



Photo: Yuvraj Sen/AAB

International Women's Day 2025 | Launch event report



Open Dialogue on 'For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment'

5th March 2025 | RRRRC Office

Organized by



Event Overview

Date:

5th March 2025

Hosted by:

Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) Office at Cox's Bazar

Organized by:

IWD Task force of Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA WG) of ISCG, in partnership with RRRC and GBV Sub-Sector in Cox's Bazar.

Participants:

150 stakeholders including RRRC officials, Camp-in-Charges, APBn officials, UN agencies, ISCG, GBV-subsector, GiHA WG, Sectors, WLOs and WROs. (Annex 1)



Photo: Masum Hossain/IOM

Executive Summary

This report presents the key highlights from the International Women's Day (IWD) 2025 Launch Event, titled "Open Dialogue on 'For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment,'" which was successfully held on March 5, 2025, in Cox's Bazar. Organized by the IWD Task Force of Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA WG) with the GBV Sub-Sector and in partnership with the RRRC, the event brought together 150 representatives of humanitarian organizations and government stakeholders to reflect on achievements, remaining challenges, and opportunities in advancing gender equality in the context of the Rohingya humanitarian crisis, and to build consensus on priorities.

Prior to the launch event, camp-level consultations were conducted in 20 camps in February 2025. The consultation was supported and conducted by ActionAid Bangladesh, BRAC, GUK, IOM, Mukti Cox's Bazar, RWWS, SHED, UN Women and WFP to gather insights on the challenges, needs and interests of Rohingya women and girls. These included gender-based barriers, challenges in accessing services and leadership opportunities, as well as protection concerns shared by the women and girls. The findings were presented during the event, serving as the foundation for the discussions and ensuring the voices of Rohingya women and girls at the dialogue. Participants emphasized the need for stronger coordination, policy actions, and resource mobilization to address systemic gender inequalities.

The event concluded with a strategic discussion on the way forward, outlining key commitments and next steps to sustain progress beyond IWD 2025.

Abbreviations (Alphabetical Order)

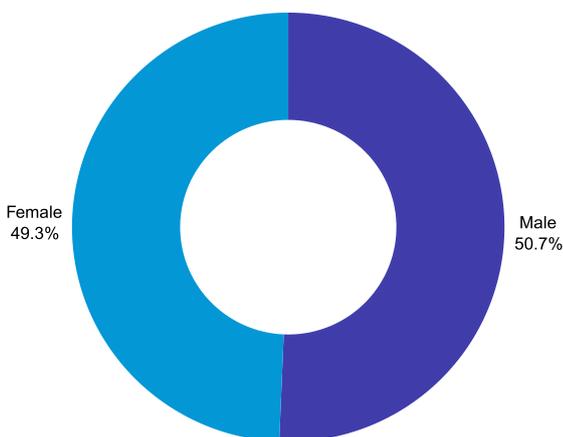
APBn –	Armed Police Battalion
ARRRC –	Additional Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner
Beijing+30 –	30th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
CiC –	Camp-in-Charge
GBV –	Gender-Based Violence
GBV SS –	Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector
GiHA WG –	Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group
GUK –	Gana Unnayan Kendra
HoSO –	Head of Sub-Office
ILO –	International Labour Organization
INGO –	International Non-Governmental Organization
IOM –	International Organization for Migration
ISCG –	Inter-Sector Coordination Group
IWD –	International Women's Day
RRRC –	Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner
RWWS –	Rights for Women Welfare Society
UN –	United Nations
UNFPA –	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR –	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF –	United Nations Children's Fund
WFP –	World Food Programme
WLO –	Women-Led Organization
WRO –	Women's Rights Organization

Background and Objectives

Since its formation in early 2018, the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA WG) in Cox’s Bazar has spearheaded inclusive dialogue events around International Women’s Day (IWD), fostering space for Rohingya and host community women and girls to voice their priorities, share their experiences, and advocate for their rights. In 2025, International Women’s Day takes on special significance under the global theme, “For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment.” This theme aligns with the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+30), a landmark commitment to advancing gender equality worldwide. It invites reflection on progress made and persistent challenges faced—especially in humanitarian contexts like Cox’s Bazar, where compounded crises of displacement and systemic inequalities continue to disproportionately affect women and girls.

