



REGIONAL CONSULTATION

Latin America and the Caribbean
Guatemala City
May 5 - 7, 2015

FINAL REPORT



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The World Humanitarian Summit Regional Steering Group for Latin America and the Caribbean would like to thank all organisations, governments, participants, and staff members working behind the scenes who made the WHS-MIAH meeting a success, providing quality inputs to further the global process and chart the course of humanitarian action in Latin America and the Caribbean.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The May 5-7 2015 World Humanitarian Summit regional consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Guatemala City, Guatemala, was hosted by the Government of Guatemala and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA-ROLAC) within the framework of the International Mechanisms for Humanitarian Assistance (MIAH).

The regional consultation resulted in a renewed vision of humanitarian action in Latin America and the Caribbean, reiterating the need to focus attention on affected communities and underscoring the role of the State as a central actor with the support of other organisations. Regional and international partners are the main allies in preparedness and response, ensuring that local actors are empowered and at the centre of action through capacity building and knowledge and skill transfer that can be adapted to each diverse context.

A number of important recommended actions and clarifications emerged from the consultation. To give a brief overview, these include a differentiated approach to gender, ethnicity, age and disability; independent accountability mechanisms and processes involving affected people to enhance transparency; humanitarian action mechanisms as a cross-cutting issue in social programs; addressing protection and assistance for internally displaced persons (IDPs); international funding and donor priority focusing on preparedness and building resilience; private sector and other civil society involvement in preparedness and humanitarian response; the fundamental role of academia in research and critical thinking to help promote concerted and well-coordinated humanitarian action in the region; the importance of fostering humanitarian innovation for preparedness, response and recovery; the role of historical and political context in situations of conflict; the efficacy of the cluster system; and marginalization and discrimination in the context of displacement and violence in the region, among others.

The regional consultation concluded with the formulation of the Declaration of Guatemala. The recommendations are not an end point but a beginning of the process that will continue in the MIAH VII Action Plan.



BACKGROUND

Convened by United Nations General Secretary Ban Ki-moon and organised by OCHA, the first World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) will take place in May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey for the purpose of establishing an agenda aligned with the current and changing humanitarian context to meet the needs of millions of people affected by conflicts or disasters. The WHS will be an opportunity to take stock of achievements, to share lessons learned and good practices in humanitarian action and to build a more inclusive humanitarian society committed to humanitarian principles and diversity.

The preparatory process for the WHS is built on four core consultation strategies:

1. Eight regional consultations and one global consultation;
2. Thematic consultations with expert working groups preparing thematic reports and a global thematic consultation;
3. Online consultations starting in May 2014;
4. Linkages to related global processes on disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change and the post-2015 development agenda.

Additional planned activities include Ethics and Principles of Humanitarian Innovation (Oxford); WHS Civil-Military Consultation (Singapore); WHS Youth Summit (Dakar); and the Irish Humanitarian Summit (Dublin) among others.

"We are the first generation that can end poverty and the last that can end climate change."
Ban Ki Moon, UN SG

Figure 1. Upcoming specialized global process consultations



MIAH-WHS PROCESS

In a complex and constantly evolving context of growing numbers of stakeholders and increasing needs, humanitarian partners in Latin America and the Caribbean have invested in and rely on the International Mechanisms for Humanitarian Assistance (MIAH). The MIAH process, begun in 2008¹, is a dynamic initiative led by OCHA-ROLAC for strengthening partnerships between the main humanitarian actors with the ambitious goal of improving the management of humanitarian action. Each MIAH meeting generates an Action Plan proposing activities and commitments to be implemented over the next biennium and a Declaration that supports the discussions and endorses it. The Kingstown Action Plan 2013 specifically expressed support for seeking inputs from the region for the World Humanitarian Summit.

The VII MIAH meeting held in Guatemala in May 2015 was the forum for the WHS regional consultation, allowing the established process, alliances, relations and actions of previous MIAH meetings to contribute to the WHS regional consultation process, and the four thematic areas in the MIAH Action Plan have been incorporated into the WHS themes of regional interest. Likewise, the MIAH process was strengthened by the comprehensive approach and broad participation of different sectors in the WHS process and by the revitalization of regional humanitarian discussions focused on WHS key themes.

This mutually beneficial cooperation between WHS and MIAH has resulted in confidence that the regional process leading to global results will have an immediate and long-lasting impact on efficient and effective humanitarian action in the region.

Figure 2. Link between the Kingstown Action Plan 2013 and the WHS-LAC consultation process of 2015



¹ MIAH Mexico 2008; II MIAH Brazil 2009; III MIAH Argentina 2010; IV MIAH Ecuador 2011; V MIAH Panama 2012; VI MIAH Jamaica 2013; VII MIAH Guatemala 2015

LAC REGIONAL CONSULTATION PROCESS

The LAC regional consultation was part of a global process that included the following regional consultations:

1. West and Central Africa, Ivory Coast – June 2014
2. North and South-East Asia, Japan – July 2014
3. Eastern and Southern Africa, South Africa – October 2014
4. Europe and Others, Hungary – February 2015
5. Middle East and North Africa, Jordan – March 2015
6. Latin America and the Caribbean, Guatemala – May 2015
7. Pacific Region, New Zealand – June 2015
8. South and Central Asia, Tajikistan – July 2015

The May 2015 Guatemala meeting was preceded by a consultation process that ran from April 2014 to April 2015 on the four WHS themes (1. Humanitarian Effectiveness; 2. Reducing Vulnerability and Managing Risk; 3. Transformation through Innovation; 4. Serving the Needs of People in Conflict) in addition to the theme of Displacement and Violence. The consultation prior to the Guatemala meeting included the participation of 4,786 individuals, 50 per cent of whom were affected people and civil society groups in specific situations of vulnerability. Of the total participants, 55 per cent were male and 45 per cent were female. The LAC regional consultation was the sixth of eight regional consultations providing inputs and recommendations to help shape the next global humanitarian action program.

The May 2015 Guatemala meeting was nested within the framework of the seventh MIAH meeting, hosted by the Government of Guatemala and co-chaired by the Guatemalan National Coordination Body for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) and OCHA.

In the spirit of multilateralism, the regional consultation in Guatemala brought together some 180 participants from 25 countries in the region, representing Member States, regional and sub-regional organisations, the United Nations system, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, national and international civil society organisations, academia, women's groups, indigenous peoples, private sector, and affected communities to promote multisectoral debate on humanitarian action in the region. As part of the global WHS process, key recommendations and actions were identified, leading to the Guatemala Action Plan and Declaration of Guatemala as outcomes of the MIAH process.

Figure 3: Issues discussed in the regional consultation process for Latin America and the Caribbean



METHODOLOGY

Because the regional consultation debates leading to the WHS took place within the framework of the MIAH process, a methodology was proposed for obtaining inputs for both the WHS and the MIAH processes:

- Recommendations for the global consultation in Turkey 2016, contained in this document;
- Suggested actions to implement the VII MIAH Action Plan.

Topics of discussion were based on the main results of the LAC Preliminary Stakeholder Analysis, taking into consideration global trends. Results and questions were prioritized to foster discussion.

The work sessions on WHS themes one, two and three included:

- Presentation on the global, regional and local approach to each theme by guest experts in the plenary;
- Formation of work groups according to participant interest indicated on registration;
- Thematic discussion in work groups of 11 complex and overlapping topics;
- Formulation of recommendations and activities for the WHS and MIAH processes;
- Presentation of results in plenary.

Three additional sessions were offered based on participant interest: Reducing Vulnerability and Managing Risk, Transformation through Innovation, and Displacement and Violence (see Regional Consultation Program Annex 1) and a discussion took place on Humanitarian Action and Gender Equality. The key recommendations and considerations that emerged from the sessions on themes one (Humanitarian Effectiveness), three (Transformation through Innovation) and four (Serving the Needs of People in Conflict), along with the dialogue on Displacement and Violence, have been synthesized and published in the Co-Chair Summary (see Annex II) to reflect the agreed-upon priorities.

This final report summarizes ideas shared during discussions—including individual and non-consensual ideas—and is a key stakeholder contribution of the LAC regional consultation meeting towards the goals of the WHS 2016 in Istanbul.

Figure 4. Documents produced during the Regional Consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean as a contribution to the global process



OPENING REMARKS

The regional consultation was formally opened by CONRED Guatemala Executive Secretary Alejandro Maldonado; OCHA-ROLAC Representative Dario Alvarez; United Nations Resident Coordinator for Guatemala Valerie Julliard; Head of the World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat Jemilah Mahmoud; and Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme Amir Mahmoud Abdullah.



Alejandro Maldonado Lutomirsky, CONRED Guatemala Executive Secretary, focused his remarks on the critical need for comprehensive disaster risk reduction management. After expressing his condolences for those affected by the 25 April earthquake in Nepal, he emphasised that the term “comprehensive” includes both natural age-old hazards and human-induced hazards resulting from global warming and climate change and evokes inclusive actions that take into account the special needs of each gender, all ages and cultures and the needs of people with disabilities. Comprehensive risk reduction management includes clear preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery actions before, during and after a disaster, a joint effort between governments, private initiative, civil society, organisations and the international community. Comprehensive risk reduction management is also essential in achieving development and prosperity goals.



Darío Alvarez, Representative of OCHA-ROLAC, gave an overview of the MIAH meetings from the first meeting held in Mexico in 2008 to the seventh held in Guatemala. The MIAH initiated Kingston Action Plan 2013 led to the gathering of regional input for the 2016 WHS in Istanbul under the Latin American and Caribbean region’s already existing framework of MIAH, where a diversity of stakeholders, states and organisations convene to work on humanitarian action in a structured, participative, inclusive, dynamic, and proactive manner. The WHS Regional Steering Group welcomed MIAH with the participation of Mexico, Ecuador, Argentina, Brazil, CDEMA, CEPREDENAC, civil society, academia, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Oxfam as a NGO representative, private companies, Guatemala as host country, OCHA as Secretariat, and Guatemala and OCHA acting as co-chairs for the consultation process. Documents resulting from the regional consultation include the Co-Chair Summary and, as outcomes of the MIAH process, the Guatemala Action Plan and the Declaration of Guatemala.



Valerie Julliard, UN Resident Coordinator, Guatemala, led the audience in a reflection on the nature of “real” disasters, making a distinction between age old naturally occurring disasters and disasters caused by human actions against Mother Earth, including our lack of action to help people made vulnerable due to poverty, deficient structures, vulnerable dwelling spaces and geographical areas, lack of preparedness and social differences. In short, “real” disaster is the lack of development or poor development. Due to systemic social structures, the people most vulnerable to disasters are the poor, women, migrants, and children. Although indigenous people represent five per cent of the world’s population, they represent 15 per cent of the poor, and over a third of them live in extreme poverty. The region is also exposed to many natural phenomena: ten cities in Latin America are at high risk of natural disasters and four countries in Central America are on a list of the 15 highest risk countries in the world. Still, the region’s greatest vulnerability is inequality: 79 per cent of the population lives in urban areas, where poverty is the leading factor for vulnerability. Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Guatemala, Haiti, and Mexico have a Gini Index above 50. People may have resilience, but these vulnerabilities accumulate over time, creating a gap based on gender, race, ethnicity, and social class, progressively weakening their ability to cope. This, then, is the “real” disaster.



Jemilah Mahmoud, Head of the World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat, focused her comments on the important role in collaborative disaster management and coordination played by MIAH in a region exceptionally prone to disaster. As the second most disaster-prone region of the world, 80 per cent of the LAC population live in urban areas, exposing people to devastating consequences when poorly planned urban settlements are hit by disasters. Urbanization also brings new risks and new vulnerabilities. At the end of 2013, the top 20 most violent cities in the world were in Latin America and the Caribbean, and urban violence has resulted in at least 6.3 million internally displaced persons in the region, negatively affecting all aspects of society. In the face of these challenges, humanitarian response must be appropriate to local contexts and respectful of local cultures, delivered by dedicated, committed humanitarians, not as representatives of organisations or mandates or agendas, but as humans sharing a commitment to our common humanity. The WHS is a call to precisely this type of human action.



