

**THE LOSS OF THE SOURCE OF WORK OF THE ALGUERAS**  
**An experience in applying the GFSC model in Concepcion, Chile,**  
**after the February 2010 earthquake**  
**By Maria Francia Utard**

**Narrative of History:**

The *algueras* are women who collect algae and who walk along the edge of the sea and go into the sea walking to collect seaweed. With the rise of the sea, which also covered houses, it was difficult for them to work because of the depth where the algae were.

The most shocking thing in the work of psychosocial and emotional recovery with them was not only the situation of the loss of their work as a result of the earthquake, but also that many of them revived situations of abuse. Especially one of them, for example, whom remembered when it was violated years ago. The earthquake removed old emotions and brought to the present a situation of a non-treated previous vulnerability situation.

It was shocking to be able to work with them. In the case of this person who was raped, she told us after the work that we did, that she felt totally liberated. By the way, a friend of her expressed that she did not understand what was happening to her and from that work, she understood some things of her friend. In other cases, we were able to refer them to psychologists. It was also, I would say, a harrowing and at the same time liberating work.

**Summary of the results:**

I worked for two full days with the *algueras*, which were in a temporary camp. I was accompanied on this occasion by a psychologist, who was supportive in containing the situations of abuse that came to light in the work done with the GFSC model.

**Reflection of the author:**

I learned the importance of solving situations and not letting them pass, since this earthquake removed old wounds.

## The author

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