It calls for inclusive, transformative action to ensure their rights, amplify their voices, and promote their leadership in humanitarian response and decision-making. By linking the global agenda on Beijing+30 to local humanitarian realities, the dialogue sought to strengthen coordination, inform policy actions, and foster commitments that ensure gender-responsive humanitarian programming in Cox’s Bazar.

Participants and Stakeholders



The IWD 2025 Launch Event, hosted by the RRRC, convened a diverse group of humanitarian stakeholders committed to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Cox’s Bazar. With 150 participants (74 women, 76 men), the event brought together CiCs, HoSOs, UN agency representatives, humanitarian actors, and government representatives —placing WLOs at the forefront of the dialogue. An open panel discussion created space

for WLOs and other participants to reflect on key challenges, achievements, and the way forward. Panelists shared insights on women’s leadership, access to services, and protection concerns, emphasizing the importance of inclusive decision-making and strengthened collaboration to drive sustainable, gender-responsive humanitarian action.

Key Findings from Camp-Level Consultation

The event began with a presentation summarizing the findings from the camp-level consultations covering 20 camps (see below & reference Annex 2). The presentation was given by GiHA Coordinator. After the presentation, the discussion was kicked off by the ARRC Mr. Mohammad Shamsud Douza. The discussion provided valuable insights into the challenges faced by women and girls in Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.



Photo: Masum Hossain/IOM

“Through this launch event, we aim to amplify the voices of women, elevate their leadership, and ensure their active participation in shaping humanitarian strategies.”

Mehbuba Jabin,
GiHA Coordinator, ISCG, Cox's Bazar

Key highlights of the presentation:

The consultation covered multiple camps: Camp 1E, 1W, 2E, 2W, 4, 4 Ext, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 26, 27, Kutupalong RC, Nayapara RC. Total participants were 308 (191 female, 117 male and 1 gender diverse individual). It aimed to gather insights directly from women and girls to inform more inclusive and gender-responsive humanitarian interventions. Focus areas included education, employment, mental and physical health, social participation, economic status, and leadership.

Key Findings from the Camp-Level Consultation

1. Limited Education & Employment

- High rates of school dropouts among girls.
- Lack of economic opportunities prevents financial independence.

2. Mental & Physical Health Issues

- Women and girls face psychological stress and trauma, particularly related to violence and displacement.

3. Social Isolation

- Cultural restrictions limit women's mobility and their participation in community life.

4. Weakened Community Progress

- Gender inequality impedes overall development and community resilience.

5. Economic Dependence

- Women remain financially dependent on male family members due to lack of access to income-generating activities.

6. Low Literacy Rates

- A significant number of women are unable to complete their education, leading to lower literacy.

7. Limited Participation

- Women are underrepresented in social, economic, and political decision-making processes.

8. Low Self-Confidence

- Many women feel excluded and unqualified to voice opinions or take on leadership roles.

9. Reduced Economic Contribution

- Gender biases and limited support systems result in women contributing less to the economy.

10. Weaker Policies

- The absence of women leaders leads to the creation of gender-blind policies that fail to address real needs.

At the end of the presentation, a powerful audio message from a Rohingya woman was played. Though her face remained unseen, her voice echoed throughout the room as she shared her hopes and expectations— allowing the audience to truly hear her, in her own words. She expressed,

“If we increase safe spaces for women, it will be good for us. We can gather, share our feelings, chat, and discuss our concerns. We also learn many things from Shanti Khana, such as education, sewing, skills, which brings us peace, since we have faced significant challenges in the past. This platform also creates opportunities for women's leadership. In the camp, we know how essential women leadership is. For example, a woman experiences intimate partner violence, it is very uncomfortable to share with a man. We cannot always confide in men, but women listen to and understand each other with care. This is why women's leadership is extremely important in Rohingya refugee camps.”



