



GBVSS QUARTERLY BULLETIN

Q4 (October-December), 2024

UNFPA continues to lead the GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS) in partnership with 57 organizations. During the quarter the GBVSS:

- Held three monthly coordination meetings with 57 partners, fostering enhanced communication and collaboration. These meetings served as a platform to address technical challenges in field-level coordination with key stakeholders, identify solutions, discuss and harmonize GBV response initiatives, and tackle challenges faced by partners on the ground.
- The GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS) guided by the ISCG and Peer review team developed and implemented the JRP action plan completing the JRP process 2025, targeting 1.1 million people with a budget of \$27.4 million across nine GBV projects conducted by five UN agencies (IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, UN WOMEN) and four INGOs (CARE Bangladesh, World Vision, International Rescue Committee(IRC) and Danish Refugee Council).
- The GBVSS Information Management team conducted a one-day feedback meeting with the Information Management Officer and Monitoring and Evaluation(M&E) staff from data-gathering organizations and partners who contributed to the 5W report. The session aimed to identify gaps in 2024 and prepare a plan for 2025. The feedback gathered will inform a planned one-day workshop in Quarter One(Q1) 2025 to enhance capacity-building efforts.
- The GBVSS has been working closely with the Protection Sector on the Peace and Security Campaign developing tools, forming working groups, task teams and technical documents including action plans for the implementation of the proposed interventions. The Protection Sector floated an expression of interest and the GBVSS has shared it with the GBVSS members.
- The GBVSS conducted a GBV Service Audit in facilities across 33 Rohingya camps and 11 host community sites, providing a systematic analysis of service gaps and recommendations for GBV implementation in 2025. Ongoing bilateral meetings with partners and agencies are taking place to give feedback on best practices and areas for improvement. The GBV Service Audit revealed gaps in service provision and a need for enhanced coordination, prompting recommendations for improved service delivery and risk mitigation in 2025.
- On November 26, 2024, GBVSS conducted a Workshop with 19 Camp-in-Charges (CiCs) and Assistant CiCs (16 men, 3 women) on GBV core principles, risk mitigation, referral pathways, and data protection. Key topics included GBV case management, survivor-centered approaches, service point accessibility, and the GBVIMS Information Sharing Protocol, emphasizing safe referral mechanisms and risk mitigation in camps. As an outcome of the workshop, CiCs and Assistant CiCs committed to strengthening safe and confidential GBV referrals, improving service accessibility for survivors, adhering to the GBV case management process and integrating GBV risk mitigation measures within camp management practices.

Workshop with CiCs and ACiCs



GBV Service Audit 2024





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Field Level Coordination Updates

- The GBVSS field coordination team continued to participate in camp-based coordination meetings to enhance collaboration with government and humanitarian stakeholders, ensuring comprehensive GBV services and safe, ethical referrals. Active engagement with Camp in Charge (CiC) officials and other actors addressed service gaps, strengthened referral pathways, and promoted ethical referral protocols, confidentiality, and survivor safety.
- Additionally, monthly meetings with 33 GBV Camp Focal Points (CFPs) and Alternative Camp Focal Points (ACFPs) focused on capacity building, updating referral pathways, and addressing field-level challenges. Advocacy messages were developed to raise awareness for new arrivals on the availability of GBV services.
- Collaboration and Partnerships to strengthen referral pathways: GBVSS, in collaboration with the Protection Sector and Child Protection Sub-Sector, facilitated a one-day workshop with 80 GBV and Child Protection camp focal points and alternative focal points aiming to strengthen coordination and address gaps in the referral pathways. The Child Protection Sub Sector and GBV Sub Sector plan additional training for the partners in Q1 and Q2 of 2025, respectively to ensure smooth referrals of relevant cases across these subsectors.
- Emergency Response: Following the Camp 1W fire on December 24, 2024, the GBVSS collaborated with partners in the affected camp: UNFPA, UN Women, Action Aid, BRAC and GUK provided psychological first aid, psychosocial support and facilitated safe referrals for the affected families. GBVSS conducted a needs assessment for dignity kits and planned with the partners to distribute them in 2025. The response is ongoing and is being coordinated by the Emergency Response Team to ensure continued support for those in need.

Capacity Building Events

- GBV Sub-sector provided GBV core concept refresher training to 19 Camp-in-Charges (CiC) and Assistant Camp-in-Charges (F:3; M:16), and 20 camp-level sector focal points (F:4; M:16)- representing protection, food security, education and child protection sub sectors.
- The GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS) has strengthened collaboration with the PSEA Network and facilitated training for 32 PSEA Focal Points (18 women and 14 men) from various organizations. The training, held on December 18–19, was organized by the PSEA Network and covered GBV core concepts, referral mechanisms, and the linkage between GBV and PSEA

Training with Sector Focal Points





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Advocacy and Campaign

- The GBVSS, in collaboration with 57 partners, launched the 16 Days of Activism 2024 against Gender-Based Violence under the theme “Tracing the Roots: Standing Against GBV.” The campaign kicked off with a 10 km awareness run, flagged off by the District Commissioner, and launched by the Additional Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (ARRRC) at Laboni Beach alongside UN, INGO, WLO heads, staff, and community members. The community marked the event with various activities across all 33 camps, including art fairs, cultural programs, and camp-level events, reaching thousands of refugees.

