



Cox's Bazar GBV Sub-Sector

GBV Sub-Sector (GBVSS) Monthly Meeting Minutes - April 2026

Date	13 April, 2026	Venue: RCP Conference Room, Cox's Bazar Office
Meeting Modality	In-Person	Time: 02:00 pm to 04:00 pm
Chair	Alona Bermejo, GBVSS and Programme Coordinator	Preparation of Minutes: GBVSS Coordination Team
Partner's present	<p>Number of Participants: The total number of participants is 34 (Male: 07, Female: 27).</p> <p>Representative Organizations: CARE, Coast Foundation, CODEC, Caritas BD, IRC, EDUCO, Oxfam, RCP, Tdh, DRC, GBVSS, BRAC, World Vision, UN Women, Action Aid Bangladesh, UNHCR, Protection Sector, RTMI, GUK, UNFPA, AID Comilla, IOM, NARI Maitree, Save the Children, JNUS, BNPS.</p>	
Agenda & Discussion	<p><u>Welcome & Greetings:</u> Alona Bermejo, GBVSS and Programme Coordinator, started the meeting by welcoming all attendees and inviting them for an introduction.</p> <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <p>1. GBVSS Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Updates on March 2026 Action Points B. Field Observation Updates C. Progress on CP-GBV Integration D. GBV Risk Monitoring <p>2. Operational Updates: CMWG/Prevention WG/CPSS/PS/GiHA WG/PSEA Network</p> <p>3. AoB</p> <p><u>Discussion and Follow-up Actions:</u></p> <p>1. GBVSS Updates:</p> <p>A. Updates on March 2026 Action Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Orientation on the Targeting and Prioritization Exercise (TPE) was successfully conducted by WFP for GBV Camp Focal Points on 25 March, clarifying targeting and ration-related queries. - The 5W reporting template and dignity kit guidance note were re-shared with partners. Emphasis was given on timely completion and submission of 5W reports. - The Prevention Working Group annual workplan remains pending sharing. <p>B. Field Observation Updates: The GBVSS-National Field Coordinators (NFC) presented the field observation as following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Weak Checkpost Security: Weakened security at checkposts; masked individuals seen at night, including intrusion of outsiders, sometimes from host communities, ● Child Kidnapping and Debt Exploitation: Daytime kidnapping of children on the way to learning centers, including three cases of children being mortgaged to repay online gambling debts. GBVSS Coordinator affirmed that this trend will be flagged to the Child Protection sub-sector for immediate attention. ● Retaliation after reporting: increased retaliation when GBV cases are reported and perpetrators become aware; in many cases, perpetrators enter homes, hold survivors at gunpoint, and threaten harm to husbands and children. GBVSS Coordinator noted that these retaliation risks could become a significant hindering factor for survivors attempting to access services. The Protection Sector Coordinator stressed the need for a deeper understanding of how these threats are functioning to better support survivors and conduct advocacy. She also questioned whether the perpetrators are community members or organized groups trying to control women, noting that understanding these different motivations is critical for programming. 	



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- **GBV case mediation:** Increased involvement of Majhis in GBV case mediation, extending beyond community level to Community Mobilization Officers and, in some cases, CiCs. The forum mentioned that Parallel community structures supported by CiCs are resolving different protection needs, sometimes leading to confidentiality breaches, such as sharing victim names in WhatsApp groups. The Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) has responded to advocacy by agreeing to form a small committee, including two UN representatives, to oversee these community structures. Concerns were raised regarding a lack of free elections and women's participation within these groups, leading to some refugees feeling unrepresented. The GBVSS requested that partners flag any difficulties or unauthorized mediations occurring through these structures to ensure international standards are respected.

C. Progress on CP-GBV Integration

The GBVSS Coordinator highlighted that the integration of CP and GBV services is being advanced primarily in response to declining funding and the need to standardize protection service delivery across the Rohingya response. A revised guidance note - updated following a February workshop - provides the foundational framework for integrated programming through Women-Friendly Spaces, Multi-Purpose Centers, and spaces for men and adolescent boys. This guidance will inform facility-to-population ratios across camps to streamline operations and improve resource allocation efficiency. Coordination structures are also being consolidated through the establishment of a joint GBV-CP Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), with the inaugural meeting anticipated by the end of April or early May.

In parallel, the integration agenda is embedded within the Refugee Coordination Platform's transformation matrix, which prioritizes standardized case management approaches and the development of a joint prevention toolkit to strengthen coherence and operational efficiency across both sectors.

D. GBV Risk Monitoring :

The discussion on GBV risk monitoring emphasized that the Sub-Sector cannot validate emerging trends in isolation and requires active partner engagement in community consultations. Partners were strongly encouraged to use the established [risk monitoring tool](#) to report observed risks and to allocate 15-20 minutes during routine sessions for focus group discussions with women and girls. Additionally, a quarterly perception survey with GBV Camp Focal Points is ongoing to inform risk monitoring findings.

GBVSS clarified that these qualitative insights serve as the backbone for validating GBVIMS data. In response to queries from the Protection Sector on data sharing risks, GBVSS reiterated adherence to GBVIMS Information Sharing Protocols (ISP), prioritizing percentage-based trends over raw survivor numbers to ensure confidentiality and prevent misinterpretation. To strengthen consistency, the Sub-Sector also plans to map specific camps on a monthly basis to ensure timely and accurate risk monitoring.

