



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Annual Report 2020

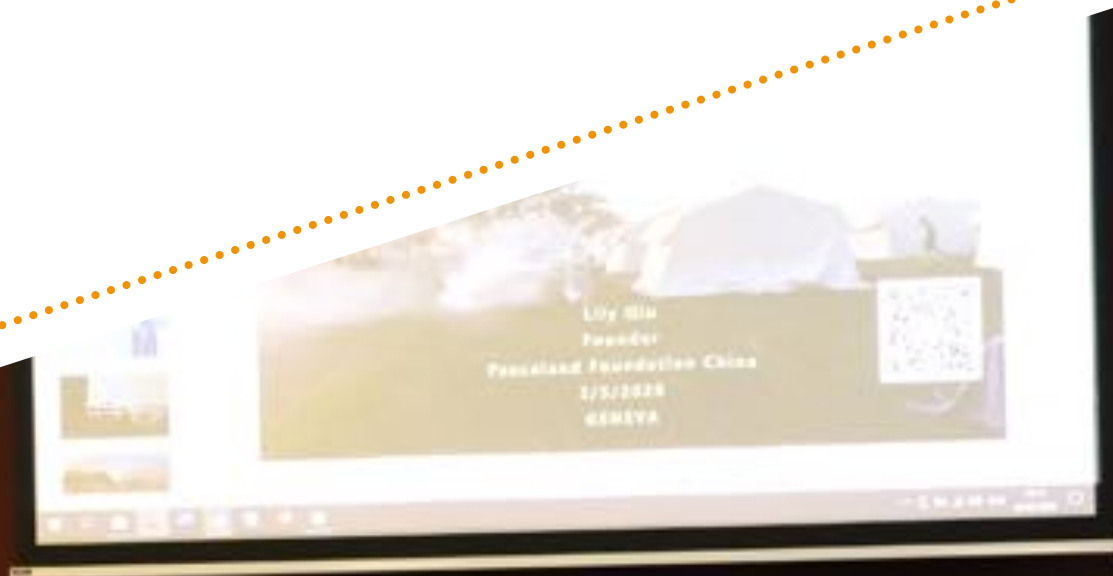


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Foreword

Challenges from the year

The ICVA membership, like most of civil society, is weathering a perfect storm with a growing wave of hostile action against humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. In 2020, we have seen sharp increases of humanitarian needs, cutbacks in funding, a rampant "infodemic" which fuelled mistrust, the misuse of power and the inability to collectively accelerate the long-awaited reform agenda of the Grand Bargain. All of this on top of a global pandemic which made drastic effects on all modalities of life, deeply impacting those in vulnerable situations and humanitarian response.

Throughout 2020, we resisted being overwhelmed by pessimism and instead focused on the gains we could make collectively. Things could have been much worse were it not for the courage, determination, conviction, commitment and solidarity that humanitarian workers in their diversity have brought to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity as well as to influence the humanitarian sector.

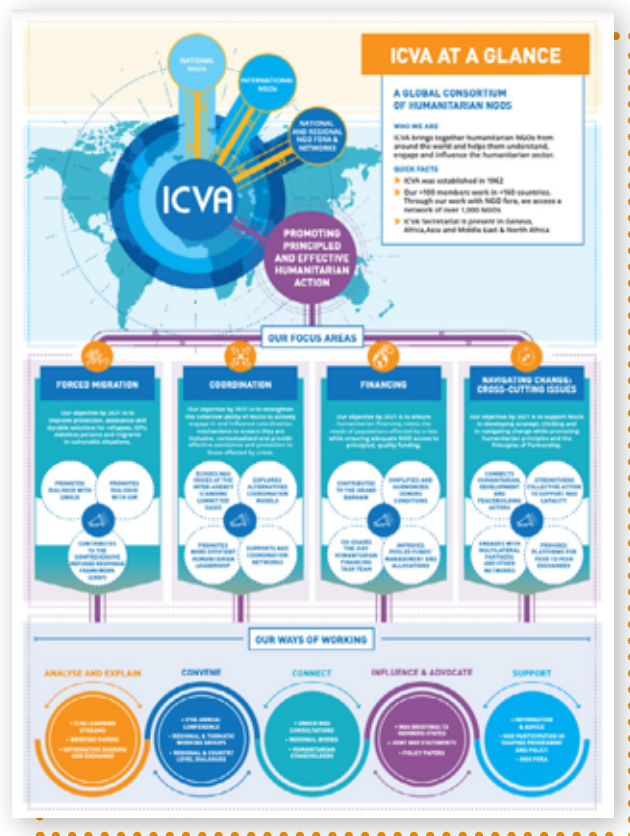
Our ability to partner

Accelerated by the pandemic, joint work has been prioritised with other civil society networks from the humanitarian sector but also across sectors. Offering a strong voice on global issues such as the future of civil society, the call for increased international solidarity and the COVID-19 vaccination outreach.

Within the IASC coordination system, the collaboration of the NGO Consortia with the UN agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the World Bank, ICVA has generated a higher level of dialogue and improved coordination within existing systems. Not to mention, improved support to NGO Fora, the continued engagement with regional bodies, academics and with private sector networks which have all highlighted ICVA's collaborative advantages.

Adapting to 2020 disruptors

In this annual report, you will find extensive information about how ICVA responded to the challenges raised in 2020 with diverse approaches and multiple streams of activities, all geared to realising our mission to make humanitarian action more principled and effective by working collectively and independently to influence policy and practice. Looking back at these accomplishments, I am pleased, even a little surprised, that so much was possible despite the mounting challenges.



ICVA at a Glance

ICVA 2030 - A collaborative future for principled humanitarian action

In 2020, we also devoted substantial time and effort to engage in conversations and consult with the ICVA members and other stakeholders to shape what ICVA's strategy priorities for 2022-2030 should be. Developing the ICVA 2030 Strategy for the next nine years has been an example of the network's synergies and interactions. The strong commitment of the Board in guiding the process was nurtured by the important feedback from ICVA members and other stakeholders.

ICVA's membership and Board are supported by the ICVA Secretariat, who work to help implement ICVA's Strategic Plans and promote the work of ICVA members. With agility, ICVA constantly aims to carry out our work aligned with our unique identity as a diverse humanitarian NGO membership network: in unity and respecting the diversity of our members.

I am deeply grateful for the collective achievements to each and every one of the 130 ICVA members. Jointly, ICVA members have an operational footprint of 20 billion USD, an outreach to over 8'000 NGOs in 160 countries offering a legitimate and powerful

collective voice. I am also deeply grateful to our partners contributing financially: governments, UN agencies and philanthropic foundations. Following a 2020 financial deficit of the ICVA Secretariat, they are making it possible for us to operate from a more stable financial base.

I am honoured to be working with a committed, agile and talented ICVA Secretariat team. In 2020, the Secretariat was staffed by 22 staff of 16 nationalities based in 11 countries.

Finally, as we head to Board elections in May 2021, I wanted to pay testament to the current Board. I have felt lucky to have access to the guidance, collectively and as individuals, of such a wonderful and diverse Board.

With my strong belief in progress through unity in diversity.

Ignacio Packer
Executive Director



Forced Migration

ICVA's work on forced migration aims to improve protection, assistance and durable solutions for refugees, IDPs, stateless persons and vulnerable migrants. While 2020 brought a number of new challenges, particularly with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, ICVA remained firm in our collaboration, support and coordination with our NGO members. This relationship allows ICVA to bring the voices of NGOs to influence humanitarian policies and practices and leverage equal and inclusive partnerships.

Engagement with UNHCR

ICVA continues to uphold our longstanding partnership with UNHCR which keeps ICVA as a primary liaison between them and the NGO community. In doing so, ICVA works to improve partnership between UNHCR and NGOs. Anchored in the Principles of Partnership, in 2020 we heavily advocated NGO views to various high-level UNHCR meetings. ICVA aimed to open space for NGOs to influence relevant policies and encourage high quality and mutually beneficial partnerships among various actors involved in assisting and protecting displaced populations and affected communities.

In 2020, ICVA's engagement with UNHCR has included:

UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations:

UNHCR-NGOs Annual Consultations were held online on 29-30 September. ICVA and UNHCR co-organised the Consultations that brought together participants from over 110 organisations. This year, NGOs, Refugee-led Organisations, and UNHCR exchanged on the theme: "Responding to pandemics," with sessions focusing on: Resilience and Inclusion; Protection Considerations; and Climate Action. The key outcomes of the Consultations including joint UNHCR-NGOs recommendations were presented during the UNHCR's Executive Committee and fed into the 2020 High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges. Those September Consultations built on global exchanges with NGOs organised by UNHCR and ICVA on a weekly basis from the start of the pandemic.

The meetings aimed at maintaining close contact and discussing specific issues related to preparedness and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. ICVA shared notes, relevant documents, channelled members inputs and questions related to COVID-19 to UNHCR. More information is available to members on ICVA [dedicated](#) webpage.

UNHCR's 71st Executive Committee & Standing Committee meetings:

Thanks to the valuable contributions from a number of NGOs, this year ICVA coordinated the drafting and delivery of [11 Statements](#) at the UNHCR's Standing Committee meetings. The statements allowed the NGO community to provide perspectives and highlight key issues related to the discussed agenda items. In similar fashion, ICVA coordinated the drafting and delivery of [three statements](#) for the 71st Executive Committee Meeting in October 2020. The statements focused on the High-level General Debate, International Protection, and the 2020 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations. ICVA also hosted an ExCom side event on 'Resilient communities in climate-induced displacement,' gathering over 80 participants. The [side event](#) was an opportunity to exchange on the urgency of addressing climate-induced displacement and stressed the role of communities and gender transformative approaches in this context. All statements from the Standing Committee and Executive committee can be found on the [Forced Migration](#) page on ICVA's website.



