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### **GBV Sub-Sector Coordination updates**

- **Coordination with GBVSS Partners:** To bolster communication, coordination and joint action GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS) conducted three (3) Monthly Coordination Meetings with 57 GBVSS partners and coordinated with the partner organizations to ensure their alignment with global standards for GBV service delivery. Technical issues on Field level coordination mechanism, GBV camp Focal Points (CFPs) Guidance Note<sup>1</sup> and field-level challenges faced by partners and the way forward were also discussed at these meetings.
- **Field-level coordination:** To enhance field-level coordination and ensure comprehensive GBV services, including safe and ethical referrals, the GBVSS field coordination team participated in **34 field based** coordination meetings across 33 Rohingya refugee camps and GBV issues have been advocated to 957 stakeholders (CiC-Camp-in-Charge and other actors). These engagements aimed to strengthen regular coordination with CiC Offices, protection focal points, GBV actors, and other humanitarian partners. Advocacy meetings with CiC officials, along with capacity-building initiatives for non-GBV actors, remain a priority to address remaining gaps and challenges in GBV service provision. This quarter the major advocacy issues concerned GBV data sharing following information sharing protocol (ISP); verification of marriage, divorce or other cases, assessing safety concerns for women and girls safety concerns while accessing wash facilities at nights etc. As a result of these meetings most of the CiCs are sensitized and have stopped asking case no. except in some camps. However, the frequent turnover of CiC continues to remain a challenge. GBVSS is in the process of drafting an advocacy strategy to ensure structured and sustained engagement on the issues of importance.
- **Coordination with GBV Camp Focal Points:** GBVSS has been working to strengthen capacity and leadership of GBV Camp Focal Points from 33 Rohingya refugee camps of Cox's Bazar and held 3 monthly meetings in this quarter. These meetings were crucial to capacitate them to regularly update and verify GBV referral pathways monthly, address field level challenges; advocate with CiCs and other stakeholders for GBV risk mitigation. GBVSS also has taken initiative to establish Host Community referral pathways in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilla. In response to that, GBVSS developed the ToR of GBV Focal Point and completed service facility mapping. A Guidance Note for GBV CFPs has been developed by GBVSS to guide them as well as structure coordination efforts and this has been discussed with GBV CFPs in the last meeting of this quarter.

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<sup>1</sup> [CFP monthly guidance sheet](#)



- **GBVSS Training Log:** The [GBVSS partners training plan of 2024](#) has been developed in coordination with the Prevention Working Group and GBV Case Management Working Group to ensure maximization of training resources in the rationalization process.
- **CCPM (Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring):** For the first time, the GBVSS conducted a Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) survey to evaluate the effectiveness of operational coordination of GBVSS and support improved coordination outcomes by 2025. Analysis & stocktaking and consultative workshop will be held in April, 2024.
- **Joint efforts for Protection, Child Protection and GBV risk mitigation and response:** To enforce the joint efforts for Protection, Child Protection and GBV risk mitigation and response, the GBVSS has:
  - Participated in a joint protection visit to the refugee camps led by the ISCG Principal Coordinator and consulted with community members on key protection and security issues, accountability to affected populations and community feedback and complaint mechanisms, findings of which further informed the 2024 joint protection work plan across the PS/CPSS/GBVSS.
  - Provided in-depth GBV data analysis and advocated for GBV safe and ethical data collection and analysis during a joint Protection Risk Monitoring Workshop with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Child Protection Sub Sector, Protection Sector and partners.
  - During a joint Protection, Security, and Shelter Camp Coordination and Camp Management (SCCCM) workshop on safety and security in the camps, the GBVSS strongly recommended to: (1) Continue to focus on the needs of women and girls and the **do-not-harm approach**; (2) Address recurring issues such as inadequate police response, legal bottlenecks, and problematic mediation efforts that prevent survivors from accessing justice; (3) Include the GBVSS and other Protection actors in the site development processes to flag potential safeguarding risks; (4) Conduct safety audits of service delivery sites and include safety audits in program proposals.
- **Update and Re-alignment of GBV SOP:** GBV Sub-Sector has been working to update GBV SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) in terms of legal mandates, mandatory reporting, case referral, transfer etc. and also working with GBV AoR (Area of Responsibility) for GBV SOP re-alignment with global SOP as well as alignment with other Sub Sectors, Working Group's SOPs (PSEA, CP, CP/GBV guidelines etc.).