16 Days of Activism 2024 (Rally)



GBV Situations in Q4, 2024

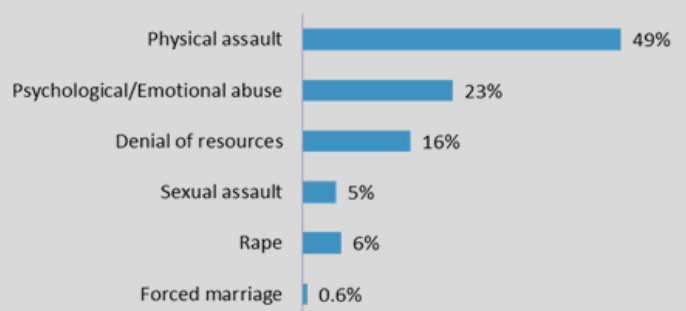
a) GBV Types and Trends: Reported in GBVIMS

Women and girls continue to be extremely vulnerable to Gender Based Violence (GBV) within the camps and host communities. During the last Quarter of 2024, physical assault (49%) remained the highest reported incident followed by psychological & emotional abuse (23%) and denial of resources (16%).

These types of GBV incidents are essentially perpetrated in the context of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and are characterized by women and girls suffering in silence with few survivors reporting the cases, seeking assistance, and asking for medical care after events take place due to insecurity, cultural barriers, stigma, fear, and threat of retaliation.

Sexual violence accounted for around 10.8% of the reported incidents in Q4 2024 with rape for 5.8% and sexual assault for 5% the trend is the same as to Q3 2024. Sexual violence cases remain as the most underreported form of GBV. Of all reported incidents in Q4 2024, refugees comprised 79.65% of the incidents in the Camp, while 20.29% of incidents were reported by the host community. During the reporting period, overall reported GBV incidents increased by 2.7% compared to Q3 2024.

Top Types of GBV Reported (% by type)- Q4 2024





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b) Safety Perceptions and Emerging GBV Risks

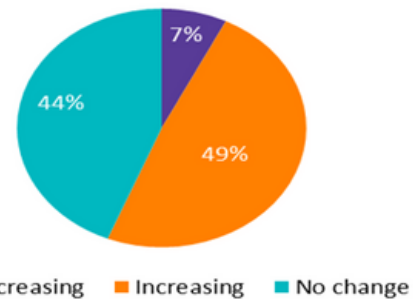
The GBV camp focal points reported that the most vulnerable groups are adolescent girls, widows, single women, adolescent boys, elderly and people with disabilities. Like in the previous quarters in 2024, GBV incidences continue to be reported to have taken place predominantly at the survivor's residence given that perpetrators are primarily husbands and male members of the family. An additional factor contributing to a higher number of cases reported at residences is families not often leaving their homes due to the current security situation and unemployed men spending more time at home.

Also, other locations such as streets/paths, water collection points, bathing facilities, distribution points, public toilets, bush/forest, and recreational facilities hence the need to strengthen GBV mainstreaming prevention and mitigation measures across sectors. The main categories of perpetrators of GBV remain unchanged (unemployed/laborer) highlighting -two issues of concern: (1) understanding/addressing the potential link between unemployment and GBV, in particular IPV and (2) the ongoing need for broad awareness raising/sensitization on prevention of GBV.

Emerging GBV Risks

- Heightened insecurity in the camps due to the presence of armed groups operating with impunity is exacerbating the vulnerability of women and girls. Families have reported armed group members entering their homes at night to seek shelter and forcing them to perform household chores such as cooking and washing, while also subjecting them to sexual exploitation. Additionally, families have reported receiving death threats from armed group members for failing to comply with their demands, including forcing their daughters into child or forced marriage.
- Night-time Vulnerability: Female -headed households and adolescent girls have reported to be at risk of different forms of GBV and theft in the community due to the poor public lighting.
- Drug and substance abuse among men and teenage boys is fueling gender-based violence against women and girls. While men are the primary users, women are often exploited as "mules, with some previously arrested in both host communities and camps.
- The rising number of incidences of suicide threats or having passive ideations linked to gender-based violence, mental health issues, stigma, and trauma caused by displacement and ongoing insecurity.
- Kidnapping and Trafficking: Adolescent boys are increasingly targeted for cross-border trafficking in some camps, while many teenage and young girls face abduction and trafficking across waterways. According to the [Anti-Trafficking Working Group Dashboard \(October-December 2024\)](#), 70% of the 96 identified victims were male, and 30% were female.
- Lack of trust in community leaders and government officials due to their continued involvement in GBV cases.
- Requests from male staff and officials to visit Women Friendly Spaces (WFSs) risk violating GBV guiding principles by compromising survivor confidentiality, safety, and the trusted environment of these spaces. Additionally, women and girls have been asked by the CiC or their staff to identify and bring the perpetrator, which exposes survivors to fear and discourages them from reporting cases.

