

ANNUAL REPORT

2022





**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2022

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OVERALL VISION:

A collective voice of European NGOs promoting principled and people-centred humanitarian aid.



MISSION (Art 4 VOICE Statutes)

VOICE's aim is to improve the general quality and effectiveness of humanitarian aid notably that of the European Union and its Member States as well as of the wider humanitarian community. The network also promotes the added value of NGOs given their key role as humanitarian deliverers and as an expression of EU public solidarity.



STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES 2019-2023

1. Shape EU policies and practices affecting the delivery of principled humanitarian assistance worldwide, building on NGOs' operational expertise
2. Build on effective partnerships to advocate for predictable, timely and increased resourcing at EU level for quality and accountable humanitarian aid
3. Promote an enabling environment in which European NGOs are able to advocate for and deliver effective humanitarian aid
4. Enhance the effectiveness and recognition of VOICE as the main NGO interlocutor on EU humanitarian aid.



In 2022, VOICE turned 30 and we celebrated our work as a collective voice of European NGOs promoting principled and people-centered humanitarian aid worldwide. Since 1992, VOICE has grown from 7 to 87 members and has celebrated many successes in its work to promote principled humanitarian aid and partnership between NGOs and EU institutions.



Every year, conflicts, climate change and other risk factors place additional stress on a global situation that currently sees 69 countries around the world facing crises that require humanitarian action ([GHO 2023](#)). Many of these crises are becoming more and more protracted and are far too often neglected. It is vital to collectively find solutions to support 347.7 million people in need worldwide ([GHO 2023](#)).

While 2022 was marked by the conflict in Ukraine, with its devastating humanitarian impact and the intensification of a broader food insecurity crisis, 2023 started with devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria. These caused significant destruction on both sides of the border, claiming thousands of lives and adding to the already protracted humanitarian crisis in Syria.

The second edition of the European Humanitarian Forum in March 2023 was an important moment to reflect on the most pressing humanitarian needs and on the key priorities we need to discuss in order to address them. These priorities include the increasing funding gap, the importance of quality funding and principled humanitarian aid and respect for International Humanitarian Law.

VOICE and our NGO members stand ready to collaborate with the EU, Member States and the affected communities to find a way of working together to meet the record level of needs while respecting the humanitarian principles. The diversity and complementarity of international, national and local NGOs ensure the provision of a wide variety of life-saving support, enabling unique access to communities affected by crises.

VOICE has advocated throughout 2022 to remind EU stakeholders of the importance of humanitarian principles. The network has called on the EU and Member States to stand by their commitments to principled humanitarian aid and to replicate the speed and scale of funding provided to Ukraine for all humanitarian crises worldwide.

We have maintained a high level of collaboration with the EU institutions, namely the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), the European Parliament and the Presidency of the Council, which was held by France and the Czech Republic in 2022. This engagement makes sure our combined voices are being heard and we will continue to make sure this is the case during the Swedish and Spanish presidencies in 2023.

Together, we have mobilised our joint advocacy efforts to increase the EU's Humanitarian Budget for 2023 and to enhance quality funding in line with the Grand Bargain 2.0 commitments in order to deliver efficient and effective aid to communities in need.

We have gathered and widely disseminated VOICE members' activities and expertise on climate resilience and nexus approaches by calling for additional funding for anticipatory actions to enable communities to become more resilient to the effects of climate change and for a concrete operationalisation of nexus programmes in line with humanitarian principles.

Looking ahead to 2023, these key topics are still high on our agenda and we look forward to working together with our members and partners to improve the quality and effectiveness of principled humanitarian aid.

Maria Groenewald
VOICE Director

April 2023

VOICE FACTS AND FIGURES 2022

- 87** members in 19 EU countries
- 1.275** people participated in VOICE activities
- 19** Working Group and Task Force meetings
- 5** VOICE public events
- 38** VOICE members' meetings

FOR MEMBERS:

12 Flash newsletters

A dedicated area of the website with exclusive advocacy news and briefings

FOR EVERYONE:

2 VOICE at work newsletters

LinkedIn and Twitter accounts with the latest humanitarian updates

VOICE Members' Meeting with DG ECHO's Director E (General Affairs) Bernadette Frederick

VOICE Members' Meeting with DG ECHO's Deputy Director General Mr. Köhler

VOICE country exchanges on Syria, Ukraine, Sudan and Lebanon and a policy exchange on IHL and attacks on healthcare facilities.

Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis: VOICE Members' response- A dedicated page with news and statements from members delivering humanitarian aid in Ukraine

COP27: wins and losses from VOICE members' perspective - A dedicated page with members' reflections and statements regarding the COP27.

VOICE PUBLICATIONS:

VOICE statement ahead of the European Humanitarian Forum 2022

VOICE Reflections on the European Humanitarian Forum 2022

VOICE out loud 33: Enabling principled humanitarian aid

VOICE out loud 34 - Fighting against hunger: a humanitarian lens

VOICE Policy Resolution 2022 - An urgent call to protect principled humanitarian aid

VOICE key highlights: VOICE - FoRS roundtable in Prague "New humanitarian trends and challenges in delivering humanitarian aid in light of the conflict in Ukraine"

VOICE key highlights - Funding Imbalances: How uneven prioritisation and insufficient funding affect humanitarian aid

VOICE key highlights - Humanitarian principles under threat? The Brussels launch of the SOHS ALNAP report



VOICE

European humanitarian NGOs.
Standing together.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

COHAFA
Council working party on Humanitarian
Aid and Food Aid

COP
Conference of the Parties

CSO(s)
Civil Society Organisation(s)

DEVE Committee
Committee on Development

DG
Directorate-General

EC
European Commission

ECHO
European Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid Operations

EHF
European Humanitarian Forum

EHRC
European Humanitarian Response
Capacity

EP
European Parliament

EU
European Union

FISMA
Financial Stability, Financial Services
and Capital Markets Union

GB
Grand Bargain

GHO
Global Humanitarian Overview

HDP
Humanitarian-development-peace

HIP(s)
Humanitarian Implementation Plan(s)

HP
Humanitarian Partnership

ICRC
International Committee of the Red
Cross

ICVA
International Council of Voluntary
Agencies

IHL
International Humanitarian Law

INGO(s)
International non-governmental
organization(s)

INTPA
International Partnerships

MEP
Member of the European Parliament

MS
Member State

NGO(s)
Non-governmental organization(s)

PP
Programmatic Partnership

SEAH
Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and
Harassment

SEAR
Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve

UN
United Nations

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1

An NGO
perspective
on the first
European
Humanitarian
Forum



Dominic Crowley, VOICE President, at the European Humanitarian Forum

The first European Humanitarian Forum (EHF) took place on 21-23 March 2022. The three-day event, organised by the European Commission and the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU), aimed to find common solutions to humanitarian challenges and to provide a platform for discussions between the EU, its Member States (MS) and the wider humanitarian community.

VOICE worked intensively to influence the Forum, positioning itself as a key interlocutor in the preparation for the event and ensuring that non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were given appropriate space to raise their concerns during the event.

AHEAD OF THE FIRST EUROPEAN HUMANITARIAN FORUM

In the run up to the event, the network launched the “[VOICE Statement ahead of the European Humanitarian Forum](#)” calling on the EU and MS to use the Forum as an opportunity to address the challenges of increasing humanitarian needs, to identify solutions to preserve humanitarian space, to ensure the delivery of principled humanitarian aid, and to replicate the speed and scale of funding provided to Ukraine for all humanitarian crises worldwide.



