



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

Date	13 May, 2026	Venue: Conference Room, Rohingya Coordination Platform (RCP)
Meeting Modality	In person and Online	Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Chair	Alona Bermejo, GBVSS Coordinator	Preparation of Minutes: GBVSS Coordination Team
Partner's present	Number of Participants: The total number of participants is 42 (Male: 08 , Female: 34). Representative Organizations: Nari Maitre, SKUS, UNHCR, COAST Foundation, PROTTYASHI, WVB, WFP, RTMI, BRAC, IOM, RCP, CODEC, CARE, JNUS, BRAC, YPSA, UNFPA, UNICEF, Educo, FIVDB, GIZ, Caritas BD, Protection Sector (PS), DRC, SCI, Plan Int, Mukti CXB, UN Women, BANDHU, GNB, AID-COMILLA, IRC	
Agenda & Discussion	<u>Welcome & Greetings:</u> Alona Bermejo, the GBVSS Coordinator, started the meeting by welcoming all attendees and inviting them for a round of introduction. Here note that, Hazera Legendre Khanam was introduced as a representative from the Protection Sector based in Bhasan Char, supported by a UNHCR Cox's Bazar. Alona Bermejo, the GBVSS Coordinator, welcomed their inclusion, noting that partners from Bhasan Char will now join all regular GBV Sub-Sector meetings to enhance coordination as it became under the RCP coordination structure. <u>Agenda:</u> <u>1. GBVSS Updates:</u> - Update on Action Points from Previous Meeting - Field Observation Updates - GBV Risk Monitoring - Emergency Preparedness and Response - Coordination on Facility Closure (GoB circulation) - Incident Tracker 2026 <u>Operational Updates:</u> CMWG/Prevention WG/CPSS/PS/GiHA/PSEA Network <u>AoB</u> - Non-JRP partner information (Monthly 5W and GBV Service and Facility mapping) - ISNA 2026 <u>Discussion and Follow-up Actions:</u> <u>GBVSS Updates:</u> A. Review on April 2026 meeting action points: Alona Bermejo, the GBVSS Coordinator, briefed on the update on action points of the last monthly meeting. She also reported that the Joint Guidance Note on Child Protection	



and GBV Programmatic Integration is currently being finalized, with an expected release by next week. Furthermore, the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Joint Child Protection and GBV Sub- Sector is nearing completion, with the first meeting anticipated within May 2026.

B. Field Observation Updates: The GBVSS-NFC shared the field level observations compiled from camp level meetings e.g. protection coordination meeting, GBV actors meeting, and direct statements from GBV Camp Focal Points, case workers etc. The observations are provided below:

- **Security concern:** The actors reported increased security incidents and the movement of organized criminal group members. Meanwhile, the community is experiencing insecurity and panic as these group members misbehave and threaten residents following the two organized crimes group leaders killed in camp 07 and camp 8E.
- **HLP Concern:** It is shared that HLP issues have emerged as a significant concern, specifically regarding financial demands by the host community. While many Rohingya families have reportedly been paying an annual fee of 1,000 BDT for the past five years, a number of households are now facing new demands for monthly rent totaling 3,000 BDT each. This sharp increase highlights a growing HLP crisis and a heightened financial burden, protection and exploitation concern on displaced families.
- **Shelter issues of new Rohingya:** : Actors have expressed grave concern for the new Rohingya, who face a dire lack of adequate shelter ahead of the upcoming monsoon season. Beyond the issue these vulnerable Rohingya's remain at high risk of various forms of exploitation and continued suffering,
- **GBV Trends:** Actors reported that, poligamy and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) continue to be the prevailing trends in Gender-Based Violence (GBV),

Feedback and open discussions:

- The GBVSS Coordinator urged participants and actors to share any sorts of field observation if they know now and in future,
- The GBVSS Coordinator, announced that the HLP Working Group, with support from the protection sector, will conduct a training session on HLP Rights and issues on June 8-9. The training targets 15 GBV Camp Focal Points (CFP) and 15 child protection Focal Points (CP CFP), serving as a critical step in mainstreaming the intersection between HLP and GBV issues. She also refers to the CARE BD's workshop aims to gather observations, recommendations, and solutions from partners to improve ongoing program execution within the CARE framework following the recommendations and findings of the 2025 GBVSS and CARE BD's Safety audit).

