



GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS) Monthly Meeting Minutes - May 2025

Date	13 th May, 2025	Venue: ISCG Conference Room, Cox's Bazar Office
Meeting Modality	In-Person	Time: 11:00 am to 11:00 pm
Chair	Annie Waweru, GBVSS Coordinator	Preparation of Minutes: GBVSS Coordination Team
Partner's present	Number of Participants: Total: 42 (M: 28, F: 14) Representative Organizations: Nari Maitree, BNPS, AiD Comilla, IPAS Bangladesh, Oxfam, SCI, UN Women, FIVDB, CARE, IRC, WVB, HI, BRAC, RTMI, COAST, ISCG, DRC, Educo, ICRC, WFP, IOM, Mukti CXB, Action Aid, WHO, RWWS, GNB, Caritas BD, UNFPA, PULSE BD, GUK, UNHCR, CODEC,	
Agenda & Discussion	<p><u>Welcome & Greetings:</u> Annie Waweru, GBVSS Coordinator, began the meeting by welcoming all participants and emphasizing the importance of their presence and contributions to the GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS).</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <p>1. GBVSS Updates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Field Observation Update 2. Update on GBV Service Facility Rationalization Exercise. 3. Quarterly GBV SS Updates. <p>2. Partner Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CARE on Safety Audit <p>3. Operational Updates: CMWG/PreventionWG/CPSS/PS/GiHA/PSEA Network</p> <p>AoB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GBVSS Coordinators' Mission to Dhaka - GBV Risk monitoring - Family Planning - Staff nominated for Training - Virtually and In-person <p><u>Agendawise discussion and way forward:</u></p> <p><u>1. GBVSS Updates:</u></p> <p>a. Field Observation Update: The GBVSS NFC team shared the field-level coordination update as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and cultural norms continue to limit adolescent girls' education and public participation, reinforcing restrictions on their mobility, hindering them from accessing life-saving services. Also, limiting women's and girls' participation and involvement in the community. • Community Mobilization Assistants (CMAs) and Care and Maintenance Officers are still involved in GBV case management processes. • Forced evictions and inflated rent demands by host community landlords have contributed to housing insecurity, particularly affecting newly arrived families. Some Female-headed households have reported experiencing different forms of GBV. • Women and girls are still experiencing heightened insecurity due to the presence and actions of armed and organized groups in the camps. <p>b. GBV Service Facility Rationalization Exercise: The GBV Sub Sector (GBVSS) Coordinator presented the update of the ongoing GBV service facility rationalization exercise with the appealing partners as below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the past two weeks, GBVSS engaged with appealing partners to further the focus on facility operations, focusing on integrated models and resource efficiency. • The key considerations for the GBV facility rationalization exercise included caseload per facility, 	



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population distribution, and facility proximity within camps - safety and access.

- Will continue meetings with partners in the coming two weeks and finalize decisions on facility closures, consolidations, and integrations.
- GBVSS will prioritize discussion on facility mapping of **non-JRP partners** in the coming days. Including those that aren't coordinated under the GBV SS.

The GBVSS Coordinator emphasized closing the facilities that are not providing all 4 GBV JRP activities, but rather some. She also asked to coordinate with the GBVSS team to collaborate with other agencies to integrate the services.

c. Quarterly GBV SS Updates: Annie Waweru, GBVSS Coordinator, briefed on the GBVSS quarterly findings as below.

- **Heightened insecurity:** Men are being scammed with false job offers and subsequently abducted. Men participating in night patrols are increasingly being targeted by organized groups, increasing vulnerability and putting their families at risk.
- 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.
- Persistent barriers—such as fear of retaliation, mistrust in reporting mechanisms, and interference from community leaders and other authorities—continue to discourage survivors from seeking GBV services. HLP challenges for new arrivals. Overcrowding and lack of privacy in shelters. Men are sleeping in Mosques and leaving the houses for women and girls.
- Increased reports of suicide threats and suicidal tendencies among community members due to pressure, exploitation, and trauma caused by the armed groups. This has resulted in increased use of drugs and substance abuse as a coping mechanism and further fueling different forms of GBV.
- **Marginalization of Gender Diverse Population:** Some members of the Gender-diverse Population have reported experiencing bullying, exclusion, and threats of sexual violence. They faced discrimination not only within their communities but also from service providers, resulting in social isolation and increased physical and psychological risks.

