



**University of Azuay**

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**DESIGN OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR  
THE SHELTER HOUSE FOR WOMEN  
VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE "PAQARINA" IN  
THE MUNICIPAL GAD OF AZOGUES**

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# **Design Of The International Cooperation Management Plan For The Shelter House For Women Victims Of Violence "Paqarina" In The Municipal Gad Of Azogues**

## **Resumen**

La violencia a la mujer es un acto que atenta contra la integridad y la vida de las personas. En la ciudad de Azogues, por ejemplo, seis de cada diez mujeres han sufrido algún tipo de violencia; en respuesta a los altos índices de violencia, se creó la Casa de Acogida para Mujeres Víctimas de Violencia "Paqarina", ubicada en el GAD Municipal de Azogues. La finalidad de esta investigación fue presentar el Diseño de un Plan de Gestión de Cooperación Internacional a favor de esta Casa de Acogida, que permitirá lograr un trabajo eficiente y organizado. La metodología usada fue el método de estudio de casos propuesto por Robson y McCartan (2011), que aborda tres fases: una exhaustiva revisión bibliográfica, entrevistas a los colaboradores de la Casa de Acogida e interpretación del análisis de los resultados. El contenido abordó temas sobre violencia, cooperación internacional y el marco legal internacional.

## **Abstract**

Violence against women is an act that threatens the integrity and life of people. In the city of Azogues, for example, six out of ten women have suffered some type of violence; In response to the high rates of violence, the "Paqarina" Shelter for Women Victims of Violence was created, located in the Municipal GAD of Azogues. The purpose of this research was to present the Design of an International Cooperation Management Plan in favor of this Shelter, which will allow efficient and organized work. The methodology used was the case study method proposed by Robson and McCartan (2011), which addresses three phases: an exhaustive bibliographic review, interviews with the collaborators of the Shelter House and interpretation of the analysis of the results. The content addressed issues of violence, international cooperation and the international legal framework.

## **Key words**

**Violence against women, reception, international cooperation, management**

## **1. Introduction**

Violence against women is an act that threatens the integrity and human life and results in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering (Organization of the United Nations [UN] Women, 2020). At the international level, this type of violence began to be visualized and given importance through different conventions, such as: the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (1979), the *Belem do Pará Convention* (1994), the *Declaration and Program of Action of Vienna* (1993), where the route of global policies was decided. In this same sense, work was done simultaneously in the

legal framework, so that international organizations would be interested in carrying out international cooperation, in order to eliminate or prevent any form of violence against women in the international community, especially in countries where Violence rates are high (Soler, 2021).

In Ecuador, for example, the violence indices presented by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (National Institute of Statistics and Censuses [INEC], 2019), reveal a historically violent State. According to the latest bulletin, National Survey of Family Relations and Gender Violence against Women (National Institute of Statistics and Censuses, 2019), at the national level the percentage of women who have suffered some type of violence is 64.9%, and only in the province of Cañar, the percentage is 74.9%. These figures demonstrate the high degree of violence against women in Ecuadorian society, which makes it a priority axis of interest for the State. For this reason, in the city of Azogues, through the Municipal Decentralized Autonomous Government (GAD) and the Municipal Directorate of Social Action (ASM), launched the Home for Women Victims of Violence "Paqarina" project, in order to offer temporary protection to women who suffer violence or who are at risk.

In order to respond to the Sustainable Development Goals (United Nations, 2018) to which public institutions adhere, the problematic of this research responds to three Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda, which serve as a guide for governments to achieve development:

1. Goal 5: "Gender equality and empower all women and girls" (United Nations, 2018, p. 31), which consists of ending violence and discrimination against women; at the same time, ensure the same opportunities in all areas of life.
2. Goal 16: "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, facilitate access to justice for all and build effective and accountable institutions at all levels" (United Nations, 2018, p. 71). Its purpose is to maintain the safety of people; in this case, women, and guarantee that the Municipal GAD works effectively and fairly.
3. Goal 17: "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development it proposes" (United Nations, 2018, p. 75). The goal is to collaborate globally to achieve the SDGs, through international cooperation and materialize the 2030 Agenda.

In this context, and so that the Management of International Cooperation for the Shelter House for Women Victims of Violence "Paqarina", in the Municipal GAD of Azogues is a sustainable and tenable project, the *Design of the Management Plan* is proposed, through a case study raised by Robson and McCartan (2011). This methodology is based on a literary review of conceptions of violence against women and international cooperation. Additionally, qualitative research is supported by semi-structured interviews, in the opinion of the researcher. The research triangulates the theory, the methodological application and the interpretation of the research found in the object of study, that is, in the Shelter, in order to conclude with new contributions to the scientific field.

