



Cox's Bazar GBV Sub-Sector

## GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS) Monthly Meeting Minutes - January 2026

<b>Date</b>	19 January, 2026	<b>Venue:</b> RCP 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>	Alona Bermejo, GBVSS and Programme Coordinator	<b>Preparation of Minutes:</b> GBVSS Coordination Team
<b>Partner's present</b>	<p><b>Number of Participants:</b> The total number of participants is <b>34 (Male: 9, Female: 25)</b>.  <b>Representative Organizations:</b> BRAC, Pulse BD, Mukti Cox's Bazar, CARE, CODEC, UNHCR, WHO, GBVSS, Protection Sector, AID-Comilla, Asian Justice and Rights (AJAR), WFP, UN Women, IRC, UNFPA, Action Aid Bangladesh, Caritas BD, Plan International, RTMI, UNICEF, NARI Maitree, Oxfam, Breaking the Silence (BTS), IOM, Coast Foundation, Save the Children International.</p>	
<b>Agenda &amp; Discussion</b>	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Greetings:</b> Alona Bermejo, GBVSS and Programme Coordinator, started the meeting by welcoming all attendees and inviting them for an introduction.</p> <p><b>Agenda:</b></p> <p><b>1. GBVSS Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Field Observation Updates</li> <li>B. Fire Response - Camp 24</li> <li>C. GBVSS Workplan - Q1 2026</li> <li>D. GBV Service Audit 2025</li> </ul> <p><b>Partner presentation:</b> Housing, Land and Property (HLP)</p> <p><b>2. Operational Updates:</b> CMWG/Prevention WG/CPSS/PS/GiHA/PSEA Network</p> <p><b>3. AoB</b></p> <p><b>Discussion and Follow-up Actions:</b></p> <p><b>1. GBVSS Updates:</b></p> <p><b>A. Field Observation Updates:</b> The GBVSS shared the field level observations that were collected from camp level meetings e.g. protection coordination meeting, GBV actors meeting, and direct statements from GBV Camp Focal Points, case workers etc. in December 2025 -January 2026. The observations are provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GoB/RRRC, with UNHCR support, started the distribution of registered mobile SIMs (Mobile Operator) for Rohingya individuals from 13 January 2026 - primarily for volunteers.</li> <li>● The position of GBV Camp Focal Points (CFPs) and Alternative Camp Focal Points (ACFPs) has been changed in several camps following the conclusion of their contracts/reshuffle, and the selection process for new CFPs is underway.</li> <li>● <b>ZERO TOLERANCE</b> for Rohingya people's engagement in any kind of Bangladesh National Election related activities. Engagement will result in repatriation to Myanmar. Partners are encouraged to be aware of Rohingya people regarding this, especially the youth.</li> <li>● Seasonal traditional night gatherings in winter have resulted in seasonal gambling. This is contributing to intensifying <b>Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)</b> when male partners demand money. This in turn, has caused severe sufferings as male family members seize family ration cards and sell supplies to cover gambling debts.</li> </ul> <p><b>B. Fire Response - Camp 24:</b> The GBVSS provided an update on the response to the fire incident in Camp 24. In partnership with UNFPA, Mukti, and IOM, the immediate response included the provision of Psychological First Aid (PFA) to 115 individuals (F: 69, M: 46), psychosocial support to 21 survivors (W: 14, G: 7), and facilitation of 164 referrals (F: 102, M: 62) to safe, multi-sectoral services, including health, food, child protection, site management, shelter, and LPG support. The response reached six persons with disabilities and two pregnant women. Dignity kit</p>	



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needs assessment identified 89 women and girls requiring assistance, while additional beneficiaries accessed Women and Girls' Safe Spaces for psychosocial support and essential items.

*Key lessons learned from the response highlighted the importance of coordinated dignity kit distribution among GBV partners operating within the same camp, the mandatory involvement of GBV Camp Focal Points in emergency response coordination, and the need to proactively identify and support pregnant women, including those in the early stages of pregnancy.*

*Action Point: A two-page fire incident advocacy document titled Strengthening Fire Response Capacity in the Rohingya Camps, developed by the SCCC Sector, will be shared with partners to support reference and informed decision-making.*

**C. GBVSS Workplan - Q1 2026:** The GBVSS Coordinator presented its priority workplan for the first quarter of 2026, focusing on strengthening coordination, service quality, and risk mitigation. The planned activity includes -

- A one-day GBV information management workshop focusing on data protection principles, ethical data handling, and accurate 5W reporting, scheduled for February 2026, unless a postponement is required. Details regarding participant selection and logistics will be communicated in advance.
- Workshop prioritizing the capacity strengthening of GBV Camp Focal Points and their alternates to enhance field-level coordination and adherence to inter-agency standards.
- GBV risk mitigation mainstreaming workshops targeting non-GBV actors. The sessions will focus on core GBV concepts, survivor-centered guiding principles, safe and ethical referral practices, and sector-specific risk mitigation responsibilities, with the aim of strengthening inter-sectoral accountability.