Amir Mahmoud Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme, highlighted the timely nature of the meeting, giving that we are faced with an unprecedented number of increasingly complex tensions and crises. The example of Yemen shows that without stability, economies and food systems can collapse quickly, pushing countries into humanitarian crises and setting back years of progress in a matter of weeks. While the LAC region has made significant progress in reducing vulnerabilities and building local capacity, much more needs to be done. The WFP and CDEMA, co-leaders in the thematic discussion on humanitarian effectiveness in the region, would like to see LAC take the lead at the WHS through the global promotion of important goals such as linking humanitarian work and development, building resilience, and above all, strengthening national capacities for disaster management. The WHS is an important catalyser for change in the humanitarian system, allowing a vision of linked processes that include the Sendai recommendations on disaster risk reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015 in New York and the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in October 2016 in Quito.

“The future of humanitarian assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean starts now.”
Amir Mahmoud, WHS-LAC, 2015

THE VOICES OF THE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

The LAC regional consultation was accomplished with the collaboration of World Vision and IOM. These organizations performed community consultations in peri-urban, urban and rural contexts with residents, displaced persons and returnees. These interviews included individuals within communities, associations or community networks. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement held 19 focus groups in 18 countries with various civil society groups in specific vulnerable situations. Some of the more significant contributions of the consultation include:

- Although humanitarian action is more effective within an organised and prepared community, 70 per cent of those interviewed indicated feeling “that their community is not prepared to face an emergency or disaster.”
- Among the greatest threats to their communities, they identified earthquakes (56%), flooding (28%), epidemics (20%), drought (16%), violence (15%) conflict (12%), land-slides, and others.
- 40 per cent of the people consulted said that they had not received humanitarian assistance after the crisis; those who did receive assistance reported that it had been delivered in their own communities, preventing further displacement.
- An approach focused on the needs of the community helps humanitarian assistance to be perceived positively by affected people, making empathy a key attribute in humanitarian workers. Raising awareness among humanitarian workers to better understand the situation of victims, prioritizing the care of children, and efficiently providing affected people with explanations and information can make a huge difference.
- One of the greatest threats faced by communities is violence and its potential to lead to a crisis. Interviewees suggested that actions such as fostering education focused on children, young people and parents, supporting community organisations, and promoting access to employment can all mitigate the effects of violence and conflict.
- Displaced persons indicated that they had been assisted mainly in their basic vital needs, but only very rarely had they been afforded protection against, for example, sexual violence, especially in the case of children, or psychological support or assistance for the protection of their rights.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAG6wTxO_p



DIALOGUE: HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND GENDER EQUALITY

Context:

Moderator Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator, Guatemala, opened the discussion by advocating for the topic of a gender approach in humanitarian work to be placed at the global forefront. Although humanitarians often speak of a gender approach, there is a lack of action; LAC is the only region with a discussion on this topic. This is an opportunity to make recommendations that reflect the outcome of the consultation in Chile and mobilize the voices of the region's women.



Point Summary of Panel Discussion:

Panelist María Machicado, UN Women's Representative in Guatemala

- We must move beyond seeing women as inherently vulnerable and examine the structures and values that debase and discriminate against women.
- Humanitarian situations affect women differently, and their knowledge and skills often remain untapped.
- Women should be the first to be consulted in humanitarian response.
- A clearer understanding of the dynamics of the gender approach can motivate humanitarian workers to more readily invest in working with women.
- Constant, ongoing gender analysis is needed to identify how each gender is affected by disaster and what their needs and capacities are.
- There are still gaps between girls and boys in terms of access to education, which has serious repercussions in the lives of girls.
- The budgets and programs must reflect the work with women and their concerns, such as sexual violence and violence against women and girls (VAWG) in the camps.
- We need to assume the responsibility and allocate resources for the gender approach in humanitarian work.

Panelist Marta Pérez del Pulgar, UNFPA Regional Emergencies Specialist

- A main challenge at the regional and local level is how women are seen before and after a disaster and the type of information sought.

- We need to have a clear definition of the components of “family” and know both their capabilities and their needs in order to design a better response.
- Funding initiatives with women and local groups is difficult, and a lack of funding for this work increases exclusion; gathering information from different channels and different community perspectives is essential.
- Some municipal authorities do not allow women to engage in discussions on disaster risk reduction or participate in decision-making.
- Investing in girls to ensure they have a stronger voice is essential.
- What is good for everyone is not necessarily good for women.
- Women often cannot participate in the community because of the risk, and focusing on the prevention of VAWG can begin to change this.
- Sexual and reproductive health in emergencies is also a huge and often overlooked priority, requiring a specific risk management strategy.

Panelist George Nicholson, Director of Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction, Association of Caribbean States

- Unlike the past, the trend now is that women have become less marginalized, but young people are more likely to lack access to education,
- This highlights the need to put more focus on youth as a marginalized category.

Panelist Martha de Escamilla, Volunteer Coordinator, Municipality of Villa Canales, Guatemala

- In international debates, the gender perspective continues to be treated as an after-thought.
- Without gender analysis, women may be overlooked, and while affected women may receive tools, they may be the wrong tools.
- In order to take into account all the roles played by women, their capacities, and the limitations on their daily schedules, the gender approach needs to be an integral part of all agendas.

Comments from participants:

Tomás Villanueva, Mayor of Pisco, Peru

- Women led the reconstruction and the discussions in the aftermath of the 2007 earthquake and were fully involved in the response.
- In the aftermath of the earthquake, many men abandoned their families, leaving women on their own to care for their families.
- Many cases of incest and sexual violence against girls committed by male family members required the provision of psychological and emotional support for both women and their children.
- It is essential to both recognize what happened and to help women to move forward.

Angeline Annetteus, ActionAid Haiti

- Women and children have specific needs in emergency situations, but women are also participating and leading in disaster response.
- By recognizing female leadership and participation, the WHS can promote accountability to the communities.

Closing Remarks:

Moderator Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator, Guatemala, closed the session by asking “How can we better take women into account?” and reminding the audience that the WHS themes are spaces to rethink humanitarian action. These themes are all relevant to a pragmatic dialogue on gender equality that has been started in LAC and should continue in Istanbul and beyond.

THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

TOWARDS EFFECTIVE HUMANITARIAN ACTION: INNOVATION AND REDUCING RISK

Context:

After an introduction by **Moderator Alzira Ferreira** of WFP, three panelists shared their experience and views on three issues from a global, regional and local perspective. Participants were divided into six working groups to discuss six issues with the aid of 11 motivating questions. After exchanging views, the members of each group made recommendations for the WHS process and proposed activities to become part of the MIAH report.

Point Summary of Panel Discussion:

Panelist Jemilah Mahmoud, Director of the WHS Secretariat
Global Contextualization of the WHS Consultation Process

To date, consultations across the world are converging around seven key areas for action, reflecting core elements of the four themes of the WHS to define the work in Istanbul and beyond.

1. Ensuring that the affected people, especially women, have a stronger voice and greater role in humanitarian action.
 - Put affected people first, recognizing their role as the first to respond, leveraging their capacities, skills and knowledge.
 - Provide services prioritized by the affected people, work in local languages, use local mechanisms such as markets, and allocate resources to build leadership and local knowledge, particularly where disasters and crises occur frequently.
 - Empower women to have a stronger voice and greater role in humanitarian action.
 - Make humanitarian action accountable to the affected people by contextualizing and localizing humanitarian response.
2. Providing local and national actors with better access to humanitarian funding and leadership roles in humanitarian decision-making.
3. Increasing resources for humanitarian preparedness, response and recovery.
 - Diversify the funding base and investigate risk-funding mechanisms.
 - Provide funding to address vulnerability and build resilience.
4. Adapting the international humanitarian system to respond to the challenges ahead through a more diverse, inclusive and truly global humanitarian architecture focused on people and based on results and regional and national contexts.
5. Reducing Vulnerability and Managing Risk
 - Investigate “crisis coverage” mechanisms such as insurance systems or security networks for the world’s most vulnerable people.
 - Identify ways to break down the artificial silos between humanitarian action and development.
6. Transformation through Innovation
 - Innovation must be guided by the stakeholders and based on participative methods that are sensitive to the power dynamics in the community, culture and language.

7. Serving the Needs of People in Conflict.

- 80 per cent of UN humanitarian work throughout the world takes place in the context of conflicts, which affect the peace and stability of us all.
- Engage with all parties in a conflict and keep humanitarian action from being politicized or manipulated for political ends.

Crosscutting issues:

- New vulnerabilities created by rapid urbanization;
- More strategic participation with the private sector;
- Understanding of risk (the LAC region has extensive experience in the use of science and modelling to inform preparedness and humanitarian response).

Panelist Ronald Hugh Jackson, Executive Director, CDEMA

Regional Contextualization of Theme 1

- A new response paradigm is needed for the understanding of resilience, which really means reducing risk and vulnerabilities.
- Vulnerability and exposure are very high in LAC, and the goals of humanitarian action must be geared towards building resilience and development tools.
- The role of individuals in humanitarian action needs to be recognized through a rights-based approach.
- Academic research and critical thinking can support concerted and well-coordinated humanitarian action in the region.
- In international humanitarian coordination, regional and sub-regional actors must be more respectful of the local realities in their approaches.
- Gaps in legal frameworks need to be addressed at the international, regional and local levels.
- Humanitarian architecture must be built from the bottom up and be well connected.

Panelist Tomás Villanueva Andia Crisóstomo, Mayor of Pisco, Peru

Local Contextualization of Theme 1

- Tupac Amaru, Peru, suffered an earthquake in 2007. Neighbourhood participation was already strong with a self-management and development council every five blocks.
- Response to the earthquake was immediate thanks to the training and guidance received by the population.
- Psycho-emotional support should be part of humanitarian work, particularly for children and the elderly.
- Key aspects in the aftermath of the earthquake included strengthening self-esteem, self-fulfilment, solidarity and the need for security.
- Women played a very important role after the earthquake.

Working Group Outcomes:

Strengthening the leadership of national and local authorities, including local and global coordination.

How can humanitarian actors better support host governments, particularly at the local level, and strengthen their leadership role in humanitarian action?

- Strengthen and/or promote national normative frameworks and State structure for disaster risk management, taking it into account when delivering international humanitarian assistance.

- Provide technical training in preparedness and capacity building for emergency response to local authorities.
- Improve local and national processes and protocols to deliver humanitarian assistance to affected communities, implementing a differentiated approach to gender, ethnicity, age, culture and disability.
- Standardize legal frameworks for access to humanitarian aid in the event of disasters as a Universal Right (at the constitutional level if possible).
- Establish strategic alliances between the different sectors and governments for disaster response with humanitarian aid.
- Develop capacities at the local level for prevention and management of humanitarian aid in the event disasters.
- Support existing coordination mechanisms at the local, national and regional levels.
- Enforce state-led capacity assessments with the support of the relevant regional agency to ensure objectivity.
- Focus efforts for capacity building at the highest base level.

Ensuring affected people are at the centre of humanitarian action (Part 1)

What recommendations and concrete steps can we identify to ensure that affected people are systematically positioned at the centre of our actions before, during and after disasters and crises?

- Engage governments to generate spaces for social participation and guarantees for community participation to give people in communities a bigger role and informed participation, raising awareness of the rights of individuals.
- Include community representatives as part of the overall planning process, respecting their cultural values as a crosscutting issue in public management and policies.
- Establish cultural baselines in affected territories for the adequate management of humanitarian aid.
- Know the structure of the community and identify the actors and their leadership.
- Develop a participative Damage Assessment Needs Analysis (DANA) between humanitarian actors and the community to generate a shared vision rather than only the vision of aid workers.
- Build on previous work and plan for long-term support.
- Address the issue of human development needs, not only risk-related needs.
- Change from an emergency paradigm to a prevention paradigm.
- Desegregate training programs according to events and capacities for better preparedness in future events.
- Train local authorities and enhance national protocols and processes with a differentiated approach.