Global Refugee Forum, December 2019

UNHCR virtual ExCom briefings on preparedness and response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

This year, for the first time in its history, UNHCR organised virtual meetings of its Executive Committee to brief Member States and other stakeholders on UNHCR's COVID-19 response. The ExCom briefings on UNHCR's response to the COVID-19 pandemic met twice this year and for each meeting, ICVA coordinated an NGO statement highlighting key messages on protection, durable solutions, continuity of service, financing priorities and mobilisation of the Global Compact on Refugees arrangements to ensure solidarity and responsibility-sharing in the COVID-19 response. All statements can be found on the [ICVA website](#).

Global Refugee Forum Follow-up:

Throughout 2020, ICVA has been involved in facilitating the follow-up to the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), which took place in December 2019. ICVA developed with our members, a preliminary overview of the deliberations and results emanating from the GRF, as well as an initial mapping of the GRF/GCR 'implementation landscape'.

As part of its activities related to the GRF, ICVA contributed to a full-day workshop in March on the Global Action Plan for the Implementation of the Three-Year Strategy (2019-2021) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways. The workshop was an important opportunity to exchange and work collectively to pin down the planned or ongoing activities that contribute to the objectives of the Strategy. The UNHCR created a digital platform's Dashboard, which has gathered and tracks all pledges made throughout the GRF, the GRF Outcomes Document, as well as other relevant information related to the Forum. ICVA participated in all of the informal meetings that took place throughout the year and coordinated [NGO statements](#) delivered at the informal meetings, making sure to reiterate its continued engagement to support NGOs in the follow-up and implementation phase of the GRF. Keeping to our [GRF pledge](#), ICVA continues to work to support NGOs' engagement in the Global Compact on Refugees implementation, particularly through information dissemination on relevant meetings and mechanisms arranged at the global level such as the three Support Platforms

Global Compact on Refugees:

ICVA continued its involvement to support NGO engagement with the implementation of the various elements of the Compact, contributing to exchanges with UNHCR and other actors. As a follow-up to GRF and the Global Compact on Refugees implementation, in July ICVA's Executive Director delivered a [collective statement](#) during the High-Level meeting on the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees, based on numerous NGO inputs. The statement highlighted the NGOs' key role in supporting Afghan refugees in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, as well as concrete suggestions for the future work of the Platform.

Internally Displaced Persons & Guiding Principles (GP20):

This year, ICVA continued to respond to and support durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs). With numbers of IDPs increasing worldwide, ICVA remains committed to support measures to improve protection, assistance, and durable solutions. For ICVA and NGOs to deliver on this important mandate, ICVA is engaged in various coordination platforms, initiatives and learning programmes. In these initiatives, ICVA works jointly with our members, NGOs, UN agencies and other key stakeholders.

ICVA engaged with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons and with developments related to the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. Those engagements included a meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, to exchange on her official visit to Iraq, particularly focused on ten points raised in her End of Mission Statement and on how NGOs can engage to strengthen the response. It was also an opportunity to exchange on the report on Protection of IDPs with disabilities.

This year, ICVA organised [exchanges](#) with NGOs and the Secretariat of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. For instance, a meeting was organised with NGOs, Member States, the Panel Secretariat and other stakeholders with the objective of gathering a variety of insights on "Internally Displaced Persons, the Sustainable Development Goals and Perspectives for Durable Introduction Solutions". The meeting benefited from inputs from a variety of stakeholders, including representatives from Member States, NGOs, UN system, the Platform on Disaster Displacement, GP20 and the Joint IDP Profiling Service.

ICVA also continued to collaborate with the High-Level Panel Secretariat and NGOs to feed into the Panel's work notably in its efforts to organise consultations with internally displaced persons and host communities in key countries.



Forced Migration Meeting, February 2020

Protection of vulnerable migrants:

In 2020 ICVA continued to co-convene the [Civil Society Action Committee on Migration](#) (AC). Serving as a membership-based global platform for collective civil society coordination and engagement, the AC works towards three primary objectives:

- Timely and strategic information-sharing on global migration policy and governance,
- Collective and coherent civil society strategising and action, and
- Increasing and democratising access for civil society engagement at all levels of global migration policy and governance.

Advocacy work of the AC in 2020 consisted in among others the protection of the rights of migrants in COVID 19 [context](#), with the AC drafting a strong advocacy statement on the matter from the early days of the pandemic. The AC also monitored the situation at the [Turkey-Greece Border](#) and produced a [statement on the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Moria Camp](#).

Regarding the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration, the AC published a paper on how the GCM contributes to a better migration governance in times of global pandemics. Starting with an analysis of the GCM origins and elaborating on the reflections and lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic, [the paper](#) focuses on GCM Objective 5 on regular pathways and Objective 23 on international cooperation, to respond to post-pandemic recovery and re-launching mobility questions.

The AC continued to contribute to the GCM regional review processes and since September 2020, it is organising together with [Migrant Forum in Asia \(MFA\)](#), the [Cross Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants \(CCRM\)](#), and the [Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism \(GRFDT\)](#) a series of 23 weekly review discussions focusing on progress at the global level of each of the 23 objectives of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). For more information on the webinar series, please [see here](#).

Global Forum on Migration and Development

The [12th Global Forum on Migration and Development](#) (GFMD) took place in Quito, Ecuador in January 2020. For the first time ever, all GFMD meetings took place in the same venue. All the GFMD mechanisms: the governments, Civil Society Days (CSD), the Business Mechanism, and the new Mayors Mechanism had more opportunities for exchange and interaction with other stakeholders throughout the summit. ICVA participated in the 2020 GFMD in Quito and is preparing for the [13th GMFD](#) to be held in 2021. ICVA connects to this Forum to advocate on sustainable approaches to human mobility through partnerships and collective action. ICVA is actively engaged in the GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office established under the auspices of the [International Catholic Migration Commission \(ICMC\)](#).

International Migration Law learning program

Throughout the year ICVA, Civil Society Action Committee and the International Migrant Bill of Rights Initiative created an International Migration Law (IML) learning programme for NGOs. The programme focused on giving an overview of international migration law to supports NGOs in upholding the rights of migrants and collaborating with human rights mechanisms at the global and regional level. ICVA, Civil Society Action Committee and International Migrants Bill of Rights Initiative also organised a webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on the rights of migrants. The webinar focused on the challenges migrants face, and some good practices undertaken by national and local governments to ensure that on their territory all have equal access to health care and protection against COVID-19.

COVID-19 Response:

Through 2020 ICVA [managed COVID-19](#) as a cross-cutting issue throughout the existing focus areas, including Forced Migration. ICVA focused on maintaining the momentum on policy process and their implementation in protecting, assisting and advocating for refugees, internally displaced people, migrants and host communities particularly vulnerable to the pandemic. ICVA created a [resource page](#) that has a collection of guidelines, tools, statements, papers and useful links which are relevant to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Humanitarian Coordination

Coordination supports the diverse range of humanitarian actors to plan, resource and deliver principled and effective humanitarian assistance. Through our global network of operational NGOs, our support to in-country NGO Fora, our close relationship with UN agencies and donors, and our representative role on the IASC, we have a unique position to influence coordination mechanisms.

Through a range of engagements, we work to make these mechanisms more inclusive, contextualised, accountable and effective. Without coordination, ICVA members and partners could not provide the necessary assistance and protection to those displaced or affected by disaster and conflict.

With increasing numbers of people in need, shrinking resources, more constricted operating space, and a greater range of stakeholders providing humanitarian assistance, the complexity and scope of the international coordination system continues to increase.

ICVA supports the work of our member NGOs and NGO Fora through supporting collective advocacy, sharing information and resources, and strengthening the collective ability of NGOs to engage in and influence coordination mechanisms at local, national, regional and global levels.

Coordination in the time of COVID-19

As COVID-19 started to spread globally in 2020, ICVA rapidly recognised the impact that the pandemic could have on the delivery of humanitarian assistance. ICVA called for a truly global solution, that was people centered and focused on sustaining ongoing humanitarian operations. ICVA's eight-point call was set out in [this statement](#). Published in March, the ICVA Briefing paper: "[Reinforce, Reinforce, Reinforce: Localisation in the COVID-19 global humanitarian response](#)," called for strengthening principled and effective humanitarian action by NGOs during the COVID-19 response, with a focus on reinforcing local and national action wherever possible. ICVA and our members contributed to the development of the COVID-19 [Global Humanitarian Response Plan](#) and worked to strengthen NGO inputs into its subsequent reviews.

Operational Peer Review of Ebola response, DRC January 2020



The secondary impacts of COVID-19 and the measures put in place to slow its spread impacted the ability of NGOs to deliver assistance, while simultaneously aggravating existing vulnerabilities or creating new humanitarian needs. Throughout 2020, ICVA helped our members address increasing bureaucratic and administrative impediments, duty of care issues, misinformation and other coordination challenges to help ensure NGOs could continue to maintain essential humanitarian interventions.

Engaging in the IASC mechanisms

ICVA contributes to the global humanitarian coordination discussions through our participation in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). ICVA connects our members and NGO fora partners with the various IASC processes, encouraging members to feed into the discussions that are ongoing at the global level. Allowing members to provide a feedback loop with the reality of what is actually happening in the various operational settings to the broad policy level thinking at the global level. ICVA members have increased access to IASC information and policy developments through the ICVA working groups, and throughout the year have provided feedback on a range of IASC interim guidance notes related to COVID-19 endorsed by the IASC Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG), including on localization, public health measures, PSEA, mental health, and camp settings. ICVA's Chair and Executive Director attend the IASC Principals meetings, where key interventions and contributions have been made around the need for increased and timely funding to NGOs; the critical role of local and national actors in the COVID-19 response; the collective responsibility of the IASC members to further concretise the humanitarian-development nexus and the duty of care of all humanitarian actors.

ICVA participated in the IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG), informing EDG discussions on a range of different country specific contexts and cross-cutting issues. ICVA members, Danish Refugee Council and Action Contre la Faim, held representative seats on the EDG throughout the year.