Interview taken by: Magfuzur Rahman Shana & Afzal Hossain from UN Women

Open Dialogue

The open dialogue began with the remarks from ARRC Mr. Mohammad Shamsud Douza, setting the stage for a dialogue on gender equality and empowerment in humanitarian action. He highlighting the significant challenges faced by women and girls in the camp setting, stressing that security remains a primary concern.



Photo: Yuvraj Sen/AAB

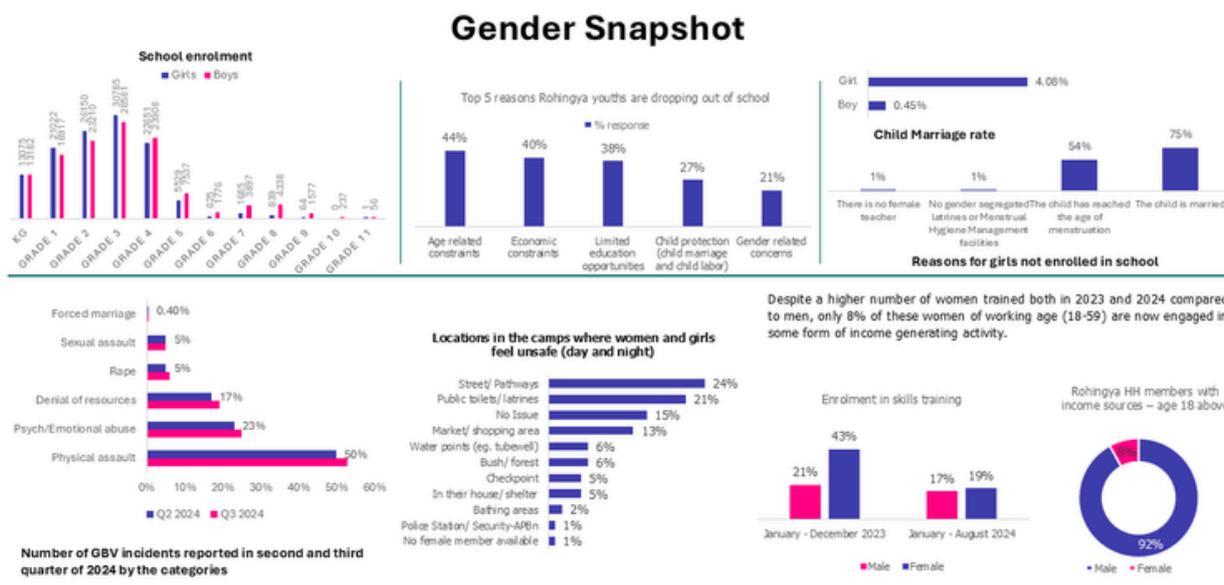
"Efforts are underway to improve safety and enhance protection. Additionally, community-based safe shelters have been established to provide a secure environment for women."

Mohammad Shamsud Douza,

Additional Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC)

The issue of child marriage was identified as a major barrier to the education of young girls, which in turn affects their long-term opportunities. His approach aligns with efforts to address cultural norms, particularly regarding gender roles and the involvement of girls in activities traditionally dominated by boys, such as sports.

The **ISCG Principal Coordinator**, David Bugden, reflected on the progress made over the past 7.5 years but acknowledged that the condition of Rohingya women and girls remains poor. He highlighted issues to do with women and girls' education, security, child marriage, GBV cases, skills and employment issues.



93% Respondents believed that there can be justified reasons for men to beat women

86% Respondent agreed that women should tolerate the violence for the sake of family

Data Source: ISNA Data 2024, GHA Comprehensive gender analysis 2022



“We need to find a path to safety for women and girls in 2025, through evidence-based approaches. We need to keep consulting at the ground level. This initiative is not just for a day; it’s important to focus on this issue and keep moving forward.”

David Bugden,

Principal Coordinator, Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)



Photo: Yuvraj Sen/AAB

UN Women Head of Sub Office in Cox’s Bazar, Silja Rajander, emphasized the importance of joint efforts and clear goals. Progress on the rights of women and girls is possible and has been demonstrated in the Rohingya humanitarian response, yet it is fragile and cannot be guaranteed, she stated. More collective efforts are needed to advance the agency and influence of Rohingya women on decisions, to ensure solutions led by Rohingya women and a strong role for local women’s rights organizations led by women.



