



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

Date	11 August, 2026	Venue: RCP Conference Room, Cox's Bazar Office
Meeting Modality	In-Person	Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Chair	Mohammad Alamgir Quaderi	Preparation of Minutes: GBVSS Coordination Team
Partner's present	Number of Participants: The total number of participants is 41 (Male: 05, Female: 36). UNFPA, CB, BRAC, Nari Maitree, DRC, CODEC, JNUS, Educo, Mukti CXB, GNB, MSF, World Vision, IRC, AID-Commilla, UN Women, UNHCR, IOM, HI, RTM Int, YPSA, SKUS, GIZ, PULSE BD, UNICEF, SCI, Plan Int, WFP, BNPS Representative Organizations/Sector/Sub-Sector/WGs/Network: CPSS, GiHA Chapter, CBVCMWG, GBVPW, PSEA Network,	
Agenda & Discussion	Welcome & Greetings: Mohammad Alamgair Quaderi, the NFC of GBVSS, started the meeting by welcoming all attendees and inviting them for a round of introduction. The NFC of GBVSS presented the agenda for endorsement with the partners. Agenda: 1. Updates on Action Points-July 2026 2. GBVSS Updates: • GBV Service and Safety Audit, • Heavy Rain and Flood Update • GBVSS Training update • Field Observation Updates 3. Operational Updates: Case Management WG/Prevention WG/Bhasan Char/ Protection Sector/CPSS/PSEA Network/GiHA Chapter, 4. AoB - Dignity Kits Distribution Update Discussion and Follow-up Actions: GBVSS Updates: 1.Updates on Action Points-July 2026: The NFC of GBVSS shared the updates on the action points from the previous month. • GBVSS Annual Work Plan Sharing: The GBVSS already reshared the Annual Plan, • Engagement with WFP: The GBVSS engagement with with WFP is ongoing for better understanding the protection implications of food ration card mortgaging and identifying appropriate mitigation measures, • Communication with partners: The GBVSS will communicate with partners to the schedule of the Orientation on the Safe Shelter, OCC and Alternative Care Arrangements once finalized after finalization of those documents, • Sharing the two-pager legal guidance: The GBVSS will share the two-pager legal guidance document with GBV partners for their review. The document is in the process of development and expected to share by August 2026,	



- Timely submission of 5W reports: Ensure the timely submission of 5W reports, GBVIMS IR, Service and Facility Mapping updates, Incident Tracker inputs, and GBV Risk Monitoring reports in accordance with the agreed reporting timelines are ongoing.

2.GBVSS Updates

- **Service and Safety Audit 2026:** The consultant is expected to be onboard in August 2026 while the audit process will be conducted from August–October 2026. It also said that a call for nominations of GBV Service Audit 2026 Assessors will be shared following the consultant's onboarding where Partner support and participation are highly appreciated.
- **GBV–Food Security Sector Safety Audit 2026:** The safety audit data collection commenced on 30 July 2026 which will be continued to 19 August 2026. Partners are kindly requested to reinforce the data collection timeline with their assigned data collectors and support timely completion.
- **Heavy Rain Impact and Response Update:** The GBVSS team presented the recent monsoon flood and its impact and responses which described as below categories:

Impact:

- Continuous rainfall, flash flood and landslides damaged pathways and slope protection, restricting people's movement and access to WASH and other facilities, compounding daily hardship.
- WFS and shelter are flooded and damaged.
- Partners estimated a 60% decrease in access of women and girls to WFS.
- Less individuals attended outreach sessions; and staff required more time to organize outreach sessions.
- Widespread panic and stress among people due to deaths caused by landslides.
- Heavy rainfall has led to skin diseases, allergies, and mosquito-borne illness risks.

Response:

- All GBV actors and volunteers remained active, providing PFA/PSS and facilitated necessary referrals. Also, partners increased outreach sessions to mitigate the decreased WFS/WGSS access.
- Provided shelter and emergency dignity kits support on need basis.
- GBVSS and partners provided flash updates, coordinated by RCP, and maintained emergency dignity kits (DK) stock in coordination with partners.
- In July, a total of 662 DKs were distributed to affected women and girls in the camps. More to be distributed in August.

Open discussion and feedback:

- Enrica from UNFPA raised that, the clarification is necessary who authorizes overnight stays and how appropriate security arrangements can be ensured, particularly given that night guards are male.
- Johanna Reina Picalúa raised the importance of considering the protection risks faced by gender-diverse persons during emergency situations. The discussion highlighted the need to integrate a gendered lens that includes not only women and girls but also men, boys, and gender-diverse individuals who are at heightened risk of violence during crises, ensuring these perspectives are included when developing emergency shelter management protocols.



