

# ICVA Bulletin

Highlights from May 2024

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

A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## Dear Reader,

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

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

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## Message from ICVA

### The Geneva Conventions: An Ongoing Journey from Aspirations to Law and Reality

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the [Geneva Conventions](#), adopted in 1949 to prevent the horrors of the two world wars from recurring. These conventions, alongside the Additional Protocols, form the core of international humanitarian law today, protecting those affected by armed conflict and regulating its conduct by limiting the means and methods of warfare. Universally ratified, they embody the international community's commitment to these goals.

However, in many ongoing armed conflicts, humanitarian workers encounter a significant gap between the rules of the Conventions and the harsh realities on the ground. Joyce Msuya, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator in the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, highlighted this discrepancy during a [Security Council Open Debate](#), stating, "In 2023, the United Nations recorded over 33,000 civilian deaths globally." Violations, such as attacks on medical and civilian infrastructure, the use of famine as a weapon, and the killing and obstruction of humanitarian workers are increasing, contravening the Geneva Conventions, international humanitarian law, and human rights law. The Secretary-General's [annual report](#) on the "Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict" underscores the dire situation, urging immediate actions to safeguard civilians in conflict zones. Reflecting ongoing advocacy, Switzerland has proposed a draft resolution on humanitarian aid access and workers' protection, soon to enter negotiations.

Our collective advocacy for adherence to international humanitarian law and human rights law must persist. This was a focal point at the [75th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions event](#), organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross on 29 May in Geneva. The event gathered legal experts and

humanitarian actors from diverse cultures and religions, emphasising the Conventions' embodiment of universal values of humanity and respect for human dignity. Participants acknowledged the contributions of states from various regions to the development of this body of law, supported by religious, traditional, and customary practices. However, concerns were also raised about inconsistent state interpretations of the Conventions' rules, often influenced by political interests.

The event reaffirmed that international humanitarian law must protect all civilians equally, regardless of their location. The international community must intensify efforts to uphold and ensure the universal and consistent application of these laws.

**Mirela Shuteriqi**

**Director of Policy | ICVA**

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## ICVA Updates

### 1. ICVA Speakers Bureau Launch



ICVA has launched a Speakers Bureau that aims to elevate the voices and perspectives of national and local humanitarian aid workers and ensure their meaningful participation in decision-making processes at national, regional and international levels. National humanitarian aid workers from either a national or international NGO can register for the ICVA Speakers Bureau.

Explore the [Speakers Bureau webpage](#) for more information.

### 2. Annual Conference Recordings

ICVA [2024 Annual Conference](#) took place on 21 March under the Theme: Rethinking Coordination: Accountability, Credibility and Trust in Principled Humanitarian Action. Check out session [one](#) and [two](#) recordings in English on our [website](#) and [YouTube](#).



### 3. We Welcome our New Members

We are pleased to welcome to the ICVA network the following organisations:

- [Solidarités International](#), France
- [Nahda Makers Organization](#), Yemen
- [The National Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Response](#), Yemen
- [Kids in Need of Defense \(KIND\)](#), USA
- [GOAL](#), Ireland

We look forward to working with them to make humanitarian action more principled and effective. [Learn more about our members.](#)

## Forced Migration

### 4. NGO Meeting with the Office of UN Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement

On 6 May, ICVA and InterAction organised a meeting with NGOs with the Office of the [UN Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement](#), focusing on the Middle East and North Africa region, specifically Libya, Iraq, and Yemen. The meeting centered on implementing the [UN Action Agenda on Internal Displacement](#), and recent efforts in expanding to broader regional implementation, challenges, and sharing of good practices.

NGOs shared their perspectives on roles, engagement, and the importance of involving development actors in humanitarian responses, along with promoting the inclusion of internally displaced persons in national solutions.

For more information, please contact [davina.said@icvanetwork.org](mailto:davina.said@icvanetwork.org) and [loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org](mailto:loise.dairocheteau@icvanetwork.org).

### 5. Migrants in Vulnerable Situations

#### Regular Pathways for Migration

Facilitating regular migration pathways as a means to harness the power of migration was at the focus of the International Dialogue Migration (IDM) 2024 First Session, which took place in New York on 20-21 May. With a rising number of global conflicts, climate-induced crises, and economic instability, individuals worldwide are increasingly compelled to migrate internally or across borders using hazardous routes, exposing them to exploitation, violence, and abuse at every stage of their journey. Participants in this IDM Session, including civil society representatives, underscored the importance of enhancing safe and structured opportunities for people to migrate as part of a holistic approach to human mobility. Check out more information on [IDM](#).

