



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

ICVA Bulletin #10

Highlights for October 2015

Forced Displacement

1. Filippo Grandi selected as the next UN High Commissioner for Refugees: On 11 November the UN announced that Filippo Grandi of Italy had been selected to serve as the new UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Mr Grandi was Commissioner-General of UNRWA from 2010 to 2014 and its Deputy Commissioner-General from 2005 until 2010. He served as the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and has a long-standing career with UNHCR, notably as Chief of Mission in Afghanistan and Chief of Staff in the High Commissioner's Executive Office. His UNHCR field experience includes various positions in Sudan, Syria, Turkey and Iraq, having also led emergency operations in Kenya, Benin, Ghana, Liberia, the Great Lakes region of Central Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo and Yemen.

You can read about Mr Grandi's vision of the role and responsibilities of the High Commissioner in [his answers to ICVA's five questions](#) published on 22 October. We are grateful to him and the other three individuals who answered our questions: Sania Nishtar (Pakistani), Helle Thorning-Schmidt (Danish), and Jasmine Whitbread (British and Swiss).

2. Tapping into the fountain of youth: On 30 October, UNHCR and ICVA circulated a message to NGOs about the 2016 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultation to be held in Geneva from 15-17 June. The overarching theme will be "youth." Youth bring special attributes and face special challenges that, to date, have often been overlooked in humanitarian response. Moreover, youth is a potential topic of a Conclusion to be negotiated by UNHCR's Executive Committee in 2016. We are seeking NGO feedback on a draft agenda for the UNHCR-NGO Consultation, and if you are interested in leading specific sessions, please let us know by 15 November. Your inputs will be reviewed along with the initial results of a series of national consultations with youth refugees. For more information please contact interagency@unhcr.org and secretariat@icvanetwork.org.

3. The refugee crisis in Europe continues: ICVA participated in the 29 October meeting of the Humanitarian Liaison Working Group (HLWG) on the refugee crisis in Europe. ICVA made an intervention supporting calls to focus on immediate priorities which include saving lives, non-refoulement, preparing for winter, adequate reception conditions, and treating people in need of protection with dignity and respect. Taking a longer view, ICVA also called for: the opening of more safe and legal channels for those seeking protection; civil society to mobilize to improve public perceptions of migrants and refugees and to fight xenophobia; the root causes of displacement to be addressed.

4. Understanding and addressing root causes of displacement: as we prepare for the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges ICVA is supporting an "NGO friends for the HC Dialogue on root causes" with members and partners, to exchange views on the topic, develop key NGO messages, and promote follow-up to the Dialogue. We hope for concrete outcomes to emerge from this UNHCR event which takes place in Geneva from 16-17 December. For more information contact Melissa.pitotti@icvanetwork.org.

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ICVA Updates

15. Save the date: 2106 ICVA Annual Conference 4-5 April Geneva.
16. Launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview 2015.

5. The Nansen Initiative is over, so what happens next?: ICVA participated in the 12-13 October Nansen Initiative Global Consultation in Geneva. It brought together more than 350 delegates, including government ministers and officials, international organizations, NGOs, academics and others from over 100 countries. All participating governments, with the exception of Russia, endorsed a [non-binding statement](#) about the “Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change.” The statement focuses on a “toolbox” of policy options for action and highlights three priorities: 1) collecting data and enhancing knowledge; 2) enhancing the use of humanitarian protection measures for cross-border disaster-displaced persons; and 3) strengthening the management of disaster displacement risk in the country of origin. The Swiss and Norwegian sponsors of the Initiative concluded the meeting by declaring the Nansen Initiative to be over; they have fulfilled the pledge they made at the 2011 Commemoration of the 1951 Refugee Convention. ICVA was involved in the [Southeast Civil Society Meeting](#) contributing to the Nansen Initiative process, and we wonder what will happen next to advance the priorities identified through this multi-year process.