ICVA took part in an interagency Operational Peer Review (OPR) of Ebola operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo in January 2020 and a virtual Peer 2 Peer Support Mission to Libya in December 2020. Through the EDG, ICVA and our members contributed to the EDG Annual review of Operations and Humanitarian Coordinator Appraisals. In February 2020, ICVA and InterAction coordinated NGO contributions to the review of 19 humanitarian operations the performance appraisals of 26 humanitarian coordinators.

ICVA spearheaded the OPAG duty of care discussions through its call for action on [protecting humanitarian workers against COVID-19](#). This resulted among others in the endorsement of the [IASC Duty of Care Minimum Standards](#), which guides IASC members in the implementation of adequate duty of care provisions in the context of COVID-19 for all personnel regardless of nationality and contractual type.

Working in collaboration with other NGOs, ICVA follows the work of the five IASC Results Groups on Operational Response, Accountability and Inclusion, Collective Advocacy, Humanitarian-Development Collaboration, and Humanitarian Financing. ICVA co-chairs the Humanitarian Financing Results Group and the sub-groups of Operational Response on Localization (through ICVA member Somalia NGO Consortium) and Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments (with Interaction). Associated with the IASC, ICVA engaged in the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation Steering Group (member representative Danish Refugee Council), Saving Lives Together Initiative (member representative ACT Alliance), and Early Warning Early Action Analysts Group (member representative Mercy Corps), as well as the Emergency Response Preparedness Working Group, Humanitarian Programme Cycle Steering Group, Humanitarian Leadership and Support Steering Group.

Influence on functioning of humanitarian system/architecture

As with any operation, reviews and feedback mechanisms are needed to adjust or improve the collective humanitarian response. ICVA is involved in some of the different mechanisms within the interagency structure for this to strengthen representation and participation of local and national actors in Coordination Structures.

In April ICVA published [a report](#) on the challenges inhibiting meaningful participation by national NGOs and NGO fora within Humanitarian Country Teams. This research conducted in partnership with students from the London School of Economics examined engagement by national NGOs and NGO fora and outlined some recommendations for improvement. The report informed work under the IASC OPAG Results Group 1 addressing this issue. In late 2020, ICVA commissioned the initial drafting of IASC Guidance on this topic, which will be finalised in 2021.

Strengthening in-country NGO Coordination fora

Independent NGO coordination fora play a valuable role in ensuring humanitarian coordination remains accountable and effective. In 2020, ICVA Regional Representatives provided ongoing support to national and international NGO Fora.

To respond to the additional challenges of COVID-19, ICVA stepped up the support provided under this programme. 12 NGO Fora across Africa, Asia, Latin America and MENA regions received grants of approximately 15'000 CHF to enhance the support and coordination services they provided to their members at country level. ICVA also established a virtual support desk for the NGO Fora to help them navigate through the new challenges brought by the pandemic. Within the six months of [the project](#) we saw increased visibility, participation and integration of local NGOs in national coordination mechanisms. Advocacy capacity of the NGO fora strengthened and with that their capacity to provide timely and useful analysis both to their members, and in national coordination discussions.

Overall ICVA's work with NGO fora during the year reinforced the localization approach as a key approach to address humanitarian needs/challenges in-country; and through this process used the lessons learned to drive and strengthen humanitarian responses nationally and at global engagements.

Humanitarian Financing

ICVA's Humanitarian Financing work advocates to ensure funding can flow as effectively as possible to meet the needs of populations affected by crisis, as well as supporting better access to humanitarian financing for NGOs.

Access to adequate resourcing is one of the key issues for all actors involved in providing humanitarian assistance- from governments to local NGOs. Beyond basic funding needs, the conditions for funding, details of partnership agreements, processes for accessing funding and data systems are all critical elements linked to how humanitarians resource operations.

As a network, ICVA collectively promotes adequate, accessible, transparent, principled and sustainable resourcing for humanitarian action. ICVA understands that NGOs need flexibility to respond to humanitarian crises and to have access to timely, predictable, earmarked or unearmarked funding that has realistic conditions and reporting requirements.

Humanitarian Financing during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The challenges faced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic significantly framed priorities for humanitarian finance in 2020. Field staff faced great operational and financial pressure trying to maintain critical ongoing humanitarian operations while adjusting to meet the challenges of the pandemic.

From early on in COVID-19 response, it was recognised that not enough funds had been mobilised for NGOs through the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP), especially funds needed by first responders at the local level. As a result, access to funding became a major focus for ICVA throughout the year. Notably, ICVA advocated strongly with UN agencies and donor governments to maintain existing streams of humanitarian support where possible and add funding to address COVID-19 response needs rather than divert funding. This approach was an important part of the humanitarian finance strategy to ensure that NGOs could continue responding to the needs of people in humanitarian contexts so they would not be made even more vulnerable from the potential effects of the pandemic.

Through the IASC Humanitarian Finance Results Group (RG5), ICVA called for increased flexibility in existing partnership agreements in order to enable NGOs to improve their ability to quickly shift funds to better meet the needs of COVID-19 response. Advocacy was also conducted with donor governments to improve funding conditions, including meetings with capitals, Permanent Missions in Geneva and the [Good Humanitarian Donorship](#) initiative.

Harmonisation and simplification: reducing the burden of grant conditions

ICVA's focus on reducing burdens on NGO staff in the field, which started with the Less Paper More Aid initiative, continued to drive engagements with UN agencies and donors in 2020. In January, ICVA coordinated with UNHCR to support a 3-day meeting in Geneva between NGO representatives, UNHCR staff (from HQ and field), as well as participants from OCHA, WFP, UNICEF, UNWOMEN and UNFPA to discuss partnership harmonisation and simplification efforts to partnership agreements, personnel costs, audits, reporting and the use of the UN Partner Portal. Much of the work ICVA conducted through IASC, Grand Bargain and with OCHA Pooled Funds (described below) built on these joint discussions to identify additional points of action.

IASC Humanitarian Finance Results Group (RG5)

ICVA continues to serve as co-chair with OCHA of the IASC Humanitarian Finance Results Group (RG5). The current scope of work for RG5 includes quality funding, Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus financing issues, and harmonisation of UN systems. Importantly, RG5 provides a forum for UN agencies, the Red Cross Movement and NGOs to work toward joint solutions in these priority areas.

As previously highlighted, COVID-19 response also affected the work of RG5 in 2020. Following an appeal from the Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC) in May 2020, RG5 members developed [a set of recommendations](#) to address the inconsistency in unlocking and disbursing funds to NGOs in COVID-19 response. The recommendations were to:

- Strengthen national NGO involvement in planning and coordination processes;
- Capitalise on pooled fund mechanisms and consider opportunities for further effectiveness and efficiency gains to improve funding to NGOs;
- Increase funding to NGOs via UN agencies;
- Ensure timely and disaggregated reporting of funding flows from UN agencies to NGOs.

Each of these proposals highlighted the need to ensure that funds flow as directly as possible to frontline responders and framed much of the action taken by IASC members on humanitarian finance in 2020.

Through RG5 ICVA co-led efforts to draft the [IASC Partnership flexibility guidance](#) and strongly represented NGO interests throughout the process. The guidance outlines nine specific funding flexibility measures that IASC members agreed to implement. Whilst the identified measures meet the immediate need to improve funding flexibility in response to COVID-19, they also align with the long-term commitments of the Grand Bargain, to which ICVA continued to contribute throughout 2020.

ICVA liaises with other IASC results groups on cross cutting issues of localization, linkages between the global humanitarian response plan, and the HDP NEXUS, with a focus on practical tools and guidance.

Grand Bargain

ICVA is a signatory to the Grand Bargain and serves as co-convenor with Germany of Workstream 9 focused on harmonisation and simplification of reporting – including implementation of the “8+3” template for narrative reporting. Following the Grand Bargain annual meeting in June 2020, ICVA, with Voice, InterAction and SCHR, published an [NGO statement](#) calling for further increases in flexibility of funding and more focus on risk sharing and management practices. The dual Grand Bargain themes of localization and quality funding were prioritised by ICVA in 2020 and embedded in work that cut across the organisation. On localization,

ICVA advocated strongly for language supportive of local and national partners in the GHRP response to be matched with appropriate funding and capacity support to these partners. The [IASC flexibility measures](#) developed by RG5 under the leadership of ICVA and OCHA also served to provide a framework for practical implementation of quality, flexible funding at the country level. These measures linked across several Grand Bargain workstream commitments, including reduced duplication and management costs (workstream 4), quality funding (workstreams 7, 8) and harmonised reporting (workstream 9).

Now that the Grand Bargain enters its fifth year, NGOs would like to see the Grand Bargain multi-stakeholder framework adjust to maintain relevance. ICVA, along with the other NGO signatories, is committed to be propositional and work closely with stakeholders to build a strong joint vision for future implementation of Grand Bargain commitments.



Implementation of the “8+3” Template for narrative reporting, February 2020

OCHA Pooled based funds

Through its leadership role in IASC RG5, ICVA participates in the OCHA Pooled Fund Working Group (PFWG), which provides inputs on the use and distribution of country based pooled funds (CBPFs). Within the UN system, CBPFs channel a large amount of funds to both local partners and INGOs in 18 country locations. ICVA was pleased to see some new approaches for the distribution of these funds developed in 2020. Including the proposal to move forward with a new regionally hosted Pooled Fund in Central and West Africa. Embedded in the planning of this new fund is the intent to rely more on existing due diligence information from other agencies in the partner selection process, which will aid in further reducing burdens on NGO staff, while enabling greater access to Pooled Funds in countries outside the current 18 CBPF locations.