### Capacity Building Events

- 33 representatives of 25 GBVSS member organizations (17 women, 16 men) have been capacitated on men and boys' engagement programming through a three-day training delivered by the GBVSS on 4-6 March 2024, funded by UNFPA through the BPRM (Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration) of the United States.



Figure: Participants with facilitators of Men and Boys engagement training.



Picture: Facilitation during PSS and Supervision Workshop

- **Workshop on Psychosocial Support and Supervision:** The capacities of 60 case management supervisors (53 women, 7 men) have been strengthened to provide effective case management supervision and psychosocial support through a four-day training on 17-20 March 2024, as funded by UNFPA through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

## QUARTERLY BULLETIN

January - March 2024



- **PSEA Workshop and ToT:** The PSEA Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been revised with contributions from the GBVSS to make it more survivor sensitive. The GBVSS team participated and facilitated some sessions of the Training of Trainers (ToT) on 'Saying No to Sexual Misconduct' on 27-28 March 2024.



ToT on 'Saying No to Sexual Misconduct'

### Key Milestones

- ★ **GBVSS Member Implementation Survey 2024:** GBVSS conducted the 2024 GBVSS member implementation survey to map out members' individual/collective GBV program implementation plans by JRP activity categories. GBVSS shared the analysis with partners during the February monthly meeting, including findings on areas of collective training gaps, members' suggestions on field level coordination and non GBV actors engagement, advocacy and messaging, new/small organization members orientation and translation. Forty Seven (47) partners participated in this survey.
- ★ **GBV Service Facility Mapping & Service Audit plan:** A GBV service facility mapping has been finalized and made available by the GBVSS in February 2024. This will serve as the basis for a service audit which will be conducted in Q3 2024 to ensure quality and standards for all GBV related services across the camps.
- ★ **Roll out Electronic Referral Pathway (eRPW) v2:** 50 GBV Camp Focal Points across 33 refugee camps have been capacitated to pilot the Electronic Referral Pathway (eRPW) v2 to update GBV service information through a phone application, in addition to the current Referral Pathways online dashboard.



Picture: Jay, IMO-GBVSS is taking session on Referral Pathway

Cox's Bazar GBV Sub-Sector

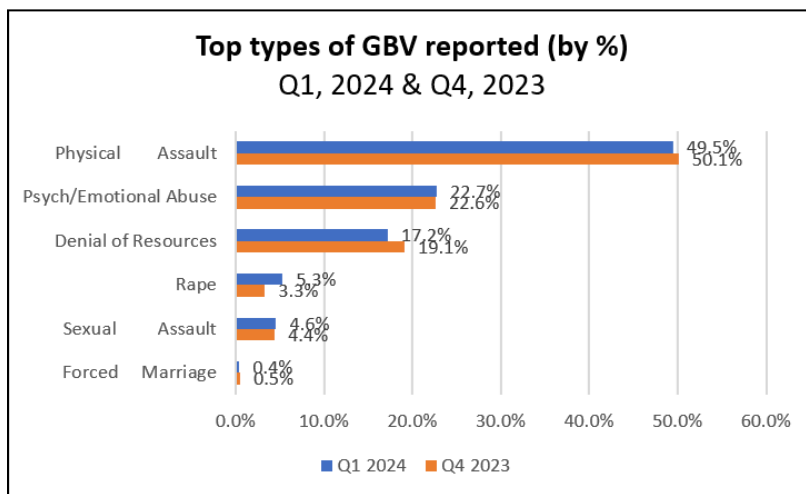


**GBV Trends in Q1 2024**

**GBV types: most commonly reported in GBVIMS**

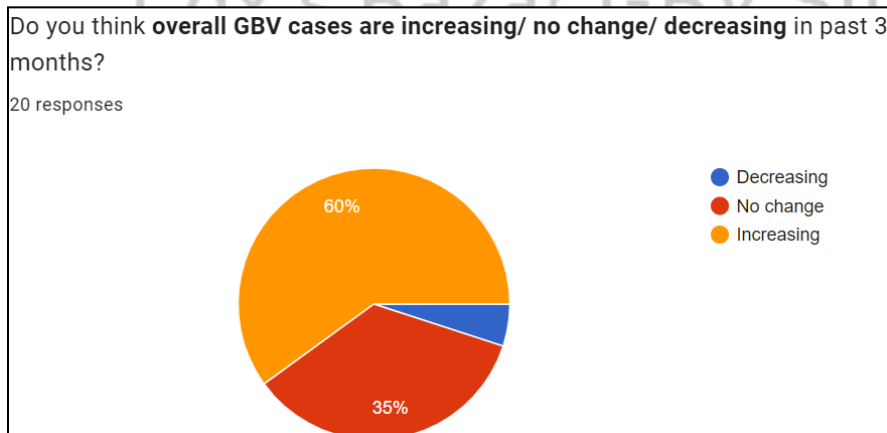
By types of GBV incidents, **Physical assault** is the most common type of GBV reported in Q1 2024, accounting for (49.5%) of the incidents reported under the GBVIMS, followed by **Psychological/Emotional abuse** (22.7%) and **Denial of resources** (17.2%).

