

# ICVA Bulletin

Highlights from November 2024



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

**Dear Fiona,**

Welcome to our November Bulletin. This month's edition covers:

1. [End of Year Message from Jamie Munn](#)
2. [ICVA Updates: Upcoming Publications and Vacancies](#)
3. [Forced Displacement: Refugee Coordination Model](#)
4. [Humanitarian Financing: ICVA's Risk-Sharing Survey](#)
5. [Humanitarian Coordination: IASC and Global Humanitarian Overview 2025](#)
6. [Transformations: Protection of aid Workers, ICVA Coordination Support Visit to Yemen, COP29 and 2024 Geneva Declaration on the Rights of the Child](#)
7. [Regional Highlights: Insights on ICVA's work in Asia-Pacific, East and West Africa, MENA, and Latin America](#)
8. [New and Noteworthy: Resources, Learning Opportunities and Events](#)

If you would like to include relevant publications or events in the bulletin please contact [edith.mecha@icvanetwork.org](mailto:edith.mecha@icvanetwork.org)



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## [1. Message from ICVA](#)

As 2024 draws to a close, we reflect on a year that has tested the very foundations of

humanitarian action. More crises erupted, forcing millions from their homes, and humanitarian aid workers faced unspeakable dangers, targeted in attacks that undermined the principles we hold dear. These challenges are stark reminders of why we, as a global community of NGOs, must remain steadfast in our commitment to humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence.

Throughout the year, ICVA's network of NGOs stood together, demonstrating the collective power of solidarity and action. From the Grand Bargain Annual Meeting to critical dialogues at 75th [UNHCR's ExCom](#) and the launch of the [Global Humanitarian Overview 2025](#), ICVA's advocacy and coordination amplified NGO voices in key global and regional forums. Our regional hubs - serving in Latin America, East and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, Middle East and North Africa, and Asia and the Pacific - played pivotal roles in supporting local and international actors to strengthen humanitarian responses. Across coordination, humanitarian financing, and forced displacement and migration, ICVA's Secretariat worked tirelessly to ensure that NGOs were heard and supported.

Yet, the road ahead is daunting. The geopolitical landscape for 2025 is uncertain, and severe cuts in international funding threaten to compromise the ability to meet the growing needs of vulnerable populations. We must continue to stand up to those who seek to discredit humanitarian principles and international law. It is not only a duty but a moral imperative.

As Cyril Ritchie, former ICVA Executive Director, reflected in 2021: 'NGOs did not work enough together; there were far too many silos. The creation of ICVA, merging these separate bodies, gave me hope - because the more we collaborate, the more likely we are to achieve meaningful results for the people we serve.' Let's carry this truth into the new year, driven by our shared values and collective strength.

In 2025, ICVA and its network will remain a force for principled humanitarian action. Together, we will rise to meet the challenges ahead, guided by hope and determination.

Wishing you strength, solidarity, and resilience in the year to come.



**Dr Jamie Munn**  
Executive Director | ICVA

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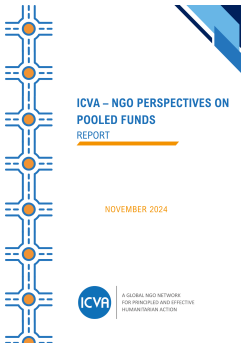
## [2. ICVA Updates](#)

### **In Tribute to our Colleagues: Marco Rotelli and Ipshita Sengupta**

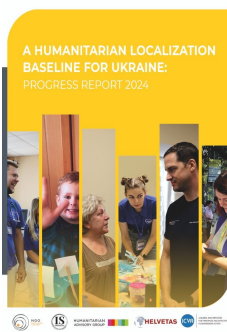
We are deeply saddened by the loss of our former colleagues, Marco Rotelli and Ipshita Sengupta, whose dedication and passion left a lasting impact on our team and all who knew them. As Africa Representative for six years, Marco played a pivotal role in shaping ICVA's story. He was a deeply committed and visionary individual, who challenged us all to think critically and find meaningful solutions. Until recently, Ipshita was the INGO Forum Director in Myanmar. She was a creative, smart and supportive leader, bringing calm and compassion to every challenge she faced.

Their loss is profoundly felt by all of us, and we will treasure the times we shared and the invaluable insights they offered. Our hearts go out to their families during this difficult time. As we mourn their loss, we also celebrate their lives and the lasting impact they had on everyone they met. May they rest in peace.

## ICVA Publications this Month



**ICVA - NGO Perspectives on Pooled Funds.** [This report](#) analyses survey responses from INGOs, NNGOs, local NGOs, and community-based organisations, shedding light on their varied experiences and perspectives with pooled funding. The survey aimed to capture a more nuanced and disaggregated view of how different types of NGOs experience pooled funding, in its broad articulation.