UN Central Emergency Response funding (CERF) also developed new approaches in 2020 to increase the pass-through of funds to NGOs. A special CERF allocation administered by IOM was piloted during the year to provide support to NGOs working on health and water and sanitation responses to COVID-19 in six countries: Bangladesh, the Central African Republic, Haiti, Libya, South Sudan and Sudan. UNFPA was also granted a special CERF allocation, with a portion dedicated to NGOs working with women-led organisations for the prevention of gender-based violence in humanitarian settings. ICVA is monitoring how these new funding allocation flow to front line responders and will seek to improve NGO engagement with CERF in 2021.

Navigating Change

ICVA's Navigating Change focus area looks to develop strategic thinking in navigating different cross cutting issues of Nexus, localization, civil society space, diversity and inclusion, PSEA, and risk management and their interconnections with each other and across ICVA's other focus areas.

Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus

In 2020 ICVA has remained active across the Nexus. The Nexus refers to the interlinkages between humanitarian, development and peace actors and how they are expected to work towards collective outcomes over multiple years. The challenges of increased conflict and violence, millions of displaced people, geopolitics under strain and the additional pressure of COVID-19 are all intertwined and seriously challenging the international aid system. The humanitarian-development-peace nexus looks to increase our sustainable impact and strengthen our collective efforts to work more in sync and less in silos. The ICVA nexus working group shares information and analyses on the nexus particularly around how the nexus concepts can be put into practice and supports ICVA's participation in the IASC RG4.

ICVA and our members actively participate in the IASC Results Group 4 (RG4): Humanitarian-Development Collaboration and the related Community of Practice on the Nexus (CoPN). Much of 2020 focused on the issue paper, ["Exploring peace within the Humanitarian-Development- Peace Nexus \(HDPN\)"](#) which was endorsed by the IASC Principals later in the year. ICVA was a member of the advisory group, supporting with inputs and comments made by ICVA members.

ICVA, alongside the World Food Programme (WFP), have been planning the next steps of the Community of Practice on the Nexus. ICVA is committed to support the work in most of the key priorities involving NGOs, including learning about what works for INGOs and national NGOs under a nexus

approach and engagement with 40+ countries to ensure inclusiveness. Additionally, ICVA has worked to develop messaging about how to make nexus approaches compatible with humanitarian principles, based on concrete challenges shared by members

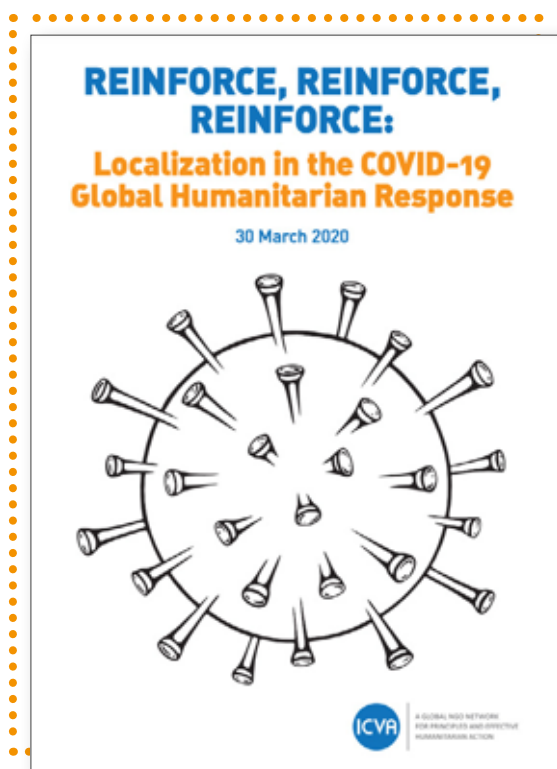
Localization

ICVA has continued to follow and participate in a comprehensive scope of initiatives and trends in the global debates on localization. This has included a number of meetings, events, workshops and dialogues with ICVA members, partners, NGOs, local NGO Fora, local NGOs and donors. During these occasions, both globally and regionally in Africa, MENA, Latin American, and Asia and the Pacific, members and partners have had the opportunity to discuss progress, challenges and required support to empower local actors and promote more inclusive ecosystems.

At ICVA, localization is a complex cross cutting topic that permeates most of our work. At the start of the pandemic ICVA published, ["REINFORCE, REINFORCE, REINFORCE: Localization in the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response"](#) to support dialogue on strengthening principled and effective humanitarian

action by NGOs during the COVID-19 response, with a focus on reinforcing local and national action wherever possible. Framed around seven areas: Partnerships, Leadership, Coordination and Complementarity, Participation, Policy Influence and Advocacy, Capacity, and Funding, this note highlights a number of recommendations or challenges for good practice in localization associated with each of these areas. This publication builds on ICVA's previous briefing papers, ["Localization Examined,"](#) and ["Unpacking Localization"](#).

ICVA is committed to ensuring the voices of local and national actors are heard in global forums, including by supporting national NGOs to engage in the IASC Operational Policy and Advocacy Group. This has achieved a greater NGO presence in IASC and a broader cross-section of NGOs included. ICVA also supported the Somalia NGO Consortia (an ICVA member) to assume the role of co-chair of the IASC Result Group 1 (RG1) working group on localization. In addition, ICVA took the lead on strengthening the inclusion of NNGOs in the RG1 Sub-Group on Localization. ICVA designed the process of increasing the local actors joining the IASC RG1 subgroup on Localization. The current subgroup has aimed to have 50% of participants consisting of local and national non-governmental organisations, while the other 50% is composed of INGOs and UN representatives starting from this year. Localization is a key topic in our work on humanitarian financing. Throughout the year ICVA has supported NGOs to communicate to donors the critical role of national and local responders in humanitarian preparedness and response and the need to ensure sufficient, flexible and continued funding to support these and all NGO actors. Pressure put on donors through the Good Humanitarian Donorship, and the Grand Bargain to make localization the default approach when responding to humanitarian crises.



Publication - "REINFORCE, REINFORCE, REINFORCE: Localization in the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response"

ICVA's work through the NGO Fora support programme also supports our commitment to reinforcing local and national action wherever possible.

ICVA has targeted local NGO Networks in MENA, Africa and Asia and engaged on partnership programme to support their efforts in responding to COVID-19, providing them with tools, advice and financial support necessary to fill certain gaps and most importantly to scale up and strengthen their humanitarian response related to COVID-19. Another example on the strategic linkages with local NGO coalition in MENA region on Syria and Yemen context, in which ICVA has developed a capacity strengthening programme focuses on the role of NGO/CSO networks to enable them to play a vital role in joint coordination and representation by strengthening skills and capacity across a range of areas including joint coordination, governance, and strategic planning. Strengthening local humanitarian actors and networks is key to a strong humanitarian response.

Evidence based advocacy and research:

ICVA has carried out a research in collaboration with the London School of Economics and Political Science Department of International Development. The research focused on the Participation of National NGOs and NGO Fora Within Humanitarian Country Teams, and the study revealed important findings and recommendations about how to strengthen the environment and improve the inclusion of national and local actors. The main findings and recommendations have been used as a base to develop the Guidance for Humanitarian Coordinators, Members of Humanitarian Country Teams (HCT), Cluster and Inter-Cluster Coordinators and members, and other related Taskforce and Working Group Coordinators and members. This guidance to be endorsed by OPAG early in 2021 and ICVA took an essential role on developing this guidance. ICVA conducted research on Localization in Humanitarian Leadership in the MENA region. The main objectives were to:

1. Map and document the extent of effective national NGO engagement in international humanitarian coordination structures in the region.
2. Identify recommendations, targeted at specific accountable actors, for enhancing effective engagement of National NGOs in international humanitarian coordination mechanisms.

This is part of ICVA's efforts on advancing the localization discussion based on concrete evidence, statistical facts and inputs from UN agencies, donors and the local and international NGO community. The research revealed many findings and recommendations to be followed up for advocacy and policy improvement. The research publication is expected to launch in early 2021.

Civil Society in Humanitarian Space

ICVA continues to be a voice of protection, advocacy and awareness over civil society in humanitarian space. It is evident that the growing restrictions on civil society negatively impact principled and effective humanitarian action.

Therefore, to protect civil society and humanitarian space actions made by governments must be held to account. Throughout 2020 ICVA remained committed to working with our members, Member States and other partners in the civic space to share information, facilitate conversations, and promote action. ICVA through its working group on Civil Society Space in Humanitarian Action has remained active throughout the year sharing guidance, tools, reports, webinars and calls to action during the COVID-19 pandemic with members.



Publication – “The Future of Civil Society Organisations”

In terms of support, ICVA together with TrustLaw conducted a series of webinars on how NGOs can be prepared to face uncertainties via a Legal Health Check during COVID-19 and linked-up members and NGO Fora with International Centre for Not for Profit Law (ICNL), CIVICUS, Human Security Collective among others to better navigate restrictions during COVID-19. You can find more information on [ICVA's Civil Society Space webpage](#).

A highlight from collaboration with other networks on the topic of COVID-19 and civil society included a joint publication and webinar, "[Future of Civil Society Organisations](#)." The publication and webinar addressed the challenges from COVID-19 which bring new opportunities for the future of civil society organisations in the humanitarian, social justice and environmental sectors.

