



REPORT ON

**ACTION
PLANNING
WORKSHOP**

**Technical Working Group on
Gender Diverse Populations
(GDP) in CXB**

1st October 2020

INTRODUCTION

Through programme implementation over the past couple of years, Bandhu witnessed that economic crisis, social harassment, sexual identity and violence are their regular challenges thus restricted the free movements of the community people inside and outside of camp. Considering these, Bandhu believes that there should be an intensive mechanism to support the refugee at local level, therefore with the technical support from UN organizations Bandhu has taken responsibility to form a coalition naming it as Working Group (WG) for effective advocacy initiatives at local level in Cox's Bazar.

A virtual launching of the working group took place on 14th August 2020. Representatives from linked organizations were present there. Along with the digital launching, open discussions and many valuable recommendations came from the participants.

With the continuation of that initiative an Action Plan Workshop took place on 1st October 2020 at Cox's Bazar at ICSG conference room. Members of the working group participated in the half day workshop.



DISCUSSION SUMMARY

The workshop event started with a welcome remark from Shale Ahmed, Executive Director, Bandhu Social Welfare Society, Chair of the Technical Working Group on Gender Diverse Populations. He shared his gratitude to the participants who are there to take this initiative further. After the introduction session he invited Mr. Simon Girmaw, Protection Officer from the Protection Sector of UNHCR to share his vision with this working group.

Mr. Simon thanked Bandhu to take the initiative for this really needed coordination forum. He is happy to see the member of the gender diverse community there. He mentioned, 'We need to reach out and encourage partners to plan activities or have dedicating programs for this community. Joint responsibility to reach donors, related Working Groups so that this group can achieve the purpose it was made for.'

After hearing insight from Mr. Simon, Shale Ahmed shared his presentation with the group. He shared the background and objectives of forming this group. He also shared the purpose of the workshop and why this is very important for further work. After his presentation he welcomed Ms. Marie Sophie Pettersson, Gender and Humanitarian Action Programme Specialist UNWOMEN and Co-chair of the inter-sector Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group, to share her thoughts on this. Ms. Sophie started by thanking everyone. She mentioned that due to Covid-19 the violence against transgender community increased so much. They were denied health and other services that need to be addressed.



Granar Marak Team Leader, Light House, CXB said his concern on the acceptance of transgender and different sexual oriented people. He mentioned that, transgender people do not have NID or any other government provided ID also sex work is not permitted. This can be very problematic to include them in programs. In that case we need to be extra careful on the plans what to do.

GROUP WORK

From there Mr. Shale Ahmed proposed that the participants should be divided into three different groups and work with the Action Plan. Different groups will work with different thematic areas. After completing the group work the work will be shared and discussed with everyone.

GROUP 1 (GDP CO-ORDINATIONS)

Group 1 worked on the group coordination strategies. Their strategy points are given below:

UN/NGO co-ordination strategies - (ISCG, PWG, GIHA), (Inter Sector-Sector groups) (SEG) (NGO)

As it is a sensitive thing, sensitization will play big part. PWG/ GIHA can report and give platform to GDP as well as do networking and connectivity. Adapting the discussion in Joint response plan for 2021, Evidence based analysis report publishing, creating separate line of indicators the coordination can work well.

**Donor Part:
SEG, Donor briefing
Community leaders:
(Religious leaders,
elected leaders &
mahjies- in camp setup)**

Establishment of gender protection/ GBV focal points, Creating Community based protection partners & volunteers, Sensitizing and orient community health workers & staff, Site management staffs and camp managers involvement.

Govt. & Security

Coordination with Different Government institution and local Govt. administrations like - law enforcement force, CICS, District courts, UNO, Chairman-members, Municipality. National law & policy- justice and rule of law implementation, Advocacy & referral system, Involvement of Armed police Battalion, Army, Coast guard & increasing civil-police relations. Academic: Bandhu can play a big part here in research as it's highly technical.



Strategies implementation

Sensitization & capacity build up, Link to GDP networks, committees & CSOS, Dialogues arrangements.

GROUP 2 (ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH)

Group 2 worked with the Advocacy and Research with the technical working group. Their findings are given below

Challenges/ gaps

- Difficult of access to basic services – health, transport/freedom of movement, justice, livelihood, housing, combined with discrimination by service providers and stigma within the community, due to lack of knowledge on gender diversity and human rights and personal bias.
- Identity can't be disclosed /safety security. Do not harm principle: can the humanitarian community ensure safety and confidentiality to LGBTI survivors, given the lack of legal protection for the community and the high level of stigma and discrimination even among service providers?
- Double vulnerability – as displaced person/host community and as member of a minority
- Lack of knowledge & understanding at all level mainly by frontline workers & service providers; exposure to SEA (sexual abuse and exploitation by humanitarian workers and no access to regular reporting channels due to discrimination within service providers).
- Huge information gap and lack of data on protection incidents involving the gender diverse community, gender diversity not mainstreamed in current research, data collection. Research and data collection needed on the legal framework, human rights, gender-based violence, sexuality and masculinity. Extend to which gender diverse population is included/consulted by NGOs in project planning, design, implementing, monitoring and evaluating is unknown, because of data not collected in a disaggregated form.
- National legal framework not providing protective measures for the gender diverse community, which aggravates stigma, discrimination and undermines reporting if incidents/violations and access to services for the LGBTI community.
- Lack of socialized services – SRHR, mental health.

