the progress achieved thus far. In addition, the best practices on meaningful participation have been collated from different actors to present how local actors are meaningfully participating and co leading in the humanitarian coordination architecture. ICVA, with the support of other members, is currently reviewing the applications and will discuss how these best practices will be disseminated.

### **Promoting Equitable Partnerships with Local Responders in Humanitarian Settings – DG ECHO Guidance Note**

This [guidance document](#) seeks ways of translating the Grand Bargain commitments into concrete action, while recognising that DG ECHO has already embarked on numerous projects and programmes that support localisation, although not yet in a systematic manner.

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

## **Humanitarian Development Peace (HDP) Nexus**

### **Save the Date: Jointly Creating Perspectives for Displaced People: Implementing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus in Mauritania.**

This Community of Practice on Nexus session will take place on 12 April 2023 at 12:00 Noon CEST via Teams Platform. The session will explore how the Humanitarian-Development-Peace-Nexus can be implemented in displacement contexts. To join and get access to the link, email [stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org](mailto:stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org).

### **Leaving no Crisis Behind with Assistance for the Triple Nexus: Humanitarian, Development and Peace Funding in Crisis Contexts**

This [research](#), commissioned by Swedish International Development Agency and produced in March 2023 dives deep into the impact of official development assistance (ODA) on countries facing humanitarian crises.

- To join the ICVA NEXUS Working Group mailing list, send an email to [stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org](mailto:stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org).

## **26. Be Diverse, Inclusive and Live our Values**

### **Persons with Disabilities**

#### **Regional Discussion on Disability Inclusion in Humanitarian Response**

ICVA organized a regional discussion on disability inclusion in humanitarian response with its members in the MENA region on the 6 March 2023. The primary objective of the discussion was to analyze the findings and feedback obtained from ICVA's "draft" report on inclusion and to come up with practical suggestions for enhancing cooperation between the humanitarian and OPD communities, as well as among global, regional, and national actors regarding the issue of inclusion. Additionally, they brainstormed new approaches to enhance the use of the IASC guidelines.

- For more information, contact [vania.gobbo@icvanetwork.org](mailto:vania.gobbo@icvanetwork.org).

## Safeguarding

### Webinar: Demystifying Safeguarding Investigations - 20 April 2023

The Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub Eastern Europe (RSH EE), of which ICVA is a consortium partner, invites you to a webinar on **Demystifying safeguarding investigations, an open discussion with Lucy Heaven Taylor, safeguarding investigations specialist**. The webinar will provide an explanation of administrative investigations, including understanding the evidence threshold and what happens after the investigation is over.

The webinar will be in English with interpretations to Hungarian, Czech and Ukrainian. Closed captioning will be available in English. Register for the [webinar](#).

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

## 27. Proactively Engage in Agile Collaborative Partnerships



### European Humanitarian Forum

ICVA and its members participated in the European Humanitarian Forum that was held in Brussels on 20-21 March. ICVA coorganized a session on [Humanitarian access impediments the reality of the frontline](#). Panelists including Elmehdi Ag Wakina, representant of the NNGO active in humanitarian field in Mali was part of the high-level panel and reflected on bottom-up humanitarian diplomacy based on endogenous mechanisms and local actors' dynamics. The President of the SPONG (Secrétariat Permanent des ONG au Burkina Faso), DRC country director in Cameroon and IRC country director in Nigeria, with the participation of the Swiss and the UK governments discussed the reality of the frontline regarding humanitarian access impediments and how the donors and the diplomatic level could support to address it.

On 21 March a session entitled "Fleeing for survival: Human mobility and Forced displacement in Latin America and the Caribbean" took place. Sabrina Lustgarten, the Executive Vice President of HIAS, ICVA member, highlighted the essential role that HIAS plays in the LAC RMD Coalition. The session dove deep into the humanitarian needs of the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region, where a multitude of factors continue to lead to displacement on an unprecedented scale.