VOICE Statement ahead of the European Humanitarian Forum 2022



Banner European Humanitarian Forum 2022

Together with Charter4Change, VOICE held an online pre-event to identify recommendations on localisation for the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and European MS ahead of the High-level panel “Boosting the localisation agenda towards inclusive humanitarian action” organised on 22 March as part of the Forum. The pre-meeting was an opportunity to discuss the key elements identified by DG ECHO as driving the early development of its localisation guidance.

To exchange views on the opportunities offered by the EHF, the VOICE Secretariat and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) organised the event “Connecting the Dots” together with War Child Holland, including Annelies Claessens, Director International Programmes and VOICE Board member. During the event, Dutch NGOs, VOICE, ICVA, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and DG ECHO, as well as other stakeholders, discussed how the Forum could ensure principled intervention, boost effectiveness and efficiency, and leverage innovation within the humanitarian sector.

VOICE PRESENCE DURING THE FORUM

During the event, the VOICE network, the Secretariat and the Board of directors successfully shared the network’s perspectives at many high-level panels and humanitarian talks. In particular:

VOICE President **Dominic Crowley** was one of the panellists at the [kick-off](#) session. He had the opportunity to stress the need to scale up climate finance, stating that climate change is a threat multiplier and it increases humanitarian needs.

Vincent Stehli, VOICE Board member and Action Against Hunger Spain’s Director of Operations, was a panellist at the high-level session on [Hunger & Conflict](#). The panel was strongly recommended and shaped by VOICE members. During the session, Vincent advocated for the need to do more work on prevention to avoid famine and the need to reinforce the dialogue between all the different actors working on this issue in a nexus approach.

Maria Groenewald, VOICE Director, intervened at the panel [“Humanitarian Impact of Climate Change”](#) where she stressed the points highlighted in the VOICE Position Paper, [“The humanitarian NGOs’ perspective on climate resilience”](#). This included the NGOs’ key role and long-standing experience in supporting people in need to enhance climate resilience in fragile and conflict-affected contexts and the importance of investing in anticipatory actions and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

Silvia Sinibaldi, VOICE Board member and Caritas EU Humanitarian Director, who participated in the panel [“Climate Change, Disasters & Displacement”](#), stated that a comprehensive approach towards disaster displacement was needed and a durable solution to displacement should be ensured.

Vincent Stehli also intervened at the panel [“The Imperative of Nexus to fight famine”](#) where he raised the importance of putting affected communities at the centre of a nexus approach and explained the different mandates of the actors involved in the nexus approach.

Annelies Claessens, VOICE Board member and War Child Holland Director of International Programmes, presented an innovative solution for Education in Emergencies during the High-level panel [“Education in Emergencies: Stepping up international engagement”](#).

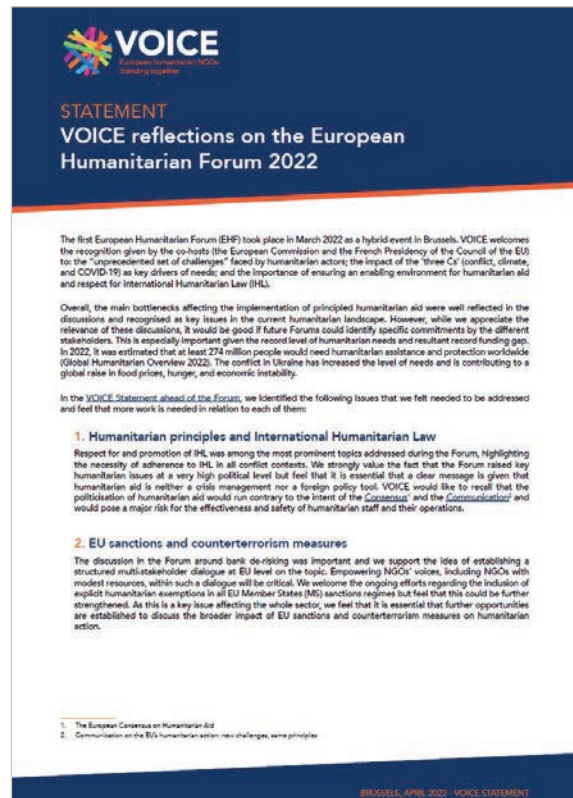
On 23 March, VOICE members and other DG ECHO partners had the opportunity to meet with the Director General of DG ECHO, **Paraskevi Michou**. The Question & Answer session was a chance to raise important questions for partners, including about the future of the DG ECHO Partners’ Conference, the funding package for Ukraine and the next steps after the Forum.

OUTCOME OF THE FORUM

The EHF provided a significant platform for important discussions between EU MS and the humanitarian community. The importance of respecting International Humanitarian Law (IHL), the acknowledgement of the massive funding gap, the need for further investment to prevent climate disasters and to strengthen local capacity were among the key takeaways from the 2022 Forum. This was summarised in the [“Co-Hosts Statement by the European Commission and the French Presidency of the Council of the EU”](#).

However, the format of the event, the lack of concrete outcomes and the importance of having a dedicated Partners’ Conference between DG ECHO and its partners remained issues of concern. Over the month following the first EHF, the VOICE Secretariat engaged in a reflection process with members to both draw lessons from the event, as well as to start preparing for the 2023 edition.

These exchanges led to the publication of the statement [“VOICE reflections on the European Humanitarian Forum 2022”](#), in which the network welcomed the event as a great starting point to accelerate policy discussions at the EU level about humanitarian aid, while calling on future Forums to complement such discussions with specifically agreed outcomes.



VOICE reflections on the European Humanitarian Forum 2022

TOWARDS THE SECOND EDITION OF THE FORUM

In the second half of 2022, the VOICE Secretariat together with three Board members representing the network (Michael Mosselmans from Christian Aid, Silvia Sinibaldi from Caritas Europe, and Vincent Stehli from ACF Spain) were involved in the “EHF Partners’ Task Force” set up by DG ECHO, to support the preparations of the second EHF edition, in March 2023. The Task Force, also composed of representatives from the United Nations (UN), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), aimed to support the DG and the Swedish Presidency of the Council in shaping the Forum’s agenda as well as fostering better information sharing.

To encourage collective reflection, the Secretariat launched an online survey of NGO partners that fed into discussions between DG ECHO and the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU around the Forum’s agenda.

Strengthening VOICE's presence and connections at the margins of the forum



VOICE President and Director met with MEP Barry Andrews at the margins of the EHF 2022.

The 2022 Forum was an opportunity to reinforce VOICE's connections with key EU stakeholders.

VOICE's President and Director were both able to meet with members of the European Parliament (EP). They exchanged with the **Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Mónica Silvana González**, then Standing Rapporteur for Humanitarian Aid, about mutual priorities on principled humanitarian aid and topics like nexus and child protection. Another meeting was held with **MEP Barry Andrews** about the importance of humanitarian principles, including in Ukraine, and the key role of humanitarian NGOs and their national and local partners to deliver principled humanitarian aid.

