RECOVERING THE SONG AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE
An experience in applying the GFSC model in Manta, Ecuador, 2016
By Maria Francia Utard

Narrative of History:

In the city of Manta, Ecuador, we had been offered a space to work the emotionality of those who had lost their relatives, their belongings, their homes ... however the conditions allowed us to work in the street, in a very wide path.

We had not foreseen the presence of children, however there were about 15 children accompanying the adults. A colleague went to work with them, making them relive the moment of the earthquake, drawing. When we had to work with the adults, we asked them to move to another space and it was magical, since the facilitator asked them to collect their drawings and break them, as a way to leave the painful behind and throw it in a basket. Then, we took them to another space, where they began to draw what their vision was and the things they wanted to do ... and those drawings were wonderful and there was a great difference in drawings between before and after.

On the other hand, we work on that same path with a group of 35 adults. One of them told us of his despair at the death of his mother and the failure to give her a Christian burial as he would have liked. He had to watch her in the street, he lit a candle. His great pain, independent of the death of his mother, was not being able to veil her as she had attended him throughout his life.

Another person, who had always sung, but had not sung since the earthquake, as a result of the work done to close our activity using music, this man began to sing ... it was very exciting just to remember it I fell tears.

Summary of the results:

In this case, we work with Ximena Combariza, volunteer of GFSC, and Beccy Torres and Sandy Espinel, of the consultancy firm D. & E., of Guayaquil. We put a poster with the word CRISIS to serve as a guide and we made the process of working the moment before and after the earthquake ... from there we worked in small groups and this allowed a liberating catharsis situation for most of the people there present ... who expressed it at the end of the afternoon.

Reflection of the author:

My greatest learning was working under any circumstance ... since here we worked on the street, no matter what was happening around, just being focused on people.

The author

María Francia Utard. Master Coach. Partner of "Utard Consultores, Dialogo & Armonía", a consultancy firm dedicated to the processes of communication and understanding of people, to achieve the objectives that they have proposed. Director of Training Programs in "Ontological Relationship Coaching" in Costa Rica and Panama and "Organizational Ontological Relationship Coaching". She has worked with Global Facilitators Serving Communities (GFSC) in Psychosocial Post-Disaster Recovery. Founding member of the Latin American Association of Facilitators (ALFA); the Costa Rican Association of Professional Coaching (ACCP), the International Coach Federation (ICF), the International Federation of Professional Ontological Coaching (FICOP). Master's Degree in Organizational Communication; Bachelor in Human Resources Administration; Professional Ontological Coach.