



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

<b>Date</b>	16 March, 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>	Mst. Fahomida Amin, GBVSS-National Field 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: 07, Female: 27)</b>.</p> <p><b>Representative Organizations/Sector/Sub-Sector/WGs/Network:</b> AAB, WVB, Care BD, UNHCR, JNUS, WFP, UNFPA, IOM, UNICEF, Aid-Comilla, BRAC, DRC, Caritas BD, COAST Foundation, BDRCS, CODEC, IRC, Tdh, Mukti CXB, YPSA, GNB, GiHA WG, GBVSS Protection Sector.</p>	
<b>Agenda &amp; Discussion</b>	<p><b><u>Welcome &amp; Greetings:</u></b> Mst. Fahomida Amin, the GBV Sub-Sector National Field Coordinator (GBVSS-NFC), started the meeting by welcoming all attendees and inviting them for an introduction.</p> <p><b><u>Agenda:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>GBVSS Updates:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Updates on Action Points-February 2026</li> <li>2. Field Observation Updates</li> <li>3. GBVSS Membership</li> <li>4. GBV Information Management</li> <li>5. IWD 2026 Campaign</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Partner Presentation:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counter Trafficking Report Presentation by IOM</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Operational Updates:</u></b> CMWG/PreventionWG/CPSS/PS/GiHA WG/PSEA Network</p> <p><b><u>AoB</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facility handover or closure GBV activities</li> <li>• Tracking distribution of Dignity Kits</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Discussion and Follow-up Actions:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>GBVSS Updates:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Updates on Action Points-February 2026:</b> The GBVSS-NFC shared the updates on action points of the February 2026 monthly coordination meetings.</li> <li>2. <b>Field Observation Updates:</b> The GBVSS-NFC shared the field level observations that were collected from camp level meetings e.g. protection coordination meeting, camp coordination meeting, GBV actors meeting, and direct statements from GBV Camp Focal Points, case workers etc. in February and March 2026. The observations are provided below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less number of people are attending outreach and awareness sessions due to Ramadan.</li> <li>• Food Ration Adjustment will be Effective from 1 April 2026; FAQ under development; Complain and Feedback Mechanism strengthening is underway and orientation for Camp Focal Points is planned.</li> <li>• Rising dowry expectations in the Rohingya community, including demands for items like wooden furniture and smartphones, are adding family pressure and fueling disputes and violence.</li> <li>• Considering Eid Holiday, partners are requested to share the duty roster at CiC Office.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	



### Feedback and Follow-up Actions:

- The GBVSS-NFC requested WFP colleagues to share any updates related to food ration adjustment. Sadik from WFP shared that confusion exists regarding the CFM mechanism, but individuals can be referred to the help desk and hotline for assistance related to food ration adjustment. Multi-layer messaging is expected to make the process easier, and they are planning to utilize camp focal points, community centers, and 8,000 volunteers engaged for message dissemination related to it.
  - Naam from UNHCR highlighted that clearly communicating categories with specific needs may open doors for refugees to exploit the system and policy. She expressed concern that this clarity might lead to increased cases of family separation, where individuals might split households or present children as unaccompanied to receive more aid. The participants also anticipated an increase in separation cases and worried about the exploitation of children and women, particularly involving domestic violence.
  - Johanna, Protection Sector Coordinator emphasized the need of joint protection actors collaboration instead of only flagging WFP as core responsibility to mitigate the risks associated with the new distribution policy, especially concerning the increase in domestic violence and exploitation of children and women. A coordinated approach, including developing an FAQ and a risk register, is underway to address potential risks, and there is a need for an agreement to flag concerns to the WFP team for their monitoring.
  - Sadia from UN IOM referred to the 2023 assessment on the protection impacts of the WFP ration cuts, which highlighted negative coping mechanisms. Sadia and Johanna mentioned instead of a new independent study, the strategy is to incorporate questions targeting food assistance into current protection monitoring and regular monitoring activities. The protection sector is waiting for WFP to get relevant questions to identify potential protection risks related to food ration change.
- 3. GBVSS Membership:** The GBVSS-NFC, provided an update on GBVSS membership, noting the current composition of 24 members, 5 standing members, and 27 observers. It was highlighted that this composition is subject to change based on the field-level implementation of GBV services.
- 4. GBV Information Management:** Yamuna Shrestha, the GBVSS-IM Analyst, presented the key figures and achievement of JRP 2025 along with 2025 funding gap analysis. She also presented the key figures of JRP 2026 covering the budget requirement of 21.7 M, 16 partners, 1.31 M PIN along with targeted people segregated by host community and refugee camps.