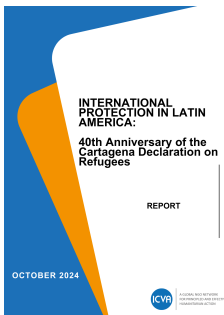


**A Humanitarian Localisation Baseline for Ukraine - Progress Report 2024.** This [report](#) outlines the findings from the second phase of a localisation assessment initiative in Ukraine. It evaluates progress in localisation against the [2023 Humanitarian Localisation Baseline for Ukraine](#).



**Humanitarian Takeaways.** The [December issue](#) is out focusing on principles, politics, and politicisation of aid: what humanitarian responses are appropriate in highly political contexts like Myanmar, Gaza, or Ukraine, how humanitarians should address the climate crisis, and whether expecting neutrality from local actors is unreasonable.

**Localisation in Humanitarian Leadership.** The [study](#) evaluates the quality of engagement and enabling factors for increased local/national NGO participation in IASC structures – beyond numbers.



**International Protection in Latin America - 40th Anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees.** A [report](#) analysing the protection context in Latin America and the Caribbean. The report will be launched during the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Declaration and will contribute to the upcoming Chile Declaration and Action Plan 2024-2034. The Cartagena +40 Declaration and Plan of Action is set for adoption on 11-12 December in Santiago, Chile.

## Upcoming ICVA Publications

ICVA is leading on the following research and guidance. We invite members and partners to share related work and collaborate on events and dissemination. Please contact the research leads.

### Humanitarian Financing:

Pooled Funds and Risk Sharing: A deep dive into the best practices in fiduciary and operational risk management among pooled funds, their prime recipients and sub-recipients. Lead: [Elise Baudot](#).

### Climate Action:

Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) 2024: Key Areas of Action Around Extreme Heat in Asia Pacific: This issue will draw articles on extreme climate events in Asia Pacific. Lead: [Asma Saleem](#).

## We are Hiring

ICVA is hiring:

- [NGO Forum Coordinator](#) for the Network for Iraq Organisations for Coordination and Cooperation. Apply by 14 December 2024.



## Meet our new Colleague

We are excited to welcome Sahr Nouwah as Localisation Projects Officer for West and Central Africa to the team. Sahr has worked with Humanity & Inclusion in Iraq, Save the Children International in Papua New Guinea, and Welthungerhilfe in Liberia. He has extensive experience in localisation.

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## 3. Forced Migration

### **NGO Briefing on the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) (11 November)**

ICVA's Jamie Munn and UNHCR's Director of the Division of External Relations, Dominique Hyde opened the recent NGO briefing on the Refugee Coordination Model. The event presented UNHCR's [updated Refugee Coordination Model](#), which seeks to ensure an accountable, inclusive, predictable and transparent coordination in responding to refugee situations.

In 2024, the RCM model was updated to:

- Include a [New Refugee Emergency Response Scale-up Protocol](#)
- Strike a better balance between predictability and flexibility
- Encourage thinking about solutions from the start, including investing in sustainable responses and strengthening the humanitarian-development-peace nexus
- Embrace more stakeholders, especially local ones

During the consultations, NGOs emphasised the importance of engaging local and refugee-led organisations in decision making and coordination structures, as well as supporting them in accessing funding.

Explore the dedicated [RCM website](#), which offers [tools and resources](#) for practitioners.

### **Joint ICVA-Interaction Consultation with Office of the UN Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement (OSA) (25 November)**

ICVA and InterAction organised the final quarterly meeting with the Office of the UN Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement and NGOs. The mandate of the current Special Adviser, Robert Piper, concludes at the end of 2024. The discussions centred on opportunities to ensure continued meaningful engagement with international and national

NGOs in the future architecture that is taking shape.

## **Finding Balance in Regular Migration Pathways Solutions: Driving Sustainable Development and Green Transitions (25 November) – Geneva**

ICVA's Mirela Shuteriqi attended the second session of [IOM - UN Migration's International Dialogue on Migration 2024](#). The event emphasised the importance of investing in regular migration pathways. With human mobility expected to rise, such investments can save lives, promote dignity, and enhance security.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration also recognise that safe, regular migration creates great opportunities for migrants and for the communities they live in. During the event, many stakeholders, including States, shared good practices for promoting regular migration pathways and emphasised the vital role of civil society.

- For more information, please contact [davina.said@icvanetwork.org](mailto:davina.said@icvanetwork.org) and [issie.basile@icvanetwork.org](mailto:issie.basile@icvanetwork.org)

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## **4. Financing**

### **Risk Management, Counterterrorism Measures and Sanctions**

#### **Have your say: ICVA's Risk-Sharing Survey**

In effective partnerships, risk management and risk sharing are essential. This is particularly true in complex humanitarian settings. ICVA is seeking input from NGOs on their perceptions, challenges, and best practices in risk sharing. The findings will be presented at a workshop in Bangkok this December, with a report to follow in early 2025.

