

# 6th Spanish Conference on Humanitarian Action

“Challenges of humanitarian action in a changing world”

November 19th, 2015



© UNICEF Ethiopia, 2014

## Information Dossier

**.iecah.**

Instituto de Estudios sobre Conflictos y Acción Humanitaria  
Institute of Studies on Conflicts and Humanitarian Action

With the Support of



GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA  
MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES Y DE COOPERACIÓN

SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE COOPERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL Y PARA IBEROAMÉRICA  
SECRETARÍA GENERAL DE COOPERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA EL DESARROLLO



COORDINADORA  
ONG PARA EL DESARROLLO  
ESPAÑA

LA CASA ENCENDIDA



# Index

	<i>Pages</i>
• <b>First panel: “Assessment and outlook of international summits: implications for humanitarian action”</b>	<b>2-5</b>
• <b>Second panel: “New challenges, old responses: ¿Are we properly managing the migratory and refugee crisis?”</b>	<b>6-9</b>
• <b>Third panel: “Gender mainstreaming in humanitarian action and peace-building: progress and challenges”</b>	<b>10-14</b>



.....

## *First panel*

### “Assessment and outlook of international summits: implications for humanitarian action”



The first panel consisted of an analysis of the summits held so far and certain outlook of what is still to come, but adopting a critical perspective: ¿is there a lack of coherence and synergies between the different summits being held? Moreover, which are their implications for the humanitarian work were put on the table.

**Francisco Rey** raises this issue by stressing the need for greater coherence and the perception that sometimes we have, from the humanitarian sphere, that problems are not addressed with this necessary view. The previous meetings to **Global Humanitarian Summit 2016** highlighted this issue. There is a certain feeling that the SDG do not collect, as much as it should be, aspects related to risk, violence or conflict.

1

**“It is impossible to talk about Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in countries in conflict and under military occupation” – Santiago Gil, FICR**

The number of disasters has trebled during the 80s and 90s and climate disasters have continued that rhythm of increase. **In the last ten years, there have been 700,000 deceases and 1,400 million of people affected by natural disasters**, what has resulted in an ongoing concern for DRR. This interest has been shown in the celebration of World Conferences which started in 1994 in Yokohama, including the 2005 Conference in Kobe, until Sendai in 2015. During those years, there have also been approved the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), the most important milestones in this path.

**More than 6,500 people, represented by 187 countries, participated in the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai.** This conference has three special factors: 1) it followed a preparation process through the creation of a global platform with biannual meetings and regional conferences; 2) it has been very inclusive, with a high participation of NGOs; 3) it has a clearly conscience of being participating in a process of synergies with other conferences. Among the most positive facts, it is relevant to highlight the following: 1) the greater relevance given to local actors in DRR; 2) the recognition of other groups with interests in the matter; 3) an increased inclusion of health approach; 4) the increasing importance of women and private sector. In addition to this, emphasis was laid on the importance of underlying factors, such as vulnerability due to poverty, climate change and uncontrollable urbanization. It was included the right to development, as well as the establishment of seven specific goals. **Finally, more than 600 voluntary compromises were acquired by governments and organizations.**

The most negative aspects are related to the hard negotiations and the existence of two parallel conferences: one related to professionals, where important issues such as assurances or the situation of people with reduced mobility were addressed; and the other one about negotiators, where two sides were put in place: developed and developing countries. **The great differences between them were cooperation funding, technology transfer and the absence of any mention to the countries in conflict.** Furthermore, it could be seen certain skepticism towards the Paris Climate Change Conference.

In any case, **“the 2030 Agenda is the most omni-comprehensive one adopted to date and it can be used as reference point”.** Synergies between this agenda and Sendai are evident and its implementation will have very positive consequences in DRR. Regarding the Climate Change Conference, we find two fundamental challenges: mitigation of climate change effects (as well as attacking its causes and buffering its effects); and the adaptation of society and communities. Humanitarian action should: 1) raise awareness and report public and private powers in order to be consistent in decision-making against this problem; 2) work with communities so they could be better adapted to changes they are suffering. In the next World Humanitarian Summit (Istanbul, 2016) DRR will be one of the issues addressed in one of the working groups, but the true convergence should be an approach to action with indicators that could measure results.

