

ICVA Bulletin

Highlights from February 2024

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

A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Dear Reader,

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

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

Message from ICVA

Engagement on Pooled Funds

In recent years, integral to its broader humanitarian financing agenda, ICVA has intensified its work on pooled funds. Pooled funds are financing mechanisms, supported by multiple donors, and channelled through a single entity to various recipients. Many argue they serve quality and efficiency of humanitarian interventions and have indeed emerged as a vital component of humanitarian finance.

Examples of existing humanitarian pooled funds include the OCHA-managed Country Based Pooled Funds (CBPF), the Central Emergency Response Fund, the Start Fund, the Regional Fund for West and Central Africa, and the Aid Fund for Northern Syria in 2022. Many of these pooled funds support locally led responses by enabling local and national NGOs to access funding that would otherwise be restricted.

ICVA's focus on pooled funds aims to expand the knowledge base on pooled funds, building on the previous and ongoing work of members, such as the Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children, and the Danish Refugee Council. Research conducted thus far has sought to address knowledge gaps in the existing literature ([Pooled Funding at a Crossroads, May 2023](#)), and provide comparative analyses of various pooled funds models ([Pooled Funding Models: Governance Systems, February 2024, Briefing Note and Comparative Study Report](#)). Insights gleaned from these research pieces and ensuing discussions with NGO, donor and UN stakeholders, further guide ICVA's engagement with pooled funds, with ongoing advocacy aiming to enhance their effectiveness.

ICVA's work on pooled funds extends beyond research and advocacy. This year, ICVA launched the CBPF Resource Facility thanks to the support of Switzerland, Norway, Luxembourg, and Ireland. This initiative

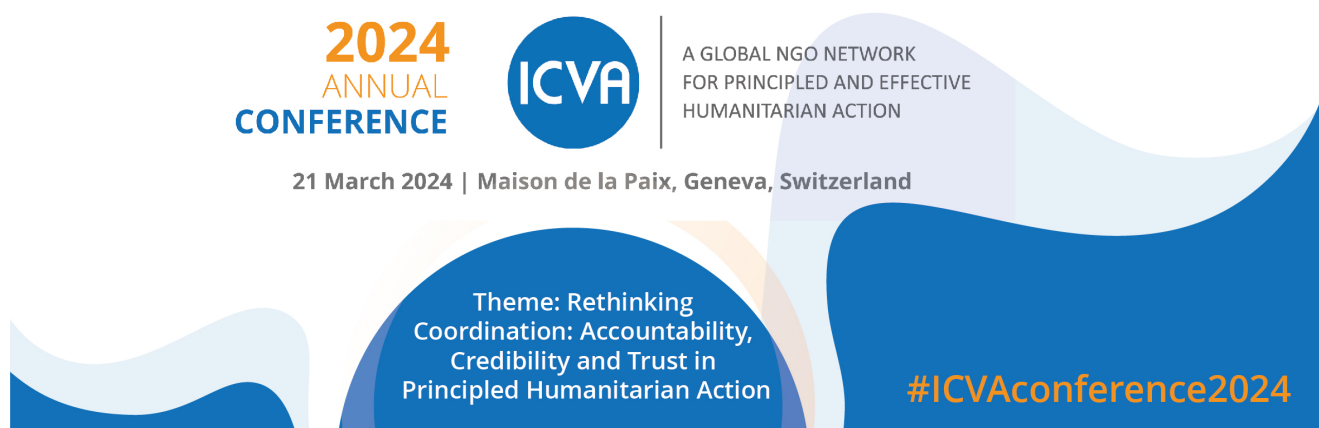
supports local and national NGOs that are part of the CBPF governance structures to attend meetings, interact directly with the other constituencies represented in the governance structures and ensure their voices are heard in decision making processes. Peer-to-peer exchanges and coaching will also be added to the current intervention.

By championing the cause of pooled funds and their accessibility by NGOs, ICVA advances its mission of promoting principled humanitarian action. This work also contributes to the broader efforts to strengthen the resilience and capacity of the humanitarian system for the benefit of people affected by crises.

