



GBV Sub-Sector Monthly Meeting Minutes - February 2025

Date	10 February 2025, Monday	Venue: ISCG Conference Room, 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: 35 (Male: 18 Female: 17) UNHCR, UNFPA, Child Protection Sub Sector (CPSS), Caritas BD, DRC, CBM Global, Mukti CXB, Coast Foundation, CPM, BRAC, WHO, World Vision, Aid Comilla, UN Women, IOM, PSEA Network, Bandhu Social Welfare, Save the Children, Care Bangladesh, OXFAM, GiHA WG, Action Aid BD, WFP, EDUCO, HAP, Protection Sector, IRC, PULSE Bangladesh, GIS, BNPS, GUK, LAW, JNUS, CWFD, GNB, IPAS Bangladesh	
Agenda	<p><u>Welcome, Greetings and Introduction:</u> Annie Waweru, GBVSS Coordinator welcomed all participants and invited everyone for a round of introduction.</p> <p><u>Meeting Agenda:</u> Annie, GBVSS Coordinator, shared the agenda of the February 2025 meeting as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Field level coordination updates ● # 1 Flash Updates 2025 - Presentation ● Planned trainings -February 2025 ● Dignity Kit - presentation ● Updates on fire Incident at Camp 26 ● Safety Audit findings - IRC <p>Field level coordination updates: Field level coordination updates were stated as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New arrivals have reported facing challenges with registration, token access, and shelter, often having to rely on overcrowded spaces with friends and relatives while lacking sufficient NFIs, such as blankets and food. ● There have been rising reports of disputes between long-term Rohingya and new arrivals over gold, money, and valuables. Some new arrivals have accused their hosts of stealing or seizing their gold in exchange for food and shelter. ● There has been an increase in nighttime movement, threats to female-headed households, and coercion, particularly targeting new arrivals, including rape threats. Additionally, reports indicate that women are being recruited by armed groups. <p>GBV cases were being interfered with, as some leaders and government officials demanded to verify cases. The GBVSS Coordinator emphasized that every person is entitled to GBV services, regardless of whether they are registered, including new arrivals. Additionally, messages from GBVSS on service provision for new arrivals were shared HERE.</p>	



Training in February 2025: There will be 4 training sessions conducted in February 2025. Staff from organizations affected by USAID Fund freezing can also nominate themselves for these training if they are still on contract. All Q1 training will be conducted in February as operations change during the Holy Month i.e. working hours etc.

- GBV Information Management (IM)-5W for the GBVSS members - 11th February 2025- 1st batch and 12th February- 2nd batch)
- GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for GBVSS partners (26th-27th February, 2025- 1st batch and 2nd batch in April)-Nomination by 11 February 2025.
- GBV core concepts, GBV risk mitigation and services to non-GBV actors 23rd to 24th February 2025).
- GBV Camp Focal Points on GBV Coordination Mechanism, Risk Mitigation Approaches & Safe Referral (19th to 20th February 2025).

Flash Updates- January 2025: GBVSS gave a brief on the #1 [Flash update](#) circulated by Protection Sector (PS) in January.

- Threats and Exploitation: Female-headed households reported threats from the organized groups, forcing them into domestic work and exploiting them sexually.
- Child & Forced Marriage: Organized groups coercing younger women into child/ Forced marriage.
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- Restricted Movement and Fear: Women and girls fear using WASH facilities at night due to poor lighting.
- New arrivals women and girls are facing heightened GBV risks, including theft, forced marriage for dowry, and exploitation.
- Violation of Safe Spaces: Men forcibly entering Women-Friendly Spaces, violating safety and confidentiality standards, deterring women from seeking life-saving services.
- Mistrust in Services: Involvement of community leaders in case management discourages survivors from seeking help due to fear of further harm or retaliation.

Volunteer risk mapping: The GBV Coordinator demonstrated the Volunteer Risk Mapping Tool and shared it for partners' input. The tool was reactivated by the Protection Sector, in collaboration with the ISCG, in response to recent trends of insecurity in the camps. It is designed to map such incidents and assess their impact on service delivery. Feedback is anonymous, and no one can view the information shared by others.