At the margins of the EHF 2022, VOICE Director Maria Groenewald participated in a meeting hosted by the German Mission in Brussels with the Grand Bargain (GB) Eminent Person and Norwegian Refugee Council Secretary General Jan Egeland and DG ECHO to discuss the developments and achievements of GB 2.0 and its important commitments on quality funding and localisation.

Linked to the Forum was the participation of Maria Groenewald at the "**Forum Espace Humanitaire**" in Annecy, France, at the end of April. Maria was invited to speak on two panels: one about the first EHF and the second one about the humanitarian funding system and its state of play. The event was an opportunity to discuss relevant and timely topics with a variety of humanitarian actors, including the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the ICRC. Topics included the humanitarian crises in Ukraine and Afghanistan, funding and its diversification, and the respect for IHL.

At the beginning of May, Maria was also interviewed by Alain Boinet on **Défis Humanitaires**, a French website dedicated to humanitarian issues, regarding the EHF 2022. In the interview, she also explores key topics for the network such as: IHL, localisation, broadening the donor base and climate change.



2

Championing
the importance
of humanitarian
principles
and promoting
the added value
of NGOs
at EU level

ADVOCATING FOR PRINCIPLED HUMANITARIAN AID IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

The conflict in Ukraine had a knock-on impact on humanitarian needs around the world and had huge economic repercussions, especially in terms of food security. Since the outset of the war in Ukraine, the VOICE Secretariat has been monitoring the conflict, the unfolding humanitarian crisis and the humanitarian response by our NGO members.

As always when a crisis happens, humanitarian NGOs have been at the frontline. They rapidly mobilised funding and support to deliver humanitarian aid in Ukraine and in the neighbouring countries in cooperation with many local partners, despite the difficult humanitarian access and IHL violations.

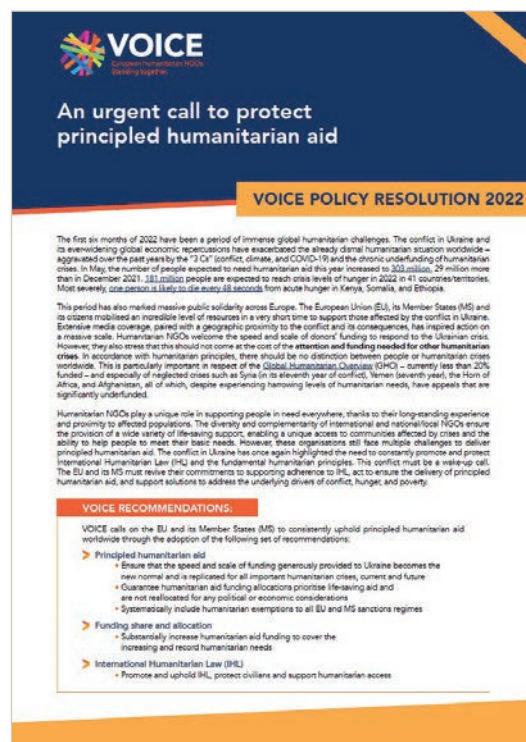
They have been supporting the most vulnerable in the country – delivering food, assisting internally displaced people, protecting women and children on the move and carrying out other vitally needed humanitarian actions.

VOICE gathered a [collection of appeals, statements and news updates](#) from members working in the country and gathered several exchanges with members to identify the challenges affecting the delivery of principled humanitarian aid. VOICE President Dominic Crowley engaged at EU level with key stakeholders to express VOICE members' concerns about the operational challenges faced.

The conflict in Ukraine and its economic repercussions were also at the centre of the discussions held at the roundtable in Prague organised by VOICE and FöRS – the Czech national platform of humanitarian and development civil society organisations (CSOs) in September. The aim was to trigger reflections on the global and regional humanitarian context in the EU and worldwide from the perspective of donors and NGOs, during the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU.

VOICE policy resolution 2022

The constant violation of IHL, the issue of funding and its flexibility and the impacts of the EU sanctions on the humanitarian response were at the heart of the VOICE policy resolution for 2022. Another key issue was the fear that donors' funding to respond to the Ukrainian crisis could come at the cost of the attention and funding needed for other humanitarian crises. These concerns were further expressed in the VOICE Policy Resolution 2022 "An urgent call to protect principled humanitarian aid". The network urged EU decision-makers to: revive their commitments to supporting adherence to IHL; act to ensure the delivery of principled humanitarian aid; and support solutions to address the underlying drivers of conflict, hunger and poverty.



VOICE Policy Resolution 2022 'An urgent call to protect principled humanitarian aid'

MAINTAINING A KEY DIALOGUE WITH DG ECHO

In 2022, VOICE continued to consolidate its fruitful and constructive relationships with the management of DG ECHO and to engage with the Director-General of DG ECHO, **Paraskevi Michou**.

As mentioned above, during the EHF in 2022, VOICE participated in the Question & Answer session with Paraskevi Michou and DG ECHO partners; in June, **Bernadette Frederick**, DG ECHO Director E (General Affairs) participated in the network's General Assembly to exchange views on several key topics relevant to the network's members. The partnership between NGOs and DG ECHO, the increasing level of humanitarian needs and the importance of humanitarian principles were among the topics raised.

Later in the year, members also had the opportunity to meet with the (then) Acting Director General of DG ECHO **Michael Köhler** and several other colleagues to exchange on the DG's strategic vision on key humanitarian issues such as the nexus approach, the funding gap and the need to address the global climate and food crisis scaling up anticipatory action.

On the same day, DG ECHO invited all their partners to a presentation of the 2023 Humanitarian Implementation Plans (HIPs).

Some new features that had been introduced that year were further disclosed, such as the **European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC)**, consisting of a set of operational tools created to fill gaps in humanitarian responses.

ENGAGING WITH THE ROTATING PRESIDENCIES OF THE COUNCIL

January 2022 marked the beginning of a new Presidency Trio at the Council of the EU, composed of France, the Czech Republic and Sweden.

The three countries laid out their priorities for humanitarian aid in [their joint work programme for COHAFA](#), the Council's working group on humanitarian aid and food aid. Five areas were given specific interest:

- Promotion of international humanitarian law (IHL)

- Gender-based approach
- Humanitarian/development/peace nexus
- Strengthening the environmental and climate dimension of the humanitarian response
- Operationalisation of humanitarian aid.

France held the presidency until 30 June 2022, and put forward three policy areas at COHAFA meetings: the promotion of IHL, humanitarian access and the protection of humanitarian staff, as well as a better integration of the effects of climate change within humanitarian responses, with specific attention to climate-induced displacement.

As Member States are key in the EU decision-making process, the Secretariat worked in close cooperation with its members and the French NGO network Coordination Sud to ensure that VOICE's priorities were put forward at the Council level during the Presidency.



Logo of the French Presidency of the Council of the EU

During the Czech Presidency, VOICE and the Czech national platform FoRS jointly organised a roundtable in Prague on 8 September entitled "New humanitarian trends and challenges in delivering humanitarian aid in light of the conflict in Ukraine".

The one-day event aimed to foster reflections on the global and regional humanitarian context in the EU and worldwide from the perspective of donors and NGOs and saw the participation of high-level experts, including representatives from DG ECHO, Ministries of Foreign Affairs from the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Sweden as well as humanitarian aid actors from 15 different European countries. The event generated reflections on how to ensure the delivery of principled humanitarian aid, as well as how to cover the skyrocketing funding gap while the number of people in need worldwide is at an all-time high. The discussions were held in preparation for the EHF in March 2023.