There were a number of sessions on the climate crisis, including 'Leading by example: One year into the Donor Declaration and charter on Climate and Environment' during which ICVA's Executive Director Ignacio Packer was a panelist.

Recordings of the event are available on the [EHF website](#).



# Region Specific

## 28. Africa

### West and Central Africa

#### Regional IASC (R-IASC)

On 8 March, the R- IASC brought together representatives from NGOs, UN agencies and donors to discuss pressing matters concerning Burkina Faso, followed by a presentation by UNFPA on current Minimum Initial Service Package for Sexual and Reproductive Health assessment in 23 countries across West and Central Africa. The ToR of the R-IASC was discussed and it was decided to propose a survey to the participants as well as organizing a specific meeting of the R-IASC task force to work on the ToR revision and identify the sticking points.

- For more information or to be included in the ICVA Africa Working Group List, please contact [addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org](mailto:addis.tesfa@icvanetwork.org) or [adeline.benita@icvanetwork.org](mailto:adeline.benita@icvanetwork.org) or [nkirote.laiboni@icvanetwork.org](mailto:nkirote.laiboni@icvanetwork.org).

## 29. Asia and the Pacific

### Regional Emergency Preparedness Working Group

In March, The Regional Emergency Preparedness Working group meeting discussed the regional risk analysis and forward planning for a potential Dzug response in Mongolia. The meeting was chaired by ICVA along with co-lead OCHA and IFRC. The situation this year has been further exasperated by drought over the summer which impacted the amount of fodder the herders have to sustain their animals during the winter. IFRC provided a summary of the latest [IFRC World Disaster Report](#), which provides evidence-based policy engagements at all levels. The report arrives as some governments are beginning to reviews of relevant laws, policies and/or plans in order to learn from the mistakes made with regards to the pandemic.

### 2023 Regional UNHCR and NGO Consultations

UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific is pleased to announce regional Consultations between UNHCR, and NGOs. The event will take place on 14 and 15 June 2023, in Bangkok and online, and is being organised jointly with ICVA, APRRN, APNOR, and other NGOs. The theme for the consultations is 'Promoting Inclusion for Sustainable Solutions' which reflects the need to find sustainable solutions for refugees in the region by promoting their inclusion in their host communities. To ensure that the event is tailored to the needs and interests of all participants, interested organizations are invited to [fill out a survey](#) by 12th April.

- For more information about ICVA's work in Asia and Pacific, contact [keya.sahachaudhury@icvanetwork.org](mailto:keya.sahachaudhury@icvanetwork.org) or [asma.saleem@icvanetwork.org](mailto:asma.saleem@icvanetwork.org).

## 30. Latin America Region

### Venezuela

On the 16 - 17 March 2023, the International Solidarity Conference for Venezuela was held in a hybrid format. Attendees from all around the world explored the importance of coordinated action across the humanitarian-development-stabilisation nexus. Check out the event recordings for [16 March](#) and [17 March](#).

### Mapping

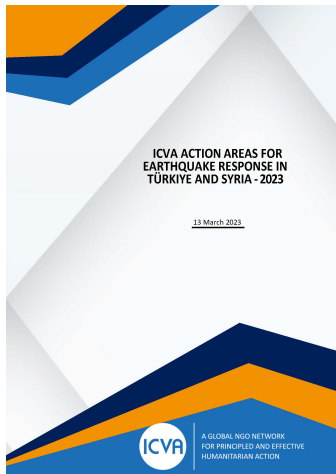
ICVA Latin America and the Caribbean have launched a survey to map out local and national organizations in the region, offering them an invaluable strategic overview. Complete the [survey](#) and be a part in shaping their view of the landscape.

### Workshop on Humanitarian Negotiation (In Person) - Haiti

From the 18 - 20 of April, CCHN will conduct a workshop on Negotiation in the case of Haiti. Participants will learn to analyze the social and political environment in which a negotiation takes place, identify the role and influence of other actors involved, and implement different strategies to achieve your negotiation objectives. Check out [more information](#).