Photo: Yuvraj Sen/AAB

“We need to find solutions where women’s voices are heard. It is vital that Rohingya women’s voices are part of the solution, especially when discussing security.”

Silja Rajander,

Head of Sub Office (HoSO), UN Women

Yoko Akasaka, **HoSO from UNHCR** shared a poignant reflection on the aspirations of girls living in the camps. She painted a picture of their dreams—to become doctors, teachers, and leaders—yet highlighted a stark reality: while these girls have access to education, they struggle to envision a future beyond their current circumstances.

“Girls want to be doctors, teachers, and leaders. They can read, but they cannot envision their future. Security is not only about physical protection but also emotional and economic security.”

Yoko Akasaka,

Head of Sub Office (HoSO), UNHCR



Photo: Yuvraj Sen/AAB

During the discussion, Peter Kern, **HoSO from IOM** voiced deep concerns about the impact of dwindling funding on gender-based violence (GBV) programs. He emphasized that while existing initiatives, such as women-friendly spaces, have seen strong participation, they are not enough on their own.



Photo: Masum Hossain/IOM

“We need to double our funding for GBV programming. The women’s participation in the women-friendly spaces is excellent, but we need to empower them further through well-designed projects.”

Peter Kern,
Head of Sub Office (HoSO), IOM

Ruchika Bahl, **HoSO from ILO** highlighted the critical role of men in supporting women’s economic empowerment, emphasizing that financial independence leads to freedom of choice. She stressed the need to engage male partners, religious and community leaders to ensure young women can thrive in the workforce. Noting that women in both the Rohingya and host communities face similar challenges, she pointed to barriers like the "glass ceiling" and "sticky floor" that limit career advancement. To address this, ILO has been actively working to break societal and familial restrictions that hinder women’s progress.

“Economic empowerment is the path to freedom of choice. We need more support from male partners, especially for young women”

Ruchika Bahl,
Head of Sub Office (HoSO), ILO



Photo: Humayun Khan/ILO

Anika Tanjum, **Education officer from UNICEF** added that while many girls aspire to become teachers, they still face challenges in building their confidence and accessing education.



Photo: Yuvraj Sen/AAB

“Despite the efforts, girls still face challenges in expressing themselves and pursuing their dreams. We need to focus on confidence-building and engagement, so these girls can see that they have a future beyond the camp.”

Anika Tanjum,
Education Officer, UNICEF

ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director, Farah Kabir, underscored the critical need to listen to women's voices rather than imposing external solutions. She emphasized that when addressing domestic violence, it is essential to recognize the complex negotiations women must navigate within their own homes. True leadership, she argued, begins in these everyday spaces, where women are often the ones shaping decisions despite societal constraints.

“We can't just impose our solutions; we need to hear from the women themselves about their needs. Change comes at a cost, and we must support them in finding solutions that fit their reality.”

Farah Kabir,
Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh



Photo: Yuvraj Sen/AAB

Further discussion points

Razia Sultana, **Chairperson of the Rights for Women Welfare Society (RWWS)**, highlighted that women in Bangladesh play a crucial role in national development, driving progress in healthcare, education, and economic participation. Despite their contributions, women-led organizations struggle with limited institutional support from INGOs and government policies. To achieve meaningful and sustainable development, there must be increased investment in women's leadership, capacity building, and policy reforms that ensure their active participation in decision-making and economic growth.

“It’s time to focus on the ground level and support the work of women-led organizations”

Razia Sultana

Chairperson, Rights for Women Welfare Society (RWWS)



Photo: Yuvraj Sen/AAB

ISCG Principal Coordinator shared that there has already been noticeable progress in shifting gender roles within the camp. More women are now actively participating in work. However, ensuring the safety of women remains a critical issue, as the camp environment is still full of challenges. He added, “A major concern is the lack of evidence-based data to better understand what’s working and what needs improvement. A shocking trend is that once girls reach puberty, they are often forced into early marriage and forced to drop out of school. This not only affects their educational opportunities but also exposes them to increased vulnerability and insecurity.”