According to the GBV camp focal points, although **Sexual violence accounted for around 9.9%** of the reported in Q1 2024 (**rape** for 5.3% and **sexual assault** for 4.6%), this particular type of GBV remained severely under-reported.



By case context, of all reported incidents in Q1 2024, **74.8% are of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) nature** (compared to 76.3% in Q4 2023), regardless of the classification above.

Upon triangulation with the GBV camp focal points, who directly work in the field with women and girls on a daily basis, **60% of GBV camp focal points (across 33 camps) reported in a survey that GBV is increasing in their respective camps**, 35% think the situation remains similar, while 5% think it's decreasing in the past three months.





### **Emerging GBV risks**

In addition to the types of GBV reported in the GBVIMS, the GBV camp focal points (CFPs) across the camps also reported multiple emerging GBV risks in the Rohingya communities in Q1 2024:

- **Increasing level of polygamy, second marriages and divorce**

Polygamy (for the male) continued to be an underlying contributing factor to GBV in the Rohingya community in Q1 2024. Lower level of legal restrictions in the Rohingya refugee camps as compared to living under the Burmese law prior to the displacement, the ease of movement within and outside of the camps both contributed to the increasing practice of polygamy, divorce or abandonment of the female partner in marriages.

- **Armed group recruitments for youth and intensified GBV threats for women and girls**

Ever since January 2024, the escalation of the conflict between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and the Arakan Army has resulted in intensified protection risks for all members of the Rohingya communities.

These recruitments directly contributed to the worsened safety situation of women, girls and populations with diverse vulnerability with the reasons below.

- Recruitment of men and boys from the armed groups, particularly targeting the Rohingya volunteers with certain levels of education and skills, are increasingly being reported through field protection monitoring channels, including the GBV camp focal points.
- GBV camp focal points reported that women and girls are threatened of rape and other types of GBV by the armed groups if their male partners/ family members refused to be recruited.
- With the threats increasing, many youths left the camp due to fear of being recruited by RSO, leaving their female partners/female household members behind, further deepening the vulnerability of women and girls.
- Due to the insecurity in camp, particularly for those who are single or left behind by their partners, women and girls are increasingly being threatened and harassed by armed groups and other parties with power in the community. As a result, single, female-headed household members and left-behind women and girls are also increasingly involved in extra marital affairs to ensure their own safety and security.

### **Challenges and recommendations**

- **Help-seeking barriers for accessing services created by perpetrators and stakeholders with power in the communities**

- In addition to the intensified protection threats from armed groups, survivors of GBV (mostly women and girls), when reporting incidents with community authorities during help seeking, are reportedly being asked to provide evidence of incidents and face rejection for assistance/ referrals.
- GBV CFPs reported that Majhis and perpetrators from some camps were threatening to restrict or manipulate survivors from reporting incidents to the humanitarian service providers.
- GBV CFPs indicated that women tend not to seek support due to fear of further harm. They do not want to go to the police/CiC/APBN in fear that the police would come to them after a case/event, further stigmatizing the survivors in the community.

**Commemoration of International Women's Day 2024**

In collaboration with UN Women and other actors, the GBVSS co-organized an open dialogue on "Investing in Women: Accelerate Progress" to commemorate International Women's Day 2024. The representatives from different UN and INGOs urged to invest more in women and girls while agreeing to that in respective programmes.



*Picture: Participants of the session of the IWD 2024 launch event "Open Dialogue on Invest in Women"*

**Challenges and Recommendations**

Challenges	Recommendations:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ During the time of providing life saving services to survivors and affected communities GBV actors reported the challenges of increasing security concern, less understanding of other actors to the GBV programming, mediation issues for IPV cases in perspective of survivors while for GBV prevention lack of awareness and knowledge of community people and leadership to the GBV issues and less male engagement activities are identified.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Conduct awareness on security issues among the community.</li> <li>❖ Share and make people aware of referral mechanisms.</li> <li>❖ Increase community awareness and mobilization particularly male engagement activities.</li> <li>❖ GBVSS to actively coordinate with the Protection Sector and Child Protection to mitigate risks related to insecurity that may result in increase in GBV cases, and to ensure access to services for affected survivors.</li> </ul>

**Resources and Data**

- For more information on GBVSS Coordination, please visit this [site](#)
- GBVSS published the GBVSS Q4 2023 Bulletin, please visit this [Link](#)



UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

ActionAid Bangladesh



**Organizational objectives:** To achieve social justice, gender equality, and poverty eradication by working with people living in poverty and exclusion, their communities, people's organizations, activities, social movements, and supporters.

