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### **Workshop on “Prioritization, recommendations and way forward for 2023”**



*Participants and facilitators after the closing event*

On 22<sup>nd</sup> December, The GBVSS organized a workshop to bring together the GBVSS partners in one platform, to discuss and understand the sub-sector priorities, recommendations and a way forward for the development of the GBVSS strategy 2023-2025. The “in person” workshop brought GBVSS partners together to reflect on the context of the protracted crisis and discuss good practices, lessons and

challenges both in terms of field level coordination and activities implementation in 2022 and the preceding years.

The objective was to develop a strategy for the sub sector to cater to the evolving needs of the context, building on existing knowledge, good practices and rationalization plans.

Total of 42 participants (29 Female and 13 Male) participated from 10 NNGOs, 8 INGOs and 5 UN Agencies.

#### ***PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2023 are as follows:***

- Stronger engagement with the government representatives.
- Engage with men and boys.
- Improve coordination among the sectors for an integrated impact.
- Invest in/ advocate for operational multi-sectoral GBV services in the camp and host communities.
- Strengthen Knowledge management.
- Continue service audit and capacity gap assessment.
- Strengthen complain and feedback redress mechanism.
- Strengthen the GBVIMS Coordination mechanism.
- Ensure stronger inclusion of persons with disability and gender diverse population.
- Maintain a pool of trained staff.
- Advocate to partners and donors to commit for multi-year funding.
- Strengthen Case Management task team.
- Strengthen advocacy for the use of GBVIMS by all agencies involved in case management.

# 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM– UNITE TO END GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

From 24 November, GBVSS in coordination with GiHA Working Group and GBVSS partners launched the campaign of *16 days of Activism against Gender based violence*, until the 10th of December.

In the launching event, a rally was organized with participation from more than 200 people from various agencies including representation from the District commissioner, RRRRC, Police offices. The rally commenced from the District commissioner’s office, moved towards the Police Super office, to RRRRC office and then towards Laboni Beach point where the ARRC, Police Superintendent and representatives from the organizing committee delivered speech on the 16 Days of Activism, followed by a play on consequences of early child marriages. Throughout 25<sup>th</sup> November to 19<sup>th</sup> December, a total of 376 activities were organized by 41 GBVSS partners both at the host community and camp level.

## PHOTOS FROM THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM



# EVENTS & CAPACITY BUILDING ORGANIZED BY GBVSS

## OCTOBER

- GBVSS Monthly meeting – October 10
- Men & Boys Engagement Training – October 17-20
- GBV Case Management training with UN Women – October 24-27
- JRP Peer Review Workshop – October 31

## NOVEMBER

- JRP Peer Review Workshop – November 1-2
- GBVSS Monthly meeting – November 14
- GBVIMS Task team meeting – November 17
- GBV Service Audit workshop – November 22
- Joint workshop with Protection, GBV and Child Protection camp focal points – 21 – 23 November
- Launch of 16 Days of Activism rally – 24 November

## DECEMBER

- GBVSS Monthly meeting – 12 December.
- Workshop on GBV Prioritization, recommendations & Way forward – 22 December
- Workshop on GBV CM,IMS and SASA!Together – December 26-27
- GBV Case Management training – December 18-22
- ToT on Suicide Prevention and response – December 12-15
- Workshop on GBV Core principles and GBV risk mitigation – December 19-20



Shushilan is implementing SASA!Together activities in host communities under “*Delivering, Health, Nutrition, Livelihood and Protection Services for Rohingya Refugees and Vulnerable Host communities* in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh”, with the support of IRC.

Shushilan is implementing YouthRISE activity in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazila with the support of USAID. This is a consortium project led by BBC Media Action and Shushilan is the implementing partner of IRC on this regard.

Through this 2 projects Shushilan has been contributing in the GBV prevention activities in the host communities.

### KEY ACHEIVEMENTS / HIGHLIGHTS

- 16 day’s Activism conducted in RatnaPalong Union Porishad field: an open discussion sharing session & stall installment etc. was organized with participation from community people, project beneficiaries, UP Chairman, other stakeholder and partner organizations attended the program.
- Outreach awareness session on PSEA, DRR, Child Protection, and Referral Pathway: 332 female and 286 male (including 2 male persons with disability) were reached during the reporting period.
- Session on GBV through Youth Development Centers: Shushilan established a total of 16 centers in the community. Through those centers a total of 1200 youths (600 male and 600 female) have been receiving sessions on leadership, communication, advocacy and gender equality.

### BUILDING CONFIDENCE

“Parents are afraid to send girls to school or go out of the house because of the safety concerns for sexual harassment. Eve-teasing and shrewd comments are common, but I **was** afraid to speak up and protest”, says Amina, a 19-year-old intermediate student who lost her father 3 years and is living with her elder sister, who is the breadwinner of the family.



She was listed as a local activist under the “Delivering, Health, Nutrition, Livelihood and Protection Services for Rohingya Refugees and Vulnerable Host communities” project implementing by Shushilan. She has participated in many trainings under SASA!Together program to learn about GBV and how to reduce violence against women by making people aware or empowering women. She shared “One day I saw some boys making shrewd remarks to girls on our way to college, I went to talk to the boys and explained them well and was able to convince them”. “the trainings has had a profound impact on my life and has built my confidence” she gleamed happily.

She further added “We talk about violence against women with everyone around us and go forward if we see any violence anywhere”. If everyone comes forward like her, we will be able to create a violence and discrimination-free society will be created. Through the SASA!Together program, many people in the area are becoming aware.

