



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

Date	23 June, 2025	Venue: WFP Conference Room, Cox's Bazar Office
Meeting Modality	In-Person	Time: 2:00 am to 4:30 pm
Chair	Annie Waweru, GBVSS Coordinator	Preparation of Minutes: GBVSS Coordination Team
Partner's present	<p>Number of Participants: The total number of participants is 40 (Male: 11, Female: 29).</p> <p>Representative Organizations: Nari Maitree, BNPS, RTMI, ISCG, WFP, BRAC, GUK, CODEK, Care BD, JNUS, Good Neighbors Bangladesh, Caritas BD, UN Women, IRC, Mukti Cox's Bazar, HI, UNFPA, DRC, UNHCR, Coast Foundation, BSWs, Unicef, AAB, Ipas Bangladesh, World Vision, IOM, Educo Bangladesh, FIVDB, ISCG, CPSS, Protection Sector, GBVSS.</p>	
Agenda & Discussion	<p>Welcome & Greetings: Annie Waweru, GBVSS Coordinator, started the meeting by welcoming all attendees and inviting them for an introduction. She emphasized the importance of their participation and valuable contributions as members of the GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS).</p> <p>Agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GBVSS Updates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Field Observation Updates B. CP-GBV Integration C. 5 W Updates D. GBV SOP Orientation E. Family Planning 2. Partner Presentation: UN Women on Women's Economic Empowerment 3. Operational Updates: CMWG/Prevention WG/CPSS/PS/GiHA/PSEA Network 4. AoB <p>Discussion and Follow-up Actions:</p> <p>1. GBVSS Updates:</p> <p>A. Field Observation Updates: NFC-GBVSS presented the key field observations gathered during various camp-level meetings, specifically GBV actors and protection coordination meetings. The observations are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the meeting, GBV actors highlighted concerns around intimate partner violence, with reports indicating that women are being sexually assaulted by their spouses. These incidents are reportedly linked to the misuse of sexual enhancement drugs by the perpetrators, who are predominantly men over the age of 40. According to reports shared during the GBV actors meeting, Rohingya girls are experiencing sexual violence perpetrated by the spouses of their elder sisters/brothers-in-law. Additionally, widowed women are being subjected to sexual violence by in-laws and male siblings of their deceased spouses. Actors encountered difficulties in engaging male participants in outreach sessions due to their frequent and extended absences from the camps. These absences are attributed to individuals leaving the camps, particularly to the Chittagong area, for periods of 15-20 days for livelihood activities such as fishing, rice harvesting, logging, and other forms of casual labor. Some members of the Rohingya community are involved in kidnapping fellow Rohingyas for ransom. Victims are lured by false promises of employment opportunities, and once on route, they are captured and filmed. Then the perpetrators send these videos to the victim's family members, demanding ransom payments through Bkash. Upon receiving money, the victims are released. Reports of child marriage in the host community, and the girls returning to the camps after 1-2 months. 	



Furthermore, a group is reportedly grooming young boys by providing them with attire, mobile phones, and other inducements to lure young girls and facilitate their trafficking under the guise of marriages.

Feedback and Follow-up Actions:

- BRAC reported that adolescent girls have expressed a desire to participate in outdoor activities and awareness-raising sessions. However, male family members are reportedly preventing their participation in these activities, in some cases resorting to physical violence.
- The GBVSS Coordinator expressed concern after engaging case workers in a training exercise, and most shared identifiable data. She asked the GBV SS focal points whether case workers are trained on GBV when being recruited. She further shared an incident where a partner shared case numbers directly with the sector to be featured in the Q1 GBVSS Bulletins. Also, another incident of a partner who presented targeted case numbers during a project kick-off meeting in the camp. These practices raise questions about the capacity of the staff to share the cases. Consequently, the Coordinator underscored the critical need for caseworkers and field-level staff to receive adequate training in the GBV and read the Information Sharing Protocol, as a lack of such training appeared evident in these instances.