C. GBV Risk Monitoring: Fahomida Amin, NFC-GBVSS, provided an update on the development of the guidelines of the Quarterly GBV risk monitoring along with data collection tools. The GBVSS members' support is required in field data collection by the GBV sub-sector through FGD and KII, quarterly perception surveys by GBV camp focal points, and monthly GBV risk monitoring surveys by the GBVSS partners. To expand the scope the tool is currently being updated to incorporate host community data along with camp data. Ultimately, this consolidated data is intended to feed into quarterly advocacy products such as bulletins, fact sheets and joint protection monitoring reports.



Feedback and open discussions:

- In response to a query from Shirin regarding the level of detail in monitoring reports, Alona explained that the objective of the GBV risk monitoring tool is to triangulate information from multiple sources, including the GBV IMS, to capture the qualitative stories behind the numerical trends. This approach is intended to enrich information for better advocacy, programming, and coordination,

D. Emergency Preparedness and Response: Eumna Rahman, GBVSS-NFC shared updates regarding emergency preparedness and response e.g. remote case management, PERU focal points updates, dignity kit tracker and guidance note, emergency communal relocation centre and key messages for GBV prevention and response during monsoon and heavy rains. She also highlighted the importance of tracking dignity kit distribution and checking items for expiration dates to ensure they are not distributed in bulk at the last minute, proposing to consult the tracking link to identify and coordinate with other partners in their camp locations who have stock available to support survivors particularly who do not purchase Dkits for ownself. Moreover, she stressed that all facilities, such as women-friendly spaces and community centers, are listed with the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) working group to serve as temporary shelters during emergencies. Furthermore, partners were directed to the Rohingya response website to access and utilize the disseminated key messages for GBV prevention during the monsoon season.

Feedback and open discussions:

- Johanna from Protection Sector discussed the urgent need for monsoon preparedness, specifically regarding shelter maintenance. Johanna suggested establishing a prioritization system for shelter repairs, focusing on vulnerable households such as those led by women and girls who lack the influence or resources to secure maintenance independently, and proposed meeting with Robert to address the issue.
- Alona, GBVSS Coordinator, asked actors to check individual dignity kits contents referring to the expiration issues of the valuable goods,

E. Coordination on Facility Closure: The GBVSS Coordinator, asked the respective agencies to coordinate with GBVSS on new project launching and facilities closure as to make smooth coordination and support among the sectors referring to the RRRC office circulation earlier. She also thanks the agencies who are following this even making coordination in the initial stage of project development. Furthermore, she added that coordinating without the Gender-Based Violence sub-sector often leads to duplicated facilities, which the sub-sector finds unacceptable.

F. Incident Tracker 2026: The GBVSS Coordinator requested the actors to provide information to the incident recorder for any casualties along with monsoon issues as to get real time information from field mentions except the GBV incidents. She also noted that the incident tracker is rarely used, though the sector encouraged partners to report incidents related to the sub-sector.

2. Operational Updates

GBVSS Operational Updates:

Alona, the GBVSS Coordinator shared that the Bashan Char GBV Working Group was included with Cox's Bazar



GBV Sub-Sector. She announced that a joint data analysis report covering the period from January 2024 to June 2025 is being prepared by the GBV global team and the Cox's Bazar GBV IMS team. Once finalized, this report—which involved input from 20 female participants from data-gathering organizations—will be shared with the partners. She also confirmed that, with the support of camp focal points, the GBV Sub-Sector successfully achieved its goal of training 100% of GBV volunteers training on the PSEA. The GBVSS Coordinator updated the implementation status of recommendations from the previous GBV safety audit conducted with the WASH sector where approximately 30% of the recommendations have been addressed through the development of SOPs and unified facility designs, 45% are ongoing, and 25% are planned for implementation later this year.