NGO Fora leads are encouraged to share the survey with their members, particularly local and national NGOs. All survey responses will remain anonymised. Take the [survey](#).

#### **Meeting of the Informal Task Force of IASC Partners on Sanctions and COTER**

Members of the former IASC Task Force 3 met to discuss updates on sanctions and counter-terrorism measures. OCHA debriefed on its constructive engagements with Sanctions Committees. OCHA is advocating to extend The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2664's applicability to the Resolution 1267 regime. A joint letter with 19 co-signatories was sent to 15 UNSC Ambassadors, urging support for a standing extension ahead of the upcoming vote. The group discussed the finalised paper on aid diversion versus incidental benefits and its potential for future IASC endorsement. Discussions also touched upon inconsistencies in donor clauses on humanitarian exemptions across contexts like Gaza and Lebanon.

#### **Humanitarian Financing Working Group (HFWG) Meeting**

During the November meeting, members expressed strong interest in sub-working groups, particularly on localisation and funding gaps. Feedback on governance and co-chair roles for these groups is expected by early December.

ICVA shared progress updates with members on:

- Our data transparency initiative. This initiative aims to track funding flows to Local and National Non-Governmental Organisations (L/NNGOs) and will include stakeholder interviews.
- Community of Practice (CoP) for Pooled Fund Managers emphasised risk management and advocacy.
- [Preparations for the OCHA Pooled Fund](#) Working Group meeting on 5-6 December were noted, with L/NNGO participation supported by ICVA and the Platform Advisory Group.
- For more information, please contact [elise.baudot@icvanetwork.org](mailto:elise.baudot@icvanetwork.org), [manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org](mailto:manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org) and [vania.gobbo@icvanetwork.org](mailto:vania.gobbo@icvanetwork.org)

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## **5. Coordination**

### **Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals**

#### **IASC Principals Meeting**

Mr Tom Fletcher, Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) and Chair of the IASC, convened his introductory Principals' meeting to exchange perspectives on the vision and priorities of the ERC. NGO Principals from ICVA, InterAction, and the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response outlined their expectations, emphasising the need for collaboration and highlighting that the ERC's role is not limited to the UN but encompasses the wider humanitarian community.

Discussions focused on key operational challenges and opportunities, particularly in Sudan and the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). NGOs urged the ERC to prioritise meetings with NGO fora, especially national and local NGOs, during his visits. Fletcher acknowledged this, emphasising the importance of engaging with NGOs to strengthen partnerships and enhance situational understanding. He also paid tribute to humanitarian staff members from both the UN and NGOs who have lost their lives in 2024.

Amid the current challenging humanitarian landscape, the IASC Principals underscored the need to prevent duplication of efforts, strengthen collaboration with development and peace actors, avoid competition over limited resources, and enhance operational efficiency. The group agreed to increase efforts in collective advocacy to defend humanitarian values and international humanitarian law (IHL), urging stronger measures to protect crisis-affected communities.

NGO Principals appreciated Fletcher's focus on inclusivity, strategic communication, and evidence-based advocacy, recognising this as a pathway to meaningful engagement. However, they emphasised the need for ongoing efforts and stronger partnerships to address geopolitical uncertainty and funding constraints.

#### **Extension of IASC Championship for Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH)**

Cindy McCain, Executive Director of World Food Programme, has extended her role as IASC Champion on PSEAH for an additional year, reaffirming her commitment to

strengthening initiatives, fostering collaboration, and promoting accountability within the humanitarian system.

## Global Humanitarian Overview 2025 (4 December)

The [Global Humanitarian Overview 2025](#) was launched in Geneva, Nairobi and Kuwait. In Geneva, World Vision in close collaboration with other represented NGOs, prepared a joint statement, which was read out by World Vision in Geneva and by CARE in Nairobi. Aligning with the theme of the Geneva launch, 'Upholding International Humanitarian Law in Armed Conflict', the NGO statement highlights the catastrophic effects of IHL violations and includes several calls to donors, governments, and other stakeholders. ICVA supported the sign-on process, with over 100 NGOs signing on [the statement](#).



## Virtual Launch of ICVA's Localisation in Humanitarian Leadership Report (13 November)

ICVA launched our [Localisation in Humanitarian Leadership report](#) in an [online event](#) with NGO leaders, OCHA and USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). This study examines the growing presence of L/NGOs in humanitarian coordination leadership, a commitment outlined in the Grand Bargain. Rather than focusing solely on numbers, the report explores whether this increase leads to effective inclusion and meaningful participation. The report assesses L/NGO engagement in IASC coordination mechanisms across five key countries - Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somalia, Colombia, and Venezuela. It identifies good practices, outlines barriers, and offers recommendations for improving L/NGO inclusion in coordination leadership.