What concrete actions should humanitarian actors take to ensure that women, youth and the guardians of ancestral knowledge are actively involved in the design and implementation of humanitarian action?

- Strengthen the methodology and processes for rapid needs assessment with multidisciplinary and gender-balanced teams.
- Increase the role of the private sector, academia and other partners and stakeholders.

How can we ensure that factors are aligned to motivate the private sector, academia and new actors with the priorities of humanitarian sector to ensure synergies?

- Create an appropriate platform to enable participation of different stakeholder groups, possibly at different levels, recognizing the importance of the municipal level.
- Include monitoring and reports.
- Develop joint training programs involving all key stakeholders.

- Include disaster risk management in university curricula.
- Establish more flexible mandates for humanitarian agencies and the creation of centres of excellence with synergy between academia and the private sector.
- Mobilize and improve organisations which do not fall under any specific category but have huge networks and local knowledge such as the Rotary Clubs and the Soroptomist global network that are involved in activities related to maternal health, education and building resilience as part of their mandate.

Humanitarian funding gap in LAC

How can international mechanisms and resources be channelled and used in ways that empower authorities and stakeholders, particularly affected people?

- Adapt international regulations to the national and local contexts, establishing processes and mechanisms for the complete humanitarian program cycle to facilitate local authority access to international resources.
- Establish independent accountability mechanisms and processes and involve affected people to strengthen transparency.
- Establish project banks prepared by local authorities/communities to be jointly analysed.

Cash-based assistance

What mechanisms can be implemented to increase and make operational cash-based assistance in countries in LAC?

- Establish clear mechanisms and procedures to understand or define the best modalities to reach beneficiaries using cash-based assistance; develop and agree on methods, tools and indicators to provide affected people with access to an appropriate response modality.
- Promote the use of donor assistance criteria that are not limited to macroeconomic criteria, as in middle-income countries, but rather include socio-economic criteria taking into account inequality in order to address the different vulnerabilities of the population.
- Report on the impact of the transfers on cash-based assistance accountability mechanisms at national, regional and local levels.
- Establish favoured identification mechanisms that are flexible enough to not only ensure accountability but also provide access to assistance for those in need without official personal identification, as in the case of undocumented migrants or people who have lost their identification during a crisis. Set up these programs and tools prior to the onset of the crisis so that they can be activated when the crisis occurs.
- Ensure that distribution mechanisms do not increase the risk for the favoured people (avoid robberies).

How can international humanitarian funding decisions for LAC address existing social conditions such as inequality, violence, unplanned urbanization, and increasing vulnerabilities in the region?

- Create new regional modalities, resource activation mechanisms and more flexible sources accessible by national governments to provide support for small and medium scale emergencies that have not activated international response and funding.
- Define long-term funding as at least several years in duration, breaking down barriers between humanitarian and development funding. Focus international funding on preparedness and building resilience and encourage the private sector, along with major stakeholders, to work in alignment with governmental priorities.

- Establish a database of successful projects built by local authorities and community organisations with information gathered and analysed to identify best practices.
- Scale up interventions involving development banks such as the World Bank to establish emergency funds that include gender analysis and/or analysis on how people access emergency loans.
- Differentiate between emergency and development funds and make use of long-term donor funding to build resilience and preparedness.

Addressing humanitarian challenges in LAC: Redesigning the humanitarian response²

What concrete steps should be taken to ensure that host governments and those affected by disasters lead the humanitarian response while building resilience and reducing risk, particularly in the urban context and contexts of violence?

- Promote humanitarian leadership in the event of disasters or crises as a direct responsibility of States through their national structures, local governments and municipalities in affected areas of the country.
- Urge governments to adopt comprehensive humanitarian policies based on legal frameworks to address climate change, disaster risk reduction and violence at the national and local levels.
- Promote greater participation of governments where humanitarian assistance is needed.

Humanitarian innovation and accountability³

How can we ensure access to innovations for vulnerable people in a market economy governed by competition?

- Base innovation on concrete needs that respond to demand. The innovation process should be carried out in a participatory manner through consultations and dialogue with the population.
- Rescue ancestral knowledge, often overlooked, for humanitarian assistance response.
- Improve communication of humanitarian needs to both the private and the academic and research communities.
- Monitor existing needs more specifically.
- Develop mechanisms to assess the risk of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to facilitate operational continuity.

What are the main humanitarian challenges that we face in the LAC region urgently in need of innovation?

- Provide access to victims of extreme violence (drug trafficking, thefts, maras, etc.).
- Protect people's livelihoods, taking into account climate induced (drought, flooding) migration.
- Integrate migration and climate change data.
- Ensure effective civil military cooperation during humanitarian assistance.
- Establish international humanitarian aid coordination mechanisms.
- Review national normative frameworks and their effective adaptation.
- Bear in mind international standards agreed on with States that take into account the particularities of each community.

² Related to Issue 2

³ Related to Issue 3.

What concrete actions can be implemented by governments to further promote humanitarian innovation?

- Use technology for monitoring humanitarian situations more efficiently and accurately with tools such as drones, mobile telephones and the Internet.
- Maintain order in humanitarian assistance generated by extreme violence.
- Promote the main role of the State in policy and coordination of humanitarian aid.
- Establish a humanitarian aid process to support the population and governments in any situation.
- Systematize and disseminate best practices.
- Promote the main role of governments in humanitarian assistance, with multi-sectoral support to generate a better response.
- Take the private sector, academia and communities into account as key factors.
- Preserve neutral and independent humanitarian spaces such as humanitarian law and public policies that allow action in special situations.
- Build on existing technology platforms (social networks) to fill gaps in disaster situations.



Photo: Marco Dormino

REDUCING VULNERABILITY AND MANAGING RISK

Context:

After an introduction of the theme Reducing Vulnerability and Managing Risk by **Moderator Patri- cio Henderson** of the White Helmets, Argentina, three panelists shared their experience and views of the issues from a global, regional and local perspective. The group of participants was divided into two work groups to discuss two issues with the aid of three motivating questions. After ex- changing views, the members of each group made recommendations for the WHS process and proposed activities to be included in the MIAH report.

Point Summary of Panel Discussion:

Panelist Margaret Arnold, Senior Social Development Specialist, World Bank
Global Contextualization of Theme 2

- Resilience is defined as the ability to thrive despite crisis.
- The World Bank, based on work experience with national governments, has identified several factors to strengthen social resilience.
- The following are examples of ways to break the barrier between humanitarian as- sistance and development in communities:
 - Community-driven development promotes project control at the local level by providing block grants to community groups, local governments and/or members of the community to make decisions on what investments will be made and how they will be implemented, monitored and assessed. There are projects in 110 countries representing annual investments of \$2 billion for the WB.
 - Social protection mechanisms cover prevention, promotion and protection. Pro- tection programs include social assistance (cash transfers, school meals) such as social security (old-age, unemployment insurance, disability pension) and may support public works and other initiatives.
 - The Bolsa Familia program delivered cash and benefits to 162,000 families in 10 days during the period of flooding in 2011.
 - In the Philippines, after Cyclone Yolanda 2013, the PantwidPamilyang program was used as a mechanism for delivering benefits.
 - Ways to strengthen these systems are being explored. If beneficiaries are iden- tified (i.e., chronically the poor and vulnerable), those who may be affected as a result of an event can also be identified so that the precise support is delivered, avoiding ill-advised disaster responses such as people selling their livestock and goods or withdrawing children from school to seek work.

Panelist Roy Barboza, Executive Secretary CEPREDENAC
Regional Contextualization of Theme 2

- The main threats and challenges in LAC are periods of drought (23%), flooding (20%), earthquakes (14%), conflict (14%), and urbanization (14%).
- LAC is characterized by high levels of violence, rapid unplanned urbanization and high levels of poverty and inequality, as well as accelerated economic growth and development in some sectors.
- Decision-makers need to have a good understanding of the underlying causes gen- erating vulnerabilities to be able to redirect efforts and resources.

- The LAC region has a deeply ingrained culture of self-help, local solidarity networks, self-regulation, and self-organisation in the midst of a crisis; the region is rich in cultural diversity including indigenous cultures with ancestral knowledge and practices, which are being eroded and lost.
- Indicators to measure resilience may become important tools for defining the success of effective humanitarian action. Digital platforms and new technologies can be used to understand, map and develop disaster risk scenarios to enhance effective risk reduction.

Panelist Maité Rodríguez, Project Coordinator, FUNGUA/Huairou-GROOTS Commission, Guatemala

Local Contextualization of Theme 2

- The project was developed in 2008 with the support of the World Bank, CEPREDENAC and CONRED to empower women leaders in LAC at the local level.
- In Guatemala, the World Bank funded a project with the South-South Facility for less than US\$ 300,000.00 for three countries: India, Guatemala and Honduras.
- Work is carried out through a holistic process called Diamond, which includes
 - Incentive Funding
 - Leadership, capacity-building and training
 - Network strengthening
 - Community Resilience Funding for implementing adaptive climate agriculture, food security and ecosystem protection practices
 - Advocacy
- To ensure more effective humanitarian assistance, we need to focus on:
 - Protecting the livelihoods of local women
 - Managing risks holistically
 - Allocating funding that reaches the hands of women and their organisations
 - Lending legitimacy to community representatives as agents of development in disaster risk reduction
 - Providing spaces for discussion with the participation of grass roots women in national, regional and global events.

Sendai Framework:

- Enhanced knowledge of disaster risk
- Strengthened governance for managing risk
- Increased investments
- Recovery and reconstruction preparedness

Working Group Outcomes:

Ensuring affected people are at the centre of humanitarian action (Part 2)

What recommendations and concrete steps can we identify to ensure that affected people are systematically put at the centre of our actions before, during and after disasters and crises?

- Generate and strengthen capacities in disaster risk knowledge, vulnerabilities and threats to build community resilience and ensure the livelihoods of the population.
- Empower governments at different levels to work with the involvement of the community on risk-reducing agendas with a minimum of indicators to effectively measure the impact of humanitarian assistance in disaster risk reduction. Promote an approach that includes gender, age, ethnicity, income level, and other factors at the local level.

- Prioritize actions to address violence—particularly the increase in sexual and domestic violence after disasters—and include actions to strengthen women and children before disasters.

What concrete actions can humanitarian actors take to ensure that women, youth, and the guardians of ancestral knowledge are actively involved in the design and implementation of humanitarian action?

- Strengthen coordination at all levels with the different actors in the public and private sectors and civil society responsible for humanitarian assistance.
- Strengthen coordination of the agendas of agencies and bodies involved in humanitarian assistance to enhance mechanisms and resources.

Understanding context-specific vulnerabilities and risks

What concrete steps can we identify to ensure that humanitarian action does not contribute to increased social exclusion and inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean?

- Develop and implement sustainable development policies to incorporate humanitarian mechanisms, including actions to reduce vulnerability, social exclusion and inequality.
- Use a multi-sectoral approach to develop sustainable development policies.
- Know and respect national laws, programs and mechanisms related to humanitarian actions.
- Ensure that humanitarian actions respect the specific needs of vulnerable groups.



Photo: OCHA. Ana Castañeda

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH INNOVATION

Context:

Moderator Adolfo Ayuso, Director of Cooperation with the EU and International Risk Management, AMEXID, Mexico, introduced the theme Transformation through Innovation by reminding the audience that transformation is not invention but is rather the product of new thinking using existing elements. Innovation involves cooperation, the private sector, and listening to affected people. Three panelists shared on the issues from a global, regional and local perspective, after which participants were divided in two working groups to discuss two issues with the aid of four motivating questions. After exchanging views, the members of each group made recommendations for the WHS process and proposed activities to be included in the MIAH report.

