



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

Date	19 August, 2025	Venue: ISCG Conference Room, Cox's Bazar Office
Meeting Modality	In-Person	Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Chair	Dr. Eumna Rahman	Preparation of Minutes: GBVSS Coordination Team
Partner's present	<p>Number of Participants: The total number of participants is 37 (Male: 12, Female: 35).</p> <p>Representative Organizations: UNHCR, UN IOM, UN Women, CARE, Mukti Cox's Bazar, ECHO, Oxfam, GNB, PS, BRAC, DRC, Nari Maitre, BNPS, UNICEF, CBM Global, World Vision, CODEC, ISCG, PULS BD, Caritas BD, AID Comilla, Bondhu Social Welfare Society, Breaking the Silence, Educo, and YPSA.</p>	
	<p>Welcome & Greetings: Dr. Eumna Rahman, GBVSS Field Coordinator, initiated the meeting by welcoming participants. The meeting started with a round of introductions for new participants.</p> <p>Agenda: The NFC of the GBVSS outlined the meeting's specific agenda, which included updates from the GV sub-sector field coordination observations. The agenda also included a review of the 5W Dashboard, and discussions on upcoming capacity-building initiatives and regular operational updates.</p> <p>1. GBVSS Updates:</p> <p>A. Field Observation Updates: NFC-GBVSS briefed the field-level observations gathered through field-level meetings and consultations findings held in July 2025. A number of take aways and observations from the field are provided as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members reported evolving concerns around debt Family Counting Number (FCN) cards and selling rations to host communities to finance online gambling - a trend undermining women's safety, wellbeing and exposing them to heightened GBV risks. Many newly verified Rohingya families are yet to receive LPG, forcing reliance on firewood—which is restricted due to fire risks—and creating tensions over shared stoves, leaving women particularly uncomfortable and unsafe. Community members report that funds from Rohingya-living abroad are used by armed groups to recruit men and boys, leaving women under psychological stress and households without men vulnerable to sexual violence through forced intrusions. Despite referring to the UNHCR Hotline—diverse information and increasing willingness around resettlement—are driving survivors to refuse safe shelter or relocation, hindering effective GBV case response. Incidences of gang rapes, allegedly perpetrated by armed groups or disguised individuals, have left women feeling unsafe at home and in public, while gender-diverse individuals remained survivors with no safe shelter, often unable to access support from their guru ma without formal Hijra community membership. <p>Feedback and Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the discussion, Ruma from UNICEF highlighted the risks associated with online gambling. She also explained that individuals need to go out of the camps to cash out of the large sums of money 	



which makes them vulnerable to abduction. Furthermore, the gang of abductors also target their girls/family members outside their homes and the camps to demand ransom,

- Asraf from UN Women propose for developing joint risk-related messages to share with the food security sector that address specific risk issues without mere observing the situation and incidents,
- Enrica from UNFPA said that the overall safety and security falls under government responsibility not humanitarian actors. She further clarified that these security issues are not under GBVSS but rather are closely related to the protection sector along with others in a holistic approach.

2. 5W Dashboard in Rohingya Response Website: The GBVSS-IMO presented the 5W Dashboard, which has been published on the website.

3. Upcoming Capacity Building Initiatives: The NFC-GBVSS shared the updates of upcoming capacity building initiatives of the GBVSS as below schedule:

- **The training for non-GBV actors** on “Basics of GBV, including GBV guiding principles and referral pathway”-25-26 August 2025.
- **GBVIMS+/Primero three batches training to be held** 1st Batch from 01-03 September 2025, 2nd Batch from 08-10 September 2025 and 3rd Batch from 22- 24 September 2025 accordingly,
- **Caring for Child Survivors Training (CCS) V2** for case workers from both CP and GBV sub-sectors in September 2025,
- Orientation for **Enumerators on Data Collection for GBV Safety Audit** – SCCCM Sector in September, 2025.

