

# ICVA Bulletin

## Highlights from May 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.

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## Message from ICVA

### **The Rohingya Crisis in Cox Bazar: Urgent Calls for Action and Sustainable Solutions**

Dear Colleagues,

In a recent trip to Cox Bazar and Dhaka, the regional and deputy representatives for ICVA in the Asia Pacific met with members and local organizations, who are dedicated to serving the needs of over 900,000 Rohingya people residing in the world's largest refugee settlement. However, despite the ongoing efforts, the situation remains bleak even after five years.

The root causes of the Rohingya plight in Myanmar have not been adequately addressed and have only worsened due to the military takeover in February 2021. Most refugees in Cox Bazar, including those in Bashan Char, still rely heavily on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs, with limited opportunities for employment or freedom of movement. While the Bangladesh government has been providing invaluable support by offering refuge, the situation is becoming increasingly unsustainable. Without greater solidarity from the international community, protection concerns continue to escalate as conditions deteriorate. In 2022 alone, there was a 360% increase in the number of desperate Rohingya attempting deadly sea crossings in 39 boats, compared to the [year before](#).

Discussions with NGOs revealed there had been significant negative impacts on the well-being of Rohingya, primarily from heightened security incidents involving violence, trafficking, and arson within the camps. Approximately [60% of the violence and security](#) incidents that occurred since 2017 took place between 2022 until 20 April 2023. Additionally, funding cuts have led to a reduction in food rations, from 12 USD to 8 USD as of 1<sup>st</sup> June. Moreover, the 2023 joint response plan is currently less than 25% funded. Compounding the crisis further, the impending threat of Cyclone Mocha during ICVA's visit highlighted the vulnerability of the temporary shelters, revealing their inadequacy in withstanding such natural hazards.

ICVA stands in solidarity with its members and calls for increased funding to address the Rohingya crisis. However, the protracted situation in Cox Bazar is not an isolated incident. According to the 2022 Global Humanitarian Assistance report, 74% of people in need are living in protracted crisis. While increased funding is a crucial step in addressing these crises, it is not the only solution. There is an urgent need to advocate for responsibility sharing and durable solutions, using platforms such as the Global Refugee Forum in December. ICVA and many of its members have already taken action in this regard. Additionally, the escalating humanitarian needs necessitate a collaborative effort within the humanitarian community to think outside the box and explore solutions that encompass both the development and humanitarian perspectives, engaging a broader range of stakeholders to alleviate the suffering of millions of refugees worldwide.

**Keya Saha-Chaudhury and Asma Saleem**  
ICVA Regional Hub in Asia and the Pacific

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## ICVA Updates

### 1. ICVA New Members



We are pleased to announce the following organizations have recently joined the ICVA network:

- [Association Malienne pour la Survie au Sahael](#), ONG-AMSS, Mali
- [Benevolence Coalition for Humanitarian Relief](#) (BCHR), Yemen
- [International Islamic Charity Organization](#) (IICO), Kuwait

For more detailed information about their work, please visit their respective websites.

With these recent additions, the total number of ICVA members now stands at 157 further strengthening the collective efforts to respond to crises and support vulnerable populations worldwide.

[Read More on ICVA Members](#)

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## Forced Migration

### 2. Joint UNHCR-ICVA Briefing on the Sudan Refugee Response

A briefing on the Sudan refugee response was jointly organized with UNHCR. The event took place on 9 May and featured Mr. Raouf Mazou, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Operations and Mr. Hajir Maalim, Regional Director of NRC, who provided an overview on the current situation in Sudan and neighbouring countries. They emphasised the significant impact of the conflict outbreak on cross-border movements of populations and internal displacement in a region already affected by ongoing conflicts. The briefing served as an informal platform for information exchange, bringing together local and international actors, including the Sudan INGO Forum coordinator. Participants shared their collective and individual efforts in assisting the affected populations and expressed their concerns about the protection of people on the move who face various safety risks during their journey within the country. The discussion also touched upon the challenges faced by refugees experiencing secondary displacement and returnees, recognizing the transitional nature of displacement and the need to adapt response strategies accordingly. Notably, the briefing coincided with the finalization of the [Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) which outlines cross-cutting response priorities at the regional level and aims to provide substantial support to the countries bordering Sudan that host large refugee populations.