He went on to highlight that many women continue to face unsafe conditions, particularly in public spaces like the streets and toilets within the camp. David Bugden emphasized the need to amplify the voices of women and girls to better understand the real challenges they face daily. He explained, “Increased involvement of the community, particularly men, is essential to creating a more supportive environment for women.” Despite the ongoing funding crisis, he acknowledged the importance of focusing on structured programs that integrate women more effectively into humanitarian activities, noting, “The key to sustaining these efforts will be securing more funding, which can be achieved by showcasing the impactful work being done on the ground.”

Roselidah Raphael, HoSO from UNFPA highlighted the urgent need to sustain gender-focused initiatives despite funding challenges, emphasizing that women in the camps prioritize safe spaces—places where they can make independent choices without fear. She stressed that women are not just seeking protection but autonomy, the freedom to shape their own lives rather than merely being safeguarded.



“The desire for autonomy is evident; women are not merely seeking protection but the freedom to live according to their will.”

Roselidah Raphael,
Head of Sub Office (HoSO), UNFPA

Photo: Yuvraj Sen/AAB

In closing, Additional RRRC Mr. Mohammad Shamsud Douza reiterated the importance of continued efforts to improve facilities for the Rohingya community and called for greater involvement of female leaders in the response, saying, “We will continue to improve the facilities for the Rohingya community, but we also need more female leaders to engage and advocate for gender equality.”

Action Points:

- Ensure women's voices are heard in program design and implementation.
- Conduct regular consultations with women and girls to understand their specific needs and solutions.
- Promote leadership opportunities for women at household, community, and organizational levels.
- Create pathways for women and girls to engage in leadership roles, including in humanitarian responses.
- Prioritize safe spaces for women and girls, particularly in camps (e.g., secure toilets, safe streets).
- Implement targeted GBV prevention and response programs.
- Increase male community involvement to shift harmful gender norms and foster supportive environments.
- Raise awareness on the long-term impacts of early marriage on girls' lives.
- Invest in evidence-based data to evaluate existing programs and identify gaps.
- Prioritize funding for Women-Led and Women's Rights Organizations (WLOs/WROs).
- Create safe, healing-centered environments where women can express and process trauma.
- Maintain core programs with available resources while advocating for increased funding.
- Emphasize community engagement and resilience-based approaches to cope with resource gaps.
- Leverage success stories and impact data to appeal to donors.



Consensus on the way forward

The IWD 2025 Launch Event in Cox's Bazar highlighted the critical need for collaboration, investment in women's leadership, and direct engagement with affected communities to drive meaningful progress toward gender equality. Discussions reinforced the importance of ensuring that Rohingya women and girls have a voice in decision-making and access to the resources and support they need. The event served as a steppingstone for strengthening collective efforts and advancing policies that prioritize the rights, empowerment, and well-being of women and girls in humanitarian action. Actions discussed in this event will be taken back to the camps and work alongside the Rohingya people to create a more equal and inclusive society for all.



Photo: Masum Hossain/IOM

Annex 1: Participants List

SN	Name	Organization	Designation
1	Bimola Bala	GUK	PC
2	Razia Begum	BRAC	Sr. Manager
3	Sapna R	BRAC	Lead Technical
4	Shati Ritchil	UN Women	GFO
5	Hasina Mamataj	BNPS	TO
6	Jakia Jahan	RTMI	Team Leader- DRR
7	Jesmin Prema	SKUS	Chairperson
8	Ariful Islam Talukder	Teach for Bangladesh	Fellow
9	Afzal Hossain	UN Women	KIM Officer
10	Md. Tanvir Islam	BRAC	Protection Coordinator
11	Ismat Jahan	SKUS	L. Expert
12	Razia Sultana	RWWS	Founder
13	Humayun	ILO	Comms
14	Suparna Das Toma	Unicef	Nutrition Officer
15	Md. Shafiqul Islam	BNPS	Project Coordinator
16	Md. Faruq Al Mamun	RRRC	CiC
17	M. Faqrul Hasan	APBn	ASP
18	Dr. Eumna	UNFPA	NFC
19	Mostarin Shamanta	ISCG	AAP Coordinator
20	Parimol Kumar Sarker	RRRC	PS to RRRC
21	Shanta Dey	IOM	GVB Coordinator
22	Shamaita Barua	WFP	Programme Assostant
23	Asmon Khanam	AAB	CM
24	Subrian Alam	Unicef	KMO
25	Md. Minhajul Islam	RRRC	CiC

