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GBV Sub-Sector Coordination updates

- **Coordination with GBVSS Partners:** To enhance communication, collaboration, and collective action, the GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS) facilitated two (2) Monthly Coordination Meetings, engaging 57 GBVSS partners. The Sub-Sector also worked closely with partner organizations to ensure their adherence to global standards in GBV service delivery.
- **Field-level coordination highlights:** The GBVSS field coordination team actively engaged in **21 camp-based coordination meetings across 33 Rohingya refugee camps** aimed at strengthening field-level coordination and ensuring that comprehensive GBV services including ethical and safe referrals, are in place.
 - The GBVSS team continues to collaborate with CiC offices, protection focal points, key sector leads, and GBV actors. Advocacy with CiC officials, along with training for non-GBV actors, remains a top priority to address the gaps in GBV services.
 - Advocacy efforts focused on addressing **case verification requests** from government stakeholders by orienting them on how these practices violate survivor-centered approaches and the 'Do No Harm' principles, how GBV actors can extend support in counseling instead of verifications. In response to **GBV data requests from non-technical actors**, advocacy highlighted the use of the GBVIMS Information Sharing Protocol, ensuring that only percentages, rather than identifiable survivor data, are shared. For **Women-Friendly Spaces (WFS) visits by male government officials**, advocacy emphasized adherence to global GBV guidelines, recommending that female stakeholders visit these spaces while male officials contribute through broader coordination efforts without accessing the spaces directly. All these issues led GBVSS to initiate the development of guidance notes for government stakeholders in this quarter.

The camp-level GBV actors' meetings prioritized the selection of Camp Focal Points (CFPs) due to the high staff turnover across agencies, ensuring continuity in leadership and coordination. The frequent turnover of CiC officials also remained a significant obstacle. To address this, GBVSS is working on an advocacy strategy to ensure consistent and ongoing engagement on critical issues.

- **Coordination with GBV Camp Focal Points:** GBVSS field coordination team held **3 monthly coordination meetings with Camp Focal Points from the 33 camps** during this quarter. These meetings were crucial to capacitate them to update and verify GBV referral pathways monthly, address field level challenges; advocate with CiCs and other stakeholders for GBV risk mitigation and safe and confidential referral.
 - This quarter, all 33 Camp Focal Points were oriented on the GBV Camp Focal Points' Monthly Guidance Sheet, equipping them to smoothly perform their responsibilities.
- **GBVSS Guideline for Training Support:** The GBV Sub Sector (GBVSS) has developed a guideline to support GBVSS partners for training with an aim to adopt a structured approach to training and support, fostering



collaboration to strengthen local partners' skills in GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response. This also focuses on the prioritization of technical support and localization through training of trainers and cascading efforts for maximum impact. The guideline will be shared in the next quarter.

- **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:
 - Provided GBV data analysis that fed into the joint Protection Risk Monitoring quarterly reports, Protection flash updates/ border security updates- particularly in relation to the GBV risks and impact on women and girls amid camp insecurity.
- **GBV Strategy (2024-2026):** The GBV Sub-Sector, along with its Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), has been working to finalize the GBVSS Strategy for 2024-2026. This strategy encompasses a situational analysis of GBV in emergencies in Cox's Bazaar and outlines the five major strategic priorities : Coordination and collaboration; GBV prevention and risk mitigation; response; capacity building and advocacy. It also outlines detailed rolling work plans that would be reviewed annually.
- **GBVSS Service Audit:** In Q2, the GBVSS issued a call for a national consultant to conduct a 2-month GBVSS Service Audit. The consultant will perform a comprehensive assessment of the quality and standards of services across a representative sample of service providers among the GBVSS members across 33 camps and 11 host community sites. This audit aims to identify gaps and generate recommendations to inform planning for the JRP 2025.

Capacity Building Events

- **Training on GBV Basic Concept for Non-GBV Actors:** On 15-16 May 2024, GBVSS conducted training on GBV core concepts, referral mechanisms, data protection, and coordination strategies for 26 camp-level sector focal points (19 men, 7 women) from Site Management and Site Development, Protection, Food Security, Education Sector, and the Child Protection Sub-Sector. The evaluation showed a significant increase in knowledge of GBV risk mitigation mainstreaming, with pre-test scores of up to 6 for 82% of participants and post-test scores of 10 for 94% of participants.