Key Highlights

- ◆ ActionAid Bangladesh implemented GBV response services in 8 Rohingya camps (1W, 2E, 2W, 8W, 21, 26, 27, and NRC-Nayapara Registered Camp).
- ◆ Economic empowerment opportunities for women were provided through life skills and livelihood training to 200 beneficiaries.
- ◆ A total of 27,128 GBV outreach prevention sessions were conducted to raise awareness and prevent gender-based violence.
- ◆ AAB has Multi-Purpose Women Centres (MPWCs) at camp 4, camp 4 Ext, camp 5, and camp 18 to promote women and girls' empowerment and women's leadership.

Major Achievements/Activities

- ✓ A commemorative event on March 6, 2024, celebrated the resilience and empowerment of Rohingya women who are shopkeepers in Camp-5 Rohingya Women's Market, highlighting their contribution to economic activities within the community.
- ✓ International Women's Day was celebrated on 11 March 2024 focusing on advancing gender equality through addressing issues of gender-based violence, transforming harmful gender norms, and promoting women's leadership and inclusion. The celebration included various sports programs aimed at breaking stereotypes.
- ✓ 71 volunteers received training on GBV core concepts and GBV risk mitigation and referral pathways, enhancing their capacity to support and address gender-based violence within the Rohingya community.
- ✓ 26 women shopkeepers were introduced to market linkage and business models to enhance their skills and capacity to run the women's market, fostering economic independence and sustainability.



Figure: Session with SASA! Together Community activists.



Figure: Cricket match played by the community volunteers to reflect their dedication to gender equality on Women's Day



**BRAC**

**Organizational objectives:** BRAC GBV focused on preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV) by adopting a comprehensive survivor-centred approach within the Rohingya and host communities.

**Key Highlights**

- ❖ In 2024 BRAC is providing GBV services in 21 Camps and 5 Host communities through, 13 Women Friendly Spaces (WFS), 18 Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS), 2 Multi-Purpose Community Centres (MPCC), 2 Integrated Community Centres (ICC), 5 male focused Community Engagement Centre (CEC).
- ❖ Focusing on the goal of women empowerment BRAC continued their structured Life skill sessions with 180 women and Girls and Girl Shine curriculum for 990 girls and caregivers.
- ❖ In Q1, 2024, BRAC started new batch of Male Role Model workshop in 9 camps with the support of UNHCR. A total number of 180 men and boys are enrolled which included 30 sessions of a structured Male Role Model (MRM) module.

**Major Achievements/Activities**

- ✓ BRAC celebrated International Women's Day in Rohingya refugee 11Rohingya camps (1E, 4, 4 Ext, 5, 6, 7, 8E, 14, 17, 19 and 21) on March 7, 2023, with a focus on empowering women, aligning with the theme "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress." Activities included art competition, cultural programme, debate competition, sharing success stories, couple sessions, discussions with male role models, and sports activities. Participants emphasized the significance of women's contributions and advocated for opportunities for skill development.
- ✓ On 12<sup>th</sup> February, Country Representative of UNHCR Bangladesh, Ms. Sumbul Rizvi along with other UNHCR officials has visited the Community Centre at Camp 1 East with a view to see the Men & Boys Engagement Program and engaged in an FGD/conversation with Role Models.
- ✓ On 25<sup>th</sup> February, Gulru, Deputy Executive Director, BRAC UK. visited the centers of camp 20 Ext. and talked with adolescent girls and women. Discussion was happened about community challenges or barriers, and community people also expressed their thoughts about how women friendly spaces support them to mitigate their challenges through various services.
- ✓ On 27<sup>th</sup> February, Devid Bugden (ISCG Principal Coordinator) along with other GBV Sub-Sector officials visited the Community Centre at Camp 1 East with a view to see the Men & Boys Engagement Program.



Figure: Girls are celebrating International Women's Day in Kutpalong RC.



Figure: Ms. Gulru talking with Rohingya women in Camp 20 ext.



