



GBV Sub-Sector Monthly Meeting Minutes - January 2025

Date	13 January 2025, Monday	Venue: Conference Room-1, UNFPA CXB Office
Meeting Modality	In-Person	Time: 11:00 am to 01:00 pm
Chair	Annie Waweru; GBVSS Coordinator	Preparation of Minutes: GBVSS Coordination Team
Partner's present	In person: 41 (Male: 13, Female:28) UN Women, UNFPA, Educo, BRAC, BNPS, Nari Maitree, AID Comilla, Pulse Bangladesh Society, Bandhu Social Welfare Society, CODEC, ICRC, IRC, Protection Sector, HLP-Protection, Coast Foundation, DRC, Caritas BD, Good Neighbors BD, WFP, GBVSS, PSEA Network, GiHA WG, CPSS, Action Aid Bangladesh, Mukti Cox's Bazar, GUK, YPSA, Friendship, World Vision, UNHCR, CARE.	



Agenda

Welcome, Greetings and Introduction: The GBVSS Coordinator, Annie Waweru, began by welcoming all participants to the first meeting of 2025 and invited them to introduce themselves. The meeting started at 11AM.

Meeting Agenda:The meeting agenda was as follows:

1. GBVSS updates

- Field level coordination updates.
- Camp 1W Fire Incident - Response updates from partners.
- GBVSS Workplan - Q1 2025
- Presentation from Housing Landing and Property (HLP)

2. Operational updates

- PS/CPSS/CMWG/Prevention WG/GiHA/PSEA Network

3. AoB

GBVSS updates

Field level coordination updates:

Coordination with the GBVSS during the setup and closure of GBV projects: The GBVSS emphasized the importance of prior consultation before starting new projects or closing existing ones in the camp. This ensures informed decisions regarding new and existing gaps and serves as a guide for facility location based on the identified needs, as directed by the GBVSS. Block demarcation is recommended during the initiation or closure of projects, to prevent service duplication.

Partner Request: Due to waterlogging challenges, two GBV service facilities operated by BRAC in Camp 6 are closing. The GBVSS has been requested to assist in identifying suitable new locations for these facilities.

Conflicts between Refugees: Conflicts have been reported between new arrivals and the Rohingyas, particularly over resources such as food, shelter, assets, money, and borrowing. New arrivals have reported lending money and other items to the Rohingyas, which are never returned. Newly arrived women have been forced to give up their money and jewelry to families hosting them in exchange for accommodation and food. These cases were reported during field-level coordination meetings with the camp focal points.



Partner Feedback: UNHCR requested any reports on these conflicts for further action, and they were referred to the camp focal points, who shared the information during camp-level meetings.

Action points: The GBVSS emphasized the need to disseminate the [Key Messages for New Arrivals](#) at the field level, as most are reported to fear or shy away from seeking gBV services.

PSEA Focal Point Training: GBVSS collaborated with the PSEA network and conducted a GBV training for 32 PSEA focal points (18 women, 14 men). The training took place on December 18-19, 2024, at the IOM offices.

Exploitation by Stakeholders: Beneficiaries and GBV actors reported the involvement of some government officials and community leaders in GBV cases. This has led to increased fear and mistrust among community members and GBV survivors, resulting in the underreporting of GBV cases due to fear of retaliation.

Action Point: The Protection Sector and PSEA Network are tasked to take necessary steps to address this exploitation.

Suicidal Incidences: Community workers have reported cases of suicide threats among community members. This situation is due to the ongoing insecurity in the camps and the presence of organized groups that operate freely, exploiting families and issuing threats if their needs aren't met. Some groups demand adolescent girls from the community for child or forced marriages, to the extent of sexually exploiting them.

Action Points: GBVSS to share the MHPSS Camp Focal Point list with members for referral of such cases.

- The reported incidents to be shared with the MHPSS Working Group for follow-up.