#### Prevent Trafficking in Persons: Leave No Child Behind

The theme for 2024 [World Day Against Trafficking in Persons](#) on 30 July is “**Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking**”.

The Migration Network Hub and IOM's Migrant Protection Platform have launched a joint call for practices, seeking submissions about programmes and policies relevant to Objective 10 of the Global Compact for Migration (Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration). Check the [criteria](#) and submission [instructions](#). Deadline for submissions is 24 June 2024.

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## Financing

### 6. The Grand Bargain Beyond 2023

#### Grand Bargain (GB) Secretariat Updates

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

#### Grand Bargain Ambassadors and Facilitation Group Meeting

On 6 May the Ambassadors and the Facilitation Group Sherpa (EU/DG ECHO, Germany, OCHA, UNICEF, IFRC, InterAction and NEAR) met to strategise on enhancing Signatories' engagement and reviving participation in the Grand Bargain. They discussed expanding outreach to non-traditional Signatories, integrating new perspectives and addressed final comments on the revised self-reporting.

#### Informal Conversation with Grand Bargain Ambassador, Jemilah Mahmood

On 21 May ICVA and CHS co-organised an informal consultation with GB Ambassador Jemilah Mahmood to discuss ways to promote participation in the GB in a people-centered approach. Mahmood expressed her willingness to advocate with donors, governments, and parliamentarians on two or three key issues critical to advancing this agenda. The participants discussed challenges and provided suggestions for advancing the agenda.

#### Grand Bargain Strategic Dialogue on Innovative Financing

On 24 June 2024, a Grand Bargain strategic dialogue on Innovative Financing, led by Ambassador Michael Koehler and co-organised by the ICRC and the World Economic Forum, will be held in Geneva. The event aims to bring together senior decision-makers from the humanitarian, development, and financial sectors to discuss ways to scale up innovative financing and leverage the Grand Bargain platform for progress in fragile contexts and crisis responses.

#### National Reference Group workshop event in Türkiye

At the end of June, the National Reference Group (NRG) in Türkiye will host a workshop in Ankara. The workshop aims to promote fair overhead/ICR practices for local NGOs and facilitate discussions with NRGs to enhance broader Grand Bargain dialogues. Ambassador Bessler, NRG members, donors, UN agencies, and local NGOs will participate. Development Initiatives, Oxfam, and the NEAR network are supporting this event.

### 7. Risk Management, Counterterrorism Measures and Sanctions

#### IASC Task Force 3

In May, IASC Task Force 3 reviewed reports on aid diversion and incidental benefits in sanction and counterterrorism contexts, discussed their effects on public perceptions and political dynamics. They also covered updates related to UNSC Resolution 2664, such as the launch of NRC-OCHA webinars and the official start of the OCHA-coordinated consultation process. Additionally, they examined bureaucratic and administrative challenges in a peer-to-peer exchange co-hosted by OCHA and ICVA on 21 May.

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# Coordination

## 8. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals

### IASC Bi-Annual Principals Meeting

On 29 May, the Principals met to address critical humanitarian issues in conflict-affected regions, focusing on crises in Occupied Palestinian Territory, Afghanistan, Haiti, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The discussions aimed to assess the current humanitarian challenges, review ongoing actions, and formulate actionable strategies to enhance aid effectiveness and support vulnerable populations. ICVA's support to NGO networks within affected countries and work in helping to foster trust was acknowledged. The session also delved into donor conditionality concerns, emphasising the need for collective engagement with donors to ensure unbiased aid delivery and safeguard humanitarian principles. The meeting concluded with a reception bidding farewell to Martin Griffiths as his tenure as the Emergency Relief Coordinator comes to an end this month.

### IASC Principals Collective Advocacy - Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

In the framework of the IASC Humanitarian Diplomacy initiative, Janti Soeripto, President and CEO of Save the Children US, and Amy Pope, Director General of IOM have accepted to take on lead roles as IASC advocates for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This partnership is critical given the escalating conflict causing displacement, hunger, and gender-based violence in the eastern region of the DRC. It is crucial to sustain efforts to keep the DRC in the international spotlight. NGO engagement in humanitarian diplomacy acknowledges and complements the extensive service delivery work in many humanitarian contexts, including the DRC. ICVA is confident that its members in the DRC and neighboring countries will fully support this partnership, benefiting both the sector and the people of the DRC.