## **1.1 Objectives**

### **1.1.1 General objective**

Design an International Cooperation Management Plan for the "Paqarina" Shelter for Women Victims of Violence, located in the Municipal GAD of Azogues.

### **1.1.2 Specifics objectives**

1. To describe the main conceptions, about issues such as: violence against women, international cooperation, conventions and forums on which the cooperating entities are based for the incorporation of the approach of violence against women in international cooperation.
2. To analyze the situation of violence in the city of Azogues and the context in which the shelter for women victims of violence was created.
3. To elaborate the management plan for the "Paqarina" shelter for women victims of violence of the Municipal Government of Azogues, financed by international funds.

## **1.2 Theoretical framework and state of the art**

### **1.2.1 Violence against Women**

The political history of humanity and the evolution of historical processes have made it possible to reach levels of coexistence based on respect for differences, democracy, plurality and the democratic regime, with a common premise, namely that women have not been considered until relatively recent times in history; In addition, they have been violated in different areas such as labor, sexual, patrimonial, etc. (Moncayo et al., 2014).

There are several authors who define violence, based on different disciplines such as law, psychology, philosophy, among others; Mario Stoppino (1988) defines it as: "the physical intervention of an individual or group, against another individual or group" (p. 1628). For his part, Eduardo Gonzáles (2000), from a social sciences point of view, mentions that violence is "the deliberate application or threat of application of intense physical force with the intention of causing effects on the recipient of violence". (p. 165).

From a sociological perspective, Joan Galtung (1995) assures that "violence occurs at the moment in which the human being is subjugated by others, in such a way that their daily actions, whether physical or mental, are below their capacities." (p. 314). In this sense, it is evident that women live in a system of patriarchal domination, with well-defined roles, not only in family relationships or at home, but also outside of it, in addition to other elements such as the use of force, whether directly, bodily or its intended use, as well as actions of a mental and psychological nature, and the power granted to some human beings over others, are still present in today's society (Segato, 2016).

Until the 1990s, violence, especially against women, was considered an isolated event, in which the government should not intervene; That is why it was not classified as a social problem and the magnitude of the impact on society was not calculated (Moncayo et al., 2014). Philosophers such as Simone de Beauvoir (1949) in her book: "*The Second Sex*", from an existentialist perspective, propose the figure of the '*other*', which gives feminine autonomy and otherness to men. Likewise, she describes how social roles and expectations could occur in forms of oppression and violence, accepted by culture and tradition.

Authors such as Rosa Cid (2009) and Isabel Morant (2019), they highlight Beauvoir's thought, the fact that women were treated as objects, but not as subjects, so they were victims of different types of violence; At the same time, Simone Weil (1947) in her book "*Clumsiness and Grace*", writes about how violence against women was considered a cowardly act in the public sphere and the sheer frequency

with which it occurred, as well as in a silent way that was handled in the private sphere and discretion in work and professional environments.

Within the study on all forms of violence against women (UN, 2006), the following scenarios are mentioned:

- Violence against women within the family:

Violence against women in the private sphere is also called "intra-family abuse". The UN Women (2022) defines it as any pattern of behavior that is used by the person to acquire or maintain power, control over an intimate partner, whether it is a physical, sexual, emotional, economic and psychological act, that influences another person.

- Violence against women in the community:

Women in the community face daily physical, sexual, psychological violence at work, in social, religious, work, educational institutions, etc., in which these forms of violence include femicide, rape and sexual harassment, prostitution forced, labor violation (ONU, 2006).

### **1.2.2 Role of International Organizations in preventing violence against women**

In this sense, International Organizations, being subjects of law that are regulated internationally, are the result of a decision that has been negotiated over a period of time, with established objectives and whose area of action is international (Calduch, 1991; Díaz Galán, 2018). The categories range from those that are of a public nature, better known as International Governmental Organizations (IGOs) or private ones, also called Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

These entities, in compliance with the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, have put their efforts into addressing social problems, especially the prevention of violence against women, through the generation of policies, programs or other mechanisms related to cooperation (Burgos, 2019). In this sense, the *2030 Agenda* approved in 2015, during the *Sustainable Development Summit*, in which 193 UN Member States participated, established a new vision based on economic, social and environmental sustainability, which allowed them to adopt 17 objectives (Figure No. 1), where each of the countries sets goals aimed at the creation of sustainable cities, poverty eradication, gender equality, women's empowerment, international cooperation practices, among others (ECLAC, 2022).