Overall GBV trends perceived by GBV Camp Focal Points (CFP)





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Challenges and Recommendations

Challenges

- Underreporting of GBV cases due to the fear of retaliation. Survivors cite lack of trust with some community leaders and government officers due to their involvement in GBV cases and alleged ties with perpetrators.
- Women and girls have reported the fear of leaving their homes, even during the day, due to the prevailing insecurity in the camps, which increases their risk of violence.
- Staff and volunteers have reported receiving threats from armed groups in the camps, creating an atmosphere of fear that hinders the identification and referral of cases of GBV.
- CiCs temporarily shutting down Women Friendly Spaces whenever they are denied access, disrupting GBV service provision and support for survivors.
- Increased tension and conflict between new arrivals and old Rohingya residents over resources like food, shelter, assets, and money. Also, between the Rohingya and host communities over land and rent disputes.

Recommendations

- The GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS) is working closely with partners to raise mass awareness about the importance of GBV service provision.
- The GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS) has developed a one-pager FAQ document as a guideline explaining why men and boys are not allowed in Women Friendly Spaces. Additionally, a workshop was conducted with CiCs and ACiCs to orient them on survivor-centered approaches, GBV guiding principles, and the referral pathway.
- GBVSS has developed [key messages on GBV for New arrivals](#) raising awareness on their right to access GBV service provision.
- Funding for GBV activities due to emerging trends and increasing needs, especially given the limited available resources.
- Capacity building for staff and volunteers to maintain effective referral services due to high turnover.

Resources and Data

- GBVIMS Q3 2024 Factsheet ([LINK](#))
- GBVSS Q3 2024 Quarterly Bulletin, please visit this ([LINK](#))
- For more information on GBVSS Coordination, please visit the Rohingya Response, [GBV Sub-Sector web page](#)



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GBVSS PARTNER'S INPUTS (IOM-International Organization for Migration)

IOM, with its implementing partner PULSE Bangladesh Society, have been implementing a wide range of programming focused on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) risk mitigation, response, and prevention, in line with IOM's Institutional Framework for Addressing GBV in Crises. At present, IOM has nine Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) across eight sites and an emergency safe shelter for survivors of GBV through a survivor-centered model and ensures a multisectoral package of support.

Key Achievements

- 13,262 individuals were reached through community outreach and sensitization.
- 23,280 women and girls participated in a range of activities inside the WGSS.
- 943 individuals from the community received training.



Training for WPP Members

Activities Highlighted

- IOM is delivering integrated SRH-GBV services across nine WGSSs using a one-stop-shop approach. These services include family planning methods, clinical management of rape (CMR), menstrual regulation with medication (MRM), syndromic management of STIs, and health education and promotion on basic SRH services.
- 70 awareness sessions were conducted reaching 412 beneficiaries. 360 men and women were graduated across nine sites through Engaging Men Through Accountable Practice (EMAP).
- 320 members of the Women Participation Project were trained on "GBV Core Concepts and Safe Referral". Conducted GBVIMS+ V2 training for 36 caseworkers and case managers.
- Facilitated eight batches of "GBV Core Concepts and Safe Referral" training for 162 staff from non-GBV actors.
- Supported facilitating training for 233 members of the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) on Refugee Protection and Community Outreach in Interagency efforts further reinforcing their commitment to GBV prevention and response.
- Celebrated 16 days of activism 2024 with its partners and supported the GBV Sub Sector through a series of activities engaging the community and stakeholders across both the Rohingya camps and host community.



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GBVSS PARTNER'S INPUTS (Aid Comilla)

Organizational objective is to empower underprivileged individuals by implementing intensive and extensive programs that facilitate positive changes in family lifestyles and social systems and contribute to addressing conflict related sexual violence against the displaced Rohingya population from Myanmar. The project objective is comprehensive, Integrated Multi-Sector Response for Rohingya Refugees and Host Communities in Cox's Bazar project aims to improve safe and dignified access to quality gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services in Camp 13, 15 and 22, funded by BPRM, technically supported by IRC.

Key Achievements

- AID-Comilla implemented GBV response and prevention service at Camp- 3, 15 and 22.
- A total of 14,100 GBV outreach prevention sessions were conducted to raise awareness and prevent gender-based violence.
- A total of 540 participants (Girls, Men, Women) continues life skills and early marriage sessions.