Manon Glaser

Policy Officer Humanitarian Financing | ICVA

ICVA Updates



The banner features a blue and orange color scheme with wavy shapes at the bottom. On the left, it says '2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE' in orange and blue. In the center is the ICVA logo (a blue circle with 'ICVA' in white). To the right of the logo, it reads 'A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE HUMANITARIAN ACTION'. Below the logo, the date and location are listed: '21 March 2024 | Maison de la Paix, Geneva, Switzerland'. In the bottom center, the theme is stated: 'Theme: Rethinking Coordination: Accountability, Credibility and Trust in Principled Humanitarian Action'. On the bottom right, the hashtag '#ICVAconference2024' is displayed in orange.

1. Annual Conference and General Assembly

The ICVA Annual Conference will take place on 21 March at Maison de la Paix in Geneva. The conference will feature a diverse range of speakers from both national and international NGOs, who will lead sessions focusing on two crucial topics in the humanitarian sector.

- The first session, titled "The Erosion of Trust and Principled Humanitarian Action," will delve into the relationship between trust and humanitarian principles in the context of an increasingly polarized and divided world.
- In the second session, titled "Our Ability to Deliver Aid at the Core of our Credibility," we will candidly examine current operational contexts and identify the underlying issues that have hindered our ability to respond effectively. This session will offer invaluable information and strategies for improving our humanitarian efforts.

Additionally, the conference will feature a session on the global launch of the updated Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS).

For [more information](#) on the conference and to register, please visit our website. We look forward to seeing you there.

Join the conversation on [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) and [LinkedIn](#) using **#ICVAconference2024**.

19TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
20 March 2024
Geneva, Switzerland



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
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HUMANITARIAN ACTION

19th General Assembly

The 19th General Assembly will take place on 20 March 2024, at the International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland. It will bring together members to discuss the strategic priorities for the network, elect our Board and Chair, and review past accomplishments. Members will also amend the statutes and consider issues relevant to the network. More information and the working papers can be found on [our website](#).

2. We are Hiring

We are hiring for the following position - Grants Compliance Officer. Check out more details on our [website](#).

Forced Migration

3. UNHCR Online Consultations with NGOs

UNHCR and NGOs will convene regular online consultations following last year's successful model.

The first consultation was held on 22 February, focusing on the "*Independent Evaluation of UNHCR's Decentralization and Regionalization Reform*." UNHCR provided an overview of the reform aimed at empowering country operations and expediting response times. It also discussed the evaluation, which aims to engage all stakeholders, while prioritising transparency and inclusion, particularly for Refugee-Led organizations. Participants raised important points concerning partnerships, regional perspectives, and NGO involvement. Further written inputs will be shared with UNHCR and a follow-up meeting is to be organized soon.

Subsequently, on 27 February, a second online consultation organized with UNHCR, IOM, InterAction, and ICVA, centered on the 'Joint UNHCR-IOM Mixed Movement Toolkit'. This initiative aims to develop a joint toolkit to respond to protection challenges affecting different population groups in mixed migration situations. Dr Jamie Munn, Executive Director of ICVA, opened the consultation by highlighting the complexity of mixed migration routes to various parts of the world and the urgent need to address the existing needs of migrants and refugees. NGOs contributed insights into operational challenges and responses, such as improving access to populations, delivering specialized protection services, and utilizing digital communication tools. Notably, participants stressed the necessity for cross-border case management tools and referral mechanisms, particularly for gender-based violence and mental health support.

4. The Global Compact on Refugees and Global Refugee Forums

In 2024, ICVA remains committed to facilitating NGO engagement with the Global Compact on Refugees, the Global Refugee Forums, and related processes. Through activities such as information dissemination, analysis, and stakeholder convenings, ICVA aims to support NGOs in contributing meaningfully to these important forums.

Among this year's priorities, ICVA, in collaboration with UNHCR, will continue efforts regarding the multistakeholder pledge on [Advancing localization in displacement and statelessness responses](#). This includes monitoring and providing updates on the implementation of the pledge. Additionally, ICVA will participate in the [NGO Reference Group](#) meetings and convey NGO messages and opportunities for engagement. We will also share notes and updates with members.

For more information, please contact davina.said@icvanetwork.org and loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org.