6. Strengthening UNHCR-NGO partnerships in Chad: as a follow-up on the implementation of the High Commissioner’s Structured Dialogue on UNHCR-IFRC-NGO Partnerships, a joint ICVA-UNHCR Structured Dialogue mission to Chad took place from 11-16 October. The aim of the mission, which included two workshops held in N’djamena and Goz Bieda, was to evaluate the state of UNCHR/NGO partnerships in Chad and to support actions for further partnership strengthening and complementarity. Areas identified by participants as priorities and in need of further improvement included joint advocacy, capacity strengthening and needs analysis. It was noted that information sharing and joint planning had improved in the last year. In the context of limited resources and protracted crises, several suggestions related to finding better linkages between humanitarian and development approaches, and working more closely with the Government of Chad were made. For more information, contact Liliane Bitong, liliane.bitong@icvanetwork.org at ICVA West Africa.

7. Durable solutions for displaced people in Iraq NCCI Event: ICVA supported the NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI) to organise their 26 October event in Geneva on Durable solutions for Displaced People in Iraq: Setting the framework in a protracted crisis. The roundtable sought to advance the thinking of the international community and national actors on issues related to durable solutions for IDPs in Iraq, and to inform in-country discussions in moving toward a framework for dignified and voluntary returns that guarantees civilian protection. Participants warned that the persistent insecurity and sectarianism prevent Iraqis from returning to their homes. They also expressed their concerns about Iraqi IDP involuntary returns, who are forced or coerced by security forces or armed groups. Iraqi NGO representatives emphasized the risks linked to an absence of a coherent and coordinated strategy for conflict-mediation and transitional justice. The roundtable was hosted by the Swiss Development Cooperation, and ICVA supported the participation of an Iraqi NGO representative.

Humanitarian Partnerships

8. World Humanitarian Summit:

ICVA and many of its members, attended the Global Consultations of the WHS held in Geneva in mid October, and presented on a number of panels. In particular, ICVA members ADESO and World Vision shared, during the plenary panel, the diverse and vital role played by international and national NGOs. As part of the IFRC’s panel on localization in the context of IFRC’s 2015 World Disasters Report, Nan Buzard, Executive Director of ICVA, spoke to the importance of keeping the principles of partnership, particularly complementarity at the forefront of our humanitarian response.

New and Noteworthy

- 17. Call for proposals- rights of migrants in action
- 18. Alternatives to Camps - Making It Work
- 19. Requests for JIPS’ profiling support due 15 November
- 20. IDMC launches IDP durable solutions training package

Upcoming Events

Key documents following the Global Consultation include:

- The [Co-Chair report](#) outlines the general adoption of the five action areas and endorsement of the Synthesis Report and lays the foundations for the authors of the Secretary General's Report, which is expected in late January 2016.
- The "[Update on the World Humanitarian Summit](#)" from the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) to the Secretary General sets out a number of action points for stakeholders to continue to address between now and the Summit in May next year. The ERC also highlights the concerns of some Member States for greater clarity around the WHS process and outcomes.

ICVA will continue to work with its membership, the WHS secretariat, UN OCHA, and Member States to ensure that the Principles of Partnership, the vital role of NGOs in meeting the needs of crisis affected communities, and the need for inclusivity are reflected in the SG Report.

- **New Chief of WHS secretariat:** The ERC announced the appointment of Antoine Gerard to succeed Dr Jemiliah Mahmood as Chief of the WHS Secretariat in November. Under his leadership the WHS secretariat is expected to strengthen efforts in political engagement, advocacy and communication as well as crafting the Summit in Istanbul in May next year in close collaboration with the host government and other stakeholders.

9. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) – At the 19-20 October ECOWAS and regional IASC consultations, ICVA West Africa met with the ECOWAS Commissioner for Social, Gender and Humanitarian Affairs to discuss ECOWAS humanitarian policy and priorities. Possible areas of collaboration identified included the development of a platform with civil society, and the involvement of civil society in policy making processes relating to disaster risk reduction, and IDPs. For more information, contact Liliane.Bitong@icvanetwork.org at ICVA West Africa.