#### **Figure No. 1**

*Sustainable Development Goals*

# OBJETIVOS DE DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE



Note: The 17 goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for development are shown

Source: (United Nations, 2021). (<https://acortar.link/137s>)

At the same time, the *Agenda for Sustainable Development* represents a multilateral consent agreement that involves the role of public, private, civil society and academic actors for sustainable development (Aldecoa et al., 2019); in this context and landing in focused on the social context, Carballo de la Riera et al.(2019, p. 109) mentions that gender discrimination and violence triggers the interest in international cooperation for development, through twinning with strategic partners, such is the case of UN Women, which was created by resolution number 1325 of the UN General Assembly. This entity is based on components such as: the advancement of women, promotion of women through the Research and Training Institute, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, which seek to ensure the enjoyment of human rights, eradication and prevention of violence against women (UN Women, 2013).

Thus, UN Women, through cooperation with other UN organizations, through various publications such as: *Support Framework for the Prevention of Violence against Women* (2019), *Framework for the Prevention of Violence against Women* (2020) and *an Implementation Package to Prevent Violence against Women* (2020), highlight the role of the different decentralized sectors to design, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate the different interventions and programs to prevent and respond to violence against women. In Ecuador, for example, the *Spotlight Initiative* was presented, a joint work of UN Women and the European Union, which has its areas of action in information gathering and management, quality services, prevention and institutional strengthening of women's organizations and civil society (UN Women, 2022a).

### 1.2.3 International conventions on violence against women

In order to successfully carry out decentralized international cooperation, the different cooperating entities have, as a legal framework, declarations and conventions focused on violence against women. The most important of these are listed below:

**Table No. 1***Declarations and Conventions focused on violence against women*

Declaration	Objectives	Ratification of Ecuador
Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)	It expresses the equal rights of all persons without distinction of sex, skin color, ethnicity, or any other kind, as well as protection before the law against any type of discrimination. Article 2 of the Convention establishes the commitment of States to adopt all necessary measures to implement the rights enshrined in this instrument.	August 12, 1977
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979)	It is the fundamental charter of women's rights (UN Women, 2016) because it defines the actions and routes to follow for the elimination of this type of discrimination, and promotes structural changes in society, as well as economic and social power structures. Consequently, States have the duty to offer effective protection to women victims of violence, under conditions of equality and free from all forms of discrimination.	July 17, 1980
Vienna Declaration and Program of Action (1993)	It expresses that gender violence goes against the individual freedom, dignity and physical integrity of women, and that women's rights are part of human rights and therefore inalienable and indivisible.	March 1, 2021
Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (1994).	Known as the Belém do Pará Convention, it considers violence as a violation of human rights and constitutes the right of women to live a life free of violence. It establishes mechanisms for the protection and defense of women's rights, which are essential to confront this phenomenon that occurs in	September 15, 1995

both the public and private spheres.

*Note:* This table shows the main conventions and declarations that address the issue of violence against women.

Source: Data were taken from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), CEDAW (1979), Vienna Declaration and Program of Action (1993); Belém do Pará Convention (1994).

Villegas (2021) mentions that violence against women is a global issue and that Ecuador, despite having ratified the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, enforced 40 years ago, and the *Convention of Belém Do Pará*, in force for 17 years, the reality that women experience reflects that the efforts of the State have not been focused on responding to the needs of women, since the use of physical, psychological and sexual force remains present; that is why the Ecuadorian State is far from achieving the goals of SDG 5 and 16.

With a clearer picture of international conventions and declarations, therefore, on violence against women, the desire of the international community to strengthen international relations and evolve to new ways of supporting each other in the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda is shown; therefore, in the following section, this new form of international support is addressed.

#### 1.2.4 Decentralized international cooperation for development

The development process is not a competence solely of central or regional governments but, through decentralization, it is an internal action at the local level, which is transferred to the Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GAD), whether parish, municipal or provincial, to become protagonist parties of development (Association of Ecuadorian Municipalities [AME], 2015; United Nations, 2018).