### 3. UNHCR and NGOs Europe Regional Dialogue

On 30 May, ICVA co-organized with UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe a dialogue with NGOs in Europe, focusing on **the role of NGOs in the Global Compact on Refugees and looking ahead to the [2023 Global Refugee Forum \(GRF\)](#)**. The online dialogue provided a platform for sharing information on the preparations for the upcoming GRF in December 2023. It also aimed to facilitate discussion on the engagement of NGOs in the GRF process, including opportunities for joint action with UNHCR and other key actors.

During the Dialogue participants had the chance to address the implementation of [pledges made in 2019](#) and to raise questions regarding the current pledging process. This year, there is a particular emphasis on encouraging [joint multistakeholder pledges](#) that align with key thematic areas and the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). As an example, the dialogue introduced the localization pledge which is currently in its initial phase of co-creation by a diverse group of stakeholders. ICVA and UNHCR are convening this effort.

Furthermore, the [UNHCR Regional Consultations with NGOs in Europe](#) scheduled to take place in Geneva on 19 and 20 September were discussed during the dialogue. As part of these consultations, a session on the GRF will be held for NGOs to provide updates on their planned and ongoing pledges and to showcase good practices. NGOs operating in Europe and especially organizations led by refugees and/or stateless persons are strongly encouraged to register in the [UNHCR Regional Consultations with NGOs](#).

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

## Migrants in Vulnerable Situations

### 4. IMRF 2022 Assessment Paper

The Civil Society Action Committee is launching its [IMRF 2022 Assessment Paper](#), which outlines takeaways from the first International Migration Review Forum and unpacks barriers to civil society engagement. The paper delves into eleven commitments and action points that will serve as a roadmap for the Committee's advocacy efforts. These commitments and actions seek to persuade UN Member States, international Organizations, and other stakeholders to adopt more inclusive and receptive measures towards migration.



### 5. Amy Pope Elected Next Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

During the 6th Special Session of the IOM Council held on 15 May 2023, Ms. Amy E. Pope was elected as the Director General of IOM. Ms. Pope, who is the first woman to lead IOM, will start in the new position by 1 October 2023.

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## Financing

### 6. The Future of the Grand Bargain

#### Grand Bargain Secretariat Update

Check current updates from the GB Secretariat in this [website](#).

#### Facilitation Group Update

ICVA continues in the rotating role of Facilitation Group chair in June sharing the role with the European Union for the month.

The Facilitation Group held the final rounds of constituency consultations this month on the proposal on the future of the Grand Bargain. The group met in-person in Berlin on 24 and 25 May to discuss remaining red lines on the proposal on the future of the Grand Bargain and outline a roadmap for implementation of the new iteration of the Grand Bargain.

Eminent Person Jan Egeland also hosted a Sherpa-level meeting for all Grand Bargain signatories on 6 June during which the Facilitation Group presented the final elements of the future Grand Bargain proposal to all signatories. A "silent endorsement" process will be followed to approve the proposal, allowing signatories to register any objections to moving forward with the proposal before 12 June.

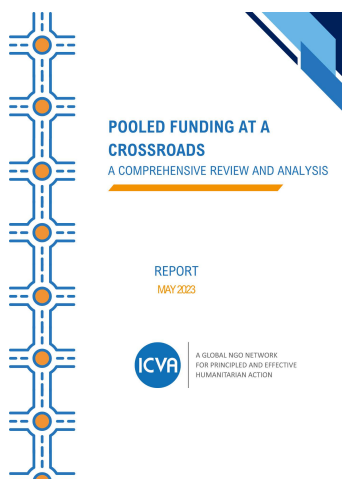
#### Annual Grand Bargain Meeting

Registration for the Annual Meeting on 19 and 20 June 2023 is now open. On Monday the 19th, there will be a full day in-person agenda for signatory Sherpas (with Focal Points as +1s) in Geneva. On Tuesday the 20th, signatory Principals will meet in the afternoon for a virtual event. Please note that participation is open only to the Signatories. In case you have questions, don't hesitate to contact the Secretariat ([gbsecretariat@un.org](mailto:gbsecretariat@un.org)).