Point Summary of Panel Discussion:

Panelist Jemilah Mahmoud, Head of the World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat Global Contextualization of Theme 3

- Humanitarian innovation is unique, and the imperative of the humanitarian community to take action makes it difficult to support the regular research process; therefore, innovation may mean changing already existing elements and processes.
- Factors such as limited funding and the humanitarian community aversion to risk must be taken into account.
- Innovation must include the possibility of risk and failure.
- Humanitarian principles and standards must be respected in innovation.
- In innovation, the issue must be clearly identified, including skills, funding, targeted research, development, and how to scale up projects.
- An example of the private sector driving innovation is a business consultation in Sweden, which resulted in the allocation of 5-10 per cent of funding for innovation.
- Diversifying the number of partners and networks is key.
- Affected people have the innate ability to innovate, and we need to listen more to them and incorporate local solutions.

Panelist Lorenzo Violante, IFRC Coordinator
Regional Contextualization of Theme 3

- The consultative process on innovation led by Mexico and the IFRC sought the opinions of Red Cross volunteers and affected people as the first responders in a crisis.
- Innovation fits within all four WHS themes and progressive innovation may work better than radical innovation.
- Latin America has the advantage of legal frameworks and national authorities to allow discussion on this issue.
- Key issues for innovation include the penetration rate of technology; access of vulnerable people to services; diversity of humanitarian actors; civic-military cooperation; opportunities for middle-income economies; underutilization of small and medium sized enterprises; and the roles of academia and the private sector.
- Although the humanitarian sector is risk adverse, innovation may improve the quality of humanitarian assistance.
- Innovation should promote social inclusion, humanitarian principles and resilience, all the while keeping affected people at the centre of consideration.
- The competitive culture in the humanitarian sector for both financial resources and the attention of governments affects the possibilities of innovation.

Panelist Andrea McLean, Director of Corporate Services ODPEM, Jamaica

Local Contextualization of Theme 3

National technology instruments for innovation include:

- The Damage Assistance Information System (DAIS) provides information in real time using mobile phones to support decision-making and provide information such as how many communities have been affected, the location of affected people, essential services, and critical infrastructure.
- National Emergency Response GIS Team (NERGIST) includes the participation of 21 ministries and partner agencies and helps to coordinate local, national and international assistance, providing an overview of damage and helping in aid and recovery efforts.
- GEODAT, launched in June 2015, is a new mobile application with geographic information and data for response that draws on emergency response mechanism information and generates maps and analysis.

Working Group Outcomes:

Innovative solutions for regional humanitarian challenges

Participants defined risk aversion as resistance to change, while change was defined as building new paradigms. The aversion to change stems from the possibility that change could affect many sensitive areas, such as human resources, and this may keep humanitarians from becoming agents of change. The discussion on innovation motivates us to reflect on our readiness to innovate in areas such as funding.

What needs to be done to move away from a humanitarian culture of risk aversion and generate spaces for innovation?

- Improve access to humanitarian information in both technology and conceptual reflection.
- Promote and share responsibility for organisational transformation processes through courses and training to better understand humanitarian action.
- Assess humanitarian response without leaving aside humanitarian actors; resistance to change and fear of making decisions affect humanitarian assistance, and often lead to reliance on conventional responses.
- Promote innovation in the public sector, where there is more resistance to risk in the innovation process, as a public good.
- Highlight the importance of public and international resources for innovation.
- Link innovation and development. Humanitarian culture by mandate is reactive; it tends to deal primarily with effects and not causes. Innovation in development processes tends to be easier.
- Promote analysis in the humanitarian field using advanced modelling and critical thinking to reveal inefficiencies and areas for innovation.
- Identify the results of humanitarian assistance and identify what works. Information is lacking to be able to exclude or confirm the application of a number of humanitarian reform mechanisms.
- Develop low cost and reliable standardized instruments on the impact of humanitarian assistance.
- Renew the commitment to humanitarian principles and ensure that all actors comply with them; this does not happen in reality.
- Understand better what the different actors do.

- Use a one-stop scheme to record innovations and the outcomes of applications to apply them to our reality as appropriate.
- Strengthen the commitment to humanitarian actors to propose a legal framework for innovation by systemizing and scheduling an innovation fair or event in which each country also performs systematization and scheduling.
- Apply innovation in prevention and preparedness.
- Create a humanitarian assistance logistics centre including UN system and a training centre; in Panama, one such centre, which will have an airport platform to provide assistance to the region.
- Improve instruments for the benefit of affected groups.
- Disseminate the UNDAC tool nationally to prevent lack of coordination.

Innovative ways of working together

What do we mean by “Humanitarian Action” and how does it differ from “Disaster Response” and “Disaster Risk Reduction”?

- Promote the inclusion of humanitarian action fundamentals in the implementation of disaster risk reduction management, especially in response.
- Incorporate international standards at the national level, adapting them to the characteristics of each country.
- Publish and disseminate experiences.

What concrete steps can be taken to redefine the way in which we collaborate within and beyond the humanitarian system?

- Encourage civil society actors and international NGOs to try to implement strategies and assume risks related to innovation in order to later be incorporated by governments through concrete actions.
- Establish in each country an official coordination platform that is activated in emergencies.

How can the humanitarian system facilitate and stimulate joint work with the private sector, academia and others with respect to humanitarian innovation?

- Create a space for dialogue to draw on the capacities and resources of academia and the private sector to which authorities can transfer the needs from the field to improve the quality of humanitarian action.
- Raise awareness on the relevance of psychosocial assistance, an issue that academia can contribute to.
- Listen to the reality and need of each location to provide humanitarian aid.
- Integrate academia into the system so that it can incorporate disaster risk management and humanitarian aid into all specialities.
- Make humanitarian aid more flexible in the implementation of solutions, adapting them to the context.
- Identify entrepreneurial procedures for humanitarian aid such as customer service systems.
- Use the logistics systems of companies to access each location.
- Incorporate the private sector into the humanitarian system, associating it with entrepreneurial marketing.

SPACE FOR DIALOGUE: DISPLACEMENT AND VIOLENCE

Context:

The Space for Dialogue on Displacement and Violence arose as an issue of regional concern that was added to the discussions on the four themes proposed by the WHS at the global level. This dialogue included the participation of representatives from governments, the UN system, international and national NGOs, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, civil society, community leaders, and former gang members. The space promoted a dialogue to “agree on disagreeing” by not seeking to establish consensus, suggestions or actions for the consultation process; rather, participants were encouraged to simply express and debate views on displacement and violence. This resulted in a productive discussion, where both similar and differing global, regional and local visions of the issue were shared.

Point Summary of Discussion:

Panelist Chaloka Beyani, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons

Global Contextualization of the Theme

- In 2014, there were 38 million displaced persons in the world, making it a humanitarian crisis of global proportions.
- The role of the Special Rapporteur is to be in dialogue with the States and international bodies to search for solutions, provide technical assistance according to the needs of the countries, and share experiences to reveal potential durable solutions for this issue.
- The LAC region needs to take action on this issue given that the region adopted the Havana Convention in 1929 and the Montevideo Convention in 1933.
- Organised criminal gangs have displaced thousands of people in the countries of the region, exerting pressure on displacement since the 1980s. In Central America, the threats and extortion practiced by urban gangs, private security groups and other actors have also caused displacement.
- Increasing violence in the region has made people abandon their homes and property, in some cases repeatedly.
- Urban areas are not equipped to protect internally displaced persons; this creates difficulties in accessing education, health and basic services.
- Women are exposed to sexual violence, inequality and discrimination.
- The primary responsibility for protecting and assisting internally displaced persons as well as the total population at regional and global level rests with the States and governments. Historically, buttressed by human rights mandates, States protect those who live within their borders through human rights mandates.
- Due to the context of the IDP issue in the region, an in-depth analysis of the phenomenon to find solutions is required.
- Climate change and internal displacement are acknowledged challenges that need to be addressed.
- The region has recently established the following laws and mechanisms:
 - The Inter-American General Assembly of June 2014 acknowledged the issue of displacement.
 - Assistance and reparation for victims of the conflict included internally displaced persons in Colombia; the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees proposed the implementation of a similar law for internally displaced persons.

- The General Law for Victims of 2012 in Mexico.
- The Commission for the Protection of Persons Displaced by Violence in Honduras.
- The Brazil Declaration.
- WHS consultations in Abidjan, Tokyo, Pretoria, Budapest, and Amman recommended the adoption of regional legal frameworks that seek to work with and dialogue with the States, nations and partners in the regions.

Comments from participants:

...There are already many stakeholders working on the issue of violence that have information, such as statistics on violence...Organisations are known to exist, but there is no contact or dialogue with them. An effort is required as humanitarian actors to network with local actors, exchange information, experiences and access communities... It is not easy to start working in a violent municipality...

Panelist Fernando Protti, UNHCR Regional Representative for Central America, Cuba and Mexico

- In the Northern Triangle of Central America, violence has had a strong impact on forced displacement of the population within and outside the borders.
- Marking the 30th anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration, the Brazil Declaration and Action Plan was approved by consensus of 29 countries and two territories of this continent, especially Chapter Four, which refers to solidarity with the countries of the Northern Triangle.
- The number of applications for refugee status for Mexico, Canada and the United States and the southern part of Central America is growing, including Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, countries where there is no declared conflict.
- According to UNHCR data, since 2010 there has been an increase of 116 per cent in the number of applications. In 2013, there were 19,000 Central American refugees from the Northern Triangle in the United States and Canada aside from asylum seekers.
- From 2010 to 2014, the number of people in the United States from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador has increased 410 per cent.
- The number of deportees from the United States and Mexico has increased, in part due to increased efficiency in capturing them; last year alone, 226,000 people were deported from Mexico and the United States.
- El Salvador has the highest percentage of displaced persons, while Guatemala has the largest number of displaced persons.
- Studies show that those apprehended in the United States come from places where the majority of homicides occur in the Northern Triangle.
- The reasons for which people move include family reunification, violence and a desire to improve living conditions.
- Studies show that States are not responding appropriately to meet the needs of victims regarding education, health, protection, and justice. In addition, there is a lack of trust in state institutions, incursion by organised crime into the military forces, a high rate of unreported crime and a high level of impunity.
- From a humanitarian point of view, it is complicated to operate in areas difficult to access areas.
- Based on the work carried out in Honduras, the following conditions were found:
 - Profiles of children, adolescents and women
 - Recruitment and extortion
 - Businessmen living under extortion
 - Murders of witnesses of crime
 - Human rights defenders under persecution

- A wide range of rural and urban affected populations
- Detected needs:
 - Effective mechanisms for identification and referral (asylum applicants and deportees)
 - Access to the asylum system
 - Protection in transit countries
 - Appropriate conditions for receipt
 - Route security
 - Human and financial resources
 - Systematized information
 - Protection in country of origin, transit and host country
 - Protection interventions for adults as well as children
 - Government difficulty in recognizing that violence has caused forced displacement results in limited response capacities due to the lack of financial and human resources; different levels of interest and response indicate the need for improved coordination.
 - Difficult conditions for return; returnees are left with no other alternative than to go back and there is limited interest among donors to address this issue.
- This challenge requires work with platforms in a major coordination effort.
- From the point of view of UNHCR, there are limited protection options for people in the country of origin, in route and in countries of asylum.

Comments from participants:

...Regional work is required along with work with local communities. Crime networks, the maras, human trafficking and drug trafficking networks are well organised. Information needs to be shared and it is necessary to unite with all countries and their local organisations to consolidate support.

Panelist Gemayel Fuentes, Legal Advisor, Casa del Migrante in Tecún Umán, San Marcos, Guatemala

- Casa del Migrante sin Fronteras (Home of Migrant without Borders), established to assist deportees from Mexico, is open 365 days a year and 24 hours a day.
- While the home has religious affiliation, no religious creed is practiced or promoted, and all migrants are assisted regardless of creed or religion.
- Its three streams of support include the social work office, which verifies the migrant's state of vulnerability, psychological support and legal support. Information on rights, risks and dangers and external support is also provided.
- Outside of Guatemala, the Casa del Migrante assists family members and coordinates with authorities to solve problems (detainment, missing persons, kidnapping) to promptly repatriate the individual. Radio programs are broadcast over six stations in the region.
- Casa del Migrants assists persons returning due to violence generated by Mexico's Southern Border Plan.
- The human rights office provides comprehensive assistance for migrants and their family members.