B. CP-GBV Integration: The GBVSS Coordinator shared the progress of the CP-GBV integration that was proposed in March and driven by funding reductions after the US fund cut/freeze, necessitating different ways of working. The CP and GBV Coordinators have worked together and developed this integration approach to continue providing services effectively despite the cuts. She outlined areas where CP and GBV programs could be integrated, such as awareness and capacity building, e.g., joint prevention activities for adolescents, community outreaches, awareness campaigns, and unified community committees. The coordinators also noted areas where services would remain distinct, particularly structured prevention interventions like SASA! Together and case management services. She also presented a proposal for integrated facilities with separate rooms for CP and GBV structured activities and distinct case management rooms. The proposal considered guidelines regarding boys over 12 years not entering women and girls' spaces, suggesting an adolescent boys' club with activity and case management rooms as a separate facility.

Feedback and Follow-up Actions:

- DRC shared concerns about access to the facility (e.g., Adolescent Club, Adolescent and Youth Centre) by adolescent girls, boys, and men, and the possible safety concerns associated with girls. The UNHCR shared the concerns on the name of the facility with “the Adolescent Club” that may limit access for men, rather she advocated for the alternative name of “Men and Boys Engagement Centre” to keep the facility open for both men and boys. In response to the discussion on men and adolescent girls’ and boys' access to the same facility, UNFPA shared that this facility uses different times to access the facility through a separate entry point. Mukti Cox's Bazar asked for the mapping of existing adolescent clubs and was referred to the CPSS for more detail. UNICEF also shared that they have a mapping and there are three adolescent clubs under one multipurpose center.

In response, the GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS) Coordinator acknowledged the need of mapping of existing adolescent clubs and clarified that the GBVSS facility mapping specifically focused on dedicated facilities rather than community-based structures. There are some factors that need to be considered before the integration e.g. absence of large-scale facilities, the requisite financial investment, and considerations for staff capacity and community consultation. She further stated that both the Child Protection (CP) and



GBV Strategic Advisory Groups (SAGs) would collaborate on the CP-GBV integration guidance document to address the concerns raised. There will be a joint CP and GBV SAG meeting on 30 June 2025.

C. 5W Updates: The GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS) Information Management Officer (IMO) presented the 5W dashboard to the GBV SS members. She noted that only partners are responding to the 5W monthly call. Partners were reminded that it's a requirement for them to submit the 5W as a contribution to the GBV SS, among others, such as attendance and participation in meetings. Partners were reminded of the submission date, which is the 10th of each month.

The GBVSS Coordinator has requested a review of the number of people reached, versus the people targeted and the people in need. She noted that it was important to conduct an orientation for field-level staff on data collection, submission, and monitoring procedures. The GBVSS Coordinator shared that the GBVSS is currently working on establishing the typical unit cost of sector activities as outlined in the JRP 2025. To support this activity, the GBVSS Coordinator requested partners to share the JRP 2025-unit costs for the sub-activity in the shared template by **19 June 2025**. She also mentioned that GBVSS has received responses from very few partners, and others are requested to cooperate by sending the unit cost by the deadline.

Feedback and Follow-up Actions:

UNFPA highlighted that the JRP mid-year analysis was demanding and required way too many details. That was in response to the GBV SS on the need to share the unit cost, as the ISCG deadline was almost due.

D. GBV SOP Orientation: The GBVSS Coordinator gave an orientation to the GBVSS members on the newly revised GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). The GBVSS Coordinator discussed about GBV SOP, including the SOP development process, all actors involved in the SOP development process, the steps that were taken to develop the GBV SOP, its intended purpose, the essential elements, and new elements of the SOP, key steps followed in developing the SOP as well as participants in developing the SOP at a minimum representatives from 1) Health, psychosocial, safety/security, and legal/justice/protection sectors (UN agencies, national and international NGOs, community-based organizations, and relevant government authorities; 2) community-based women's organizations and representatives from marginalized groups; 3) Community leaders (women, men, girls, boys), etc.