Feedback and open discussions:

- IOM shared about safety audit training for the wash sector partners. There is a pool of trainers on safety audit and the wash sector has access to them. IOM provided detailed training to them by the Global team,
- Alona announced plans to conduct two sector-specific GBV safety audits targeting the Education and Food Security sectors. The GBV sub sector will organize meetings with these sectors next week to plan the process, which will involve collaboration from GBV partners regarding data gathering, planning, and analysis,

Case Management Working Groups (CMWG): Gladys shared the updates on behalf of GBV Case management WG. The updates included the monthly working group meeting that occurred on 4th May where the main discussion focused on the handover of the gender-based violence case management training module to the sub-sector coordinator for final review. Further discussions on male case management task team deliverables , GBV Subsector annual report and field implementation concerns. And the WG planned to hold the next meeting on 4th June 2026.

Feedback and open discussions:

- Discussions emphasize the need for a common information management regarding cases received by the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System, Child Protection Sub Sector (CPSS), and the Case Management Working Group. Participants discussed the identified trends such as arm group members' pressure for recruitment on girls and women, and high levels of extortion targeting women, with 80% of extortion cases involving women. There was a suggestion to conduct a joint analysis between these groups to better understand the correlation between incidents, such as the link between physical assaults and rising gambling levels, which would assist in explaining the necessity of prevention work to donors.

Prevention Working Group (PWG): Shirin Aktar from Prevention Working Group presented the update highlighting the April monthly meeting held on 28 April 2026 and noted that the online service mapping sheet has been shared with all members for review and updates while the PWG is working to finalize the final version by the end of the month. Additionally, CODEC is currently developing an impact analysis tool for non-structured prevention activities, as stakeholders have expressed a desire to understand the long-term impact of their work after nine years. The meeting also hosted a presentation from the IRC on women's rise, and it concluded with the announcement that the May monthly meeting has been postponed to June 30, 2026, due to the Eid holiday.

Bashan Char: Hazera Khanam from Bhasan Char GBV operation presented the update that included the completion of Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse training to the staff member and volunteers in



Bhashan Char, on-going community activities of protection risks associated with unauthorized travel from the area. She also added that the reports indicate that family members are traveling to Malaysia and Myanmar under the influence of human traffickers. Additionally, child protection teams are addressing petty crimes involving children, such as stealing. The Child Protection sub-sector is also rolling out a "Girl Shine" program in May. Alona emphasizes the necessity of advocating for further female representation in these structures.

Child protection Sub-Sector (CPSS): The Child Protection Sub Sector presented the updates that included the strengthening camp level coordination through updating CP camp Focal Points (FP), follow up on 161 children who needed alternative care, progress on integration of Cox's Bazar and Bashan Char indicator and activities in JRP 2026 monitoring plan. It also added the refresher session on the 5W reporting template for ongoing data collection template update, an orientation on CPSM KIIs and FGDs. Additionally, it is reported that DPISP was endorsed by the SAG, completion of the CPSS IM/CPMIMS+ data quality review. Finally, it is shared that the sub-sector is actively engaged in monsoon preparedness, updating messaging tools and monitoring site conditions while the actors specifically investigate landslide risks in areas where new arrivals have dug into hillsides to expand shelters, aiming to identify which facilities are safe and which require intervention.

Protection Sector: Johanna Reina Picalua presented the updates referring to the Q1 Joint Protection Monitoring Report that shows 14% increased security incidents in comparison to first quarter of 2025 with abductions and kidnappings remaining the most frequently reported incidents. The reports also show that killings tripled in comparison to the previous quarter including 4 cases of femicides while incidents related to land use and ownership increases, resulting in rising rent demands and financial impositions as conditions for accessing services. She also mentioned the Protection Deep Dive Workshop for having actionable agreements on the socialization and application of the Civilian and Humanitarian Character of the camps both at community and institutional levels which highlighted the importance of prioritizing prevention activities as a core protection mitigation strategy. Moreover, the sector also organized the Joint Protection Monitoring Workshop to revise the current monitoring tools and address persistent challenges of reporting and others, Human Rights Bases Approach (HRBA) for CP and GBV front line staff supported by OHCHR.