Comments from participants:

...The region needs an approach that is not based on a single model. We must take into account the differences, circumstances and realities...we need to invest in priorities: the United Nations system has a large fund for peace work and a small one for sustainable development programs...An approach is proposed on development, highlighting situations of exclusion and discrimination... the lack of attention to the needs of people can result in violence and conflicts...Regarding security, a preventive, proactive, community security system is proposed, working hand in hand with communities to bring about peaceful coexistence. ...

Panelist Gustavo Santillán Sánchez, Tamaulipas Delegation, Mexican Red Cross. Physician, Red Cross Volunteer in Tamaulipas.

- Volunteers implement the humanitarian agenda.
- Medical brigades take health care to remote places and migrant houses in situations of violence, kidnapping and extortion.
- Violence is experienced on a daily basis: shootings bring activities to a stop. Volunteers work to re-establish order and care for people with needs.
- Volunteers need to lead a stable daily life and be in good psychological condition to be able to perform their work.
- Volunteers must assist actors of violence, regardless of whether the volunteers themselves have been victims of those actors of violence.
- People living in contexts of violence who cannot migrate must stay and cope.
- Tools include stress management courses and the application of humanitarian principles. The psychosocial conditions of volunteers need to be monitored so that the humanitarian agenda can be implemented more effectively.
- Volunteers work according to humanitarian principles; they are not interested in any agenda.
- In some areas, the government has been displaced and people rely on the network of volunteers.
- The environment for volunteers needs to be improved; by helping volunteers, we help the communities.

Comments from participants:

Linking humanitarian and climate change issues took 30 years, as an adequate vocabulary did not exist to establish this link...today, the link between violence and humanitarian impact is not evident, which may be the reason why no one submits projects for mitigating violence. While for some of us, this link appears to be evident, it is not... maybe this will change in coming years....

Closing comments by Chaloka Beyani

- It is important to identify the causes of marginalization and discrimination and how to address them.
- Peace and security promotion initiatives are needed.
- Not all states are prepared to deal with this issue by themselves, but each state should take actions in light of their own realities.
- There are challenges for governments and governance; when government control over territories is lost, gangs take over.

- A social approach is needed focused on women and communities. In many cases, rape and pregnancy are death sentences or the children born from them are stigmatized.
- Single mothers often escape to areas with a higher crime level than the one they are facing. Anonymity is a form protection, and this is one way they end up joining prostitution networks.
- While all patterns of violence pose a challenge to the authorities, common criminality has become a daily way of life.
- Preventing the acquisition and use of weapons is essential.

Comments from participants:

....Work in communities is carried out under human development concepts; what is needed is human development for youth, children and the overall population. The concept of "preventing violence" is biased: a violent neighbourhood it is not fated to be violent... To remove this bias, these concepts have to be transformed. We need to reach out to the community not to reduce violence, but to generate holistic human development.

Society is looking for someone to blame: maras, gangs, and troublesome youth...

Gangs and the maras are actually consequences of a state and a society...

The political, economic, legal, and social system does not work for communities...but it works perfectly for certain sectors...

Final Considerations:

- Consensus and recommendations were not goals of this open dialogue; the rapporteur was tasked with simply reporting what was discussed.
- Better knowledge of local situations and the establishment of a monitoring system is key.
- Working in networks and joining efforts to work on the issue can be pursued.
- Amendment of laws to adapt them to the reality of the region is a priority.
- Issues of impunity must be addressed.
- The State is the main actor; civil organisations support the States.
- Strengthening national capacities is crucial.
- Women, Afro-descendant peoples and indigenous communities are most affected
- Corruption issues and other issues exist due to the lack of State presence.
- It is necessary to discuss comprehensive human development and sustainable development
- Humanitarian actors have problems accessing places where violence is occurring.
- The stigmatization of actors in contexts of violence must end.
- Cuba – the actors here are not equally represented. The problem of international monitoring is that this forum has no guidelines to make it mandatory; changing laws is an internal issue – it was understood that we were talking about consensus.
- It is essential to understand the underlying causes of the phenomenon of violence.
- Information tools can be developed to promote resilience and anonymity and reduce vulnerability.
- The issue of access of humanitarian action in vulnerable communities cannot be ignored.
- We see a vicious cycle of vulnerability of people.

DIALOGUE: SERVING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN CONFLICT

Context:

Moderator Gerard Gómez, Head of Office, OCHA, Colombia, introduced the theme by referring to the Ecuador and Colombia consultations, where Serving the Needs of People in Conflict was the main theme. Conflicts have diverse roots, sometimes religious and sometimes ethnic, born out of inequality or a combination of factors. To respond to the theme, we need to understand the root causes of the conflict. People living in situations of conflict are not concerned with acronyms or terminology: what they want is a comprehensive response. Therefore, meetings of humanitarian actors need to consider both their role and the development community, taking into account that many problems stem from the lack of development.

Panelist Mariana Pihuavi, Sub secretary of Preparedness and Response to Adverse Events, National Secretariat of Risk Management

- The national consultation in Ecuador towards the WHS gathered experiences, perspectives, recommendations, and inputs on humanitarian action in Ecuador.
- The Ecuador humanitarian country team and humanitarian partners are part of each of the eight thematic working groups, bringing together the different State ministries within the existing structure for risk management.
- Different actors involved in risk management in Ecuador took part in three work sessions in Quito and Tulcan where leaders from each territory shared their views and descriptions of community work.
- A strong recommendation is that the participation of the people with needs be taken into account to identify authentic needs in order to program and implement humanitarian assistance.
- Governments, organisations and the humanitarian community must work in a more coordinated manner with improved flow of information and a single unified plan to be submitted to the populations being assisted.
- Assistance must be comprehensive for people who are victims of conflict.
- Competent state agencies must be strengthened and positioned as decision-makers, with clear roles for all actors and work plans based on the needs of people affected by conflict.

Panelist Juan Carlos Moreno Gutiérrez, Third Secretary of Coordination of Multilateral Cooperation, Directorate of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombia

- Colombia has progressed in assistance and reparation for the victims of the internal armed conflict and international cooperation has solidified around this increasing strengthening of the State.
- After the 2005 Humanitarian Reform, the cluster system was installed in Colombia to organize international humanitarian cooperation and implement humanitarian intervention projects.
- The Victims and Restitution Law 1448 of 2011 defines who is to be considered a victim and who receives prevention, protection, attention, assistance, and reparation measures.
- Law 1448 is differentiated, with specific decrees for indigenous communities and Afro-descendant peoples.
- Law 1448 created the National Unit for Comprehensive Aid and Reparation to Victims and the National System for Comprehensive Aid and Reparation to Victims composed of over 30 state entities; there is also a single victim registration.

- Official figures recognized by the State and the international community indicate 7,124,000 victims, 85 per cent of whom are displaced persons. The law, to be implemented from 2011 to 2021, will use already existing country structures and the cluster approach to address both victims and disasters.
- Law 1523 on Risk Management was approved in 2012.
- A country level committee for the articulation of humanitarian affairs was created to link two victim units and the risk management unit with the humanitarian team led by the RC.
- At the local level, humanitarian teams are linked to the institutional structure to coordinate assistance in the territory.
- Transitional justice committees are part of the framework for assistance to victims and facilitate the flow of information for decision-making. Work with OCHA has identified areas of international cooperation, resources to mobilize it, and what actions are being taken.
- Due to the magnitude of annual requests for conflict-related humanitarian assistance in the country, Decree 2569 of 2014 was issued to organise a humanitarian assistance route for immediate attention, emergency response, assistance in transition and reparation, and later incorporation into State social inclusion programs.
- International cooperation is strong in the area of consultation with affected communities and accountability to effectively meet needs and overcome vulnerability.
- Exit strategies must be worked into the designs of humanitarian intervention projects from the beginning to avoid damage or creating a cycle of dependency within communities and to ensure the transfer of institutional capacities of those remaining.
- A two-way differentiated approach to gender, age and disability needs to be implemented, top-down and bottom-up.
- Once the State is prepared, international cooperation must also be in place to complement its actions.
- Every humanitarian action needs to take into account the historical and political context and institutional capacity, all of which makes the cluster approach more effective.



HIGH-LEVEL CLOSING REMARKS

Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, United Nations, pointed out that LAC is second only to Asia in terms of disaster, and therefore, many people in this region are struggling to cope with the overlapping impacts of natural disasters, food insecurity, urban violence, increased migration flows and new epidemic outbreaks like chikungunya, reflecting global trends.

Natural disasters are occurring with greater frequency and intensity around the world, often recurring before communities and countries have time to rebuild. By 2050, it is estimated that up to one billion people around the world could be displaced by the impact of climate change. Global economic losses from natural disasters are currently around \$300 billion annually and are projected to increase dramatically.

While the number of conflicts between states has decreased, with the increase of conflicts within states and the proliferation of armed and terrorist groups, the poor, the displaced, and the marginalized continue to suffer the most.

Action is called for to strengthen support for the most vulnerable, including the 80 million people in this region who live in extreme poverty and to find new ways to help people build resilience and increase their ability to cope with the impact of these global trends. This requires a move away from the concept of charity and towards a new model based on risk management and resilience.

This region has a history of global solidarity and leadership from the adoption of the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees in the 1980s to the outpouring of humanitarian support after the Haiti earthquake in 2010.

Amos concluded by mentioning that we face a world full of complexity and challenge but also full of opportunities to promote and deliver a more peaceful, prosperous, stable and sustainable future for all. The WHS is one such opportunity. We must make the most of it.

Carlos Morales, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Guatemala, expressed gratitude for being part of the process of consultations and dialogue between all the actors of MIAH, and, on behalf of the people and Government of Guatemala, conveyed his condolences to and solidarity with the people of Nepal, where a major earthquake claimed the lives of over 7,000 people.

Guatemala is well acquainted with the impact of a disaster of this nature: 39 years ago, the country was hit by a similar magnitude earthquake with devastating effects, leaving more than 23,000 people dead, over 76,000 hurt, and an average of one million people homeless. In November 2012, Guatemala was struck once again by an earthquake that mainly affected the Department of San Marcos, also resulting in lamentable loss of human life.

In recent years, the number and frequency of natural disasters has increased, exacerbated by the resulting vulnerabilities of climate change. This shows the importance of comprehensive disaster risk reduction management and that people are at the centre of humanitarian action. Assistance to the affected people must be inclusive in approach to protect human rights, avoid discrimination and meet specific needs.

Open and participative dialogue, cooperation, and consistency are of paramount importance between all actors and partners operating during a humanitarian crisis. The Guatemala Action Plan, the Declaration of Guatemala, the Preparatory Stakeholder Analysis, and the Co-Chair Summary of the Regional Consultation are the outcomes of the discussions held in this process and are a reflection of the priorities and challenges faced by LAC.

Morales ended by expressing appreciation to Valerie Amos for the valuable work carried out under her management and appreciation for all the officials that supported this meeting and contributed the necessary resources to make it a reality. These efforts ensured the success of the Seventh MIAH and the Regional Consultation in preparation towards the 2016 WHS in Istanbul.

Dario Álvarez, Representative of OCHA-ROLAC, stressed the importance of having spaces of dialogue to reflect the knowledge, expectations, differences, and range of thinking on the themes developed by the WHS.

The consultation process highlighted the importance of putting and keeping people at the centre of humanitarian action, as well as applying the humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality, humanity and independence in humanitarian action. In the discussions, the importance of comprehensive coordination between all actors at all levels was emphasized, mainly taking into consideration local and community voices and those of groups in conditions of vulnerability. This requires providing and facilitating technical training and support to the local authorities in preparedness and strengthening of capacities, strengthening the methodology and processes for rapid needs assessment with multi-disciplinary teams, and introducing a differentiated approach to include groups with potential exposure and vulnerability.

We need to work with governments at various levels to ensure the participation of communities, and risk reduction measures need to be implemented, with at least a minimum of indicators to enable us to effectively measure the impact of assistance and humanitarian action. Communities must be empowered.

