

GiHA WG April 2025 Monthly Meeting

Date & Time: Tuesday | 29 April 2025 | 03:30 PM - 05:00 PM

Location: ISCG Conference Room, Cox's Bazar

Attendees: Representatives from ISCG, Sectors/WGs (LSDS, SCCCM, CPSS, FSS), organizations (UNESCO, GUK, BRAC, Save The Children, ActionAid Bangladesh, UNFPA, IOM, UNHCR, WFP, PLAN International, NGO Platform, IFRC), WLO/WRO (RWWS, BTS).

Agenda:

1. **Introduction**
 - **Welcome**
2. **Prioritization and Rationalization (Impact of funding cuts)**
3. **GiHA Membership update**
4. **GiHA WG ToR update**
5. **GiHA Workplan for 2025-2026 update**
6. **Action Plan for GiHA WG Members for 2025**

Agenda	Summary / Action Points
<p>Welcome and introduction.</p>	<p>1. Introductions</p> <p>Mehbuba Jabin, GiHA Coordinator for the ISCG Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA WG), extended a warm welcome to all members in her opening remarks. All the members have given their brief introduction including members who joined online. Mehbuba Jabin briefly introduced the agendas before starting the discussion.</p>
<p>Prioritization and Rationalization (Impact of funding cuts)</p>	<p>Discussion Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mehbuba briefly discussed about the agendas and welcomed Veda, Deputy Coordinator, ISCG to discuss on prioritization and rationalization. • Vedha expressed that we are working on almost finalizing the prioritization exercise. We must come up with a strategy, how we can work differently, focus on cost efficient way. For example, you need to think about visibility. • He expressed that the PSEA network data on some current situation and risk assessments are alarming. • He said GiHA must think differently, design differently and present it. We must design our activities and approach more meaningfully in new situations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He said the intellectual capacity of the refugees is huge. Then we can capacitate them to make them less dependent on aid. • We can't stop aid or our work suddenly. So, we must come up with ideas on how we can manage to do our work with less funding. • If we do this risk analysis in each area on gender, I'm sure there will be a lot of findings. • Tahmina from UNHCR shared concerned that, they wanted to work with CBOs and RBOs but there are a lot of challenges from govt. side. So, it is quite difficult to map those organizations and reduce the aid dependency. • James Russel and Vedha shared that it is important to create Rohingya leadership, but we have to do it cautiously, because this also connected with national security. Ans also we must keep in mind that there shouldn't be any repetition because it is also part of cost saving. • Sukarna Abdullah shared her experience on mapping the WLOs/WROs in the camps. They already have mapped 18-20 organizations and shared that they want to organize a workshop with those WLOs/WROs in support with GiHA. • Vedha suggested a survey from the WG to find the plan on working with less funding on gender issues. <p>Action Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before the next monthly meeting GiHA WG needs to plan an action plan and present it in the monthly meeting, which will explain how GiHA WG will going to do the work but more meaningfully. • Mehbuba informed that there will be a half day workshop with WLOs/WROs represented in GiHA and other GiHA WG members in the next month.
<p>GiHA Membership update and GiHA WG ToR update</p>	<p>Discussion Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mehbuba shared the ToR in the screen and discussed different sections of the ToR. • James Russel suggested to add the "Objective Statement" in the ToR so that it will make the WG accountable. • Vedha suggested adding the historical background, the ToR should contain a strategic background on gender aspect. • Bithi Nandi suggested to add IFRC and Bangladesh Red Crescent society in the WG members list.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shirin Akter suggested that, as gender is not just a single sector issue, it is universal. So, we can create a criteria that if any organization wants to be a part of JRP they have to be member of GiHA. <p>Action Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mehbuba will share the ToR draft with the WG members and said it's a top priority for the members to give their feedback to finalize it asap.
<p>GiHA Workplan for 2025-2026 update</p>	<p>Discussion Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mehbuba expressed that before workplan was shared with the WG members. But unfortunately, feedback didn't come from the members. In this situation right now, we don't have enough time on plan rather start working to increase our visibility. She urges everyone to give their feedback to the workplan so that it could be finalized asap. <p>Action Points</p> <p>Mehbuba will share the workplan draft with the WG members and said it's a top priority for the members to give their feedback to finalize it asap.</p>
<p>Action Plan for GiHA WG Members for 2025</p>	<p>Action Point:</p> <p>A half-day workshop will be arranged in the next month after finalizing the GiHA workplan to determine the action plan for GiHA WG members. Mehbuba will share the date with the WG members later.</p>
<p>Contact</p>	<p>For further information, please contact</p> <p>Mehbuba Jabin, GiHA Coordinator, ISCG. Email: mehbuba@iscgxcb.org</p> <p>Afzal Hossain, Knowledge and Information Management Officer, UN Women. Email: afzal.hossain@unwomen.org</p>

Annex 1: Participant's List

SL	Name	Organization	Designation	Phone/WhatsApp
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