- For more information or to be included in the ICVA Latam mailing list, contact [lina.gomez@icvanetwork.org](mailto:lina.gomez@icvanetwork.org).

## 31. MENA



### ICVA Action Areas for Earthquake Response in Türkiye and Syria – 2023

ICVA is committed to helping NGOs in Türkiye and Syria get through the current crisis. Check out ICVA [action areas](#) for earthquake response and [NGO advocacy messages](#) at global, regional, and in-country levels that ICVA is amplifying.

[Read the Action Areas](#)

### Syria Civil Society Organisations Regional Conference

ICVA served as a steering committee member and designing the localisation session during the Syria CSO Regional Conference held on March 13th and 14th, 2023, in Amman, Jordan. The event marked a crucial moment for various CSOs from Lebanon, Jordan, NWS, NES, Damascus, and SIRF as they gathered for the first time to on Early Recovery and Durable Solutions, Integration and DS, Return, and Localisation.

## EU Consultation: Enabling Environment for Localisation in Yemen

ICVA held a consultation workshop on 1 March 2023, which aimed to facilitate discussions surrounding localisation in Yemen. The purpose of the workshop was to explore the opportunities and challenges of locally led interventions and to identify the roles and contributions of youth initiatives and informal local community groups. ICVA MENA Representative, led the workshop as its primary facilitator. During the workshop, ICVA member, Tamdeen Youth Foundation, presented its Localization Initiative's baseline report titled "Measuring Humanitarian Localisation in Yemen" and Nahda Makers Organization joined a panel discussion on challenges and opportunities of localization from a humanitarian/development perspective.

- For more information or to be included in the ICVA MENA Mailing List, contact [eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org](mailto:eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org) or [stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org](mailto:stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org).

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## Learning Opportunities

### 32. Free Guides on Risk Management for NGOs and Their Staff

ICVA has teamed up with DisasterReady to provide [free online learning resources](#) for professionals working in the fields of humanitarian aid and development. The guides aim to improve understanding of how to apply risk management best practices in daily work. The guides are interactive and can be accessed by creating a free account with DisasterReady and searching for "[Risk Management in Practice](#)" and "Risk Management and Funding Partnerships."

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## New and Noteworthy

### 33. Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation (IAHE) of the COVID-19 Humanitarian Response

The [IAHE](#) finds that the humanitarian community rose to the occasion and met the needs of a vastly larger humanitarian caseload.

### 34. Sex, Age (and more) Still Matter: Data Collection, Analysis, and Use in Humanitarian Practice

CARE, Tufts, and UN women's [new report](#) finds that sex, age, and disability-based data is still not being used to inform programming.

### 35. Engaging Men and Boys Learning Review

This [report](#) presents the findings from a learning review of CARE's experiences with engaging men and boys in Climate Justice programming.

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# Agenda

**April 17-28:** [9<sup>th</sup> Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week \(HNPW 2023\)](#)

**April 26-28:** [2023 Humanitarian Leadership Conference](#)

**May 2 – June 1:** [Call for nominations – 5th Nexus Academy Training. Applications are open through Tuesday, 11 April.](#)

**May 17:** Second Formal Preparatory Meeting for the Global Refugee Forum, Geneva

**June 7:** Second Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees, Virtual

**June 8-9:** [Addressing Statelessness in Europe](#) Conference, Spain. Registration closes on 28 April.

**June 14-16:** UNHCR 87<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee

**June 19-20:** [Grand Bargain Annual Meeting](#)

**June 20:** World Refugee Day

**June 21-23:** [ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment - Geneva](#)

**June 26-27:** Pooled Fund Working Group biannual meeting.

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

**September 13-14:** UNHCR 88<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee

**October 9-13:** UNHCR 75<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee

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

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

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

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

**2024**

**March 21:** ICVA Annual Conference

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