We need to work as close as possible to the field and strengthen capacities in risk knowledge, vulnerabilities and threats to ensure the livelihoods of the population. Communities need to be able to determine their priorities and propose their own development plans and plans to overcome emergencies. Affected people need to be involved, establishing independent accountability mechanisms and processes to strengthen transparency.

Álvarez ended with the region's call to establish centres of excellence to promote the participation of the public and private sectors and academia to generate joint training programs and implement innovative practices in humanitarian action.

Alejandro Maldonado Lutomirsky, Executive Secretary, CONRED, expressed his satisfaction in Guatemala hosting the regional consultation.

Disasters are increasing both in intensity and duration and recurrence, generating changes in economic growth and development trajectories, affecting public finance, livelihoods and employment, and generating migration and displacement. The damage to assets and economic and human loss brought about by the impact of low intensity high recurrence disasters (extensive risk) are more significant than those of high intensity and low recurrence (intensive risk). Both small and medium-sized disasters related to climate-based phenomena and risk-building processes are issues that need to be addressed in greater depth.

Countries considered middle-income with lower economic growth are also among the most vulnerable to disaster risk. Poverty conditions in these countries drive families to settle in cheaper urban areas with physical characteristics that make them vulnerable to various levels of risk, such as steep slopes or proximity to riverbeds or sea level. Poor location is often compounded by low quality buildings that ultimately make the recovery of equity and livelihood difficult for these families.

Countries should promote the inclusion of risk reduction management into their development agendas and address factors such as state economic limitations, poverty eradication and structural weaknesses.

Humanitarian action mechanisms should be considered a crosscutting theme in country social programs. During natural disasters, inhabitants with fewer resources are most affected and need to receive humanitarian assistance as quickly as possible. It is essential to improve protocols and procedures to increase as much as possible the speed of the delivery of humanitarian assistance to those suffering and to work consistently with countries and specialised agencies to design tools for application at multi-actor, sub-regional, regional, continental, and global levels.



Photo: Frederick Meza

WAY FORWARD

The LAC regional consultation meeting produced many relevant results contained in this report. At its close, many participants expressed the desire to act on certain recommendations in advance of the 2016 WHS in Istanbul. To sustain this momentum, along with the Co-Chair Summary and the Declaration of Guatemala, the meeting produced inputs to develop the Guatemala Action Plan 2015 as part of the MIAH process. This plan will continue expanding on issues of importance in the Kingston Action Plan 2013 and incorporate proposals in the Guatemala Action Plan for the next biennium.

The action plan will incorporate regional actions with participation and application in more than two countries and with recognized leadership and support from more than two actors. The consultation process produced inputs both for the WHS global process and also strengthened the MIAH regional process, aligning it more closely with the global perspective.

The Humanitarian Agenda developed for the 2016 WHS in Istanbul will be presented at the MIAH Meeting in Peru in 2017, where applicability and adaptation for the region will be discussed.



ANNEX I: AGENDA



VII MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, MIAH Guatemala, May 5-7 2015	
Day 1: Tuesday May 5th	
TIME	SESSION
07:00 - 08:30 (Lobby, Salón Plata)	Reception, registration and welcome (registration will be available since the day before, Monday May 4 from 14:00 until 21:00)
09:15 - 09:30 (Salón Plata)	Logistics and Security Briefing <i>Executive Secretariat, National Coordination for Disaster Reduction, Guatemala, SE-CONRED</i>
08:30 - 09:15 (Salón Plata)	Inauguration and Opening Remarks Designated Representative of the MOFA <i>Alejandro Maldonado</i> , Executive Secretary, CONRED and y Pro-tempore Secretary of CEPREDENAC <i>Dario Álvarez</i> , Acting Representative of OCHA's Regional Office for LAC <i>Valerie Julliard</i> , UN Resident Coordinator, Guatemala <i>Jemilah Mahmood</i> , Chief of the World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat, <i>Amir Abdulla</i> , Deputy Executive Director, World Food Program, WFP
09:30 - 09:45 (Salón Plata)	Introduction, expectations and methodology <i>Juan Sáenz, LAC RC Facilitator</i>
09:45 - 10:15 (Lobby, Salón Plata)	COFFEE BREAK
10:15 - 11:15 (Salón Plata)	Status of the Kingston Action Plan <u>Results from Group 1: Legal Framework and Resource Mobilization, Roy Barboza, Executive Secretary of CEPREDENAC.</u> <u>Results from Group 2: Comprehensive Risk Management and Participation, Sr. Ronald Jackson, Executive Director of CDEMA.</u> <u>Results from Group 3 : Strengthening National, Sub-regional and International Humanitarian Coordination, Marcos Aurelio Lopes, Programs Advisor, Brazil, on behalf of REHU.</u> <u>Results from Group 4: Information Management, Mariana Pihuave, Secretariat for Risk Management, Ecuador on behalf of CAPRADE.</u>
11:15 - 11:30 (Salón Plata)	Summary of Activities of the Intergovernmental Mechanisms <i>Roy Barboza, Executive Director CEPREDENAC</i>
11:30 - 12:00 (Salón Plata)	Introduction of the results of the Stakeholder Consultation process in LAC <i>Dario Álvarez, Acting Representative of ROLAC</i>
12:00 - 13:30 (Salón Terraza)	LUNCH
13:30 - 14:00 (Salón Plata)	Dialogue on Gender Equality and Humanitarian Action <i>Moderator: Rosa Malango, Chief of the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, Guatemala</i> Special Guests: <i>María Machicado</i> , UN Women Representative. (tbc) <i>Marta Pérez de Pulgar</i> , Regional Emergencies Specialist, UNFPA. <i>Martha de Escamilla</i> , Volunteers Coordinator, Public Municipal Ministry of Villa Canales and Miguel Petapas. <i>George Nicholson</i> , Director of Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction, Association of Caribbean States.
14:00 - 14:45 (Salón Plata)	Panel 1: Towards Humanitarian Effectiveness: Innovating and Reducing Risks. <i>Moderated by Alzira Ferreira, Deputy Regional Director, WFP.</i> Panelists: <i>Jemilah Mahmood</i> , Chief of the WHSS <i>Ronald Hugh Jackson</i> , Executive Director CDEMA <i>Tomas Villanueva Andía Crisóstomo</i> , Major of the city of Pisco, Peru
14:45 - 15:00 (Salón Plata)	Establishment of the six working groups <i>Juan Sáenz, LAC RC Facilitator</i>

TIME	SESSION
15:00 - 16:50	<p>Parallel sessions of the working groups (Refreshments in the rooms):</p> <p><u>Group 1A</u> Salón De la Vega <u>Group 1B</u> Gran Salón Pintores (Asturias/Dali) <u>Group 1C</u> Salón Jade <u>Group 1D</u> Salón Bronce <u>Group 2A</u> Salón Ronda <u>Group 3A</u> Salón Oro Esmeralda</p> <p>Grupo 1A <u>Strengthening the leadership of national and local authorities, including global and regional coordination</u> Angela Leal (SE-CONRED, Pro-tempore Presidency CPREDENAC), supported by Teresa Marroquín (Red Cross Guatemala)</p> <p>Grupo 1B <u>Ensuring affected people are placed t the center of humanitarian action (first part)</u>: Benjamin Laniado, (CADENA), supported by Samara Andrade (WHSS)</p> <p>Grupo 1C <u>Enhancing the role of the private sector, academia and other stakeholders</u>: Ciro Ugarte (OPS), supported by Adriana Yepes (OCHA ROLAC)</p> <p>Grupo 1D <u>Humanitarian Financing: Gap in LAC</u>: Ronald Jackson (CDEMA), supported by Andrea Noyes (WHSS)</p> <p>Grupo 2A <u>Dealing with humanitarian challenges in LAC: Redesigning humanitarian response</u>: Adolfo Ayuso (MOFA Mexico), supported by Ann Lee (WHSS)</p> <p>Grupo 3A <u>Humanitarian innovation and accountability</u>: Lorenzo Violante (IFRC), supported by Natasha Kindergan (WHSS).</p>
17:00 - 17:30 (Salón Plata)	<p>Reporting of the working groups <i>Chief Rapporteur Panel 1: Douglas Reimer, Chief of Regional Emergencies, UNICEF</i></p>
17:30 - 17:45	<p>Stock-taking <i>Juan Sáenz, LAC RC Facilitator</i></p>
19:30 (Salón Terraza)	COCKTAIL

Day 2: Wednesday, May 6th	
Time	Session
08:30 - 08:35 (Salón Plata)	<p>Briefing <i>Juan Sáenz, LAC RC Facilitator</i></p>
08:35 - 09:35 (Salón Plata)	<p>Presentation of the consultation: "Serving the Needs of People in Conflict" <i>Moderated by Gerard Gómez, Chief of OCHA's Office, Colombia</i> <i>Presentation of the results of the consultation in Colombia: Representative designated by the Government of Colombia</i> <i>Presentation of the results of the consultation in Ecuador, Mariana Pihuave, Secretariat of Risk Management, Ecuador</i></p>
09:35 - 09:50 (Salón Plata)	Break out into two thematic sub-plenaries and one discussion fórum
09:50 - 12:00	<p>Panel 2: "Reducing Vulnerability and Managing Risk": Panel y working groups <i>Moderated by Patricio Henderson, White Helmets, Argentina</i> <i>Panelists:</i> <i>Margaret Arnold, Senior Specialist in Social Development, World Bank</i> <i>Roy Barboza, Executive Director, CEPREDENAC</i> <i>Maité Rodríguez, Project Coordinator, FUNGUA/Comisión Huairou-GROOTS. Guatemala</i></p> <p>Sub-plenaries: <u>Panel 2</u>, Salón Bronce <u>Panel 3</u>, Salón Plata <u>Discussion Forum</u>, Gran Salón Pintores</p> <p>Working groups: <u>Group 2B</u>, Salón Jade <u>Group 2C</u> Salón De la Vega <u>Group 3B</u> Salón Ceiba II <u>Group 3C</u> Salón Bronce</p> <p>Working groups: Grupo 2B <u>Ensuring affected people are placed t the center of humanitarian action. (Segunda Parte)</u>: Angela Leal (SE-CONRED/ Pro tempore Presidency CEPREDENAC).Supported by Elizabeth Cafferty (WHSS) Grupo 2C <u>Understanding specific vulnerabilities and risks in the LAC context</u>. Adolfo Ayuso (MOFA México) supported by Rina Meutia (WHSS)</p> <p>Panel 3: "Transformation through Innovation": Panel and working groups <i>Moderated by: Adolfo Ayuso, Director of Cooperation with the EU and International Disaster and Risk Management, AMEXCID, México</i> <i>Panelists:</i> <i>Jemilah Mahmood, Chief of the World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat WHSS</i> <i>Lorenzo Violante, Coordinator, IFRC</i> <i>Andrea McLean, Corporate Services Director, ODPEM, Jamaica</i></p> <p>Working groups: Group 3b <u>Innovative solutions to regional humanitarian challenges</u>: Lorenzo Violante (IFRC). Supported by Joan Cedano (WHSS) Group 3c <u>Innovative ways of working together</u>: Benjamin Laniado, (CADENA). Supported by Natasha Kindergan, (WHSS)</p>
	<p>Discussion Forum: "Displacement and Violence": Panel and group discussion <i>Moderated by Juan Saenz, LAC RC Facilitator</i> <i>Panelists:</i> <i>Dr.Chaloka Beyani, UN Special Rapporteur for the Rights of Internally Displaced People (IDPs)</i> <i>Fernando Protti, UNHCR Regional Representative for Central America, Cuba and Mexico</i> <i>Gemayel Fuentes, Legal Advisor, House of the Migrant, Tecun Uman, San Marcos, Guatemala</i> <i>Gustavo Santillán Sánchez, Mexican Red Cross, Tamaulipas</i></p> <p>Supported by Samara Andrade and Ann Lee (WHSS)</p>
12:00 - 12:20 (Salón Plata)	<p>Reporting of the working groups <i>Chief of Rapporteurs, Panel 2: Danielle Lisa Skeete (Emergency Management Department, Barbados) and Carlos Mansilla (OXFAM)</i> <i>Chief of Rapporteurs Panel 3: Xavier Castellanos (IFRC) and Andrea McLean (ODPEM, Jamaica)</i></p>