2

**“There are a lot of people affected but negotiators take it easy” – Ignacio Santos, environmental expert**

General attitude towards environmental issues consists of considering only one side of the problem but not the whole picture. This low awareness hinders a more determined action. **According to the Living Planet Index, we have lost a third of the planet’s environment since 1970.**

The new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) address environmental questions in a specific and mainstreaming way: terrestrial ecosystems, marine environment, cities, energy, water, responsible consumption and production. The implementation of this agenda would have a great impact on human welfare and DRR.

Regarding the Paris Climate Change Conference, **there has been a “climatic silence” on this matter over the last years.** The summit will have a more technical part and a more political one. The objective is to establish a universal regime and a mechanism which allows renewing the acquired compromises. However, **we are far away from achieving the zero emissions and the 1.5-2 degrees C target of global warming,** despite the compromise of reducing them made by world countries. “While Southern countries are doing relatively well, Northern ones do not meet the expectations”.

Although the planned funding established in Copenhagen for the period 2010-2012 was accomplished, civil society claims a more massive and public one. The percentage allocated to adaptation is very low, in spite of increasing a little in the Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget. **“Despite the great number of people affected all over the planet, negotiators take it easy, alien to the urgency of things”**.

3

**“The 2030 Agenda is revolutionary, because it is able to bring together people and planet” – Carolina Mayeur, SGCID**

From the point of view of Carolina Mayeur, SDGs represent a “huge convergence” which allows **the 2030 Agenda to be transformative, innovative, adapted to current requirements, but it is necessary to implement it**. With regard to the content, it is truly positive: the Rio+20 Agenda is integrated for the very first time.

The existence of a broad number of goals is already a very positive step because it enables the establishment of specific goals on certain issues. In the most global goals, specifically numbers 1 and 2, **concern about poverty and hunger reduction is mainstreamed, albeit not in any manner**. This represents a radical change.

This agenda has implications for humanitarian action: 1) a clear orientation in the matter of rights-based approach, **because it is able to bring together people and planet, putting first the dignity of people**. This is something revolutionary; 2) taking into account the impact on the ground and population in the medium term; 3) incorporating a holistic vision where different dimensions are brought together; 4) **it proposes a transformation of the predominant socioeconomic model**, because it bets for changing the production and consumption patterns and stopping the overexploitation in order to reduce inequality inside countries and between countries; 5) it does not want to leave anybody behind, looking for a certain social justice.

Thus, there is convergence between agendas. The items addressed are the same that would be placed on the table in the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS): **dignity, security, resilience, financing and partnerships**. There is an idea of capacity building against disasters in every 2030 Agenda Goals.

“Humanitarian action should begin to discriminate, for example, in gender”. It is also necessary to bet for sustainable livelihoods and to know the resources on which we should act to build capacities. Moreover, it is fundamental to incorporate the sector “education in emergencies”, since **3 million Syrian children do not attend school**, bearing in mind the huge impact this implies in the medium term.



4

**“Spain’s contribution to humanitarian action is incoherent with the role of international leadership it intends to play” – Ángel González, CONGDE**

Ángel González denounced the situation of humanitarian action in Spain. During 2013, Spain was the 19th donor in the OECD ranking. Decentralized aid has experienced a less decrease than the state one, accounting for 25% of Spanish humanitarian aid. **This situation is incoherent with the role of international leadership that it intends to play.**

The joint treatment and the universal approach of poverty, inequality and sustainability are positive. The challenge consists in assuming that it affects all sectors and not only cooperation. It must also be recognized the presence of DRR, resilience, etc. in the 2030 agenda. **But it is also necessary to have a commitment with resources and effective indicators of monitoring that do not distort the adopted goals.** In fact, it is already happening with education issues. This subject is very important but it has been hardly addressed. In the World Education Forum held in Incheon (South Korea) last May, it was reported that **nearly half of the 60 million children without any access to education are located in countries in conflict or which have suffered disasters.** For this reason, it is fundamental to address the extensive risk too, the little disasters which affect communities and are very important even if they do not get media coverage. The approach of risk management should be incorporated by all NGOs.

Finally, **the concept of resilience was questioned due to the fact of being a step back in the progress achieved with the concept of human security.** In brief, resilience would be like “managing well”.