Feedback from the participants:

- Johanna, the Protection Sector Coordinator, mentioned that given the recent incident of a volunteer being kidnapped, the volunteer risk mapping tool is crucial for a better understanding of the safety and security of all volunteers.
- Farzana from UN Women raised the issue of male entry into the WFS if they are donors. The GBVSS Coordinator responded that no male is allowed to enter the WFS. She emphasized that the WFS is the only dedicated space for women to gather for their well-being and socialization, and therefore, there is no room for compromise on this matter.

Dignity Kit presentation:



The GBVSS Coordinator gave a presentation on the Dignity Kits (DK) Guideline Note, which will be circulated. The DK Guidance Note was reviewed in January and will be shared with partners.

Gabriella expressed concerns that the USAID fund freeze could lead to cuts in the procurements and distribution of the Dignity Kits by partners.

Fire Incident at Camp 26: NFC of GBVSS gave an update on the fire response at camp-26 as below:

- GBV actors provided Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Psychosocial Support (PSS) to 150 fire-affected individuals.
- GBVSS coordinated the distribution of 89 dignity kits to women and girls in need after conducting a thorough needs assessment in collaboration with Site Management.
- Safe referral for 22 fire-affected individuals to the respective sectoral actors based on their needs.

Open discussion/Feedback: Annie, the GBVSS Coordinator, emphasized the importance of pre-distribution and post-distribution monitoring (PDM), highlighting the need to gather people's feedback. She stressed that partners must also reach out to marginalized groups, such as the LGBTIQ community, to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are considered.

Presentation by IRC: Gladys presented safety audit findings on Protection Risks and Concerns for Women and Girls from Cox's Bazar (detail in the presentation [LINK](#)). The audit covered a few bullet points as shown below.

Key Findings of Safety Audit:

Key Risk Factors and Vulnerabilities:

- **Inadequate Lighting and Safe Spaces:** 57% of women reported feeling unsafe when traveling outside at night due to poor lighting and lack of secure spaces.
- **Armed groups:** In camps, 80% of respondents identified criminal groups as the biggest source of insecurity, and 46% from host communities.
- **Adolescent Vulnerabilities:** Increased risks of child marriage, sexual violence, trafficking, and social isolation.
- **Fear of being identified:** 82% in camps and 40% in host communities fear being identified when accessing GBV services.
- **Limited-Service Availability:** 52% of respondents in camps mentioned that adolescent-friendly services were unavailable.

Public Safety and Family related Risk:

- **Sexual Violence in Public Spaces:** Latrines, bathing facilities, and markets 67% reported an increase in sexual violence, with 63% of camp respondents and 52% from host communities identifying markets as risky locations for women and girls.
- **Violence in the Home:** 82% of respondents reported that women and girls face violence at home, often from intimate partners or family members.
- **Sexual Harassment at Water Points:** 71% of respondents in camps and 32% in host communities reported harassment while collecting water.
- **Insecure Travel:** 57% of women in camps and 26% in host communities reported risks while traveling outside.



- **Trafficking Concerns:** 61% of respondents expressed concern about trafficking, with 76% of host community women seeing it as a major issue.

Recommendations GBVSS, and the community:

- GBV SS partners to Increase investment in family and community cohesion programs, GBV prevention and response services.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Prioritize launching vocational training, and financial support, livelihood initiatives to empowerment and support GBV survivors in attaining independence.
- **Strengthen Service Delivery:** Enhance timely referral systems, quality case management, and coordination systems among agencies, ensuring adequate staffing, GBV focal points, and resources.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Advocate for stronger inclusive policies, enforcement regarding GBV prevention and response addressing the root causes
- **Increasing commitment and accountability** through community-based strategies and mechanisms, action , track the root causes of GBV and thrive to behavior and social norm Focus on prevention efforts, including community-led initiatives and engaging men and boys in promoting gender equality and challenging harmful gender norms.
- **Promote the agency of women and girls** and their meaningful participation in decision-making processes related to GBV and ensure their voices are heard and needs met.

The GBVSS Coordinator stated that during the JRP process, these are the documents essential for preparing for the proposals.

Operational updates

Case Management Working Group (CMWG): Gladys shared the updates on behalf of CMWG.

- The meeting was hosted at Mukti office on 3rd Feb 2024
- Reviewed and endorsed different documents including:
- CMWG ToR
- GBV-CP Case Management Guideline
- Dignity Kit guideline
- Next meeting is on 3rd March at IRC office

Open discussions/Feedback:

- CMWG 2025 Workplan has already been shared with GBVSS.
- Both GBVSS and CPSS initiated the review process of the CP-GBV guidelines. GBVSS, in collaboration with its CMWG, reviewed the existing CP-GBV guidelines and shared the recommended areas for revision with CPSS.