Key Milestones

- ★ **GBV-focused Secondary Data Review (SDR) workshop:** GBVSS conducted a GBV-focused Secondary Data Review (SDR) workshop with 35 GBV actors, as guided by the global GBV Analytical Framework for information mapping. The workshop focused on the step-by-step guidance for Cox's Bazar GBV actors to collectively create a contextualized central document compiling all critical evidence to inform risks and needs for women, girls and vulnerable groups from 2017-2024. The outcome of the workshop will be a 10-page condensed Secondary Data Review report to inform 2025 Joint Response Plan (JRP) and GBV sub-sector's long-term strategy. The report is expected to be released by the end of September 2024.
- ★ GBVSS conducted 2 GBV IMS workshops on Data Protection and Information Sharing Protocols (ISP) to strengthen ethical data management across the 15 GBVIMS Data Gathering Organizations (DGOs).
- ★ **Enhanced quarterly GBV risk monitoring system through systematic KIs:** GBVSS finalized the GBV service facility mapping in February 2024. The service mapping shall serve as the basis for a service audit proposed in quarter 3 2024 to ensure quality and standards for all GBV related services across the camps.



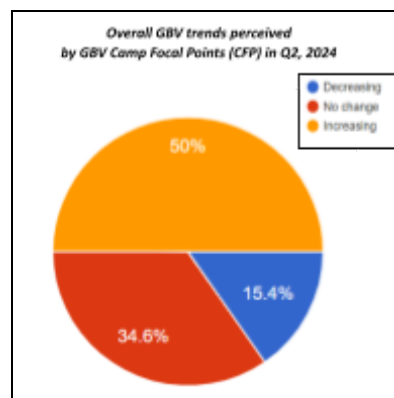
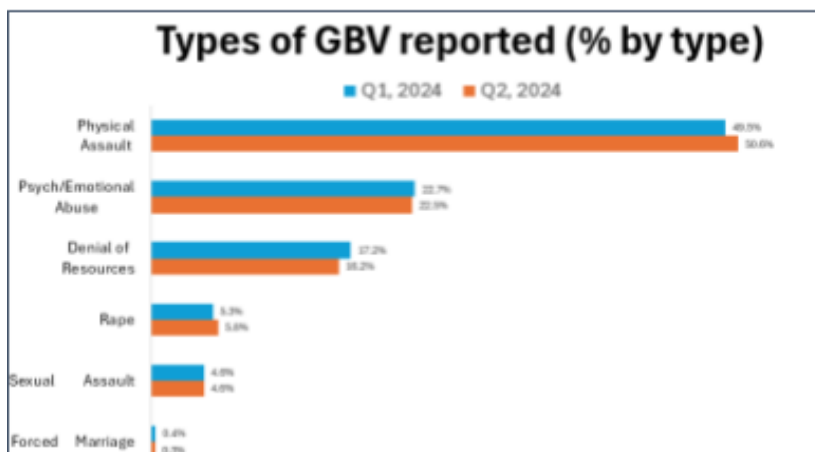
GBV Situations in Q2 2024 ([link to the detailed GBVIMS factsheet, Q2 2024](#))

GBV types: reported in GBVIMS

Physical assault remained the most common type of GBV reported in Q2 2024, accounting for (50.6%) of the incidents reported in GBVIMS. The trend was similar Q1 2024, **Psychological/Emotional abuse** (22.5%) and **Denial of resources** (16.2%) were other forms of violence reported respectively.

According to GBV Camp Focal Points, **Sexual violence** accounted for 10.4% of reported cases in Q2 2024 (up from 9.9% in Q1). **Rape** accounted for 5.8% and **Sexual assault at 4.6%** of the total reported cases of sexual violence. Despite the rise in the number of cases reported, field based GBV actors confirm that sexual violence, including marital and extra-marital incidents, remain severely under-reported.

Types of GBV reported (by %) under GBVIMS in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh



Of all the reported incidents of GBV in Q2 2024, **73.8% are Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)**. In Q1 2024, **IPV constituted 74.8%** of the reported cases. According to the quarterly field perception survey, **50% of GBV Camp Focal Points (CFPs) across 33 camps reported an increase in GBV incidents in their respective sites** 34.6% indicated no change in the situation, and 15.4% observed a decrease over the past three months.