12:20 - 12:30 (Salón Plata)	Reporting of the Discussion Forum on Displacement and Violence <i>Chief Rapporteur: Fernando Protti, UNHCR Regional Representative for Central America, Cuba and Mexico, and Ann Lee and Samara Andrade (WHS)</i>
12:30 - 12:45	GROUP PICTURE
12:45 - 14:00 (Salón Terraza)	LUNCH
14:00 - 14:15 (Salón Plata)	Establishment of four groups for the elaboration of the Guatemala Plan of Action <i>Juan Sáenz, LAC RC Facilitator</i>
14:15 - 16:00	Workshop for the preparation of the Guatemala Plan of Action Group 1, CEPREDENAC supported by Perú Group 2, CDEMA supported by México. Group 3, REHU supported by Costa Rica Group 4, CAPRADE supported by the Dominican Republic <u>Group 1:</u> Gran Salón Pintores <u>Group 2:</u> Salón De la Vega <u>Group 3:</u> Salón Ceiba II <u>Group 4:</u> Salón Ronda
16:00 - 16:25 (Lobby, Salón Plata)	COFFEE BREAK
16:25 - 17:10 (Salón Plata)	Statement by His Excellency Mr. Carlos Raul Morales, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala Reading of the Co-Chairs Summary of the WHS LAC Regional Consultation, SE-CONRED y OCHA Statement by Valerie Amos, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator
17:10 - 17:45 (Salón Plata)	Presentation of the Guatemala Plan of Action by Guatemala
17:45 - 18:15 (Salón Plata)	Reading of the Guatemala Declaration
18:15 - 18:45 (Salón Plata)	Closing Ceremony

	Day 3: Thursday, May 7th HIGH LEVEL MEETING
08:30 - 09:00	Openning
09:00 - 09:30	Presentation of the regional consultation process and the results of MIAH VII Meeting
09:30 - 10:00	Countries feedback
10:00 - 10:30	BREAK
10:30 - 11:30	Discussion: "Strengthening Humanitarian Action in Latin America and the Caribbean"
11:30 - 12:15	Meeting Conclusions: Approval of the Declaration and Action Plan for Guatemala
12:15 - 12:30	Closing
12:30 - 14:00	LUNCH

ANNEX II: CO-CHAIR SUMMARY



REGIONAL CONSULTATION – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

GUATEMALA, 5-7 MAY 2015

✉ info@whsummit.org 🔗 Whsummit.org 📱 Whsummit 🌐 MIAHLAC 🐦 @WHSummit • #ReShapeAid

Co-Chairs' Summary

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) regional consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) was held in Guatemala City, Guatemala on 5-7 May 2015, hosted by the Government of Guatemala. It was co-chaired by the Guatemalan National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). The LAC regional consultation, the sixth of eight WHS regional consultations, was the first to take place within the framework of an established and recognised regional humanitarian dialogue, the International Mechanisms for Humanitarian Assistance (MIAH). By integrating the WHS LAC into the VII MIAH meeting, the former was strengthened through the already established processes, alliances, relationships and actions. Furthermore, the broad participation of different sectors in the WHS process served to strengthen and reinforce the MIAH itself, which will remain active in LAC after the WHS consultation concludes.

The meeting was preceded by a preparatory stakeholder consultation with 4,786 individuals, 50% from affected populations and civil society groups in specific situations of vulnerability. In addition, 32 consultation events were held in 23 countries, focus group discussions were held in 18 countries and individual interviews held in 13 countries. Consultations also took place through virtual spaces with the general public and with academic and non-governmental organisations. In addition, the region also hosted the first WHS consultation on Gender Equality.

This alliance of the MIAH/WHS meeting brought together more than 180 participants, panellists and facilitators from Member States, regional and sub-regional organisations, the United Nations System, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, international and national civil society organisations, academia, women's groups, indigenous people, private sector and affected communities. Roughly 52% were male and 48% were female. Additionally, representatives from Guatemala and Member States from other regions that have hosted or will host other WHS consultations were present as observers. Finally, it is recognised that the support of more than 80 collaborators guaranteed that aspects of the event were carried out successfully.

The WHS LAC was organised around the four global themes of the Summit with a fifth space for dialogue on displacement and violence added due to its high relevance and impact in the region. Within this context, some of the more frequently mentioned cross-cutting themes that emerged throughout the discussions during the VII MIAH include:

- Recognise and promote the central role of affected people and communities in humanitarian action and guarantee spaces for their empowerment and leadership in all phases of humanitarian action.
- Recognise the value of ancestral and traditional knowledge from populations as an important contribution to humanitarian action in the region.
- Reaffirm the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and operational independence with a focus on rights and inclusion and ensure that International Humanitarian Law prevails and is respected.
- Reaffirm the primary role of leadership and responsibility of the affected State in responding to the needs of its people in situations of disaster and crisis. Reinforce the imperative to develop public policy, laws and norms with a comprehensive humanitarian focus oriented towards resilience and that also address climate change and risks associated with urbanization through disaster risk reduction actions.
- Recognise the fundamental importance of holistic coordination between all actors and at all levels with particular consideration for voices and contributions of local people and communities as well as of groups that may be placed in situations of greater vulnerability or have specific needs, such as women, girls and boys, adolescents and young people, the elderly, persons with disabilities, indigenous populations, and people of African descent, among others.
- Seek complementarities and ways to reduce gaps between the humanitarian and sustainable development agendas with the aim of reducing vulnerability.
- Incorporate an inclusive vision in all humanitarian action that is based on human rights and promotes gender equality.

The following summary highlights the most salient points of the discussions as well as a series of recommendations and other general aspects of the discussions that emerged from the VII MIAH.

A full consultation report of the WHS LAC, to be published in the coming weeks, will capture the totality of conclusions, recommendations and other observations made during the whole consultation process. This report will be available at www.worldhumanitariansummit.org as well as the regional network www.redhum.org, and also www.conred.gob.gt and www.minex.gob.gt.

The Co-chairs would like to thank all actors for their participation and involvement in the WHS LAC and encourage support of the recommendations to turn them into concrete actions along with a continued discussion of key issues and exchange of information and experiences.

Humanitarian effectiveness



Given the limited resources available —financial as well as human— and the increasing pressures on them, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action in LAC becomes imperative in order to serve the most urgent needs of people and to increase their resilience. To achieve this, existing indicators must be evaluated and either improved or replaced. This will favour accountability and transparency at all levels based on the level of satisfaction of the affected communities and of the measure of impact of humanitarian action in the wake of an increase of disasters and complex crises. This focus will allow affected persons to be at the centre of humanitarian action before, during and after disasters and crises and be recognised as architects of their own development, not merely passive and vulnerable recipients of assistance. Affected persons must include women and women's groups, whose contributions and capacities are often ignored.

Given the limited resources available —financial as well as human— and the increasing pressures on them, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action in LAC becomes imperative in order to serve the most urgent needs of people and to increase their resilience. To achieve this, existing indicators must be evaluated and either improved or replaced. This will favour accountability and transparency at all levels based on the level of satisfaction of the affected communities and of the measure of impact of humanitarian action in the wake of an increase of disasters and complex crises. This focus will allow affected persons to be at the centre of humanitarian action before, during and after disasters and crises and be recognised as architects of their own development, not merely passive and vulnerable recipients of assistance. Affected persons must include women and women's groups, whose contributions and capacities are often ignored.

Regional consensus exists on the value-added by the participation and inclusion of non-traditional stakeholders in the humanitarian arena such as private sector and academia, and additionally, of the risks of their participation if they are not familiar with or follow humanitarian principles. It is recognised that these actors can play a key role in preparedness, response and recovery and should commit themselves at all levels—regional, national and local—to actions that are beneficial for all stakeholders.

The middle-income level economic indicators reported by the majority of LAC countries hide the high levels of inequality that are one of the primary causes of conditions of vulnerability in segments of the population. A consequence of this economic status is that cooperation, both regional as well as international, does not take into consideration the availability of financial resources proportionate to the true need faced by populations in humanitarian situations, conditions of disaster or crisis risk reduction.

To achieve more effective coordination, it is fundamental that tools and methodologies and common goals with complementary actions are harmonised. There are gaps in the area of legal frameworks which could be reduced by the coordination between multiple actors in humanitarian action, such as the Regional Mechanism for Mutual Assistance in Disasters of the Central American Integration System (MecReg-SICA) and the Caribbean Regional Mechanism for Response coordinated by the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

Full recognition exists of the direct responsibility of States in humanitarian leadership in the case of disasters or crises, acting through national structures and local and municipal governments in a country's affected areas.

Examples from the LAC region are highlighted in the creation of simple-to-use standard operating procedures, efficient information systems, digital databases open to all, and joint drills and simulations as concrete ways to support clarity of roles, responsibilities and levels of authority.

Recommendations:

- Adapt humanitarian response to the diverse and different needs of a crisis and to the humanitarian context in which it is operating in order to define actors, expectations and roles.
- Strengthen coordination, monitoring and reporting processes through platforms that promote the participation of the different stakeholders in humanitarian action. This could be done at various levels but in particular at the municipal level.
- Improve coordination between the different agendas and actors responsible for humanitarian action, including from the public, private, civil society and academic sectors at all levels.
- Train local authorities in the areas of preparedness and response to disasters and crises and improve national processes and protocols for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected communities with a focus on differentiating the response based on needs and context.¹
- Update and adapt to the context and new realities, methodologies and processes for rapid needs assessment with the participation of multidisciplinary gender-balanced teams.
- Include independent accountability mechanisms in the planning processes that involve affected people to increase levels of transparency in actions carried out by all humanitarian actors.
- Facilitate access by local organisations to international financial resources, taking into account community knowledge of their own contexts and establish clear mechanisms and procedures to understand and define the best modalities to transfer goods and services to affected populations.

- Establish clear mechanisms and procedures to understand and define the best modalities to reach affected people using cash-based assistance.
- Create or strengthen national and regional financing tools that include quicker and more flexible activation mechanisms to allow national governments to respond to small and medium scale emergencies before making an international appeal.
- Promote the private sector, academia and other new actors as strategic partners to contribute to humanitarian action and support the role of the State.
- Promote the establishment of regional financial mechanisms with contributions from the countries in the region and international donors.

Reducing vulnerability and managing risk



Recent humanitarian situations in the LAC region,² in addition to the evidence of increased risk in communities due to unplanned urbanization, extreme poverty, environmental degradation and the effects of climate change, have revealed challenges to humanitarian action and reflect the need to focus on longer-term, more sustainable development-oriented solutions that reduce the underlying causes of vulnerabilities. The increase in the frequency and intensity of natural hazards and epidemics represents major challenges to the range of actors that make up the humanitarian system in the region.

Disasters and crises have different consequences for different people and groups, and the specific needs of those who are most likely to become more vulnerable during these situations must be taken into consideration and addressed.

These groups include women of reproductive age, boys and girls especially in early childhood, people with disabilities, indigenous populations, people of African descent, the elderly, and excluded and marginalised groups such as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities and minorities.

Recognising the individuality and dignity of persons is essential in order to guarantee humanitarian action that favours a dignified recovery of the recipients of assistance.

The importance of using existing technology, including geo-referencing and digital mapping, can contribute to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the mapping of persons with specific needs.

Indigenous, traditional and ancestral knowledge are seen as critical storehouses of wisdom and should be valued and considered in all phases of humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction management.

The LAC humanitarian system must be clear about both what is meant by resilience and what is implied by actions that lead to resilience.