#### **D. GBV Service Audit 2025**

Julaikha Hossain, the National Consultant, presented the key findings of the 2025 GBV Service Audit. The audit, covering 60 service delivery points across camps and host communities—including Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS) and Integrated Service Points—found that physical access to services is generally high, with over 95% of facilities geographically accessible. However, functional accessibility is limited, as only 71% of facilities have disability-accessible entrances. Core GBV service quality is strong: more than 85% of staff are trained on Inter-Agency GBV Case Management Guidelines, over 80% use standard intake, consent, and follow-up tools, and approximately 78% of referrals are completed within 24 hours, with WGSS consistently demonstrating these practices.

Specialized competencies are uneven, with only 52% of facilities able to manage high-risk cases and fewer than half adequately supporting child or gender-diverse survivors. Prevention and outreach activities exist in 82% of facilities, but only 46% show structured programming aligned with minimum GBV standards, with integrated facilities lagging behind WGSS due to funding and staffing constraints. Overall, while core GBV services are operational, disparities between WGSS and integrated points underscore the need for minimum service packages, strengthened supervision, and clear emergency continuity planning to ensure safe, survivor-centered care across all entry points. Details are provided in the presentation.

*Action Point: UNHCR requested the final report to address service audit gaps. GBVSS confirmed partner-wise bilateral discussions on the findings, with the final report expected by January 2026. WHO sought guidance on the future action plan, and GBVSS stated they will coordinate with all partners to implement the recommendations.*

**Partner presentation: Housing, Land and Property (HLP):** The HLP Advisor from the Protection Sector delivered a presentation on Housing, Land, and Property (HLP), emphasizing that HLP is a critical protection concern extending beyond shelter infrastructure to encompass land tenure rights, shelter use, and security of habitation. Data from the first half of 2025 showed that 2,890 HLP-related cases were recorded, with 77 percent successfully resolved through the HLP Working Group. The analysis highlighted the gendered nature of HLP risks, noting that 47 percent of cases were registered under women's names and that women were disproportionately affected by eviction threats and tenure insecurity. Among new arrivals, 40 percent reported purchasing shelters through informal or illegal means, 92 percent lacked any form of documentation, and 70 percent of renters faced unaffordable rental costs. Key concerns included



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the increasing practice of shelter selling, gender-based power imbalances limiting women's ability to negotiate shelter arrangements, and the need for strengthened coordination among SCCCm, CiCs, the Protection Sector, and GBV actors to more effectively address HLP-related risks.

*GBVSS raised the possibility of coordinating with SCCCm and Protection Sector Camp Focal Points to address the selling of shelters during resettlement. In response, it was noted that the SCCCm sector's Capacity-Sharing Initiative (CSI) working group will produce a report and outline additional plans in coordination with Protection Sector actors in 2026. GBVSS also requested the inclusion of any identified risks related to sexual abuse or exploitation, if observed during the assessment. Additionally, GBVSS recommended ensuring a 50/50 representation of women- and men-headed households in future assessments, noting that women-headed households accounted for only 35% in the current assessment.*

*Action Point: The HLP Advisor to share the Assessment report to GBVSS Coordinator for onward sharing with the GBVSS members*

### **Operational Updates**

**Case Management Working Groups (CMWG):** The CMWG Chair (IRC) shared that the last monthly meeting was hosted at IRC on 5 January 2026. The meeting reflected on key achievements from 2025, including the finalization of the IPV and GDP Case Management training modules, the development of a one-pager on GBV Case Management supervision, and strengthened teamwork and coordination with the GBV Sub-Sector. Discussions also covered the development of the 2026 workplan and considerations around remote case management. The next meeting is scheduled for 2 February 2026 and will be hosted by Mukti.

*During the discussion, DRC requested clarity on business continuity planning during the election period, including which services would remain operational.*

*Action Point: In response, the GBVSS Coordinator noted that updates would be shared with members soon and that CMWG-led guidance on remote case management would also complement the Business Continuity Plan. The CMWG was further requested to finalize the Guidance Note before the election.*

**Prevention Working Group (PWG):** The PWG Chair (UNHCR) shared that the monthly meeting will be held on 27 January 2026. They requested that key messages on domestic violence and technology-facilitated GBV (TFGBV), developed by the working group, be shared with GBVSS members.