Operational Updates

Case Management Working Groups (CMWG): The CMWG Chair (IRC) shared that the last monthly meeting was held on April 6, 2026, hosted by UNHCR, where the case management module for persons with disabilities was handed over for review before its final endorsement by the GBVSS. Additionally, the kickoff meeting for the male engagement case management task team, led by Caritas Bangladesh, took place in March, with the next session scheduled for April 16. The subsequent monthly meeting is set for May 4, 2026, and will be hosted by Action Aid (AAB).

Prevention Working Group (PWG): The PWG Chair (UNHCR) shared the members met on March 31, 2026, and focused on updating its service mapping and mailing lists, which includes removing inactive organizations. The WG developed a one-page document on child marriage, which consolidates key messages from the CPSS; this draft is currently being reviewed by members, with Save the Children set to provide Bangla translation upon finalization. Additionally, the group was preparing for the joint prevention toolkit meeting and has formed a task team led by Codec to develop a tool for monitoring the impact of awareness-raising sessions. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2026.



Protection Sector: The Protection Sector Coordinator briefed on key 2026 developments, including the submission of a Transformation Matrix aligned with the RCP initiative to harmonize and strengthen protection responses through standardization of service delivery and case management, and the introduction of a joint prevention toolkit. An advocacy note was developed for engagement with government stakeholders on community structures, emphasizing transparent and inclusive selection processes and zero tolerance for links between representatives and organized groups. The 2026 funding analysis identified a \$23.4 million gap across Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char, with critical underfunding in community-based protection, case management, and registration/documentation, and potential pipeline breaks from June 2026 without additional resources. The HLP Working Group finalized a factsheet documenting over 5,000 HLP cases in 2025 (53% men, 47% women, and 2 cases involving gender-diverse persons), completed the 2026 5W ActivityInfo database with updated guidance for harmonized reporting including Bhasan Char, and produced a position paper on interference by host community actors in humanitarian services along with an explanatory note clarifying the scope of HLP rights for Rohingya refugees to address common misconceptions.

Child Protection Sub-Sector (CPSS): On behalf of CPSS, GBVSS Coordinator presented that CPSS continued routine reporting and coordination while advancing key strategic and capacity strengthening initiatives in March 2026, including submission of the JRP 2026 Monitoring Plan to RCP and completion of indicator mapping for Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char to support an integrated intersectoral monitoring framework. The February 2026 5W report was compiled with inputs from 15 partners, while CPSM KII implementation progressed with 145 of 220 interviews completed and continued use of the publicly accessible analytics dashboard. Key developments also included drafting guidance on GBV-CP programmatic integration, contributions to the RCP Transformation Matrix and Interagency Contingency Plan, submission of ToR for the Joint CP-GBV Strategic Advisory Group, and endorsement process of the revised DPISP through the CMTWG. Capacity strengthening and standardization efforts were reinforced through CPIMS+ training for new partners and finalization of BID Panel ToR aligned with UNHCR and interagency case management standards.

PSEA Network: The PSEA Network is ongoing with PSEA training for volunteers is ongoing in coordination with relevant Sectors and Sub-Sectors, alongside the dissemination of a Safe Recruitment Checklist for Volunteers to strengthen preventive measures in recruitment processes. SEAH investigation trainings are planned for Dhaka and Cox's Bazar, with the first cohort expected to begin in May in Dhaka, aiming to build the capacity of national and local NGOs and establish a pool of trained external investigators in Bangladesh. In addition, an Implementing Partner PSEAH Capacity Assessment Tool has been developed and shared with members to support organizations lacking existing assessment mechanisms.

GiHA Working Group: The GiHA Chapter is currently transitioning in line with changes in the humanitarian architecture, with revisions to its Terms of Reference and workplan underway in coordination with the national-level GiHA Working Group. Meetings will be held on a quarterly or bimonthly basis, and the date of the next meeting will be shared shortly.

AoB

- **Cross-Agency Capacity Building Opportunities:** GBVSS encouraged partners to allocate a few seats for other agencies when planning trainings or workshops and inform GBVSS (and relevant working groups for case management and prevention) of the plan at least three weeks prior, to provide with trainers and participants.
- **Field-Level Support:** Partners were reminded that GBVSS conducts field visits for coordination and monitors/provides supportive supervision to GBV service facilities across all partners.
- **Upcoming Safety Audits:** GBVSS provided a heads-up on planned safety audits in coordination with the Education and Food Security Sectors, reaching out to partners for support such as stakeholder consultations and facility visits. This also applies to the 2026 GBV service audit.
- **Updates on Volunteer PSEA Training:** GBVSS is conducting volunteer PSEA training, expected to be



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completed by the third week of April 2026.

- **Participation in the Quarterly Bulletin:** GBVSS encouraged partners to express timely interest in contributing to the GBVSS quarterly bulletin.

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

Action Points

SL	Action Points	Responsible person	Progress
1	Share Joint CP-GBV integration Guideline once finalized	GBVSS	
2	Share Joint CP-GBV SAG ToR once finalized to call for nomination	GBVSS	
3	Submit emerging GBV risks using the tool	GBVSS members	ongoing