## 7. Pooled Funds

### Sahel Regional Fund (SRF)

A new regional humanitarian fund governed by leading international and national NGOs and hosted by DRC, has recently begun its operational phase. In line with Grand Bargain commitments, the main purposes of the SRF are to provide predictable, flexible, and long-term funding for international and national humanitarian NGOs, to implement integrated multi- sector and cross-border response, to engage with local stakeholders and first responders strategically and inclusively and to support a more principled and effective response by using data and evidence as drivers for interventions. Check more [information](#).



### Pooled Funding at a Crossroads: A Comprehensive Review and Analysis

ICVA is pleased to announce the publication of its [report](#) “Pooled Funding at a Crossroads: A Comprehensive Review and Analysis”. In collaboration with Switzerland and HERE-Geneva, a hybrid launch event for the report will be co-hosted by Switzerland, ICVA and HERE-Geneva on the sidelines of the Pooled Fund Working Group biannual meeting on 28 June from 09:00 to 11:00 at the Varembe Conference Centre. NGOs, UN agencies and donors are invited to reflect on the humanitarian pooled fund mechanisms and explore avenues to enhance the efficiency, impact and access to pooled funds to the benefit of people affected by crisis. For more information and registration, please check our [website](#).

[Read the Report](#)

## 8. Risk Management, Counterterrorism Measures and Sanctions

### IASC Task Force 3 on Preserving Humanitarian Space

Discussions among the IASC Task Force 3 have continued on the reporting requirements linked to UNSC Resolution 2664, related risk management for NGOs, and the Syria sanctions EU exemption renewal. An ad hoc meeting was held to unpack concerns related to the ERC reporting to Sanctions Committees on 5 May, notably around the voluntary nature of reporting for NGO partners and the risks associated with data protection.

## 9. World Food Programme – Launch of Field Level Agreement (FLA) Review Round 1 Measures

As a follow up to the consultation held in February, the WFP NGO Unit invites partners to a webinar, scheduled on 15 June from 2pm to 3pm (CEST). The event's goal is to officially inform partners about the incorporation of FLA Review Round 1 measures into FLA templates and guidance. Please reach out to [manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org](mailto:manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org) if you are interested in registering for this webinar.

- For more information, please 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

### **10. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals Face to Face Meeting**

ICVA's Executive Director (a.i.) and Board Chair (a.i.) joined a face-to-face meeting of the IASC Principals in Geneva. The Principals discussed issues related to humanitarian diplomacy, and the challenges facing the humanitarian response across six contexts: Sudan, Syria, Myanmar, Haiti, Afghanistan and Burkina Faso. Preparatory and debriefing meetings with ICVA members were also organized.

### **11. Emergency Directors Group Mission to Yemen**

ICVA's Head of Coordination joined a mission of the IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG) to Yemen. The mission observed how the significant and long-term investment in humanitarian action in Yemen has reached a critical inflection point, with funding expected to be reduced at a time when needs remain high and the international-led system is under increasing pressure. This inflection point coincides with the need to continue to follow-through on the findings and recommendations of the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation and subsequent Humanitarian Country Team Management Response Plan, in particular the need to recalibrate towards a nexus approach given the changing context, the need to localize the response, and to strengthen the centrality of protection. Consistent, collective and targeted engagement by the international community, including Member States and donors, is needed to address the range of bureaucratic and administrative impediments that are making it very difficult for humanitarians to do their work, and an immediate and massive scale-up in mine action should be a response-wide priority to facilitate the safe and voluntary returns of IDPs and a transition to sustainable outcomes.

