

GiHA Working Group Meeting Minutes Cox's Bazar

Date/Time: 11 February 2019: 09:00- 11:00

Venue: UNHCR Conference Room

Sl #	Name of the participants	Agency
1.	Flora Macula	UN Women
2.	Tamale Priscilla	UNHCR
3.	Rehema Miiro	UNCHR
4.	Israt Jahan Sumi	Relief International
5.	Kaniz Zinath	Relief International
6.	Valerie Waters	DRC
7.	Tahmina Yesmin	BRAC
8.	Nadira Islam	UN Women
9.	Sultana Nasrin	UN Women
10.	Rashmi Sharma	CPI
11.	Shahnoor Akter Chowdhury	SCI
12.	Thamina Parvin	UNHCR
13.	Sadikur Rahman	DCA
14.	Nasrin Akhter Monika	RTMI
15.	Bidan Lasiti	SM Sector
16.	Jaynab Aktar	UNHCR
17.	Shajeda Begum	UNICEF
18.	Samiun Jahan	ActionAid
19.	Fatema Sultana	UNFPA
20.	Dr. Syeda Mushrefa Jahan	MDM - France
21.	Kinana Quddar	SC
22.	Rashed B Jamal	ISCG
23.	Julian D'Silva	UN Women

Item	Summary of Discussion	Action Point(s)
<p>1. Review of previous action items and general remarks and discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The report titled '16 Days of Activism', prepared by UN Women now incorporates inputs from all GiHA members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The final version of the report on '16 Days of Activism' will be shared by UN Women with the group, for their perusal and further dissemination among their networks. An e-version to be produced and shared.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A task force, being chaired by two agencies, on women's empowerment and leadership is being formed, and nominations from the GiHA working group were received. The composition of this group is finalised to include WFP, UNFPA, Oxfam, UNHCR, BRAC and UN Women except for Action Aid who will inform on their decision to join soon. The importance of making this task force highly effective and present was stressed. - The Protection Working Group (PWG) representative agreed that the PWG shall contribute to the objectives of the task force on protection related areas and activities, as they are currently supporting and liaising at a site management level in the camps. Furthermore, it was highlighted that upcoming elections for camp committee groups (one held in Teknaf), would be rolled out – strictly where all camps are administered by UNHCR – therefore establishing a system of governance which is monitored. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNHCR to co-chair the task force on women's empowerment as they are the lead agency on camp governance.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The GiHA working group needs to actively participate in the Communicating with Communities (CwC) engagement sessions, to strengthen the groups presence, particularly towards responding to and monitoring the flow of information - to and from the field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UN Women and UNHCR will represent the GiHA working group - Ms. Tahmina Parvin (UNHCR) and Mr. Julian D'Silva (UN Women) to attend the CwC meetings on a biweekly basis and report to the GIHA for any updates
<p>2. Updates on meeting with CiCs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Chair together with the PWG representative updated the group on the meeting with the RRRC and CiCs regarding the attacks on female volunteers and staff in the camps– that it was highly positive, especially due to RRRC Mr. Mohammad Abul Kalam being present in the meeting. GiHA and PWG recommendations regarding inequality and discrimination against women were provided through an informal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GiHA members will actively participate in meetings with CiC's. Ms. Priscilla Tamale, UNHCR and Ms. Flora Macula UN Women shall represent the GiHA and in their absence Rehema Miiro, UNHCR. - GiHA members will advise all implementing partners to utilize a step by

	<p>discussion. On the same day, RRRC and CiC's met with Imams and Majhis towards cooperating with and taking an initiative on addressing the issues behind the attacks, as a result of which incidents and reports on intimidation faced by refugee communities have nullified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CiC's advised that they strictly maintain a zero-tolerance policy on violence and threats against women, and that women's rights are human rights. Some CiC's suggested that humanitarian actors would need to be prudent and proceed with care, regarding women's empowerment, in their interventions and programmes – to ensure effective development outcomes. The GiHA members therefore discussed that it would be good to avoid a top-down approach in their development activities towards women, to avoid polarising themselves. - CiC's were advised not to replace female volunteers with male volunteers or the host community. 	<p>step, and careful approach in women's empowerment related interventions / programmes taking place in the camp sites.</p>
<p>3. Further steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GiHA group members agreed a more inclusive approach in community development / engagement practices is required – to not only engage Majhis (as community leaders), but others among the communities, for e.g. teachers. The importance of engaging men and exploring their role towards women's empowerment was also highlighted. - It was mentioned that some Imams (religious leaders) expressed they felt neglected as development programme beneficiaries in their communities. It was noted by the PWG that in some cases Imams are targeted by groups simply because of their relationship with female family members, for example. some Imams whose daughters are employed as volunteers have also received some backlash. BRAC mentioned that from their experience, providing Imams with cash-based assistance has not proved to be good practice. UN Women reiterated the Imams willingness to volunteer in development programs, and therefore this could be a more useful avenue to improvement engagement with Imams. UNHCR mentioned a component of their ongoing work – Essential Service Delivery (ESD) focuses on Imams. Save the Children also mentioned past programmes through which they have worked with Imams. Regarding programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A suggestion was made to develop a simple guidebook, as was done for CiC's. UNFPA currently has one programme module focused on Imams as beneficiaries – and will therefore share with GiHA members knowledge obtained in this regard. - The GiHA to develop a simple strategy and share with partners on how to engage the refugee community in empowerment programs safely without putting the beneficiaries in danger. It would be also good to engage with CwC working group to come up with a communication plan and a few pointers that can be used by partners in the field.