Feedback and Discussion:

- Glay’s from IRC said that the CCS training is more focused on case workers while organizations may find opportunities for having a budget for ToT.
- Ruma from UNICEF said that it is observed that there is a lot of investment in the capacity development of staff or ToT but surprisingly many of the trained staff members leave organizations after receiving the concern training. She proposes concerting ideas on how to bring them under practices of accountability. She also emphasized more ToT or more training for the facilitators.
- GBV Sub-Sector asked organizations to nominate their personnel to support with GBV Safety Audit-SCCCm sector FGDs in designated camps, leveraging their expertise in approaching people,
- The NFC’s of the GBVSS requested supervisors and managers to ensure nominated staff presence at the training as low attendance impacts logistical and financial accountability concerns.

4. Operational Updates:

Prevention Working Group (PWG): Ireen from UNHCR shared updates from the GBV Prevention Working Group (PWG), mentioning that the July monthly meeting was held on 29th July 2025. The other key agenda included working on GBV prevention service mappings, development and integration of existing key messages on Child Marriage and to share with all members once finalized.

She also shared the challenges and few observations discussed in the working group meeting including children's involvement in mobile gambling due to closure of learning centers, IPV incidents and selling rations & household materials to the neighbors as consequences of gambling, WiFi and Bkash support by nearby host community also negatively affecting the Rohingya communities life along with cash for work programme



labors using money in gambling issue, increased suicidal incidents in the camp- adolescents, women and men .

Feedback and discussion:

- Ireen, UNHCR participant, raised that the volunteer recruitment challenges in specific areas as obstruction come from landowners of host community,
- Enrica, participant from UNFPA raised concerns about duplicating efforts with the CP sub-sector, which already leads on child marriage programming and has existing materials, suggesting a need for better coordination among Prevention Working Groups (PWG) and Child Protection Sub Sector (CPSS).

Case Management Working Group (CMWG): Gladys from IRC shared updates from the GBV Case Management Working Group (CMWG) noting the August monthly meeting held on 4th August 2025. The other agenda included finalizing the Bi-Yearly Reporting Template for 2025, capacity gap discussion and request for caring for child survivors training support to organizations by GBVSS. The next meeting is scheduled for 1st September at the UNICEF Office.

Feedback and discussion:

- Gladys from IRC emphasized the importance of organizations engaged in case management being part of the GBV technical working group as it serves as a platform for capacity development, standardization of case management across organizations, and shared learning. She also added that the two documents, like disability support for case workers and a GBV module, are expected to be finalized soon.
- NFC's from GBVSS discussed the ongoing challenge of GBV Focal Points (GBV CFP) being requested to pick up survivors from the CiC office by Protection Focal Points (PFP) rather than the survivors going directly to the Women Friendly Spaces (WFS). This issue raises safety concerns for volunteers and GBV CFP's accompanying survivors, especially when there are potential safety risks like the arbitrator being a member of an organized group.
- Rafi from Protection Sector (PS) participant, shows interest in continuing discussions to find an inclusive solution for better survivor support.

Child Protection Sub-Sector (CPSS): Ruma from UNICEF provided updates on Child Protection Sub Sector (CPSS) mentioning completion of the Child Protection Situation Monitoring (CPSM) initiative. She noted that the Key Informant Interviews (KII) have been completed, with 229 respondents engaged across 44 locations covering 33 camps and 11 host community unions. The updated [CPSM Dashboard](#) is now live, offering valuable insights into current trends and challenges in child protection.

Other updates included the CPSS Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) which took place on July 14, 202. During the meeting, members provided input on the first draft of the Child Protection-Gender-Based Violence (CP-GBV) Integration and the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) questionnaire. The final draft will be circulated for review and endorsement after community consultations are complete. A review of the CPSS mid-year Joint Response Plan (JRP) 2025 funding analysis revealed a 30% funding gap. Lastly, revisions to the Child Protection Information CPIMS+ forms revisions were submitted to the global team while a Case Management Survey was launched to gather feedback from frontline caseworkers.