VOICE recommendations included in the [key highlights of the roundtable](#) included:

- IHL needs to be upheld and promoted and the protection of aid workers needs to be ensured
- Investments in Disaster Risk Reduction and Anticipatory Action are key to prevent disasters and further humanitarian suffering
- Humanitarian education is of utmost importance to ensure the principles are not forgotten and are properly understood
- Data on humanitarian funding needs to be provided
- While the nexus approach is confirmed as crucial to addressing crises in a more holistic way, financial tools have not yet been adjusted to make it possible. Decision-makers, including finance ministries and politicians, play a crucial role in addressing the current humanitarian challenges. The EHF could be an opportunity to raise awareness amongst political actors regarding key humanitarian topics, including enlarging the donors' base and tackling the growing funding gap.



VOICE - FoRS roundtable in Prague "New humanitarian trends and challenges in delivering humanitarian aid in light of the conflict in Ukraine"

Thanks to the good working relationship established with the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU during the roundtable in Prague, VOICE Director Maria Groenewald was invited to participate in an in-person COHAFA meeting in October. The aim was to present VOICE's recommendations to the EU MS on addressing the ever-increasing humanitarian funding gap and on enhancing quality funding.



Logo of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU

Looking ahead, VOICE started to engage with the upcoming Swedish and Spanish Presidencies. Several meetings took place in autumn 2022 with the upcoming Swedish Presidency to discuss the EHF 2023, which was jointly organised by the Swedish Presidency and DG ECHO, and to exchange on the humanitarian priorities of the Spanish Presidency and the next trio, composed of Spain, Belgium and Hungary.

BRINGING THE HUMANITARIAN NGOS' PERSPECTIVE TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Promoting the added values of NGOs as key humanitarian actors and bringing VOICE members' expertise forward in the quest for improving the quality and effectiveness of the EU and MS humanitarian aid is also crucial.

VOICE has continued its advocacy work to establish good working relationship with the Standing Rapporteur for humanitarian aid, a key figure in the EP, with a mandate that includes defending humanitarian aid budget interests, monitoring humanitarian aid programmes and maintaining close contacts with the humanitarian aid community.

On 8 March 2022, MEP **Mónica Silvana González** (S&D, Spain) was appointed as the EP's Standing Rapporteur for Humanitarian Aid. She took over from former MEP **Norbert Neuser**, who had recently retired. VOICE met the Standing Rapporteur during the EHF 2022 and on several other occasions. In particular, the network has been involved since the beginning in the brainstorming regarding the [new initiative \(INI\) report](#) on humanitarian aid to reflect on innovative solutions to the current dramatic humanitarian context.

The report, initiated by MEP González, is a follow-up paper to Neuser's [report on new orientations for the EU's humanitarian action](#). While the latter represented the overall EP response to the 2021 [European Commission \(EC\) Communication on humanitarian aid](#), the new report aimed to provide innovative ideas on how to overcome key humanitarian challenges, focusing on forgotten crises and seeking innovative solutions on a few selected topics, such as the humanitarian funding gap and nexus.

VOICE shared some innovative ideas on the above-mentioned topics and its input will be taken into account in the creation of the first draft of the report, which is expected to be finalised in 2023.

THE EUROPEAN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE CAPACITY (EHRC) AND PRINCIPLED HUMANITARIAN AID

The Secretariat closely followed the development of the European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC) – a new mechanism foreseen by the EC Communication on the EU's Humanitarian Action. Designed to complement the EU humanitarian toolbox, the EHRC intends to fill critical gaps in humanitarian responses, mainly through logistical support. The mechanism raised some concerns in the network regarding the possible interferences with the humanitarian actors, the respect of the humanitarian principles and its humanitarian needs-based approach.

The network voiced these concerns with DG ECHO and hosted a DG ECHO information session to better understand the rationale of this new capacity and its functioning. DG ECHO stressed that the core rationale of the EHRC is to support NGO partners wherever relevant and to foster common logistics services without overlapping with any mandate.

The mechanism has been deployed in several countries in 2022 and the network is monitoring its development.



3

Towards a quality
EU humanitarian
partnership

Since 1999, the VOICE Secretariat has been facilitating the Humanitarian Partnership Watch Group (formerly FPA Watch Group). The group brings together a substantial number of DG ECHO partners and plays a key role in representing NGOs' interests. It is the unique DG ECHO-NGO interface for linking operational issues to donor policies and procedures.

Thanks to the Humanitarian Partnership Watch Group, including its Task Force, VOICE has worked throughout the year to defend the interests of all DG ECHO-certified partners, engaging on a variety of topics such as the Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) reporting template, the HIPs process, the Programmatic Partnership approach and the audits.

A RENEWED HUMANITARIAN PARTNERSHIP WATCH GROUP AND TASK FORCE

In 2022, the network started the launch of the Humanitarian Partnership Watch Group reconstitution process. According to the group's Terms of Reference, a renewal process is due to take place every three to four years. The last reconstitution process was carried out, however, in 2016 and the duration of the group was extended due to the transition to the new Humanitarian Partnership. The periodic renewal of the group is important to maintain a sufficient level of representativeness of the wider DG ECHO NGO partners' community and to empower the group in its interaction and exchanges with DG ECHO.

In May 2022, the process was finalised and the [new Watch group's composition was adopted](#). In October, the Watch Group elected its Task Force, a sub-group co-leading the work of the broader constituency with the Secretariat. VOICE would like to thank the former members of the Watch Group and Task Force for their engagement and support.

ADVOCATING FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE PARTNERS' CONFERENCE

Thanks to the intensive advocacy work of VOICE and its members, after three years without a

Partners' Conference, DG ECHO agreed to reinstate the exchange, with the Partners' Segment as one of the two annual key moments that replace the former Conference, in addition to a strategic exchange in the autumn.

Providing an exclusive space to DG ECHO and its partners, the Partners' conference aims to foster operational and technical discussions to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the EU Humanitarian Partnership, to ultimately improve the delivery of principled humanitarian aid.

Throughout 2022, VOICE has been closely collaborating with DG ECHO to shape the discussions. The Humanitarian Partnership (HP) Watch Group provided DG ECHO with its recommendations about the event's agenda and the shaping of the different sessions.

SHAPING KEY PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENTS WITH NGOS' EXPERTISE

VOICE and the HP Task Force worked intensively to provide feedback on DG ECHO's annual reporting template on allegations of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH).

Thanks to all safeguarding experts who supported this process, and in addition to fine-tuning the reporting template in collaboration with DG ECHO, key concerns were raised about the challenges of maintaining a survivor-centred approach while gathering the detailed information requested in the reporting framework. DG ECHO was also encouraged to reflect on how the analysis of the annual reports could best serve DG ECHO's reporting requests as well as the prevention work of NGO partners.

During the year, the HP Watch Group regularly shared lessons learned and recommendations to improve the annual HIPs process and contracting cycle. The Group produced an outline of good practices for each of the stages of the HIPs cycle, from their publication, the proposal submission to the revision process. The improvement of the HIPs process and contracting cycle is central for the good functioning of the vital partnership between DG ECHO and certified NGO partners, along with a permanent dialogue at all levels – country, regional and European.

