ADTWG Monthly Meeting - Minutes Tuesday 29th April 2025, 09:30am – 01:00pm, Best Western Heritage Hotel, Cox's Bazar

ISCG INTER SECTOR COORDINATION GROUP | **Rohingya Refugee Response** Bangladesh

This meeting was chaired by the ISCGs Age and Disability Coordinator. Participants included: technical staff from the organizations under the Age and Disability Technical Working Group.

Introduction: The meeting started with providing a brief introduction of participants with their name and organization name.

Discussion on meeting agenda:
1. Staffing and HR Updates
Ms. Shamantha briefed the group on the ongoing staff reduction process prompted by funding constraints. She highlighted the implications for human resources across the response and emphasized the importance of retaining core technical personnel to ensure continuity in essential service delivery. She also highlighted the reduced JRP fund availability as a concern.

2. Impacts of Funding Cuts in the Rohingya Response
Ms. Shamantha also addressed concerns regarding the significant operational disruptions resulting from funding cuts. The impact has been particularly severe on the delivery of life-saving services. There might be merging of sectors, consolidation of services, prioritization of those who cover more area etc.

3. Prioritization, Restructuring, and Localization
In response to the funding shortfall, sectors are implementing strategic cost-saving measures, including:
- Service rationalization and reduction of duplication.
- Strengthening coordination mechanisms for shared service delivery.
- Advancing localization by building the capacity of local actors and community based activities.
The group emphasized that improved efficiency must not come at the cost of exclusion. Instead, smarter coordination and inclusive planning are essential to maximizing the impact of limited resources.

4. Community Consultations – Way Forward
A structured community consultation process will be conducted to collect perspectives on the ongoing localization of services. This initiative will prioritize inclusive participation, particularly marginalized groups. The findings will help inform future program design and ensure responsiveness and accountability to affected populations.

5. ISNA 2024 – Preliminary Findings
While it remains uncertain whether the Inter-Sectoral Needs Assessment (ISNA) will be conducted in the upcoming year, preliminary insights from the ISNA 2024 were shared. Key issues identified include persistent food insecurity and unmet basic needs; limited access to healthcare and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services; and inadequate availability of specialized services for persons with disabilities.

6. AD TWG Engagement and ToR Revision
The group discussed updating the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Age and Disability Technical Working Group (AD TWG) to reflect current strategic priorities for 2025. Members were invited to share feedback.

7. Member Activity Updates
Representatives from member organizations shared updates on their ongoing activities. Key highlights included:
- Continued service delivery amid budget constraints.
- Provision of community-based rehabilitation (CBR) and MHPSS services for at-risk groups.
- Capacity development of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Disability Support Committees (DSCs) to enhance community engagement.
- Technical support to mainstream actors to promote inclusive practices.
- Ongoing data collection and analysis to support sectoral planning and reporting.

8. Draft Action Plan for AD TWG – 2025
In a breakout session, members reviewed the 2024 action plan and proposed revisions to reflect evolving needs and funding realities. Key recommendations included.
- Conduct assessment on barrier identification
- Strengthen the capacity of persons with disabilities and enhance their participation
- Organize training on disability inclusion for humanitarian workers
- Conduct need-based accessibility audits
- Develop inclusive guidance documents, tipsheets, IEC materials, etc.
- Develop a Disability Inclusion (DI) resource library etc.

9. Comments and Recommendations
In the concluding session, the following key points were emphasized by the participants:
- Ensure equitable participation of technical staff from all partner organizations in coordination forums, trainings, and events.
- Members need to attend meetings consistently and contribute actively to joint initiatives.
- Strengthening synergy among technical partners is essential to prevent duplication and promote disability-inclusive outcomes across all sectors.

Attendance

Sl. No.	Name	Organization	Designation	Email	Phone
1	Mostarin Shamanta	ISCG	AAP, Age & Disability Coordinator	shamanta@iscgcxb.org	1762383159
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