



## GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS) Monthly Meeting Minutes - March 2025

<b>Date</b>	12 March 2025, Wednesday	<b>Venue:</b> ISCG Conference Room, Cox's Bazar Office
<b>Meeting Modality</b>	In-Person	<b>Time:</b> 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
<b>Chair</b>	Annie Waweru; GBVSS Coordinator	<b>Preparation of Minutes:</b> GBVSS Coordination Team
<b>Partner's present</b>	<b>Number of Participants: 44 (Male: 10, Female: 34)</b> <b>Representative Organizations:</b> UNFPA, IRC, Ipas Bangladesh, UNHCR, CPSS, Protection Sector, UN Women, PSEA Network, GiHA WG, Bandhu Social Welfare, Mukti Cox's Bazar, CODEC, Caritas BD, Care Bangladesh, GUK, Save the Children, HLP-ISCG, GBVSS, UNICEF, GNB, IOM, DRC, BRAC, WFP, MSF, Aid-Comilla, Oxfam, Nari Maitree, RTMI, BNPS, FIVDB, BDRCS, WVB, RWWS.	



## Agenda

**Welcome and Greetings:** Annie Waweru, GBVSS Coordinator, began the meeting by welcoming all participants, emphasizing the importance of their presence and contributions to the GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS). She invited everyone to introduce themselves, fostering an inclusive and collaborative environment for meaningful discussions.

**Meeting Agenda:** GBVSS Coordinator shared the agenda of the March 2025 meeting as follows: **1. GBVSS updates**

- GBVSS Capacity Needs Assessment
- Field Level Observations
- GBV Safety Audit- WASH, SCCM and CP.
- Partner Presentations
  - PSEA Annual Report 2024 - PSEA network
  - Rapid Gender Analysis - CARE International.

**2. Operational Updates:** Case Management WG/Prevention WG/Child Protection Sub Sector/Protection Sector/GiHA WG/PSEA Network.

### **3. AoB**

- Volunteer Risk Mapping
- Proposed Food Ratio Cuts- 1st April 2025.
- GBV Risk Monitoring
- GBVSS Contact List-2025 and GBVSS Email List
- 5W and Service Mapping

## **Agenda and decisions**

### **1. GBVSS updates**

- **GBVSS Capacity Needs Assessment:** The GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS) shared with partners a survey aimed at gaining a comprehensive understanding of existing capacities, gaps, and efforts to strengthen GBV programming. The GBVSS Coordinator requested partners to complete the GBVSS Capacity Needs Assessment form shared by the GBVSS Information Management Officer (IMO).

**Discussion:** Swapna from BRAC suggested that one person per organization should complete the form. In response, the GBVSS Coordinator clarified that while it is preferred for one representative to fill out the form on behalf of an organization, the survey is intended for individuals rather than an organizational assessment. She emphasized that the link can be shared with all GBV staff, from caseworkers to technical specialists, to help identify capacity gaps effectively.

**Follow-up Action:** The GBVSS will recirculate the capacity needs assessment tools.



- **Field Level Observations:** The NFC-GBVSS provided a briefing on key field-level observations, highlighting critical concerns:

- Concerns of adolescent girls being trafficked to Malaysia through brokers, forced marriages due to financial hardship, and arranged marriages with Rohingya men who work across the borders;
- Newly arrived Rohingya families, especially female-headed households, face rising rent demands and forced evictions, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and coercion, resorting to survival strategies, including prostitution;
- Adolescent girls face restricted mobility due to societal stigma, lack of skill-based training in WFS sessions, as per their parents.

**Discussion:** Shamim from Mukti Cox's Bazar raised concerns about the CiC's directive to keep Women-Friendly Spaces (WFS) closed on Saturdays due to security concerns at camp-1E. He inquired whether any advocacy efforts were being undertaken by GBVSS. In response, the GBVSS Coordinator clarified that GBVSS, through the lead agency UNFPA, has been actively advocating on this issue. She informed participants that GBVSS held a meeting with the ARRC and that he was in communication with the CICs for GBV-related discussions. Additionally, she urged partners to report or escalate any access-related issues to the Access Working Group.

-Regarding the rising rent concern, the HLP (Housing, Land, and Property) Advisor inquired whether the GBV Camp Focal Points (CFPs) had referred the affected women and girls to HLP Camp Focal Points in the respective camps. He emphasized the need to further strengthen coordination between HLP and GBV actors at the field level to address the growing concern and better support the affected community. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of knowledge sharing on HLP services among all GBV CFPs, particularly by those who received HLP training in February 2025.