This type of International Cooperation (IC), led by autonomous governments, is focused on enhancing the capacity to relate internationally, generate and manage projects to attract foreign aid in different areas, in an agile, direct and flexible manner, where there is an openness to negotiations and economic restructuring (Carrión, 2003; Sanz, 2015). According to Fernández (2020), there are three modalities of decentralized international cooperation:

**Table No. 2**  
*Decentralized International Cooperation Modalities*

Degree of involvement	Direct	Indirect
Type and number of stakeholders	<p>It is carried out between local governments based on their involvement and autonomy, which allows for the exchange of technical knowledge and the establishment of political relations.</p> <p>Bilateral</p>	<p>It is carried out between NGOs (public financing funds) and local governments to obtain financing for projects.</p> <p>Multilateral</p>
	<p>It is carried out between two municipalities which have an association agreement that allows them to exchange and get to know each other.</p>	<p>More than two local governments from different countries are involved, where there is the possibility of global</p>



Relationship between stakeholders	<p>Horizontal</p> <p>It is a more inclusive modality due to its relations guided by mutual interest.</p>	<p>responses adapted to the local level.</p> <p>Vertical</p> <p>This type of relationship is based on funding where there is an unequal relationship between donor and recipient.</p>
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Source: Based on Fernandez, 2020.

### 1.2.5 Regulatory Framework for Decentralized International Cooperation in Ecuador

The Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador (2008), in its articles 283 and 264, states that each Municipality constitutes a Decentralized Autonomous Government; furthermore, international cooperation is one of its exclusive competencies and its management must be focused on the fulfillment of its functions.

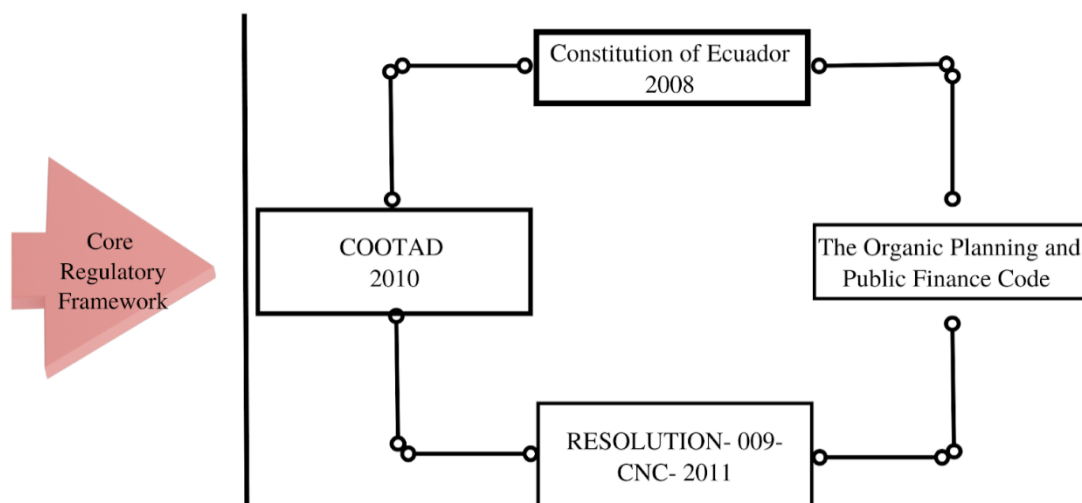
The Organic Code of Planning and Public Finance (2020), in its articles 26, 29, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, ensures the harmonization of the management of non-reimbursable international cooperation, the National Development Plan and the PDYOT, establishing a specific regulation for this type of cooperation.

Resolution 0009 of the National Council of Competencies in its articles 1 and 4, establishes the transfer of the management of non-reimbursable IC and technical assistance to the GADs; it also establishes the criteria of competence of the international cooperation (IC) such as: complementarity and co-responsibility, territorial articulation; transparency, effectiveness and impact; self-sufficiency and non-conditionality, specialization and harmonization, and decentralized management.

In the province of Cañar, the Provincial Government issued the Ordinance for the Regulation of International Cooperation, where it mentions that the different cooperation initiatives, whether in the transfer of financial, human and technical resources, must be aligned with the PDYOT, which must be registered according to each territorial district.

The Organic Code of Territorial Organization, Autonomy and Decentralization (Cootad, 2019), in its Articles 53, 131, 187 and 293 establishes that the resources obtained, whether technical or financial by the GADs through CI are the GADs' own, due to the fact that they have political, administrative and financial independence to manage these resources, in order to fulfill their competencies.

**Figure No. 2**  
*National Regulations for International Cooperation*



*Fuente:* Adaptada de la Secretaría Técnica y Cooperación Internacional (SETECI, 2014).