- Judith from UNHCR recommended looking for the cyclone shelter protocols shared by EPRWG. She added the vulnerabilities of gender diverse individuals during such emergencies and the possible accessible facilities for them to provide emergency shelter support. Across such cyclone shelters.

- **GBVSS Training updates:** The GBVSS team shared the below updates upon ongoing GBV service and safety audit:
 - GBV Case Management Responses to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA): A total of 56 Case Managers, Supervisors, and Workers will attend the training starting from 24–25 August 2026. The GBVSS in collaboration with PSEA Network will co-host the two-batch training.
 - Orientation and Training: The GBVSS will also share the plan for additional training initiatives in the coming months.

3.Field Observation Updates: The National Field Coordinator shared the updates on the field observation as below:

- Security Environment & Organized Group Influence (Camps 4ext, 7, 8E, 8W): Reported increased thefts; movements of armed group members; and unauthorized nighttime movements near facilities and women headed households.
- Forced Marriage, Tech-Facilitated GBV & Trafficking (Camps 4ext, 7, 8E, 8W): During the week of heavy rain, a high number of rape and gang rape cases were reported (camps 4ext, 7, 8W). Also, there was an increase in incidents of domestic violence, intimate partner violence (IPV), and threats to families of adolescent girls regarding forced and child marriage.
- New Arrivals & Shelter Gaps/Issues (Camps 3, 17 and 18):
- Reports of new arrivals being charged for access to WASH facilities (camp 17) and for death information verification. Also, reported a lack of shelter materials as many of them did not receive for a long time.
- Received reports of individuals, including survivors, who are selling their shelters, with the assumption that they will be resettled. They sell for up to 200,000 taka (camp 3).
- Recent reports indicate that newly arrived adolescent girls and women residing in relatives house face severe protection risks, including sexual exploitation and rape (camp 18).

Open discussion and feedback:

- Participants referred to the CiC's observation and comments regarding the lack of providing GBV actors complete shelter support comparable to the Education Sector, particularly in terms of food provision, and suggested coordination with Food Security actors to explore fresh food support for individuals staying overnight in GBV facilities during the time of emergency relocation.
- In the common sharing, BRAC-UNICEF, UNFPA and Nari Maitree, JNUS-UN Women shared their experiences of supporting women and children in the community during the heavy rainfall in July, while Ashraf from UN Women suggested including temporary shelter support as a specific point in flash updates.
- UNHCR and IOM also raised whether whole families, including both male and female members, could be accommodated in a WFS for a one-night emergency stay. The family themselves do not want to stay separate.



Overall, participants highlighted the need for a clear guideline on emergency shelter support, including eligibility and authorization, minimum items and food support, referral arrangements, and appropriate night-time human resources for ensuring safety of women and girls, potentially including female guards or volunteers - in collaboration with EPR Working group.

- The National Field Coordinator referred to the camp level sector/actor's experiences regarding emergency relocation efforts and the community's reluctance to accept the modality. It is noted that, the high officials of RRRC along with law enforcing agencies tried to convince them for safe relocation/shelter after the biggest landslide in this monsoon but they did not agree to that. Later, the RRRC office issued a letter to all sectors and actors to inform and aware the community for safe and temporary relocation. The NFC also added that, there is a success story in Camp 8w where CiC and the team convinced community people for relocation where the provision of materials such as bamboo and shelter equipment encouraged families to accept relocation proposals.
- Judith proposed a transition from quarterly to monthly reporting of GBVIMS statistics to better track trends and adjust programming accordingly citing as an example of the need for this 104% increase in reported rape incidents shared by UNHCR partners in the previous month, which requires a deeper understanding of the context—such as whether these incidents involve armed groups or specific locations—to effectively address them. UNFPA, GBVSS and partners shared different views in this regard considering time and work load.
- Ruma from UNICEF and along with a number of participants discussed the necessity of a holistic approach to addressing the needs of new arrivals and support them based on the tracking while Selim from UNICEF also added that most of the new arrivals directly go to their relatives' homes after crossing the border. The sub-sector emphasizes that all services remain open to newcomers, and they continue to work on facilitating links to transition centers and registration processes where possible.

At the end, the participants stressed how GBV actors can address the GBV risk of new arrivals in coordinated with other sectors or services e.g. registration point of UNHCR.