Moreover, the Joint Prevention Toolkits Taskforce convened a meeting focusing on standardization of prevention activities by the CPSS and GBVSS by identifying and prioritizing structured prevention interventions. She also highlighted the Peace and Security Working Groups high level meeting to reflect the progress and discuss the adoption of the evolving context mentioning the publication of the Anit-Trafficking Working Group (ATWG) 2025 year end report which provides the analysis of trafficking trends affecting Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh comparing with previous year.

PSEAH Network: Rajib Rahaman from PSEAH Network shared the update that included the five days SEAH investigation training conducted in Dhaka where 24 participants from national NGO independent consultants attended and the training would strengthen the investigation capacity and to establish a pool of trained external investigators in Bangladesh. The updates also refer to the ongoing Rohingya volunteer training in support with relevant sectors. Moreover, the Victim Assistance Protocol Trainings are going while sectors are requested to share their respective partner list to ensure that all those members are partners of PSEAH Network. Finally, he also updated the Health Sector's PSEAH workshop in Cox's Bazar encouraging other sectors to organize the same.

GiHA Working Group: On behalf of GiHA WG Mr Ashraf presented the updates that focus on the issue of camp level survey and data analysis reports, workplan along with selection process of camp level focal points, drafted ToR of GiHA Cox's Bazar Chapter which shared with UN Women, RCP, GiHA members for their views, and ISNA 2025 Gender data analysis. Moreover, it is also shared on GAM 2026 analysis.



Cox's Bazar GBV Sub-Sector

Feedback and open discussion:

- Participants shared the Focal Point issue became duplicated with camp-level focal points which would be addressed bilaterally with respective sectors.

Partners Key updates and open discussions: The GBVSS Coordinator asked the participants to share any key updates of the partner:

- **Advocacy for Legal Services and Survivor Justice:** Shireen Aktar from UNHCR raised the concerns regarding the lack of justice for survivors, noting that evidence-based accountability is currently insufficient while Alona responded that the GBVSS in contact UNHCR and legal actors, has initiated discussions on legal services in this concern. And there is an ongoing plan to conduct legal awareness discussions within women's spaces. To address the high percentage of survivors who decline legal services, the sub-sector is also working with the Sexual and Reproductive Health working group to provide medical documentation and is developing counseling talking points for case workers to ensure survivors receive accurate information to make informed decisions.
- **Shortages of Clinical Management of Rape Kits:** It was reported that some health facilities have experienced shortages of Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) kits, which resulted in survivors being sent away without receiving necessary services. Alona acknowledged this as a critical issue and requested that partners share information regarding such shortages so the GBVSS can link with the Sexual and Reproductive Health Working Group to resolve supply pipeline issues.
- **Incorporating Gender Diversity into Data Systems:** A representative of BONDHU who is a gender diversity working group member highlighted that current case management and GBVIMS tools, such as intake forms and incident recorders, restrict gender identity options to male and female. This limitation hinders the analysis of experiences for gender-diverse populations. The GBVSS Coordinator confirmed that discussions to update the information sharing protocol to include gender identity options have commenced, although they noted that final approval and action must be completed at the headquarters level.

AoB

- **Non-JRP Partner information and ISNA 2026:** The GBVSS Coordinator requested that non-JRP partners submit their 5W service facility mapping updates in a timely manner to ensure data consistency. Additionally, she also mentioned that preparations for the 2027 Needs Assessment are underway, which will involve reviewing previous survey questions to determine if additions are needed for both the camp population and new arrivals.

Alona Bermejo, the GBVSS Coordinator, thanked all attendees for their participation, including colleagues from Bashan Chor, and concluded the meeting with plans to share the date for next monthly meeting.

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

Action Points

SL	Action Points	Responsible person	Progress
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Cox's Bazar GBV Sub-Sector

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