5

**“It is not sustainable to think about the maintenance of this progress towards the abyss” – Jaime Atienza, Oxfam Intermón**

Jaime Atienza suggested five ideas to start with the debate from the First Row.

1. Progress and positive trends: **answers are coming from the States affected by crises**, thanks to the increase in preparation and response capacity. There is also a higher implication of regional actors in activities of negotiation, peacekeeping and dialogue (African Union).
2. **Crises’ interplay of sustainability and inequality:** they do not allow to end up with poverty, hunger and other related problems. **In 2014, there were 80 people all over the world which possessed as much as wealth as 3,500 million inhabitants.**
3. Complaining to political leaders to assume their responsibilities and think about future generations, besides an economy for all people. **“It is not sustainable to think about the maintenance of this progress towards the abyss”.**
4. **Rethinking the current pattern of development**, so social development and a minimum welfare would be guaranteed but respecting environmental limits.
5. **Spain has a poor performance in all the issues addressed** in the panel: there is a lack of active and strong policies in the environmental ground; the investment on green energies has been reduced; laws have worsened; participation in international cooperation and humanitarian action has been reduced and inequality increases. **A serious effort has been made to slow down the impact of measures such as the European Financial Transaction tax** in order to protect the financial sector. Finally, we are a country without a strong tradition of political asylum. **“We need a Copernican shift on policies that surround humanitarian action”.**

## Second panel

### “New challenges, old responses: ¿Are we properly managing the migratory and refugee crisis?”



In this second panel speakers addressed the main lines of response the European Union (UE) and Spain are giving to the refugee crisis. The security approach persists versus the approach focused on people. The continuous persistence to these action lines makes difficult the solution of the crisis.

1

**“We should be worried about the fact they do not come” - Jesús Núñez, IECAH**

The refugee crisis in Europe is **“a crisis in which we are not up to the challenge”**. According to the UN there are 240 million people who live outside their home countries that is, less than 3% of world’s population. In accordance with UNHCR, 59.5 million people have fled in reason of persecution or conflicts, being 19.5 million of them refugees, 38.2 million IDP and 1.8 million asylum seekers. So far this year, the European Union has accepted 40,000 refugees. In spite of adding the 120,000 remaining to be allocated in the next two years, **the total number would be the 0.024% of the total population of the Union**. So, “it is a fallacy to think that refugees are invading Europe”. Much more if we compare the situation with that of countries like Lebanon, where 1 out of 4 inhabitants is a refugee; Turkey, with two million Syrian refugees; or Jordan, with one million. Moreover, none of these countries has the welfare level we enjoy in the EU. In this matter, **the question is not about altruism; it is about obligation**. Basically, it is about complying with international law.

There is no difference between emigrants and refugees in the sense that the first one is a voluntary displacement and the second one is forced. Both are forced displacements, even though the first is motivated by economic reasons and the second one by a disaster or a violent conflict. In any case, the EU’s

policy to face these situations is completely restrictive, repressive. **It is a police migratory policy**, focused on establishing filters in order to stop that flux of people. Some of the measures that are being adopted are: on the one hand, **construction of walls and fences**, which are leaving people trapped in the Balkans. On the other one, **a collaboration of neighboring countries is requested to done the 'dirty job'**, acting as filters to prevent refugees from getting to European territory. An example of this are the **3,000 million of euro given to Turkey**, aimed at fighting the mafias which traffic with people and readmitting those refused by Europe. These facts account for the internal contradictions of the EU.

Europe is mistaken. **"The problem is not if they are coming; the problem is if they are not coming"**. Face to the aging of Europe, the maintenance of the welfare system will not be resolved by migratory flux, because it is necessary to change birth policies, but they are a positive contribution. **Without them, welfare systems will collapse in the short term**. We should be worried about the conditions in which they arrive. It is necessary to establish social, political and economic integration policies. In this sense, **Paris is a clear example of the failure of integration**.

We should not forget the problems in our vicinity. Putting aside the Korean peninsula, **the greatest world inequality gap in income per capita takes place in the Mediterranean**. If we do not contribute to the solution, that gap will be a strong warring factor. Furthermore, it is our duty to carry this out, because we are responsible for this situation. Even if just for clever selfishness, in order to preserve our welfare, we should participate in the development, safety and security of our neighbours. However, the gap keeps increasing.