Recommendations:

- Reinforce existing and generate new capacities in the areas of knowledge and comprehensive risk management (vulnerabilities, threats and exposure), especially in urban contexts, with the aim of addressing the issue in a multidimensional manner, increasing community resilience and guaranteeing livelihoods.
- Contribute to Government plans at various levels to deepen work with the communities in areas of risk reduction and preparedness, particularly in the design of early warning systems.
- Systematically include humanitarian and disaster risk reduction dimensions in multi-sectorial policies for sustainable development to promote a comprehensive approach and strengthen people's resilience.

¹ 70% of people consulted in communities that participated in the consultation process indicated that they were not prepared for disasters.

² Studies such as the "Global Evaluation on Disaster Risk Reduction" (2015) and the Global Risk Report of the University of the United Nations" (2014) highlight the levels of risk exposure given different factors in LAC.

- Develop information and disaggregated data generation tools with communities that include statistics and risk maps that are accessible and easy-to-use in the community setting.
- Prioritise actions that eliminate all forms of violence—especially sexual and domestic violence—that tend to increase in post-disaster and crisis situations and affect more vulnerable persons such as women and boys and girls in a different manner.
- Develop joint professional training programs linked to issues of risk management and reduction that involve the different actors in humanitarian action and take advantage of the experience and capacities of the academic sector in the development of courses and programs in disaster risk reduction and attention to emergencies in university curricula.
- Medium and longer-term financing should be predictable and aimed at reducing barriers between humanitarian and sustainable development financing, focusing on actions in risk management, reduction, preparedness, building resilience and response.
- Recognise the role of development solutions in reducing vulnerability as an important element to address challenges. Explore the alignment of humanitarian programs with national recovery programs and how to integrate sustainable development solutions in their plans of action to ensure that the programs do not create or exacerbate socio-economic gaps in the country.
- Understand the importance of market dynamics and undertake or use vulnerability and capacity assessments to establish and adjust priorities for the most appropriate time and type of assistance (cash, vouchers or other modalities) to help strengthen local markets and contribute to building resilience.

Transformation through innovation



To face the realities and future challenges in LAC, it is essential that humanitarian actors innovate not only through new technologies but also through new and creative ways of operating. In LAC, innovation is seen as a means to an end, not an end in and of itself.

Affected persons and communities are the centre of humanitarian work and innovations must be aligned with humanitarian imperatives. Innovation is not synonymous with technology. Innovation should always take into consideration local experience and ancestral knowledge and be sustainable, relevant and necessary to the context.

The humanitarian landscape is understood to be dynamic and demands changes, which take time to be assimilated but are nevertheless necessary to keep pace with increasing challenges. These challenges and corresponding changes or responses reach across the spectrum from the global humanitarian architecture to the work done at the local and community level by first responders. The growing tendency in the humanitarian world to view the quantification of actions and the compilation of data as an efficient way of promoting accountability contributes to a reductionist focus in humanitarian planning and innovation and undermines the creativity and innovation itself.

Humanitarian innovation should promote social inclusion, clearly identify humanitarian needs and priorities and contribute to reducing vulnerability and building resilience. To accomplish this, it is necessary to ensure the active participation in humanitarian action of socially marginalised groups, particularly the full participation of girls, boys and young persons whose involvement promotes innovation and contributes to creative advances in humanitarian action.

Collaboration and cooperation are fundamental to innovation. Challenges in the current landscape, such as competition for funding, must be overcome as they can jeopardize the well being of affected people and the impact of humanitarian action. Increased collaboration will also open space for other actors and stakeholders.

Both financial and non-financial incentives must be developed for humanitarian innovation to support groups of talented people and organisations willing to contribute their creativity to humanitarian causes in the LAC region.

Recommendations:

- Base humanitarian innovation on responding to concrete needs and the demands of affected people. The process of introducing innovative initiatives should be participatory, with consultations and exchange of ideas with affected people and communities.
- Develop strategies for innovation that use traditional and ancestral knowledge and promote the participation of affected people as active agents in finding solutions. Innovation can consist of applying traditional knowledge or methods to contemporary problems.
- Use private sector tools to facilitate feedback from affected people about the quality of humanitarian assistance received and, in turn, use the information gathered to improve future programmes.
- Leverage existing national platforms and build platforms in countries where they do not yet exist to include public, private and academic sector organisations in activities to generate and strengthen community-based tools and practices to improve the quality of humanitarian action.
- Invest in developing analytical capacity and networks at all levels to identify innovative and creative opportunities to better understand and manage disaster risk and improve the efficiency and planning of humanitarian action.
- Establish Centres of Excellence to strengthen the participation of the public, private and academic sectors in generating joint training programmes and implementing innovative practices in humanitarian action.
- Systematise and develop platforms for innovation in corresponding organisations. For example, organise fairs or events at the regional or national level with each country and organisation undertaking exercises to prepare institutions to work in more innovative ways, taking into consideration financing for innovation, return on investment in activities related to innovation and disaster risk management.
- Adopt international standards for humanitarian action such as SPHERE, LEGS and the Core Humanitarian Standard and contribute to the development of principles of innovation to offer guidance to humanitarian organisations for innovation activities in the region.
- Explore concrete opportunities for innovation in areas such as access by victims of violence to protection services and livelihood support, taking into account displacement and economic losses driven by environmental and climate factors.
- Use innovations in technology and information systems to design programmes oriented to addressing specific needs in urban areas.
- Leverage existing technological platforms such as social media and telecom networks in order to fill gaps in situations of disaster and crisis, especially in urban areas where use of these platforms is prevalent.
- Prioritise a qualitative narrative in planning, implementation and accountability with and towards affected communities, replacing a quantitative approach with a human narrative that reflects the richness, complexity and interconnectivity of the experience in the most critical moments of the disaster and crisis and favours inclusion and the interests of the most vulnerable.

Displacement and violence



A space for dialogue on Displacement and Violence was included in the WHS LAC meeting as an independent theme given the relevance and impact of these issues in the region. Four of the five countries and 43 of the 50 cities with the highest levels of violence at the global level are located in the LAC region.³ Additionally, by the end of 2013, at least 6.3 million people had been subject to internal displacement in the Americas, clearly constituting a concern for humanitarian action.

³www.forbes.com.mx/las-50-ciudades-mas-violentas-del-mundo/ and in <http://www.infobae.com/2014/08/30/1591127-las-10-ciudades-mas-seguras-y-las-10-mas-peligrosa-del-mundo> (27042015), the latter based on data from the United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime

The high levels of violence and insecurity challenge humanitarian action and raise questions about the application of humanitarian standards to other frontline actors who face these situations on a day-to-day basis.

The challenge of humanitarian action in urban contexts is an ever-growing priority since the majority of displaced persons are moving into cities where vulnerabilities are often exacerbated and generate new forms of non-conventional violence. These manifestations of violence must be recognised and mechanisms that highlight the risks from a multi-sectorial approach that do not stigmatise the communities must be established.

Taking a more comprehensive approach to security includes guaranteeing and protecting victim rights as well as looking beyond the presence of law enforcement authorities. The underlying causes of violence and their consequences need to be understood in order to develop effective and appropriate strategies to address them.

Other issues that should continue to be monitored and addressed include building an increased understanding of threats and risks, strengthening networks and dialogue with youth, increased precision regarding the concept of “victim” and regulations regarding the listing of the humanitarian visa category and its corresponding specifications.

The objective of the dialogue on displacement and violence during the WHS LAC meeting was to generate an open conversation among participants based on the key findings of the consultation process as well as consider the presentations of four panellists who represented perspectives from the global, regional and local levels. The session did not aim to establish conclusions, recommendations or action points. The following are a few central points of reflection from the Co-Chairs based on the dialogue.

Key considerations:

- Participants reaffirmed the fundamental role of the State to guarantee the security of citizens, emphasising that all initiatives that seek to increase capacities must be situated within a framework of locally defined priorities and always respect the principle of sovereignty and internationally agreed-upon humanitarian principles.
- LAC has a regional legal framework for refugees—the Cartagena Declaration—that is recognised as a global model used by other regions to address refugee issues. Participants recognised the importance of having national and regional normative frameworks for these issues, especially for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- Access by humanitarian actors to places with a high incidence of violence presents enormous challenges for humanitarian action, especially as those displaced in urban areas are highly mobile and often seek anonymity. Participants recognised the importance and role of local actors who have access to and the trust of communities in these areas. International entities were invited to work closely with local networks with access to affected persons and an understanding of the context dynamics. The different forms of violence were identified as a fundamental cause of displacement and migration of populations in the region.
- Humanitarians recognised that humanitarian access is critical and should not be taken for granted.
- Deeper knowledge and a more concerted approach are needed to confront the fundamental drivers of violence such as rapid unplanned urbanization, marginalisation, discrimination, lack of socio-economic opportunities, corruption, impunity and institutional weakness. Breaking the cycle of violence, therefore, requires a comprehensive response to sustainable development.
- Participants recognised that the involvement of the community is essential to understand and address violence from the perspective of the context where it occurs.
- Each country is faced with different issues related to violence and displacement, but as many participants recognised, these problems require regional solutions due to the cross-border nature of migration.
- Participants noted the importance of having systems and tools to monitor the situation of violence and displacement in the LAC region and that protect the identity of affected persons. The potential for a network to exchange information with a view to having better understanding of the issues was also raised.
- The majority of displaced people are located in urban areas where they are not visible and they do not have access to basic services, employment or assistance, making them more vulnerable to disaster risks.

- Women, boys and girls, adolescents and young people, indigenous groups and people of African descent have specific needs in situations of violence and displacement and are the most affected. As a result, they are essential both in drawing attention to and reducing this phenomenon. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence and human trafficking in these contexts.
- Finally, participants noted the importance of creating strategies for holistic human development to address the root causes of violence and to avoid stigmatisation of people living in violent contexts.
- Non-conventional violence has multiple interpretations and the term should be used with caution given that in some cases, the interpretations could deviate from humanitarian principles and objectives.

Serving the needs of people in conflict



Although gripped with very high levels of violence, the region suffers less from inter and intra-state conflict compared to other regions of the world. As such, the applicability of the issue was limited and was not addressed in all countries during the consultation process. Where it was discussed, stakeholders noted that the general objective of humanitarian actors is to ensure the access and support of all people affected by conflicts and that strategies be developed to achieve this.

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There is concern that in certain cases, limited understanding of the complexities of conflict may hinder effective present and future humanitarian action. Implementation of humanitarian programming and the promotion of a rights-based approach was recommended to improve action and impact.

Conflict affects different people, groups and sectors in different ways. Certain population groups and non-combatants become more vulnerable and are exposed to increased risk in situations of conflict, and this reality must be acknowledged and addressed.

This section reflects the elements that were highlighted by participants in the national consultations and the perspectives gathered in the Preparatory Stakeholder Analysis, which noted four areas for further exploration under the topic serving the needs of people in conflict. It does not aim to establish recommendations but rather to highlight some of the most important aspects of the document and the panel that addressed this theme. Given this approach, the general aspects of the discussion included the following:

- The international humanitarian system needs to adapt to different contexts based on a thorough and in depth analysis of the particular characteristics of conflict contexts in contrast to disaster contexts, and its actions should aim to strengthen and complement the capacities of national and local institutions.
- Programme planning should be approached in a holistic way, including the provision of basic services and protection to serve the needs of people affected by conflict, particularly the specific needs of different groups of the affected population.
- A call to consider the central role of affected people and communities and their participation in finding solutions to their own challenges with a focus on differentiated and sex-disaggregated approaches based on different needs.
- Managing information in a holistic and interconnected manner is fundamental to understanding the realities of affected people and to communicating information to relevant actors in order to most effectively serve affected people.

- The notion and importance of coordination and connection between international, national and local actors was highlighted, particularly with respect to the importance of countries establishing legal frameworks and public policies for serving the needs of people in conflict that are complementary to international frameworks and include International Humanitarian Law.
- Humanitarian action must be linked with sustainable development and exit strategies with appropriate timeframes must be developed for humanitarian aid/actors.
- The importance and principal role of the state was noted as well as the utility of adopting normative and legal frameworks for the protection of all people, including internally displaced people.

