



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

# **ICVA ANNUAL NGO FORA EXCHANGE WORKSHOP AND MEMBERS MEETING IN MENA REGION**

CONCEPT NOTE

2024



## Overview

Founded in 1962, ICVA (International Council of Voluntary Agencies) is a global network of over 160 nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) active in 160 countries, operating at global, regional, national and local levels, whose mission is to make humanitarian action more principled and effective by working collectively and independently to influence policy and practice. ICVA promotes and facilitates effective NGO engagement in the humanitarian sector, with a focus on Forced Migration, Humanitarian Coordination, Humanitarian Financing, and cross-cutting Systems-Strengthening issues. Through [ICVA members](#), we have an outreach of over 8000 organisations. In addition to membership, ICVA has developed several strong and diverse partnerships at local, national, regional and global levels.

ICVA is working with NGO fora operating in countries affected by humanitarian crises, including local and national NGO fora, international NGO Fora, and mixed NGO Fora (with membership including both national and international NGOs).

ICVA's [NGO Fora Support Programme](#) provides NGO fora with a range of needs-based technical support services to enhance their capacities to fulfill their mandate. The support provided to the NGO fora in MENA by ICVA during this year and previous ones has included: a range of needs-based technical support services aimed at enhancing their capacities to fulfill their mandate; facilitation of skills development workshops and training for fora steering committee members and directors and organized various exchange learning opportunities at regional and global levels. Furthermore, ICVA has provided funding to NGO fora and networks to develop capacities and strengthen in-country NGO fora, enabling them to scale up their initiatives. Due to these efforts, NGOs are now more actively engaged in coordination mechanisms and NGO Fora, contributing to the humanitarian system with greater efficiency.

Since 2021, ICVA in MENA, in its convening role, has been organising an annual members meeting for NGO members in the region. This event serves as a networking opportunity and emphasises key messages with NGOs, UN agencies, donors, and key stakeholders. Additionally, ICVA hosts an annual NGO fora workshop focusing on various themes such as humanitarian financing, Grand Bargain, Nexus, risk management, NGO Fora Governance, Global Engagement, and Advocacy, among others in recent years.

## Information on Reception and Workshop

### ICVA Members and Partners Reception

#### Objective

On 9 September, ICVA MENA will host its annual networking reception in Amman, Jordan, bringing together members, partners, and key stakeholders. We believe that strengthening connections leads to greater impact. This event aims to spotlight the obstacles in effective NGO humanitarian coordination and collaborative advocacy efforts, linking regional and global endeavors. Attendees will comprise members from NGOs/INGOs, diverse NGO networks (international, national, and mixed), and partners such as UN agencies and donors.



**Participants:** ICVA members, NGO fora Representatives, and partners.

**Date and Time:** Monday, 9 September 2024, 9:30-12:00 Jordan time. Followed by networking opportunity with NGO members and partners.

**Location:** In-Person, Amman, Jordan (Exact venue to be determined soon).

**Invitation:** Detailed and separate invitation will be sent at a later date.

## **Annual NGO Fora Exchange Workshop: Strengthening NGO Coordination- Insights for Humanitarian Collaboration in Challenging Environments**

### **Objectives**

In line with our statutory objectives and building upon the past regional NGO fora workshops organised by the ICVA MENA team since 2020, ICVA in MENA will host the Annual NGO Fora Regional workshop in September 2024. The workshop aims to enhance collaboration among local and international NGO networks in the region, facilitate discussions on collective NGO advocacy and influence, explore ways to enhance NGO coordination in challenging contexts, and exchange insights and opportunities. Furthermore, ICVA seeks to promote knowledge sharing among the NGO Fora in focus countries within MENA, including Syria, NWS Hub, Turkey, Jordan, oPt, Libya, Yemen, Iraq, Egypt, and Lebanon.

**Location:** In-Person Amman, Jordan (Exact venue to be determined).

**Date:** Two full days, from Tuesday, 10 September 2024 to Wednesday, 11 September 2024. Arrival date is Sunday, 8 September 2024, departure date is Thursday, 12 September 2024.

**Invitation:** Detailed and separate invitation will be sent at a later date.

**Participants:** Up to 2 participants per NGO Fora secretariat, the Fora director, Deputy, Advocacy Director, or a designated board member.

The workshop agenda will cover some or all of the following thematic subjects:

- **Contextual challenges and the role of NGO networks:** An overview of the situation in MENA, including lessons learned from Palestine, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, and Syria will be provided. Discussions will focus on regional escalations, common issues and the role of a network in a protracted humanitarian context that has moved back to emergency, while NGO networks in some contexts are exploring recovery and durable solutions.
- **The NGO fora work - It's NOT business as usual!** A discussion on how good governance, accountability, and decision-making mechanisms within the NGO network can strengthen its work, increase impact, and contribute to promoting collective NGO coordination in the region.



- **The role of NGOs in influencing regional and global policy reform:** We will explore various aspects of coordination in cross-cutting areas within humanitarian settings, such as Accountability to Affected Populations, active participation and inputs into IASC, EDG, peer-to-peer missions, etc.
- **Transition to durable solutions:** A discussion with key focus on Iraq, Libya and Jordan as case studies and examples of transitioning countries and operationalising Nexus.
- **Funding environment:** How to maintain NGO coordination and the support to be provided to the NGO fora considering the funding declining environment.
- **Alternatives in NGO coordination:** Lessons and recommendations for humanitarian coordination in complex and constrained contexts - zooming into Syria context as a case study for discussion and learning.

### Key Timeline

**The deadline for Sponsorship Requests to the NGO Fora workshop is 27 June 2024**

**The deadline for Registration is 20 June 2024**

### For Further Inquires Contact

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## Regional Hubs

### **Africa**

Nairobi, Kenya  
Dakar, Senegal

### **Asia-Pacific**

Bangkok, Thailand  
Islamabad, Pakistan

### **MENA**

Amman, Jordan

### **Latin America**

Guadalajara, Mexico  
(Coordination)

## Geneva Office

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