

Rohingya Voices

ATMOSPHERIC REPORT

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The information and analysis presented in this report represent the perceptions of the individuals interviewed, and these findings have not been independently verified by this analytical unit. While extensive efforts have been undertaken to ensure accuracy and reliability, it is important to acknowledge that, due to the complex and dynamic nature of the situation in Rakhine State and across the border in Bangladesh, there are limitations related to the data and findings. The perspectives presented in this report are not necessarily representative of the perspectives of Rohingya communities as a whole. Therefore, no guarantees can be made regarding the completeness of the information presented. This report is crafted with the intention to provide valuable insights and foster a comprehensive understanding of the prevailing environment in Rakhine State and refugee camps in Bangladesh. By shedding light on various perspectives and experiences, it aims to contribute to a nuanced understanding of the issues at hand. However, it is imperative for users of this report to approach its contents with caution. Users are strongly advised to independently verify critical information where necessary.

Photos included in this report used with permission. Sources withheld by request due to security concerns.

KEY FINDINGS

/ PERCEPTIONS OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Rohingya community members in villages in Rakhine State reported a lack of assistance — especially food, shelter, healthcare, and nutrition.

- Compared to May, the reported concerns of Rohingya villagers in Rakhine State did not change significantly, but concerns about clean water, agricultural supplies and nutrition support for pregnant women, children, and elderly people appeared to become more pressing.
- Respondents in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships reported that heavy rain and winds destroyed the shelters of Rohingya people in informal displacement sites, who needed materials such as rope, tarpaulin, and bamboo to rebuild.

Rohingya community members in camps in Rakhine State said that they needed food (especially rice), medicines to control flu and dengue fever, and shelters.

- Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township said that they faced flooding and needed shelter support; due to the lack of food assistance and healthcare, residents especially children and elderly people reportedly suffered malnutrition, and some even died from it.
- In June, respondents in camps reported urgently needing food and nutrition for children and the elderly, as well as medications.

Rohingya community members in Bangladesh said that they needed clean water, shelters, and sanitary and WASH assistance in Cox's Bazar and on Bhasan Char. They said that, due to lack of clean water and sanitation support, skin diseases were spreading to many households.

- Respondents in Cox's Bazar said that the rice provided by grocery stores was unclean and low quality rice that needed to be cleaned. They said that the organisation supporting a system for refugees to purchase from these stories should ensure good quality rice for refugees.
- Compared to May, the reported concerns and humanitarian issues of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh did not change significantly.

KEY FINDINGS

/ PERCEPTIONS OF ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

Rohingya community members in villages in Rakhine State expressed concern about forced recruitment by the State Administration Council (SAC) and Arakan Army (AA). Compared to May, respondents expressed greater concerns about forced recruitment, forced labour, and extortion by the AA, the SAC, and SAC-appointed camp leaders and village administrators (VAs).

- Respondents in Rakhine State said that they needed permission from the United League of Arakan (ULA)/AA or SAC to sacrifice cattle during the Eid festival. They said that the ULA/AA collected money from Rohingya villagers so that it could donate meat and cattle for Eid in its controlled areas, but that many people found it a financial burden to contribute money to the ULA/AA.
- In Buthidaung Township, the ULA/AA reportedly detained young Rohingya people, with false accusations, and severely tortured them while in custody.

Rohingya community members in camps in Rakhine State reported that the SAC and ULA/AA regularly communicated with Camp Management Committee (CMC) members and camp leaders.

Respondents in Sittwe Township expressed concerns about movement restrictions, forced recruitment by the SAC, and abuse and extortion by SAC forces and CMCs. They expressed concerns about the safety of women and girls, saying that CMC members sexually abused and harassed Rohingya women and girls, and that no action was taken against perpetrators when people complained to the police.

Rohingya community members in Bangladesh reported that fighting and killings between the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) had decreased.

■ Respondents expressed concern that a new Rohingya gang was committing kidnapping and extortion in cooperation with host community gangs. They said that this new gang had forcibly recruited Rohingya youth, to whom it provided military training and sent to northern Rakhine State to join ARSA and the RSO.

KEY FINDINGS

/ PERCEPTIONS OF INTERCOMMUNAL TENSIONS

Rohingya community members in villages in Rakhine State expressed concerns about potential tensions between Rohingya and Rakhine villagers.