### **12. Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) Steering Group**

The HPC Steering Group met to discuss the updated Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF 2.0) ahead of the 2024 HPC Cycle and roll out in May/June to over 25 countries. The JIAF 2.0 methodology JIAF is a result of nearly two years of work since an independent review in 2021, and promises greater transparency, flexibility, and common ground for needs analysis. The JIAF intends to help country teams better understand those most affected by humanitarian crises, as well as their location and needs, allowing tighter prioritization of response activities.

ICVA has created a new Sub-Working Group to discuss issues related to the HPC and ongoing reform of HPC processes.

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

### **13. NGO Fora Support**

ICVA is dedicated to supporting NGO fora in strengthening their governance. With our specialized [Member Engagement Guide](#), we offer tailored support to address forum structure, decision-making processes, as well as principles of accountability and transparency. The support ranges from one-on-one technical support sessions with fora directors to larger online presentations that are suitable for steering committees or the larger membership.

Interested fora are invited to contact their ICVA regional representative.

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

## 14. Humanitarian Access Influencing

### IASC Taskforce 3

The IASC Taskforce 3 convened in May and discussed approaches to Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments. In January 2022, the IASC adopted a [BAI framework](#) to support Humanitarian Coordinators and Humanitarian Country Teams to better understand and address BAI.

In January 2022 the IASC adopted a [BAI framework](#) to support Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs) and Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) to better collectively understand and address BAI. The Task Force is now seeking input from national and international NGOs at country level through a [survey](#) aimed at identifying key BAI monitoring indicators, as well as gauging the status of the rollout of the framework.

### ICVA Humanitarian Access Working Group

The ICVA humanitarian access working group met in May to discuss the humanitarian crisis in Sudan and the impediments to humanitarian access.

### Effective Advocacy

Since January, ICVA has partnered with OCHA to ensure that both international and national NGOs and forum coordinators are represented at UN Member State Briefings in Geneva. Working closely with national and international NGO Fora, ICVA has been identifying speakers and providing support in their speaker orientation. Thus far, eight NGO representatives have briefed member states on the humanitarian crises in DRC, Sudan, CAR, and Burkina Faso.

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

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## Transforming our Network

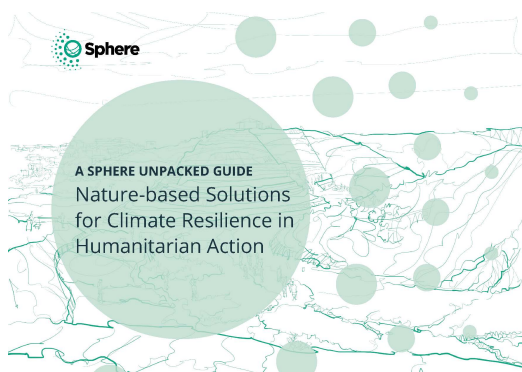
## 15. Champion Principled Humanitarian Action

### Funding Civil Society in Partner Countries: Toolkit for implementing the DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance

This [toolkit](#) provides guidance to adherents of the OECD DAC Recommendation on how to strengthen local ownership and partner-country civil society as independent development and humanitarian actors.

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

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



### Sphere Unpacked Guide: Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Climate Resilience in Humanitarian Action

This [Unpacked Guide](#) offers guidance and information on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for humanitarian contexts. Developed in partnership with Sphere and informed by experts, the guide emphasizes the sustainability of NbS and offers best practices for implementing and monitoring them in preparedness, response and early recovery strategies. It also includes practical tools and resources for applying NbS in humanitarian contexts.

Access the **Nature-based Solutions in Humanitarian Contexts** [session recording](#) at Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks 2023.