### Feedback and Follow-up Actions:

- On the proposal from Subarna from UNFPA the GBVSS-IM Analyst showed elaborately the 2025 achievements and funding gap analysis.
- 5. IWD 2026 Campaign:** The GBVSS-NFC shared the updates on the IWD 2026 celebration held on 8 March 2026 in camp-8 mentioning the contribution of the IWD Task Force and the participation of the GBVSS and GiHA partners and Government Representatives along with humanitarian actors. A video was shown regarding the celebration of IWD 2026. The event featured interactive sessions like panel discussions, storytelling, and a puppetry show, and was



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jointly organized by the GB sub-sector and the GiHA WG.

#### **Feedback and Follow-up Actions:**

- A recommendation was made for increased engagement of men in the organization of future celebration events.
- The visibility efforts need to consolidate all celebration events across the 33 camps.
- A significant reflection emphasized the need to integrate advocacy with narratives depicting the realities of women's daily lives, specifically addressing the observed change in dress code stemming from security concerns and pressure from organized groups. The suggestion was to shift the celebration's focus from positive humanitarian achievements to the actual needs and challenges faced by women, particularly heightened insecurity and violence.
- Participants called for the utilization of evidence-based data, rigorous analysis, and a coherent narrative employing unified terminology for advocacy concerning the situation of women and girls, with a specific caution against using "culture" as a justification for harmful practices.
- Reflections were shared regarding observable changes and shifts in gender norms within women's daily lives.

**Partner Presentation on Counter Trafficking Report by IOM:** Sadia from UN IOM opened the discussion on the Counter Trafficking Report which mainly highlighted irregular migration/smuggling, exploitation of women and girls where severe contents of GBV. Later, Israt presented the main presentation report. The presentation link is [HERE](#).

#### **Feedback and Follow-up Actions:**

- Sadia emphasizes the survivors' reluctance to take any legal services in fear of further and lengthy process. There is a great confidential concern which may harm much more to the survivors particularly women and girls (children).
- IOM planned to conduct six batches of training, including four held recently with child protection case workers, to help them identify cases of trafficking and smuggled migrants. They are also planning training for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) case workers in Q2 2026 and are developing materials and facilitator guidelines on smuggling and trafficking issues. The training aims to equip case workers to identify GBV cases using rapid screening and differentiate between smuggling and trafficking.
- A strong recommendation was made for close monitoring of how case management functions following training and for developing tools to support each organization. The importance of mainstreaming counter trafficking into the existing case management structure, rather than creating parallel systems, was reiterated. The plan is to review and propose changes to current case management guidelines to integrate trafficking.

#### **Operational Updates:**

**Prevention WG:** Shirin from UNHCR presented the updates which covered as following:

- The GBV prevention WG meeting was held on 24 February 2026.
- The WG members agreed that while SASA! Together with EMAP already using structured monitoring tools, there's a need to deepen impact measurement of outreach programs.
- A small task team has been formed to kick-start the development of impact-analysis tools.
- SCI will coordinate with the Child Protection Sub-Sector to gather and share



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child-marriage-related key messages with the Prevention Working Group.

- The Prevention Working Group will develop messaging on polygamy and dowry.
- The final draft of the 2026 workplan will be shared with members for comments.
- The next meeting is on 31 March 2026.

**Case Management Working Group:** Gladys from CMWG presented the updates which covered as following:

- The Case Management Working Group discussed activities, including looking into barriers case workers face when handling male case management and mapping facilities that provide integrated case management services.
- The group also developed a clear guideline for referrals for the next six months.
- Organizations offering case management were reminded of the importance of attending meetings to standardize practices and share challenges.