## Join the ICVA-IARAN-CHL Series of Seminars on Shaping the Future of Humanitarian Aid

In 2025, ICVA is proud to host a transformative series of seminars as part of the Future of Aid project led by [Inter-Agency Research and Analysis Network](#) (IARAN) and the Centre for Humanitarian Leadership. These three dynamic sessions will bring together a diverse group of participants to explore the evolving landscape of humanitarianism, focusing on what the future holds for the sector in the next 15 years.

This series is designed to unpack critical shifts and emerging trends, engage in deep discussions on the key drivers of change, and craft scenarios for 2040 that will help us navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead. Whether you're a frontline worker, a strategic decision-maker, or anyone passionate about the future of aid, your insights and participation are essential.

### Seminars Overview:

#### **Seminar One: Futures Thinking - What does humanitarianism look like in the coming 15 years? (28/29 January 2025)**

Dive into the tools of foresight to examine how humanitarian aid is evolving and explore potential future scenarios.

Registration: [EN\(1\)](#), [EN\(2\)](#), [FR](#), [ES](#)

#### **Seminar Two: Going Deeper - Important Drivers of Change (19/20 February 2025)**

Analysis the data from Seminar 1, focusing on the most critical and uncertain drivers shaping the future of humanitarianism.

Registration: [EN\(1\)](#), [EN\(2\)](#), [FR](#), [ES](#)

#### **Seminar 3: Future of Aid Scenarios - possible futures for 2040 (18 March 2025)**

Use a scenario framework to explore detailed futures for 2040 and assess the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Registration: [EN\(1\)](#), [EN\(2\)](#), [FR](#), [ES](#)

These seminars are open to all staff from ICVA member and non-member organisations, and will be delivered in English, Spanish, and French. To ensure accessibility across time zones, we will offer multiple time slots for each session. If you are not able to join online, links to surveys and summaries will be shared after each seminar with all participants.

### Humanitarian Coordination Working Group

During the November Working Group, the renewed 2025 - 2027 strategic priorities for the focus area were presented to the members. Previous discussions on having thematic sub-groups were revived, seeking alignment with the strategic priorities and assessing existing capacity and interest from ICVA and its members. Additionally, some updates on upcoming missions and events were provided.

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

## **Movements in Humanitarian Coordination Leadership**

The South Sudan NGO Forum elected a new Steering Committee on 13 November. In the coming weeks, ICVA will conduct an induction session on good governance for the new Steering Committee members.

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

## **Advocacy and Communications Team (ACT)**

ACT members convened to discuss the complex challenges currently facing humanitarian efforts at both country and capital levels. The meeting discussed the ongoing catastrophic situation in Gaza and related advocacy priorities, the funding landscape and the need for collective advocacy on sufficient quality financing.

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

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## **6. Transforming our Network**

### **Champion Principled Humanitarian Action**

#### **Drone Attacks on Humanitarians and Civilians**

On 2 December, a team of humanitarians were attacked by drones during a civilian evacuation in the Pokrovsk area of Donetsk. The attack occurred, despite the group traveling in a clearly marked humanitarian vehicle. The attacks on civilians and humanitarians must stop. ICVA echoes the calls of our member [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#) to the international community to ensure the protection of humanitarian workers and civilians.

### **Secretary General Recommendations on Protection of Aid Workers and Humanitarian Personnel**

This year has been the deadliest ever for aid workers, with over 280 killed. The Secretary General presented his recommendations to [Security Council resolution 2730 \(2024\)](#) on enhancing the protection of humanitarian. ICVA coordinated member submissions to the draft recommendations.

A blog by ICVA member the Global Interagency Security Forum (GISF) [explains why the resolution matters](#). The session included interventions from [OCHA](#), UNDSS, and Humanitarian Outcomes and can be viewed [here](#).

### **ICVA Coordination Support Mission to Yemen**

ICVA's Jeremy Wellard recently returned from an NGO coordination support visit to Yemen. In collaboration with CCHN, he facilitated an NGO Leadership Dialogue with Country Directors and Executive Directors on principled and collective decision-making. He also supported discussions aimed at strengthening localisation and coordination with Yemeni NGOs, as well as planning future support for 2025 and beyond.

## Global Protection Forum 2024 (4 - 14 November) - Online

The Global Protection Forum 2024 focused on shaping the future of protection with communities at the centre. The event brought together over 4,500 participants from 150 countries during [seven sessions](#) featuring speakers from over 40 organisations.

ICVA's Mirela Shuteriqi moderated a session titled 'A People-Centred Approach to Protection' on 11 November. The session was co-organised by CHS Alliance, HelpAge International, HI, HIAS, the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility, and ICVA addressing critical themes such as participation, accountability, and inclusiveness in protection.