**MUKTI COX'S BAZAR**



**Organizational objectives:** Mukti Cox's Bazar carries a few objectives e.g. to provide humanitarian assistance in a disaster, to make greater mass people free from illiteracy and prejudice, to work for establishing women and child rights and dignity and women empowerment, to provide health, education, and income generating support for the underprivileged people, rehabilitation of distressed, underprivileged and right-deprived children and women and provide legal assistance to them.

**Key Highlights**

- ❖ The last January, Mukti Cox's Bazar distributed a total of 1200 dignity kits as a form of assistance to the crisis-affected families, due to the massive fire attack in Camp 5.
- ❖ Eight (8) WFSs (Women Friendly Spaces) of Whykong, Palongkhali, Camp-1W, Camp 1E (both), Camp 7, Camp-22, Camp-24 have undergone through construction work to make WFSs accessible for Persons with Disabilities.
- ❖ A total of 25 participants attended the training on disability inclusion.

**Major Achievements/Activities**

- ✓ With the support of UNFPA, the GBVIE program of Mukti Cox's Bazar celebrated International Women's Day-2024 throughout the 35 Women Friendly Spaces in Host and Rohingya community. To empower women, events like My Gifts and My Talents, Embrace Self-Care, and Strength, Block Print Competition, Care Equally, Male Engagement through Awareness sessions, through which a total of 292 participants were reached.
- ✓ In March 2024, Mukti Cox's Bazar organized training on Disability Inclusion, conducted among the staff of Mukti and other stakeholders with the aims to build the capacity of the GBV staff on GBV and Disability Inclusion tools and share promising practices in the area of GBV and disability programming. A total of 25 participants attended the training.
- ✓ Last January, Mukti Cox's Bazar distributed a total of 1200 Dignity Kits to provide support to the victims of the devastating Camp 05 fire incident. These kits were meant to help lessen some of the immediate challenges faced by those affected and empower them to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of the tragedy.



*Figure: Celebrating International Women's Day 2024 with a block print competition in Ratnapalong WFS.*



*Figure: Training on Disability Inclusion*



## GUK (GANA UNNAYAN KENDRA)

**Organizational objectives:** Gana Unnayan Kendra is working through GBViE

Programme, supported by UNFPA. The goal of the Programme is to reduce Gender Based Violence through Capacity Building and Raising Awareness among Rohingya Refugees in 18 camps and hosts community. GUK has 09 Women Led Community Center (WLCC) and 01 Multi-Purpose Center (MPC).

### Key Highlights

- ❖ Celebrated International Women's Day 2024 in camp 1W, 2W, 2E, 8E, 11, 12, 13, 15, 19, 20, 22, 24 and Ratna Palang, Shamlapur and Sabrang host communities.
- ❖ 1760 (Women-920, Men-840) community change makers and community leaders from 09 Rohingya Camps and 01 Host Community received training on men and boys' engagement.
- ❖ 200 women including 17 Persons with Disabilities received life skill training on handicraft making.
- ❖ Organized 10 monthly consultation meeting with institutional allies where total number of participants 180 (Women-77, Men-103).
- ❖ Organized 11 Theater for Development (TFD) show.

### Major Achievements/Activities

- ✓ GUK-GBViE Programme supported by UNFPA, celebrated International Women's Day 2024 in camp 1W, 2W, 2E, 8E, 11, 12, 13, 15, 19, 20, 22, 24 and Ratna Palang, Shamlapur and Sabrang host communities. GUK Organized events in WLCC and conducted outreach sessions with Self-help Group, Community Change Maker, Community Leaders, Religious Leaders and Community People and Persons with Disabilities. Events were WLCC based fair, drama show, discussion session, debate session, hena, art session, game, cultural activity, where total 1229 participants (Women-925, Men-304, Persons with Disabilities-32) were participated.
- ✓ GUK organized 10 batches of life skill training with handicraft making beneficiaries at camp 2W, 8E, 11, 12, 15, 20, 22, Ratna Palang, Shamlapur and Sabrang host communities supported by UNFPA. After the two days long training, they engaged for 35 days to learn handicrafts products such as wall mat, rocking, flower vast, doormat, bag etc.
- ✓ 11 Theater for Development (TFD) show have organized in camp 1W, 2W, 11, 12, 15, 19, 20, 22, 24, Sabrang and Ratna Palang and approximately 2475 (Women-550 and Men-1925) community people enjoyed the drama shows.



Figure: Drama Show at Camp 19, performed by community TFD group.



IWD Fair at Camp 22 women led community center (WLCC), visited by Abdullah Noman, CMA of camp-22