



Cox's Bazar GBV Sub-Sector

GBV Sub-Sector Monthly Meeting Minutes -September 2024

Date	9 September 2024, Monday	Venue: Conference Room-1, UNFPA CXB Office
Meeting Modality	In Person	Time: 11:00am to 1:00pm
Chair	Sachchi Karki, Coordinator, GBV Sub Sector (OIC)	Preparation of Minutes: GBVSS Coordination Team
Partner's present	<p>GBVSS participants attended from the following organizations (as reported in attendance sheet): UNFPA, Action Aid, CPSS, UNHCR, Good Neighbour Bangladesh, PSEA Network, Educo Bangladesh, Bandhu, Caritas, CARE, BRAC, ICRC, Coast Trust, IOM, IOM MHPSS, WHO, Protection Sector, SKUS, IRC, World Vision, Unicef, CODEC Online: Jay, Julaikha, Protection Sector, WHO</p>	
Agenda	<p>1. Welcome, opening remarks and introduction Sachchi Karki, GBVSS Coordinator (OIC), welcomed all participants to the September 2024 GBVSS Monthly Meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves. She expressed her gratitude and appreciation to all partners for their continued efforts in delivering services despite the challenges.</p>	
	<p>2. GBVSS updates and discussions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context update - as of September 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key service delivery challenges include requests for access to WFSs, confidential information and case verification by CiCs, as well as coordination issues related to upholding GBV guiding principles and ensuring confidentiality, with a focus on contingency planning for emergent needs while adhering to "do no harm" principles within GBV responders as well. - Field coordination updates indicate that except two, all other GBV CFP/ACFPs have been selected while GBV services are operating at full capacity post-political unrest, there are instances of volunteer threats by organized groups, and suboptimal responses for life-saving GBV services for rape survivors; discussions are ongoing to identify and address coordination gaps. ❖ GBV Risk Monitoring and GBVIMS The GBVSS has released its Q2 GBVIMS factsheet. In addition to GBVIMS data, GBVSS highlighted emerging GBV risks, particularly the increasing unofficial reports of harassment against women and girls by Majhis and APBn. Key informant interviews (KIIs) revealed concerns about abduction and forced marriages linked to organized groups, including involvement from the host community. Concerns about increased abduction and trafficking to multiple countries, although unverified, were raised. Gaps in inclusive services for survivors, particularly for GDP and vulnerable groups, persist as of August. GBVIMS Task team in their last meeting has suggested revising the analysis system for the Q3 factsheet and adding indicators to deepen referral pattern analysis. There is also ongoing brainstorming on how to triangulate child marriage data from the CPSM dashboard and CPIMS. The factsheet will now include a section focused on advocacy and recommendations for other sectors and CiCs, as it has lacked advocacy strength. <p>Agreements and takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GBVSS will coordinate with the Anti-Trafficking Working Group in the coming months to monitor trends in abduction and trafficking. 	



- Future GBVIMS factsheets will delve deeper into referral pattern analysis and include additional recommendations for other stakeholders as part of advocacy efforts.

❖ **Key Coordination Deliverables:**

- **GBVSS Strategy 2024-2026:** GBVSS will incorporate all partner feedback, clean up the document, and reshare the workplan table for final review. The strategy is expected to be finalized by the end of September or the first week of October.
- **GBV SOP:** GBVSS has completed an initial review of the draft SOP. It will be aligned with the GBV AoR SOP before being shared with partners for review in October.
- GBVSS is working with PS & CPSS to share joint efforts with the SEG Co-Chair.
- GBVSS shall support expanding GBVIMS coordination in Bhashanchar, which is still under discussion

❖ **GBVSS 2024 SAG Update**

Based on the revised SAG Terms of Reference (TOR), GBVSS has finalized the selection of the 2024 SAG members. An ad-hoc SAG meeting was called on 11th September to discuss key issues, including the revised GBVSS membership criteria, the review of the service audit methodology and scope, and an evaluation of the JRP 2025 monitoring framework and a validation of the four activity groups as part of the JRP 2025.

The 2024 SAG includes four permanent members: UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, and IOM. Additionally, there are six rotational members: INGOs are CARE and IRC; NNGOs including AAB and Mukti; WLO, representative by Nari Maitree, shall also serve as the SAG co-chair. UNWomen is an additional rotational member, while constant observers include PS, CPSS, and the PSEA network. WHO will be invited as a technical expert for ad-hoc thematic discussions. Given that SAG membership is rotational, other organizations will have the opportunity to participate in future years.

Agreements & Takeaways:

- Further clarity on the status of Action Aid as a NGO or an INGO shall be provided to ensure their position within SAG.

❖ **2024 Service Audit**

Dr. Julaikha Hossain has joined GBVSS as a service audit consultant. She presented the methodology and scope for the upcoming service audit. The audit will encompass a diverse range of GBV service facilities, both JRP-affiliated and non-affiliated, with the goal of standardizing service definitions. Data collection will be carried out using KOBO, key informant interviews (KII), focus group discussions (FGD), and secondary data reviews. The ultimate aim is to identify service gaps and deliver actionable, data-driven recommendations that can contribute to the rationalization process.

