

Participants: Helvetas, IFRC, IOM, IRC, NGOP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women and WFP. The ISCG External Relations Coordinator chaired the meeting.

1. Key update on humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar

- The funding level of the Rohingya refugee response continues to be low. The FTS shows around 30% of a funding level. Funding cuts are resulting in further reductions in assistance across several sectors for the refugees, who are almost fully dependent on humanitarian aid. Moreover, the camps and host communities are facing additional challenges such as fires, floods, landslides, and cyclones. It is crucial to construct safer communal structures and shelters in the camps to address these issues. Additionally, improving the self-reliance of refugees can be a wise move. These steps would also be beneficial to control negative coping mechanisms and lower tensions in the camps, which are currently impacting the security outlook.

2. Update on external missions:

- ISCG presented the upcoming missions to the WG Members. The first 8 months of 2023 has seen 108 external missions reported to ISCG. Around half of them were facilitated by ISCG. Total number of visits in 2022 was 71.
- 15 external visits have been reported to ISCG in August 2023, despite extensive monsoon rains and adverse logistics conditions. At least more than 10 visits are expected in the month of September. The members of the WG have been reminded to inform ISCG of their planned incoming missions on [external visit tracking sheet](#).

3. EU/ECHO Visits new security arrangement:

- EU/ECHO requires a comprehensive form to be filled by UNDSS and mission lead agency each time they visit Cox's Bazar camps. [Here is a form](#) filled out as an example

4. Update on the 6Y mark:

- The ISCG communicated the messaging lines of the RRRC with the JRP partners before 25 August. The events and activities outside and inside the camps reflected a coordinated messaging effort. The 6Y mark has been covered widely by the national and international media.

5. Key UN and Special Days in September 2023:

- The chair of the meeting highlighted the upcoming UN week in September (click here) and UN day in October. Below dates are underscored especially:
 - 4 SEP 1995, the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing set a major agenda for women's rights: Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
 - 8 SEP International Literacy Day
 - 16 SEP 2023 World Cleanup Day
 - 19-26 SEP General Assembly High-level Week 2023
 - 21 SEP Zero Emissions Day // Peace Day
 - 21-27 SEP UNHCR and SportandDev - Week of Action on Sport and Refugees
 - 24-29 Sep NYC Climate Action Week
 - 24 SEP World Rivers Day
 - 26 SEP Contraception Day - UNFPA
 - 28 SEP International Day for Universal Access to Information 2023
 - 30 SEP Translation Day

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 2 October 2023, 14:00 pm, **in a hybrid format**. Here are all the ER WG meeting minutes: trello.com/c/1cshD4F7