SN	Name	Organization	Designation
26	Dr. Toha Bhuiya	RRRC	HC
27	Abdullah Al Raihan	BRAC	PH
28	Sheuly Sharma	JNUS	ED
29	Amir	NWP	Advisor
30	Monika	RTMI	PC
31	Sudipta Roy	APBn	SP
32	Magfuzur Rahman Shana	UN Women	Comms Associate
33	Md. Hasnat Bashar	BRAC	Project Manager
34	Ishrat Sadaf	AAB	MEAL
35	Yuvraj Sen	AAB	Comms
36	Mehbuba Jabin	ISCG	GiHA Coordinator
37	Ruchika Bahl	ILO	HoSO
38	Hasina Akter Jahan	JNUS	PM
39	Taslina Begum	SCI	Specialist
40	Farah Kabir	AAB	CD
41	Mousumi A Santa	Caritas	Manager
42	Shahnaz Parvin	GUK	Programme Coordinator
43	Anika Tanjim	UNICEF	Education Officer
44	Hauhes	UNICEF	SBC Specialist
45	Titu Sarker	Good Neighbors BD	Project Officer
46	Matthew Biswas	Good Neighbors BD	Field Facilitator
47	Farzahana Akter	Mukti Cox's Bazar	Project Manager
48	Mamun	RRRC	Admin Assistant
49	Asiqur Rahaman	EDAS	Program Officer
50	Yamuna Shestha	GBVSS	GBV IMO

SN	Name	Organization	Designation
51	Annie Waweru	GVBSS	Coordinator
52	Dilshad Khanom	IRC	Sr. Manager
53	Prisila Paul	IRC	WPE Manager
54	Falguni Das	IRC	WPE Manager
55	Ipshita Dhar	IRC	GBVIMS Officer
56	Salman Siddique	RRRC	Fleet Assistant
57	Md. Shamiul Alim	UNDP	National Consultant
58	Shumaia	JNUS	M&E
59	Anjum Chowdhury	AAB	DH of RR
60	Md. Humayun Kabir	APBn	Inspector
61	Suranjit Barua	GUK	Project Manager
62	Tapti Chakma	RRRC	CiC
63	Kaisar Konaishy	APBn	Additional SP
64	Enamul Haque	RRRC	CiC
65	Md. Sanwar Hossain	RRRC	CiC
66	Farhana Islam	BRAC	FC
67	Moniruzzaman	BTS	PM
68	Dangan Mugan	FAO	OPS Specialist
69	Mohan Chy	Nari Maitree	MEAL Officer
70	Bilkish Begum	CARE	Gender
71	Jiku Dhar	Nari Maitree	Project Officer
72	David Bugden	ISCG	Principal Coordinator
73	S A Jengi	ISCG	Inter-Agency Coord.
74	Ajgar Ali	RRRC	CiC
75	Rintu Bikash Chakma	RRRC	CiC

