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WHAT MATTERS?

Humanitarian Feedback Bulletin

Issue 02 × Wednesday, March 21, 2018

BBC Media Action, Internews, and Translators Without Borders are working together to collect and collate feedback from communities affected by the Rohingya crisis. This summary aims to provide a snapshot of feedback received from Rohingya and host communities, to assist sectors to better plan and implement relief activities with communities' needs and preferences in mind.

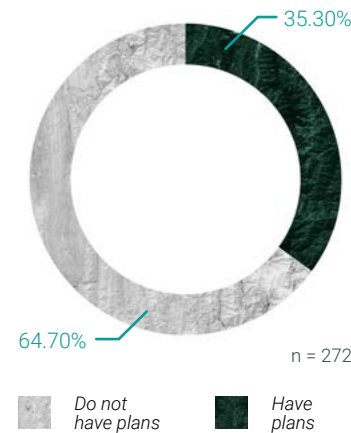
The information in this edition includes insights from community feedback data collected by BRAC and Save the Children; as well as information collected through conversations with affected individuals, community focus group discussions and live radio phone-in programmes on Bangladesh Betar and Radio Naf, which are supported by UNICEF.

The work is being delivered in partnership with IOM, the UN migration agency, and is funded by the UK Department for International Development.

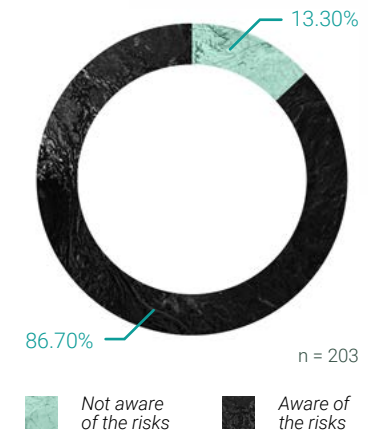
Rohingya Feedback on Extreme Weather

This snapshot aims to give cross-sectoral insight over what questions, concerns and requests are currently talked about within the Rohingya community regarding the different phases of extreme weather.

While some Rohingya people have concrete questions on how to deal with extreme weather (suggesting knowledge of weather patterns), others have questions about how weather in Bangladesh is different from weather in Myanmar. The biggest gap in knowledge seems to be what kind of services humanitarian organisations will provide before, during and after extreme weather events.



Rohingya people, Who are aware of the risk for the family during the upcoming rainy season and who **HAVE/DO NOT HAVE** plans to prepare for that risk



Rohingya people Who do not have plans to prepare for risks for the family during the upcoming rainy season but are **AWARE/NOT AWARE** of the risk

Most of the respondents (90%) are aware of the upcoming rainy season and the possibility of cyclones or storms. The four issues of most concern are flood (mentioned by 24% of people); landslide (22%); shelters being damaged by strong wind (17%); and the possibility of rain water entering into shelters (17%). Although Rohingya people are aware of the upcoming risks, few of them (only 33%) have planned for these risks.



Access to information

Rohingya people have a strong need for information. Most people (40.1%) are not aware about how to make their accommodation safe during the rainy season. In addition to concrete questions about humanitarian services and safety, there are also questions on where to find more information.

“How will we know that a cyclone is going to occur?”
- Woman, 45, Moynarghona

“How will we know which place is safe to stay during a cyclone?”
- Woman, 20, Unchiprang



Requests for support and material to prepare for extreme weather

40.1% of respondents do not know how to make their home safe during the monsoon season. Some people (23.8%) reported that, although they had plans to prepare for a cyclone, they could not carry them out because they felt that they didn't have enough money. Around 19% said that they had plans to strengthen their shelter. Many Rohingya people have concrete requests and questions on where they can find material to prepare themselves for extreme weather. There are a lot of requests for shelter material (bamboo, wood, tarpaulin, rope) but also for dry food, torches or lamps to use during monsoon season. There are also requests to use mosques in the camps to share weather warnings and some Rohingya people requested hand mics and radios to be able to communicate during extreme weather.

“We need a safe place to stay during a storm. Where can we get some bamboo, wood and tarpaulin/polythene?”
- Woman, 32, Balukhali MS

“Provide us some hand mics for us so that we can inform everyone and make them aware before a cyclone or storm occurs”
- Woman, 25, Kutupalong RC

“If a storm occurs, dry food should be provided. What will we get and what will we eat?”
- Woman, 22, Hakimpara





Lack of knowledge on humanitarian services

Overall, there is and lack of clarity and concern about what kind of humanitarian services will be provided before, during and after extreme weather events. Rohingya people are concerned about all kinds of different weather (heatwave, storm, flood, landslide, cyclone). There are specific worries about the provision of clean drinking water and medical services; and access to shelter space and materials after extreme weather has destroyed their home. Some (9%) also mentioned the need to know how to get external support from NGOs or other organisations; how to ensure road safety; and how to deal with landslides.