## 9. The Emergency Directors Group (EDG) Mission to Sudan – Follow Up

Following the EDG mission to Sudan in late April, ICVA has supported an extensive follow up process including debriefs with donors globally and in Geneva, with the INGO Forum and INGOs in the region, and with the Humanitarian Country Teams. The IASC Principals released a [statement on Sudan](#) on 31 May to underscore the critical need for urgent action. This involves addressing systematic obstacles, access denials by conflict parties, and securing essential funding to swiftly enhance the response to adequately address the pressing needs.

## 10. Civil 7 Working Group on Principled Humanitarian Assistance

ICVA and INTERSOS, co-leads of the Civil 7 Working Group on Principled Humanitarian Assistance, participated in the Civil 7 Summit in Rome on 14 – 15 May. At the event, the [Civil 7 Communiqué](#) was presented to the Italian Government as C7 President, with discussions including a panel on Humanitarian Principles at a Crossroad featuring panelists from International Disability Alliance, INTERSOS, Mwatana for Human Rights (Yemen), Tin Tua Association (Burkina Faso) and SPHERE.

The Principled Humanitarian Assistance section of the Civil 7 communiqué addresses concerns about the erosion of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and humanitarian principles in today's world. It calls for the G7 to prioritize and take action to prevent human suffering, safeguard the independence and impartiality of humanitarian organizations, and increase financial resources to address global crises.

## 11. Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) Briefings

Following regular practice, ICVA hosted Humanitarian Coordinator In-Briefings for the HC from South Sudan and the Deputy HC for the North-West Syria response. Both meetings were attended by ICVA members in Geneva and online from the regions. Discussions focused on current operational challenges, advocacy priorities, and areas for NGO engagement with the IASC system in these key responses.

## 12. Humanitarian Surge: Stuck in a Rut?

Humanitarian Outcomes [report](#) examines the current state and perceptions of surge in the sector, the structural and organisational challenges to effectiveness, and the potential opportunities for reconceptualising surge capacity more broadly. The report recommends a shift towards combining national and international expertise for more effective crisis resolution, signaling the importance of supporting local

organisations in addressing humanitarian challenges.

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

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

ICVA introduced the upcoming Peer to Peer mission to Chad-based international and national NGOs, through one hour introductory sessions to clarify the mission's scope and enhance NGO engagement. Additionally, ICVA provided governance best practices sessions to steering committees of NGO platforms in Jordan, Venezuela, Burkina Faso, and Lebanon, tailored to platform-specific needs. ICVA presented its standard training "engaging with the IASC architecture" to the Burkina Faso international NGO platform, detailing global and country-level structures for improved NGO participation. National NGO platforms interested in similar initiatives can contact their OCHA office to identify their specific needs and potential for support.

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

### **14. OCHA – ICVA Advocacy & Communications Team (ACT)**

In May ICVA and OCHA convened the Advocacy and Communications Team consisting of NGOs, UN agencies, and the Red Cross Red Crescent movement. They discussed humanitarian advocacy and communication strategies for Gaza and Sudan. OCHA presented a donor engagement and advocacy strategy developed in coordination and consultation with ICVA members.

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

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## **Transforming our Network**

### **15. Champion Principled Humanitarian Action**

#### **High Level Engagement Workshops**

In May, ICVA and the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation conducted two high-level engagement workshops with Country Directors in Afghanistan through the ACBAR Forum and in Nairobi with Sudan international NGO Forum members. The workshops involved over 25 Country Directors, Deputy Country Directors from international and national NGOs, and forum secretariats. The discussions focused on leading teams in humanitarian engagement to secure safe access, define desired outcomes, and tackle challenges using the [Ethical Decision-Making Framework](#) to address negative perceptions and establish a clear humanitarian identity.

Key findings in both workshops, which are reflective of experiences in other contexts included the courage and commitment of NGOs operating in challenging environments, the impact of donor conditions on response capabilities, the need for more coordination time supported by donors, and the importance of financing local actors for effective and accountable humanitarian delivery.