In this sense, it can be seen how national regulations are in accordance with local regulations on issues of International Cooperation for Development. Thus, the COOTAD gives independence to the Municipal Government of Azogues for the autonomous fulfillment of its competencies to prevent violence against women and strengthen the CID.

### 1.2.6 Context of violence in Azogues and the creation of "Paqarina".

"San Francisco de Peleusi de Azogues" or also called Azogues is the capital of the province of Cañar, located in the central south of the country, has 9 parishes with an area of 1224 Km<sup>2</sup> representing 19.5% of the territory. It has 70,064 thousand inhabitants representing 31.5% of the population of the province, of which 37,976 thousand are women representing 54.2% and 32,088 thousand are men representing 45.8%. Of the total population, 50.8% represents the economically active population (National Institute of Statistics and Census, 2010).

According to Estrella et al. (2021), in a survey conducted with the objective of describing violence according to sociodemographic characteristics among 400 women who attended the Azogues Health Center, it was found that psychological violence is the most prevalent, with 4.5 out of every 10 women victims, followed by physical violence with 2.25 women who suffer it, patrimonial violence with 2 out of every 10 women, and sexual violence with 1.31 women who suffer it.

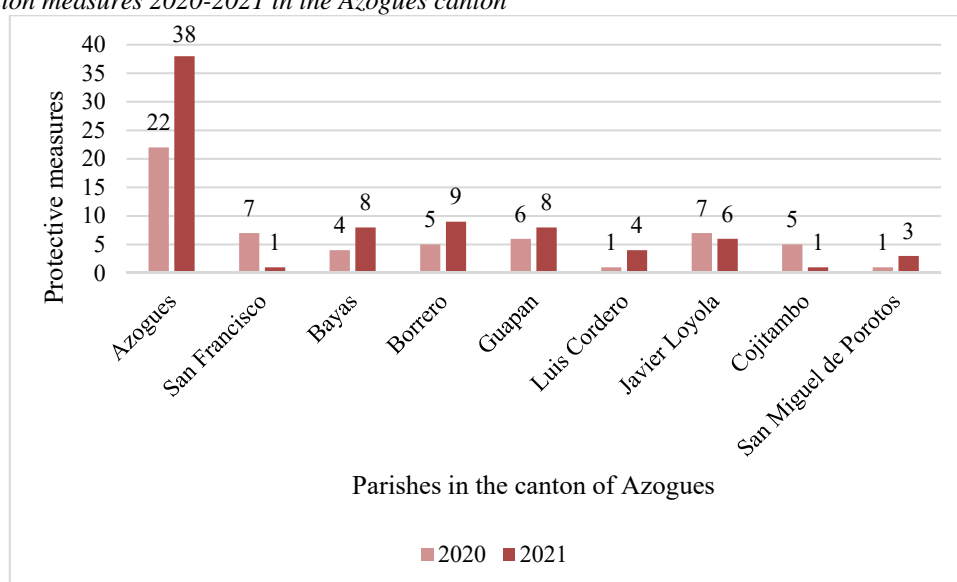
According to data obtained from the Attorney General's Office, during 2019 in the canton of Azogues a total of 258 complaints of psychological and physical violence against women were reported; while in 2020, there was a decrease in the figures to 191, in addition to a femicide; however, by the end of 2021, again there was a drop in the number of complaints to 162.

This decrease in the number of complaints, according to Santiago Ruilova, coordinator of the Cantonal Board of Protection of Rights of Azogues, is due to the fact that other types of measures are being taken, in this case protection measures, such as institutional shelter in the "Paqarina" Shelter, issuance of

letters of assistance, among others. Thus, in the Azogues canton for the year 2020, 56 protection measures were recorded, reporting that the Azogues parish has the highest number of these measures with 22 cases, representing 37%, followed by Javier Loyola and San Francisco with 7 cases each; however, for the year 2021 there is a rise in the figures, with 80 protection measures, Azogues being the parish that leads this list with 38 cases, followed by the Borrero parish with 9 cases in addition to Bayas and Guapán with 8 cases each.

**Figure No. 3**

*Protection measures 2020-2021 in the Azogues canton*



Source: Data taken from the Cantonal Board for the Protection of Rights.

Based on these indexes, another institution related to the Municipal Government of Azogues, the Cantonal Council for the Protection of Rights, chaired by Pedro José Torres, is responsible for generating public policy to prevent violence in the canton, i.e., formulate communication projects, monitor and evaluate them in the canton of Azogues. Thus, since February 2021 until now, activities have been carried out in the territory such as: Campaign called "Woman Raise Your Voice, Denounce", placing posters in the different transportation units of the canton, commercial premises and the different offices of the Municipal Government; visits and dissemination of educational material to raise awareness of violence against women and direct them to seek help if they are in a situation of violation of their rights.