Prevention Working Group (PWG): Gabriella from the PWG gave the following updates

- January 2025 Prevention WG meeting took place on 29 Jan.
- Focal point list: In coordination with the GBVSS, the focal point list will be updated and distributed..
- Work plan 2025 will be finalized soon and shared with partners.
- Prevention WG ToR has been shared with all members for feedback/comments.
- Challenges: Fund constraint

Open discussions/feedback:

- Gabriella mentioned that some donors are particularly interested in women's empowerment, which could be a valuable source of funding. Johanna added that this could be an avenue to explore for fundraising.



PSEA Network: Benedetta provided updates on behalf of PSEA Network as below:

- Endorsement of the terms of reference (ToR) for PSEA Network, including Cluster/Sector PSEA Focal Point from ROCT
- Endorsement of the PSEA Network Action Plan by ROCT and UNCT
- Update on the interagency SEA risk assessment

CPSS: Osman, CPSS provided below updates for CPSS

- On January 14th, 2025, the Child Protection Sub-Sector work plan workshop for 2025/26 was held. Various CP agencies contributed several key recommendations to strengthen the current child protection system and services.
- The Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) of CPSS held a meeting to review and endorse several key documents. The endorsed documents include the revised SoP of CPSM, CP Coverage exercise, CAAFAG Guidelines, and the CCPM result, reflected in the CPSS Workplan.
- The Case Management Technical Working Group (CMTWG) met to discuss the revision of child protection case management tools. Several forms and documents used in case management were reviewed and revised to improve efficiency and effectiveness.
- Since January, the Child Protection Coverage 2025 exercise has begun, with orientation sessions conducted for camp and host community facilitators. These sessions aimed to familiarize participants with the available child protection services, stakeholder roles and responsibilities, and the importance of coordinated efforts.
- The CPSM Key informants from both host communities and refugee camps are actively participating in data collection. This monitoring mechanism aims to assess the current child protection situation and services based on the revised indicators by CPSS partners, identify gaps, and gather insights for better advocacy and intervention planning. The collected data will inform strategic decisions and CP trend analysis to address the needs of vulnerable children effectively.

Protection Sector: Johanna provided below updates on the protection sector:

- The Protection Sector finalized and published the [joint protection monitor report for quarter 4, 2024](#).
- The Protection Sector issued its first Flash Protection Update of 2025 on 30 January, highlighting increased large-scale gatherings urging refugees to return to Myanmar and fight, as well as a surge in abductions and kidnappings for ransom, including children.
- The Protection Sector announced the formation of the Peace and Security Campaign Working Group in January following the endorsement of its TOR. UNHCR and IOM were appointed as co-leads for the working group followed by an open call for interest by the Sector.
- The HLP Technical Advisor facilitated a housing, Land, and Property (HLP) training for SCCCM partners on 27-28 January. The training covered key HLP rights, national and international legal frameworks, forced eviction, and land management in Bangladesh.

Open discussions/Feedback: The GBVSS Coordinator asked partners to keep some time slots for GBVSS if they extend the training in the upcoming days.

GiHA WG: Mehbuba Jabin from GiHA WG provided below updates

- The GiHA WG monthly meeting was held on January 23, 2025, at the ISCG Office.



- International Women's Day 2025 Preparation: Several task teams were formed as preparation of IWD 2025.
- ISNA 2024 sector-specific data analysis.

AOB:

- 2025 Contact List: GBVSS IM Yamuna reminded the participants to share their updated organization focal point details
- Updates on Capacity mapping: GBVSS is developing a capacity needs assessment tool to assess the knowledge of service providers, identify training needs, and strengthen GBV programming. This will be shared by the end of February 2025.
- GBV Risk Monitoring Tool: GBVSS shared [GBV Risk Monitoring Tool](#) for partners' input, which is designed to collect data on emerging GBV trends and their impact on programming, particularly in light of the information detailed in the flash update on insecurity in the camps

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

Action Points

SL	Action Points	Responsible person	Progress
1	GBVSS will share the capacity needs assessment tools with partners.	GBVSS	Shared on 27 February 2025
2	Partners to regularly update the GBV Risk Mapping Tool .	Partners	Shared on 9 February 2025