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

#### **Preserving Humanitarian Space**

In May, ICVA and OCHA led a peer exchange on Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments (BAI), as part of the deliverables of the IASC Task Force 3 on Preserving Humanitarian Space. Presentations by ICVA and two country Access Working Groups showcased key restrictions authorities impose on principled and effective response. The discussions primarily addressed identifying when a Bureaucratic Administrative Impediment serves as a sovereign right versus a barrier to access. It was highlighted that a BAI becomes a barrier when it unnecessarily delays response, heightens suffering, and results in poorer outcomes for affected populations.

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

#### **UN Civil Society Conference**

ICVA member, Foundation for Rural Development, participated on behalf of ICVA, in the 2024 [UN Civil Society Conference](#) held on 9-10 May in Nairobi, Kenya. The Conference was a premier event on the civil society calendar at the United Nations, ahead of the September 2024 Summit of the Future. It acted as a platform for civil society-led discussions, involving multiple stakeholders, to raise awareness, drive ambition, and enhance accountability for the upcoming Summit of the Future, with a focus on influencing reforms and engaging civil society effectively.

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

### Introduction to the Charter Secretariat and Support to Signatories

On 30 May, the [Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations](#) organised its first webinar. The webinar aimed to provide Signatories a better understanding of the Secretariat functions and how the referral hub will support them in implementing the Charter commitments, including what forms of expertise, guidance, and services can be provided through the Secretariat. During the webinar, the Secretariat team of the Charter was introduced, and details regarding the establishment of the Board were provided. Check more information on the [event](#).

### United Nations Climate Change Conference

A small delegation of ICVA members are participating in the [United Nations Climate Change Conference](#) (SB 60) happening in Bonn, Germany from 3 to 13 June 2024. This conference, organised under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), serves as a lead-up to the forthcoming COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The agenda centers on climate action programming and practice in fragile contexts.

## 17. Be Globally Distributed and Locally Rooted

### Supporting Local Actors for More Effective Humanitarian Assistance

A recent [evaluation study](#) reviews how Sweden, one of the countries signing the Grand Bargain, has applied the localisation agenda. The evaluation was conducted on behalf of the Swedish Expert Group for Aid studies (EBA). Findings show that limited progress has been made and that large challenges remain. [Register](#) and join a discussion on 13 June to hear more about the evaluation study.

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

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

### Safeguarding



The graphic features a dashed purple border containing the CAPSEAH logo (a blue circle with a white globe icon) and the text 'CAPSEAH'. Below this, the title 'Common Approach to Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment' is written in purple. A horizontal dashed purple line separates the title from the event details. The details include a calendar icon, a clock icon, and the text '12:30pm - 2:00pm (GMT)' and '27 June 2024'. At the bottom, a dark blue bar contains a globe icon and the website address 'capseah.safeguardingsupporthub.org'.

### ICVA Endorses CAPSEAH

[The Common Approach to Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment](#)

([CAPSEAH](#)) is a short guide to help all people and organisations working in humanitarian, development and peace (HDP) settings tackle SEAH. CAPSEAH offers a shared vision, common principles, and practical actions to combat SEAH. It is voluntary and open to all. Governments and organisations are urged to [endorse](#) the CAPSEAH Summary to demonstrate commitment. ICVA endorses CAPSEAH and invites members to read and endorse it if interested. Join the [virtual roundtable](#) on 27 June to learn more and contribute to tackling SEAH collectively.

## **2024 Sector-wide PSEA Survey**

The survey is led by the Office of the Special Coordinator on improving the UN's response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Through a collaboration with ICVA, CHS and SCHR, this year will be the first time that NGOs can participate in the global survey. Participation is individual and anonymous, focusing on understanding challenges in PSEA efforts globally and locally. Available in multiple languages, complete the survey by 2 August 2024. Direct any survey-related queries to [oscsea@un.org](mailto:oscsea@un.org). Results will be shared in August 2024. Take the [Survey](#).

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

## **19. Proactively Engage in Agile Collaborative Partnerships**

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

#### **Community of Practice on the Nexus (CoPN): Unlocking the HDP Nexus: A Practical Tool for Global Cluster Coordinators**

The CoPN webinar on the HDPN checklist, produced by IASC TF4 to support cluster coordinators in aligning lifesaving, development, and peace efforts for collective outcomes, took place on 9 May. Find more information in the [IASC Guidance Note and Checklist](#).