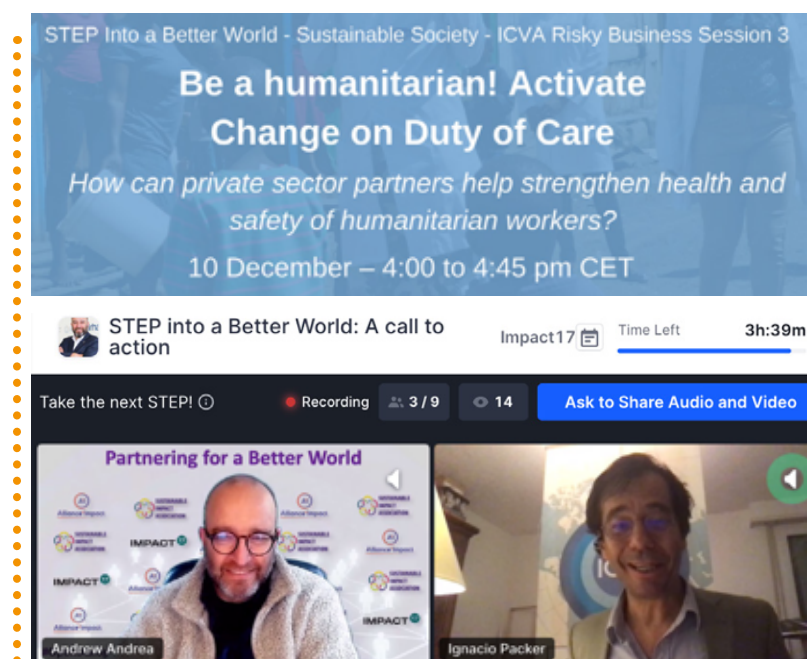
Through a series of articles and a collaborative webinar ICVA's Executive Director, along with other leaders of civil society networks & platforms shared their thoughts and identified possible new directions that civil society organisations may want to go.

Private sector engagement

Focused on solutions to the pressing challenges during COVID-19, ICVA engaged with private sector leadership platforms and networks to offer joint space for ICVA members and business communities to collaborate. ICVA engaged with the [WEF](#), [IMD](#) and [Enterprise for Society \(E4S\)](#) and partnered with the leadership of Impact17 on a call to action event, "[STEP into a Better World](#)." ICVA co-hosted the "STEP into a Better World" virtual conference held in December, which was dedicated to driving action for the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the STEP events, ICVA led a session on Business-NGO partnerships focused specifically on the Asia & Pacific region. This topic has been of interest in different events in the region looking at how to make inclusive, successful and sustainable business partnerships between NGOs and companies that will make a strong impact.

Diversity and Inclusion

In 2020 ICVA continued to promote our longstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion considerations. With the COVID-19 pandemic increasing vulnerability for women, children, persons with disabilities and elderly, it was important to ICVA to keep diversity and inclusion at the forefront. Through connection and collaboration with many of our ICVA members, who are forerunners in the area of diversity, it highlighted our strength as a global network to share information, resources, calls to action, and best practices. Carrying on from previous years, ICVA participates in the IASC OPAG, RG 2 on accountability and inclusion, GenCap and the PSEA senior advisors' groups. ICVA also participated in the establishment of the Reference Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action. This group offers a platform for fostering cooperation between disability and humanitarian actors to promote inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action. ICVA is currently involved in the development of its activities. ICVA, co-jointly with PHAP, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Secretariat and the Reference Group, organised two webinars: the first webinar, which took place in February 2020, aimed to introduce and discuss the [IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#) and the second webinar, which was held in September, focused on how the [IASC Guidelines can be implemented in the COVID-19 response](#).



STEP into a Better World Event, December 2020

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Through various advocacy and policy efforts done throughout the year, ICVA continued its active contribution to NGO and interagency efforts regarding Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). ICVA participated in all IASC bodies on PSEA, including the IASC Results Group 2 on Accountability and Inclusion, the PSEA Thematic Experts Group (TEG) and the Field support Team (FST), where it both supported the participation of NGOs and actively participated in field support missions in DRC and CAR. In 2020 we launched the ICVA-UNHCR Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Outreach and Communication Fund. The objective of the Fund is to facilitate the development of context-specific and culturally appropriate communication and outreach materials on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. The fund, managed by ICVA and a steering group, provides grants to national and local NGOs looking to develop PSEA materials. More than 1500 applications were received from almost a 100 countries and covering every continent, confirming that there is significant need for outreach on PSEA. After the applications were reviewed funding was granted to 19 NGOs from 19 countries.

Child Rights

Throughout the months of June and July, ICVA and UNICEF, in co-organisation with the NGO consortia SCHR and InterAction, launched the [NGO Briefings on Humanitarian partnerships in COVID-19 response](#) which covered thematic discussions on simplification and flexibility measures, public health, wash response and UNICEF's child protection and social and nutrition response. This series of webinars aimed to support better collaboration on the ground between UNICEF and NGO partners in their collective response for children. On 17-19 November, UNICEF and ICVA organised the [UNICEF – NGO Partnership in Humanitarian Action 2020 Annual Consultation 'Working Together to Address Emerging Challenges'](#). Attended by 489 participants working in 90 countries, the consultations followed up on the commitments endorsed in 2019 and focused on the ongoing efforts to address emerging challenges in 2020, most notably the impacts of COVID-19 on partnerships, decolonisation of aid, localisation, anti-racism and anti-discrimination efforts, UNICEF simplified partnership procedures and funding flexibility for NGOs in the context of COVID-19 and beyond, with the aim to contribute to a respectful, diverse, inclusive, equitable and mutually accountable partnership. A number of recommendations came out of the Consultations on how to improve humanitarian partnership to protect children in humanitarian settings, which are highlighted in the [2020 UNICEF-NGO Consultation summary report](#).

PSEA workshop January 2020



Risk Management Learning Series

ICVA recognised that many humanitarian organisations struggle with applying risk management in their decision-making process. For this reason, ICVA continued the 2019 theme of [Risk Management](#) in our Navigating Change Learning Series. ICVA and PHAP hosted the following webinars throughout the year:

Topic 1: [Security Risk Management and Duty of Care during COVID-19](#)

Topic 2: [Balancing Risk Appetite and Risk Tolerance in Humanitarian Operations](#)

Topic 3: [The Impact of Bank De-risking on Humanitarian Action](#)

Topic 4: [Culture matters: Risks and opportunities related to leaderships, staff well-being and living our values](#)

Each webinar narrowed in on different aspects of risk and provided a platform for the NGO community to share their current practices, discuss, and learn from one another in order to better understand how to manage risks when working in the humanitarian sector and apply it in their day-to-day work.



1733

**Participants
in the live webinars**



2257

**Viewers and listeners
of recorded events to date¹**



3408

**Event
registrations**

Registrant Geography

Top 10 Countries



United States
of America



Philippines



United
Kingdom



Germany



Switzerland



France



Kenya



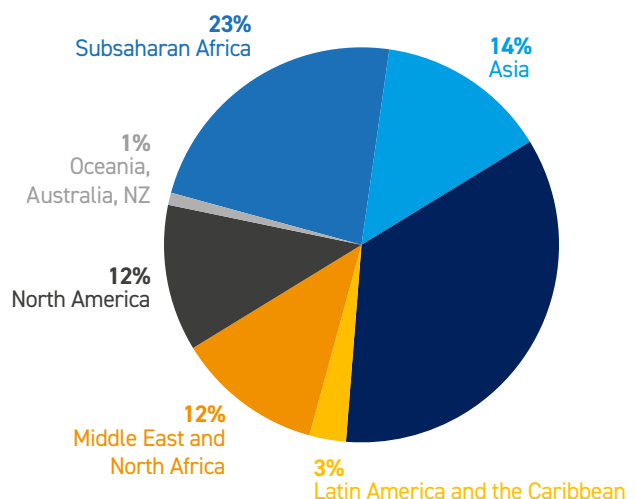
Jordan



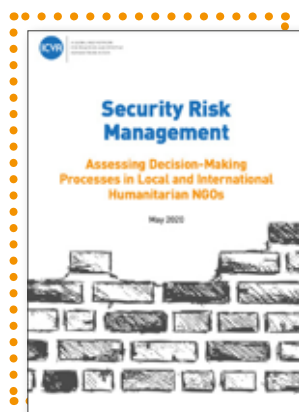
Nigeria



Turkey



Risk Briefing papers



1. Recording statistics compiled on 15 January 2021

ICVA Annual Conference 2020

Each year, ICVA holds an Annual Conference, which provides an important opportunity for our members to connect and discuss issues relevant to the humanitarian sector. This year the conference focused on a topic highlighted by our members and partners – the importance to dive deeper into the risk to principled humanitarian action, and in turn, the risks taken by NGOs to deliver effective and efficient humanitarian assistance to those most in need.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on 18 March, ICVA held its first-ever Virtual Annual Conference on principled humanitarian action and risk. It took the form of [three webinar sessions](#) organised in collaboration with [PHAP](#).

The transformation of ICVA's face-to-face annual conference to a successful online event in such a short time, demonstrated the agility of the whole sector to respond to the everchanging environment.

COVID-19 was an inescapable topic throughout the discussions of the Annual Conference, touching on the ability of locally based humanitarian actors, including youth, to respond and lobby for exceptional measures from donors for quick decision-making, flexibility and real risk sharing attitude. With other disrupters and challenges discussed throughout the three sessions, it was clear that principled humanitarian action has not been put on hold. However, in order to respond and deliver to those most vulnerable populations, partners will need to support NGOs to strengthen risk management within organisations in the humanitarian sector.

The conference had active and vibrant engagement of almost 1,300 participants, who either joined the event on the webinar platform or through video and audio-only livestreams. The [report](#) and the recordings of all three sessions can be found on [ICVA's 2020 Virtual Annual Conference webpage](#).



