



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

Date	14 October, 2025	Venue: ISCG Conference Room, Cox's Bazar Office
Meeting Modality	In-Person	Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 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 31 (Male: 7, Female: 24).</p> <p>Representative Organizations: OXFAM, IOM, GUK, UNFPA, DRC, CPSS, BRAC, WVI, GNB, HI, WFP, FIVDB, CARE, SCI, GIZ, Protection Sector, UNICEF, IRC, UNHCR, Pulse BD, Coast Foundation, Caritas BD, AID-Comilla, BNPS, BRAC, UN Women, Mukti Cox's Bazar, GBVSS</p>	
Agenda & Discussion	<p><u>Welcome & Greetings:</u> Annie Waweru, GBVSS Coordinator, started the meeting by welcoming all attendees and inviting them for an introduction.</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <p><u>1. GBVSS Updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Field Observation Updates B. Risk & Trend Monitoring C. Revised GBV Logframe D. GBV Facility Mapping E. Joint Response Plan 2026 F. Expansion of legal aid integration services. <p><u>3. Operational Updates:</u> CPSS/PS</p> <p><u>4. AoB</u></p> <p><u>Discussion and Follow-up Actions:</u></p> <p><u>1. GBVSS Updates:</u></p> <p><u>A. Field Observation Updates:</u> The National Field Coordinator-GBVSS presented the key field observations gathered during various camp-level meetings and discussions. The observations are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It was reported that several camps have seen increased attempts by CiCs to access GBV case files and referrals, raising serious concerns around confidentiality and adherence to data protection protocols. Instances of unauthorized access requests to Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) were also noted, highlighting the need to reinforce partner compliance with existing SOPs. The sub-sector stressed that any case file access or sharing must strictly follow established procedures to maintain survivor safety and confidentiality. ● There have been a growing number of theft cases in the camps, discouraging some women and girls from attending WGSS or other services. Harassment, particularly eve-teasing in public spaces and markets, continues to be reported and is contributing to growing protection concerns. ● Some camps reported evolving incidences of young girls marrying unknown partners abroad via phone, often without prior meeting, alongside continued reports of child marriages—particularly on weekends. Additionally, marriages between Rohingya women and host men create gaps in access to justice and support for IPV survivors. <p><u>B. Risk & Trend Monitoring</u></p> <p>The GBVSS Coordinator emphasized the urgent need for partners to consistently use the GBV Risk Monitoring Tool and promptly report any severe or emerging incidents, including those involving volunteers via Volunteer</p>	



[Risk Mapping Tool](#) , to ensure timely analysis and preventive action. The Coordinator underscored that all safety, GBV risk, and case management concerns must be shared through established reporting pathways, stressing that information withheld at field level undermines collective accountability and coordinated response. Recent trends indicated persistent risks such as theft, public insecurity, market harassment, and the spread of misinformation around resettlement, which has caused confusion and unrealistic community expectations. In response, the Coordinator clarified that resettlement does not fall under its technical mandate of GBVSS and referred partners to the UNHCR-developed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on resettlement, which had already been circulated to support standardized and accurate messaging across all GBV service facilities.

C. Revised GBVSS Logframe

The sub-sector presented the revised GBV logframe, which underwent major restructuring to address the gaps that emerged following the recent U.S. funding cuts. The updated framework streamlines objectives and indicators, prioritizing GBV Case Management and GBV Risk Mitigation, with sub-activities now clearly defined to allow greater implementation flexibility. The GBVIMS, a core tool for case management, has been fully integrated into related activities, emphasizing its critical role in data-driven service delivery. The GBVSS has already conducted GBVIMS+/Primero training for most caseworkers, and partners were reminded to continue its systematic use in the coming year. WGSS were reclassified to reflect their own cost structures. In light of reduced funding, many capacity-building and support cost components are deprioritized, as well as Behavior Change Communication (BCC) activities have been shifted due to their lower funding priority. The revised logframe ensures continued coherence with global GBV AoR standards while emphasizing efficiency and prioritization. The GBVSS have shared the revised version with the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and will be endorsing it as part of the JRP 2026 package, with further refinements expected to align with the updated budget and funding realities. Partners were advised to adapt their JRP 2026 proposals accordingly, focusing resources on core service delivery and aligning with the sub-sector's revised strategic priorities.

D. GBV Facility Mapping

To ensure that facility locations, service coverage, and resource allocation are aligned with the broader inter-sector rationalization framework initiated by the ISCG, the GBVSS has conducted the GBV facility mapping exercise. The recent GBVSS meeting highlighted that several overlaps and service concentration areas were identified during the preliminary review—particularly in camps where multiple Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) are operated by different agencies—while some camps continue to face critical service gaps, especially in hard-to-reach or densely populated areas.

A key concern raised during the discussion was over-targeting and discrepancies in data reporting. Several organizations were found to have reported inflated service numbers or activities that were not occurring on the ground. Joint spot-checks by the coordination team and field actors confirmed that certain facilities were either incorrectly mapped or inactive. As a result, 27 organizations and 88 facilities were delisted for being inactive or non-compliant with sector standards. These organizations will be formally notified that they are no longer part of the GBV Sub-Sector, as they failed to meet the required operational and reporting criteria. Many were found to have opened facilities only when there was external need, without maintaining consistent service delivery.