### **Peace Dialogue Series**

The Peace Dialogue Series explores the peace aspect within the Nexus approach, offering insights, practical tools, and experiences to enhance practitioners' understanding of conflict sensitivity. Task Force 4 is dedicated to boosting the peace dimensions of the Nexus approach and advocating for effective strategies in conflict-affected settings. Designed for humanitarian and development practitioners in conflict-prone and fragile areas, the dialogues cater to a broad range of stakeholders, including field workers, project managers, policymakers, and representatives from IASC member organizations. Access information on [past sessions](#).

For more information, please contact [stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org](mailto:stephanie.yousef@icvanetwork.org).

### **Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (HNPW)**

The HNPW took place from 29 April to 10 May 2024.

ICVA contributed as a panelist on a session on "Navigating Ethical Dilemmas in Humanitarian Action: A Tool to Support Deliberation," where the focus was on launching an [ethical decision-making guide by Humanitarian Outcomes](#). ICVA underlined the importance of engaging in dialogues about challenges and dilemmas among teams and NGOs to ensure a comprehensive grasp of humanitarian principles, all aimed at achieving the best outcomes for crisis-affected populations.

Additionally, ICVA moderated a session on "Accelerating Localised Humanitarian Action: The Role of National Pooled Funds". Speakers highlighted the importance of fund adaptability in responding to urgent needs and supporting local and national recipients. The discussion also underscored the significance of identifying and managing risks, including the potential consequences of not funding local and national actors in humanitarian initiatives.

ICVA also co-hosted with FAO a session on "Unshackling the Humanitarian System: a more nuanced, flexible system focused on people". The aim was to challenge the humanitarian system's traditional "one-size-fits-all" approach and explore new ways to effectively meet and reduce humanitarian needs by shifting the focus to different crisis typologies centered on the lives and livelihoods of affected populations. Participants engaged in discussions and envisioned innovative approaches toward a more adaptive and people-centric humanitarian response.



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## Region Specific

### 20. Africa



#### East and Southern Africa

##### **Close-out of Strengthening Local Humanitarian Action to Respond to Climate-Induced Emergencies (SLHA-Climate) Project**

In May 2024, ICVA and International Medical Corps closed out a 17-month SLHA-Climate project. The project has supported local and national NGOs in Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia through training and small grants to better respond to climate-induced emergencies and strengthen their operational capacity. A regional symposium was organised by ICVA on 24 - 25 April in Nairobi to review the project's objectives and achievements, exchange knowledge and provide recommendations for the future.

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#### West and Central Africa

##### **Launch Workshops for the Localisation Barometer in Mali and Burkina Faso**

On 7-8 and 29-30 of May, the launch workshops for the Regional Localisation Barometer took place in Burkina Faso and Mali, respectively. The Regional Localisation Barometer is a tool designed to measure the progress made on localisation efforts within countries in West and Central Africa. Burkina Faso and Mali are serving as pilot countries to test the effectiveness of the Barometer. The workshops led by the National NGO Fora of both countries, brought together national NGOs, international NGOs, donors, UN agencies, and state representatives to discuss the key issues related to localization that need to be gathered in each country through the Barometer tool. The results from these workshops will inform the research phase of the project.

##### **Workshop on Humanitarian Coordination for Chad and Burkina Faso**

On 7 and 22 May, ICVA organised two online workshops on Humanitarian Coordination for the Chad National NGO Forum and the Burkina Faso INGO Forum, respectively. The objective was to enhance the participants' comprehension of the global and in-country structures of humanitarian coordination, the roles of NGOs, and effective strategies for exerting more influence in the system. The workshops aimed to empower the attendees to become more active and influential within the humanitarian coordination landscape.

##### **Briefing on Fora Governance**

On 21 May, ICVA organised a workshop on fora governance for the steering committee of the Burkina Faso International NGO Forum. The workshop covered several key areas, including the components of a forum and the roles and responsibilities of board members. It also addressed governance and accountability issues, decision-making processes, and the principles of partnership that guide collaboration between the steering committee, secretariat, General Assembly, and host organisation.

## Senior Officials Meeting

On 28 May, the European Union hosted a Senior Officials Meeting in Brussels focused on scaling up humanitarian response in Sahel and Lake Chad basin regions. Over 130 attendees from 18 EU member states, diplomatic representatives, financial institutions, donors, UN and NGO partners participated. The International NGO forum director from Mali represented the NGO voice in the first panel, alongside ICRC and UNHCR, while WFP, UNICEF, and the World Bank participated in the second panel. Three voices from the field (Mali, Cameroon, and Niger), including the representative of the NNGO forum in Niger, shared their perspectives. ICVA participated in the event as an observer to debrief NGOs and supported the development and dissemination of NGOs key messages.