The GBVSS Coordinator requested partners to disseminate the document and raise awareness among their staff.

Feedback and Follow-up Actions: UN Women inquired about the present stage of the GBV SOP development, and a colleague from Mukti Cox's Bazar expressed the need to include commonly asked questions on WGSS in this document to guide partners' field-level concerns. Responding to the questions, the GBVSS Coordinator mentioned that the GBV SOP is at the dissemination stage. In response to the addition of an FAQ section in the document, she said that the SOP includes coverage of WGSS guidelines and, therefore, no need for a separate FAQ section.

E. Family Planning: Moushumi, SRH WG representative, gave a presentation on family planning. The presentation covered Family Planning (FP) services in both Bangladesh and Myanmar, with a specific focus on Rohingya camps. Key discussion points included:

- The Family Planning Strategy for Rohingya Refugees (2022-2025)
- Guiding principles of the family planning strategy
- Contribution of the SRH-WG in FP services
- Recent challenges encountered in FP services within the Rohingya refugee camps
- Case scenario analysis and implications
- Actions undertaken to address coerced FP



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- Key messages for all humanitarian actors
- The FP risk monitoring tool

Moushumi shared that women and girls have reported facing a challenge on coerced family planning methods and even denied accessing essential services like birth registration. She requested all partners to actively report coercion if they observe any in the field and report it using the reporting [LINK](#). SRH WG has been working to address forced FP through advocacy, community awareness, and capacity building of health actors. She highlighted that all humanitarian services are provided on a free, voluntary, and non-conditional basis, with a strict zero-tolerance policy for any violations of these principles. More details are available in the accompanying [PowerPoint presentation on Family Planning](#).

Feedback and Follow-up Actions: The HLP advisor asked about raising awareness about the FP at the community level. Moushumi outlined two primary intervention types: 1. counselling provided at facilities, and 2. awareness initiatives conducted at the community level.

- A participant inquired about the existence of targets for FP, implying it could be the cause of the coercion, as partners could be working towards meeting their targets. Moushumi clarified that, as per the SRHWG, there are no targets for FP method usage for partners.
- UN Women asked if any changes had been observed after the directives from the RC and head of UN agencies on the Zero Coercion to family planning. Moushumi reported that over the past two months, no incidents have been reported through the reporting links, indicating an improvement in the situation.
- Mukti inquired about communication with the RRRC office. The protection sector coordinator confirmed that a letter had been issued to the RRRC office concerning coerced FP. Furthermore, IEC materials on FP were developed, and a reporting LINK had been circulated for reporting such cases.
- **2. Partner Presentation:** UN Women presentation on Women's Economic Empowerment and IPV was postponed for the next GBVSS monthly meeting in July 2025.

3. Operational Updates:

Prevention Working Group (PWG): Shirin-UNHCR presented the following updates on behalf of PWG:

- The monthly meeting of PWG was held on May 27, 2025.
- PWG members reviewed and agreed on the IPV key messages in English. Bangla translation has been shared with PWG members for final feedback.
- The development of key messages on other topics is currently underway.

Case Management Working Group (CMWG): Gladys-IRC presented the following updates on behalf of CMWG:

- CMWG held a monthly meeting on June 2, 2025. The next meeting will be held on July 7, 2025, at the AAB Office.
- Reviewed the GBVSS Bulletin and GBVIMS Factsheet of Q1, 2025 and discussed dissemination at the field level.

Feedback and Follow-up Actions: The GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS) Coordinator reported that the GBVSS and Child Protection Sub-Sector (CPSS), in collaboration with the Case Management Working Group (CMWG), jointly facilitated the Caring for Child Survivors (Version-2) training for GBV and Child Protection caseworkers from June 16-19, 2025. A second cohort for the CCS training will be conducted in Q3- dates to be confirmed. Also, a town hall meeting was held after the development of the guidance note with over 300+ Child Protection and GBV case workers.