2

### **"We seem to work when there are tragedies or misfortunes" - María Jesús Vega, UNHCR**

We are facing the most important challenge of displacement due to conflicts, with unprecedented figures according to UNHCR. It is an exceptional challenge, which requires exceptional measures. We should reconsider the way in which we are working, because we are in an ever more complicated context, with more safety risks and more and very diverse stakeholders.

**"The European response to the crisis arrived late, broken up, with a great disparity of criteria and without the required severity to address a crisis with such characteristics"**. This situation could be perfectly easy to handle for a continent where some of the richest and powerful countries in the world are located. However, responses and proposals agreed by the European Commission related to the migrations agenda last May are being extended as time goes by. It has been warning on the increase of people arriving. **In 2015, the figure rises to 870,000 and 3,500 people have died. "We seem to work when there are tragedies or misfortunes"**.

The disparity of criteria also blocks the response. Construction of walls and fences, the adoption of laws punishing irregular entry without taking into account the circumstances do not solve the problem, but shifting it. **People will keep coming and the only beneficiaries are the mafia**, which is getting a lot of money due to the lack of answers. Routes are becoming more dangerous and expensive and others are being built **"as a way of desperation, with different categories: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd"**.

The Commission's proposal is positive, because it takes into account UNHCR and other entities, but the rhythms are not good. **"The crisis needs to be managed now"**. It is fundamental to establish adequate centers of register at the entry points. Nowadays, **there is only one center in Greece and does not work properly**. Identification, processing, needs assessment, detection of vulnerable cases, asylum

orientation... They are all done here, but it is also necessary to establish spaces where these people could sleep and live. Otherwise, they will continue their journey. Out of the 160,000 people expected to be relocated during the next two years, only 117 of them achieved it, a ridiculous number. 45% of asylum seekers and refugees are in Germany and Sweden. Countries cannot deny their obligations and Greece and Italy cannot assume the burden alone because there is a mandatory legislation on that matter. Therefore, it is essential to strengthen the Common European Asylum System, which is dysfunctional right now, and refugees go to some countries and not others where their request could delay two or three years. **Requests of certain nationalities are frozen, as Ukrainian, Malian or Iraqi.**

There is also an important dimension related to communication. The fight against terrorism cannot damage nor be at the expense of regimes of international protection and human rights. **Terminology is important. Identifying jihadism with refugees could have fatal consequences at short, medium and long term.** It is also necessary to think about legal alternatives which prevent people to be at the mercy of traffickers, as humanitarian visas, settlement programs, a more flexible family relocation and scholarships and educational programs.

Finally, we should welcome the behaviour of Spanish society. The change of the Spanish Government attitude is positive too, **since it undertakes to accept 16,000 refugees.** It is fundamental to increase the resources for those people who have already arrived and improve the hosting and integration systems. Furthermore, it should be taken advantage of solidarity to transform Spain into a true asylum country, because **it is a country of transit where people refuse to come.** We should change the way we communicate information on refugees so as they could recover the trust in the asylum system.

3

**“If we leave these people trapped, we are condemning them to a life of persecution and human rights abuses” - Nuría Díaz, CEAR**

**“The approach of European policies must change, because we are applying the same one as we did over the last few years; in other words, the approach based in security and externalization of borders”.** Treaties of cooperation for the control of borders have been signed with third countries in order to prevent refugees from leaving them. **“If they do not leave, they will not arrive in Europe”.** This is cruel, because the essence of the right of asylum is that those who need protection could cross the border and request it. **“If we leave these people trapped, we are condemning them to a life of persecution and human rights abuses”.**

During the recent summit in La Valletta, negotiations were permeated by this approach. **Agreements were signed with African countries aimed at preventing refugees from coming to Europe.** Externalization can be translated into the construction of fences, razors, illegal refoulements and lack of a due process.

It is fundamental to work on the establishment of the Common European Asylum System. This system was created in 1999 and we cannot understand why we failed to make headway in solving this issue. **“Asylum is a lottery in Europe”: percentages of granting between countries are very different.** This situation is justifying the imposition of barriers and internal borders, temporarily allowed but which are very frequent, something that could result in a downward revision of Schengen.