- Respondents in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships reported tensions between Rakhine and Rohingya villagers tied to fears of ARSA movement in Rohingya villages. In Maungdaw Township, Rakhine teachers reportedly did not attend schools in Rohingya villages because of security concerns.
- Respondents in ULA/AA-controlled areas reported that, although they had regular communication with Rakhine people, Rohingya villagers were careful not to have disputes with them.

Rohingya community members in camps in Rakhine State reported that Rohingya camp residents had regular interaction with their ethnic Rakhine neighbours.

■ Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township expressed concerns about tensions between Rakhine and both Rohingya and Kaman Muslim communities.

They said that Rakhine people blamed these communities for joining SAC conscription and threatened to wipe out all Muslims in Kyaukpyu Township after the ULA/AA had full control there.

Rohingya community members in Bangladesh reported that tensions between refugees and host communities — especially between refugees and Bangladeshi NGO workers — were rising because INGOs and NGOs had stopped their contracts and projects, especially in the education sector.

■ Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported that some Bangladeshi NGO workers organised protests in Cox's Bazar camps chanting hate speech against Rohingya refugees and calling for new Rohingya arrivals to be accepted.

RISK INDICATORS OF INTERCOMMUNAL VIOLENCE IN RAKHINE STATE

Violence



Violence includes any violent incident occurring between Rakhine and Rohingya communities, including those involving armed actors, civilians, or any combination thereof.

Violence did not appear to change significantly in June, but violence by the SAC, AA, and others continued to impact communities, particularly in northern Rakhine State.

Respondents in Sittwe Township said that they had experienced robbery and physical violence by Rakhine people near Rakhine villages. One said that a Rohingya boy was robbed and beaten by Rakhine people and that, although he called for help from other Rakhine people nearby, no one stopped the robbery.

Hate speech



Hate speech includes abusive or threatening speech or writing that expresses prejudice on the basis of Rohingya identity.

Hate speech did not change significantly in June.

- Respondents in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships reported that some Rakhine groups intentionally shared hate speech and misinformation about ARSA movement online and incited attacks against Rohingya villagers in northern Rakhine State.
- According to this analytical unit's social media monitoring, Rakhine social media accounts users incited attacks against Rohingya people; compared them to animals such as pigs and dogs; and said that Rohingya people were illegal Bengali aliens and traitors

Statements



Statements include any official or public statements made by armed or governance actors, activists, or community representatives.

Two actors issued media releases in response to dynamics involving Rohingya people:

- On 2 June, the UN in Bangladesh reported that due to the heavy rains, floods, and strong winds, 1,400 shelters were damaged, 53 landslides were reported across the 33 camps, one refugee was killed, and eight were injured.
- On 12 June, BROUK <u>called</u> on the UK government, as penholder at the UN Security Council, to urgently convene a meeting to take action on the SAC's continued obstruction of humanitarian aid in Rakhine State and Myanmar as a whole. BROUK said that this obstruction was in direct breach of UNSC Resolution 2669 as well as the International Court of Justice's provisional measures.

RISK INDICATORS OF INTERCOMMUNAL VIOLENCE IN RAKHINE STATE (CONT.)

Tension



Tension includes actions that do not rise to the level of violence, as well as fears of violence or such actions.

Tensions between ethnic Rohingya and Rakhine communities continued in June in many areas of Rakhine State.

 Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township expressed significant concerns about tensions and Rakhine people's anger against Muslim camp residents because of SAC conscription. They said that Rakhine people blamed them for joining the SAC forces and told them that they would kill all Muslims in Kyaukpyu Township after the AA captured Kyaukpyu Township..

Cohesion



Cohesion includes actions, stated sentiments, and other conditions that foster positive intercommunal relations.

Social cohesion between ethnic Rohingya and Rakhine communities appeared unchanged in June in many areas of Rakhine State.

 Respondents in Sittwe Township and in ULA/AA-controlled areas stated that there was good communication between Rohingya and Rakhine neighbors. They reported that they could visit and work in Rakhine villages, and that Rakhine people also visited Rohingya villages and camps.