The network also engaged in the new Programmatic Partnership (PP) presented by DG ECHO as a way to support long-term strategies, to scale up innovative approaches and to enhance dialogue between partners at the field and headquarters level.

In September, VOICE Director Maria Groenewald participated in a Donors' Roundtable co-organised by DG ECHO and VOICE members Save the Children and the International Rescue Committee to explore European humanitarian partnership models. At the end of July, DG ECHO announced that – as of the 2023 HIPs – the PP approach will be open to all international NGOs (INGOs) certified as eligible programmatic partners. So far, the approach had been piloted by four INGOs and VOICE has regularly advocated for the model to be accessible to more organisations. As one of the Commission's tools to increase its multi-annual funding and promote localisation, the roll out of the PP in 2023 is a very positive step towards a more effective implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments.

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4

Influencing EU
policy debates
on climate
resilience and
the humanitarian-
development-
peace nexus

VOICE continues to bring forward humanitarian NGOs' voices on nexus and climate at the EU level, further disseminating the key messages included in the position paper "[The humanitarian NGOs' perspective on climate resilience](#)", which was produced in December 2021 and in studies and documents published on [nexus](#). During 2022, several meetings of the VOICE Resilience-Nexus Working Group were held to keep advancing the group work plan and to influence key moments and documents such as the EC Humanitarian-Development-Nexus (HDP) Nexus study.

FOSTERING NGOS' KEY RECOMMENDATIONS IN IMPLEMENTING THE NEXUS APPROACH

VOICE continued to influence the EU discussions in 2022 regarding the implementation of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus at the EU level through the **Resilience-Nexus Working Group**.

Thanks to intensive efforts from the VOICE Secretariat, members of the Resilience-Nexus Working Group were solicited twice to take part in two rounds of consultation aimed at providing input to the new study of the Commission on the implementation of the HDP Nexus approach.

Under the lead of the Directorate-General for Internal Partnerships (DG INTPA), the study focuses on ten case studies. It aims to review the implementation of the HDP nexus at an EU internal and external level, as well as reflecting on relevant lessons learned from non-EU actors (including civil society organisations) and on how they could be translated (if relevant) into the EU's action.

VOICE also worked very closely with the European confederation of relief and development NGOs (CONCORD) and the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO). Thanks to the complementarity of their messages, VOICE was able to amplify its messages, which included:

- Adapting financial frameworks and tools to the nexus approach
- Fostering collaboration and coordination among different EU services to implement nexus projects
- Recognising the importance of community-based actions
- Implementing nexus programmes in line with humanitarian principles and making sure humanitarian aid is not politicised and instrumentalised by any foreign policy agenda
- Considering the humanitarian NGOs' experience (joint analysis, etc.) and the impact of EU sanctions on the implementation of nexus projects.

In June, the EP's Committee on Development held a public hearing on the HDP nexus to discuss the next steps in relation to achieving more coherent and efficient European humanitarian action and development assistance, featuring both institutional and NGO perspectives on the topic. VOICE was happy to see that some of the key messages shared were mentioned by the DG INTPA consultant. The hearing provided the opportunity for VOICE member organisations Concern Worldwide, CARE and Save the Children to present their programmes and recommendations on the implementation of the HDP nexus, respectively in Somalia, Yemen, Guatemala as well as Colombia, and for MEPs to ask them questions about their work. This led to a lively exchange.

The study was finalised in December and VOICE – together with members of the Resilience-Nexus Working Group – will follow the development of the study, its publication and related recommendations, to ensure the voices of NGOs are fully heard.

As one of the focuses of the Resilience-Nexus Working Group is to also look at how EU MS have been implementing their strategy on the HDP nexus, the VOICE Secretariat – together with its members – has intensified its connections with the national platforms and the work done by members at a national level.

Francesca Giubilo, Senior Advocacy Officer, participated in a meeting organised by the Danish platform Globalt Fokus in May and VOICE Director Maria Groenewald was invited to speak about the Nexus from a humanitarian perspective at the **Development Academy** event in Lisbon. Maria also participated as a speaker at the Global virtual launch of the 8th edition of the [WeWorld Index](#) in November, a report that measures the inequalities in the world from multiple points of view: social, economic, political, environmental, etc. She shared a presentation about the role that humanitarian NGOs have in several crises around the world and how cooperation among the humanitarian and development actors, namely in the nexus approach, can improve the impact.

CALLING FOR MORE EFFORTS TOWARDS CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The Resilience-Nexus Working Group continued throughout 2022 to further disseminate the recommendations laid out in the position paper "[The humanitarian NGOs' perspective on climate resilience](#)". It called on the EU and its Member States to:

- Step up efforts to scale up climate finance aimed at building climate resilience
- Ensure climate measures include locally led adaptation actions and prioritise vulnerable and marginalised people, especially women and girls
- Enhance strong collaboration with other actors to promote climate resilience.

While supporting the intensive advocacy activity of the French NGOs – which called for the launch of the humanitarian aid donors' declaration on climate and environment and the consequent donors' accountability towards it, under the French Presidency of the Council of the EU – VOICE facilitated an exchange among members of the working group to foster reflections on how to join forces at a national level to promote the donors' declaration on climate and its accountability.

The **COP27 in November 2022** was another key moment for VOICE member NGOs working on climate issues to participate and collaborate with key stakeholders on important topics around climate change.

While a historic agreement concerning a loss and damage fund was signed at COP27, representing a further step towards climate justice, the global gathering disappointed with regard to emissions reduction, climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as gender-just climate action.

VOICE gathered and disseminated [members' reflections and statements](#) regarding the COP27. Going forward, VOICE's plan is to work more intensively on the topic in the coming years by systematically scaling up members' expertise on climate at the EU level.

The key role of humanitarian NGOs in tackling food insecurity



VOICE out loud 34 - Fighting against hunger: a humanitarian lens. Photo credit: Peter Caton/Action Against Hunger.

During the EHF 2022, VOICE demonstrated its added-value in the facilitation of a joint VOICE members' concept note for a high level-panel on the topic of **Conflict & Hunger**. A speaker seat was secured for VOICE Board member **Vincent Stehli**, who advocated for the need to do more work on prevention to avoid famine and on the need to reinforce the dialogue between all the different actors working on it in a nexus approach.

Later in the year, VOICE and ACF Spain, with the valuable contribution of Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, organised a members' webinar to share views on **tackling food insecurity from a humanitarian perspective**.

The well-attended webinar aimed to analyse three different advocacy angles that humanitarian actors focus on when dealing with hunger, as well as gathering information on advocacy windows of opportunity at the EU and/or Member State level. Food security was confirmed as a relevant topic strictly linked with the advocacy work around anticipatory action and triple nexus but also with IHL and the protection of civilians.

Members stressed the importance of evidence-based advocacy to feed into the EU's and MS's work on the topic at global, regional and country levels. This could be achieved by strengthening collaboration on initiatives with other networks to reinforce the collective and unique principled voice of members on patterns relating to hunger and humanitarian action.

The work of VOICE's members on hunger was collected in the **VOICE out loud**, "[Fighting against hunger: a humanitarian lens](#)" where NGO members delivering humanitarian aid in some of the world's most food-insecure countries stressed the inter-connections between hunger, conflict and climate change. Contributors made an urgent call for donors to break the current global hunger paradigm at the same time as concentrating on new approaches such as anticipatory action or capacity building to create more resilient communities.



