



## GBV Sub-Sector Monthly Meeting Minutes -October 2024

<b>Date</b>	14 October 2024, Monday	<b>Venue:</b> Conference Room-1, UNFPA CXB Office
<b>Meeting Modality</b>	In-Person	<b>Time:</b> 02:00 pm to 04:00 pm
<b>Chair</b>	Annie Waweru; GBV SS Coordinator	<b>Preparation of Minutes:</b> GBVSS Coordination Team
<b>Partner's present</b>	<b>As per attendance sheet:</b> GiHA WG, UNFPA, CARE, COAST Foundation, UNICEF, FIVDB, BNPS, Pulse BD, Good Neighbors Bangladesh, CODEC, CPSS, Nari Maitree, AID-Comilla, Bandhu Social Welfare Society, SKUS, Action Aid Bangladesh, UN Women, DRC, World Vision, BRAC, Mukti Cox's Bazar, IOM, JNUS, Plan International Bangladesh, IRC, ASD, Help Cox's Bazar, Caritas Bangladesh, UNFPA, Protection Sector, GBVSS	
<b>Agenda</b>	<p><b>Welcome, opening remarks and introduction</b></p> <p>Sachchi Karki, UNFPA Humanitarian Coordinator (GBVSS Interim Coordinator), warmly welcomed all participants to the meeting. She introduced Annie Waweru, the new GBVSS Coordinator and Yamuna Shrestha, the new GBV SS Information Management Officer, and handed over the facilitation to Annie after a round of introductions.</p>	
	<p>❖ <b>GBVSS updates and discussions:</b></p> <p><b>1. <u>Key Coordination Deliverables:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>GBVSS Strategy 2024-2026:</b> The GBVSS Strategy 2024-2026 has been released and shared with partners, along with the meeting invitation on 07/10/2024. <b>Key Takeaways:</b> GBVSS will hold a half-day workshop with partners on the strategy by the end of Q4 2024.</li> <li>● <b>GBV SOP Alignment:</b> The GBV SOP is being aligned with the global standards, which were revised in 2022. The SOP's finalization is expected by the end of October 2024. <b>Key Takeaway:</b> GBVSS will contact partners and the SAG to ask for their revisions and contributions to the required sections to finalize the SOP by the deadline.</li> <li>● <b>GBVSS Membership Criteria:</b> The GBVSS membership criteria have been revised and reviewed by the SAG members. <b>Key Takeaway:</b> GBVSS will share the updated criteria together with the meeting minutes.</li> <li>● <b>GBVIMS ISP Translation:</b> GBVSS has translated the GBVIMS ISP (Information Sharing Protocol). <b>Key Takeaway:</b> GBVSS will share the draft with the GBVIMS TT members for review after the next TT meeting</li> <li>● <b>GBVIMS Q3 Factsheet &amp; GBVSS Bulletin:</b> GBVSS has completed FGDs, KIIs, and a perception survey to develop the GBVIMS Q3 factsheet and GBVSS bulletin. <b>Key Takeaway:</b> The advocacy materials have been developed and soon to be released.</li> <li>● <b>GBVSS Resource Material Collection:</b> GBVSS has compiled a collection of resources and knowledge materials in a shared folder. Partners are encouraged to access and utilize any modules they may need until or unless there is any red flag. <b>Key Takeaway:</b> Partners can keep sharing useful tools and resources to support their and others activities.</li> <li>● <b>GBV Service Audit 2024:</b> As part of the 2024 GBV Service Audit, GBVSS has completed 11 FGDs, 17 KIIs, and 64 facility audits.</li> </ul>	



**Key Takeaway:** The first draft report of the GBV service audit findings to be shared with partners at the end of November.

## 2. Context update - as of October 2024

- **Q3 GBV Risk Monitoring:** According to the CFP perception survey for Q3 2024, 71% of respondents observed an overall increase in GBV incidents in their response sites. The most prevalent types of GBV incidents were physical assault (34%), denial of resources (24%), psychological/emotional abuse (15%), rape (8%), and sexual harassment (8%). Additionally, 58.1% of camps reported that women and girls felt unsafe or very unsafe. Intimate partner violence (IPV) was driven by factors such as unemployment, lack of livelihood opportunities, polygamy, gambling, and improper use of technology. Emerging concerns included threats against caseworkers and volunteers, organized group activities and perpetration of violence, physical and psychological exploitation by the host community, and the exploitation of adolescent girls. Technology misuse, such as online gambling, exposure to pornography, sexual grooming, and blackmail, was also identified as a growing issue.