Perceptions

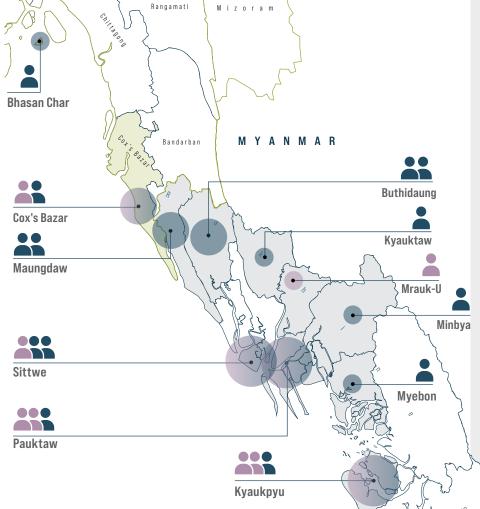


'Perceptions' includes the expressed sentiments of Rohingya people (e.g. respondents)

Respondents in Rakhine State did not report perceptions of intercommunal relations that differed significantly from May. However, respondents living in ULA/AA-controlled areas expressed concerns that the ULA/AA's actions and discrimination toward Rohingya people might negatively impact the relationship between Rohingya communities and people of other might return a rough.

RESPONDENTS

RESPONDENTS WERE BASED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF RAKHINE STATE AND BANGLADESH:



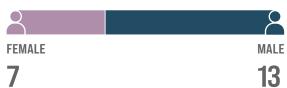
METHODOLOGY

This document is structured around highlighting the perceptions and concerns of different Rohingya communities in Rakhine State, broadly categorised as communities in camps and communities in villages, as well as Rohingya communities in Bangladesh, in Cox's Bazar or Bhasan Char. The perceptions of these communities are structured around three key topics on which 20 Rohingya respondents were asked to share their perspectives:

- Armed and governance actors;
- Humanitarian assistance; and
- Intercommunal relations.

As this update is based on a small sample size of 20 respondents, the observations found here should not be assumed as representative. Rather, this snapshot illustrates the perceptions of community members, and the value of this qualitative approach is in the context-specific knowledge it provides.

Gender of the respondents



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KEY CONTEXT DEVELOPMENTS

These context updates are not meant to be a comprehensive overview of the developments in Rakhine State over the past month. Instead, these are intended to provide a brief background on the key developments impacting the context in Rakhine State and Bangladesh, and the Rohingya communities living there.

5 June Local media reported that, from 1 June, the ULA/AA changed its curfew order from 7pm-6am to 10pm-6am. The same source reported that Rohingya people living in ULA/AA-controlled areas could travel with permission letters from the ULA/AA administration.

8 June Local media <u>reported</u> that the ULA/AA donated cattle, for sacrifice, to Rohingya communities in Maungdaw, Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, Minbya, Pauktaw, and Rathedaung townships. However, villagers in Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, Minbya, and Pauktaw townships told this unit that they did not receive any support from the ULA/AA, while villagers in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships told this unit that the ULA/AA collected money from Rohingya people in order to make its donations in their areas.

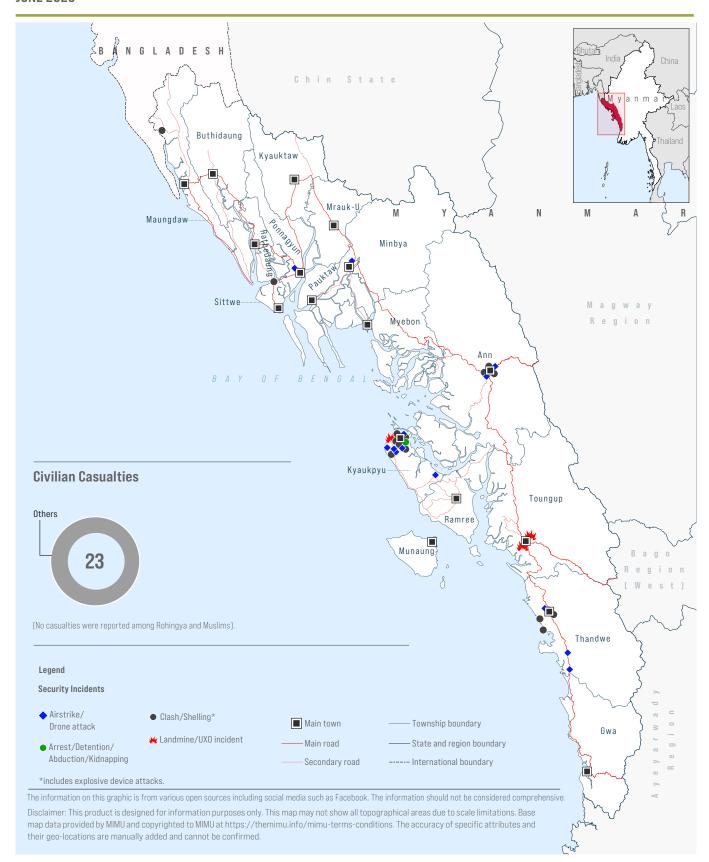
10 June Local media reported that Rohingya villagers in Buthiduang Township who were forcibly displaced by the ULA/AA were facing challenges to survive in new locations. After the ULA/AA captured Buthiduang Township, it reportedly forced thousands of Rohingya villagers from at least 30 villages in the township to relocate to near the Mayu River without any proper assistance and relocated Rakhine IDPs from Thandwe Township into the homes, farms, and villages of displaced Rohingya people.