Financing

5. The Grand Bargain Beyond 2023

Grand Bargain Secretariat update

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

Launch of the Caucus on Scaling Up Anticipatory Action

The [Caucus](#) on Scaling up Anticipatory Action was recently launched by Ambassador Koehler, in collaboration with Germany, OCHA, Save the Children, and WFP. The caucus aims to address challenges in scaling up Anticipatory Action (AA), with a focus on securing funding commitments, improving coordination and cooperation at all levels, and establishing a joint methodology for tracking funds and advocacy. The outcome document will be presented at the Annual Meeting 2024 and the Global Dialogue Platform. EU/DG ECHO, FAO, IFRC, NEAR, Oxfam, and UK/FCDO are among the members of the caucus. Check this [document](#) to learn more about the problem definition, caucus strategy, and workplan.

6. Access to Quality Funding



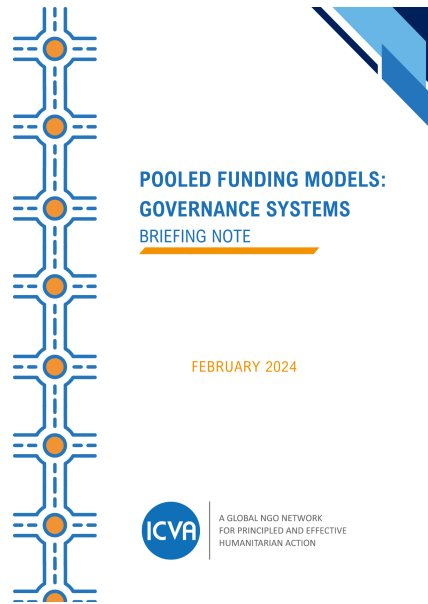
Funding Well: A Path towards Values-aligned, Trust-Based Solidarity

The CHS Alliance and ICVA partnered to co-produce this [report](#), proposing a step-by-step process for funders to leverage their influence in fostering a future where all crisis-affected people access principled, effective and accountable support. It presents ideas, case studies and resources in each stage of the "funding well", drawing insights from innovations within and beyond the humanitarian sector.

7. Pooled Funds

CBPF Resource Facility Update

The Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPF) Resource Facility managed by ICVA has started to provide logistical support to local and national NGOs, in coordination with the CBPF NGO Dialogue Platform Advisory Group (PAG), to facilitate their participation in relevant global and national CBPF meetings. ICVA and the PAG will continue engaging to coordinate L/NGO participation in relevant CBPF meetings.



ICVA, Pooled Funding Models: Governance Systems. A Comparative Study, Briefing Note and Report

ICVA's [briefing note](#) and [report](#) on the comparative analysis of four pooled funding mechanisms (SRF, RHFWSA, AFNS, Start Global Fund) is now available online. This comparative analysis contributes to understanding the landscape of Pooled Funds governance models, sheds light on good practices observed these Pooled Funds, and provides recommendations towards an independent governance system. Conducted over several months, the study involved consultations with national and international NGOs, UN agencies, and Pooled Fund teams at country, regional, and global levels. The French version of the report will be released soon.

Coordination

8. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals

IASC Inter-Agency
Standing Committee

Statement by Principals of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee

**Civilians in Gaza in extreme peril while the world watches on:
Ten requirements to avoid an even worse catastrophe**

21 February 2024

ICVA joined an IASC Principals meeting on the situation in oPt and Gaza, which led to the development of a Statement by the IASC Principals titled [Civilians in Gaza in extreme peril while the world watches on: Ten requirements to avoid an even worse catastrophe](#).

9. Emergency Directors Group (EDG)

The EDG met on 20 and 21 February for the Annual Review of Operations and Humanitarian Coordinator Reviews. Over the two days, the EDG discussed how operations were supported by the IASC - and the EDG in particular – in 2023, considered lessons learnt, and planned ahead for support to operations in the coming year.

10. Humanitarian Workshop: Building Capacity to Safeguard Humanitarian Space

ICVA joined a panel discussion hosted by the EU Delegation to the United Nations in Geneva, along with ICVA members Global Interagency Security Forum (GISF), Action against Hunger (ACF), Humanity & Inclusion (HI), and Médecins du Monde (Mdm). The discussion centred around two reports:

- A research paper by Humanitarian Outcomes and GISF titled [State of Practice: The Evolution of Security Risk Management in the Humanitarian Space](#).
- A report by ACF, Mdm and HI titled [The risks we face are beyond human comprehension: Advancing the protection of humanitarian and health workers](#).

ICVA's presentation focused on how protection of humanitarian workers issues relate to wider discussions in the sector in support of principled and effective NGO action.