- **Field Coordination findings:**

i) **Data Confidentiality Issues in Camp Coordination Meetings:** In specific camps, GBV actors were found to be sharing case numbers during monthly coordination meeting minutes, which violates the GBV guiding principles and the survivor-centered approach. The GBVSS emphasized the need to refresh the knowledge of field-level staff, both GBV caseworkers and managers, on the GBV Information Sharing Protocol (ISP) and the importance of data confidentiality. The discussion highlighted the pressure from Camp-in-Charges (CiCs) to share data and the potential impact on program implementation as a possible reason for this data sharing. To address this, GBVSS has finalized and shared the dynamic FAQs, targeted for government stakeholders, with GBVSS partners for review on 07/10/2024 and to be completed by 15/10/2024.

**Key Takeaway:**

- GBVSS will release the final CiC FAQ document by next week and share the [document](#) to add other questions they are being asked by the CiCs.
- GBVSS will also triangulate ISNA security-related findings with risk monitoring data to better inform programming and strengthen advocacy efforts.

ii) **Threats to GBV Caseworkers and Volunteers:** In certain camps, GBV caseworkers and volunteers are being threatened by groups demanding to withhold services from members of opposing groups. Volunteers also fear moving between blocks due to these threats.

**Key Takeaway:** Protection sector requested GBVSS to share the camp name, security incidents or types of threats (without revealing specific details) with the Protection sector to facilitate better mitigation measures.

## 3. Joint Response Plan 2025

- ❖ **Key Highlights from JRP Mid-Year Reflection Workshop:** GBVSS shared the key takeaways for 2025 from the JRP Mid-Year Reflection workshop held on 21 August 2024, the detailed note was shared with partners on 07/10/2024.

**Case Management:** Ensure consistent supervision across agencies for quality and accountability. Strengthen



remote case management for emergencies by building staff capacity and developing inclusive modules for gender-diverse populations and persons with disabilities.

**Awareness Raising & Social Mobilization:** Leverage trained volunteers in informal settings to reduce costs, expand outreach, and empower women and girls as community leaders. Establish a unified approach for message dissemination and risk mitigation, with standardized guidelines for volunteer capacity building. Strengthen donor engagement by advocating for gender norm transformation and increased resources for livelihood initiatives.

**Capacity Building:** Transition to online training for cost efficiency, translated into Bangla and Burmese. Focus 2024 training on GBV in security crises, child survivors, GDP/LGBTQI issues, and intersectionality.

**Programme Standards:** Develop common materials and platforms for knowledge sharing, improve partner mapping, and engage community volunteers for sustainable service delivery. Address service gaps, integrate GBV messaging with other sectors, and collaborate with MoWCA and DSS for long-term solutions.

**Gaps and Opportunities:** Create a joint advocacy strategy focusing on flexible, responsive programming and involve local partners in addressing emerging needs and improving coordination. Success Indicators for 2024/2025 include addressing emerging needs, enhancing local partner capacity, and improving coordination.

❖ **GBV Service Availability & Gaps:**

In August 2024, GBVSS mapped out available services and gaps across camps. The forum discussion focused on how the rationalization process in 2023-2024 led actors to close down facilities and services, which has now resulted in noticeable gaps. GBVSS is currently assessing the quality standards and the capacity of agencies to deliver services in each location, while also considering the rationalization principles.

UNHCR emphasized the discussion on the realistic need of no. of case workers per facility considering the no. of cases received per facility on a monthly basis that needs to be discussed before JRP.

**Key takeaways:** GBVSS-IMO will convene an ad hoc meeting with partners as soon as possible to brainstorm solutions on service gaps and rationalization ahead of the JRP. The meeting will focus on the 5W analysis of service gaps and the provision of services for Gender Diverse Populations.

❖ **Inter-Sector Need Assessment 2024 (ISNA 2024):** GBVSS presented the preliminary findings of the ISNA GBV data analysis-

A significant percentage of households reported coping with resource shortages by purchasing food on credit, borrowing money from relatives and friends, and cutting back on non-food expenses, such as healthcare, education, and female hygiene products. Additionally, 87% of households indicated that women and girls of reproductive age (12-49) had access to specialized reproductive health services.