Child Protection Sub-Sector (CPSS): Osman presented the following updates on behalf of CPSS:



- In May, the Key Informant Interviews for Child Protection Situation Monitoring (CPSM) were completed with 227 respondents across 44 locations, including 33 camps and 11 unions. The updated dashboard is now available on the system, providing current trends and challenges in child protection.
- A Town Hall meeting was held with frontline case workers from the CPSS and GBVSS to introduce and orient partners on the Joint Guidance Note on Caring for Child Survivors (CCS). In addition, a CCS training was successfully delivered to strengthen the capacity of frontline staff in providing survivor-centered support for both CPSS and GBVSS partners.
- A draft guideline on the emergency CP Case Management fund has been developed and shared with partners for feedback, aiming to provide urgent and essential needs to vulnerable children and families. Meanwhile, the CP Case Management form revision task team has completed its review, tracking changes made to the updated Case Management forms.

Protection Sector: Johanna presented the following updates on behalf of the protection sector:

- The Protection Sector issued its second Flash Update of 2025 on 21 May, highlighting the increase in security concerns linked to meetings and gatherings led by organized groups and the Rohingya Committee for Peace and Repatriation (RCPR).
- The Protection Sector, together with the CP Sub-Sector and GBV Sub-Sector, provided a briefing on the current protection situation to donor representatives in Dhaka, outlining advocacy on the urgent need to: i) Stop recruitment, including gatherings for recruitment, especially of children; ii) stop the Co-optation of the refugee community through the development of organizations steering certain agendas-such as repatriation-; iii) ensure a safe environment for refugees to establish independent CSOs and voice their concerns without fear of reprisal; and iv) prevent all gathering, coercing, or intimidating refugees to return to Myanmar to ensure the principle of voluntary repatriation.
- The Anti-Trafficking Working Group (ATWG) released its Q1 2025 Dashboard, identifying 107 individuals affected by trafficking—79% male and 21% female. Men were mostly trafficked for heavy labour (68%), while women faced a broader range of exploitative activities, including domestic work and forced sex work. Over half of the cases occurred within Cox's Bazar district.

Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA): Mehbuba presented the following updates on behalf of the GiHA WG:

- GiHA Working Group – Monthly Meeting and Workshop for finalization of 2025–2026 Work Plan held on May 22, 2025, at the IOM Cottage Conference Room, Cox's Bazar.
- Drafted and shared ISNA 2025 GiHA indicators with GiHA WG members and the Inter-Sector team for finalization.
- Preparing key messages for the Road safety campaign by including age, gender, disability, and protection aspect.

PSEA Network:

- Trained Sector and Sub-Sector PSEA Focal Points on their roles and responsibilities, including a refresher on core PSEA principles on 28 May 2025.
- Supported the IASC in completing the PSEA Mapping Exercise by collecting and consolidating data for inclusion in the IASC Global Dashboard.
- The Interagency SEA Risk Assessment Report has been finalized and will be circulated within this month.
- The 2025 Annual PSEA Survey has been launched by the Office of the Special Coordinator on Improving the UN Response to SEA. The deadline to complete the survey is 8 August 2025. The survey Link is [HERE](#).

4. **AoB**

- The GBVSS Coordinator said that if any GBVSS partners wish to present any assessment/survey



findings/any reports at the Sector meeting they should contact the GBVSS.

- The IRC reported that, with the support of UNFPA, it has developed a module for GBV case management tailored for the Gender Diverse Population (GDP). A validation workshop to review this module with key stakeholders from the Case Management WG to be held on 24 June 2025. This module specifically addresses behavioural considerations pertinent to GDP during GBV Case Management. The IRC anticipates commencing capacity-building training for GBV case workers soon.

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

Action Points

SL	Action Points	Responsible person	Progress
1	UN Women presentation on Women's Economic Empowerment	Ashraf, UN Women	To be presented at the July 2025 Meeting.