11. NGO Fora Support

ICVA seconded Martin Chatelet, to the Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA, INGO forum based in Jerusalem) to support NGO coordination in Rafah, oPt. This is the third consecutive deployment from ICVA to Rafah. Martin can be reached at martin.chatelet@icvanetwork.org, or in person at the Joint Humanitarian Operating Center.

ICVA provides free on-demand trainings and coaching sessions for senior NGO personnel on engaging with the humanitarian coordination system and NGO fora governance. This is aimed at NGO fora directors and steering committees.

For more information, please contact coordination@icvanetwork.org.

12. Developing a Free W-Tool for Humanitarian Field Level Monitoring

OCHA and Data Friendly Space, with funding from BHA, have launched a new project to develop a Free W-Tool. The tool will utilise Activity Info for Humanitarian Field Monitoring and promote a global approach to Who's Doing What Where (3Ws). A kick-off workshop was held on 15-16 February in Geneva, bringing together Global Cluster and Area of Responsibility Information Management focal points, as well as global 3W focal points from agencies and NGO consortia. Discussions covered current 3W practices and challenges, interoperability of data systems, and standardisation vs flexibility of indicators. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for the end of March, and NGOs are encouraged to participate throughout the project development and implementation phase timeline (2024-2026).

For more information, please contact jeremy.wellard@icvanetwork.org and gabriela.miranda@icvanetwork.org.

13. OCHA-ICVA Advocacy and Communications Team (ACT)

During the February meeting, the ACT discussed pressing advocacy initiatives and received first-hand accounts from Gemma Connell (OCHA) and Ahmed Aboumaamar (ICVA) regarding the dire living conditions and critical needs in Gaza. Additionally, the Sudan INGO Forum Director, Anthony Neal, briefed the team on the ongoing crisis in Sudan. As a result of this meeting, the ACT has identified six advocacy priorities for 2024: addressing the humanitarian funding crisis, mitigating the effects of climate change, addressing food insecurity, combatting mis/disinformation, ensuring humanitarian access and safeguarding principles, and promoting improved and ethical storytelling.

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

Transforming our Network

14. Champion Principled Humanitarian Action

Principled Humanitarian Action Steering Committee (PHASC)

The Principled Humanitarian Action Steering Committee has been holding regular meetings since October. In February, the committee focused on reviewing decision-making frameworks for principled humanitarian action from different organizations. Specifically, HERE Geneva, Save the Children, and DRC shared their frameworks to facilitate a collective decision-making approach. During the meeting, GiANT London also joined the committee to discuss the importance of trust in humanitarian coordination mechanisms for information sharing, problem-solving, and decision-making. The Committee is working on a paper led by Medair and ICVA, which aims to capture these reflections. Save the Children has provided the committee with a consultant to collect anonymous case studies from members regarding humanitarian dilemmas, decisions, and their outcomes. These case studies will help shape the framework and support interagency learning.

IASC Task Force 3 on Preserving Humanitarian Space

ICVA, with the support of the TF, will organize a peer-to-peer learning event in April to address bureaucratic and administrative impediments faced in humanitarian work. As the TF's mandate will come to an end in June, discussions are taking place on whether the Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments workstream can continue the work under the Global Access Working Group.

In addition, the TF met at the end of the month and discussed engagement around the UNSC Resolution 2664 renewal, progress on aligning EU measures and the renewal of the Syria exemption, and shared updates on the situation in Yemen and the recent terrorist designation of the Houthis, Niger and Sudan.

For more information, please contact eileen.morrow@icvanetwork.org (BAI) and manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org (counterterrorism & sanctions).

15. Address Impacts of Climate Change on Humanitarian Action

The IASC Sub-group on climate recently finalised a draft of the IASC Climate Crisis Roadmap. In 2023, ICVA carried out consultations in various regions including Iraq, DRC, Pakistan, Bangladesh, as well as with regional colleagues. Additionally, consultations were held with local and national NGOs in the East Horn of Africa region. In total, over 90 NGOs, comprising international, local and national NGOs and networks were consulted. Furthermore, a survey was disseminated through the IASC and ICVA networks, with a good response from national and international NGOs. The report will be the basis for discussions regarding the next steps to be taken.