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

### Addressing loss and damage: Insights from the humanitarian sector

Authors: Paul Knox Clarke, Debbie Hillier

[floodresilience.net](https://floodresilience.net)  
[@floodalliance](https://twitter.com/floodalliance)



### Addressing Loss and Damage: Insights from the Humanitarian Sector

This [report](#) from The Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance draws on the experiences of the international humanitarian sector to inform the work of the Transitional Committee in establishing new funding arrangements and a fund to address loss and damage.

## 17. Be Globally Distributed and Locally Rooted

### The Luxembourg Model of Localization

On 15 May, the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Directory for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid hosted a workshop with the Luxembourg NGOs focussing on progress on localization, challenges, and ways forward. ICVA was invited as a panellist to share on how national and local NGOs perceive progress on the subject and some of the main initiatives at the global level and how they relate to the work of the NGOs, both in donor and crisis affected countries.



## **The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Taskforce 5 on Localization**

The Taskforce5 on Localization has been actively engaged in driving progress on its primary priorities through a series of productive meetings across three key workstreams.

Currently the Taskforce is primarily focused on three critical areas: ensuring the [commitment of Grand Bargain members](#), implementing the IASC guidance effectively, and developing a discussion [paper](#) to engage with donors.

## **War Child Holland Localization Dialogue**

War Child Holland, as part of its programme to develop policy guidance on localization in alignment with the Grand Bargain commitments, recently organised a localization dialogue in Jordan on 11 May. The dialogue included the participation of ICVA MENA, who shared insights on ICVA's approach and perspectives regarding localisation. During the session, various important topics were discussed, including the challenges hindering the urgency of local actors, the roles of stakeholders in supporting ongoing local agendas and actions, and navigating the potential conflicts between universal human rights provisions and local customs within fragile contexts.

## **Guidance Note- Promoting Equitable Partnerships with Local Responders in Humanitarian Settings**

Following the publication of the [guidance](#) note on Promoting Equitable Partnerships with Local Responders in Humanitarian Settings, DG ECHO organized an informative online presentation on 30 May specifically targeting the MENA Region and Eastern Neighbourhood. The discussion focussed on how to support local actors to play a more substantial role in response operations.

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

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

### **Child Rights**

#### **UNICEF-NGO Consultation: The Impacts of Nutrition Insecurity on the Rights of Children**

In a collaborative effort, ICVA and UNICEF organized a consultation on 24 May, bringing together UNICEF partners, NGOs, organizations of Persons with Disabilities, and UNICEF regional and HQ colleagues. The focus of this consultation was to delve into the far-reaching impacts of nutrition insecurity on the rights of children, with a specific emphasis on the Sahel and Horn of Africa regions. By fostering meaningful discussions, the event explored strategies and opportunities for enhancing partnership between NGOs and UNICEF to prevent and address the impact of nutrition insecurity for the children and their communities.

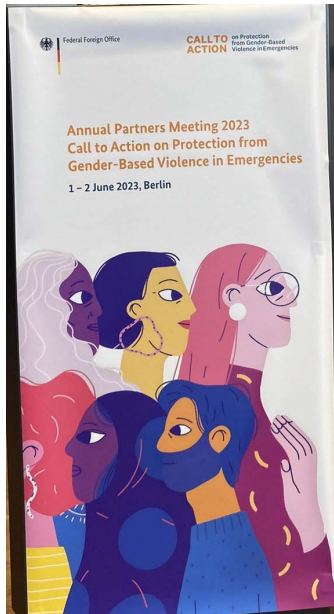
#### **UNICEF Dialogue with CSO Partners Responding to the Ukrainian Crisis**

UNICEF and its partners are providing an adaptive response to the situation in Ukraine, including protection assistance, delivery of life-saving supplies, and provision of essential services. To facilitate a discussion regarding the effectiveness of their partnership in addressing children's needs in Ukraine and neighbouring countries hosting refugees, a meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 12 July from 3:00pm - 5:00pm Geneva Time/ 4:00pm - 6:00pm Kyiv Time. Deadline for [registration](#) is Friday 30 June close of business Geneva time.