Camp 1W Fire Incident Response Updates (From Partners): Following the fire incident on December 24, 2024, in Camp 1W, the GBVSS coordinated efforts to address the immediate needs of the affected families. Mukti-UNFPA, ActionAid-UNHCR, GUK-UNFPA, BRAC-UNFPA, and UN Women responded, as they operate in that camp.

- 1031 women and girls were provided for dignity kits by: Mukti-UNFPA: 581 kits, Mukti-CARE: 200 kits, Plan International: 200 kits and UN Women : 50 kits.
- 461 individuals were provided with Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Psychosocial Support (PSS).
- 161 Families were referred to different sectors such as Health, WASH and SCCM for services.

Key concerns during the fire:

- Neighbors reported feeling pressured to support fire-affected families despite their own limited resources and rations, highlighting the need for broader support.
- Single-women households expressed concern over lost Family Counting Number FCN/registration cards. However, UNHCR is reprinting the lost or burned cards for the affected families.
- The lack of proper lighting in the evening increases the vulnerability of women and girls. - Fire dust and waste have caused health issues, such as coughing and diarrhea, among



children in the affected area.

- Temporary tarpaulin toilets lack internal locks, posing safety risks for women and girls.

Key Recommendations:

- GBV actors adhere to the GBV guiding principles when responding to emergencies, such as avoiding taking pictures that expose the faces of beneficiaries during the distribution of dignity kits.
- Coordination with the GBV Sub-Sector for the distribution of dignity kits during an emergency to ensure harmonization and proper use of resources
- Including donor/lead agency names in emergency situation reports.

GBVSS Workplan - Q1 2025:

The GBVSS Coordinator shared the key activities planned for Q1 2025 as follows:

- Training on GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOP): The SOPs have been aligned with the new global template. The document is currently with the SAG and will be disseminated to the members once finalized. Actors expressed the need to translate the document into Bengali in collaboration with GBV actors.
- Information Management (IM) Workshops: Nomination requests have been sent targeting IM and M&E colleagues. Topics include data protection, 5W reporting, and other IM tools for GBV sub-sector members. A separate workshop on GBVIMS will also be organized.
- GBVSS Coordination Mechanisms for CFPs and ACFPs: As a recommendation from the 2024 joint workshop with the GBV and CP camp focal points, this will enhance coordination between GBV and Child Protection.
- GBV training for non-GBV actors: This training is designed for non-GBV actors and government officials to discuss the GBV core concepts for the identification and referral of GBV cases..
- Psychological First Aid Training: Targeted at PERU GBV officers to enhance their ability to respond effectively during emergencies, this initiative will be conducted in collaboration with the MHPSS WG.
- GBV Safety Audit:

Feedback and Suggestions from Participants:

- The HLP Adviser requested the GBV SS to include HLP focal points in the non-GBV actors training.
- Caritas Bangladesh requested an action plan from GBVSS to guide GBV actors in developing their work plans. The GBVSS indicated that its work plan is currently under development and will be disseminated when finalized.

Housing Landing and Property (HLP):

The HLP Advisor briefed on the HLP theory and other findings over the past two years, with an overview of gendered aspects. HLP stands for Housing, Land, and Property. It is a term often used in the context of housing rights, land tenure, and property security. A study conducted by NRC in October 2024 explored gender dynamics in accessing and exercising Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) rights. The survey



involved 384 individuals, including 217 women and 166 men, across 12 camps in Teknaf and Ukhiya. The study included 12 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), 12 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and 7 case studies.

- **Tenure Security (HLP):** This refers to the legal right and protection an individual or community has regarding the land or housing they occupy. It ensures that people cannot be arbitrarily evicted or lose their land or housing without due process.
- **Access to Services and Facilities (HLP):** This implies that individuals should have access to essential services such as water, sanitation, healthcare, and education. Access to such services is a critical part of living in a secure and sustainable environment.
- **Access to Adequate Housing (HLP):** This refers to the right to live in housing that is safe, habitable, and provides essential services and privacy. Adequate housing includes considerations like space, safety, and protection from environmental and other hazards.
- **Right to Obtain Ownership (HLP):** This refers to an individual's right to own, buy, or sell property. The right to obtain ownership can be formalized through legal processes.