	<p>activities focused on benefitting Imams, it was agreed this would be done within limitations.</p>	
<p>4. Planning for International Women’s Day activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plans for organising activities and events for celebrating International Women’s Day (IWD) on 8 March, and in general the whole of March was discussed to be Women’s month. Several organisations among the GiHA working group will be participating in this process – Action Aid, CPI, Relief International, Save the Children, BRAC, , UNFPA, and UN Women, Relief International, TerresDes Hommes. The theme for art exhibitions and artwork created by programme beneficiaries(adolescents) will be ‘My future, My dream’. - It was agreed that the art exhibition would be held on 7th March in Camp 3, and on 9th March (proposed venue: Long Beach Hotel), to attract more visitors (note: dates to be confirmed by Women’s Day task force). In general, IWD related activities would be organised throughout the month of March to mark the occasion. In addition to exhibiting artwork, the planned events in this regard would also showcase handicraft prepared by refugee community beneficiaries participating in centre related skills development / training sessions. - Relief International mentioned their plans to hold an exhibition of handicrafts in from of the CiC office in camp 3 on 7th March. The rest of the GiHA members agreed to jointly participate in the exhibition and combine products made by their programme beneficiaries. - UN Women welcomed GiHA members to participate and demonstrate artwork and handicrafts in an exhibition planned by UN Women in Dhaka. The tentative date for this event is 2 weeks after 8 March. - BRAC mentioned that in general, they have been organising activities (for e.g. sports) for refugees residing outside the camp centres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A small working group will be formed (from GiHA members), who will plan and coordinate IWD related events in a joint effort. - Ms. Nadira Islam (UN Women) will follow up with RRRC for permission, to jointly participate in the exhibition being organised by Relief International in front of CiC offices in camp 3. - All event related materials to be prepared by a targeted date of 25 February (in 2 weeks’ time) - Action Aid will organise an interactive theatre / play and two shows on 10th March, in camps 11 and 12. The proposed theme is to promote protection and inclusion of women in public affairs and celebration of care work - BRAC agreed to participate in the UN Women exhibition event being planned in Dhaka, tentatively to be held 2 weeks after 8 March.

<p>5. Update on a GiHA visit to Nayapara and Shalbagan with female elected leaders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GiHA, Chairperson Ms. Flora Macula and co-chair Ms. Priscilla Tamale updated the meeting on the GIHA visit to the female elected leaders together with Ms. Maria Libertad OXFAM. Ms. Flora Macula stressed the importance of empowering women leaders through a focus of both before, during and after elections. She informed that two groups were visited in Nayapara RC (elected leaders who have had extensive contact with NGOs) and Shalbagan (newly elected female camp committee members) 1 The two groups expressed very different viewpoints and needs. While the new arrivals stressed on their immediate needs for more physical space – to educate their children and raise a family for instance, the 2nd group appeared to be more interested in taking a more political stance / viewpoint. GiHA working group members agreed it was important to explore such diverse view points and the roles of women in society. - GiHA working group members discussed that it was important to understand and agree on effective methodologies being used to roll out programme activities related to sensitisation. A ToT may be drafted for all implementing partners in this regard. UNHCR will continue their engagement with actors at the camp sites, and support efforts to strengthen the link between site management related activities & GiHA. 	<p>UNHCR and UN Women shall continue with the efforts to engage the female elected leaders in leadership trainings and skill development.</p>
<p>6. Partner updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A session / ToT for mentoring elected women is being organised for GiHA members and Implementing Partners by UN Women in Dhaka, to be held in the beginning of April, for which training materials have been prepared in English and Bangla. The session will be held in English for 3 days and Bangla for 3 days. - UNHCR attends a weekly meeting at IOM premises every Thursday between 10-11 a.m. on site management issues. - Mr. Sadikur Rahman (DCA) informed basic training sessions are being conducted by DCA on GBV related issues, in camp 4, block C and D, and camp 9, block 15,17 and 21. GiHA members are welcome to participate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UN Women to keep members updated on the ToT when the sessions are available to attend. - Ms. Tamale Priscilla (UNHCR) agreed to represent the GiHA group in the weekly IOM meeting on site management issues,
<p>7. AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Nadira Islam informed the group that the UN Women Multipurpose Women’s Centre beneficiaries, alongside being trained on skills development, also have been honing their skills in preparing food items (e.g. snacks etc.) in a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - n/a

	kitchenette in camp 4, and are open to receiving requests for preparing food items for partners / GiHA meetings.	
Closing remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Flora Macula (UN Women) commended Action Aid for their impressive work in the Multipurpose Womens Centre. and also commended the GiHA working group members for being action oriented in following up on the group's discussions. 	- n/a

***The next meeting scheduled for 25.02.2019 from 09:00 -10:00 in the UNHCR Conf. Room**