**The EU is not reacting in accordance with its core values.** Negotiations for the relocation have not been based in solidarity, with many countries bargaining to accept refugees. **Out of more than 800,000 arrived in Europe, 160,000 will be relocated, but what will happen with the rest?** The European

Parliament suggested the establishment of a permanent relocation mechanism facing to a situation which will continue during the next years but States have rejected it. They are taking solutions to the short term but for the medium and long term they are applying the same old formulas.

There has been a shift in the discourse in Spain, **but the country cannot be an asylum territory while there are human rights abuses and illegal refoulements**. We are also “creating” first and second class refugees. **We do not treat equally Syrian asylum seekers than nationals from other countries, but “all of them are people who have the same right of having their requests solved in a reasonable time”**. Furthermore, we should transpose European directives on the subject in the timeframes and conditions already established. We also have to face the challenges resulting from the hosting of the relocated people and recover the integration policies, which have been abandoned in the last years and which are fundamental to guarantee autonomy and dignity of these people. Finally, we should bet for intercultural living in order to avoid racism and xenophobia.

4

**“The role of humanitarian action must not adhere only to assistance and protection, but also to lobby and political advocacy” - Luca Beltrame, Médicos del Mundo**

This crisis is a new challenge for all humanitarian stakeholders. On the one hand, **we have to guarantee assistance but, above all, protection**, which is something difficult to visualize. People demand information on the route, existing services, detention risks, etc. All of them have mobile phones and there are **applications as InfoAid which are used by people in the Balkans route and which give information in real time about the route**. For example, we have given SIM cards and transport, which both are ways of ensuring protection. **The role of humanitarian action must adhere not only to assistance and protection, but also to lobby and political advocacy**. It is necessary to gather information, collect evidences and lobby with data. For example, **Médicos del Mundo in France has denounced the French State before the administrative court of Lille for inactivity against the situation at Calais**. Solution is simple, because we are talking about only 6,000 people. In terms of funding, governmental commitments are very limited. During La Valletta summit **the creation of a trustee fund was established, but only 60 million euros have been gathered out of 1,000 stated**. Finally, we should make an effort to communicate the positive effects of immigration and fight against its association with terrorism.

5

**“Refugees must be accepted with dignity and respect” - Cristina Bermejo, Rescate Internacional**

Here we have some of the most interesting points to face this crisis: 1) **it is necessary to open accessible ways from transit countries to host countries**; 2) **we should tackle the conflict causes** and work on prevention in order to reverse this exodus of people. Host countries are the most impoverished and cannot give responses to the Syrian refugees’ needs. **Without operational supporting measures by the EU aimed at helping to manage these flows of people, the result could be non-desired social and political consequences**. It is also necessary to adopt measures aimed at promoting peaceful living between refugees and host communities in order to avoid the outbreak of new conflicts; 3) all of this should be done **respecting people’s dignity**. Refugees must be accepted with dignity and respect, and should have facilities with qualified staff. Finally, in many cases, lack of assistance is due to underfunding. **Donors should make a major effort to meet international appeals**.

### Third panel

## “Gender mainstreaming in humanitarian action and peace-building: progress and challenges”



This third panel carried out an analysis of some good practices which are being performed in different organizations of the sector. Furthermore, some tools on which humanitarian actors can count in order to integrate the gender-based approach were exposed. Finally, some of the achievements on the implementation of Resolution 1325 were examined, as well as challenges still remaining ahead.

1

**There are no magic formulas; it is only a question of knowing well the contexts where we work” - Clara Ituero, ACF International**

The integration of gender in humanitarian organizations is, in the first place, an institutional process, **which is based in the mainstreaming of gender throughout the entire organization**. This process began in 2013 at ACF and it has three main characteristics: 1) it is an institutional decision which involves all departments of headquarters as well as field offices; 2) it is not an immediate process, but one which requires learning and assimilation; 3) the importance of accountability, in order to improve the organizations' legitimacy.