Key panellists included Muwairwa Michael from TPO Uganda, Larysa Baida from the National Assembly of Persons with Disabilities of Ukraine, Danilo Manzano from Diálogo Diverso, Dr Aisha Thawab from Abs Development Organization for woman and child and Andri van Mens representing the Kingdom of the Netherlands. They shared on how they build and implement the various protection interventions together with the people affected, ensuring that the most marginalised are also included. Watch the session [recording](#).



## Address Impacts of Climate Change on Humanitarian Action

### COP 29 (11 – 22 November) - Azerbaijan

The [29th Conference of Parties](#) (COP29) was held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Nimo Hassan ICVA Board Chair and Director of the [Somali NGO Consortium](#), and Azmat Khan CEO of [Foundation for Rural Development](#) attended COP 29 contributing their expertise and perspectives on critical humanitarian issues. Nimo opened the panel on 'Towards the First Annual High-Level Dialogue on Loss & Damage,' highlighting



stark inequalities faced by communities like those in Somalia, burdened by climate change and conflict.



Azmat contributed to a panel on 'Financial Innovations in National Systems,' recommending securing funding for loss and damage, simplifying bureaucratic processes, and ensuring local actors and civil societies have decision-making authority.

Discussions also focused on building community resilience against the hunger-climate-conflict nexus. Nimo joined a session spotlighting the operational challenges faced by national NGOs, such as supply chain disruptions and violence, while delivering nutrition services under worsening climate conditions. Another key panel, 'Strengthening Climate Action in Countries Affected by Armed Conflict,' explored combining climate adaptation with conflict resolution. Nimo advocated for meaningful local participation, alignment of state policies with commitments, and scaling solutions in food systems, health, and livelihoods.



## Be Diverse, Inclusive and Live our Values

### Child Rights

#### 2024 Geneva Declaration on the Rights of the Child

Many of ICVA members engaged in the promotion of children's rights were instrumental in advocating for and supporting the drafting of the 2024 Geneva Declaration on the Rights of the Child. This important initiative, which ICVA has endorsed, seeks to strengthen global efforts to protect and promote the rights of children.

Learn more and sign up to the [2024 Geneva Declaration](#) on the Rights of the Child.

## Safeguarding

### Think Piece: Sustainable and Effective Resourcing for Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse, and Sexual Harassment (PSEAH)

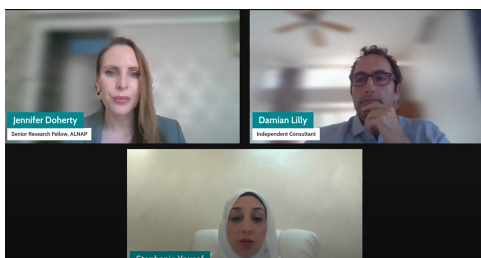
The Common Approach to Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse, and Sexual Harassment [paper](#) examines the current resourcing framework for PSEAH and proposes a structured investment approach at global, national, and organisational levels. The paper highlights that funding alone is insufficient; it underscores the importance of achieving efficiencies, ensuring transparency, fostering collaboration, and building stronger links between efforts to prevent sexual exploitation, abuse, harassment, gender-based violence, and promote gender equality. The paper calls for proactive leadership to drive accountability and cultural change within organisations and systems. You are invited to provide feedback on the paper by the end of February 2025. Feedback will be used to inform further thinking and recommendations.

ICVA serves as a Steering Committee member for this initiative.

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

## Proactively Engage in Agile Collaborative Partnerships

### Working Across the HDP Nexus: How Do we Move Beyond Process to Real Impact? (26 November)



ICVA's Stephanie Yousef participated as a panellist in this [webinar](#) organised by ALNAP to explore solutions for advancing HDP nexus approaches that bring more tangible benefits to communities worldwide. The webinar featured a discussion with the authors of a new [IASC publication](#), which maps good practices in implementing HDP approaches globally. ICVA, actively involved in the IASC Task Force 4, contributed to the completion of this key publication.

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

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## [7. Region Specific](#)

### Africa

#### East and Southern Africa

## Snapshot of the Region

The humanitarian crisis across Southern Africa and the East and Horn of Africa continues to escalate, with millions affected by worsening conditions. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) and UNOCHA have called for [urgent assistance](#) to tackle the severe impacts of what is described as the worst drought ever recorded in the region. Over 26 million people in Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe are facing acute food insecurity, according to the [World Food Programme](#). Beyond food shortages, outbreaks of cholera and MPox, inflation, and water scarcity are compounding vulnerabilities. SADC has declared a regional emergency, launched a humanitarian appeal, and emphasised the need for coordinated action at all levels.