12
June

Local media <u>reported</u> that the number of malaria cases in Rakhine had surged during the monsoon season and that people living in Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw, Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Rathedaung, Mrauk-U, and Minbya townships were most affected. Rohingya villagers in Maungdaw Township also reported to this analytical unit that malaria and dengue were spreading.

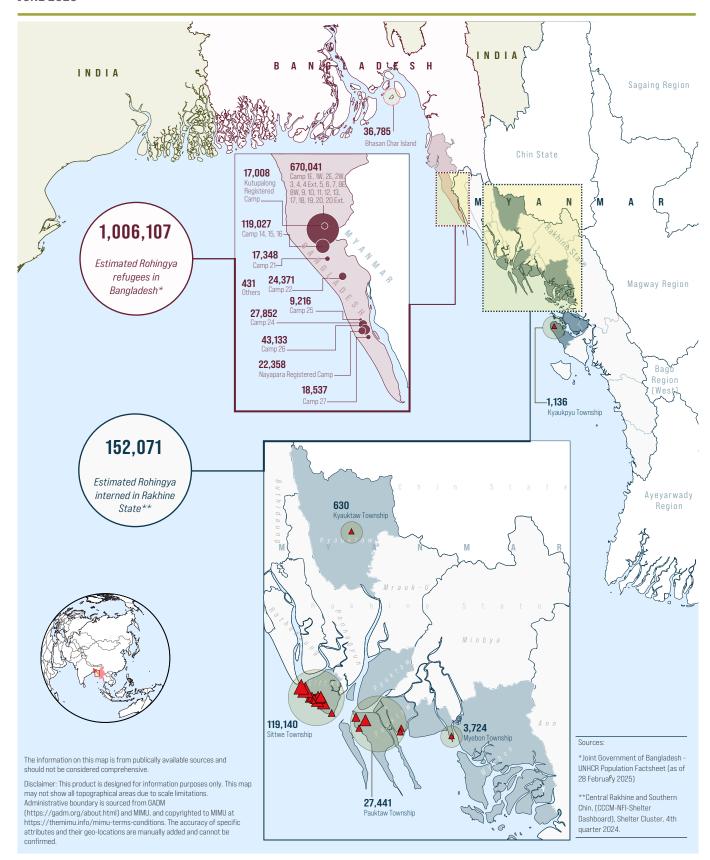
KEY SECURITY INCIDENTS

JUNE 2025



ROHINGYA CAMPS IN RAKHINE STATE AND BANGLADESH

JUNE 2025



ROHINGYA VOICES

Rakhine State

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

ohingya people in four townships of central Rakhine State — Sittwe, Pauktaw, Myebon, and Kyaukpyu — have been living in camps since 2012, when they were displaced by violence often termed 'inter-communal' but which also involved state security forces. While these are sometimes called IDP camps, they differ from other IDP camps in Myanmar, mainly in that the movement of their residents is heavily restricted. In addition to living in impoverished areas and being limited in movement by SAC checkpoints outside their camps, fear of violence by neighbouring Rakhine communities has historically been a factor preventing many of these people from seeking work, healthcare, or goods outside camps, making them heavily reliant on humanitarian assistance. In some cases — such as in Pauktaw and Myebon townships — the AA offensive since November 2023 has removed the presence of SAC troops, but introduced a new actor (the ULA/AA) which requires 'taxes' and may expose camp members to other types of abusive practices. There are also contextual differences between these camps, including their composition: Kyauk Ta Lone (in Kyaukpyu Township) is a mix of ethnic Rohingya and Kaman, with Kaman in the majority, whereas the other camps are entirely or mainly Rohingya.