5

Advocating
for a humanitarian
exemption
to sanction regimes

In a context where restrictive measures are increasingly being used at EU, MS and global levels, VOICE has raised awareness about the negative impacts of EU sanctions and counter-terrorism measures on principled humanitarian aid over the past few years.

Challenges faced by NGOs include: difficulties accessing financial services; the risks of criminal and civil liability; increased financial and administrative burden; procurement and logistical difficulties; and reduced flexibility in programming.

Civilians caught in crises in sanctioned environments too often end up paying the ultimate price of the negative, although unintended, impacts of restrictive measures. [In the VOICE Policy Resolution 2022](#), the network called on EU and MS to systematically include humanitarian exemptions to all their sanctions regimes.

ENGAGING WITH DG FISMA AND OTHER KEY ACTORS

With the objective of “stepping up its support to humanitarian partners in navigating sanctioned environment” (as foreseen in the EC Communication on Humanitarian Action, March 2021), the European Commission published a set of documents that aimed to provide practical guidance to its partners.

The DG for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union (DG FISMA) issued a [factsheet on EU Member States’ procedures](#) to grant humanitarian derogations from EU restrictive measures (sanctions). In addition, DG FISMA published a “[Commission Guidance note on the provision of humanitarian aid in compliance with EU restrictive measures](#)”, which is designed to be a practical tool bringing clarifications for all EU sanctions regimes, including by providing concrete examples.

Defining what are EU sanctions and what they entail for humanitarian operators, the guidance also lays down that the “EU is committed to avoiding and, where unavoidable, mitigating to the maximum extent possible any potential unintended negative impacts of EU restrictive measures on humanitarian action”.

The VOICE Secretariat monitored this topic and hosted an information session in October for NGO members. DG FISMA representatives exchanged with members and described the document as a practical tool, which aimed to combine the existing regime-specific guidance notes bringing together the information necessary to provide humanitarian aid in compliance with EU sanctions. While many challenges remain regarding the potential operational implications, the guidance note is a very welcome initiative to enable a better understanding of how to navigate sanctions.

In June, VOICE Director Maria Groenewald participated in a Roundtable on “**Sanctions Derogations, Exemptions and Risk Management – Ukraine, Russia sanctions and their interplay with provision of humanitarian relief**”. Organised at the occasion of the ACAMS Anti-Financial Crimes Conference in Brussels, she represented the NGO perspective on the issue alongside the private sector and Member States representatives participating in the session.

THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2664: A HISTORIC STEP FORWARD

To mitigate the negative and unintended impacts of sanctions on humanitarian aid, in December 2022 the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2664 establishing a standing humanitarian exemption to all current and future UN sanctions regimes. The resolution represents an extraordinary opportunity to safeguard humanitarian actors’ ability to respond to crises in line with humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law. VOICE joined forces with eight other humanitarian NGO networks to call for the adoption of this key document.

The document must pave the way for a similar approach to be adopted by the EU. With this in mind, VOICE is continuing to advocate for the adoption of a standing humanitarian exemption to sanction regimes at the EU level.



6

Calling for
additional, effective
and efficient
funding for
humanitarian aid

According to the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO), 326 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022 ([GHO 2022, December update](#)). As the gap between the needs and the funds is dramatically growing, securing a robust EU budget for 2023 has been one of the network's main advocacy goals of the last year.

A COLLECTIVE ENGAGEMENT TOWARDS INCREASED HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

The European Commission presented its [Draft Budget 2023](#) in June 2022, proposing a humanitarian budget of €1.6 billion for 2023. The VOICE Secretariat, in collaboration with members working on the annual budget procedure, immediately started to advocate for this amount to be increased, as well as being made more efficient and effective, through the following messages:

1. Increase the humanitarian aid budget line (HUMA) to at least €2.5 billion to meaningfully address the unprecedented level of humanitarian needs worldwide, aggravated by the 2022 Ukraine conflict and its global economic repercussions, notably in terms of food insecurity.
2. Ensure funds from the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR) are additional to the current humanitarian aid budget line and can be mobilised for humanitarian crises outside the EU throughout the whole financial year.
3. Ensure predictability and continued commitment to people in need by guaranteeing that payment appropriations are at least at the same level as commitment appropriations.

The VOICE Secretariat engaged with all the EU stakeholders responsible for the EU Budget: working in close collaboration with DG ECHO and advocating for increased and improved funding towards the EP and the Council.

VOICE notably managed to influence the EP's position on the humanitarian aid budget for 2023, in particular thanks to a close cooperation with the Committee on Development (DEVE). In May 2022, CSOs were invited to share their opinions on the 2023 budget with MEP Antoni Comin, Rapporteur for the DEVE opinion on the

EU budget 2023, and other DEVE members. The VOICE Secretariat, together with VOICE members CARE, Oxfam, Plan International and Save the Children, as well as other organisations, presented their messages for increased and effective humanitarian funding.

In addition to this important meeting, VOICE met with a variety of EP stakeholders, beyond the scope of the DEVE Committee, in order to maintain its messages on top of the broader political agenda. VOICE's advocacy messages were successfully included in DEVE's opinion on the draft budget, including a proposed increase of €900 million for the humanitarian budget line, bringing it from €1.6 billion to €2.4 billion. VOICE's messages were also well-reflected in the opinion of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which put forward a close-second increase of €800 million for the humanitarian budget.

Regarding the European Commission, which remains influential throughout the procedure, VOICE maintained relationships with a variety of stakeholders. In addition to its close cooperation with DG ECHO, VOICE engaged in exchanges with the EC's Cabinet on Budget and Administration, which was essential to make sure that the latter would propose an increase of the humanitarian budget line when it revised its draft budget mid-procedure. Humanitarian aid was indeed increased by €150 million in the amended draft budget, which came out in October 2022.

The advocacy efforts sustained at EU level throughout the year were then extended at national level, with the objective to influence the Council's position. VOICE incentivised and coordinated its members' advocacy towards their respective Ministers of Finances and Foreign Affairs.

On 15 November, the EP and the Council agreed to [increase the humanitarian budget line 2023 by €150 million](#), bringing the humanitarian budget for 2023 close to **€1.8 billion**, a figure officially approved by the [Council](#) and the [EP](#) on 22 and 23 November.

Although the increase was not as high as the network had collectively asked for, it is important to note that this increase remained additional to the funds available to DG ECHO through the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR) – which was an important aspect of VOICE's advocacy.

Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve: additional funding for external crises

The Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR) is the new flexibility instrument created with the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 (MFF). It merges the former Emergency Aid Reserve (EAR) and the EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF). The SEAR is the main instrument from which DG ECHO can request additional funds to respond to unforeseen crises. VOICE has advocated throughout the year for the funds to remain additional to the current humanitarian aid budget line and mobilised for humanitarian crises outside the EU throughout the whole financial year. VOICE was pleased to see that advocacy efforts had paid off, as it is vital that funds are available to be mobilised for communities in need when humanitarian crises strike unexpectedly.