In terms of international cooperation, actions have been coordinated with the Municipal Social Action Department, UN Women, the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, and the United Nations Development Program, UNDP, to present the Spotlight Initiative, which provided technical assistance to implement local public policies, formulate and execute ordinances, and support the creation of the "Paqarina" Shelter.

Due to the efforts made by the Municipal Government of Azogues in accordance with national regulations and in compliance with the activities outlined in the PDOYT, in September 2021 the first Shelter for Women Victims of Violence "Paqarina", which as its name suggests, welcomes women victims of violence and their children, if they have them, to provide temporary protection, was inaugurated. By January 2022, the Ordinance that Regulates the *Substantive Guarantees for the Prevention, Attention and*

*Eradication of Gender-Based Violence against Women and Girls in Azogues Canton* came into force. In this regard, the Municipal Government of Azogues played a key role and became a key player in the implementation of the *2030 Agenda for Development*.

Thanks to the initiative of the "Paqarina" Shelter House, a series of SDGs are fulfilled, in which the World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), through its framework for action "*Sustainable Development Goals; what Local Governments should know*" (2015), mention in detail the importance of the SDGs in the projects of the municipal GADs.

In fulfilling Objective 5: "Gender Equality", the GAD Municipalities are the pioneers in identifying and taking action on behaviors that are harmful to women, supporting the empowerment of women and providing quality services to women who have been and are being victims of violence.

In accordance with Goal 16: "Promote more just and peaceful societies", a decisive act to achieve a safe and peaceful society is to reduce violence. This is achieved through local governments, so that in their Territorial Development and Planning Plans (PDYOT) they include all groups of society, especially women.

Finally, with Objective 17: "Partnerships to achieve the objectives", local governments become suitable actors, since it is in their competence to facilitate and manage international cooperation between IGOs, NGOs and civil society, in order to promote development within the local area.

Similarly, with respect to the national development plan proposed by Guillermo Lasso, current president of Ecuador, "Plan for the creation of opportunities", the "Paqarina" project is aligned with the social axis, objective 5: protect families, guarantee rights and services, eradicate poverty and promote social inclusion (National Secretariat of Information, 2021, p. 63), in addition to the integral security axis with objective 9: guarantee citizen security, public order and risk management (National Secretariat of Information, 2021, p. 76).

## **2. Methods**

The methodology used in this research is the case study proposed by Colin Robson and Kieran McCartan, who point to Roberto Yin's (2019) definition "[t]he case study is a research strategy that consists of empirically investigating a contemporary phenomenon in its real context using multiple sources of evidence" (p. 150).

The type of case studies used are studies of organizations and institutions, which according to Robson and McCartan are "[e]xamples of companies, workplaces, schools, unions, etc. With various possible focuses such as, for example: best practices, policy implementation and evaluation, industrial relations, management and organizational issues, organizational cultures, change and adaptation processes, etc."(2011, p. 153).

Therefore, the structure proposed by Robson and McCartan (2011) is followed as follows:

### **2.1 Overview**

It describes the issues related to violence against women and how the different mechanisms of action: projects financed by international funds, international protocols and local government action, help to prevent violence against women.

### **2.2 Procedures**

First, a literature review is conducted in books, articles in digital libraries, governmental web pages where key and general concepts on violence against women, international conventions and local projects focused on the topic are extracted.

As a second step, semi-structured interviews were conducted with municipal officials, including the director of the Municipal Social Action Department, the coordinator and collaborators of the Shelter for Women Victims of Violence "Paqarina", previously informed of the ethical considerations, since the data will be protected and used for academic and research purposes.

As a third step, a triangulation of information will be carried out between the literature, the information collected from authorities of the Municipal Government of Azogues and officials of the "Paqarina" Shelter for Women Victims of Violence.

### 2.3 Presentation of information

This stage will present the main results obtained from the information gathered and analyzed in the previous points and the design of the international cooperation management plan for "Paqarina".

## 3. Results and Discussion

Following the proposed methodology, an interview was conducted with Fernanda Lucero, coordinator of the Shelter for Women Victims of Violence "Paqarina", and the technical team of the shelter, in order to obtain information on: a) the perspective on violence against women in the canton of Azogues; b) international cooperation received in the Shelter "Paqarina" and c) actions of the Municipal Department of Social Action to manage this international cooperation.