Humanitarian Coordination

10. Interagency Standing Committee (IASC):

a) The IASC Emergency Directors Group (EDG) met on 26 October in Geneva. Discussion was focused around the IASC System-Wide Level 3 Emergency response mechanism and the need to set clear benchmarks prior to L3 activation. Recommendations included the development of two sets of benchmarks - one for natural hazards and the other for conflict and protracted crisis.

b) NGO rotation on the ICVA-NGO EDG seat: ICVA has two seats for its NGO members in the IASC EDG (Emergency Director Group), currently held by Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and International Rescue Committee (IRC), in addition to the one occupied by the ICVA Secretariat. ICVA is implementing a rotation system for these NGO seats, and has submitted a call for a member NGO to replace DRC who is stepping down at the end of 2015. The deadline for application is November 24. For more information, see the call for application sent to members.

c) IASC 89th Working Group Meeting: was held in Geneva from 12-13 October to discuss the 2016-2017 action plan. The first draft of this plan will be shared prior to the Ad Hoc Working Group meeting on 18 November. The main priorities currently under discussion for the coming two years are related to: operationality, partnership and accountability, humanitarian principles, protection, resilience, and Financing. The [summary](#) of the meeting is now available to members.

d) The Asia IASC Regional Directors' meeting approved the roll out of the [Guidance Package on the Technical Advisor Deliverables](#). This was a project for the IASC which ICVA Asia supported. The guidance is designed to support in-country humanitarian leadership and coordination personnel in integrating cross-sectoral priorities, operational modalities and partnerships in an emergency response through mobilising the support of technical advisors at the inter-sectoral coordination level. The document will be shared with Resident Coordinators, Humanitarian Coordinators, and Humanitarian Country Teams around the region.

e) IASC GBV Guidelines baseline survey: The IASC Guidelines for Integrating gender based violence interventions in humanitarian Action are currently being launched at the global level. The inter-agency Reference Group overseeing the launch and the roll out process, led by UNICEF and UNFPA, has requested broad UN agency and partner support with their baseline survey process. For further information and to access the survey please go to <http://gbvguidelines.org/>. On **17 November the GVB Guidelines** will be launched in Geneva.

f) ICVA West Africa participated in several regional interagency meetings on the Lake Chad Basin convened by the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel in October, to discuss with stakeholders working in the region their concerns about current operations and the severity of the situation. NGOs interested in setting up a working group on the issue and /or meeting in Abuja in early January should contact liliane.bitong@icvanetwork.org from ICVA West Africa.

g) IASC Principals meeting: ICVA is pleased to host the IASC Principals meeting on 11 December in Geneva. We expect the agenda to address NGO priorities including operational realities, the positioning of the principles of partnership at the WHS, and continuing to focus on adequate and accessible funding for those best placed to respond.

11. NGO Consortia and Coordination Symposium, Asia: ICVA Asia brought together 17 country-level and 2 regional level NGO networks for the 2nd annual regional meeting of NGO coordination Consortia, from 22-23 October in Bangkok, Thailand. ICVA Asia supports NGOs through organizing region-specific meetings bringing together NGO fora to help improve collective understanding around NGO coordination, ultimately improving effectiveness in delivering aid to those in need. Download the [Summary](#) which includes discussions during the two-day meeting. For more information, please contact jamie.munn@icvanetwork.org.

Humanitarian Financing

12. Update on country-based pooled funds:

- We received many expressions of interest from national NGOs willing to serve as the next **NNGO representative in the Pooled Fund Working Group (PFWG)**. After careful review of all the submissions, we are pleased to announce that Mr. Zedoun Al Zoubi of the International Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM) has been selected to serve in this capacity.
- OCHA and ICVA invite NGOs interested in country-based pooled funds to the 15 December **OCHA-NGO Platform on Country Based Pooled Funds** meeting in New York. Ten months into the roll out of the new CBPF global guidelines, we will carry out a first review of achievements and challenges during 2015 and share experiences of how the global guidelines impact on NGO operations. If you would like to attend and suggest inputs to the agenda, please contact melissa.pitotti@icvanetwork.org and/or Julia gietmann@un.org.