SN	Name	Organization	Designation
76	Kaniz Fatema	BRAC	Manager
77	Eunice	UNFPA	GBU TL
78	Musabyimana Pudentinne	WHO	PRS Coordinator
79	Subarna Shaha	UNFPA	Prog. Specialist
80	Moslina Akter	CARE	CBO-GBV
81	Silja Rajander	UN Women	HoSO
82	Nusrat Jahir	UN Women	NPO
83	Fahomida Amin	UNFPA	NFO
84	Ashik	LSDS	Coordinator
85	Saima Yesmin	BRAC	PM
86	Peter Kern	IOM	HoSO
87	Dalim	AAB	PM
88	Mojahidul Islam	BRAC	SPO
89	Sadikur Rahman	WFP	Protection Officer
90	Md. Fakhrul Islam	WFP	PA (Gender & Inclusion)
91	Rajib Rahman	ISCG	PSEA Coordinator
92	Liton Gomez	Caritas	PD-ERP
93	Glory	Caritas	TC
94	Alamgir Chy	GVBSS	NFC
95	Shahin Akhter	SKUS	PM
96	Sumi A Shuly	Educo	Head of Response
97	Tahmina Haque	PLAN	Deputy Director
98	Aftab	RRRC	CiC
99	Shamim Al Imran	RRRC	SAS
100	Saleha Akhter	UNDP	Mobilization

SN	Name	Organization	Designation
101	Chaithaila Chy	RRRC	CiC
102	Yoko Akasaka	UNHCR	HoSO
103	Md. Didarul Alam	BRAC	DM
104	Naveed Akbar	ILO	NPM
105	Tazmun Nahar	RWWS	PM
106	Halima Akter	RWWS	FC
107	Fahmida Kanta	PLAN	Gender Specialist
108	Poly Biswas	IOM	GBV Coordinator
109	Nanteza Brenda	IOM	GBV Specialist
110	Dr. M Talut	RRRC	DS
111	Md Amirul Islam	Oxfam	SPO
112	Abdul Mannan	ASK	PM
113	Shawlia Akter	AAB	CMO
114	Aziz	RRRC	Support Staff
115	Farzana Akhter	World Vision	Online Participant
116	Selina Akter	World Vision	Online Participant
117	Rima Das	World Vision	Online Participant
118	Bushra Siddiqua	World Vision	Online Participant
119	Chong Chen	World Vision	Online Participant
120	Sadeka Saymon	World Vision	Online Participant
121	Juliete Toma Roy	World Vision	Online Participant
122	Sarmin Aktar	World Vision	Online Participant
123	Mohammand Eshak	World Vision	Online Participant
124	md mohi. uddin	World Vision	Online Participant
125	Marcus Sarker	World Vision	Online Participant

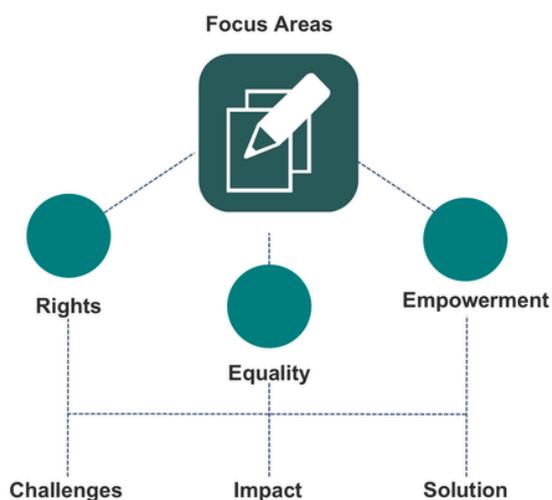
SN	Name	Organization	Designation
126	Juty Tanchangya	World Vision	Online Participant
127	Fahmida Tasnim	ISCG	GIS Associate
128	Ripon Chakma	RRRC	Support Staff
129	Masum	IOM	Comms
130	Sazia Begum	ASK	FO
131	Tahmida Yasmin	AAB	CMO
132	Affia Wasima	WVB	PM
133	Moury	BTS	Manager
134	Iqbal	ISCG	CM Coordinator
135	Roselidah	UNFPA	HoSO
136	Alka	UNFPA	Comms
137	Tahfim	ISCG	Comms
138	Arafat	RRRC	CiC
139	Imran	RRRC	CiC
140	Fakhrul	RRRC	CiC
141	Mahinur Saif	BRAC	Manager
142	Sukarna	NGOP	Co-coordinator
143	Jessica	UNDP	Project Associate
144	Harichandan	RRRC	ACiC
145	Shamim	Mukti Cox's Bazar	PM
146	Amd Rasho	WRC	FD Specialist
147	Dr. Riad Hossain	RTMI	Deputy HOO
148	Muthini	CARE	Head of Office
149	Raji	ISCG	HLP Officer
150	Shirin Akter	UNHCR	Asst. GBV Officer