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

16. Be Globally Distributed and Locally Rooted

In February, a monthly meeting was held to review previous actions and plan a webinar series on localization. The focus was on meaningful participation of local actors in the humanitarian architecture. A possible side event during the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks was also discussed. Workstreams provided an update on progress, with ICVA co-leading the IASC guidance operationalization workstream. A webinar on implementing IASC Localization Guidance in East and South Africa was organized on the 22nd of February. Additional webinars are planned from March to June, covering regions such as Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, and consolidating learnings and observations. Discussions will also include recommendations for 2025 and beyond.

NGO Policy Dialogue Roundtable

On 29 February, ICVA and CALP held an NGO Policy Dialogue Roundtable as part of the BHA and CALP convened CVA Policy Dialogue process. The aim of the roundtable was to encourage mutual understanding of "locally led Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)" and "people centered CVA," while addressing barriers and opportunities to unlock progress. Participants discussed and documented potential policy commitments and their recommendations will be shared with key donors and partners to ensure influencing donors mainstreams and future collaboration.

For more information, please contact eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org.

Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus (HDPN)



Common Position of DAC-INCAF Members supporting the Global Compact on Refugees on Addressing Forced Displacement with a comprehensive Humanitarian - Development – Peace Nexus Approach

This [Common Position](#), developed by the Development Assistance Committee and International Network on Conflict and Fragility in consultation with the OECD Development Centre Policy Dialogue on Migration and Development, outlines three engagement areas for development co-operation to address refugee, internal displacement, and statelessness situations in Low and Middle-Income Countries in support of the Global Compact on Refugees and UN Action Agenda on Internal Displacement.

For more information, please contact stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org.

17. Be Diverse, Inclusive and Live our Values

Safeguarding

Multi Stakeholder Roundtable Discussion in Pakistan

ICVA is a consortium partner of the Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub (RSH).

On 29 February, RSH Pakistan hosted a roundtable discussion on mainstreaming safeguarding and creating a culture of accountability within aid and development organizations. The event was attended by over 25 participants from various INGOs, local CSOs, donors, and networks who shared experiences, challenges, and recommendations for improving safeguarding practices.

Webinar: Celebrating Progress and Transition

On 26 February, the RSH MENA Hub held a phase-out event webinar to celebrate years of impactful work and discuss future directions and sustainability, with a focus on collaboration and innovation. Access the recording [here](#).

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

Region Specific

18. Africa

East and Southern Africa

Roundtable on Quality Funding to Refugee-led Organizations (RLOs)

ICVA participated in a workshop organized by ICVA member HIAS, in partnership with the Refugee-Led Research Hub and the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat, to discuss the findings of the ODI and Development Initiatives' [report](#) on the funding of refugee-led organizations in East Africa. The report launch was followed by a panel discussion with stakeholders from RLOs, NGOs, governments, donor

agencies, and UNHCR, who acknowledged the opportunities for equitable partnerships with RLOs. Despite recent policy developments, financing refugee leadership and agency remains a challenge due to limited capacity of institutional donors to manage small grants and a lack of coordination among humanitarian actors on RLO funding and engagement. The participants agreed on the need for direct and relevant funding to RLOs that is easily accessible, flexible, and multi-year.

Global Summit for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

ICVA participated in the Global Summit for Disaster Risk Reduction organized by the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) in Nairobi. The three-day international event brought together DRR sector leaders, academics, donors, NGOs, and representatives from communities most at risk of disasters across sub-Saharan Africa, MENA, Latin America, and Asia regions. During the summit, GNDR launched the '[Making Displacement Safer Cookbook](#)' report that highlights success factors to address disaster risk challenges for displaced communities.



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

West and Central Africa

Regional Coordination

Regional IASC

On 26 February, the RIASC convened to discuss the Regional Plan for coastal countries, a collaborative effort by UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, and IOM aimed at addressing the increasing needs resulting from forced displacement in the region. The aim was to update partners on progress and next steps. The meeting also focused on follow-up to previous decisions regarding support for Central Sahel and the regional humanitarian architecture.

Implication of withdrawal of Central Sahel Countries from ECOWAS

On 23 February, the RIASC held an ad hoc meeting to discuss the implications of Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger's withdrawal from ECOWAS. The meeting provided important information enabling participants to make informed decisions and strategies in the changing geopolitical landscape of the Central Sahel region. The session was facilitated by experts from the United Nations, non-governmental organizations, the World Bank, and research institutes.