Emerging GBV risks

Beyond the GBV incidents reported in GBVIMS, GBV camp focal points (CFPs) identified several emerging threats to women and girls in Rohingya communities during Q2 2024, linked to the escalating security crisis.

1. Organized Groups and Crimes Against Rohingya Women and Girls

- Forced Marriages, Abductions, and Rapes: Armed and organized groups pose significant threats, with increased reports of harassment, physical violence, sexual violence and kidnapping. Reports indicate rising cases of women and girls being abducted and taken to host communities. Incidents of rape by organized

groups are on the rise, but these crimes often go unreported due to fear of retaliation, as indicated by Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with GBV Camp Focal Points and field GBV actors in Q2, 2024.

- **Host Community Involvement:** GBV Camp Focal Points (CFPs) have noted a rise in GBV cases involving host community members, including marriages between host community men and young Rohingya refugees.
- **Recruitment and GBV Threats:** Ongoing conflicts near the Myanmar border have escalated protection risks, with recruitment efforts increasing GBV threats. Many youth flee the camps to avoid recruitment, leaving women and girls in their families at risk of being targeted by the organized groups. .

2. Sustained and Complicated IPV Incidents

- **Gambling and Substance Use:** The increase in internet access has led to widespread online gambling, contributing to household tensions and escalating domestic violence.
- **Unemployment:** Reduced labor opportunities have altered household dynamics, further fueling IPV.
- **Polygamy:** Insecurity and recruitment fears have caused men to move between camps, leading to multiple intimate relationships, marriages, and more female-headed households, which are linked to persistent GBV.

3. Population Groups with Increased Vulnerability to GBV

- **Adolescent Girls and Female-Headed Households:** These groups are particularly vulnerable to harassment, abductions, and forced marriages. Female-headed households face higher risks from organized groups, who often impose threats and commit crimes.
- **Persons Living with Disabilities:** They experience higher rates of abuse due to dependency, isolation, and stigma. In addition to facing barriers in accessing services like public tube wells and latrines, they are often extorted or discriminated against by community leaders and family members.



GBV actors meeting at Camp 13 on camp specific challenges and way forwards

Challenges and Recommendations

<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ With reduced funding, maintaining adequate staffing for GBV case management and ensuring services are available during nights and weekends is challenging. ❖ Rapid turnover of CiC, APBn, and Majhis creates response gaps and hampers effective training of new staff ❖ Due to insufficient legal services and safe shelter spaces for survivors, including for Gender-Diverse Populations and male survivors -survivors decline services and cases remain unresolved.
<p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Advocate with donors and authorities to retain key experienced staff, and explore options to strengthen referral mechanisms and partnerships across sectors, ensuring survivor safety during nights and weekends. ❖ Strengthen coordination mechanisms and regular orientation sessions for new and existing staff to ensure consistency. ❖ Advocacy for expanded legal support and shelter options, and streamline the referral process to reduce complexity and increase access. ❖ Improve the accessibility and confidentiality of Health & MHPSS services by orienting them on survivor centered approach

Resources and Data

- GBVIMS Q1 2024 Factsheet ([link](#)), Q2 2024 Factsheet ([link](#)) and the GBVIMS 2023 Annual Report ([link](#))
- GBVSS Q1 2024 Quarterly Bulletin, please visit this [link](#)
- For more information on GBVSS Coordination, please visit the Rohingya Response, GBV sub-sector [page](#)



Training of Non-GBV Actors on GBV Core Concept to strengthen coordination and referral mechanism



World Health Organization

Organizational objectives:

- To strengthen health care response and public health institutions to address Gender Based Violence in Cox's Bazar.
- Ensure prevention of and response to gender-based violence are fully integrated into the work of the health cluster, including through the sexual and reproductive health services and the mental health working groups.
- Strengthen the health sector response to GBV, including through support to capacity building, policy and action plan development
- Foster and strengthen coordination with other actors in health and Child protection, GBV SS, Protection, MHPSS and SRHR working group.

