

GiHA WG August 2025 Monthly Meeting Notes

Date & Time: Wednesday | 20 August 2025 | 03:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Location: ISCG Conference Room, Cox's Bazar

Attendees: Representatives from ISCG, Sectors/WGs (GVBSS, SCCCM, EPR, Education, WASH, Nutrition), organizations (ActionAid Bangladesh, BRAC, GUK, SCI, CARITAS Bangladesh, PLAN International), WLO/WRO (BTS, RWWS, JNUS, BNPS, Nari Maitree, RTMI), UN Agencies (UN Women, FAO, UNFPA, UNHCR, ISCG)

Agenda:

1. Introduction
 - Welcome
2. GiHA WG Operational update from members
3. Discussion on planning of Gender in Humanitarian Action (GIHA) Baseline Survey
4. Update on Engagement Workshop with Women-Led Organizations (WLOs): Strengthening Inclusion and Participation in the Rohingya Refugee Response organized by NGO platform, Care Bangladesh and GiHA WG
5. Update on Cross-cutting thematic dashboards
6. AoB

Agenda	Summary / Action Points
Welcome and introduction.	<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>
GiHA WG Operational update from members	<p>After the agenda discussion Mehbuba invited the members of the GiHA Working Group to share progress and ongoing initiatives from their respective agencies and sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO (Amitabh Shuvra Chakma): Data on women's empowerment in the agricultural sector was collected last year. The final report is being completed and will be presented once finalized. • Plan International (Fahmida Jabeen Kanta): Shared updates on three interventions in the education sector—LSDS market linkage for women, child protection and case management. Plan is developing inclusive learning pedagogy through a pool of trainers (50 master trainers and 250 facilitators). A workshop with WLOs/WROs was organized on 19 August.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition Sector (Sadia Islam): Engaged in the ongoing ISNA Survey. Discussions are underway regarding a potential merge of health and nutrition sector. • BTS (Mamun): Implementing life skills and behavioral training. Additionally, parent meetings are held in both host and Rohingya communities on gender issues. • SCCCM Sector (Arnob): Highlighted ISNA's focus on ensuring governance systems are inclusive and community voices are reflected. • GUK (Bimola Bala): Launched training for 600 women and men on gender issues and conducted PSEA training for volunteers. • UN Women (Shati): Since July, UN Women has begun direct programming in 8 camps, overseeing partners' field work from a gender perspective and focusing on women's empowerment and leadership. • UNHCR (Tahmina Parvin): Hosting monthly meetings with gender focal points across units to review key indicators. Advocacy efforts are ongoing to extend staff benefits (such as leave entitlements) to Rohingya women working with UNHCR. Gender training is being provided for UNHCR staff and partners. • Caritas Bangladesh (Naasrin Monowara): Working across five sectors (host and Rohingya) and conducting three batches of training for protection, livelihood, and DRR staff. • ActionAid Bangladesh (Oshin Chakma): Supporting adolescent girls' groups, livelihood activities, display corners, and nursery groups. LSDS is collaborating with ISCG and private sector actors on market linkage; production is expected to begin on 1 September with ActionAid's support. • RTMI (Monika): Implementing advocacy, leadership and capacity development initiatives, PSEA training, and basic literacy in six camps. Also conducting gender-responsive DRR training. • BNPS (Lovely): Providing leadership and livelihood training. • Nari Maitree (Ferdousi): Implementing the <i>Together We Lead</i> programme with UN Women, including EMAP, outreach, and women's leadership activities. Managing 100 gender volunteers. • WASH Sector (Shoshi): Participating in the ISNA survey with a focus on gender-responsive WASH. • GBVSS (Alamgir): Coordinating communication with ISCG and government actors, and rolling out GBV training aligned with global benchmarks. • Care Bangladesh (Bilkish): Developing a gender-responsive action plan and conducting quarterly GAM workshops for staff.
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	<p>Mehbuba Jabin, opened the Google survey link and guided members through the questionnaire. The survey contained a large number of questions, leading to a discussion on the need to possibly merge or simplify some of them to make it more concise and practical. Mehbuba informed that the survey will be conducted among GiHA WG members and across sectors, with the aim of gathering information on current gender initiatives, the overall gender analysis, and the status of women's leadership in the humanitarian response.</p> <p>Although the discussion was brief, members highlighted the importance of making the tool user-friendly while still comprehensive enough to capture the necessary information. Mehbuba confirmed that she would share the draft questionnaire with WG members within the coming week to collect their feedback before finalization.</p> <p>Action Point: GiHA Coordinator to circulate the survey link to WG members within one week for review and feedback.</p>
Update on Engagement Workshop with Women-Led Organizations (WLOs): Strengthening Inclusion and Participation in the Rohingya Refugee Response organized by NGO platform, Care Bangladesh and GiHA WG	<p>Mehbuba Jabin, GiHA Coordinator, provided a brief update on the recently held Engagement Workshop with Women-Led Organizations (WLOs), co-organized by the NGO Platform, Care Bangladesh, and the GiHA Working Group. She shared a summary of the participants, highlighting the wide representation of WLOs engaged in the Rohingya refugee response.</p> <p>Mehbuba also presented the key recommendations emerging from the workshop, which centered on strengthening women's leadership, ensuring meaningful participation of WLOs in decision-making processes, and enhancing collaboration between WLOs, humanitarian actors, and coordination mechanisms.</p> <p>Action Point: GiHA Coordinator to circulate the report from the WLO Engagement Workshop to WG members for their reference.</p>
Update on Cross-cutting thematic dashboards	<p>Mehbuba Jabin, GiHA Coordinator, presented the thematic dashboard on GiHA that has been developed by ISCG and published on the ISCG website. She explained that the dashboard is designed as a one-page information sheet, providing a concise overview of GiHA's role and activities. The dashboard serves as a quick reference tool for humanitarian actors and partners to better understand the mandate of GiHA and its contributions to the response. With this Mehbuba thanked the WG members again and concluded the meeting.</p>

AOB	<p>For further information, please contact</p> <p>Mehbuba Jabin, GiHA Coordinator, ISCG. Email: mehbuba@iscgcb.org</p> <p>Afzal Hossain, Knowledge and Information Management Officer, UN Women. Email: afzal.hossain@unwomen.org</p>
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Annex 1: Participant's List

SL	Name	Organization	Designation	Email
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Online				
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22	Fahomida Amin	UNFPA	NFC-GVBSS	