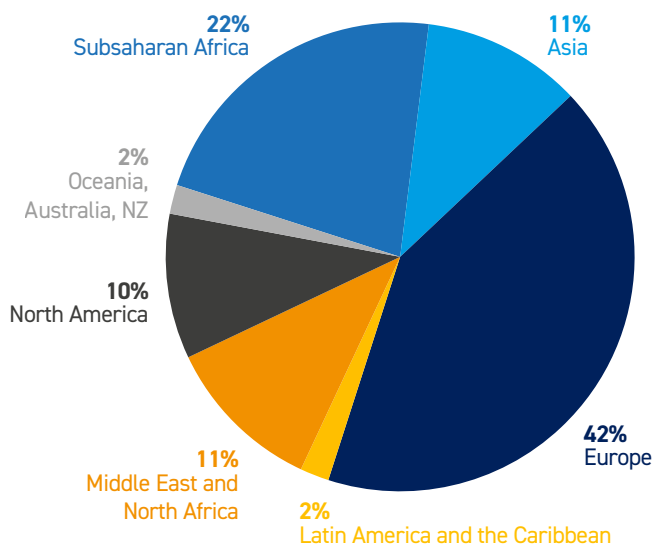
ICVA & PHAP – ICVA Annual Conference, March 2020



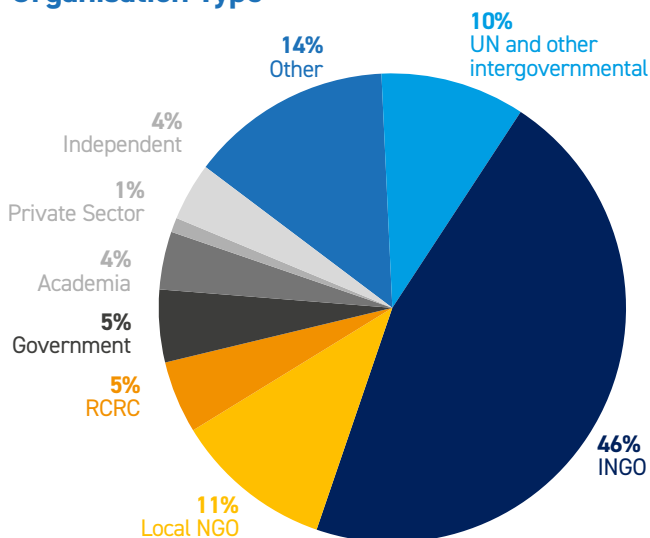
1286 Participants

All Sessions

Regional Participation



Organisation Type



Regions

ICVA's regional Hubs in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and Latin America, provide proximity to members, NGO networks and partners in the region. The hubs also expand representation to regional humanitarian and political actors, strengthen links between field realities and global policies and strengthen support and collective advocacy.

In 2020 ICVA continued to grow our presence in the regions and support our regional members through the challenges that arose from the COVID-19 pandemic. Between various meetings, webinars, workshops and consultations with ICVA members, Member States, and other stakeholders, ICVA has supported humanitarian action by connecting, convening and promoting NGO voices. In addition to the 2020 Annual Report, find out more about the Impact of ICVA's regional hubs by reading our [Regional Direction and Achievements report!](#)

Member meetings in the Regions:

This year ICVA hosted regional meetings with members and partners in each of our four hubs. The members meetings were meant to connect with our regional members, discuss financing priorities, regional development, emerging humanitarian trends, the future of humanitarian work in the regions, and how ICVA members could increase the presence of the network. This time was also used to discuss ICVA's upcoming strategy, [ICVA 2030](#), around the strategic considerations of environmental change, private sector engagement and technology and humanitarian innovation.

ICVA members Meetings, February 2020



Africa

A primary focus for ICVA Africa in 2020 was engaging with members, NGO Fora and the African Union (AU). In order to give support to our members, ICVA stayed up to date on the latest inputs and crises as well as opportunities around funding access.

Some of the major themes of ICVA Africa in 2020 were:

Active engagement around migration and displacement in Africa

Along side the UNHCR Regional Office in Nairobi, and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) office in Addis Ababa, ICVA contributed to the background paper on the State of the World's Forcibly Displaced Report to be published in 2021. The aim was to provide an overview of the most important developments in the Horn, East and Great Lakes region in policy and practice over the last decade.

NGO Fora in Africa

In 2020 ICVA gave structured support to NGO Fora on the specific aspect of NGO laws and their impact on humanitarian affairs throughout the continent. In several cases NGO laws propose a mix of opportunities and concerning restrictions.

ICVA is working to open a dialogue with governments to provide elements aimed at preserving civil society space and respect of humanitarian principles ICVA Africa has been advocating on specific points about shrinking space for humanitarian actors, criminalisation of aid and various bureaucratic impediments. The advocacy efforts have included Permanent Missions in Geneva, the IASC, International Centre for Not-for-Profit-Law (ICNL) and TrustLaw. A number of peer to peer exchange where held virtually with fora from the continent interacting with their counterparts in various regions. These exchanges where mainly around the GHRP, Fora support to membership in the times of COVID-19.

Regional preparedness on COVID-19

This year ICVA Africa supported the roll out of the READY workshops on disease outbreaks, focused on COVID-19 in Africa. ICVA also facilitated multiple meetings between members and key donors to have discussions about the actual status of COVID-19 related funding. A primary topic of discussion was UN pass-through funding to NGOs, through existing and new mechanisms, with very minimal funding actually reaching the NGOs. This issue has been escalated to the global level to find appropriate solutions.



Ministerial Roundtable on the Central Sahel, October 2020

Regional IASC and Interagency Humanitarian Partnership teams

Active participation has continued in 2020 with all Africa sub regions: East Africa, Southern Africa and West and Central Africa. Throughout the year representatives from various NGO fora briefed the regional directors about concerns for aggravated humanitarian crises in the regions.

Advocacy for Sahel Region

Building on the [work of 2019](#) ICVA has heavily advocated for support in the Sahel region to improve humanitarian development. There have been a series of meetings in 2020 focused on the Central Sahel. Among these meetings was the High-Level [Humanitarian Event on the Central Sahel](#), featuring an Inter-ministerial Round Table organised by the governments of Denmark and Germany, OCHA and the European Union. For the event, ICVA supported NGOs operating in the region to position their statement which was read during the Round Table. ICVA also hosted a [side event](#), "Humanitarian and development

realities in the central Sahel" which was attended by representatives from governments in the region, the ICRC, World Bank, UN, NGOs and civil society organisations.

Africa Union

During 2020 ICVA and our members engaged in policy dialogues and round tables related to the 2020 AU theme of the year "Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development." ICVA also attended the [8th Humanitarian Symposium](#) organised by the African Union Commission, where ICVA, participated in the panel "Supporting Inclusive Humanitarian Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa" where we shared the views of ICVA membership on issues related to access and movement restrictions related to COVID-19 and highlighted some of the consequences of these restriction on the most vulnerable populations that the community serves. Furthermore, ICVA provided some key recommendations, based on the consultations that were conducted with ICVA membership (through various working groups) to the AU commission.



Asia

In 2020 ICVA Asia had a focus on supporting NGOs adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthen interagency connectedness on key regional issues, and support NGO engagement with ASEAN.

Regional preparedness on COVID-19

ICVA in its role as co-chair to of the Regional Emergency Preparedness Group and as a member of the Regional Director's Group collated input and feedback to feed into the GHRP and other covid responses, including meetings with donors at regional level to advocate for more inclusive and effective implementation. In addition, throughout the year, ICVA held or participated in various dialogues and webinars with UN and NGO partners such as UNHCR, UNDDRR, Humanitarian Forum Indonesia, Human Initiative and APPRN to understand the impact of COVID-19 on various populations, how to continue to respond to disasters during COVID-19 and the lessons learnt from responses such as Tropical Cyclone Harold and Typhoon Goni.

Improving dialogue with and on regional actors

Within the Asia Pacific region there are diverse actors supporting effective humanitarian response. To support NGO awareness and engagement with them ICVA held a range of different events.

Some of these events included:

- The Regional GBV advisors hosted virtual sessions to better understand the humanitarian response architecture and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) coordination mechanisms.
- In collaboration with ADRRN and OCHA ICVA held the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Events as a series of online events over a month which included a number of sessions highlighting the role local responders played during the pandemic as well as in DRR and emergency preparedness.
- Facilitation of a session on "More Inclusive Coordination for the Global South" where humanitarian organisations from Turkey, Indonesia and China shared their experiences working with the international humanitarian coordination system and discussed responding to crisis from a Global South perspective as part of OCHA's "Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week."



HNPW Panel session "More Inclusive Coordination for The Global South" - February 2020

- Organisation of a consultation meeting between Asia Development Bank (ADB) and NGOs on ADB's new approach for working in fragile and conflict-affected countries in the Asia Pacific region.
- Support to the UNHCR regionalisation process through group and bilateral briefings with NGOs and preparations for the regional NGO consultation which were postponed due to COVID-19.

Engagement with ASEAN

In the lead up to the development of ASEAN AADMER Work Program 2021-2025, ICVA supported a CSO consultation process to review the role of NGOs in the 2016-2020 work program and provide inputs and recommendations. ICVA's Regional Representative also participated in a panel

discussion on Strengthening Community Resilience and Multi-stakeholder Partnerships and made 5 key recommendations for how to advance the localization agenda in ASEAN, including to support meaningful capacity strengthening and partnerships and improve accountability to local communities.

China Engagement

ICVA had the first Chinese NGO join the ICVA membership in May 2020. ICVA has continued to foster closer connection and relation with China's humanitarian actors and opens a two-way influence for advocacy on funding and policy in China and in the region. This also facilitates more diverse and inclusive approaches to coordination and expands the role of Chinese NGOs in the Humanitarian eco-system.



Following the HNPW Panel session "More Inclusive Coordination for The Global South" - February 2020



In 2020 ICVA MENA prioritised collaboration with members in the region and expanding and developing partnerships. ICVA MENA has remained a primary connection for NGOs in the region to have access to high-level and decision-making meetings at the global level.

MENA team COVID-Ready! September 2020



Regional Events:

There were numerous meetings, webinars, events and consultations that ICVA MENA participated in this year. Despite the lack of in-person events due to COVID-19, there was no shortage in collaboration or advocacy for the major trends happening in the region. Some of the highlights from the year were:

- ICVA's participation in the fourth Brussels Conference on "Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region." For this event, civil society representatives from Syria and the region engaged with Ministers and senior officials from refugee-hosting and donor countries, the EU and the UN.
- ICVA's participation at the 2nd Riyadh Humanitarian Forum, where actors from UN agencies, private sectors, academic institutions and NGOs facilitated discussions on several humanitarian issues and aimed at bridging the gaps between the humanitarian and development sector to achieve more sustainable results.