### **Persons with Disabilities**

## Launch of E-learning Course: Introduction to Disability-Inclusive Humanitarian Action

[The Phase3-Leave No One Behind!](#) Project has recently released an e-learning course called "Introduction to Disability-Inclusive Humanitarian Action." This course comprises six modules and aims to assist NGOs in implementing the [IASC Guidelines](#) on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action. The course provides an opportunity to enhance understanding of the rights-based approach to disability and offers practical guidance on applying it to humanitarian programs. Interested individuals can access the [course](#) to broaden their knowledge and skills in this area.



### Gender

#### Annual Partnership Meeting of the GBV Call to Action

The Annual Partners Meeting of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Emergencies took place on 1-2 June in Berlin, Germany. The meeting served as a platform to highlight progress by partners with their commitments in 2022, discuss challenges and come up with action-oriented solutions focussing in specific on addressing GBV in forced displacement context; strengthening partnerships on the ground; enhancing accountability and looking at the governance structure of the Call to Action.

ICVA reported for the first time on its commitments to the Call to Action since joining the Call by end of 2021. In 2022, ICVA invested specific efforts in supporting local actors, particularly women's organizations, to lead and engage in GBV response and gender equality coordination at all levels. Read more on the ICVA [commitments](#).

[ICVA Commitments](#)

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## Region Specific

### 19. Africa

#### East and Southern Africa



## **Women in Humanitarian Leadership Workshop**

From 2-4 May 2023, ICVA East and Southern Africa organized a workshop designed exclusively for women leaders in the field of humanitarian action. The workshop gathered 12 women who hold leadership positions in local and national NGOs and NGO fora across Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia, and Uganda.

The primary objective of the workshop was to build upon the participants' existing leadership skills and decision-making capabilities in the context of humanitarian work. Through a comprehensive programme, the workshop provided valuable knowledge and insights to support collective advocacy action, effective resource mobilization, and a deep understanding of the global humanitarian architecture.

## **NGO Statements on Climate Injustice and the Need to Fund the Horn of Africa Humanitarian Response**

NGOs, including ICVA members and partner organizations, made statements during the [High-level Pledging Event to Support the Humanitarian Response in the Horn of Africa](#). They emphasized the urgent need for financial support from global donors to address the crisis caused by climate injustice in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. NGOs called for full funding of Humanitarian and Drought Response plans for these countries and requested flexible, multi-year funding to address the prolonged nature of the crisis. Read the [joint NGO statement](#).

## **West and Central Africa**

### **Enhancing Humanitarian Access in Coastal Countries**

OCHA and NRC hosted a regional task force meeting on "Access and Humanitarian Principles" in coastal countries on 2 May. Many ICVA member contributed to the discussion which various topics such as follow-up actions, emergency preparedness, accountability, and the impact of counterterrorism. World Food Programme Niger presented on the use of armed escorts and its impact on humanitarian response. The meeting provided valuable insights and practical lessons to enhance the overall effectiveness of humanitarian efforts in the region.

### **The Sahel Regional Fund Board Meeting: Strengthening Governance and Emergency Allocations**

The [Sahel Regional Fund](#) held its board meeting on 10 May in Dakar, which saw the attendance of the three new non-governmental organization board members. The meeting primarily focused on enhancing the governance model and discussing meetings with various donors and future steps to be taken. Additionally, the board also discussed emergency allocations in situations like Chad, where rapid action is necessary.

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

## **20. Asia and the Pacific**

## ICVA Bangladesh Mission

The ICVA Asia Pacific team undertook a visit to Bangladesh from 9-16 May 2023. The primary objective of this mission was to actively engage with local and national NGO networks, gaining valuable insights into their top priorities and challenges within the humanitarian context. By providing support to NGO members and fostering discussions on locally led initiatives the visit aimed to contribute to the mapping of national and subnational platforms. The team visited Cox Bazaar to witness firsthand the critical work being done by members and the situation on site a few days before the Cyclone Mocha hit.