Feedback and discussions:

- Participants had a feeling that survivors do not receive justice at the end of the day, which discourages them from reporting GBV incidents.
- PSEA network inquiries about GBVSS's adoption methods and interventions to mitigate the challenge of mistrust in reporting mechanisms. In response, the GBVSS shared that the PS and the lead agencies are consistently engaging with CiCs, APBn, and community leaders on matters of protection. The GBVSS also informed participants that there will be a one-day workshop with the CIC in the second quarter of 2025 as part of the response.

2. Presentation on Safety Audits by CARE Bangladesh: Moslima Aker, from CARE Bangladesh, presented the key findings of the safety audits conducted in Camps 11,12,15,16 (details can be found in this GBVSS presentation [LINK](#)). Key highlights included as below:

Limited water access in MHM blocks:

- Women and girls struggle to maintain hygiene during menstruation due to an unreliable water supply
- Water shortage compromises both health and dignity
- Water scarcity discourages regular use of MHM facilities.
- Due to the lack of adequate water supply undermining the safety and effectiveness of these gender-



sensitive spaces.

Key WASH-related GBV Risks:

- Inadequate lighting around latrines and bathing areas increases GBV risks at night.
- High demand leads to long waits and reduced privacy, heightening harassment risks.
- Limited disability-friendly design in all structures excludes persons with disabilities.
- A number of communal WASH spaces compromise safety and dignity for women and girls, including the Gender Diverse Population.

Key Gaps in MHM and WASH Services

- Challenges in hygiene/health facilities deter use and increase health risks.
- Lack of clean water in MHM blocks limits safe menstrual hygiene.
- Hygiene items are often not restocked, affecting regular and safe use.

Recommendations:

- Women and girls suggested the repair and replacement of solar lights around the camp. Considering that women and girls spoke extensively in the survey about how difficult it was to access the toilets at night due to a lack of light, addressing this concern would also potentially support safer and better access to latrines.
- Install adequate lighting around all WASH facilities to enhance safety during nighttime.
- Increase the number of facilities to meet the needs of the population, thereby reducing waiting times.
- Ensure all WASH facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Redesign facilities to ensure privacy, such as installing partitions and secure doors.
- Implement a regular maintenance schedule to keep facilities clean and functional.

Discussions and Feedback:

- Mehbuba Jabin, from the GiHA Coordinator, asked regarding the methodology of safety audits while CARE mentioned to the FGD, KII as methods conducted in the four CARE camps (11,12, 15, and 16).
- Ashraf from UN Women reaffirmed that all these findings are not something new and agreeable. So, we need to make an action plan so that we do not need to face a similar finding next year.
- Moslima replied to the participants that the report will be shared with the WASH sector to take action to mitigate risk.
- Shamim Sardar, from MUKTI Cox's Bazar, inquired about the staff engagement of GBV staff or third party in the safety audit, while in response, CARE shared that they engaged their WASH staff.
- Rajib Rahman, from PSEA Network, talked about communication with the community for planning and prioritizing activities given the current funding landscape. The GBVSS Coordinator responded that this is a sector and ISCG level coordination as well as referring to different official level communication channels.
- IRC representative also added that there is community consultation in practice from the project kick-off to the implementation, including the closure. Even during the funding freeze, IRC, before holding their services, reached out to the community.
- At the end GBVSS Coordinator asked to be cautious while sharing any information, and all issues should be validated by GBVSS and ISCG.
- It is discussed to extend support from ADWG if required for accessibility audit issues, as the safety audit reveals some challenges for the PwDs.

3. Operational Updates:

Case Management Working Group: Gladys Muiga presented the following update from the CMWG:

- The meeting was hosted at the UNFPA office on 5th May 2025
- Complete IPV Training Module and CM Supervision Guidance Note



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- Discussions on preparedness for the Upcoming Monsoon season and CM case file Management.
- The next meeting is on 2nd June 2025 at the BRAC Office.

Feedback and discussions:

- Gladys Muiga, from IRC, refers to an update to the town hall meeting over guidance notes on Guidance Note on Working with Child Survivors in Rohingya Response.
- The GBVSS Coordinator shared that two batches of CCS training will be arranged for case workers working in the field, which will be organized in the upcoming days.