- ICVA's involvement in the High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen. ICVA Representative in MENA presented ICVA's [Statement](#) during the conference. The statement incorporated inputs from ICVA members, and collective messages from INGOs, local NGOs and NGO networks in Yemen.
- ICVA participated in the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP)/Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2021 Contextual Analysis Workshop. ICVA participation included a workshop which focused on the "Trajectory of Syria, Challenges and Opportunities." ICVA's remarks focused on the funding environment, targeted advocacy efforts and Localization.
- ICVA capitalised on different collaboration opportunities and participated in a number of meetings around localization with members, partners, INGOs/NNGOs, local NGO Fora, and donors. During these meetings ICVA members and partners discussed progress, challenges and required support to empower local actors to create a more inclusive ecosystem. ICVA also took a role on the Humanitarian Partners Forum (HPF) Localization Task Team in Jordan and is a co-chair of IASC Results Group 1 on localization.

Riyadh Humanitarian Forum March 2020



NGO Fora in MENA:

This year, ICVA MENA engaged with and supported NGO fora across MENA on governance, strategy, advocacy and policy, including through joint NGO Fora workshops, as well as bilateral support – with a specific focus on Syria, Yemen, OPT, and Libya. ICVA MENA Invested in NGO fora connections to support exchange of information and inform engagement and positioning including at the regional and global IASC and donor level. Examples include the Yemen Pledging conference, in June 2020 where ICVA coordinated with national and international NGOs and NGO Fora to develop and present a statement on their behalf and carrying forward discussions with NGOs and the Syrian NGO Fora (SIRF) to discuss and advocate for collective work on issues such as the UN Cross Border Resolution.

A strategic partnership was developed between UNDP & ICVA MENA to support the development and capacity of 13 Syrian NGO Networks in Syria and Turkey. Subsequently, ICVA MENA developed and delivered a training entitled, "Developing Stronger Networks" focusing on joint coordination, governance, and strategic planning was delivered to 14 Syrian NGO Networks. It was part of a wider set of targeted workshops focusing on good governance, strategic planning and enhancing the Syrian CSOs network engagement at different regional and global advocacy and coordination platforms.

Yemen Conference, June 2020

ICVA MENA and UNHCR

ICVA is part of the Regional Durable Solutions dialogue which is co-chaired by UNHCR's Regional Bureau based in Amman. Throughout the year ICVA advocated on specific trends happening in the region on behalf of members and other NGOs and secured opportunities for members to liaise and exchange with UNHCR at regional level. ICVA also convened a dialogue with NGOs in the MENA region and UNHCR, in which NGOs and UNHCR shared information and discussed their strategies related to the COVID-19 crisis.

Regional preparedness on COVID-19:

ICVA MENA remained committed to supporting our members in the region during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. ICVA MENA advocated on behalf of NGOs related to the challenges faced in the region, lack of funding and long-term effects on top of pre-existing crises in the region. ICVA translated our briefing paper, ["REINFORCE, REINFORCE, REINFORCE: Localization in the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response"](#) into Arabic as a resource to members, partners, NGOs and other stakeholders. Additionally, ICVA MENA convened a meeting with all MENA NGO fora representatives to exchange and engage on preparedness and response in the context of COVID-19. Furthermore, through ICVAs global COVID-19 NGO Fora Support project, three national NGO fora received structured support, including financial support, to implement advocacy related projects, addressing local actors response to COVID-19, and strengthening governance structure in order to properly represent their members.



Latin America

In 2020 ICVA expanded its presence and knowledge in Latin America, learning how to best support ongoing humanitarian efforts in the region. ICVA continued our partnership with FM4 Paso Libre, this partnership allowed sustainable participation and representation of Latin American NGOs within the ICVA network.

Connecting with our members and NGO Fora

Through our member, FM4 Paso Libre, in Latin America, ICVA has maintained close contact with several NGO Fora in the region. Particularly with Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Colombia.

We continue to seek links with Fora's in the region to strengthen the work of our members and network. We also established contact and presented our work in the region with the LAC RMD Coalition and plan to continue strengthening ties of collaboration.

As added support to our Latin American members and partners in the Region, ICVA through the help of FM4 Paso Libre, has translated many of our [resources](#), [briefing papers](#) and [monthly Bulletin's](#) into Spanish.

Displacement in Venezuela

The ICVA-FM4 Paso Libre team continued to follow Venezuela. Working alongside REDLAC and other partners in the region, ICVA has specifically highlighted to the EDG issues related to coerced returns; stigmatisation; human rights and the pandemic's impact on the health system; malnutrition and livelihood.

Regional preparedness on COVID-19

The ICVA-FM4 Paso Libre team partnered with Trust Law in Latin America to create ways to support ICVA members in the region and enhance education on humanitarian action and related legal aspects pertinent to NGOs in the region. In 2020 a webinar was held by TrustLaw titled, "COVID-19 Legal Health Checks" in Spanish.

ICVA, in collaboration with FM4 Paso Libre, participated in the monthly EDOCHA-RLAC meetings in Panama in order to report updates and impact of COVID-19 and the GHRP in the region and to help connect voices from LATAM to global discussions.

INGO Fora Colombia, January 2020



Finance

PwC audited the financial statements of ICVA for the year which ended 31 December 2020. It is the opinion of the statutory auditor that the *“financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 give a fair and true view of the financial position, the results of the operation and the cash flows in accordance with the Swiss GAAP FER and comply with Swiss law, the association's deed and internal regulations.”*

Balance sheet as at 31 December (in Swiss francs)

The Audited Financial Statements can be found on the ICVA website.

Assets	Notes	2020	2019
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	1,385,411	1,113,858
Accounts receivable	7	17,598	557,173
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	8	41,563	7,000
Total current assets		1,444,572	1,678,031
Non-current assets			
Financial assets	6	20,077	20,077
Property, plant and equipment, net	7	10,858	16,287
Total non-current assets		1,475,506	1,714,395
Total assets		1,475,506	1,714,395

Liabilities	Notes	2020	2019
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable		160,308	144,178
Short-term interest-bearing liabilities		6,825	6,825
Accrued expenses		41,246	28,478
Deferred income		38,785	210,408
Short-term provision	10	81,462	63,022
Total current assets		328,626	452,911
Non-current liabilities			
Long-term interest-bearing liabilities		6,825	12,101
Total non-current liabilities		6,825	12,101
Total liabilities		335,451	465,012

Liabilities	Notes	2020	2019
Restricted funds			
Specific project balances		526,999	316,860
Total restricted funds		526,999	316,860
Reserve			
General Reserve		932,523	927,387
Net result for the year		-319,467	5,136
Total reserves		613,056	932,523
Total liabilities		1,475,506	1,714,395

Statement of Income and Expenses for the financial year ended 31 December (in Swiss francs)

	Notes	2020	2019
Net proceeds from Membership Fees and Grants			
ICVA Membership Fees		559,419	515,192
Australia - Department of Foreign Affairs - IDF		-	17,938
Denmark - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - DANIDA		-	416,120
European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)		-	86,715
Germany - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - S08		546,364	575,096
Luxemburg - Ministry of Foreign Affairs		107,712	110,114
Norway - Ministry of Foreign Affairs		150,300	166,633
Sweden - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - SIDA		305,101	321,853
Switzerland - Department of Foreign Affairs		450,000	250,000
United States Department of State - Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)		-	63,083
Republic and Canton of Geneva		50,176	-
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)		-	2,902
International Organization for Migration (IOM)		-	31,805
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		32,293	-
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)		25,269	112,871
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)		88,000	97,593
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - PSEA Fund		376,034	6,600
Hilton Foundation		536,763	89,191
Open Society Foundations		-	210,033
Total		3,227,431	3,067,137
Other operating income		6,495	28,964

	Notes	2020	2019
Operating Expenses			
Staff costs		-2,003,511	-1,922,968
Grants to local non-profit organizations		-507,880	-
External Services		-404,827	-329,843
Premises charges		-129,577	-130,540
Maintenance, repairs and equipment		-2,535	-10,524
Travel expenses		-44,936	-365,145
IT expenses		-37,541	-33,018
Administration and office costs		-9,830	-18,184
Communications		-45,331	-78,449
Meeting, teleconference and webinar costs		-55,468	-67,357
Depreciation and valuation adjustments to fixed assets		-5,429	-5,429
Other costs		-57,709	-3,511
Net result before financial income and expenses			
		-70,649	131,133
Financial income		113,676	53,487
Financial expenses		-152,355	-85,669
Net result after financial income and expenses			
		-109,328	98,951
Net result before allocation to specific project balances			
		-109,328	98,951
Reduction in Specific Project balances		1,004,487	709,000
Increase in Specific Project balances		-1,214,626	-802,815
Net result for the year			
		-319,467	5,136

Donors

ICVA is grateful to its membership and partners for dues, funding and other contributions and in-kind support. We thank Save the Children, ICMC, APRRN, International Rescue Committee (IRC), and Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) for their support to the Regional Hubs. We thank the following governments, UN agencies and philanthropic Foundations for their generous support in 2020.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**



THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Directorate for Development Cooperation
and Humanitarian Affairs



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK**



**OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS**

We wish to recognise and thank the suppliers and commercial partners for their flexibility and the quality of the services they maintained while disrupted by the pandemic.

Governance and Management

All ICVA Board meetings in 2020 were online with much of the work done through the three committees, Finance & Administration Committee, Membership Committee and Policy, Programme and Advocacy Committee.