According to Lucero (June, 2022) violence against women in the canton of Azogues has had a boom and a boom in recent years, because it is immersed from the small spaces in which children, youth, adolescents and even adults in working life, so that in compliance with the powers of the Municipal Government to achieve local development, and in its efforts to prevent violence especially against women, promoted the project to create "Paqarina".

Since its inauguration to date, this facility does not receive a great deal of financial support, which is why the Municipal Social Action Department has taken actions to receive international cooperation through the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), UN Women, the Latin American Association for Alternative Development (ALDEA), which is a national foundation that deals exclusively with shelters. Lucero (June, 2022) mentions that it is incredibly difficult to obtain these funds, however, with the Spotlight Initiative, an educational-communication campaign was carried out for drivers, with the aim of achieving violence-free transportation, working with cab drivers in the city and drivers from the Javier Loyola cooperative.

As a result of the work carried out by ASM together with UN Women and the Center for Planning and Social Studies, CEPLAES, training was provided on the institutional management indexes for providing care for women victims of violence and on the national plan to prevent and eradicate violence, Thanks to this joint work and international support from CEPLAES and SPOTLIGHT, the Ordinance that Regulates the Substantive Guarantees for the Prevention, Attention and Eradication of Gender Violence against Women and Girls in Azogues Canton was approved.

For a shelter to be sustainable over time, it is essential to have international cooperation and to have activities that generate an economic income for the shelter, according to Marlene Villavicencio,

representative of the Network of Shelters in Ecuador. In addition, it is important to have a manual on how to act and manage the aid received. For this reason, following the line of research, the following design of the international cooperation management plan is proposed for "PAQARINA" in the Municipal Government of Azogues.

### 3.1 Design of the international cooperation management plan for the "Paqarina" Shelter Home.

The "*Paqarina*" Shelter House is a space that aims to help the full restoration of rights through temporary shelter for women, children and adolescents who have been victims of domestic violence and immediately demand a space that guarantees their peace of mind and safety. In addition, "Paqarina" offers accompaniment to women throughout the process of independence and empowerment.

#### Mission

The "PAQARINA" Shelter offers accompaniment and comprehensive care to women and their children who are victims of domestic violence, providing them with a stable home for their personal development.

#### Vision

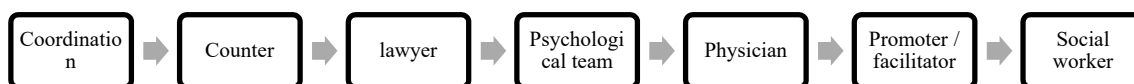
The Shelter House is a space that contributes to the defense of the human rights of women and children, to prevent, care for and restore the integrity in order to achieve the welfare of the family.

#### 3.1.1 Institutional programming of international cooperation

According to the organization chart of the "Paqarina" Shelter, a horizontal line is followed where each person fulfills a specific function and decisions are made as a group.