**Follow-up Action:** *The GBVSS will coordinate the issue of WFS closures on Sundays with the Access Working Group and the RRRC office.*

- **GBV Safety Audit:** The GBVSS has begun talks with the SCCM, WASH, and CP to conduct GBV Safety Audits as no-cost activities, based on the 2024 Inter-Sector Needs Assessment. The Child Protection Sub-Sector (CPSS) has expressed interest in participating in the audits. The WASH and SCCM sectors coordinators, with the GBVSS IMO, have already reviewed the assessment tools and discussions being held at the different SAG meetings. To ensure successful implementation, GBVSS seeks support from partners for field-level data collection. Once the questionnaire is finalized, it will be shared with partners, followed by an online meeting to discuss the questionnaire and data collection plan. Partners will be given three weeks to complete data collection along with their regular activities. The GBVSS, WASH, SCCM, and CP aim to produce a comprehensive safety audit report before the JRP 2026 submission.



● **Partner Presentations:**

- **PSEA Annual Report 2024:** Rajib from the PSEA Network gave a presentation on PSEA Year End Report 2024, highlighting PSEA capacity assessment and recommendations on reporting channels, SEA trends analysis, etc. ([Details in PPT](#)).

**Discussion:** Gabriela raised concerns about the potential duplication of the survey, as the same form has been completed by both UN agencies and implementing partners. In response, Rajib stated that he would follow up on the issue. Additionally, Gabriela highlighted that some partners are not disclosing the names of perpetrators, which may inadvertently protect them.

-Shamim from Mukti Cox's Bazar suggested developing guidance on visibility items for volunteers by ISCG/GBVSS. He also noted the absence of a formal mechanism for conducting reference checks for volunteers across organizations. In response, Gabriela emphasized that vests serve as protective measures for volunteers facing risks in the field.

-Enrica from UNFPA stressed the importance of investigating alleged perpetrators among host community volunteers and staff members by their respective organizations.

**Follow-up Action:** *The GBVSS Coordinator urged the PSEA Network Coordinator to revive the discussion and explore the best ways to address the issue. In response, Rajib stated that a half-day workshop would be held after the Eid vacation to discuss this further.*

- **Rapid Gender Analysis:** Bilkish from CARE Bangladesh presented the findings of Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA ) in Bhasan Char, July 2023 highlighting the impacts of the relocation in Bhasan Char, understanding how the relocation to the island impacted the different needs, capacities, and coping strategies of women, men, boys, and girls as well as recommendations for humanitarian operations ([Details in PPT](#)). The report is published on the [Relief Web page](#).

**Discussion:** In addressing the limited availability of GBV services, Enrica pointed out that UNFPA operates four centers, and UNHCR runs two centers in Bhasan Char. According to Enrica, given the population size, these facilities are sufficient. However, Sadik from WFP highlighted that fewer GBV and child protection actors are actively working in Bhasan Char, where a significant number of families face challenges such as sharing buildings, using corner spaces as toilets, and encountering protection concerns.

-Johana raised a crucial point about the gender balance within humanitarian staff and the Rohingya volunteer community, asking for clarification on the ratio of female staff members. She referenced the UN's commitment to gender parity policies, which prioritize the inclusion of female staff members across humanitarian operations.



**Follow-up Action:** *Since the RGA report from July 2023, the situation and findings have evolved. The GBVSS Coordinator has requested that partners refrain from using the outdated report, as the information no longer reflects the current scenario. However, it is still available for reference to compare with the present conditions.*

## **2. Operational Updates**

- **Case Management Working Group (CMWG):** Falghuni Das, on behalf of the Case Management WG provided the following updates:

- The monthly meeting of the CMWG was hosted at the IRC office on 3rd March 2024. Reviewed and endorsed different documents, including presentations and plenaries on case file management and handover process. The next meeting is on 7th April at the CARE Office.

**Discussion:** The GBVSS Coordinator announced that the GBVSS will be organizing a one-day workshop focused on the CP-GBV case management guidelines.

- **Prevention Working Group:** Gabriela, on behalf of the Prevention WG, provided the following updates: ○ The monthly meeting of the prevention working group was held on 25 February 2025, and the meeting was focused on focal points list updates, reviewing and revising the 2025 action plan and discussing the challenges and way forward faced by the members (*Details in the [PPT](#)*).

**Discussion:** The GBVSS Coordinator requested to share the work plan of the Prevention WG 2025 for the review by GBVSS partners.

- **Child Protection Sub Sector (CPSS):** Osman Goni, on behalf of the CPSS, provided the following updates:
  - An orientation session was conducted to discuss the new 5W reporting and data collection system. The CP Coverage Exercise 2025 has been completed, with the analysis currently underway.
  - A meeting with the Child Protection Focal Points (CPFPs) was held to discuss current operational challenges.
  - The CP Case Management forms have been updated and circulated to CP Case Management actors for feedback and the CAAFAG (*Children associated with armed forces and armed groups*) Case Management Guideline has been shared with Child Protection actors, along with an online orientation session to ensure proper understanding (*Details in the [PPT](#)*).