While GBV risk monitoring highlights a significant increase in risks for women and girls, ISNA findings show that most households reported no increase or only a moderate increase in safety or security concerns for women, girls, men, and boys. The top three locations considered unsafe by women and girls were streets/pathways, public toilets/latrines, and market/shopping areas, with the main concerns being poor lighting at night, the risk of criminal group activity, and the threat of sexual assault or harassment by individuals other than intimate partners.

Despite these concerns, 94% of households were aware of the availability of GBV services in their communities. Most households indicated they would refer survivors of gender-based violence to WFS/WGSS, although many also mentioned CiCs and Majhis as referral points. Movement restrictions due to light at night, stigmatization, and distant service locations were identified as the top barriers to accessing GBV services. About 50% of



households believed that women, girls, and other survivors could access services within 72 hours of an incident.

***The ISNA 2024 Data analysis for GBV can be found in the attached presentation (below linked).***

- ❖ **JRP 2025 Timeline:** GBVSS shared the updated timeline for JRP 2025 with partners:
  - Call for JRP projects: 24 October 2024
  - Town Hall on project template, GAM, and cross-cutting themes: 27 October 2024
  - Project submission deadline: 07 November 2024
  - Peer review: 12-21 November 2024
  - Selection completion: 24 November 2024
  - Final project adjustments: 25-28 November 2024
  - HPC submission: 1-3 December 2024
- ❖ **Peer Review Team:** GBVSS will issue a call for interest next week to form a Peer Review Team (PRT) once ISCG shares the Peer Review Guidance Note for the 2025 Joint Response Plan (JRP). Reference documents will be compiled, including activity mapping, gap analysis, field coordination analysis, and service audit findings and shared with partners. An orientation meeting for PRT members will be held one week before the proposal review for PRT members will be held the week before the proposal review.
- ❖ **GiHA Coordination on GAM:** Sector members and gender focal points will participate in the GAM orientation process and capacity-building initiatives organized by the GiHA Working Group (WG). The orientation will focus on tailored GAM analysis for GBVSS partners. Additionally, GAM reports related to project proposals for JRP 2025 will be reviewed.

#### **Key Discussion Points:**

**16 Days of Activism:** Once UNFPA releases the concept note, it will be contextualized. GBVSS will lead the 16 Days of Activism (DoA) campaign in collaboration with GiHA WG. A task team will be formed, and meetings will be held to ensure timely planning of joint activities and budget allocations.

#### **Technology facilitated GBV:**

UNDP recently researched Technology-Facilitated GBV (TFGBV), highlighting the negative impacts of technology in perpetuating GBV. With GBVIMS data and perception surveys showing online perpetration as an emerging issue, GBVSS initiated a discussion on maximizing impact with limited resources and identifying strategic entry points for mainstreaming TF-GBV services within existing interventions. UNHCR shared their ongoing development of materials on cyberbullying, and PSEA Network's video materials were noted as effective. IRC also mentioned having relevant resource materials. Collaboration with the Anti-Trafficking WG, Youth WG, and the Education Sector was identified as a potential way forward.

**Key takeaways:** GBVSS will organize a dedicated webinar or meeting with relevant stakeholders to explore our entry points, consider the ongoing context, and identify action points. It will also create a shared folder to compile available resource materials on technology-facilitated GBV from partners.

**Emergency Preparedness and Response (Dignity Kits):** Members of the GBVSS need to focus on securing dignity kits for approximately 309,667 Rohingya women and girls of reproductive age, which represents 31% of the population as of August 2024. In light of recent emergencies, if we aim to assist just 5% of this group, we would need around 15,000 kits.



However, current stock levels stand at only 4,775 as of October 2024. The GBVSS has stressed the importance of planning to include dignity kits in the upcoming JRP programming to ensure an effective emergency response.