4. Operational Updates:

Prevention WG: UNHCR - lead of the Working Group reported that its July monthly meeting was held on 27 July 2026 where discussion emphasized on emerging GBV trends and strengthening prevention efforts by suggesting and necessity of prevention and awareness efforts where the four priority issues were identified for increased attention during as such trafficking, child and forced marriage, online gambling, technology-facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV). It is also noted that participants proposed for integrating key messages on these emerging issues into existing regular sessions as to ensure consistent messaging by allocating additional 10–12 minutes during regular sessions to discuss relevant prevention messages with children, adolescents, parents, and community members. The update also covered the issue of developing a simplified awareness session impact assessment tool with short and easy-to-understand questions that will be developed for random use after awareness sessions. The current draft is shared through Google Drive with Prevention WG members for their review and feedback while the final draft will be consolidated and shared by 18 August 2026 by CODEC.

Case Management Working Group (CMWG): IRC - lead of the Case Management Working Group reported that its latest monthly meeting was held on 3rd August 2026 at Mukti Cox's Bazar, where



participants reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting and updates on action points were discussed highlighting on progress, pending tasks, and next steps. The other agenda points included the next action plan particularly on TT of Self-Care, Male CM TT and CMR TT. It is also shared that the Task Team for Remote Case Management led by UNFPA including the members of UNHCR, IRC, Mukti Cox's Bazar. The next meeting of the WG will be commenced on 7th September 2026 in the DRC office.

Open discussion and feedback:

- Judith from UNHCR provided an update on resettlement as part of durable solutions. One key criteria for consideration is women and girls facing serious GBV incidents or having significant protection concerns. She noted that referrals of such cases to the resettlement team remain significantly low. There are limited but some mid-term and long-term solutions for the refugees based on high, medium and low risk profiles that UNHCR can support eg: educational opportunities, livelihood support and resettlement. UNHCR also plans to organize a half-day workshop next month in two batches to discuss existing vulnerability profiles and guide case managers on appropriate resettlement referrals and survivor counselling. Survivor understanding and informed consent will also be strengthened through a short paragraph to be incorporated into the case management consent form, following further discussion between UNHCR and GBVSS.

Moreover, Judith also explained that case conferences are utilized for complex protection cases involving multiple actors to coordinate responses. UNHCR is available to participate in these conferences to provide insight on potential heightened risk assessments and durable solution pathways, emphasizing that while UNHCR cannot guarantee specific outcomes, these sessions are a tool for assessing eligibility.

- Enrica from UNFPA stressed that there is already a point to be ticked by the survivor in the consent form which is not being practiced. She requested to check the issue with CMWG.
- Taslima from CPSS asked if the requests over the email on resettlement should be referred to UNHCR or not. Shirin from UNHCR responded that there are already key messages developed and disseminated on such communications. She further mentioned that they will be sitting with GBVSS, IRC and the respective UNHCR colleagues to categorize all such cases based on the vulnerability. Judith also added that UNHCR can be called for case conferences for any such cases where partners need support.

Bhasan Char Updates: The GBVSS NFC presented the Bhasan Char update on behalf of the focal covering the conducted GBV training on safe identification referral for case workers and protection volunteers. The update is also shared that the Bhasan Char GBV team will conduct FGDs and KII on GBV-Food Security Sector Safety Audit while the other regular activities are ongoing.

Child Protection Sub-Sector-CPSS: The Child Protection Sub-Sector reported that the CPSS monthly meeting held on 27th July 2026 where discussed on key updates presented the update covering the concluded two CAAFAQ workshops with case workers and supervisors on 3-4 August 2026 which aimed to strengthen participants understanding of CAAFAQ, discuss key management challenges and issues related to CAAFAQ cases by emphasizing the importance of caseworker's well-being. The update also said that the Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) is going on while the consultations with all the Case Management agencies have been completed and the process is progressing towards the next



steps. There was a day long Information Management Orientation for Bhasan Char CP staff members following the visit of CPSS IM while the orientation covered the 5W reporting and other CPSS reporting requirements.

