

A Letter to the Generation Equality Forum Leadership from the NGO working group of the Call to Action on protection from GBV in Emergencies.

At the Generation Equality Forum meeting hosted from Mexico City, the leaders presented the draft [Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality](#). The Global Acceleration Plan acknowledged that COVID19 has “laid bare the critical gaps in equality that have left millions of women and girls – particularly those who are most marginalized – behind.” As members of the Non-Government Organization Working Group (NGO WG) of the Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies (CtA) and humanitarians, we know that women and girls living in conflict, crisis and displacement are among those most marginalized and most at risk of being left behind. This is why we were disappointed to see so little focus across the majority of the Action Coalition Blueprints on humanitarian settings.

We see the opportunities that the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) will afford to achieve gender equality and act upon the renewed attention of the international community to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Protracted crises continue to present complicated and overlapping consequences for the affected; at the same time, acute emergencies require new committed partners, working in coordination, to meet the ever-increasing scale of need.

Before the GEF meeting hosted from Paris in June and July, much more needs to be done across all of the Action Coalitions to include women and girls in humanitarian contexts in narratives, goals, actions and targets. We reiterate the calls of the [Joint Statement of the CtA in reference to the Beijing+25 Process and Commitments](#), issued in 2019, as not all of them have been acted upon. We also request that Action Coalition leadership:

- Actively apply a survivor-centered approach and consult with women and girls in humanitarian contexts, including through consultation with women-led and women-focused local organizations working in these contexts and inclusion within events held during the Paris meeting;
- Review current actions and targets to identify and add the unique challenges of women and girls in humanitarian contexts where they are missing, in line with the Action Coalition’s core principle of intersectionality;
- Consider how GBV negatively impacts women and girls across all aspects of their lives, such as when working, using technology, accessing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), assuming leadership, and during climate crises and displacement. Include acknowledgement of GBV across all Action Coalitions;
- Review how the [CtA Road Map for 2021-2025](#) can be used to further add specificity across all Action Coalition Blueprints;
- Consult actively with the CtA partnership;
- Ensure a feminist process by ensuring equal power and voice among all actors who choose to engage in the GEF.

We note, with thanks to the leadership of the GBV Action Coalition, that women and girls in humanitarian contexts were included in the narrative and some of the specific Actions and targets of the GBV Blueprint. Further specificity can and should be added before finalization by

reviewing each GBV Action Coalition Action and sub-target for ways in which women and girls in humanitarian contexts may continue to be left behind, even inadvertently. For instance, “Action 1: Create an enabling legal and policy environment for the elimination of GBV against women and girls in all their diversity” looks to bettering laws and policies, financing and data, but does not include specific actions which can be taken by refugee host countries to include refugee women and girls in national action plans to eliminate GBV, ensure their access to justice, or increase financing for programming to this population. By adding this level of specificity, we can encourage commitments for women and girls in humanitarian contexts.

The CtA partners want the GEF’s efforts and Roadmaps to truly be a turning point in the world’s fight to achieve gender equality and we want those efforts to reach every woman and girl. To do so, we must do more to include women and girls in humanitarian contexts. We stand ready to consult and act to make this happen.