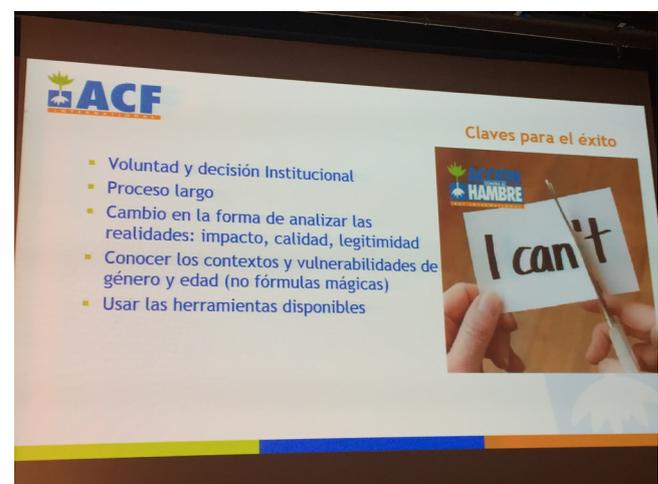
This gender mainstreaming has two dimensions. Firstly, the institutional level, in which it is fundamental to create a positive environment related to this integration through the completion of a gender analysis, the establishment of objectives and the monitoring of them in order to, finally, being accountable. Secondly, we should consider interventions on the ground. At this level the key is **to carry out a needs assessment taking in to account ACF's vision: do no harm**, but also cause a positive and long-term impact and do not contribute to perpetuate the existent gender relationships in a certain society.

Gender must be mainstreamed at this second level throughout all the project cycle. 1) **Needs as-**

**assessment** of women, men, girls and boys of all ages, taking into account their precedents and origin; 2) carrying out a formulation which ensures an **active and inclusive participation approach**; 3) provision of funds for **project proposals which are gender sensitive**; 4) accomplishing the implementation through supporting and applying the **Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines** related to gender; 5) carrying out the **monitoring and evaluation** using gender sensitive indicators and the IASC Gender Marker; 6) **programming applying a gender analysis** as the basis for all the ACF's work.

Some practical examples in which we can see this gender mainstreaming are: a) **water and sanitation project in Central African Republic**, focused on awareness on hygiene practices. It was necessary to be able to read and write in order to be one a local spokesperson for community leaders. This requirement was suppressed so that women could participate; b) **school sanitation programme in Colombia**. Children did not use the existing toilets. Putting in practice methods adapted to childhood it could be observed that the problem was the size of them, so they were changed; c) **complaints and suggestions mailbox in Mauritania**. Due to the high level of illiteracy amongst women, it was set up a free telephone line so they could use this service.

Keys for success rely on: a **strong institutional commitment**; being aware it is a long process; a need to change the way we analyze reality in order to increase impact, quality and legitimacy; we must know the contexts, gender and age vulnerabilities since **“there are no magic formulas, it is only a question of knowing well the contexts where we work”** and using the available tools.



## 2

### “Gender is simply common sense” - Ana Urgoiti, Gender Consultant

Gender mainstreaming starts from the following findings: conflicts and disasters affects men, women, girls and boys differently; humanitarian aid must respond in a differentiate way to different needs according to sex and age in order to produce positive and sustainable results; mainstreaming gender-based approach into humanitarian action and peace-building contributes to a better quality, effectiveness and accountability. However, momentum has come from outside: **“Are donors the ones who are pushing us to evaluate? It is OK. If we do not have the impetus to do so, maybe it is good that somebody give us a little push.”**

In 2009 the **IASC Gender Marker** was established. Its goal was to ensure that humanitarian projects identify and respond to gender differences in initial evaluations, activities and results. It is about **“following the money”**; in other words, tracking gender mainstreaming in humanitarian projects. It is an easy tool, which offers a structured way of mainstreaming gender at the proposal's design stage to humanitarian teams and cluster members. It evaluates in a scale from 0 to 2 depending on the project's “contribution to gender equality”. Results in 844 projects evaluated during 2014/2015 are as follows: 22% of projects are blind to gender issues; 42% have a limited potential to contribute to gender equity and 35% had a great potential for mainstreaming gender.

