

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

Special Event on Religious Engagement in
Humanitarian Action

A Civil Society Organized Working Meeting

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

Report from Mexico City Regional Working Meeting:

Thursday, 3rd March, 2016, hosted by Centro Deportivo Israelita and Cadena

Overview

Representatives of faith-based organisations, religious institutions, secular NGOs, and the public sector met in Mexico City in person to discuss opportunities and challenges for faith engagement in humanitarian action, and to discuss the opportunity of the WHS Special Event on Religion & Humanitarian Action. All present have had experience of humanitarian partnerships with religious leaders or local faith-based organisations.

Participants in the Working Meeting identified key issues for discussion at the WHS, as well as highlighted challenges and risks for such an agenda.

Key issues, perspectives, & challenges raised by Mexico City participants:

Participants at the meeting were divided into three groups. The summary of the discussion and suggestions for increasing faith engagement in humanitarian action by each group is captured below:

Conclusions Team 1

- Create a small pamphlet with the beliefs of each religion on humanitarian aid, to identify the common ground of all religions.
- Educate, prevent and create a personal conscience on matters such as health, eating habits and spirituality, before trying to change and help other people do the same.
- Communicate the positive information. It is important to share the achievements of each organization, because this can in turn inspire other people to join the cause or do the same with their own means.
- Periodic reunions without proselytism, and also do follow ups.
- Replicate the aid by inspiring and motivating.
- Complement each other instead of duplicating the same efforts, to be more effective and efficient.
- Research the communities' context and identify their real necessities. Being respectful towards the communities by actually knowing them.
- Make personal changes first.
- We are all interconnected and we all are equal in dignity, we all deserve respect. What you do for others you are ultimately doing for yourself and for your local and global community.
- Invest in prevention programs; educate as a means to eradicate and prevent an array of social problems.
- Think globally, act locally.

Conclusions Team 2

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

Special Event on Religious Engagement in Humanitarian Action

A Civil Society Organized Working Meeting

- It was emphasized that the aid should be given without conditions, impartially and with a good coordination in order to prevent duplicating efforts and maximize the available resources.
- Consider the necessities of the affected people carefully. Consult with them their immediate needs in order to organize strategic efforts and obtain a bigger impact. (E.g. bring water filters to the disaster zone instead of bottled water).
- Identify the proper implementers or leaders to provide the humanitarian aid in a coordinated, efficient and opportune manner.
- Build capacities and awareness constantly to strengthen the prevention, preparation, and response efforts, as well as the reconstruction of the livelihood in the area.
- Exert, in a constant fashion, auto-criticism and an analysis of learned lessons. (Being receptive to constructive criticism)
- Create a coordination that allows all organizations to join their efforts to help others, through clear logistics and teamwork mechanisms.

Conclusions Team 3

- Necessity stands out over doctrine. Help through gestures.
- Selfless help to others.
- Implement an awareness campaign about how anyone can help others, despite religion, economic status, ethnicity, etc.
- Create an interreligious council for humanitarian aid.
- Create a data base (community dinners, where the aids are stored, etc.)
- The importance of follow ups (every 3 months prepare agendas and workshops).
- On behavior of the interreligious council, present a range of subjects on humanitarian help.
- Publish interreligious content (positive and without doctrine).
- Inform people using positive terms.
- Install service exchange systems and alternatives to money like barter.
- Training in spiritual aid (E.g. Help during death).
- Training in spiritual assistance doctrine.
- Make a personal conscience change.

Annex 1

Meeting Participants

Benjamin Laniado	CADENA
Tania Charabati	CADENA
Isaac Levy	CADENA
Juan Pablo O'Farril	OCHA
Emma González Sarur	CENACED
Ernesto Toris	Iglesia de Jesucristo/ Servicios Caritativos Sud
Malka Izbitzki	Trubuna Israelita/Comité Interreligioso
Sara Cherem	Tradición en Armonía (TEA) Comunidad Judía
Amira Valle	Casa Tibet México
Mustafá Cevik	Centro Cultural Turco
Dominik Kustra	Fundación Del Vaticano Ayuda a la Iglesia Necesitada
Isa Rojas	AL Hikmah
Obispo Andres Hernandez Miranda	Iglesia Metodista de México A.R.
Reverendo P.Efren Velazquez G.	Iglesia Anglicana de México
Rabino Leonel Levy	Comunidad Bet-El
Erhan Cokcoskan	Centro Cultural Turco
Tereluz Flores Tejeda	International Tibet Network

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

Special Event on Religious Engagement in Humanitarian Action

A Civil Society Organized Working Meeting

Arturo Pozo Contreras	Tradición en Armonía (TEA) Comunidad Judía
Agricol Lozano Valle	Iglesia de Jesucristo (iglesia Mormona)
Pastor Felipe García Hernández	PAAZ
Patricia del Salto	Elephant Wise

Annex II: Photographs



WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT
Special Event on Religious Engagement in
Humanitarian Action

A Civil Society Organized Working Meeting