## Briefing on Digital Protection Basics for Humanitarian CSOs in Asia

ICVA Asia Pacific and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR) Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO) jointly conducted a virtual Briefing on Digital Protection Basics for Humanitarian CSOs in Asia Pacific. The objective was to acquaint the participants with crucial aspects and challenges related to digital security, such as risk assessment, social engineering, data security, and Organizational security. OHCHR provided the attendees with resources such as the [Digital Security Tips series](#) and [online self-paced courses](#), specifically designed for human rights defenders in South-East Asia.

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

## 21. Latin America Region

### UNHCR 2023 Regional NGO Virtual Consultations

The regional consultations were held on the 5 - 6 June. These sessions offered an invaluable platform for dialogue and collaboration between UNHCR and NGOs operating in the region. On 5 June, the focus was on local integration and gender equality. Discussion continued on 6 June around the management of UNHCR partnership agreements. The session provided updates on partnership agreements and offered an opportunity for Q&A sessions.

### Invitation to Participate in The Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants (R4V) Planning Assumptions and Scenarios Survey

Members are invited to participate in the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela [R4V Planning Assumptions and Scenarios Survey](#). The survey will help in gathering valuable data across all 17 R4V countries as well as at the regional level.

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

## 22. MENA



### **ICVA MENA NGO Fora Workshop and Members and Partners Reception**

ICVA MENA successfully concluded its highly productive two-day annual NGO Fora Workshop on 24 May, with the participation of 16 local and international NGO networks from Yemen, Egypt, Libya/Tunisia, Lebanon, oPt, Jordan, Syria (NWS, NES, and Damascus), Turkey, and Iraq. Throughout the event, the participants engaged in dynamic discussions covering a wide range of topics, including the humanitarian financial landscape in MENA, the Grand Bargain 2.0, Risk Management, NGO Fora Governance, and knowledge-sharing.

At the end of NGO Fora meeting to further facilitate their networking with the broader NGO community, UN Representatives, States and other donors' agencies, ICVA organized a reception with a keynote speech by Ms. Sheri Ritsema-Anderson, UN Resident Coordinator in Jordan, emphasising on partnerships.

### **ICVA Enhanced Humanitarian Response Programme Knowledge Sharing and Skills Development Workshop**

In its continuous efforts to strengthen local capacity and foster effective humanitarian response ICVA successfully organized a Local Capacity Strengthening Workshop on 2-3 May in Erbil, Iraq. This workshop targeted local and national organizations equipping them with essential skills and knowledge in effective coordination, negotiation, and advocacy.

Two insightful roundtables were also held on 4 May. The first roundtable centred around the critical topic of localization, featuring a presentation from the NGO Coordination Committee in Iraq (NCCI) and consultations facilitated by ICVA. The second roundtable focused on the Nexus. Presentations were delivered by NRC's Self-Reliance and Durable Solutions Specialist, as well as co-chair of the Durable Solutions Technical Working Group. This session, moderated by ICVA, aimed to deepen the understanding of the interconnectedness between humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts, fostering discussions on effective approaches and collaboration.

### **INGOs Meeting with OCHA's Deputy Director**

On 7 May 2023, OCHA's Deputy Director, Ms. Ghada Eltahir, met with INGOs in Amman, to provide an update and listen to their suggestions and ideas related to Syria and other MENA Regional priorities. ICVA MENA Regional Representative attended the discussion and shared inputs on maintaining key functions necessary for strengthening the Whole of Syria architecture, creating an enhanced space for local NGOs, and better inclusion in consultation and decision-making processes.

### **Introducing Ms. Qingrui Huang as the Interim Deputy MENA Representative**

ICVA is pleased to welcome Ms. Qingrui Huang as the Interim Deputy MENA Representative. Qingrui brings 12 years of experience in humanitarian aid and development, particularly in coordination, capacity building, policy advocacy and project management. From 2018-2020 she worked at ICVA as the Deputy and Acting Regional Representative for Asia-Pacific.