Data representation

- There has been a 35% increase in HLP cases in 2024 compared to 2023. In 2023, there were 4,434 cases, while in 2024, the number rose to 6,791 cases.
- In 2024, there was an 8% increase in Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) cases involving female clients. Specifically, the number of female clients rose from 2,885 in 2023 to 3,323 in 2024, with women representing approximately 50% of the total client base.
- There was also a 12% increase in eviction cases or threats of eviction, with 930 cases recorded in 2024, compared to 825 in 2023.
- The camps with the highest number of registered HLP cases in 2024 were Camp 24, Camp 26, and Camp 25. Meanwhile, the camps with the most eviction-related cases or threats of eviction were Camp 25, Camp 24, and Camp 27.
- Among the various types of HLP cases registered in 2024, the most common included disputes over access to shelter or pathways, forced evictions (including threats), disputes over rental increases, and issues related to access to public facilities.

Barriers to Accessing HLP:

- **Cultural and Social Barriers:** Women face restricted mobility (18%) and lack of community support (12%). Social stigma against asserting property rights affects 26% of respondents.
- **Financial Barriers:** Financial dependence was identified by 41% as a major obstacle.
- **Administrative and Legal Challenges:** Limited access to legal documentation, including ID cards and land titles, poses significant hurdles.
- **Religious Barriers:** Religious interpretations restricting women's property rights impact 35% of respondents.



Operational Updates:

Case Management Working Group: Ipshita from IRC shared,

- The meeting was hosted at the IOM office on January 6, 2025.
- Reviewed and planned completion of pending activities for 2024.
- Brainstormed and identified priorities for 2025.
- The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2025.
- The IPV module has been shared with the IPV Module Development Task Team and will be shared with GBVSS upon finalization.

Action Points:

- CMWG to share the 2025 Workplan.
- GBVSS members, particularly IRC, to share free online training links or opportunities with GBVSS for further distribution to partners.

Prevention Working Group: Shirin from UNHCR briefed, there was no meeting in the last month as it was during the 16 Days of Activism. Meeting scheduled for the end of January.

PSEA Network:

Rajib from the PSEA Network shared,

- The current PSEA Network membership stands at 164, with 164 focal points and 157 alternate focal points.
- The PSEA Network Action Plan for 2025 has been completed and is awaiting endorsement by the UNCT.
- The Annual PSEA Network Meeting was held on December 19, 2024.
- A training on GBV Basics was organized in collaboration with the GBV Sub-Sector on December 17-18, 2024.
- A training on Psychological First Aid (PFA) was conducted in collaboration with IOM. - PERU members received training on PSEA.
- The OVRA Victims' Rights Statement has been translated into Burmese through collaboration with Tdh. The PSEA Network is also working with the UNFPA AAP team for further translations.
- The PSEA SOP will be shared with the GBVSS in the coming days.

The GBVSS coordinator tasked members to share/ raise awareness on their different reporting mechanisms to ensure smooth reporting of PSEA cases.

Child Protection Sub Sector: Osman Goni, the Child Protection Officer from CPSS briefed:



- On the 17th December, a Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups (CAAFAG) Workshop was conducted where 35 CAAFAG Case Workers attended. The workshop focused on strengthening case management skills and addressing child protection concerns related to children associated with armed forces or groups.
- On the 9th December CPSM (Child Protection Situation Monitoring) Planning Workshop facilitated cross-sectoral collaboration and strategic planning for child protection situation monitoring, ensuring effective resource allocation and service delivery. Suggestions & Feedback have also been taken to revise the previous questionnaire along with some new thematic areas.
- On 5th December, a CP Referral Pathway Workshop was conducted, emphasizing the importance of clear and efficient referral mechanisms to ensure that children in need of protection services are promptly identified and assisted. The workshop aimed to streamline coordination among various partners, especially GBV & general Protection, improve communication channels, and establish standardized referral procedures to ensure timely and effective support for vulnerable children.
- On 14th January CPSS is going to conduct a planning workshop for 2025 along with all CPSS partners.