- **GiHA Working Group:** Mehbuba on behalf of the GiHA Working Group, provided the following updates: ○ The GiHA WG February 2025 Monthly Meeting and IWD Task Force meeting was held on February 27, 2025. A work plan has been initiated for the Technical Working Group (TWG) on WLO/ WRO strategies. A series of Camp Level consultations were organized in 20 camps aimed to center the voices of Rohingya refugee women and girls along with the camp CiCs and other relevant stakeholders to understand the perspectives on gender equality (as a preparatory work for IWD 2025).
  - International Women's Day 2025 Launch event at the RRRC Office on March 05, 2025 (*Details in the [PPT](#)*).



**Discussion:** The GBVSS Coordinator requested to share the findings of camp camp-level consultation meeting in the next GBVSS monthly meeting of April 2025.

- **PSEA Network:** Rajib on behalf of the PSEA Network, provided the following updates:
  - Conducted PSEA Orientation for GBV Camp Focal Points on 25 February 2025, organized by the GBVSS. Completed the translation of SEAH Investigation Guide in Bangla.
  - IARA SEA Risk Assessment: Completed primary data collection in Cox's Bazar (in 5 camps and 1 host location). (*Details in the [PPT](#)*).

**Discussion:** Rajib announced that there will be a validation workshop on IARA SEA Risk Assessment findings, both at the Cox's Bazar and Dhaka levels.

### 3. AoB

- **Volunteer Risk Mapping and Emerging Insecurity Trend:** The GBVSS Coordinator urged partners to continue updating this document regularly ([LINK](#)).
- **Proposed expected Food Ratio Cuts:** The GBVSS Coordinator mentioned that there is a communication from WFP on food cuts, and the community might experience anxiety and tension. In light of this, GBVSS partners have been urged to mainstream GBV into all other sectoral programs and to integrate the messages about food ration cuts, as shared by AAP (Accountability to Affected Population), into their activities.
- **GBV Risk Monitoring:** The GBVSS Coordinator urged partners to continue updating the document regularly to ensure that it reflects the most current and accurate information.

**Decision:** The GBVSS will reshare the [LINK](#). The UNFPA and UNHCR are requested to share the risks that are mentioned in the meeting.

- **GBVSS Contact List-2025:** Some of the participants are not in the GBVSS WhatsApp group. The GBVSS Coordinator requested partners to update their contact list on the recently shared Excel sheet.

**Discussion:** Johanna from the Protection Sector raised concerns about the sharing of sensitive information in the WhatsApp group. In response, the GBVSS Coordinator assured that partners will not share any details related to GBV cases, memes, jokes, or any unrelated issues. The WhatsApp group is to be used strictly for emergency communications, such as during incidents like floods, fires, or other crises.

**Decision:** *GBVSS-IMO will recirculate the GBVSS Contact list updates by today.*



- **5W and Service Mapping:** Yamuna, the GBVSS IMO gave a briefing on the 5W and service mapping of February 2025. Many of the partners are still not sending the 5W even after attending the workshop on 5W.

- **GBVSS Email List:** The GBVSS Coordinator requested partners to refrain from using the GBVSS email list to send emails to all GBVSS members. Additionally, she asked that when replying to an email, partners should avoid copying everyone in the response.

**Discussion:** Gabriella raised the concern that GBVSS needs to conduct a capacity assessment, as some partners lack the minimum capacity to continue providing GBV services. She pointed out that some actors are breaching GBV minimum standards by engaging in other practices that jeopardize the reputation of the GBVSS and its members. In response, the GBVSS Coordinator clarified that they had already contacted some partners regarding these issues, and the capacity needs assessment is currently ongoing. Rajib proposed considering the reduction of the number of GBVSS partners based on the performance and commitment of the partners.

#### Action Points

SL	Action Points	Responsible person	Progress
1	The GBVSS will reshare the GBVSS Members Contact list updates by today.	GBVSS-IMO	Shared on 12 March 2025
2	The GBVSS will reshare the GBV risk monitoring tool.	GBVSS-IMO	Shared on 13 March 2025
3	The GBVSS will reshare the Capacity assessment tool.	GBVSS-IMO	Shared on 13 March 2025 with an extended deadline on 27 March 2025.
4	GiHA WG Coordinator will present camp-level findings in the next GBVSS monthly meeting in April 2025.	GiHA WG Coordinator	GiHA WG Coordinator will present on 17 April 2025.
5	The prevention WG will share the work plan 2025 with GBVSS	GBVSS-NFC	to follow up with the prevention WG.