Research, Training and Management (RTM) International has implemented a Gender focus program collaboration with UNHCR since Nov 2017. Following this, RTMI implemented a program titled **‘Provision of health and GBV services to Rohingya Refugees in Cox’s Bazar’** in collaboration with UNHCR at camps 1E,1W,2E,2W,3,5,6,7,13,14,21,26 and Nayapara Register Camp.



*RTMI celebrated 16 days activism against GBV in Camp 2w & Camp 3 WGGS Facility*



*Celebrated World Mental health day at Camp 4 Health facility*

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS / HIGHLIGHTS

- Continued awareness session on GBV and AIDS, including meeting with Majhi, Imam and community leaders.
- The pitha utsab and exhibition, art competition, heena utsab and tailoring competition were conducted in WGSS, where the Rohingya girls and women participated full of joy. A total of 740 participants participated in these activities; 250 were adolescent girls ,220 were male, and 300 were female.
- Celebrated world mental health day on 10th October 2022, by organizing awareness sessions in the camps. A total of 220 people received messages on the importance of Mental health. Officials from UNHCR, CiC and other stakeholder participated in the program.

### PREVENTING SLIENT CRIES OF EVE TEASING IN THE CAMPS

‘I was living my life with the norms of getting harassed everywhere until I got the opportunity to attend the sessions of Girl Shine Program of RTMI’, said Moon. In the Rohingya communities, the biggest challenge is to help the women and girls, in addition they feel unsecured and reluctant to claim their rights. Particularly, adolescent girls who are being vilified as objects of temptation by the men of their own community. Moon (anonymous) is a 14 years old girl living within the camp with her family. She starts her day by helping her mother at household chores and has been witnessing various type of violence around her. Her life seems restricted inside the box of chaotic, overcrowded and frightening community.

‘From the sessions, I gained knowledge about puberty and the changes I was going through. I also got to know about the bad impact of child marriage and domestic violence. However, the best lesson I received from the sessions were how to stop eve teasing’ added Moon. ‘I helped one of my bosom’ friends by saving her from eve teasing. She was going through this problem but was afraid to share it with her family. I encouraged her to raise her voice and stood beside her throughout the incident,’ said Moon.

‘Despite the difference of opinions from the community, her family complained the issue to the boy’s family, and they made him understand about his wrongdoings. My friend is now living a peaceful life and trusts me completely’, concluded Moon.

Rohingya women and girls continue to face major safety risks and challenges in the camps. RTMI and its partners are continuing the door-to-door activities to raise awareness about available gender-based violence response services.

PROJECT: “Improved access to Gender-based Violence Response and Prevention Services for Host Community and Rohingya Refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh”

DRC GBV programming includes prevention and response to reduce the underlying causes and drivers of gender-based violence (GBV), DRC provides specialized GBV case management services aimed at providing immediate support to the acute needs of survivors of GBV, including non-specialized psychosocial support and referrals to specialized services. DRC GBV team caters lifesaving case management services for women and girls, male survivors, participants not conforming to a binary gender, and child survivors in Camp 6, Camp 10, Rajapalong wards 6 and 9, and Palongkhali wards 5 & 6.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS / HIGHLIGHTS**

- Reached 1837 individuals through the centers and outreach-based awareness, prevention, and PSS sessions.
- Survivors have received comprehensive case management services in both refugee camps and host community centers.
- Survivors of all genders and ages (women, girls, men, boys, and child survivors with or without disabilities) are receiving regular case management services in the camp and host locations.
- DRC GBV team has successfully conducted training on ‘Gender mainstreaming, GBV core concepts, and referral pathways’ to the partner organizations, non-GBV actors and volunteers.
- An action plan on disability inclusion has been prepared and implemented in the field to ensure inclusion.

**RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**



PSS session at WGSS at Camp 6, Ukha

Case management service, psychosocial support, and referral services for women, girls, men, boys, participants not conforming to a binary gender, child with or without disabilities.

**PREVENTION ACTIVITIES**

Specialized prevention interventions that builds in measures of change and address increased risks resulting from the crisis are being tracked. These activities are designed to engage men and boys in violence against women.



“Gender Bender Session” with adolescent boys & girls at Telkhola, Palongkhali.

For structured and sustainable change women, girls, and participants not conforming to binary gender are also included in this intervention. For impact measurement, DRC has adapted the Most significant change technique with the male participants of specific intervention fixed groups.

**BUILDING HARMONY & GENDER EQUALITY AMONG THE COMMUNITY**

“Recently I was invited to attend a session in my community that was organized by DRC. In the session, we were introduced to a discussion related to violence against women. As we live in a society where discrimination against women is normalized, it was very confusing for me to understand the discussion in the beginning. But luckily there was scope to present our opinions in a non-judgmental platform. The session which was followed by 2 more sessions were helpful for me to identify the violence against women and our accountability to prevent violence against women. Later, I along with some other participants were invited to play a badminton match on 16 DAYS of ACTIVISM with other female participants from the community. It was for the first time we played any match with any female in our village. Earlier it was prohibited to play any game between boys and girls together. But after that event, every community member was aware that girls and boys can play matches together which is increasing harmony among the community members. As a result of DRC’s continuous awareness-raising sessions in the community, the community people became aware of gender equality and as a part of the progress, very recently a football academy is also formed in the community where everyone can participate regardless of their gender, race, and ethnicity.”