In East and Horn of Africa, the safety and security for humanitarian workers and civilians is a growing concern for ICVA members particularly in South Sudan and Sudan. Sudan faces a dire situation with increased use of explosive weapons amid ongoing conflict, leading the 70-member INGO Forum to release a [statement in November 2024](#) urging conflicting parties to adhere to international humanitarian law and prioritise civilian safety. Meanwhile, South Sudan is grappling with heightened tensions due to the [rescheduling](#) of the December 2024 elections and incidents of [heavy gunfire](#), notably in Juba. Funding challenges, especially for local and national NGOs, remain a pressing concern across these regions. ICVA members emphasise the importance of empowering local responders, advancing localisation efforts, and diversifying funding sources, including partnerships with the private sector and diaspora communities, to sustain and scale humanitarian responses effectively.



### 12th African Union (AU) Annual Humanitarian Symposium (18 - 22 November) - Nairobi

ICVA Network and members participated in the symposium. ICVA contributed to discussions during the one-day forum on the Sudan crisis on 18 November. AU Member States and humanitarian actors have described the Sudan crisis as the 'most brutal on the Continent.' They have pledged to amplify the crisis in the media to ensure it gains the necessary attention from the international community. The AU has also committed to deploying a team of

humanitarian observers to monitor the crisis.

During the Symposium, ICVA also organised and facilitated a session on 'Childhood cannot Wait: The Impact of dwindling resources and a case for more predictable financing towards child-responsive humanitarian action.' In the session, ICVA member, African Humanitarian Action, and key regional partners including OCHA, WFP, UNHCR and ECHO discussed strategies to address the various challenges children face across the region.

### **Forum on Non-Traditional Stakeholders by IAWG (27 November)**

ICVA's Addis Tesfa participated in the Forum, highlighting the importance of collective action to engage with influential actors in the humanitarian landscape, including those who may not be the primary focus of the engagement strategy. ICVA stressed that such engagement should begin with trust-building and focus on constructive collaboration in policy-making, rather than solely on raising funds.

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### **West and Central Africa**

#### **Snapshot of the Region**

Emerging humanitarian challenges in the Central Sahel, particularly in Niger, include rising political tensions between the authorities and the European Union over the management of humanitarian aid. The government has criticised the EU for funding NGOs to address flooding crises without prior consultation. Key concerns include ongoing visa denials for French citizens and difficulties renewing NGO licences. Advocacy efforts are focused on ensuring a clear delineation between the humanitarian agenda and security objectives within the Lake Chad Basin Commission's Stabilisation programme, with strong lobbying for the inclusion of NGOs in its governance. Strengthening NGO coordination at the regional level remains a priority.



### **Africa Roundtable on Private Sector Solutions to Internal Displacement (28 - 29 November) - Lagos**

ICVA's Adeline Benita participated in the Africa Roundtable on Private Sector Solutions to

Internal Displacement, organised by UNHCR. The roundtable aimed to identify scalable solutions, highlight business opportunities, and discuss strategies to address existing gaps to promote private sector engagement in displacement contexts. ICVA and its members used the opportunity to advocate for sustained attention and momentum, emphasising the need to place internally displaced persons (IDPs) at the core of global action. The discussions underscored the importance of ensuring a protection-centred and inclusive approach.

### **Regional Conference on Humanitarian Crises in Central Africa – Malabo, Equatorial Guinea (30 November - 1 December)**

ICVA's Fatoumata Konate participated in this conference organised by the Economic Commission of Central African States, bringing together leaders, partners, and civil society to address key humanitarian challenges in Central Africa. The event reviewed solutions, shared lessons, and laid the groundwork for a regional policy and humanitarian solidarity fund. ICVA shared insights on localisation and offered recommendations for the regional humanitarian policy under development.

### **Regional Localisation Barometer**

ICVA is continuing the rollout of the Regional Localisation Barometer project across countries in the region, in partnership with the NGO Forums in each participating country. Following pilot phases in Mali and Burkina Faso, along with successful launches in the Lake Chad Basin countries - Niger, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Chad - the project is now set to be launched in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic in the coming weeks.

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

## **Asia and the Pacific**

### **Snapshot of the Region**

The inability of global leaders to reach a consensus on the urgent actions needed to address the climate crisis, including at COP29, is having devastating consequences for humanity. In the Philippines alone, over 13 million people have been grappling with the impacts of [six consecutive tropical cyclones](#) throughout November.

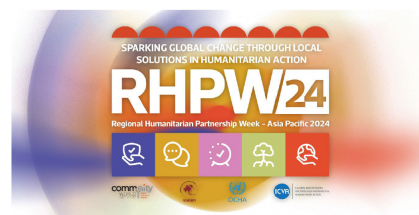
Asia and the Pacific are particularly vulnerable to cyclones, with recurring storms causing widespread disruption and testing the resilience of local communities. While many countries have developed significant expertise in managing seasonal weather events, the increasing frequency and intensity of these disasters are overwhelming the coping capacities of governments, communities, and ICVA members alike.