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

### 23. The Centre for Humanitarian Leadership's Crisis Leadership Program

This program, called "[Extend](#)" is designed for experienced leaders in disaster response and humanitarian crises. The program is now open for applications, providing senior leaders with the chance to enhance their skills in managing dynamic crisis situations and driving systemic change. Don't miss this opportunity to participate in the program and broaden your leadership capacities. [Apply now](#).

### 24. Online Training Portal for Refugee Sponsorship

ICMC Europe and Citizens UK have collaborated to create a free online Training Portal for Refugee Sponsorship. This resource provides case studies and best practices to assist volunteer-led sponsorship programs. To further support refugee sponsorship initiatives, a series of capacity-building workshops will be conducted through 2022-23. Check [for more information](#).

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## New and Noteworthy

### 25. ALNAP Event: Shaping new Guidance for the Evaluation of Humanitarian Action Together

The event that will be held on 20 June will be the first in a series of consultation events to update their guidance on the use of the OECD DAC criteria for the evaluation of humanitarian action. [Register here](#).

### 26. No Matter Who's Fighting, Hunger Always Wins

Action Against Hunger's [report](#) offers detailed accounts of the effects of conflict on food security, as well as recommendations to reduce conflict-driven hunger and invest in peacebuilding.

### 27. Rapid Gender Analysis Policy Brief: Sudan Conflict Response

CARE's [Rapid Gender Analysis brief](#) seeks to provide humanitarians with the information and data they need to best meet the needs of crisis-affected populations with varying levels of vulnerability and capacity.

### 28. Report - Improving the Accessibility of CHS Verification Scheme for National Actors

CHS Alliance commissioned a review to analyse the Scheme's ambition to measure impacts on people in crisis, and the [report](#) outlines areas for further discussion and research regarding the future direction of CHS verification.

### 29. War in Cities: Preventing and Addressing the Humanitarian Consequences for Civilians

This [ICRC's report](#) seeks to raise awareness about the impact of urban warfare and provides 50 recommendations for members of the international community to prevent, reduce, and respond to its consequences.

### 30. 2023 Global Report on Internal Displacement

The [report](#) looks at how disasters, conflict and violence, food security and internal displacement are interrelated.

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## Agenda

- June 5:** UNHCR's Regional Consultations in the Americas  
**June 5 – 15:** [Bonn Climate Change Conference](#), UNFCCC, Bonn, Germany  
**June 6-8:** [EiE Data & Evidence Summit](#)  
**June 7:** Second Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees, Virtual  
**June 7:** Webinar - [The Joint and Intersectoral Analysis Framework \(JIAF\) 2.0](#): Updated methods, tools, and processes for humanitarian needs analysis  
**June 8-9:** [Addressing Statelessness in Europe](#) Conference, Spain  
**June 13-15:** UNHCR Regional Consultations for East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes  
**June 14-15:** 2023 UNHCR Regional Consultations  
**June 14-16:** UNHCR 87<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee  
**June 19-20:** [Grand Bargain Annual Meeting](#)  
**June 20:** World Refugee Day  
**June 20:** ALNAP Event: Shaping new guidance for the evaluation of humanitarian action together  
**June 20:** [ECOSOC meeting - Transition from Relief to Development meeting - Geneva](#)  
**June 21-23:** [ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment - Geneva](#)  
**June 21-22:** UNHCR Regional Consultations for MENA  
**June 27-29:** UNHCR Regional Consultations for Southern Africa
- 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 13-14:** UNHCR 88<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee  
**September 19-20:** UNHCR Regional Consultations for Europe  
**September 28 – October 3:** [Contextualising Safeguarding, Community Engagement & Communication 5-day Workshop](#)  
**September TBC :** UNHCR Regional Consultations for West and Central Africa
- October 9-13:** UNHCR 75<sup>th</sup> 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 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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