

WOMEN AS THE BENEFICIARIES AND ACTORS OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

9 - 10 MAY 2015 • ISTANBUL

WORKING GROUPS OUTCOMES

Working Group 1: Gender Sensitive Emergency Response

Moderator: *Khazad Ali Sadi, Kurdistan Regional Government*

1. There should be binding international protocols for emergency responses, which national governments should adopt in their emergency response policies. National governments and NGOs should collaborate on emergency responses.
2. Emergency organization and assessment teams should consist of men and women in equal numbers.
3. Emergency organization and assessment teams should include experts from different academic disciplines, such as sociology, psychology, anthropology and medicine.
4. Raising awareness through education and social media campaigns is needed at all levels of society to take initiatives in different emergency situations. Women should be encouraged more to take part in emergency organizations. School curricula should be revised to include lessons on emergency responses.
5. The demographic data in emergency situations, especially on vulnerable groups such as children, women, disabled people, and elderly people, should be accurate, up-to-date and globally accessible.

Working Group 2: Empowerment of Women Refugees and Long Term Resilience

Moderator: *Marian Cicoello*

1. It is critical to create confidence in the refugees. We believe that instilling self confidence in the women refugees will propel them forward and empower them to gain control over their lives once again. Confidence breeds empowerment.
2. Providing access to resources is a key component; this includes understanding housing, job, medical and education opportunities within their new communities.
3. Crucial for creating a better life is including the refugees' input, insight and involvement from the start of their re-settlement and all through the process. They need to have a voice in their future.
4. From the start, create a two-way dynamic relationship; assisting organizations/countries must set expectations and goals that the refugees strive to achieve; and the refugees must hold the assisting organizations/countries accountable for their transition and assimilation for



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the partnership to be mutually beneficial.

5. Given the many barriers and issues facing refugees, mentoring and counseling should be provided and encouraged. There should be role models for them to emulate and to see a path forward.

Working group 3: Role of CSOs and Responsibilities of State Authorities

Suwbha Chopra, India

1. Governance should be affirmed as a multicultural concept and practice affecting countries and regions differently. Civil societies and state must therefore share power in governance to the service, protection and empowerment of people,
2. The universal and specific values of governance should be emphasized, and national civil societies must set their own development priorities before building bridges and collaboration with international CSOs,
3. Civil societies should recall their role as a watchdog for governments' responsibilities and accountability for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Consequently, CSOs must leverage their social policies for the achievement of the SDGs,
4. Common strategies between States and CSOs should be developed for progressive and political societies which will generate dialogue and capacity building egalitarian systems towards the empowerment of women,
5. International CSOs is a tool to support and complement national and regional priorities in the achievement of the SDGs.

Working group 4: Preventing Abuse of Women Refugees and IDPs

Moderator: Emma Volodarskaya, Russia

1. Women who have lost their husband in war are left with the burden of the whole family. These women should be empowered, through the development of soft skills, so that they can make a living for their family.
2. Kidnapping, abduction and rape cause psychological damage and social neglect for women. In order to reintegrate these women back into the society, NGOs should organize seminars and establish necessary social structures.
3. Another abuse is the lack of access to sufficient health care, which is the responsibility of governments. In case where governments does not fulfil this obligation sufficiently, we encourage the civil society organizations and international community to step in and put pressure on their governments.
4. Some abuse of women is related to the abuse of religion. One solution could be to promote



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interfaith dialogue and to keep religious and government affairs separately. It is also important not to link any religion with terrorism.

5. One way to prevent abuse would be to establish local women councils in order to create a better ways of communications and dialogue between governments and local communities.

Working group 5: Do no harm

Moderator: Millicent Otieno, Kenya

1. The contextual realities should be systematically mapped and addressed where the humanitarian action is undertaken and the findings should be utilized to design, plan, execute and monitor the actions.
2. The use of Do No Harm principle should be emphasized and adopted as an approach in the delivery of humanitarian action
3. Humanitarian actions should embrace collaboration and cooperation instead of competition and duplication for cost effectiveness.
4. Translation (Operationalization) of policies into conflict sensitive humanitarian processes and actions are essential to create cumulative positive impact for the communities (beneficiaries).
5. Empowerment of local actors, especially women organizations is needed to intervene in the local contexts for effectiveness and cultural sensitivity.
6. State and non state actors' coordination of humanitarian actions should be urged for embracing Respect, Accountability and Transparency principles.