Agreements & Takeaways:

- Partners are requested to submit their assessors from each agency by 12th September.
- GBVSS will set an agenda for an extended discussion during the next SAG meeting to determine which indicators or focus areas should be prioritized in the service audit.
- GBVSS will engage in bilateral discussions with partners to share agency-specific findings and recommendations after the audit is completed.

❖ **GBVSS Resource Material Collection**

GBVSS is actively gathering resource materials to create a centralized repository accessible to all GBVSS



members. The objectives of this initiative include stocktaking all available resources, identifying gaps for the development of additional materials, and ensuring harmonization and standardization of service provision and advocacy efforts. The forum also discussed potential challenges, such as organizational restrictions or time constraints to share the resources. To date, CARE, UNFPA, IRC, Nari Maitree, GNB, Caritas BD, and BRAC have contributed their materials.

Agreements & Takeaways:

- IRC's modules are available on the [GBVResponders](#) and BBC Media Action websites; these links should be included in the shared resource folder.
- Partners are encouraged to submit their resource materials or any relevant assessment reports to the folder by 30th September 2024.

❖ **JRP 2025 Roadmap**

The JRP mid-year reflection workshop has been crucial in identifying key focus areas within the four JRP activity groups. These insights will help partners prioritize and design their 2025 programs. Additionally, GBVSS has received requests from several partners for guidance on project closures and the handover of cases and facilities. ISCG has shared the JRP 2025 timeline, highlighting important milestones for partners: **townhall meetings in early October and on 27th October, proposal submission by 10th November, and peer review meetings from 17th to 21st November. ISCG will also engage with non-JRP partners in early November.**

Agreement & Takeaways:

- GBVSS will share the Rationalization Brief with partners, offering bilateral support on project closures or initiations based on rationalization principles and gap analysis.
- GBVSS will distribute the JRP mid-year reflection workshop notes and key takeaways to partners.
- GBVSS will coordinate partners' schedules based on the JRP timelines, including setting internal deadlines and preparing a Gantt chart to track progress where their participation is essential.

❖ **Key Discussion Points:**

- The GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS) has drafted a set of [FAQs](#) for Government stakeholders, especially CiCs, addressing their concerns using evidence from global GBV guidelines. This living document will be updated with evolving situations and shared with the CiCs as part of the courtesy meeting, for broader acceptance.

Agreements and takeaways: GBVSS will share the current FAQ for review and provide a [Google sheet](#) for additional questions from Sub-Sector members, with a 1-week feedback window.

- GBVSS values partners' technical expertise and contributions to guiding materials. It seeks collaboration by assigning roles to partners for developing various contextualized technical tools.

❖ **Partner Presentation:**

WHO presented their approach to addressing Gender-Based Violence in emergencies (GBViE) that focuses on coordination, capacity building, service delivery, policy, and community engagement.

- **Coordination:** The health sector strengthens information management for GBViE by providing tools, technical support, and learning opportunities. It also ensures multisectoral collaboration with the Protection Sector, GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS), and PSEA network to maintain functional referral pathways.
- **Capacity Building:** Health workers receive training on Clinical Management of Rape and Intimate Partner



Violence (CMRIPV) to enhance survivor care. Facility-based protocols are in place to ensure effective implementation, and health managers receive relevant training.

- **Service Delivery:** WHO improves the environment for survivors by conducting facility assessments, enhancing health worker attitudes, ensuring confidentiality, and updating referral pathways. Mental health services for survivors are also a priority, with guidance developed to strengthen support.
- **Policy and Integration:** WHO aids ministries of health in developing safe, ethical GBV data collection processes aligned with international standards. Additionally, health services for survivors are integrated into emergency preparedness and contingency planning.
- **Facility Readiness and Community Engagement:** Facility readiness assessments identify gaps in infrastructure and care. WHO also leads awareness campaigns, developing culturally appropriate materials and engaging volunteers to inform communities about available services.

Lessons Learned and Challenges: Strong sectoral coordination, consistent supplies, and mainstreaming of SRHR and GBV have proven beneficial. However, challenges persist, including infrastructure limitations, geographic barriers, language issues, staff turnover, and delayed case reporting at the community level.

Way Forward: To address these issues, WHO is training community volunteers to improve referrals and aligning information flows with GBVIMS protocols. Coordination with GBVSS, MHPSS, PSEA, and protection sectors will be enhanced to offer holistic support to survivors.