Protection Sector: Shire, the Associate Information Management Officer, from Protection Sector shared, -

The Protection Sector conducted workshops in which 150 PERU members participated on December 2-3, in two batches. The sessions focused on addressing camp-level challenges, sharing field insights for resolution, and included an orientation on PERU roles and responsibilities alongside a refresher session on PSEA. The annual workshop reinforced the sector's efforts to identify root causes of gaps in camp-level coordination during emergency response while also enhancing communication and collaboration between the sector and PERU members.

- The Protection Sector organized a capacity building session on "Communication for Peace" on December 10-11. The session hosted 40 participants from different protection partners and focused on Non-violent Communication principles by Marshall Rosenberg, aimed at fostering authentic connections, empathy, and mutual understanding. Participants explored four practical steps to enhance collaboration with colleagues, partners, and community members, as well as improve personal relationships by addressing needs without conflict and moving toward positive, mutually beneficial outcomes. The initiative is part of the "Peace & Security" campaign and aims at building the capacity of partners to support conflict mediation and trust building in the camps.
- The Protection Sector, including CPSS and GBVSS, launched the baseline data collection for the Peace and Security Campaign to establish foundational data for the initiative. Data collection was finalized on December 29, 2024, with a total of 296 key informant interviews and 35 focus group discussions conducted.
- The sector organized a Coordination Workshop with CP and GBV Sub-sector Focal Points on December 5 to enhance collaboration among camp-based protection focal points. Discussions focused on improving coordination practices, joint advocacy in protection cases, streamlining referral mechanisms, and addressing capacity-building needs.
- The sector is progressing the reactivation of the HLP Working Group, with the ToRs currently under development. The sector has adopted an evidence-based response



approach, supported by initial 2024 HLP data analysis, which shows a 32% increase in HLP incidents compared to 2023.

GiHA WG: Mehbuba, the GiHA Coordinator shared,

- The GiHA WG monthly meeting was held on December 19, 2024, at the ISCG Office. - GiHA continued the 16 DOA campaign till December 10, 2024. This included a 17-video awareness messages from humanitarian workers in Cox's Bazar, which were shared across various ISCG social media platforms to promote the prevention of gender-based violence. **Available in ISCG Social media**

platforms:

<https://www.youtube.com/@RohingyaResp>

<https://www.facebook.com/RohingyaResp>

<https://www.instagram.com/rohingyaresp/?igsh=M2pobzFsZHhnZzBs#>

<https://x.com/RohingyaResp>

- Finalizing the Gender Tip Sheet.
- Compiling and reviewing the GiHA Working Group Activity Report for 2024, to be released by the end of this month.
- Initiating discussions and planning for International Women's Day (IWD) 2025.

Feedback from the participants and responses:

- The Gender Focal Point of GBVSS proposed developing a separate tip sheet specifically for GBVSS.
- The GBVSS Coordinator recommended creating videos featuring the voices of community members and women-led organizations (WLOs) during the 16 days of Activism.

AoB

- The GBVSS Coordinator shared that two Women-Led Organizations (WLOs) were selected for a Global online training from GBV AoR.
- The GBVSS will be sending out an email to collect WhatsApp numbers to create a GBVSS WhatsApp group for easy communication.
- Bandhu is preparing to initiate GBV case management services in Camp 5 and Camp 12, integrated within the Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities.

**** *Please find the detailed presentation [here](#)*

Action Points

SL	Action Points	Responsible person	Progress
1	GBVSS to disseminate updated MHPSS Focal Point list with partner	GBVSS	Shared with meeting invitation
2	GBVSS to coordinate with MHPSS WG on suicidal incidences	GBVSS	In progress



3	Establishing the GBVSS Whatsapp Group	GBVSS	collection of Whatsapp numbers in progress.
4	CMWG and Prevention WG to share 2025 CMWG Workplan	CMWG & Prevention WG	