**Child Protection Sub-Sector-CPSS:** Shatabdi presented the update which covered as following:

- The Child Protection Sub-Sector (CPSS) continued its regular reporting and coordination activities throughout February, while progressing several key capacity-building initiatives.
- As part of reporting, the 3W report for December 2025, the Joint Response Plan (JRP) 2025 achievements, and the Inter-Sector Needs Assessment (ISNA) 2025 report were shared with the RCP.
- Capacity strengthening remained a central focus during the month, with two batches of three-day CAAFAG Case Management training delivered to 65 frontline case workers, and a one-day CPIMS+ Agency Coordinator training for 23 staff to enhance competencies in system administration, data validation, case routing, and error management.
- Additionally, a consultation workshop with 27 frontline case workers was held to review and validate updates to the CPIMS+ forms, ensuring their practicality and alignment with field-level needs.
- Preparations also advanced for six batches of counter-trafficking training sessions planned by IOM for March, aimed at identification and reinforcing referral cases with child protection actors.
- Monthly coordination meeting with 29 Child Protection Camp Focal Points (CPFP) provided a platform for sharing field observations, challenges, and operational updates, while also offering refresher on CAAFAG referral responsibilities.
- Collaboration between CP and GBV Sub-Sector continued through a joint workshop to review the draft Joint Guidance Note on Programmatic Integration, designed to strengthen coherence between CP and GBV services while maintaining adherence to established minimum standards.
- Finally, the February 2026 Child Protection Situation Monitoring (CPSM) exercise was completed, with 158 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) conducted across camps and host communities, generating evidence on child protection risks, concerns, violations, and community capacities to support informed decision-making and programmatic adaptation.



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**Protection Sector:** Johanna presented the update which covered as following:

- The Protection Sector together with CPSS and GBVSS has presented a briefing on Joint Protection Monitoring Report Q4 of 2025 for the donors at Dhaka on 26 February.
- The Protection Sector jointly with SCCCM sector has drafted advocacy lines over Community Structures and Governance in the camps and protection concerns over the ongoing committee/community group method and its implication to further recruitment discussion in the camps.
- The standardization of protection case management has been ongoing; the Sector has conducted meetings with case management partners and frontline staff reviewing the common SOP and definition of thematic areas.
- The taskforce for Joint Prevention Toolkit has been reconvened and instructed the TF members to submit the existing prevention materials.
- The HLP WG developed and released a position paper expressing humanitarian agencies' concerns on increasing HLP issues in the camps, including interference with the humanitarian services by some host community members.
- The Gender Diverse Population Working Group (GDPWG) held its first bi-monthly meeting of 2026 on 11 March.

**GiHA WG:** Mehbuba presented the update which covered as following:

- GiHA WG monthly meeting will be held after Eid-ul-Fitre.
- Highlighted the change in GiHA WG and workplan.
- Gave thanks to IWD 2026 task Force for their coordination and support to make the event successful.

**PSEA Network:** In favor of PSEA Network Fahomida Amin shared the network's update as following:

- The PSEA Network is working closely with CHS Alliance and Network members to secure funding for organizing the SEAH Investigation Training in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2026. The objective is to establish an external pool of trained SEAH investigators in Bangladesh and to strengthen the capacity of NGO and relevant stakeholders. National and local NGO investigation unit personnel, as well as relevant government officials, will participate in this five-day training.
- The Volunteer PSEA Training is ongoing, with support and coordination from the respective sectors.

**AoB**

- **Facility handover or closure of GBV activities:** The GBVSS emphasized the need for organizations to share relevant information regarding facilities handover and closure of GBV activities with the GBVSS.
- **Tracking distribution of Dignity Kits:** The GBVSS-NFC presented the dignity kits stock pile tracking and distribution issues. An analysis of the previous year's dignity kit distribution showed discrepancies between stock-taking and distribution numbers, indicating that distributions were sometimes done in bulk rather than consistently to survivors during case management. Organizations were reminded to follow the clear guidance note on distribution and to correctly input information regarding emergency distributions. The need for organizations to share post-distribution monitoring reports, which are necessary for revising the guidance note and meeting population needs, was highlighted.
- Gladly shared a concern regarding organizations, particularly those acting as donors, developing systems that violate GBV principles by requesting data from implementing organizations. A



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request was made for the subsector to support organizations when raising such issues to ensure they are not discriminated against and to uphold the guidelines on survivor information confidentiality.

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

### **Action Points**

SL	Action Points	Responsible person	Progress
1	To invite WFP to give an orientation to GBV CFPs on Food Ration Adjustment/TPE ( Targeting and Prioritization Exercise) in monthly meeting with GBV CFPs scheduled on 25 March 2026.	Fahomida, GBVSS	Sent out invitation email to WFP on 16 March 2026.
2	Share guidance note of Dignity Kits	Eumna, GBVSS	Shared
3	Prevention WG will share workplan 2026 with GBVSS	Shirin, UNHCR	Yet to be shared
4	Reshare revised 5W template	Yamuna, GBVSS	Shared
5	Training of GBV case workers on Counter Trafficking in Q2, 2026.	GBVSS & IOM	Yet to be planned