

Community Consultation Guide

International Women's Day (IWD) 2025 Campaign in Cox's Bazar

Campaign Overview

Global Theme	: For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment.
National Slogan	: "অধিকার, সমতা, ক্ষমতায়ন — নারী ও কন্যার উন্নয়ন"
Organized by	: Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA WG) IWD Task Force, in collaboration with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) and GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS)

1. Introduction

This guide aims to support facilitators in collecting **concrete insights** from Rohingya refugee women and Camp-in-Charge (CiC) representatives to shape the 2025 International Women's Day (IWD) in Cox's Bazar.

- **Why 2025 matters:** This year marks the 30-year review of the Beijing Declaration (*Beijing+30*) — three decades since a major global pledge to advance women's rights. It is also *five years* away from 2030, the deadline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Local context:** Recent humanitarian funding cuts, ongoing security risks (including forced recruitment of men and boys), and shifting local governance dynamics have impacted everyday struggles for women and girls in both Rohingya refugee camps and host communities. Many are **sidelined** in decision-making, facing **GBV risks** and **underreported harms**. This makes it critical to identify the current community-led priorities for GBV prevention, protection services, and women's leadership while resources are under strain.
- **Our goal:** Gather **actionable** community recommendations that align with the global IWD theme—*For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment*—and translate them into **tangible changes**, not just tokenistic events. By centering women's experiences and CiCs' perspectives, we ensure that rights, equality, and empowerment remain at the core of IWD 2025.

Key challenges & context (2025)

1. **Funding cuts:** Humanitarian aid reductions disproportionately impact women and girls, limiting access to essential services and exacerbating vulnerabilities.
2. **Governance shifts:** Recent reform initiatives create tensions and uncertainties for CiC operations and community governance, potentially affecting women's participation and influence.
3. **Protection concerns:** GBV remains underreported; safety threats, armed groups' presence, extortion, and limited mobility persist. Men and boys face abduction and forced recruitment, adding new burdens to women's household and livelihood responsibilities.
4. **Protracted context:** Uncertain futures for Rohingya refugees heighten long-term anxiety, particularly for women and girls.
5. **Marginalization:** Intersectional identities (e.g., elderly women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls, widows, women with disabilities) often experience deeper exclusion.
6. **Community trust:** Tension between host and Rohingya communities—and within communities themselves—undermines cooperation and response efforts.
7. **Gender dynamics:** Traditional power imbalances persist, and existing programs to engage men and boys (e.g., positive masculinity) have not gained sufficient traction, limiting overall progress for women's empowerment.

2. Guiding principles for facilitators

This consultation aims to **center the voices** of Rohingya refugee women and girls. As a facilitator, create a **safe, respectful** environment so participants can speak openly about experiences, challenges, and potential solutions. Focus on three core aspects in each discussion:

- **Challenges** (what is happening now?)
- **Impact** (how does it affect women, girls, families, and communities?)
- **Solutions** (what do participants propose to address these issues?)

Keep the conversation time-savvy. Encourage **clear, direct** answers to each question.

3. Consultation session structure

1. Welcome and framing

- Explain the significance of IWD 2025, Beijing+30, and the campaign theme.
- Emphasize that insights will be turned into real actions, not just a ceremony.

Example: Welcome! We're here to discuss how we can make IWD 2025 truly meaningful for women in Cox's Bazar. This year is crucial—Beijing+30 and five years until the SDGs. Yet our community faces challenges like [brief mention: funding cuts, GBV risks, forced recruitment]. Your input will directly shape how we address these realities.

2. Group discussions/focus groups

- Split participants as needed (CiCs in one group, women leaders in another) to encourage open dialogue.
- Use **key questions** (below) to guide conversations.

3. Documentation and validation

- Assign a note-taker to summarize the main points (with participant consent).
- Recap the discussion with the group to ensure correctness and inclusivity.

4. Closing and next steps

- Thank participants; emphasize their feedback will shape IWD 2025 activities and beyond.
- Share how the recommendations will be compiled and used by the IWD Task Force, RRRC, GBV Sub-Sector, and other partners.

Practical Tips for Facilitators

- Time management:
Keep discussions focused. Prioritize key questions.
- Safe space:
Ensure privacy and confidentiality.
- Active listening:
Listen carefully, and show empathy.
- Language:
Use simple language, and interpreters if needed.

4. Guiding Questions

Below are **four thematic areas** aligned with the IWD 2025 theme: *Rights, Equality, Empowerment*, plus a focus on *Beijing+30 & the SDGs*. These questions are designed to be **applicable for both CiCs and community women leaders**. Adapt language and complexity based on participants' literacy levels.

A. Rights: what matters most

- **Challenges** (voice, choice, safety):
Which main obstacle currently stops women from fully enjoying their rights in their community?
- **Impact** (well-being, freedom, opportunities):
How does this obstacle affect women, their families, and the community?
- **Solutions** (action, accountability, unity):
What urgent changes—led by whom—can protect women's rights right now?

B. Equality: bridging the gap

- **Challenges** (access, resources, discrimination):
Where do women face the greatest inequalities in daily life? Why are they persisting?
- **Impact** (potential, participation, social cohesion):
How do these inequalities limit women's progress and overall community resilience?
- **Solutions** (collaboration, gender-responsiveness, investment):
Which concrete steps—by which actors—can narrow these gaps?

C. Empowerment: For ALL women and girls

- **Challenges** (leadership, agency, representation):
What prevents women from having real decision-making power in your community?
- **Impact** (confidence, influence, transformation):
How does this limited empowerment affect women, their families, and the community?
- **Solutions** (capacity, allies, representation):
Which actions will ensure women's voices truly shape decisions at all levels?

D. Beijing+30 & SDGs: shaping our future

- **Challenges** (commitments, progress, accountability):
What's the biggest gap between the promises of SDGs and the reality for women here?
- **Impact** (trust, hope, sustainability):
What are the consequences of slow progress?
- **Solutions** (urgency, partnerships, results):
What must happen now—and who must act—to meet these targets in time?

5. Next Steps & Follow-Up

1. **Summaries & reporting:** Compile participants' recommendations into a concise report for the **IWD 2025 Task Force**.
2. **Integrate feedback:** Ensure that the upcoming IWD 2025 events and campaign activities reflect community priorities (e.g., scheduling safer meeting times, highlighting urgent safety concerns, or championing more women leaders in camp committees).
3. **Continuous engagement:** Share findings with local camp authorities (CiCs), GBV Sub-Sector, Protection Sector, and partners. Plan **follow-up sessions** with community members to review how their feedback led to specific campaign actions.

Concluding note

Your facilitation matters. By enabling women, community leaders, and CiCs to voice their experiences and solutions, you help shape a more inclusive and action-oriented campaign. In a time of shifting resources and changing governance, this collective insight becomes the cornerstone for **protecting women's rights, enhancing their leadership, and ensuring every woman and girl in Cox's Bazar can safely pursue her aspirations.**

Thank you for your partnership in making IWD 2025 meaningful for all women and girls in Cox's Bazar.