*Action Point: PWG to share the key messages developed to the GBVSS Coordinator for onward sharing with partners*

**Protection Sector:** The Protection Sector briefed members on recent key updates, including a donor briefing in Dhaka on the Q3 2025 Joint Protection Monitoring Report (JPMR), which highlighted trends in serious protection incidents, child protection, GBV, trafficking, irregular migration, border dynamics, and new arrivals. The Sector also finalized the 2026 JRP Update, reducing the number of partners from 13 to 10 to enhance efficiency and coherence. In addition, the Protection Sector presented the final JRP 2026 figures and narrative to the SEG co-chairs as part of an ISCG-led briefing covering all eight sectors. The Sector further facilitated a CiC and Assistant CiC workshop on 3–4 December 2025, jointly organized with SCCCm and RRRC, focusing on data protection principles, data-sharing protocols, BIN procedures, HLP, AAP, and CFM.

**Child protection Sub-Sector (CPSS):** GBVSS shared updates on behalf of the CPSS, noting the completion of CPSM Key Informant Interviews in December 2025 with 223 respondents across 44 locations, the launch of the updated CPSM Dashboard highlighting key child protection trends and emerging risks, and the completion of 22 CPSM Q4 FGDs with active child participation. She also shared highlights from the final CPSS coordination meeting of 2025 held on 29 December, which focused on JRP 2026 planning and CP-GBV integration, reviewed CPSS analytics targeting 1.41 million people through nine approved projects, and shared the CP-GBV Integration Guidance Note to support partner alignment and rationalization for JRP 2026.



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**PSEA Network:** The PSEAH Network finalized the 2026 PSEAH Action Plan with active member input, which, as recommended by the UNRC, will be implemented nationwide, including the Rohingya response, with the endorsed version to be shared in 2026. The multi-year national PSEAH strategy was also finalized following workshops in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar, informed by IARA findings and member inputs, and will be shared in 2026. In addition, the revised PSEA SOP for SEA complaint referral was circulated for feedback and will be endorsed and rolled out with training in 2026. Key 2025 activities included community awareness through "Together We Say No 2.0" forum theatre in 10 camps led by IOM and WFP, translation of the "["No Excuse" poster](#)" into Burmese by NRC, and completion of a PSEA ToT for 1,300 Rohingya volunteers across 33 camps, who will cascade sessions in coordination with sectors throughout 2026. The 2025 key insights can be accessed [here](#).

*Building on the discussion on forum theatre, UNFPA's Adolescent and Youth Unit shared their adaptation of a model from the Jordanian Culture Arts Institute, implemented since 2025 with a focus on preventing child marriage among young people. A meeting with WFP would be useful to share resources, review methodologies, and explore opportunities for mutual learning—potentially integrating techniques from our forum into their initiatives and vice versa.*

*Action Points: The PSEAH Coordinator to share with the GBVSS copy of the 2026 PSEAH Action Plan, e-copy of the "No Excuse Poster" and the list of trained volunteers who can support the GBVSS in conducting PSEAH awareness raising activities. Said documents will be shared with GBVSS members.*

#### AoB

- **SAG ToR Revision:** The SAG ToR is currently under review by SAG members, with a deadline of 20 January 2026. Following this, GBVSS will call for expressions of interest based on the revised ToR.
- **Update Contact List 2026:** GBVSS will communicate with partners to update the contact list, as many current members are no longer with the sector.
- **GBV Safety Audit Reports – SCCCm and WASH:** The GBVSS Coordinator shared that the two GBV Safety Audit reports for [SCCCM](#) and [WASH](#) are available on the Rohingya Refugee website. She emphasized the importance of implementing the recommendations and findings, and aligning the scope of work with other sectors in line with GBV risk mitigation. GBVSS also plans to meet with the WASH sector to discuss the way forward in 2026 based on these findings.
- **Service Mapping & 5W Reporting:** The GBVSS-IMO shared that the service mapping template will be shared with members for updates. The updated 5W reporting template, aligned with the 2026 logframe, will also be shared with members.
- **Membership in Working Groups:** The GBVSS Coordinator highlighted the need to update [CMWG](#) and [PWG](#) group membership and requested members to respond to emails promptly. GBVSS reinforced the timely update of focal and alternate focal points, as well as the GBVSS contact list, as soon as a request is sent.

*The powerpoint presentation can be found [here](#) for more details.*

#### Action Points

SL	Action Points	Responsible person	Progress
1	Hold bilateral meetings with organizations to discuss findings after the finalization of the service audit report.	GBVSS	
2	Share the fire incident advocacy document prepared by SCCCm sector	GBVSS	Completed
3	Share key messages on Technology-Facilitated GBV (TF-GBV) and domestic violence prepared by the Prevention Working Group with GBVSS members.	GBVSS	



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4	Share the guidance on Business Continuity Plan (BCP) for the 2026 elections.	GBVSS	
5	Share the 2026 Action Plan and the “No Excuse” poster with GBVSS members.	PSEAH Network	
6	Circulate member lists and working groups’ focal list for updating by partners.	GBVSS	Completed
7	Share the list of volunteers trained on PSEA.	PSEAH Network	Completed