THE GRAND BARGAIN 2.0 AND ITS QUEST TO ENHANCE QUALITY FUNDING AND ENABLE LOCALISATION

With the constantly increasing funding gap, the need to create a more efficient and effective humanitarian system is more relevant than ever. The need for quality funding is one of the main calls from humanitarian NGOs, and it is one of the commitments of the Grand Bargain 2.0 that was confirmed by donors and humanitarian actors in June 2021. VOICE continued to work at EU level to bring forward the commitments of the Grand Bargain 2.0.

At the margins of the EHF 2022, VOICE Director Maria Groenewald participated in a meeting hosted by the German Mission in Brussels with the Grand Bargain (GB) Eminent Person and NCR Secretary General **Jan Egeland** and DG ECHO. The meeting was an opportunity to share information on the developments and

achievements of GB 2.0, as well as to present its future objectives. According to **Michael Koehler**, Deputy Director General at DG ECHO, one of the great achievements of the GB was DG ECHO's successful push for more multi-year funding and cash programmes.

The VOICE Grand Bargain 2.0 Working Group met in March to facilitate information sharing on the engagement at EU level regarding the commitments of the Grand Bargain, where a DG ECHO representative participated.

Consistent with the Grand Bargain 2.0's priorities, localisation is one of the issues that is critical for more effective aid. VOICE welcomed the DG ECHO initiative to draft a Guidance Note "Promoting equitable partnerships with local responders in humanitarian settings", as foreseen in the EC Communication on Humanitarian Action.

The network has strongly engaged to give feedback on the document. In March 2022, ahead of the European Humanitarian Forum, VOICE together with Charter4Change, held an event to identify recommendations on localisation for DG ECHO and European MS ahead of the High-level panel "Boosting the localisation agenda towards inclusive humanitarian action" organised on 22 March at the Forum.

The pre-meeting was an opportunity to discuss the key elements identified by DG ECHO as driving the early development of its upcoming localisation guidance:

- Incentives and disincentives related to risk sharing and accountability
- Strengthening quality partnerships and a transformative approach to localisation when the EU funds national/local NGOs through intermediary agencies
- Discussion on the context of DG ECHO regulations and the EU's wider aid architecture.

The [Summary report of the localisation pre-event](#) was shared with key EU stakeholders ahead of the EHF 2022.

In the framework of the DG ECHO consultation for the development of a localisation guidance, DG ECHO ran a consultation in July with a wide

range of stakeholders, including VOICE, to collect views and perspectives on how the EU can support the localisation of aid.

VOICE Director Maria Groenewald was interviewed by Groupe URD (DG ECHO chosen consultant) to give input on the localisation guidance under preparation.

The VOICE Secretariat has continued to monitor the development of the Guidance note, especially to stress the need for consultation on the draft document.

ENLARGING THE DONOR BASE AND RAISING AWARENESS OF FUNDING IMBALANCES

With the funding gap at an all-time high, engaging with other donors is one of the EU's key strategies.

VOICE Director Maria Groenewald participated in the DG ECHO high-level brainstorming on enlarging the humanitarian donor base, to exchange innovative ideas on how to enlarge the donors' base and how to ensure a better and fairer sharing of responsibility to bridge the increasing funding gap and meet the record level of needs.

Pierre Micheletti, President of NGO member Action Contre la Faim, and **Harpinder Collacott**, CEO of Development Initiatives, were among the experts gathered to discuss best practices and lessons learned with regards to expanding the donor base. VOICE is pleased to see such discussions happening at EU level. However, it is important that humanitarian aid remains principled and disconnected from political priorities. Moreover, in addition to working on the enlargement of the donor base, the EU and its MS must sustain efforts to increase their own humanitarian budgets.

In June, VOICE organised the event "**Funding Imbalances: How uneven prioritisation and insufficient funding affects humanitarian aid**". The event aimed to shed a light on insufficient funding for humanitarian crises, on the reasons why some crises attract higher levels of funding and whether media coverage plays a role in these imbalances. The event discussion, including key VOICE recommendations on the topic, were summarised in the "[VOICE key highlights report](#)".



VOICE key highlights - Funding Imbalances: How uneven prioritisation and insufficient funding affect humanitarian aid



7

Life of the network

CELEBRATING VOICE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY



In 2022, VOICE celebrated 30 years of advocacy in promoting principled humanitarian aid worldwide.

Over the past 30 years, VOICE has grown from a membership of seven organisations to 87 members from 19 European countries. Thanks to the collective engagement of NGO members, VOICE has celebrated many successes in its work to promote principled humanitarian aid and an equal partnership between humanitarian NGOs and EU institutions.

In the [“about us” page](#) of the VOICE website, there is a summary of the 30 years of achievements – from facilitating access for members to EU humanitarian funding, to defending members’ interests in EU decision-making processes on humanitarian funding and policies, among others.

To celebrate the network’s 30th anniversary, VOICE hosted the Brussels launch of the **ALNAP State of The Humanitarian System (SOHS) report 2022** on 17 November, in collaboration with the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP). The well-attended event “Humanitarian principles under threat?” analysed the challenges NGOs face in respecting humanitarian principles and the role of donors in the delivery of principled aid. The main findings were summarised in the [Key Highlights document](#).



VOICE Key Highlights: Humanitarian principles under threat? The Brussels launch of the SOHS ALNAP report

A COMMITTED VOICE SECRETARIAT

Under Director Maria Groenewald's direction, the strengthened and cohesive VOICE Secretariat continued its engagement in supporting the membership of the network.

In December 2022, the Secretariat was composed of:

Maria Groenewald, Director

Francesca Giubilo, Senior Advocacy Officer

Roberta Fadda, Senior Communication Officer

Cécile Muller, Membership and Finances Coordinator

Marion Granger, Junior Partnership and Advocacy Officer

Suzanne Dominguez, Junior Advocacy Officer

Anna Bonomelli, Junior Advocacy Assistant from November onwards

Jaime Martin Farelo, Junior Communication Assistant from November onwards



Maria Groenewald
Director



Francesca Giubilo
Senior Advocacy Officer



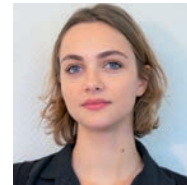
Roberta Fadda
Senior Communication
Officer



Cécile Muller
Membership and
Finances Coordinator



Marion Granger
Junior Partnership and
Advocacy Officer



Suzanne Dominguez
Junior Advocacy Officer



Anna Bonomelli
Junior Advocacy
Assistant



Jaime Martin Farelo
Junior Communication
Assistant

Secretariat team
as of December 2022

AN ENGAGED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Under the guidance of the President Dominic Crowley, the VOICE Board held seven meetings throughout the year (four in person and three virtual). The Executive Committee met numerous times, engaging in discussions for the preparation of the EHF 2022 and 2023 and other key events for the network.