Protection Sector: The Protection Sector noted that the sector convened a meeting to review Operational Note on Terminology for groups operating inside the camps (drafted jointly in 2024) to update terminology and harmonize the terms used by protection actors. The revised document aims to strengthen the principle of preserving the Civilian and Humanitarian Character of Asylum (CHCA) in the camps where the drafted note proposes for a common classification of four categories—armed groups, organized criminal gangs, groups affiliated with armed groups, and political groups—with corresponding definitions and guiding principles for their use. And the final note will be presented to the Protection Sector SAG for endorsement and subsequently shared with all partners. The update also covered the Terms of Reference and co-chair election process to strengthen governance of the Gender Diverse Population Working Group. Moreover, the Sector coordinated the protection response during the period of heavy rainfall and flash floods while Protection Emergency Response Units (PERU) were activated on a limited scale following the peak of the emergency in accordance with their safety protocol. Protection partners adapted service delivery through continued community outreach, household visits, awareness sessions, case management, referrals, Psychological First Aid (PFA), and protection monitoring despite access constraints. Protection facilities in several camps were also utilized as Temporary Community Shelters (TCS) for displaced and at-risk refugees. The update also referred to the finalization of the Protection Sector's financial analysis for January–June 2026, confirming an overall funding gap of USD 39.2 million against a total requirement of USD 73.8 million. The identified gaps include USD 17.5 million for protection, USD 11.1 million for Child Protection, and USD 10.7 million for Gender-Based Violence. The analysis identifies the areas in which life-saving protection services are most exposed to pipeline breaks and provides a clear evidence base for targeted donor advocacy before service delivery is disrupted.

GiHA Chapter: The GiHA Chapter representative shared that a WLO Reference Group has been established, comprising four WLOs selected through an EOI process procedure while the WLO mapping initiative has been launched through an online survey and the responses requested by 19 August. The mapping tool was developed by the GiHA Chapter, with substantive inputs from the NGO Coordination Platform. The update also included the proposed GiHA membership expansion by increasing WLO representation from 4 to 10 member organizations to strengthen engagement and participation following the findings of the WLO mapping.

PSEAH Network: PSEAH Network shared and referred to the consultation workshop held on July 29th 2026 upon safe recruitment for addressing safeguarding measures and the potential for an inter-agency background check system. It also added that the GBV Sub Sector in collaboration with the PSEAH Network will organize a two-day training on GBV Case Management Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) on 24-25 August. Furthermore, the PSEAH Network is considering the sectors to conduct workshops on SEA risk identification and mitigation aims to strengthen the capacity of sector partners to identify, assess, and mitigate SEA risks across humanitarian programmes and operations, and to promote the integration of risk mitigation measures into the sectoral planning and implementation while the development of a training package for government actors, and an Assessment Tool for Vendors is ongoing under the task team.



AOB: The following items were raised and discussed under Any Other Business (AoB):

- **Dignity Package Composition and Budget Constraints:** Participants open a discussion regarding the contents of the dignity package and the financial limitations surrounding them. They also requested the inclusion of additional necessary items, requiring a review of mandatory package items and budgetary considerations to determine fulfill these needs.
- **Lighting Issues in WASH Facilities:** Taslim from CPSS addressed conflicting feedback regarding the need for lighting in WASH facilities, with some women expressing concerns that lights inside increase safety risks by making users visible from the outside. Participants noted that while street lights or torch lights are preferred by most of the community people particularly women and girls, the issue requires a coordinated approach between the protection sector and the energy and environment working group to align with safety audit recommendations.
- **Avoiding Distribution Duplication:** Taslima from Nari Maitree and other participants addresses the persistent challenge of overlapping distribution efforts between the WASH sector and the dignity package team, GBV actors. They also suggested an identified need for improved coordination between the GBV sub-sector and the WASH sector to ensure that distributions are distinct, preventing the issue where both teams inadvertently provide identical hygiene items to the same households.
- **Coordination and Distribution Timing:** The GBVSS NFCs confirms and shares the strategy to manage emergency distributions, which involves waiting three to four days or up to a week after an incident to perform assessments. This pause allows the WASH sector to address immediate basic hygiene needs, after which the dignity package team proceeds with their distribution, often one/two weeks later, in full coordination with both the WASH sector, NFI and the Camp-in-Charge (CIC) offices.

Meeting Conclusion and Attendance: Mohammad Alamgir Quaderi concludes the meeting by expressing gratitude for the participants' openness, experience sharing, and support. They acknowledge the attendance of 41 participants, including those joining online, and thank everyone for their unwavering cooperation.

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

Action Points

SL	Action Points	Responsible person	Progress
1.	GBVSS to coordinate with the EPR WG and relevant sectors to review the list of GBV facilities included under the ECRC mapping, focusing on the utilization of GBV facilities—particularly WFS/WGSS—for emergency shelter support. Additionally, GBVSS will lead the development of standardized guidelines for utilizing GBV facilities as emergency safe shelters to harmonize partner support and operations.	GBVSS	Ongoing



2.	GBVSS to incorporate a section on emergency dignity kits (DK) distribution during heavy rain into the DK guidelines to provide standardized guidance for partners.	GBVSS	Ongoing
3.	CPSS to provide orientation to GBV CFPs in Monthly Coordination meetings on CAAFQ.	CPSS/GBVSS	Ongoing