



**WEBINAR SERIES:**  
**HUMANITARIAN ACTION AT  
THE TIME OF COVID-19**

**6TH, 8TH, 12TH, 13TH, 15TH APRIL | 15:30H - 17:00H (CET)**



# INTRODUCTION

Apart from the economic and public health crises with which the world is struggling, COVID-19 has brought a far-reaching and long-term global protection emergency. According to the United Nations Agency for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA, 235 million people worldwide will need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2021, 40% more than in 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic has added a new dimension to the protection challenges within humanitarian action. While some of the world's most well-resourced countries have seen a drastic increase in demand for protection services, people in countries with pre-existing humanitarian crises are dealing with new protection threats, with fewer resources available to help to mitigate them.

In the current context, there is an increased risk of forced displacement, coupled with an increase in xenophobia and stigmatization, a dramatic increase in gender-based violence and discrimination in access to health, food, drinking water, education and legal services for these populations, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Due to the increase in protection needs and the impact on access to services and respect for the human rights of the population in the most multi-affected countries, the humanitarian community faces important challenges, which we will address in the scheduled sessions.

# AGENDA

## 6TH APRIL

### **15:30H - 17:00H | OPENING SESSION: RESETTING THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM: WHAT CHANGES ARE NEEDED? (EN-ES)\***

The humanitarian sector has always faced different challenges imposed by the contexts in which it works and has been forced to be constantly evolving. The COVID-19 pandemic has been no exception and has brought a new dimension to existing protection challenges within humanitarian action.

During this session, we will analyse the current situation facing humanitarian action by looking at the different contexts, challenges, and opportunities, some of them within the framework of COVID-19 and others that were already emerging.

**Opening: Cristina Muñoz, Director at Alianza.**

**Facilitator: Francisco Rey Marcos, IECAH's co-director.**

- Véronique de Geoffroy. Groupe URD Executive Director.
- Ignacio Packer. ICVA Executive Director.



**REGISTRATION**

*\*There will be a live English interpretation.*

## **REGIONAL SESSIONS: THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE METHODS OF WORKING IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION**

The humanitarian sector is a living, ever-changing sector. The contexts in which it works have always left it no other choice, and the COVID-19 pandemic has been no exception.

The 2016 World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, and in particular the Grand Bargain, brought some very important issues to the table, which have been driving important changes in the sector's ways of working.

During the following three roundtables we will put some of these changes into perspective, analyse the impact of COVID-19 on them in specific contexts with experts from international and local organisations. Implications, difficulties and positive aspects will be analysed, and practical experiences will be collected.

<b>THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE METHODS OF WORKING IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION</b>		
<b>NEW PROTECTION CHALLENGES: THE VALUE OF FEMINIST LEADERSHIP (EN)</b>	<b>FORCED DISPLACEMENT: NEW CHALLENGES (ESP)</b>	<b>TOOLS TO IMPROVE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE (FR)</b>

# 8TH APRIL

## 15:30H - 17:00H | REGIONAL SESSION 1: NEW PROTECTION CHALLENGES: THE VALUE OF FEMINIST LEADERSHIP (EN)

The COVID-19 pandemic has had health, economic and social effects, as well as others that have been less visible or invisible. In the field of development cooperation, and, in particular, humanitarian action, it has had a strong impact on the protection of people affected by natural disasters and/or armed conflicts, posing enormous challenges, difficulties and lessons for humanitarian actors.

After a more general analysis of the impact that COVID-19 has had on protection, we will analyse how different responses have been adapted to guarantee protection, like feminist leadership has been in the response to COVID-19 from different local organisations, and we will make visible the impact and changes that COVID-19 has brought about in situations of sexual and gender-based violence in a context such as Palestine.

**Facilitator: Eva Anadó, Representative in Palestine at Alianza.**

- Elisa Paz, Independent consultant, gender specialist.
- Chikumbutso Ngosi, Women's Rights Coordinator at AAID Malawi.
- Majeda AlSaqqa, Programmes Director at Culture for Free Thought Association (CFTA), Gaza, Palestine.



**REGISTRATION**

# 12TH APRIL

## 15:30H - 17:00H | REGIONAL SESSION 2: FORCED DISPLACEMENT: NEW CHALLENGES (ESP)

The COVID-19 pandemic has not only generated new humanitarian needs but has also pushed some pre-existing needs into the background. During this session we will focus on how the pandemic has affected and is affecting the protection component and the displacement of people against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the other hand, although in a complementary manner, we will analyse the state of localisation in the context of the pandemic. How this has meant a step forward or backward for this commitment that we are so far from fulfilling and what future prospects are envisaged.

Following on from the Grand Bargain commitments, we will look at Cash Transfer Programmes in the framework of Government Social Safety Nets.

**Facilitator: Maria Salvador, Head of Programmes in Spain for Alianza por la Solidaridad.**

- Liubka Milena Buitrago. Gender focal point at Alianza por la Solidaridad Colombia.
- Rodolfo Beazley, Independent consultant, Social protection specialist.
- Gloria Miranda Ángel, Independent consultant, Localization specialist.



**REGISTRATION**

# 13TH APRIL

## 15:30H - 17:00H | REGIONAL SESSION 3: PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY: HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN? (FR)

The COVID 19 pandemic has brought many challenges to commitments and mechanisms that humanitarian agencies put in place to ensure quality and accountability of humanitarian work. This session will aim at analysing different tools and approaches that are essential to improving the humanitarian response including accountability to the affected communities, effective training of staff and volunteers and cash-based assistance.

**Facilitator: Sandrine Morel, correspondent of the French newspaper Le Monde in Spain.**

- Bonaventure Gbétoho Sokpoh, Senior Advisor on CHS and Outreach at CHS Alliance.
- Rory Downham, Director of learning and development at Bioforce.
- Guy Merlin Saint Jean, Technical officer at Alianza Haiti.



**REGISTRATION**

# 15TH APRIL

## 15:30H - 17:00H | CLOSING SESSION: ONE YEAR LATER: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM COVID-19 IN THE HUMANITARIAN FIELD? (ESP/ENG)\*

After a year of pandemic, in which humanitarian organisations have faced significant challenges, this session will focus on drawing conclusions on what has been learned over the past year and how some of these issues are changing the international aid system and their implications for the medium and long term.

Through the presentation of short excerpts from the previous sessions and discussion with the invited guests, we will try to draw some conclusions on lessons learned and lessons to be learned.

**Facilitator: Alejandro Zurita, coordinator of the Humanitarian Action Group of the Coordinadora de ONGD para el Desarrollo.**

- Antonio Donini, researcher at Feinstein International Centre.



**REGISTRATION**

*\*There will be a live English interpretation.*