## Regional Access Roadmap

The regional task force on access and humanitarian principles, co-led by OCHA and NRC, developed an access roadmap after a regional access workshop in March 2024. The roadmap was based on findings, discussions, and priorities raised during the workshop and was finalised within regular meetings of the task force. It was presented to the R-IASC in May and includes four axes: advocating for humanitarian access, developing analytical skills, strengthening humanitarian leadership, and improving communication with authorities and the public. The proposed actions and recommendations will be discussed further to identify implementation opportunities.

For more information, please contact [adeline.benita@icvanetwork.org](mailto:adeline.benita@icvanetwork.org) or [fatoumata.konate@icvanetwork.org](mailto:fatoumata.konate@icvanetwork.org).

## 21. Asia and the Pacific

### Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week (RHPW) – Asia Pacific 2024

The [RHPW – Asia Pacific 2024](#) will take place from 10 – 12 December in Bangkok, Thailand. This year's theme is "Sparking Global Change through Local Solutions in Humanitarian Action." The Concept note is available [online](#). RHPW is a joint initiative of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), Asian Disaster Risk Reduction Network (ADRRN), Community World Service Asia (CWSA), and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). It aims to bring together humanitarian stakeholders across the Asia-Pacific region to exchange best practices, foster collaboration, and strengthen partnerships for effective humanitarian service delivery. Organisations interested in organising sessions can [submit their Expressions of Interest](#) before 20 August.

### Road to Climate Resilient Pakistan: Curtailing the Carbon Footprints

On 30 May, ICVA participated in the 'Road to Climate Resilient Pakistan: Curtailing the Carbon Footprints' event, co-hosted by Islamic Relief Pakistan National Disaster Risk Management Fund. The event brought together various stakeholders to discuss and collaborate on combatting climate change. ICVA emphasised the importance of the Climate Charter and global conversations on loss and damage, specifically addressing their implications for Pakistan. The discussions highlighted the need for robust mechanisms and urgent climate financing to support Pakistan's adaptation and resilience.

### Consultation on Community-Based Approaches to Local Reintegration

ICVA, together with ADSP and UNHCR, organised a Civil Society Consultation on Community-Based Approaches to Local Reintegration on 30 April. The event aimed to engage members of the support platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) in discussing approaches to support the reintegration of Afghans who have returned forcibly or otherwise from neighbouring countries. During the consultation, representatives from Nai Qala, WWH, and NRC shared their experiences and challenges in promoting local integration and addressing protection concerns.

### Members and Stakeholder Engagement

ICVA's Asia Pacific Regional representative visited Afghanistan between 5-15 May to engage with members and key stakeholders. Despite facing multiple hazards and reduced funding, members of the humanitarian community in Afghanistan continue to meet the needs of the population. However, there is a pressing need for greater support to help overcome bureaucratic barriers and encourage the participation of women and girls.

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

## 22. Latin America

### Cartagena D+40

Local and international NGOs including ICVA members participated in the second Cartagena D+40 preparatory meeting in Brasilia, Brazil on 16-17 May. The theme was integration. The next preparatory meeting will be held in Bogota, Colombia on 20-21 June and will be on displacement due to natural disasters and climate change. For more information visit the following [link](#).

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

## 23. MENA

### Gaza Crisis Updates

ICVA continues to support NGOs in the MENA region by facilitating meetings between members and key partners such as OCHA ROMENA, UNRWA, and donors. ICVA also maintains an active presence in the regional advocacy working group and regularly exchanges information with the OCHA Jerusalem Advocacy Working Group. ICVA representatives recently attended inter-agency meetings on the humanitarian crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Ninth Conference on Effective Partnership for Better Humanitarian Aid in Kuwait.

The May issued Gaza [Protection Analysis Update](#), provides a good overview of the dire situation. A number of NGOs also issued [a joint statement](#) focussing on the situation in Rafah.



### Skills Training Workshop – Strengthening Advocacy through Effective Networking and Coalition Building

On 26-27 May, ICVA held a Phase II skills training workshop for 15 local Iraq Civil Society Organisations, titled "Strengthening Advocacy through Effective Networking and Coalition Building". The aim was to provide tailored support to enhance their advocacy and leadership skills and empower them to play a more active role in decision-making processes. During the two-day workshop, participants exchanged case studies and shared their experiences on the challenges and opportunities of building effective networking coalitions to advance the role of local actors.