**Operational updates:**

- **Case Management WG:** The October meeting was hosted at the IRC office on 7th October 2024, where engagement with GDP case management staff took place for orientation, supported by the GDP Technical Working Group. The bi-yearly report was concluded, and analysis is currently in progress. The next meeting is scheduled for 4th November 2024.
- **Prevention Working Group:** No update
- **GiHA WG:** The monthly meeting was held on October 6, 2024, at the ISCG Office. A workshop on September 29 elected four Women-Led and Women's Rights Organizations (WL-WROs) to represent others in Cox's Bazar and contribute to GiHA's work plan. Gender tipsheets were shared for review ahead of JRP 2025, with potential for a GBVSS-specific tipsheet. GiHA will soon organize JRP 2025 GAM orientation for sectoral Gender focal points, who will be responsible for reviewing GAM analysis. A technical task force will be formed for this. GiHA will support GBVSS on the 16 Days of Activism, and GBVSS will review membership criteria to include newly selected WLO/WRO agencies.
- **PSEA Network:** The PSEA Network facilitated key initiatives in September 2024, including the Bangla translation of the CHS Alliance SEAH Investigation Guide and the IASC Learning Package. A workshop on "Safeguarding and PSEA Policy Development and Review" for CSOs was held from September 24-26 in collaboration with RSH and CHS Alliance. Additionally, the network conducted a "Saying No to Sexual Misconduct" training for Livelihood and Skills Development Sector Focal Points on September 19, and provided a PSEA orientation for Nutrition Sector Focal Points on September 11. PSEA will be integrated into JRP 2025 per OCHA guidance, with collaboration focused on training, action plans, and GBV and PSEA SOP development.
- **Protection Sector:** The Protection Sector has completed the Joint Protection Monitoring Report for the second quarter, summarizing incidents from April to June. In partnership with the Gender Diverse Population Working Group (GDPWG), a brief was developed to address the specific needs of the gender-diverse population. In August, five flash protection updates were issued, highlighting security concerns in the camps and the impact of national protests on refugees' safety. A rapid protection incident tracking system was launched to identify critical gaps, including the insufficient presence of police and Camp-in-Charge officers. Additionally, a Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) training session was conducted for protection actors, alongside an Advocacy Note that addressed new HLP challenges arising from political changes. A guide on protection principles for new arrivals was drafted, and the sector aligned its JRP 2025 strategy during a half-day workshop with SAG, including a new objective on Peace and Security Campaign activities.
- **CPSS:** CPSS is preparing for JRP 2025, with a workshop likely in the last week of October. The monthly meeting on August 30 focused on gap analysis and rationalization to address resource allocation and service coverage in the camps, enhancing coordination for JRP 2025 planning. With analysis underway, CPSS completed the 3rd quarter of Key Informant Interviews (KII) and Focus Group Discussions (FGD)



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with 472 adolescents across 33 camps and 11 unions. CPSS and CMTWG also finished CP case management training for 25 participants, and the new Positive Parenting Skills program, developed by UNICEF, will be implemented starting in November.

**More details on the meeting can be found in the [powerpoint presentation](#).**

**AoB**

- Mukti sought support from GBVSS to obtain guidance on PSS materials or, if possible, to take the lead in finalizing the PSS materials
- IRC raised the issue of how partners can conduct post-distribution monitoring (PDM) of dignity kits for survivors.

**Key takeaways:** Instead of identifying survivors specifically for PDM, the monitoring should be integrated into broader client satisfaction surveys. Additionally, generalized ad hoc focus group discussions (FGDs) with women and girls should focus on the effectiveness and impact of the distribution, ensuring a more inclusive approach without singling out survivors.

**Action Points**

SL	Action Points	Responsible person	Progress
1	Ad Hoc meeting on service gap analysis and rationalization	GBVSS	As part of JRP 2025 Preparatory Workshop
2	Reshare the GBVSS Strategy 2024-2026	GBVSS	Attached with the minutes
3	Finalize and share CiC FAQ	GBVSS	Attached with the minutes
4	Share revised GBVSS membership criteria	GBVSS	Attached with the minutes
5	GBV SOP input request to UNHCR	GBVSS	GBVSS will reach out in the upcoming weeks
6	JRP 2025 Preparatory Workshop on 30/10/24	GBVSS	Invitation sent on 16/10/2024
7	Meeting/Webinar: TF-GBV on 31/10/2024	GBVSS	Invitation sent on 17/10/2024
8	GBVSS to discuss lighting issues in relation to women and girls' safety in the camps with Energy and Environment WG and items of Dignity Kits with relevant sectors.	GBVSS	Ongoing



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