**Figure No. 4**

*Organizational chart of the Shelter House*



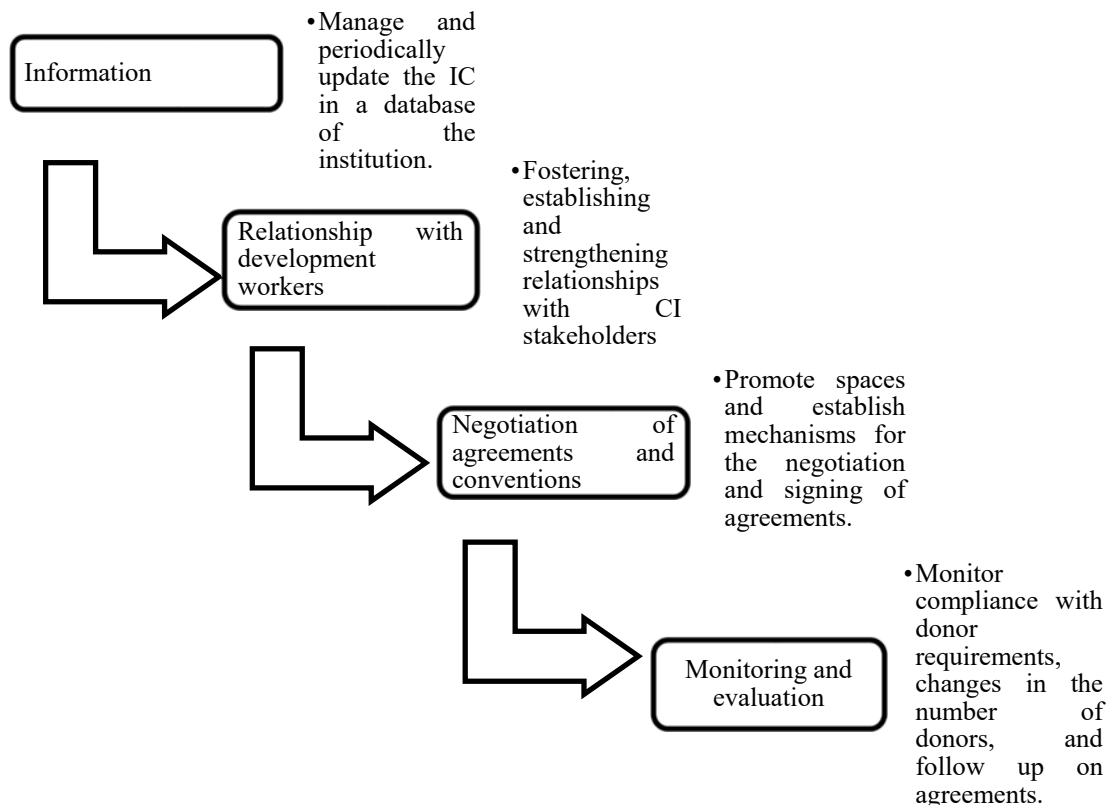
Source: Adapted from the Manual de funciones de la Casa de Acogida "Paqarina" 2022

The coordination section is in charge of information management, i.e., looking for cooperants interested in preventing violence against women. The same area is in charge of managing relations with cooperants, i.e., having a permanent and timely communication with the donor and negotiating an agreement or alliance. Once an agreement has been reached, the legal team will be in charge of transcribing and drafting the signing of the agreement; the follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of the planned project must begin with the internal administration, starting with the accounting area, to ensure good accounting

management and control in the budget section, and the cooperating entity will be in charge of the external audit.

**Figure No. 5**

*Internacional Management of the institutional planning of international cooperation*



*Note:* The figure shows the procedures to be followed to manage international cooperation.

Source: GAD Provincial de Tungurahua (2019) Management for international cooperation.

To make the "Paqarina" Shelter House sustainable, two things are necessary: 1) to have a good management in international cooperation, this implies having a person in charge of creating a database of cooperating entities and the different awards and open calls for their subsequent application focused on the social area with the "Paqarina" project; 2) to carry out economic activities within the house, the activities that are already carried out are bakery and costume jewelry courses, in addition it is proposed that courses of makeup or other related activities are dictated so that women develop their capabilities and new skills and the shelter house.

## 5. Conclusion

As has been demonstrated, violence against women is a cowardly act that occurs both in the public sphere and with greater force in the private sphere. That is why international organizations, whether governmental or non-governmental, in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, which are included in the 2030 Agenda, create international partnerships through international cooperation focused on social issues, especially in eradicating and preventing violence against women. In this regard,

organizations such as UN Women, the Spotlight Initiative and the European Union have taken concrete actions to support local development.

Thus, it has been demonstrated that violence against women has been present in Azogues' society, representing one of the cantons with the highest rate of violence according to INEC statistics, together with the cases presented by the Attorney General's Office of Azogues Canton and the Cantonal Board for the Protection of Rights of the same Canton. Given that this problem has become the first barrier to break to achieve the development of the canton, the Municipal Decentralized Autonomous Government of Azogues put its efforts into creating the Shelter for Women Victims of Violence "Paqarina" to achieve development in the canton.

Through the development of a good management of international cooperation, it is possible to achieve aid in the economic, technical, infrastructure, etc. areas. Through the interviews conducted, it has become evident that there is no manual to act in the face of any assistance or there is a deficiency during the development or knowledge of how to do it. The implementation of this design will support, in an agile and organized way, each member knowing what to do and how to manage international cooperation; in order to reduce the discrimination gap that exists in the canton and achieve development through the objectives and goals set out in both the SDGs, the national development plan "plan creating opportunities" and the PDYOT.

One of the risks during the development of this research was the lack of collaboration of municipal authorities at the time of collecting the information. Sandra Velecela, president of the Municipal Social Action Department of the Azogues GAD, in repeated visits, phone calls, messages containing the interview questions, did not agree to share the required information, postponing and putting obstacles again and again, as if she did not have concrete information about the project or did not want to do it.

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