

## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) is a non-profit global association of non-governmental organizations that works to promote human rights and advocate a humanitarian perspective in global debates and responses. ICVA's mission is to support NGOs to protect and assist people in need, to address the causes of their plight, and to act as a channel for translating patterns and trends into advocacy. ICVA's Coordinator is Ed Schenkenberg van Mierop of the Netherlands.

ICVA does not implement relief or development projects itself, but acts as an advocacy network for the more than 80 non-governmental organizations that form its membership. U.S. member agencies include, among others, CARE, Save the Children, World Vision International, and the International Rescue Committee. ICVA exchanges information on humanitarian affairs with its member organizations, partners, and others, through its newsletter "Talk Back," its website, and through meeting reports or updates.

Humanitarian advocacy work undertaken by ICVA on behalf of, and with, its members, focuses particularly on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) – the main international body for humanitarian coordination; the UN and international humanitarian organizations; and governments. ICVA also initiates, is involved in, or provides support to NGO cooperation initiatives. The facilitation of relationships of NGOs with international organizations is another area of ICVA's activities. ICVA is also actively involved in The Sphere Project on minimum standards in disaster response, as well as in the Reach Out Refugee Protection Training Project, which aims to enhance refugee protection awareness, knowledge, and skills.

ICVA member agencies meet in a General Assembly at least once every three years – the last General Assembly took place in Geneva in February 2003. ICVA facilitates NGO input into the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' Executive and Standing Committees and co-hosts the annual Pre-EXCOM Consultations between UNHCR and NGOs.

### INTERNET

*www.icva.ch*

### ADDRESS

International Council of Voluntary Agencies  
48, chemin du Grand-Montfleury  
CH-1290 Versoix  
Tel: 022.950.9600  
Fax: 022.950.9609  
E-mail: [secretariat@icva.ch](mailto:secretariat@icva.ch)

# ICVA