GROUP 2 (ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH)

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Possible joint action

- Advocacy/capacity building at all sectors to mainstream GDP issues in their program and ensure access to services and include the community in monitoring and evaluation phase of projects (JRP process is coming up).
- Evidence based research – legal analysis, masculinity, sexuality, GBV-assessment, data collection in a disaggregated manner
- Advocacy with media groups on basic concepts, protection principle, confidentiality, do not harm, when dealing with gender diverse population, regarding protection and safety issues.
- Preparing advocacy notes.
- Engaging faith-based organizations.

GROUP 3 (MAINSTREAMING GDP)

Gaps/Challenges

- No recognition of GDP in society.
- Lack of appropriate environment in health service center.
- Negligence by the service providers in every sector.
- Lack of awareness of their rights by the GDP.
- Lack of education.
- Lack of available services. They don't get proper services from the Govt. institutions.
- Lack of employments and earnings.
- Isolated in the society, so socially no voice in the communities.
- GDP are isolated from their families.
- Lack of common terminology on gender diverse populations leading to loss of identity.

Possible joint action

- Need to be aware about their rights and SRHR.
- Arrangement of training regarding the service provision.
- Arrangements of employment & earning source and create linkages with livelihood opportunities.
- Ensuring equal opportunities for education.
- Ensuring specific funds allocated to projects (JRP) focusing on gender diverse mainstreaming.
- Sensitization of the staffs and service providers.
- Reformation of Sec. 377 of Bangladesh Penal Code which criminalized same sex sexuality.
- Social awareness buildup regarding GDP and mainstream genders across all sectors.
- Strengthen service provision towards these groups.



With all the findings and sharing from the groups some action points were finalized. These action points are listed below.

NEXT STEPS

- Some important areas identified and recommended through group exercise and based on this recommendation working group will produce an activity plan for advocacy, action research, capacity development, livelihood initiative for Rohingya and host community people.
- Technical Working Group will critically analyze the issues of GDP for taking forward to the donors and other humanitarian institutions
- This group will jointly develop a proposal on GDP to incorporate Gender Response Program (GRP) 2021.
- Explore possibility to invite members from other Health sector, SRH working group, GBV sub sector, GBV child protection, MHPSS, 2 from community people to make the WG more inclusive
- In terms of meetings, it was proposed to host initially 2 online and 1 offline meeting in every quarter and Bandhu will take the lead as a secretariat. The dates are not fixed yet but it will be decided after the next meeting where the fixing the dates will be in the agenda.
- While accepting membership the gender diverse community will be consulted as this a very sensitive topic and they need to be comfortable with whom they will be working with.
- Bandhu has to produce a two-pager document addressing the key priorities based on plan of action document and share with all sector heads at CXB soonest possible.
- For smooth coordination explore possibility to set up a coordination point need to set up at CXB.

With the hope to appliance of this action points and expectation to work together the event ended.

ANNEX: PARTICIPANT LIST

Sl. No.	Name of the Participants	Designation & Organization	Email
01.	Mika Yamai	GBVSS/ UNFPA	yamai@unfpa.org
02.	Fathema Sultana	GBV focal point, UNFPA	fsultana@unfpa.org
03.	Dr. Farah Faijah	SRHRiE Program/ UNFPA	faizah@unfpa.org
04.	Falguni Rani Das	Sector Lead, GBV- Care Bangladesh	falguni.das@care.org
05.	Simon Girman	Protection Officer, UNHCR	girman@unhcr.org
06.	Granar Marak	Team Leader, Light House	Tlesrh.lighthouse@gmail.com
07.	Lorenzo Leonelli	Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR	leonelli@unhcr.org
08.	Hazera Legendre Khanam	Protection Associate (SGBV), LGBTI Focal point	khanam@unhcr.org
09.	Nicholas Ochieng	Field Protection Coordinator, IOM	ncochieng@iom.int
10.	Marie Sophie Pettersson	Gender and Humanitarian Action Programme Specialist, UN Women	marie.pettersson@unwomen.org
11.	Omar Faruk	CP Officer (Consultant), Unicef	faizah@unfpa.org
12.	Tanya Kullar	Protection Manager (GBV), DRC	Tanya.kullar@drc.ngo
13.	Sojoni Hijra	Community Representative	Teknaf
14.	Sheuly Hijra	Community Representative	Teknaf
15.	Abul Monsur	Community Representative and President, Bikosito Manob Kollan Songoton, CXB	leonelli@unhcr.org
16.	Rojoni Hijra	Community Representative	Cox's Bazar- Sadar
17.	Md. Jashim Uddin	Service Center Manager, Wellness Center, Kutupalong, Ukhiya	Bandhu Social Welfare Society
18.	Md. Nazmul Haque	Coordinator-Rohingya Response	Bandhu Social Welfare Society
13.	Md. Moshir Rahman	Manager- Policy & Advocacy	Bandhu Social Welfare Society
14.	Shale Ahmed	Executive Director	Bandhu Social Welfare Society