Meeting between NGO community and the UN-SRSG/head of UNOWAS

On 12 February, ICVA organized a meeting with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOWAS, and NGOs. Discussions focused on improving relationships with local governments, addressing challenges in the region, and exploring solutions. The meeting also addressed the political and humanitarian situation in Niger, as well as geopolitical dynamics linked to the withdrawal of three Central Sahel countries from ECOWAS.

Launch of LOCAL Project

On 13 February, ICVA participated in a meeting for the LOCAL Project, an initiative aimed at reducing the

administrative burdens faced by local and national organizations when submitting project proposals. Spearheaded by the Danish Refugee Council, this collaborative effort includes Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative, SPONG (National NGOs Forum in Burkina), and ICVA. The LOCAL Project is structured around three main components:

- establishing passporting pathways and tools
- building the capacity of local actors
- increasing public awareness and advocacy

ICVA is committed to driving the advocacy component of the project. The project started on 1 January 2024 and is set to run for 28 months.

Regional Community of Practice (CoP) on Localization

On 29 February, ICVA held the second meeting of the Regional CoP on Localization. The focus was on coordinating localization initiatives at the national level. The NGO Forum in the Democratic Republic of Congo shared their experiences and best practices from the Localization Symposium. Their goal was to establish a clear definition of localization in the DRC. The National NGO Forum of Mali presented their localization baseline, which will measure progress annually and identify localization initiatives. The NGO Forum of Cameroon outlined their expectations for international actors to strengthen advocacy and operations related to localization. The next meeting is scheduled for April.

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

19. Asia and the Pacific

Global Refugee Forum (GRF) Debrief in Asia Pacific Region

On 1 February 1, ICVA collaborated with APNOR, ADSP, and APPRN to co-host a debriefing session on the GRF in the Asia-Pacific region. The primary focus of the meeting was to exchange insights and reflections from the GRF, deliberate the next steps for advancing the Global Compact on Refugees in the region, and provide updates on the pledges made during the forum. Attended by over 50 participants from NGOs, civil society, and refugee groups, the event allowed attendees to share their reflections, best practices, and future plans regarding refugee response and advocacy efforts. ICVA is currently mapping Asia Pacific pledges to identify gaps and opportunities for members to prioritize moving forward from the GRF.



‘Unlock Localisation’: Strategies, Challenges and Opportunities

World Vision and ICVA hosted a [virtual side event](#) at the 11th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable

Development, featuring speakers from local and national NGOs, UN agencies, and donors who shared insights on advancing localisation in Asia and the Pacific in line with Grand Bargain commitments and the 2030 Development Agenda. The event also provided a space for dialogue and exchange among the participants on the opportunities and challenges of localisation in different contexts.

ICVA at Resident Coordinator Asia Pacific Retreat

On 16 February, ICVA participated in a panel titled "Merits of success: Delivering the Transitions for all" at the Resident Coordinator Asia Pacific Retreat, addressing 22 resident coordinators. ICVA emphasised engagement with NGOs and localization to ensure inclusivity and leave no one behind.

For more information, please contact

keya.sahachaudhury@icvanetwork.org or asma.saleem@icvanetwork.org.

20. Latin America

Consultations on Cartagena D+40

In honor of the fortieth anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration, ICVA is organizing NGO consultations that will be open to all interested organizations. To prepare for this, a working group met on 28 February in Bogota to come up with recommendations and strategies. As we move forward, we will be sharing more information about these consultations and how organizations can participate.



Principles of Partnership (PoP) Workshop

On 26-27 February, ICVA hosted a PoP workshop with organizations from various countries in Latin America. The event provided an opportunity for learning and dialogue. Participating organizations were from Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Mexico, Chile, and more.

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

21. MENA

Gaza Crisis

ICVA is actively supporting NGOs in Gaza and Jerusalem by providing coordination support.

A survey conducted by the Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA) revealed that INGOs are facing restrictions in providing humanitarian aid. An overview of these issues has been provided in a [briefing note](#), and a [joint statement](#) on Rafah, Gaza has been released by chief executives of humanitarian agencies and human rights organizations.