In 2013 the General Directorate of the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) launched its **Gender and Age Marker** as a way of making its gender policy operational. Its goal was to increase aid quality promoting a humanitarian action that could answer adequately to the different needs and consider the capacities of men and women of any age. It also monitors ECHO resource allocation in projects which are sensitive to gender and age issues. Changes regarding the IASC marker are the following: 1) **it incorporates age** besides gender; 2) it marks the project at the design stage (proposal) **but also at the monitoring and final report ones**; 3) it proposes **4 quality criteria**; 4) the social organization makes a self-assessment first and then **a collaborative dialogue is opened with ECHO**.

The four criteria established for the evaluation are the following: 1) **gender and age analysis**, because **“it is not necessary to wait until the disaster happens to discover gender and age relations in a certain society”**; 2) **assistance adapted** to needs, it is about telling **“which special things are you going to do”**; 3) taking into account the **negative effects**; 4) an **adequate participation**: **“the question is not how many people participate, but what do you do in order to encourage the participation and nobody stays out”**. Results in 627 proposals marked in 2014 were: 18% of projects in which action hardly integrated gender and age issues; 42% in which action integrated gender and age matters to a certain extent; 23% of projects which completely integrated gender and age issues.

Some common mistakes in this mainstreaming are the insufficient level of analysis, the use of a **‘cosmetic’ language**, since **“it is not about introducing gender, it is a process which has to be present from the beginning to the end”**, and the incorrect use of data according to sex and age, the lack of coherence between needs/activities/results, and gender identified as women and girls. **“Gender is not counting on women, is counting on men and women of different ages and conditions”**. Thanks to these lessons learned, the IASC Marker is also evolving, incorporating the age dimension, adapting itself to monitor the execution stage and simplifying the ‘score’, so that both markers are more similar and can facilitate the work to organizations.

Some emerging questions are the increase on gender sensitivity in projects; gender demystification, because **“we started to see that it is simply common sense”**; the opening of spaces for dialogue; and the increased commitment of donors and agencies.



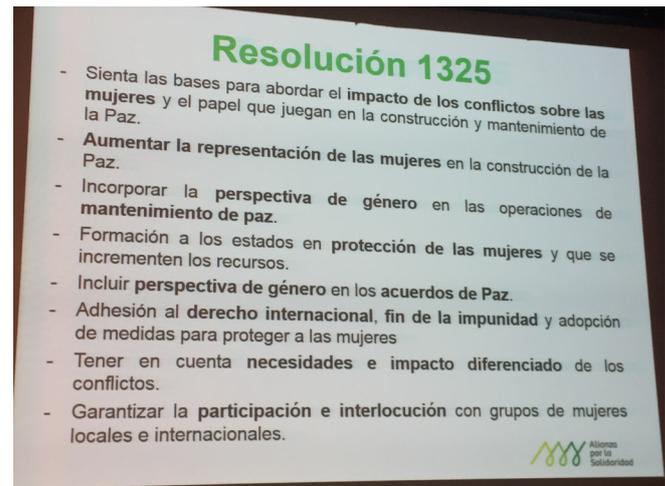
## 3

**“If we do not question inequalities which provoke conflicts, little will change there” – María Salvador, Alianza por la Solidaridad**

Resolution 1325 was approved by the UN Security Council in 2000 and **it lays the foundations for addressing the impact of conflicts in women** and the role they can play in peace-building and peacekeeping. This resolution sets some measures for accomplishing it: increasing the representation of women in peace-building; incorporating the gender-based approach into the peacekeeping operation; training States in women protection and increasing resources; including gender perspective in peace agreements; adhering to international law; the end of impunity and the adoption of measures aimed at

protecting women; taking into account the needs and the differentiated impact and finally ensuring participation and discussion with groups of women.

At the international level, a monitoring of the resolution compliance has been carried out through annual reports on the implementation, recommendation of indicators for its application, incorporation into the national action plans and a global report 15 years after its approval. However, many of the expectations have not been met, so it is necessary to keep working on it. Sexual violence against women and girls is still a weapon, but **“violence is not just being raped; it marks a before and an after in your life”**. In conflict, maternal mortality and child marriage increase and access to land decreases. Women are still absent from the peace accords signings or are not mentioned in them: **“we are clearly invisible”**. The inclusion of women is very important, since their participation in postwar peace **guarantees more lasting and sustainable peace process**.