- NGOs wishing to participate in the Platform are encouraged to fill out a survey on their experience with the new CBPF guidelines. The findings will be presented and reviewed at the December Platform meeting.

- o [English Survey](#)
- o [French Survey](#)
- o [Arabic Survey](#)

13. “Is localization of humanitarian aid wishful thinking or proven trend?” This was the theme of a panel discussion co-organized by BBR, ICVA and OCHA in Dakar on 2 November. Participants, who included representatives of NGOs, UN agencies, IOM and donors, agreed the trend was still highly rhetorical and they called for the debate to stay pragmatic, and to abstain from polarization. Participants to the discussion agreed that bottom up approaches by local organizations and governments were needed as much as top down proactive approaches from main actors in the international humanitarian architecture in order to ensure that barriers to access by local actors were being removed. The issue of certification of local organizations was also heavily debated. The meeting also launched the French version of the [Building a Better Response \(BBR\) e-learning](#).

14. UNICEF launches e-course for staff and partners: Do you want to learn how to use the FACE (Funding Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures) form for cash requests and reporting? Partners can now do so by visiting UNICEF’s publicly available learning portal, Agora (<https://agora.unicef.org>). Other courses can be found on the portal including a general HACT (Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers) course. UNICEF’s [civil society partnerships’ page](#) has information on their 2015 CSO Procedure, including a draft document entitled “Guidance for Civil Society Organizations partnering with UNICEF.” This is a document that UNICEF plans to finalize and issue in a more user-friendly format by the end of the year.

ICVA updates

15. SAVE THE DATE 2016 ICVA Annual Conference: will be on 4-5 April 2016 under the theme “complementarity”. It will be held at the CICG in Geneva. More information to follow soon.

16. [Launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview 2015](#): we are pleased to announce that Faizal Perdaus, ICVA Chair and president of Mercy Malaysia, will be on the panel at this event on 7 December in Geneva.

New and Noteworthy

17. Call for Proposals- rights of migrants in action: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies announce a Call for Proposals within Rights of Migrants in Action project funded by the EU. Questions and applications should be emailed to rightsmigrants.action@ifrc.org no later than 30 November 2015. For more information on the [Call for Proposals](#) please visit IFRC Online Library.

18. Alternatives to Camps - Making It Work: [Key Action #2 Contingency Planning & Preparedness](#) is the second in the series of good practice and guidance to assist field operation in implementing the key actions outlined in the [UNHCR Policy on Alternatives to Camps](#).

19. Requests for JIPS' profiling support due 15 November: Does your operation suffer from a lack of data concerning displacement-affected populations? Is your operation planning to undertake a profiling exercise? Do you need some guidance or support to do so? If so, the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) invite you to request its services in support of profiling displacement situations. The upcoming support request deadline is the 15 November 2015. More information and the Call for Requests document can be found at on the [JIPS website](#).

20. IDMC launches IDP durable solutions training package: The Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) has launched "[Durable solutions for IDPs: challenges and way forward](#)" an adaptable, flexible and participatory training package to build the capacity of relevant actors to engage in national durable solutions processes on internal displacement. IDMC hopes it will be a useful tool on how to manage during and after internal displacement.

Upcoming Events

17 November: [Launch of the GBV Guidelines](#) (Geneva)

26 November: [Launch of the Humanitarian Leadership Academy](#), Manila, Philippines

27 November: [INFORM Launch](#) (Geneva)

7 December: [Launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview 2015](#) (Geneva)

11 December: IASC Principals Meeting (Geneva)

16 December: Task team on Humanitarian Financing (HFTT) Meeting

16-17 December: UNHCR High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges

2016

15-17 March: UNHCR Standing Committee on Operations (Geneva)

4-5 April: ICVA Annual Conference (Geneva)

23-24 May: [World Humanitarian Summit](#) (Istanbul, Turkey)

13-15 June: Annual Tripartite Consultations on Refugee Resettlement (Geneva)

15-17 June: UNHCR NGO Annual Consultations (Geneva)

20 June: World Refugee Day

20-22 June: ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (New York)

19 August: World Humanitarian Day