Certificate distribution to EMAP Graduate participants at camp-13

Activities Highlighted

- Provided Psychosocial Support (PSS) to 320 participants. This initiative created a safe, confidential space for survivors to report cases, and for women and girls to access group support and recreational activities, allowing them to share experiences, acquire knowledge, and build resilience.
- AID-Comilla celebrated 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence through Cultural program, Day observation, Rally, Hena celebration, Art competition, Awareness raising with video content and discussion and reached 460 participants.
- Radio listening session ongoing with 600 participants, featuring episodes from the Aa'rar Kissa Season Three. These sessions educate the community on GBV, PSS, women empowerment, Human Trafficking and Protection issues through engaging audio dramas and podcast-based listening groups.
- Conducted three Integration and Coordination Meeting of GBV, Health, Nutrition, and Livelihood actors for increasing coordination and collaboration with other actors for strengthening GBV referral system.
- 10 volunteers received training on GBV core concepts and GBV risk mitigation and referral pathways.



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GBVSS PARTNER'S INPUTS (Mukti Cox's Bazar)

UNFPA with its implementing partner MUKTI runs a project in Gender-Based Violence in Emergency (GBViE) whose aim is to Save the Lives and Dignity of the women and girls from Rohingya refugees and host communities as well. The support from UNFPA in eight WFS in the host community of Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas and 27 WFS, which covers a total of 22 Camps—1E, 1W, 2E, 2W, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8E, 8W, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 22, 24, 26 and NRC.

Key Achievements

- A total of 84,828 participants (women:60,750, girls-24,078) were reached through awareness sessions in community/facility level where 3436 participants were persons with disabilities.
- A total of 22,401 participants (women:12,388, girls-10,013) attended structured and unstructured psychosocial support activities where 1,039 participants were persons with disabilities.
- A total of 48,120 individuals were reached by community mobilization activities (SASA! Together), where 224 participants were persons with disability.



Awareness session with adult women at camp-9

Activities Highlighted

- Celebrated 16 Days of Activism 2024 from 25 November to 10 December through activities on raising awareness, advocating for rights, and empowering women and girls. Highlights included interactive sessions, community dialogues, and awareness workshops that actively engaged diverse target groups such as adolescents, women, caregivers, and community leaders.
- Demonstrated a robust engagement with Bondhu Social Welfare Society and conducted 2 awareness sessions with 40 Gender Diverse Populations (GDP) in different locations. Throughout the sessions, they shared their unspoken words that they are bullied at school, and rejected by their family and they expressed their interest in skill development training to be independent. They think building awareness, massive protection measures and global discussion on all these things will have a positive impact for them.
- Organized two consultation meetings with Religious Leaders-50 participants (Women-5, men-45) on 11th December 2024.
- Around 180 participants (Women-38, Men-142) received "Training for the Institutional Allies" in SASA! Together.



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GBVSS PARTNER'S INPUTS (ActionAid Bangladesh)

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 Achievements

- ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB) implemented GBV response services in nine Rohingya camps (1W, 2E, 2W, 8W, 12, 21, 26, 27, and NRC-Nayapara Registered Camp).
- 123 youth and men were capacitated as community change-maker, 120 women of community watch group and support group were capacitated to advocate for gender equality and social harmony.
- Economic empowerment opportunities for women were provided through life skills and livelihood training to 200 beneficiaries.
- Capacitated 22 Government stakeholders including doctors, nurses on GBV to ensure survivor-centred GBV response service in OCCs (One Stop Crisis Centers).
- A total of 31,109 GBV outreach prevention sessions were conducted to raise awareness and prevent gender-based violence.



Men as community change maker

Activities Highlighted

- To observe 16 Days of Activism, AAB organized a friendly women's football match and a martial arts display for creating mass awareness to prevent GBV and to empower women through sports and solidarity on November 30, 2024, at Bir Shreshtha Ruhul Amin Stadium, Cox's Bazar.
- To encourage women and girls' participation in sports, AAB hosted a girls' kabaddi match at the Women's Market in Camp 5 on 9th December.
- Pori Bibi'r Kissa – The Tale of Pori, a play that addresses issues such as child marriage, gender-based violence, harassment and human trafficking, was performed by Rohingya adolescents on December 11.
- The SASA! Together Kite Festival 2024 at Camp 8W, turned the sky into a canvas of dreams on December 17. As part of the Support Phase launch, each kite carried a story written by community leaders and activists of hope.
- Organized coordination meeting with 45 police at Moheshkhali, 58 hospital authorities at Ukhia, Teknaf, Cox's Bazar District Hospital to strengthen GBV referral pathway at OCCs.



Martial Arts display at the event of 16 Days of Activism 2024