Cyclone centres and safety

There is confusion about the provision of cyclone shelters. Some Rohingya people are assuming that cyclone shelters will be set up and that they will be able to evacuate to them. Other Rohingya people are worried because they do not know about any cyclone centres that they can go to. There are questions on how to stay safe and where to go in case of landslides or extreme weather. People are especially concerned about the safety of children, women, pregnant women and older people.



“Will they stop giving rations during a cyclone?”

- Woman, 24, Chakmarkul



“If diseases spread due to air and water pollution after a storm, will we get immediate medical support and medicine?”

- Woman, 26, Kutupalong MS Extension



“If acquaintances want to take our children to a safer place, shall we allow them?”

- Woman, 20, Unchiprang



“When we move to a shelter/ cyclone centre, will they give us food there?”

- Woman, 30, Kutupalong MS Extension



“The houses that were built for us are not enough. The roof moves even in just a little wind, so a storm will be very scary. There is a need for strong houses that can withstand disasters to ensure the safety of pregnant women, children and the older people. We don't have any cyclone centres in our camps: we need a centre.”

- Man, Kutupalong MS Extension

Sources:

Quantitative figures were taken from data collected by Save the Children as part of their post-distribution survey. In total 113 men and 190 women responded to their survey.

The qualitative analysis is based on community feedback (5263 entries) that was collected by 800 BRAC Rohingya community volunteers. The feedback was collected in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas between February 17th and 24th 2018. In total 1211 men and 4052 women talked about their questions and concerns regarding extreme weather. Additionally, the qualitative analysis was triangulated by the data collected by Save the Children.

Feedback from Listener Groups

In addition to worries about the weather, listener groups continue to send their feedback on other concerns and worries in the camps. Other common issues being raised right now include:



Scarcity of clean drinking water – this is a pressing issue as many of the shallow tube wells have dried up.



Lack of knowledge about pregnancy-related issues, particularly around pregnancy danger signs, ANC, PNC, diversified diet and the to-do's and not to-do's during pregnancy.



Concerns about pneumonia – parents of small children are particularly eager to learn about how they can properly care for babies during the upcoming hot and rainy season.



People report worries that they do not have a proper understanding of the causes and symptoms of diseases – they specifically mention diphtheria and HIV/AIDS.

Host community concerned about living cost, livelihood and education

The Cox's Bazar station of government radio broadcaster Bangladesh Betar is producing monthly community discussion programmes, with support from UNICEF, that allow host communities to ask questions of local officials and experts. The latest programme was recorded in Ukhia and has highlighted a number of issues that the host community are concerned about at the moment.

“ You all are talking about 700,000 Rohingya community people, but no one is mentioning the additional thousands of people (aid workers) and the extra vehicles that they bring with them. You all need to think about the extra chaos they are bringing with them. I am especially worried about the upcoming rainy season. Most of the roads here are only to support local transport, not heavy relief trucks. The local transportation system might collapse in the upcoming rainy season.”

– Man from Palongkhali union, Ukhia, Cox's Bazar.

In the initial stage of the Rohingya influx, the host communities were supportive but we see a shift now as they are facing different issues. One of the major concerns of the host community is increased living cost. A substantial price hike of essential commodities accompanied by the increased transport costs and higher house rent have put them in a very difficult situation. Also, a big part of the host community workforce, especially the day labourers, are facing competition in the labour market. This is due to the wage gap between the host and the Rohingya community, as the latter are offering their labour for less than was previously the market rate in the host community.

Other issues expressed included people having lost their land, including agricultural land, as it has become occupied after the influx by Rohingya people. Education is also a major issue of concern: school dropout has increased as a lot of students are now working in and around the camp areas instead of going to school. Many temporary teachers have left their jobs and are working for different aid agencies. Even some educational buildings are being used by different agencies responding to the emergency, and so are not available for students. Some parents are worried about the security of their school-going children as traffic on the roads has increased significantly and areas near the roads are being overcrowded.



Local community and Rohingya community living adjacent to each other in Kutupalong Camp
Source: BBC Media Action

“ If any of the Rohingya start building makeshifts on my land and I tell them not to do so, then they go to the military or police and tell them that I asked for money. Then the military or police come to me and start to beat me. They even arrest us without even doing any investigation. We are feeling left out in our own place.”

– Man, Palongkhali, Ukhia, Cox's Bazar