### Yemen Humanitarian Senior Officials Meeting VI

Leaders from humanitarian and development organizations, donors, and international and Yemeni NGOs gathered in Brussels on 7 May for the sixth Yemen Senior Officials Meeting. Co-hosted by the European Union and the Kingdom of Sweden, the meeting aimed to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Yemen. Participants discussed challenges in providing life-saving assistance, shared best practices, and made recommendations for future action. Before the meeting, comprehensive consultations were held in Aden, Amman, and Sana'a. The group committed to working together to alleviate the suffering of the Yemeni population. Find the Co-Chairs Summary in [English](#) and [Arabic](#). Read a [joint statement](#) by 190 Humanitarian Organisations in Yemen urging donors to remain committed to the millions of people in need

in Yemen.

## Syria Brussels Conference - Day of Dialogue Recordings

The European Union organised and hosted in Brussels the eighth Brussels Conference on “Supporting the future of Syria and the region”. The Conference featured a Day of Dialogue, engaging with Syrian civil society, on 30 April and a Ministerial Segment on 27 May. All sessions of the Day of Dialogue were recorded and are available [online](#), along with Rapporteur summations. Access a [joint press release](#) on the outcomes of the Ministerial Segment.

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## Learning Opportunities

**24. Collective Accountability to Affected People:** This [free course](#) delves into the growing emphasis on accountability to affected people (AAP) within the humanitarian sector. It aims to offer insights and guidance essential for humanitarian initiatives and frameworks across the crisis continuum. The course has been developed by a collaborative inter-agency effort led by the International Organization for Migration.

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## New and Noteworthy

**25. Weathering the Storm - Why and how Development Financing Actors should stay engaged during Political Crises:** NRC's [report](#) highlights the impact of halting development aid post-conflict, including added strain on already stretched humanitarian efforts and provides recommendations for donors and organisations to remain engaged.

**26. Village Savings and Loan Associations Training Manual: A Step by step Guide for Community-based Trainers:** CARE has developed a standard [manual](#) for community-based trainers to use in mobilising communities, forming VSLAs, and supporting members in reaching their goals.

**27. Unveiling the Shadows: Child Sexual Exploitation in Humanitarian Contexts :** ECPAT International and its members conducted [research](#) to understand the dynamics and diverse manifestations of sexual exploitation of children in humanitarian contexts and found that beliefs, perceptions, and lacking coordination within humanitarian systems can increase risks and hinder effective prevention and response interventions.

**28. Innovation Report 2024:** International Civil Society Centre [report](#) outlines nine initiatives aimed at rebalancing power dynamics and promoting participatory funding and development cooperation, while also offering recommendations based on successful factors and lessons learned.

**29. 2024 Global Report on Internal Displacement:** IDMC's report reveals that 75.9 million people are living in internal displacement due to conflicts worldwide, with Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Palestine contributing significantly to new movements in 2023. Watch the [launch event](#).

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## Agenda

**June 11 - 13:** [UNHCR-NGO Global Consultations, Geneva](#)

**June 11:** [Introduction to LEGS- Livestock, Emergency Guidelines and Standards](#)

**June 19:** [The Mediterranean Sea: a neglected humanitarian crisis? Register](#)

**June 20:** [World Refugee Day](#)

**June 24:** Second quarterly informal briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees

**June 24 - 28:** [2024 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment and ECOSOC Meeting on the Transition from Relief to Development](#), New York

**June 25 - 27:** [Rights, Responsibilities and Disasters: Using the Law to Reduce Disaster Risk in Asia Pacific](#)

**June 27:** [Virtual Roundtable: CAPSEAH – The Common Approach to Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment](#)

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

**July 25 - 26:** [Evaluating humanitarian action: steps, challenges and real-time learning](#)

**July 30:** [World Day Against Trafficking in Persons](#)

**August 19:** World Humanitarian Day

**September 4:** Third quarterly informal briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees

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

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

**November 20:** World Children's Day

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

**December 2:** Fourth quarterly informal briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees

**December 3:** International Day of Persons with Disabilities

**December 10:** Human Rights Day

**December 10 - 12:** [Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week \(RHPW\) – Asia Pacific 2024](#)

**December 18:** International Migrants Day



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