The Coordinator emphasized that the ongoing rationalization process aims to establish a “one-camp approach,” minimizing duplication and optimizing limited resources. Partners were reminded not to map temporary or underfunded spaces as WGSS facilities. The GBVSS, in consultation with SAG members, is currently reviewing options for facility consolidation and co-location to sustain service continuity within the reduced JRP budget. Partners will be engaged in discussions on proposed closures and relocations to ensure that communities continue to have access to essential GBV services. This effort will contribute to the 2026 JRP, strengthening resource optimization and reinforcing the focus on quality and accountability in GBV service delivery.



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E. Joint Response Plan 2026

The GBVSS Coordinator briefed that the JRP 2026 focus on a major strategic shift, driven by reduced funding, which will necessitate a smaller number of appealing partners and a streamlined set of facilities and services. To ensure efficient use of the limited resources, a roundtable discussion will be held to determine equitable fund distribution among key partners. The sub-sector emphasized that proposals under the upcoming JRP must align with the revised GBV logframe and new ceiling guidance, prioritizing cost-effective delivery of core services such as case management, psychosocial support, referral mechanisms, and GBV risk mitigation. Overly ambitious or duplicative targets will not be endorsed. The Coordinator also briefed the initial timeline of JRP 2026. Furthermore, the sub-sector plans to rationalize its partner structure by engaging fewer but more capable organizations that can deliver a broader range of integrated services while minimizing management costs. This strategic adjustment aims to strengthen efficiency, reduce duplication, and sustain quality GBV service delivery despite budget constraints.

F. Expansion of legal aid integration services

The GBVSS briefed that BLAST is planning to expand legal assistance to five to six additional WGSS locations, depending on partner readiness and facility suitability. Partners interested in integrating legal aid were requested to coordinate with the GBVSS to ensure that schedules and modalities align with WGSS operations. The integration aims to strengthen survivors' access to justice and reduce barriers to legal support, particularly for women and girls facing GBV or family-related legal issues.

Operational Updates

Working Groups: Following the circular on the closure of all working groups across sectors and coordination bodies effective 1 October 2025, both the Case Management Working Group (WG) and Prevention Working Group (WG) are planning to submit justifications for their continued existence.

- The Case Management WG emphasized its critical role in standardizing GBV service delivery and ensuring quality and accountability across partners, noting that such working groups are globally recognized structures aligned with inter-agency coordination standards.
- The Prevention WG shared it has continued its regular activities and completed the required documentation. The GBVSS Coordinator requested the Prevention WG to further expand its engagement during the upcoming 16 Days of Activism 2025 campaign to demonstrate continued relevance and sectoral contribution.

The compiled justifications from both WGs will be submitted to UNRR for consideration.

Protection Sector: Shire shared the below updates on behalf of the protection sector:

1. The Protection Sector revised the priorities and budget allocation and no longer has a budget gap for priority 1. The registration request was reduced, and the budget was reallocated to prioritize activities under priority 2 and priority 3. Priority 1 funding requirement reduced from \$15.5 to \$10 million. This adjustment reflects efficiencies gained during implementation, particularly in registration, legal aid, and case management, which were initially projected to be cost-intensive. The current funding gap for new arrivals is \$741,000.
2. The Sector organized a one-day workshop with protection monitoring partners to review and refine the current monitoring tool. Partners agreed on current definitions and data collection methods and the need of additional data points needed to report on access or unequal access to services amidst funding cuts.
3. The HLP Factsheet, covering January to June 2025 was published. While access to HLP rights remains a challenge for Rohingya refugees, the situation has disproportionately impacted newly arrived refugees: 2,809 HLP cases were recorded including 125 cases linked to new arrivals. The full details



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- can be accessed here : [HLP Factsheet Jan - Jun 2025](#).
4. The Anti-Trafficking Working Group (ATWG) coordinated activities to commemorate World Day against Trafficking in Persons (WDATIP) across all refugee camps and host community areas. Activities included training workshops, media outreach, art-based initiatives and awareness raising sessions. It reached approximately 5,185 refugees, including 176 persons with disabilities who participated in community dramas, workshops, training, and art-based events. The Activity report can be accessed here: <https://url-shortener.me/6ILW>

Child protection Sub-Sector (CPSS): Osman shared the below updates on behalf of the CPSS:

- In September, the Key Informant Interviews for **Child Protection Situation Monitoring (CPSM)** were successfully completed, engaging 223 respondents across 44 locations, including 33 camps and 11 host community unions. The updated CPSM Dashboard is now available: [CPSM Dashboard](#) providing valuable insights into current child protection trends and challenges. Additionally, the third-quarter CPSM FGDs (Focus Group Discussions) were conducted, with 22 FGDs held across 16 camps and 6 host communities. Children actively participated in these discussions, offering important perspectives on the prevailing child protection context.
- Camp-wise **alternate CAAFAG (Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups) caseworkers** have been finalized to ensure continuity of services, minimize response gaps, and strengthen the overall CAAFAG case management support in the absence or turnover of primary staff.
- The **Guidance Note on Caring for Child Survivors has been published** and printed in both Bangla and English, ensuring wider accessibility for frontline workers and community-based actors
- The **Emergency Case Fund Guideline has been finalized** and disseminated to all Child Protection partners. The guideline outlines key procedures for identifying, prioritizing, and responding to child protection emergencies and new arrivals' needs.

AoB

- The GBVSS Coordinator requested all partners to read the GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and ensure they are cascaded to all relevant staff within their organizations. Partners were also reminded to familiarize themselves with the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the GBVSS and to reach out to the GBVSS National Focal Coordinators for any clarification or further guidance as needed.

Action Points

SL	Action Points	Responsible person	Progress
1	Case management and prevention working group to share justification for continued existence	IRC & UNHCR	Shared