The regional advocacy INGO working group continues to meet weekly to discuss key advocacy priorities related to access, UNRWA defunding issues, etc. ICVA is supporting NGOs in MENA by connecting them with key partners, such as OCHA ROMENA, UNRWA, and donors. Regular NGO Forum Exchange meetings with Jordan, Palestine, and Egypt are also being held.

For more information, please contact eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org, or stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org.

Principles Presentation of Project Aid Workers Project: Materials

On 19 February, ICVA co-organized a webinar on a recently launched project that aims at enhancing protection of aid workers. All project materials, in both English and Arabic can be accessed through this [link](#). For those who require additional guidance, please contact hotline@protectaidworkers.org.

GIHA Cluster Trainings with Women and Girls Focused Organizations (WGLOs) - Strengthening Engagement Nutrition & WASH

The Regional Gender in Humanitarian Action (GIHA) Working Group organized two workshops on 21 and 28 February to boost the participation of experienced WGLOs in UNICEF-led/co-led clusters of Education, Nutrition, and WASH. The objective was to establish better engagement between the two groups, using co-leadership and peer-to-peer dialogue. The workshops encouraged meaningful participation from WGLOs to help improve the effectiveness of UNICEF-led clusters.

Hear our Voice Steering Committee Meeting

In February, the steering committee held meetings discussing the organization of a regional conference for INGOs and local Syrian CSOs in the 3RP countries. The aim is to develop a one-year advocacy strategy with input from participants and to review the recommendations from the first conference in March 2023 and prepare for the Brussels conference on Syria.

For more information, please contact eman.ismail@icvanetwork.org or stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org.

Learning Opportunities

22. Free Online Resources for Ukraine Crisis Responders: DisasterReady offers free online learning resources tailored for individuals and teams that are part of the Ukraine humanitarian response efforts. The resources cover a wide range of topics, including mental health support, conflict frameworks, protection, risk management, and more. They are available in [Ukrainian](#), [Polish](#), and [Russian](#), and other languages relevant to the region.

23. Free Online Disaster Law Course Launched: The [course](#) was developed by IFRC Disaster Law in partnership with the International Disaster, Emergency and Law Network (IDEAL), and with the support of the Italian Red Cross. It covers disaster law concepts, comprehensive risk management, and governance at regional and national levels while providing opportunities to engage with the disaster law community and access additional resources and events.

New and Noteworthy

24. Protecting and Ensuring Safe Access to Education: The ICRC's Experience and Approach in Armed Conflict and other Situations of Violence: The [report](#) outlines the ICRC's efforts to protect education and ensure its accessibility amid armed conflicts, showcasing the resilience of affected communities. It also aims to acquaint governments and humanitarian entities with ICRC's strategies for educational continuity during crises.

25. Price Shocks: Economic Gains masking a growing Hunger and Malnutrition Crisis: World Vision's [report](#) delves into barriers like conflict, climate extremes, and lasting economic effects of COVID-19, hindering food price improvements and access in specific regions. The report also aims to offer recommendations to mitigate these impacts.

Agenda

March 13-15: [89th meeting of the UNHCR Standing Committee](#), Geneva

March 14-15: [Internal Displacement and Solutions Conference](#)

March 14: Global Prioritisation Exercise the Humanitarian Research and Innovation Landscape: 2024 Report Launch. [Register](#).

March 18-19: European Humanitarian Forum 2024

March 19: [IASC Briefing on Protecting Education in Emergencies](#)

March 20: [Book Presentation & Panel Discussion: Internal Displacement and the Law](#)

March 20: ICVA General Assembly

March 21: [ICVA Annual Conference](#)

April 16 - 17: 2024 [UNICEF-NGO Consultations](#): “Partnering for Children in the Climate Crisis”

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

May 9-10: Make Your Voices Heard at the 69th UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi. [Register](#).

May 14: Launch of the [Global Report on Internal Displacement](#), Geneva & online

May 27-30: CCHN Peer Workshop on Humanitarian Negotiation in MENA. [Register by 10 March](#).

June 11-13: UNHCR-NGO Global Consultations, Geneva

June 20: [World Refugee Day](#)

July 1-3: 90th Meeting of the UNHCR Standing Committee, Geneva

August 19: World Humanitarian Day

September 12-13: 91st meeting of the UNCHR Standing Committee, Geneva

October 14-18: 75th plenary session of the UNHCR Executive Committee, Geneva

November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 10: Human Rights Day

December 18: International Migrants Day



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