Camp-Level Consultation Findings



Introduction & Background

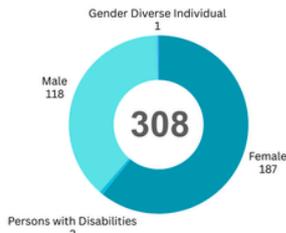
As part of IWD 2025 — For ALL Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment campaign, a series of camp-level consultations were held to move beyond symbolic celebrations and ensure real impact. The discussion brought together women, girls, CiCs and other relevant actors to explore challenges, impact and possible solutions for gender equality in humanitarian response. Participants highlighted key challenges, shared lived experiences, and proposed actionable solutions to enhance women's leadership, participation, and access to services.



Objective and Camp Information

Objective

This consultation aimed to center the voices of Rohingya refugee women and girls along with the camp CiCs and other relevant stakeholders to understand the perspectives on gender equality



Participants



2 hours open discussion with guided questions.

Data Collection Method



Camps Covered

- Camp 1E
- Camp 1W
- Camp 2E
- Camp 2W
- Camp 4
- Camp 4 Ext
- Camp 5
- Camp 11
- Camp 12
- Camp 13
- Camp 14
- Camp 17
- Camp 18
- Camp 19
- Camp 21
- Camp 22
- Camp 26
- Camp 27
- Kutupalong Rc
- Nayapara Rc



Challenges



Early & Forced Marriage

Limits education and independence



Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Domestic violence, harassment, and lack of legal enforcement.



Social & Religious Barriers

Traditional norms restrict mobility and decision-making



Lack of Awareness

Many women are unaware of their rights.



Education & Employment

Cultural norms limit opportunities for education and employment



Healthcare Access

Women receive less medical support than men



Challenges



Economic Disparities

Limited financial independence



Lack of Gender-Sensitive Services

Women, person with disabilities, and gender-diverse individuals struggle to access help.



Male-Dominated Society

Women's opinions are undervalued



Limited Political Representation

Few women in leadership roles



Cultural & Power Imbalances

Social norms restrict female leadership



Impact

Limited Education & Employment

School dropouts, no economic freedom.

01

Mental & Physical Health Issues

Psychological stress, violence-related trauma

02

Social Isolation

Restrictions prevent active participation in society

03

Weakened Community Progress

Gender inequality slows overall development.

04

Economic Dependence

Women remain financially reliant on men

05



Impact



Acknowledgements

The planning, logistical arrangements and organization of this event was undertaken by the IWD Task Force comprising Shaheda Dalim and Oshin Chakma from ActionAid Bangladesh; Hasina Mamataj Lovely from BNPS; Tanvir Islam, Farhana Islam, Saima Yesmin, Mojahidul Islam, Tahmina Akter and Kaniz Fatema from BRAC; Nahin Zaman Moury from BTS; Moslima Akter from Care; Bimola Bala from GUK; Alamgir Quaderi, Fahomida Amin and Dr Eumna Rahman from GVBSS; Humayun Khan from ILO; Shanta Dey from IOM; Hasina Akter Jahan from JNUS; Fahmida Kanta from PLAN International; Nasrin Akhter Monika from RTMI; Ismat Jahan from SKUS; Farzana Farid Lucy, Shati Ritchil and Magfuzur Rahman Shana from UN Women; Md Fakhru Islam from WFP. Coordination support was provided by Mehbuba Jabin (GiHA Coordinator) and Afzal Hossain (GiHA Knowledge & Information Management).

The IWD Task Force is grateful for the support of the RRRRC for collaboration in event preparation and for hosting the IWD Event. In particular Mr. Mohammad Shamsud Douza, Parimol Kumar Sarker and Dr. M Talut for their tremendous support.