In December 2022, the VOICE Board was composed of:

Dominic Crowley, VOICE President
Emergency Director, Concern Worldwide

Carried out their first mandate:

Annelies Claessens
Director of International Programmes,
War Child Holland

Edouard Rodier
Director of International Programmes,
Norwegian Refugee Council Europe

Continued their second mandate:

Jean-Pierre Delomier
Operations Deputy Director, Fédération
Handicap International/Humanity & Inclusion

Michael Kühn
Operations Deputy Director, Welthungerhilfe

Fie Lauritzen
Senior Humanitarian Policy Lead,
DanChurchAid

Silvia Sinibaldi
Humanitarian Director, Caritas Europa

Michael Mosselmans
Head of Humanitarian Policy,
Practice and Advocacy, Christian Aid UK

Vincent Stehli
Director of Operations,
Acción Contra el Hambre Spain



Dominic Crowley
Concern Worldwide



Jean-Pierre Delomier
Fédération Handicap
International/Humanity
& Inclusion



Michael Kühn
Welthungerhilfe



Fie Lauritzen
DanChurchAid



Edouard Rodier
Norwegian Refugee
Council Europe



Silvia Sinibaldi
Caritas Europa



**Michael
Mosselmans**
Christian Aid UK



Vincent Stehli
Acción Contra el
Hambre Spain



Annelies Claessens
War Child



VOICE out loud 33 - Enabling principled humanitarian aid Photo credit: Kelvin Batumike / Handicap International

MEMBERSHIP

VOICE was proud to welcome seven new members to the network in 2022: Alianza por la Solidaridad; Action against Hunger Germany; International Medical Corps Croatia; Mercy Corps Netherlands; Première Urgence International; Terres des Hommes Italy; and World Vision Netherlands.

The Brexit impact led four further members to leave the network in 2022: ActionAid UK; International Medical Corps UK; Terre des Hommes CH; and World Vision UK. MdM Greece also left and ICCO NL merged with CORDAID.

The total number of VOICE members was 87 at the end of 2022.

An onboarding meeting was held in October to facilitate the integration of new members into the network, to introduce the Secretariat and explain the functioning of the network.

Throughout the year, the Secretariat also held several in-person exchanges at Director level and advocacy level to facilitate the information flow between the membership regarding advocacy work.

VOICE COMMUNICATION

In 2022, VOICE communication activities were further consolidated. The first public quarterly newsletter, "[VOICE at work](#)", was launched in June 2022, with the aim of increasing VOICE and its members' work in delivering principled humanitarian aid and to raise awareness about communities in need worldwide.

During the year, several VOICE country exchanges and VOICE policy exchanges were organised, providing a platform for members to discuss humanitarian crises and policy topics, increasing the information-sharing in the network and in the Secretariat. In 2022, VOICE held exchanges on Syria, Ukraine, Sudan and Lebanon and a policy exchange on IHL and attacks on healthcare facilities.

In 2022, VOICE also published two new issues of the VOICE out loud magazine. The first one, "[VOICE out loud 33: Enabling principled humanitarian aid](#)", reflected on the existing humanitarian funding model, and the impact of IHL violations and donor sanctions regimes on the delivery of humanitarian aid. While the "[VOICE out loud 34: Fighting against hunger – a humanitarian lens](#)" delves into the global hunger crisis and how innovative approaches such as participatory action should support humanitarian assistance.

VOICE internal communication sharing has been further improved, with regular VOICE Flash newsletter and increased updates of the VOICE Members' Room on the website. Several communication exchanges were also organised before key dates for the network in order to amplify the common messages and raise further awareness on topics such as the funding gap, world humanitarian day and principled humanitarian action.

Social media engagement, in particular LinkedIn, was further consolidated in 2022, which continued to increase the network's visibility and engagement.

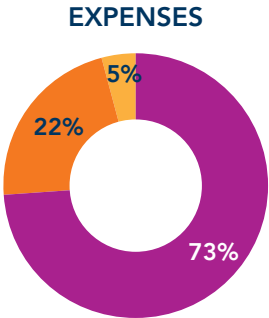


Visual from the VOICE social media campaign on the EHF 2022

VOICE FINANCES

The total turnover for VOICE in 2022 was €637,860. Despite the high inflation level in Belgium, thanks to good financial management, which had foreseen at the budget approval stage to allocate the result carried forward from 2021, VOICE managed to close the year with a small surplus of €13,238.

The allocation of expenses remained very similar to previous years. Whereas expenditures on activities do not reflect the number and level of activities, meetings, publications and events achieved throughout 2022, the percentage of Human Resources costs reflects the nature of the VOICE Secretariat, whose services and activities strongly rely on brainpower.



- Human Resources
- Operating & Admin costs
- Activities

On the income side, VOICE reached its budget prevision, with membership fees representing 69% of VOICE income. The single grant, a DG ECHO Operating Grant, remained at the same level as the last few years. The total income for 2022 was €654,352.

VOICE MEMBERS 2022

AUSTRIA

 CARE Österreich

 Caritas Österreich

 SOS Kinderdorf International

BELGIUM

 Caritas International Belgium

 Médecins du Monde (MDM) Belgium

 Oxfam Solidarité - Solidariteit

 Plan Belgium

CROATIA

 International Medical Corps Croatia

CZECH REPUBLIC

 ADRA Czech Republic

 Caritas Czech Republic

 People in Need (PIN)

DENMARK

 ADRA Denmark Nødhjælp og udvikling

 CARE Denmark

 Dansk Folkehjælp Danish People' Aid

 DanChurchAid (DCA)

 Danish Refugee Council (DRC)

 Mission East Mission Øst

 Save the Children Denmark

FINLAND

 Fida International

 Finn Church Aid

 World Vision Finland

FRANCE

 Action Contre la Faim

 ACTED Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement

 CARE France

 Handicap International Humanity and Inclusion

 La chaîne de l'Espoir

 Première Urgence Internationale

 Médecins du Monde (MDM) France

 Secours Catholique - Réseau Mondial Caritas

 Secours Islamique France

 Secours Populaire Français

 Solidarités International

 Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF)

GERMANY

 ADRA Deutschland

 Aktion gegen den Hunger

 Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) Deutschland

 CARE Deutschland-Luxemburg

 Deutscher Caritasverband Caritas Germany

 Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe

 International Rescue Committee Germany

 Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe

 Malteser International

 Medico International

 Plan International Germany

 Welthungerhilfe

 World Vision Germany

ITALY

 Caritas Italiana

 CESVI - Cooperazione e Sviluppo

 COOPI

 INTERSOS Organizzazione Umanitaria Onlus

 JRS Jesuit Refugee Service

 Oxfam Italia

 Terre des Hommes Italy

 WeWorld

IRELAND

 Concern Worldwide

 GOAL Global

 Trócaire

LUXEMBOURG

 Caritas Luxembourg

THE NETHERLANDS

 CARE Nederland

 Cordaid

 Mercy Corps

 World Vision Netherlands

 Oxfam Novib

 Save the Children Netherlands

 War Child

 ZOA

NORWAY

 CARE Denmark

 Norwegian Church Aid

 Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

 Save the Children - Redd Barna

POLAND

 Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH)

SLOVAKIA

 Habitat for Humanity International

SPAIN

 Acción Contra el Hambre

 Alianza por la Solidaridad-ActionAid

 Caritas Española

 EDUCO

 Médicos del Mundo

 Oxfam Intermón

SWEDEN

 LM International (Läkarmissionen)

 PMU Interlife

 Svenska kyrkan - Church of Sweden

SWITZERLAND

 Medair

UNITED KINGDOM

 Action Against Hunger

 CAFOD

 Christian Aid

 Plan International UK

 Save the Children UK

87 members
19 countries



VOICE is the network of 87 European NGOs promoting principled and people-centred humanitarian aid. Collectively, VOICE aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of the European Union and its Member States' humanitarian aid. The network promotes the added value of NGOs as key humanitarian actors.

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