Agreements and Takeaways:

- There is confusion among actors around time-sensitiveness of evidence collection (in OCC) for sexual violence survivors, especially regarding legal documentation requirements. A discussion between the Health Sector and GBVSS will be planned to address delays in evidence collection and referral pathways, ensuring timely GBV services for survivors.
- WHO will share the health facility assessment finding by mid-October 2024
- Both GBV and health actors, including support staff like gatekeepers, need ongoing capacity building to ensure survivors are directed to the appropriate services within health facilities

❖ **Operational updates**

- **Protection Sector:** The Protection Sector held its monthly meeting on August 20, while weekly meetings on border and security situations and a Peace and Security Campaign continue. In August, five Protection Flash Reports, a Gender Diverse Population Working Group Brief, and a Guidance for New Arrivals emphasizing the "do-no-harm" principle were produced, along with a Joint Protection Monitoring Report for Quarter 2 and an advocacy note on housing, land, and property (HLP) issues to protect Rohingya refugees' rights. Additionally, PS and HLP advisors completed two comprehensive HLP trainings for 30 protection actors and 25 NGO platform members to address emerging HLP challenges.
- **Child Protection Sub Sector:** CPSS, supported by the global CAAFAG taskforce and CMTWG, conducted a 5-day training on Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups (CAAFAG) Program Development from August 25th to 29th for Program Managers and Coordinators, facilitated by the Global CAAFAG Co-Chair. Additionally, on August 21st, CPSS held a one-day Stakeholder Analysis Workshop for child protection frontliners, also led by the Global CAAFAG Co-Chair, to enhance capacity for CAAFAG program development. CPSS is also conducting a Child Protection Services Coverage Assessment and Rationalization Exercise to strengthen its child protection services.
- **Case Management WG:** In the September, monthly meeting hosted at the UNICEF office, with 20



organizations represented, updates on the CMWG Annual Plan were shared. On September 1st, the second meeting of the Supervision Task Team focused on standardizing supervision tools and practices. Additionally, the Task Team for Persons with Disabilities shared recommendations from a learning-sharing session with GBV case workers.

Agreement & Takeaways: There will be collaboration between CMWG and GDP Working Group on capacity building strategies and module development for Gender-Diverse Population.

- **Prevention Working Group:**

Since the launch of the Prevention Working Group in 2022, partners meet monthly, but the platform has yet to become fully efficient. For unstructured activities, there is a need for standardized approaches, cross-agency curriculum adaptation, and tailored messaging based on trends, which is often unrealistic.

Suggestions:

- Partners can define short- and long-term outcomes for prevention activities.
- GBVSS and partners can also advocate for national campaigns on issues like drug abuse, alcohol, and child marriage, leveraging materials from past campaigns on child marriage led by UNHCR, UNICEF, and Plan International in collaboration with the government

- **GiHA:** The GiHA WG monthly meeting, led by the new GiHA Coordination Analyst Mehbuba Jabin on 4th September 2024, focused on key initiatives. GiHA is revising its ToR to include WLO/WRO involvement, with a consultation workshop planned for the end of September. A WLO/WRO agency mapping in Cox's Bazar, supported by UN Women, is now available. A new task force will be created for capacity building in gender analysis, aligned with the 2025 JRP GAM process. Additionally, a draft Gender Tip Sheet will be shared for review, aiding in developing gender indicators for sectoral programs. GiHA also initiated camp-level coordination, starting with six camps.

Agreements and Takeaway:

- GiHA WG will share the updated WLO/WRO list with GBVSS
- GiHA WG will share the draft gender tip sheet with members for review and finalize before JRP 2025

- **PSEA Network:** The PSEA network has assigned focal points to participate in meetings with the Protection Sector, CPSS, and GBVSS. The network is also working on a unified Terms of Reference (TOR) for Cox's Bazar and Dhaka, with two-year co-chair membership shared between UN and I/NGOs. Additionally, the Bengali translation of the CHS Alliance investigation guide is in progress.

Agreements and Takeaways:

- PSEA Network will share the draft TOR for review.
- PSEA Network will coordinate with GBVSS for PSEA focal points' training on GBV core concepts this year. In 2025, training on GBV case management response to SEA and disclosure will be conducted.
- GBVSS and PSEA Network will meet to review and finalize the PSEA SOP

***The whole meeting presentation can be found [here](#)



Cox's Bazar GBV Sub-Sector

SL	Action Points	Responsible person	Progress
1	Share the final GBVSS Strategy	GBVSS	Shared
2	To share Survey form of empty facilities	GBVSS	Shared
3	Share Rationalization Brief	GBVSS	Shared
4	Registration status of Action Aid for SAG inclusion	Nishat-AAB	Registered as an International NGO, yet awaiting for National registration documents.
5	Resource material submission in the shared folder by 30 September	Partners	GBVSS sent reminder mail on 25 September
6	Share CiC FAQ and the google sheet for suggested questions	GBVSS	Shared
7	Share updated WLO/WRO list	GiHA WG	
8	Share gender tipsheet for review	GiHA WG	
9.	PSEA ToR draft to be shared	PSEA Network	
10	Finalization of PSEA SOP in collaboration with GBVSS Coordinator	PSEA Network and GBVSS	