Major Achievements/Activities

- Developed key recommendations and indicators for GBV-health interventions to be included into health sector assessments.
- Revised and printed health facility GBV register and the CMR treatment flowchart for quality data collection and provision of proper treatment as per the health standard guideline.
- Conducted 2 meetings with midwives and doctors from Ukhiya and Teknaf camp from; Brac, IOM facility, UNFPA-RTMI facility, UNICEF facility camp 5 and Health post to discuss; GBV prevalence, existing internal and external referral mechanisms, Information management, GBV registry and CMR protocol, Community awareness about CMRIPV existing services, Health seeking behavior of GBV survivors, Gaps, and areas of support. One of the key gaps was the need for GBV registry and CMRIPV treatment flowchart to guide the medical workers on administering treatment to survivors. As a result, the health sector allocated funding and the GBV registry and CMRIPV flow chart was printed.
- Contributed to the GBV SS 5W and incorporated health sector GBV interventions.
- Represented the Health sector in the GBV SS coordination meeting



CARE Bangladesh

Organizational objectives: The "Centrality of Protection in Protracted Crises" project, operating in Camps 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, and the Jaliapalong Host Community in Cox's Bazar, aims to prevent, respond to, and mitigate the impact of gender-based violence (GBV) through comprehensive initiatives. These include raising awareness, offering psychological support services to survivors, implementing preventive measures, advocating for policy changes, ensuring early response to GBV cases, providing education on menstrual hygiene management (MHM), delivering life skills-based training for women's empowerment, fostering a culture of respect and equality.

Key Highlights

- A total of 1,645 individuals, including 41 persons with disabilities, participated in community outreach and sensitization activities focused on GBV awareness. This increased awareness led to improved reporting of incidents.
- Approximately 4,135 individuals, including women, men, boys, and girls, engaged in various activities inside the WGSS to build self-reliance and mitigate GBV.
- In response to Cyclone Remal, heavy rainfall, and landslides, WGSS facilities were used as emergency shelters for affected people, including 16 families in Camps 11, 12, and 16. The shelters provided PSS/PFA support to 569 individuals based on their needs in both camp and host community settings.
- The Women Lead in Emergencies (WLiE) group received training in communication, leadership skills, and basic numeracy. This empowerment enables them to effectively implement their joint actions based on their assessments.



Rapid Gender Analysis: In collaboration with national GiHA Laura Tashjian CARE US RGA Global Advisor conducted the training for the Cox Bazaar humanitarian Sector leads and the HTTC, on last April 21-23 in Dhaka. The Gender technical thought leadership, increased capacity of sector leads on gender analysis and intersectionality, higher visibility of cross-functional needs in developing RGAs and further investments in capacity building, including of local partners added valued in this initiative.



Graduation of Girl Shine Group : In June, 120 adolescent girls graduated from the Girl Shine curriculum, celebrated at a graduation ceremony attended by CIC, camps, majhis, women's groups, and caregivers. Token of gifts and certificates along with menstrual hygiene management (MHM) kits were distributed to the graduated adolescent's girls.

Major Achievement/ Activities:

Training on psychological first aid (PFA) in disaster risk management: CARE Bangladesh conducted training on Psychological First Aid (PFA) and PSEA for the first responders involved in disaster risk management. This training aimed to provide immediate emotional and psychological support to individuals affected by disasters and to uphold PSEA core principles. The training, held at Camps 15 and 16, included 109 participants from CARE-WASH, DRR, Site Management, CRR, and GBV-MUKTI staff and volunteers

Partnership Approach: CARE believe in localization approach to build the leadership role among the local communities including WRO/WLO)).The head of CARE Regional Office Roberts Sila and GBV program team visited to partner Mukti's sub office to foster mutual understanding and partnership commitment.



Good Neighbors Bangladesh



Organizational objectives: GNB aims to address and respond to Gender-based violence effectively by implementing prevention and response activities to ensure comprehensive care and assistance in the aftermath of violence, advocating for social initiatives to empower survivors and creating a supportive environment, building the capacity of staff and collaborating with other actors, government agencies and stakeholders to ensure a coordinated and effective response in Camp-15 and 16.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (APRIL – JUNE 2024)

- ❖ GNB conducted GBV awareness and risk mitigation activities in the camp and host community with a total of 2394 men, women, boys and girls including PwD, from Camp 15 and 16 received the GBV risk mitigation information and available services and ASRH which included intimate partner violence.
- ❖ To address gender-based violence, GNB implemented the Engaging Men and Accountable Practices (EMAP) program for preventing gender-based violence, enrolled and completed these 210 men and women (125M, 85F including PwD) from the camp. Alongside, a total of 538 (115B, 84G, 164M, 175F including 06PwD) persons reached with GBV dialogues sessions at the camp level with the support of GBV community mobilizers.
- ❖ Dignity kits were successfully distributed at Camp 15, reaching 1,083 beneficiaries, including GBV survivors, vulnerable women and girls, and those who are pregnant or in need of support.