15 years after the approval of resolution 1325, there has been a **shift into national security to the detriment of human security**. Resolution is having little impact in the daily life of women although it is a useful tool for advocacy. There are still gaps in women participation; there is a limited preventive and rights-based approach in favor of a one focused in security and counter-terrorism; resources are limited and there are no mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation. **Protection is still a task ahead**, because impunity and limited access to justice persist.

For this reason, the advocacy work should have a **clear feminist approach and question the patriarchal system**: **“if we do not question the inequalities which provoke conflicts, nothing is going to change”**. Gender-based violence and sexual violence should be considered as priority needs. It is important to promote a participative approach with transformative experiences; the empowerment of women organizations and demand the responsibility of States, as well as work with partnerships. We have to incorporate the gender lens, questioning the security approach and assuring protection, prevention and participation. Some good practices in this sense are **the gathering of evidence and systematizing them in gender-based violence and sexual violence issues**; the strengthen of local women organizations; the development of tools and dynamics of participation of right holders into the decision making; **carrying out comprehensive interventions**; the visibility of care-giving; the positioning of the gender agenda in different clusters; the linking of development with humanitarian action and the creation of spaces for accountability.

However, there are still challenges ahead which include a greater advocacy and enforceability approach into peace-building processes; a preventive approach related to lobby in rules and policies; **in the effects which limit the effective participation of women**; a better coordination and search of synergies and complementarities to improve the advocacy. **We should work with duty bearers** and change social norms, as well as questioning causes and situations which perpetuate inequalities. We have to give more visibility to local dimensions, ensuring access to justice for women in cases of gender-based violence and sexual violence and to pay attention to cases of impunity. **“The most important thing is not to go back in the Agenda”**.

4

**“The conclusion of the Project “Femme au Fone” is that the enemy is at home” – Carla Fibla, LolaMora Producciones-Fundación WorldCom**

LolaMora Producciones-Fundación WorldCom was born with the aim of giving voice to those which are hidden through the production of contextualized information and good analysis. An example of this work incorporating the gender-based approach is the **project “Femme au Fone”** set up in 2012 in Bukavu, in the South Kivu province (Democratic Republic of Congo). The project consists on sending SMS messages through mobile phones, which are received in a computer and then classified, in order to have a complete picture of gender-based violence in the region. SMS messages are classified according to UN criteria (economic, physical, legal security, etc.), but **it has also been incorporated the variable “home”**. The evolution of the project has been remarkable: from 70 people typically sending SMS to 800 people. Around 400 messages are received in a daily basis, in spite of the poor coverage. **85% of them are related to economic violence** (inheritance, management of women’s income) **but also to physical violence** (blows, rapes, incest).

**The conclusion is that the enemy is at home.** This domestic violence is much more difficult to control due to the great impunity existent in the society. Besides, this project has been linked with Resolution 1325. There have been published specific reports which gather the views of women on that resolution: some problems are not addressed, for example, **violence against women accused of sorcery**, something very important in the area. Amongst the difficulties we find the mountainous geography of South Kivu and the presence of armed groups, as well as the difficult access to telephone coverage which causes that SMS messages arrive with some days of delay. Besides, the verification on a one-by-one basis prevents that all cases can be verified in situ. However, this has been used for establishing a **communication network in which other international NGOs can be informed about the different situations.**

5

**“There are few interventions that can be implemented in humanitarian action because they are common sense” - Nadia Criado, Save the Children**

From the point of view of an organization focused on childhood, it is highlighted the need to see the social reality before disasters happen. For this reason, there are initiatives like **“safe spaces for children”**, established in all humanitarian situations. These interventions draw from the realization of the special situation of girls and boys in humanitarian contexts. Therefore, **differentiate spaces for breastfeeding mothers are established and also privacy spaces for young girls are adapted too.** These few interventions are some of the visions and ideas that can be taken into account in the humanitarian action **because they are common sense.**

## **Instituto de Estudios sobre Conflictos y Acción Humanitaria (IECAH)**

C/Jaén, 13 - local  
28020 Madrid  
Telf: (+34) 91.377.14.98  
Email: [info@iecah.org](mailto:info@iecah.org)

# .iecah.

Instituto de Estudios sobre Conflictos y Acción Humanitaria  
Institute of Studies on Conflicts and Humanitarian Action

*With the support of*

**LA CASA ENCENDIDA**