Protection Sector (PS): Rafi from the Protection Sector shared the update which mentioned increasing the



abduction incidents in Q2, continued from Q1 while it also shows a 29% decrease in serious incidents from last quarter. In response to rising abduction incidents, the Sector convened a meeting with protection monitoring partners to examine root causes, perpetrator dynamics, and monitoring gaps, and to strengthen documentation and response strategies. The other key agenda included drafting a guidance note on camp community structures and governance proposing more representative models based on lessons learned, with inputs from sector partners and SCCCM, launching a new HLPWG landing page with updated guidance and materials: [HLPWG page](#).

The Protection Sector update also highlighted the 60% needed fund against JRP needs, with 68% coverage of priority one activities. Registration is the most underfunded, with only USD 3.4M of the required USD 7.9M. The draft guidelines for standardizing protection facilities have been developed, outlining minimum requirements and specifications.

Feedback and discussion:

- Shamim Sardar from Mukti Cox's Bazar shared that the GBV actors are facing challenges with the Protection Camp focal points on retrieving the survivors from the CiC Office.

Housing, Land & Property (HLP): Ezzatullah Raji shared the updates from the HLPWG. The HLP section reported around 3,000 cases in the first half of the year, with women representing 47% of registered cases. The update also noted a significant decrease in eviction-related cases with only 137 recorded in the first six months compared to 900 last year, 60% eviction cases registered by women clients. Additionally, an assessment focusing on HLP issues affecting new arrivals began last week in 25 camps, aiming to interview 400 households.

PSEA Network: Rajib from the PSEA Network shared that the UNCT has endorsed the inclusion of sexual harassment under its responsibilities, extending support to the survivors. A three-year PSEA strategy for Bangladesh is under development, based on the recommendations and findings from the PSEA strategy development workshop held on 6th August 2025 in Cox's Bazar. The network also organized training sessions for newly onboard staff of organizations on 12th August 2025 while the next batch training to be held on 20th August, 2025.

Feedback and discussion:

- It is discussed that, there will be a consultation between Prevention Working (PWG) of GBVSS and PSEA Network to find out the way to mainstream the PSEA messages

GiHA WG: Mehbuba from the GiHA Working Group shared updates from the GiHA Working Group, mentioning that the July monthly meeting was held on July 15, 2025. The other key update included a workshop held in collaboration with GiHA and Women-Led Organization (WLOs) to identify challenges and strategies in WLO's response, aiming to localize support. Discussions also occurred on gender-responsive disaster management and landslide early warning systems, emphasizing the importance of gender aspects in disaster preparedness and response. The GiHA has successfully incorporated gender-related indicators and questions into different sectors and subsectors, increasing the main indicators from one to ten.

4. AoB:

• **Dignity Kit: Expiration Tracker**

Dignity Kit: Expiration Tracker: NFC shared that an updated guideline for dignity kits is available on the website, and partners are requested to provide inputs on items with soon-expiring dates to allow for forecasting and support from the sector.

• **Community Consultation: CP-GBV Integration**

GBVSS IMO informed that GBVSS is conducting community consultations for CP-GBV integration discussion, which will involve focus group discussions with adolescent girls, women and men in the camp locations. To facilitate data collection for these discussions, GBVSS IMO requested the partners to provide a list of enumerators.

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

Action Points

SL	Action Points	Responsible person	Progress1
1	The GBVSS to develop messages on-line gambling in collaboration with the MHPSS WG, Youth WG.	GBVSS	
2	GBV Safety Audit and Community Consultation CP-GBV integration FGDs – Camp Coverage & Enumerator Details Link share with GBVSS members	GBVSS	Done
3	HLP Advisor will share three participants' information with GBVSS for non-GBV actors training by the COB 19 August 2025.	HLP Advisor	Done
4	Bilateral communication between CPSS and UNICEF for messages on child marriage IEC materials development.	Prevention Working Working (PWG)	
5	Bilateral Communication between the protection sector and GBVSS based on the challenges faced by some of the GBV actors with the Protection Camp Focal Points for a request to accompany support by GBV actors to retrieve survivors from the CiC office.	GBVSS & PS	