### **2024 Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week - Asia Pacific (10 - 12 December) Bangkok**

The [Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week](#), co-organised by ICVA, Asian Disaster Reduction and Response



Network (ADRRN), Community World Service Asia, and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), will bring together approximately [400 practitioners](#) from civil society organisations, academia, the United Nations, and donors. Centred on the theme Sparking Global Change through Local Solutions in Humanitarian Action, this in-person event offers an opportunity for participants to exchange knowledge and explore localised solutions to global challenges.



### 2024 Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week

10 - 12 December 2024

Agenda and Programme

Location:

Rembrandt Hotel Bangkok

19 Sukhumvit Soi 18, Khwaeng Khlong Toei, Khlong Toei, Bangkok  
10110, Thailand.

Grand Ballroom A, Grand Ballroom B, Michelangelo

Theme: Sparking Global Change through Local Solutions in Humanitarian Action

Key discussions will focus on equitable partnerships, climate action, capacity building, innovative financing, risk management, the Nexus approach, and strengthening local leadership in humanitarian efforts. Visit [ICVA's website](#) for the agenda, programme, list of participating organisations and logistics details.



### Strengthening Local Humanitarian Leadership: Building Resilience and Partnerships for a Locally-Led Future in Pasifika (18 - 23 November)

ICVA's Keya Saha-Chaudhury attended the Annual General Meeting of the Pacific Islands Humanitarian FALEs (Facility Aiding Locally-Led Engagement) in Papua New Guinea (PNG). This initiative by [PIANGO](#) and its members is to support localised humanitarian platforms which can respond to the needs of the communities in the first instance. Six islands now have FALEs, including Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Fiji, and Samoa. Discussions are also underway to explore potential opportunities in Papua New Guinea. ICVA alongside members such as Airlink and Partners, shared insights into how FALE's can work with various elements of the humanitarian systems to develop their focus and approach.

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## Latin America

### Snapshot of the Region

With the upcoming change in administration in the United States, organisations providing humanitarian assistance in Latin America are preparing to tackle potential challenges. If mass deportations occur, the region is likely to see an increased demand for services to support returnees, address the needs of displaced populations, and manage existing protection concerns.

In response to this, ICVA's members and partners have developed a series of contingency plans to confront the anticipated challenges arising from funding cuts and migration restrictions. These plans aim to adapt to the evolving operational landscape while ensuring continued support for vulnerable populations. Key strategies include enhancing presence in border areas, strengthening partnerships with local actors, implementing targeted responses in high-stress areas, and reinforcing migration programmes.

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## MENA

### Snapshot of the Region

The context in the MENA region continues to rapidly evolve. After nearly 14 years of war in Syria, the fall of the regime represents a profound historic moment. Many Syrians have expressed joy and hope for a better future. However significant uncertainties remain. NGOs are adapting to this rapidly changing environment, while maintaining their operations and coordinating effectively with each other and other stakeholders. ICVA is supporting NGO networks efforts and complementing their actions. Also, given our membership in the IASC Principals and EDG, ICVA will continue to amplify NGO priorities and raise their concerns.

In Lebanon, a ceasefire has been brokered. Meanwhile, the protracted conflict in Gaza continues to cause profound suffering, with the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) declaring that '[famine is imminent](#).' Members have identified several key priorities, including securing adequate funding, strengthening advocacy efforts, and ensuring the localisation of humanitarian responses to bolster community resilience. Regional working groups remain vital, such as the Preparedness Group, the Regional Access and Civil-Military Coordination Working Group, and the Regional Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group.

A Regional Emergency Directors Group (EDG) mission joined by ICVA members including Norwegian Refugee Council and World Vision took place in December. This mission aimed to provide further insights and support for coordinated responses in the region.

**NGO Forum Support in Lebanon:** ICVA's Albert-Philip Burger d'Haem is providing remote support to the Lebanon INGO Forum until the end of 2024. His role includes supporting the host transition process, engaging with and leveraging the humanitarian coordination system, as well as linking country-level issues with the Emergency Directors Group and the

regional level.

## **TADAMON Development Forum 2024**

ICVA's Stephanie Yousef participated in a session on the 'Tripartite Approach (Nexus) – and its role in mobilising funding by designing interventions that align with donor priorities to transition from relief to development and peacebuilding,' at the Tadamon Development Forum 2024 for Yemen.

The session examined the challenges and opportunities of this transition, focusing on how to build strong partnerships with donors, INGOs, and peacebuilding actors. It also explored ways to refine work design using the Nexus approach and shared lessons learned from applying this methodology in various contexts.

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## **Learning Opportunities**

**Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Course:** Join this free one hour [course](#), developed jointly by UNFPA, UN WOMEN, UNICEF, UNDP and UNHCR. Gain valuable insights into the impact of sexual exploitation and abuse on individuals and communities and learn practical strategies to combat and prevent these acts. Discover your role in reporting allegations and act towards a safer future.

