

Meeting Details	
<b>Date</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> July, 2025
<b>Time</b>	11:00 am to 12:30 pm (Bangladesh Time)
<b>Chair</b>	Rajib Rahman ( <a href="mailto:rajib@iscgcb.org">rajib@iscgcb.org</a> ), CXB PSEA Network Coordinator (a.i.)
Agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome and Introductions</li> <li>PSEA Network Updates</li> <li>Legal Opinion on the 'Background Check System'</li> <li>Three-Year PSEA Strategy for Bangladesh</li> <li>Volunteer and Staff Training Calendar</li> <li>AoB</li> </ul>	
Information Collection and relevant links	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Bangladesh 2025 Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse</a></li> <li><a href="#">Terms of Reference for PSEA Network Bangladesh   2025</a></li> <li><a href="#">Terms of Reference for Cox's Bazar PSEA Network Co-Chair  2024</a></li> <li><a href="#">Terms of Reference for Cox's Bazar PSEA Focal Points  2024</a></li> <li><a href="#">Terms of Reference for Cluster/Sector PSEA Focal Point   2025</a></li> <li><a href="#">CHS Alliance SEAH Investigation Guide (Bengali Translated Version)   2025</a></li> <li><a href="#">PSEA Network Website</a></li> <li><a href="#">Updated PSEA Focal Point Contact List</a></li> <li><a href="#">Network Members' Participation Tracker (Live Updates)   2025</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>78 Organizations</b>

### Summary of discussions and agreements/action points

Agenda	Summary/Action Point	Responsible
<b>1. PSEA Network Updates</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>'The Bangladesh Interagency SEA Risk Assessment'</b> report has been finalized and disseminated to all Network members and relevant stakeholders.</li> <li><b>Volunteer Training Package Disseminated</b> The PSEA Network's CWC Task Team has finalized and disseminated a tailored training package for Rohingya volunteers. Rollout will begin in coordination with sectors and sub-sectors, with ToT sessions planned in camps.</li> <li><b>2025 UN PSEA Annual Survey – Deadline Extended</b> The deadline for completing the survey has been extended to <b>5 September 2025</b>. Organizations are encouraged to ensure wide participation across all staff categories and grades.</li> </ol>	<b>PSEA Network</b>

	<p><b>4. Ongoing Initiatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Harmonized IP PSEA Assessment Tool</b></li> <li>• <b>Safe Recruitment Guideline/Checklist for Volunteers</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>2. Legal Opinion on Background Check System</b></p>	<p>The main objective of establishing the Interagency Background Check System is to prevent the rehiring of individuals with substantiated SEA misconduct and to strengthen recruitment processes across humanitarian organizations. The PSEA Legal Task Team, led by ActionAid Bangladesh, prepared a comprehensive Legal Opinion on the Background Check System. The legal opinion finds that there is no legal barrier under Bangladeshi law to establishing such a system, provided it is designed with appropriate legal, procedural, and ethical safeguards. These include obtaining informed consent, ensuring data privacy and security, and formalizing data-sharing agreements through MoUs.</p> <p><b>Legal Opinion - Key Highlights:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Informed Consent is Mandatory:</b> Consent must be freely given, specific, informed, and unambiguous. Must be included in appointment letters or ToRs for volunteers and staff.</li> <li>• <b>MoUs Required:</b> Formal agreements must define data types, access levels, retention policies, and security protocols.</li> <li>• <b>System Design Recommendations:</b> Secure, access-controlled database. Regular audits and monitoring. Training for HR and safeguarding personnel.</li> <li>• <b>Non-Public Nature of the Database:</b> The centralized database must not be accessible to the public or unauthorized personnel.</li> <li>• <b>Need-to-Know Basis:</b> The information shared must be limited strictly to what is necessary for background verification and should not include irrelevant or sensitive personal/past case-related details</li> <li>• <b>Do No Harm Principle:</b> Sharing of data should never result in harm, discrimination, or retaliation against the individual concerned. As emphasized by international standards (e.g., UN Protocol, Para 4), the system must not create new risks or exacerbate existing vulnerabilities for victims, whistleblowers, or even the accused (e.g., reputational damage from unverified data), and must uphold the integrity of PSEA efforts.</li> <li>• <b>Accountability and Transparency:</b> Organizations should be transparent about how data is used and allow individuals to access or rectify their data where appropriate. Additionally, transparency with data subjects (staff and volunteers) regarding the existence of the background check system, the types of data that might be included, and how their data might be used should be informed.</li> </ul>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Non-discrimination</b> in the system's application and outcomes due to such background checking must be ensured, aligning with fundamental human rights principles and the mandate of IASC.</li> <li>• Organizations should adopt a Background Check Policy that includes specific provisions on the sharing of relevant data with the PSEA Network.</li> </ul>	
<b>3. Three-Year PSEA Strategy for Bangladesh</b>	The development of the Three-Year PSEA Strategy (2026–2029) is currently underway to guide national-level efforts in preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse. As part of this process, two consultation workshops will be held in August 2025, one in Dhaka and one in Cox's Bazar, with active participation from PSEA Network members. The strategy will be shaped by inputs from these workshops and informed by the findings and recommendations of the Interagency SEA Risk Assessment Report, ensuring a coordinated and evidence-based approach to strengthening PSEA mechanisms in Bangladesh including the Rohingya Refugee Response.	<b>PSEA Network</b>
<b>Volunteer and Staff Training Calendar</b>	<p>The PSEA Network is launching a series of monthly PSEA training sessions for newly onboarded staff, beginning on 12 August 2025 at ISCG and continuing through December, with support from Network members in providing venues and facilitators. To facilitate participation, registration links will be kindly shared with PSEA Focal Points, who are requested to circulate them among their respective staff.</p> <p>In parallel, the Network will coordinate with sector partners to ensure that 100% of volunteers in the camps receive mandatory PSEA training, based on the recently developed Volunteer Training Package. Rohingya trainers will be identified through the sectors and will receive PSEA ToT, after which they will cascade the training to other volunteers with support from the respective sectors/sub-sectors.</p>	<b>PSEA Focal Points</b>  <b>Sector/Sub-Sector Coordinators</b>
<i>AoB (Any other business)</i>	<i>The Next PSEA Network Meeting- TBC</i>	<b>PSEA Network</b>