Prevention Working Group (PWG): Shirin from GBV PWG delivered the update as below:

- The GBV Prevention Service Mapping Sheet requires an update, as some organizations have closed or suspended activities due to funding constraints.
- GBV Prevention WG members have finalized the work plan.
- No further comments/input have been received on WG ToR from members as requested.
- 17 organizations, out of 46 listed initially, never participated in the Prevention Working Group (WG) meetings. In light of this, as agreed by members who were present, WG will seek guidance from GBVSS on the possibility of removing these organizations from the WG list.
- GBV Working Group (WG) members have recommended the development of key messages for non-structured GBV prevention activities. The topics identified include Domestic Violence, Child Marriage, Dowry, Polygamy, Trafficking, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), cybercrime, and Online Gambling. These messages will support implementing partners during awareness sessions and help ensure the delivery of harmonized, consistent information across all locations.
- The GBV Prevention WG will produce bi-annual reports with some success stories. WG lead will request all members to share reports and success stories of GBV Prevention Activities.

PWG meeting action points:

- WG lead will share the GBV Prevention service mapping sheet with all members for update before the next meeting.
- WG lead will share the finalized workplan with GBVSS coordination.
- The final ToR will be shared with GBVSS.
- WG will share the list of the organizations that never participated in the PWG meeting.
- UNHCR (Shirin) will share draft messages on IPV with members for review and feedback.
- IOM (Mithu) will share messages on trafficking.
- UNFPA (Keya) will lead the development of key messages on cybercrime and Online Gambling, in consultation with the UNFPA Dhaka office.
- Shirin and Keya will coordinate the development of messages on child marriage.
- WG lead will send an email to members requesting a report by the end of June 2025.

Feedback and discussions:

- Kazi Nishat, from Action Aid Bangladesh-AAB, inquired about the approaches for disseminating messaging, as there are few concerns like conservative practices and cultures in the camps. In response, Shirin referred to the awareness-raising sessions, mentioning messaging and pictorial issues with a common and standard process for both paid and unpaid volunteers.
- Anya asked to have the service facility mapping with the breakdown of types of services each facility provides.
- WFP also shared its observation of increased online gambling, which is linked with food security, as men are selling the rations to afford their gambling.
- Shirin Akter from UNHCR mentioned that UNFPA led the process and message summarization, while partners would provide their respective opinions and views. WFP showed interest in using the UNFPAs messages for online gambling issues.



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- Galyds Muiga shared the importance of looking into the message dissemination process, mentioning individual-level messaging is harmful. Shirin replied that all partners shared their messages in group awareness sessions rather than individual door-to-door messaging. She is also committed to having a discussion on this agenda in the next PWG meeting.
- The GBVSS Coordinator shared that UNFPA has staff trained in technology-based GBV, while GBVSS is in communication with the staff member for further collaboration and a way forward.

Child Protection Sub-Sector (CPSS): Annie Waweru delivered the CPSS update in favor of CPSS as below:

- In April, the **Key Informant Interviews for Child Protection Situation Monitoring (CPSM)** were completed with 226 respondents across 33 camps and 11 unions. The updated dashboard is now available, offering key insights into current trends and challenges in child protection.
- The CPSS successfully held its **Monthly Meeting and Prioritization Workshop** on April 28, bringing together all CP partners to discuss the agreed priority activities. The workshop focused on adapting service delivery modalities in light of current funding constraints and aligning partners on practical, cost-effective approaches to sustain essential child protection services.
- CPSS held a refresher session for CPSS partners on the **CP Guidance Note on Phase-Out and Service Disruptions**. The session aimed to reinforce the framework for managing funding disruptions and agency phase-outs, while ensuring minimum CP services and mechanisms remain operational, with timely reporting and handover procedures in place
- The **Caring for the Child Survivor (CCS) Guidance note** has been finalized by CPSS and GBVSS and officially endorsed. The translation process is ongoing, and a town hall orientation is scheduled for May to support sector-wide understanding and implementation.