ICVA Board members as of December 2020: Environment policy

- **ACT Alliance:**
Thorsten Göbel (replaced Anoop Sukumaran)
- **Action Contre la Faim:**
Isabelle Moussard Carlsen
- **Africa Humanitarian Action:**
Wossen Tesfaye
- **Amel Association International:**
Virginie Lefevre
- **Christian Aid:** Jane Backhurst, Vice-chair
- **International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC):**
Walter Brill, Human Resources Focal Point
- **Japan Platform:** Yuko Shibata
- **Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC):**
James Munn, Treasurer
- **Plan International:** Roger Yates, Chair
- **Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK):**
Eunice Ndonga
- **Terre des Hommes:** Steven Fricaud

ICVA is committed to being an environmentally responsible organisation, and implements its environmental policy. The policy establishes practices and guidelines for the ICVA Secretariat to effectively reduce the carbon footprint and other environmental impacts of its activities while operating under a limited budget.

ICVA 2030

During the year substantial time and effort was given to engage in conversations and consult with ICVA member and other stakeholders to shape what the ICVA Strategy priorities for 2022-2030 should be. It was an intense and inclusive process to look beyond our usual three-year horizon with over 90% of our members having taken part in the consultations. ICVA staff and Board, external experts, and our partners have also contributed to this strategic vision. Our analysis of the external context, our understanding of our collective impact, our vision for change are all a result of these collective inputs. The ICVA General Assembly in May 2021 will adopt the ICVA 2030, a long-term perspective, identifying ICVA's future role and added value in the fast-changing environment.

Changes on the Board

Due to the departure of Anoop Sukumaran from Act Alliance and therefore as Chair of ICVA, the Board selected a new Chair from within the Board members. The Board selected Roger Yates, Plan International, as the new Chair in January 2020. Act Alliance's new representative on the ICVA Board is Thorsten Göbel. Jane Backhurst was elected as Vice Chair. Japan Platform was coopted to ICVA board, to improve representation from Asia/Pacific.

Managing Risks

In 2020 ICVA's risk management process did not have to deal with any allegations on sexual abuse and exploitation and sexual harassment in the workplace. Our risk management process did not have to deal with any safety and security incidents concerning staff, nor incidents of fraud.



ICVA 2030 Document

Mid-term Strategy Review

An external review of ICVA's impact was conducted for 2019-2020, the final report to be published in 2021. The report includes case studies looking at some of the specific work undertaken in 2019 and 2020. These studies looked at the [8+3 narrative reporting template](#), [South-South engagement and China Cooperation](#), [Advocacy for the Sahel](#), [Engaging in IASC mechanisms](#) and [COVID-19 response in 2020](#). A full 3-year review for 2019-2021 will be available early 2022.

ICVA Staff as of December 2020

The ICVA Secretariat team is based in Geneva, Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Amman and Bangkok.

Mr Ignacio Packer

Executive Director

Ms Mirela Shuteriqi

Director of Policy

Mr Michael Hyden

Director of Programme

Mr Jeremy Wellard

Head of Humanitarian Coordination

Mr Obele Oluchukwu Iheakandu

NGO Fora & COVID-19 Support Officer

Mr Jérôme Elie

Head of Forced Migration

Ms Loise Dai Rocheteau

Policy Officer Forced Migration

Mr Jeremy Rempel

Head of Humanitarian Financing

Mr Alon Plato

Policy Officer Humanitarian Financing

Nishanie Jayamaha

Learning and Programme Coordinator

Ms Vania Gobbo

Associate Policy Officer

Ms Keya Saha-Chaudhury

Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific

Ms Qingrui Huang

Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and Pacific

Ms Eman Ismail

Regional Representative for MENA

Preparations for the 18th ICVA General Assembly 2021

The ICVA General Assembly will be held on 18 & 19 May 2021. Every three years ICVA's General Assembly brings ICVA members together to celebrate the network and agree on a strategy for the forthcoming years. It is also the time when the General Assembly elects a new Board and Chair, and discusses other business matters, such as amending the ICVA Statutes and adopting the ICVA 2030 Strategy. The 18th General Assembly will be held online due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Ms Stephanie Yousef

Deputy Regional Representative for MENA

Mr Marco Rotelli

Regional Representative for Africa

Mr Addis Tesfa

Deputy Regional Representative for Africa

Ms Lina Gomez

Latin America Regional Contact

Ms Fiona Wilkie

Information Officer

Ms Christian Benadum

Communications Officer

Mr Fabrice Cadoux

Finance Officer

Ms Mylene Soto

Administration and Events Assistant



ICVA Staff, 2020

ICVA Members as of December 2020

Organisation	Country
I. Members	
ABAAD - Resource centre for gender equality	Lebanon
ACBAR	Afghanistan
ACF- Action Contre la Faim	France
ACFID - Australian Council for International Development	Australia
ACT Alliance	Switzerland
Act for Peace	Australia
ACTED - Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement	France
Action for Humanity (Syria Relief)	UK
ActionAid International	South Africa
ADA - Africa Development Aid	South Sudan
ADES - Agence de Développement Economique et Social	Chad
ADRA - Adventist Development and Relief Agency	USA
AHA - Africa Humanitarian Action	Ethiopia
AIDMI - All India Disaster Mitigation Institute	India
AIRD - African Initiatives for Relief and Development	Uganda
Al Sham Foundation	Turkey
AMEL Association	Lebanon
AMERA International	UK
Amity Foundation	China
ANE- Action for the Needy	Ethiopia
APRRN - Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network	Thailand
ARDD - Legal Aid	Jordan
ASA - Afrique Secours et Assistance	Côte d'Ivoire
Asylum Access	USA
BAJ - Bridge Asia Japan	Japan
Building Foundation for Development	Yemen
CAFOD - Catholic Agency For Overseas Development	UK
CARE International	Switzerland
Caritas Internationalis	Vatican City State
CCRM - Cross regional centre for refugees and migrants	Lebanon
CFSI - Community and Family Services International	Philippines
Christian Aid	UK
CHS Alliance	Switzerland

COAST - Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust	Bangladesh
Community World Service Asia	Pakistan
Concern Worldwide	Ireland
COOPI - Cooperazione Internazionale	Italy
CRDO - Community Research and Development Organization	Pakistan
CSSI - Centre de Support en Santé Internationale	Chad
CWS - Church World Service	USA
DCA - DanChurchAid	Denmark
DR - Danish Refugee Council	Denmark
F4M Paso Libre Dignidad Y Justicia en el Camino	Mexico
Finn Church Aid	Finland
Fortify Rights	USA
Frontiers Ruwad Association	Lebanon
FSD - Foundations Suisse Deminage	Switzerland
GCR - Greek Council for Refugees	Greece
Globalt Fokus	Denmark
Good Neighbours	Switzerland
GUVS - General Union of Voluntary Societies	Jordan
HAMI - Association for Protection of Refugee Women and Children	Iran
HI - Humanity & Inclusion Handicap International	France
HIAS	USA
HRN - Humanitarian Response Network of Canada	Canada
Human Initiative	Indonesia
IBC - International Blue Crescent Relief & Development Foundation	Turkey
ICMC - International Catholic Migration Commission	Switzerland
ICRI - International Consortium of Refugees in Iran	Switzerland
IDC - International Detention Coalition	Australia
IEDA Relief	USA
IHH - Humanitarian Relief Foundation	Turkey
IIROSA - International Organization for Relief, Welfare and Development	Saudi Arabia
IMC - International Medical Corps	USA
INTERSOS	Italy
IRC - International Rescue Committee	USA
IRRI - International Refugee Rights Initiative	Uganda
IRW - Islamic Relief Worldwide	UK

ISRA - Islamic Relief Agency	Sudan
Japan Platform	Japan
JHASI - Jordan Health Aid Society International	Jordan
Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V.	Germany
Jordan Paramedic Society	Jordan
JRS - Jesuit Refugee Service	Italy
KCOC - Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation	South Korea
Kerk In Actie	Netherlands
Lifeline fund international	USA
LWF - Lutheran World Federation	Switzerland
MACOSS - Mauritius Council of Social Servic	Mauritius
MDM - Médecins du Monde	France
Medair	Switzerland
Mercy Corps	USA
Mercy Malaysia	Malaysia
MUDEM - Refugee support centre	Turkey
NCA - Norwegian Church Aid	Norway
New World Hope Organisation	Pakistan
NPA - Norwegian People's Aid	Nowway
NRC - Norwegian Refugee Council	Norway
OFADEC - Office Africain pour le Développement et la Coopération	Senegal
Oxfam GB	UK
Plan International	UK
RCK - Refugee Consortium of Kenya	Kenya
RCOA - Refugee Council of Australia	Australia
RCUSA - Refugee Council USA	USA
REDESO - Relief to Development Society	Tanzania
RedR India	India
Refugees International	USA
RefugePoint	USA
REPID	Pakistan
RET International	Switzerland
RFD - Foundation for Rural Development	Pakistan
RSN - Refugee Solidarity Network	USA
Save the Children International	UK

Secours Islamique France	France
SHARP - Society of Human Rights and Prisoners' Aid	Pakistan
SNC - Somalia NGO Consortium	Somalia
South Sudan NGO forum	South Sudan
SSI - Settlement Services International	Australia
STACO - Shaik Takir Azzawi Charity Organization	Libya
Support To Life	Turkey
SV- Stichting Vluchteling	Netherlands
Tamdeen Youth Foundation	Yemen
TBC - The Border Consortium	Thailand
TdH - Terre des Hommes	Switzerland
Titi Foundation	South Sudan
TSFI - Télécoms Sans Frontières International	France
TWB - Translators without Borders	USA
Tzu Chi Foundation	USA
VENRO	Germany
VluchtelingenWerk Nederland - Dutch Council for Refugees	Netherlands
War Child Holland	Netherlands
Welthungerhilfe	Germany
WRC - Women's Refugee Commission	USA
WVI - World Vision International	UK
YFCA	Yemen

II. Observers

ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross	Switzerland
MSF - Médecins Sans Frontières International	Switzerland

III. Affiliates

ALNAP	UK
Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies	Switzerland
ISIM - Institute for the Study of International Migration	USA



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

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