Dignity kit distribution by Actors & CIC in Camp-15

KEY HIGHLIGHTS (APRIL – JUNE 2024)

- ❖ A visitor team from GN Japan Mr. Yuji KAWAI (Director, International Programmed Division), and Mr. Yukie Yoshimura, the Project Manager, visited the WFS and MPCAC in Camp 15 and 16 to observe various activities, programs and GBV awareness sessions had a conversation with beneficiaries to understand the camp's situation and their feelings.
- ❖ GNB celebrated Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Day with 80 women and girls (15 adolescent girls and 65 women) at the camp 15. This included discussion sessions (the use of clean menstrual products, access to private and safe sanitation facilities, and proper disposal of menstrual waste), rally and distribution of gifts that promoted self-awareness, and practices of personal hygiene during menstruation.
- ❖ GNB celebrated World Day against Trafficking in person observation with Total-844 (219 Boys, 217 Girls, 247 Male, 161 Female including PwD-25) through various activities highlighting the prevention of GBV and VAC during human trafficking.



GNJP visit in WFS and feeling sharing with beneficiaries



International Rescue Committee

Organizational objectives: Women Protection and Empowerment- Working with and for Women and Girls collaboratively with Boys and men to eliminate threats, harm, violence and promote prevention, response, protection and empowerment. Provide specialized services as per the needs and ensure GBV services are inclusive, available and accessible to all.

Key Highlights

- With IRC's support, community mobilizers and group members from YPSA facilitated awareness sessions in Ukhiya and Ramu Upazila, reaching 2,700 individuals. Topics included cyberbullying, polygamy, GBV referral pathways, early marriage, dowry, and more.
- IRC conducted a four-day training on "Caring for Child Sexual Abuse and Child Marriage Survivors" for 19 participants from IRC, YPSA, NM, and AID COMILLA. The training significantly improved participants' knowledge on child sexual abuse, child marriage, and safety planning.
- IRC facilitated 16 case conferencing meetings across various camps and host communities. These meetings focused on addressing challenges, improving coordination for safe referrals, and integrating sexual and reproductive health services.
- Coordination Meeting: YPSA organized a coordination meeting in Ukhiya Upazila to enhance collaboration among GBV and non-GBV stakeholders (Women and Child Affairs Office, Youth Development, DSS and law enforcement agency, including police). The meeting fostered stronger relationships and improved referral mechanisms for GBV survivors.



Radio listening session on early marriage



Case conferencing at Camp 22

- IRC conducted a comprehensive **PSEA training** for GBV staff, and separately for incentive workers enhancing their ability to identify misconduct, understand power dynamics, and reinforce PSEA principles and survivor-centered approaches.
- IRC provided training on **GBVIMS Plus version 2** for case management staff, equipping them with the necessary skills to transition smoothly to the new system and ensuring secure and high-quality data management for GBV cases.
- **Basic Sexual and Reproductive Health Training:** IRC organized training for caseworkers to enhance their capacity in SRH service provision and referral mechanisms.

- **SASA! Together Awareness Phase:** Regular monthly dialogue meetings were held in five locations, reaching thousands through community mobilization activities. Discussions focused on power dynamics, addressing men's power over women, and fostering change within communities.



SASA! Together Session in Ramu

- Session on **Girl Shine Early Marriage Curriculum** were conducted across several locations, empowering girls to create safety plans, understand gender dynamics, and make informed decisions.

- IRC delivered **Women Rise** sessions addressing emotional and psychological challenges faced by women, equipping them with tools to manage stress and emotions effectively.



Women Rise session in Camp 13 WGSS

Following the case conferencing meeting a health worker of UN&FWC, Teknaf expressed

➡ *"Every 6 months, IRC organizes a case conference meeting at the Whykhong center. This is the third time I have attended, and it has proven invaluable for identifying gaps and solutions in GBV case management. The meetings highlight successes and address GBV risk concerns effectively. I appreciate that IRC ensures robust support for survivors facing various forms of violence and protection issues. When I receive cases referred by IRC, I strive to provide the necessary support based on individual needs"*