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## **8. New and Noteworthy**

**Missing Futures: The Urgent Need to Protect Gaza's Children and Safeguard their Futures:** Save The Children International's paper highlights the systematic undermining of Palestinian children's fundamental rights as enshrined in international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The paper calls for immediate international action, unrestricted aid access, respect for international law, and support for accountability mechanisms to address potential war crimes.

**Guidance Note for Donors: Promoting Inclusive and Locally-led action through Humanitarian Pooled Funds:** The Guidance Note aims to inform humanitarian donors in advancing inclusive and locally-led action through pooled funds. It is designed for donors at all levels, including headquarters, regional offices, and embassies, to guide their engagement with funding mechanisms.

**Building a Responsible Humanitarian Approach: The ICRC's Policy on Artificial Intelligence:** The ICRC's artificial intelligence (AI) policy is grounded in its humanitarian mission and Fundamental Principles. It aims to educate staff about AI and safely explore its humanitarian potential.

**Intersectional Approach to LGBTQIAP Refugees - Guidelines for International Agencies Working with Refugees:** Lambda Warszawa toolkit offers clear and practical answers to a wide range of issues, questions, and queries. It also provides a cohesive set of guidelines designed to support your daily work with LGBTQIAP refugees.

**[An Inclusive Future for Ukrainian youth: Challenges, Opportunities, and the Needs of Youth not in Education, Employment, or Training](#)**: UNICEF and UN Women brief highlights the Needs of Youth not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) from Ukraine, addressing the specific challenges faced by displaced girls and boys both within the country and in neighbouring nations. It considers factors such as gender, disability, and minority status that heighten vulnerabilities, and provides practical recommendations to support the integration of Ukrainian NEET youth into services and programmes as part of the regional response to the war.

**[Discover the Equalities Resource Hub](#)**: Funded by UK International Development, the Hub is a platform that brings together the best tools, research, and evidence to advance gender and equalities around the world. Designed for decision-makers, practitioners, researchers, and anyone interested in advancing equality, it curates high-quality resources across different themes, populations, and contexts. Explore the Hub and subscribe to the newsletter for resources, events, and expert blogs: [equalitieshub.org](https://equalitieshub.org).

**[Centre for Humanitarian Leadership's 2025 Humanitarian Leadership Conference: Transformative leadership in times of Polycrisis](#)**: Submissions to present at the 2025 Humanitarian Leadership Conference are now open. Submit by 11 December.

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## **Mark your Agenda: Upcoming Events**

**December 10:** [Human Rights Day](#)

**December 10:** [ICVA Members' Day for Asia Pacific](#)

**December 10:** [Conference on the 15th Anniversary of the Kampala Declaration](#)

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

**December 11:** [Launch Event Invitation: Norwegian Refugee Council's Toolkit for Principled Humanitarian Action: Managing Counterterrorism and Sanctions Risks](#)

**December 11 - 12:** [Presentation of the Action Plan Chile \(Cartagena Declaration\)](#)

**December 12:** [Preparing for and Navigating Difficult Conversations Around Protection](#)

**December 12 - 13:** [2024 Global Humanitarian Policy Forum](#)

**December 13:** [Accelerating Gender Equality in Developing Countries](#), Geneva

**December 13 - 14:** [Strengthening Humanitarian Partnerships Through Effective Risk-Sharing](#)

**December 14:** [Global Risk-Sharing Workshop](#)

**December 16 (TBC):** [Discussion with Ms. Denise Brown and OCHA-HLSS on supporting women leaders in complex humanitarian settings](#)

**December 16:** [UNHCR / NGO dialogue: Refugee Employment Platform – facilitating job matching, coordination and data around refugee hiring](#)

**December 16:** [UNHCR / ICVA members consultation on the UNHCR evaluations \(theme and strategic direction\) for 2026](#)

**December 18:** [International Migrants Day](#)

**December 18:** Side event of the Global Conference on Justice for Children Deprived of Liberty entitled '[Global Perspectives on Ending Child Immigration Detention](#)'

**December 18:** [Ad-hoc Forced Migration Working Group Meeting](#)

### **2025**

**January 20:** [A Discussion on IHL and the challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts](#) (for ICVA Members)

**January - March:** [Consultation Seminars - The Future of Aid 2040 Project: Pathways to Transformation Project](#)

**March 17 - 28:** [Humanitarian Networks Partnership Week](#)

**March 17:** [ICVA 20th General Assembly](#)

**March 24 - 28:** [ICVA National NGO Fora Leadership Exchange \(Geneva\)](#)

**May 19 - 20:** [The 4th European Humanitarian Forum 2025 \(EHF\), Brussels](#)

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