Feedback and discussions:

- Gladys Muiga, from IRC, shared that they are looking into the service integration provision for children, mentioning the opportunity in a combined discussion between CPSS and GSBVSS to integrate comprehensive services into one facility.
- Annie Waweru assured to share the development or decision once finalized through a meeting or official announcement on the service integration feasibility among sectors.

Protection Sector (PS): Annie Waweru delivered the update in favor of the Protection Sector as below.

- The Protection Sector's Joint Protection Monitoring (JPM) Report for the 1st quarter of 2025 (January-March 2025) was published on [the Rohingya refugee response website](#). In Q1 2025, killings and firearm use dropped by 36% under the Government's "Mission Harmony" initiative, though abductions rose by 12%. Organized groups increased coercive tactics, shifting from public mobilization to direct approaches, heightening fear, and limiting open expression. Following the March arrest of ARSA's top leader, women and youth were pressured to voice support. Concerns have also emerged over the RCPR's representation, given its reported ties to organized groups.
- A comprehensive mapping of GBV and Child Protection services across all camps was completed to support planning, co-location, and improved coordination among service providers.
- The Protection Sector and partners issued multilingual messages affirming that family planning is voluntary and not linked to access to services. Advocacy and protocol revisions were undertaken to ensure informed, non-conditional service access for women.
- A technical orientation on 5W reporting was conducted for partners, addressing reporting challenges and guiding them on the use of ActivityInfo for improved data tracking.

Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) WG: Mehbuba Jabin, GiHA Coordinator, presented the update as below:

- The GiHA WG April 2025 Monthly Meeting was held on April 30, 2025, at the ISCG Office.



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- Updated GiHA WG ToR and shared with GiHA WG members for final review and will be shared with all partners by the end of May 2025.
- Prepared GiHA WG Workplan for 2025-26 and shared with GiHA WG members for final review
- Shared Gender Tip Sheets with Sectors (Protection, GBVSS, CPSS, WASH) for final review

PSEA Network: Rajib Rahman, PSEA Network Coordinator a.i, delivered the following update

- Two validation workshops were held—one with PSEA Focal Points and Sector Coordinators, and another with Senior Leadership—to review findings from the Interagency SEA Risk Assessment. Feedback will be incorporated into the final report.
- A live tracker tool has been developed by PSEAN and shared with the members to provide updates on member participation in various network activities. This tool will help members track their involvement within the network: [PSEAN member involvement tracking tool](#).

Feedback and discussions:

- PSEA Network will develop a 3-year strategy following the final report of the network .

AoB

- **CFP turnover and facilities closure:** Annie Waweru asked partners to communicate on possible staff turnover at least a month in advance to avoid gaps in CFP/ACFP roles. Also, information on potential facility closure well in advance to avoid service gaps.
- **Dhaka level donor meeting:** Annie Waweru, the GBV Sub Sector Coordinator, briefed the donor level meeting update as below:
 - Q1 Joint Protection Monitoring Report presented.
 - Follow-up discussions held with Donors on camp camp-level security situation.
 - A dedicated donor briefing on family planning issues.
- **GBV Risk Monitoring:** The GBVSS Coordinator requested partners to respond to the GBV monitoring tools shared by the GBVSS.
- **Family planning (FP):** The GBVSS Coordinator informed the meeting participant that the SRH WG will present on FP issues in the June monthly meeting. She asked participants to report to GBVSS without mentioning details/identification of the incidents.
- Raise awareness on forced family planning and inform the community that they have the right to say no.
 - Family planning is an individual choice and a human right.

Discussions and feedback:

- IPAS representatives mentioned that all their family planning methods are voluntary and in individual choice.
- Pudentienne from WHO discussed masculinity and family planning methods and practices among the community.
- Meeting participants proposed to conduct awareness sessions on community mobilization and other forms of activities on family planning.
- Raji, from HLP WG, mentioned the CiC's perception of high priority for family planning for avoiding HLP issues in the camps, referring to the CiC's workshop on HLP.

The detailed presentation can be found [HERE](#).



SL	Action Points	Responsible person	Progress
1	SRH WG to deliver a presentation on the Family Planning issue in the next monthly meeting of GBVSS.	SRHWG	SRH WG will give a presentation on 23 June 2025 in the GBVSS monthly meeting.
2	GBVSS will share the key messages on Family Planning with partners for wider dissemination	GBVSS	Shared