ROHINGYA CAMPS, SITTWE TOWNSHIP



/ PRIMARY CONCERNS

SITTWE TOWNSHIP

Respondents in Sittwe Township said that people there urgently needed food, shelter, healthcare, education, and livelihood support. They reported that, due to lack of income, many people skipped meals and women-headed households faced additional challenges.

"People are facing different challenges because they cannot afford to buy food, healthcare and non food items. My husband is physically disabled, so he can't work. We skip meals and only eat once per day. We are also facing a shortage of food."

- 30, FEMALE, SITTWE



/ PRIMARY CONCERNS

MYEBON TOWNSHIP

As with respondents from Sittwe Township, a respondent in Taung Paw ward (an 'officially closed' camp) in Myebon Township reported an urgent need for food assistance, healthcare, and toilet facilities. He explained that, after heavy rain, all roads in the camp were severely damaged and made unusable by mud. He emphasized the significant challenges faced by residents due to the lack of functioning toilets, stating that many facilities were completely unusable. He also noted that many residents, particularly children and the elderly, were suffering from the flu and required urgent medical attention.

"Roads are damaged, and it is difficult to travel from one place to another. The roads are full of mud and it is very difficult for women, elderly people, and children to use them. Due to the lack of toilet facilities in our area, we face many challenges. Most of the toilets were damaged, and can no longer be used. We also can't afford to repair them ourselves. Women are facing many difficulties due to the lack of toilet facilities."

- 45, MALE, MYEBON

PAUKTAW TOWNSHIP

In Pauktaw Township, respondents expressed concern over the lack of shelter support and limited access to livelihoods, particularly fishing. They reported that SAC forces often detained or shot at Rohingya fishing boats near Sittwe Township, discouraging or preventing many from going to sea. One respondent stated that SAC forces detained a Rohingya boat near Sittwe Township, imprisoned passengers, confiscated their boats and goods, and extorted money from their families.

"One of my sons was arrested by SAC forces while traveling by boat near Sittwe Township. I heard he was imprisoned in Sittwe town. The SAC also confiscated the boat, and all those on board were detained. As a result, people are now afraid to go fishing. Four months ago, a similar incident occurred: 23 men and three children were arrested by SAC forces. Later, only two children were released after paying 5 million Myanmar Kyat [~1,768 GBP] each."

- 60, MALE, PAUKTAW

KYAUK TA LONE, KYAUKPYU TOWNSHIP

Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township expressed concerns about starvation, malnutrition, and food and medicines shortages. Respondents said that due to flooding in the camp in May and June and a lack of clean water, residents were suffering from infectious diseases but families could not afford to buy medicines to address this. Respondents also reported that many men had been recruited by the SAC and women at the site left without any support.

"We are facing many challenges in our livelihood. We don't have jobs, and women are left in the camp as almost all the men were recruited by the SAC to fight against the AA. Therefore, we are facing more challenges struggling alone. There is a food shortage in the camp, and people can't afford to buy food and other essentials. Many people are facing starvation. At least three people died in June from starvation or malnutrition."

- 40, MALE, KYAUK TA LONE

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Respondents in Pauktaw Township, and one in Taung Paw ward (an 'officially closed' camp) in Myebon Township, reported an urgent need for food, shelter, and healthcare services. They said that many shelters required repairs and that due to a lack of nutritious food, many children were suffering from malnutrition. Respondents in Pauktaw Township noted that while they received cooking fuel, soap, and sanitary pads in the last week of May, no food assistance had been provided in camps. One respondent shared that, due to her inability to provide food, she had given her children up for adoption.

"Many children are facing malnutrition, and they need both nutrition and healthcare support. Many people are begging for food these days. I work as a maid in someone's house to support my family. I have four children, and since I couldn't provide food for them, I gave them away for adoption. I was offered 100,000–200,000 Myanmar Kyat [~35–70 GBP] for each child."

Respondents in Sittwe Township reported significant challenges in accessing healthcare. They said that there was no healthcare support provided by humanitarian agencies, and that transportation costs and medical expenses prevented many residents from visiting private clinics. One respondent highlighted that pregnant women and the elderly were especially vulnerable, and that many elderly people had died due to lack of medical care.

"The most pressing need is healthcare. Many people are suffering from diseases, and some patients are left untreated in hospitals because their families cannot afford to buy medicine or pay for the necessary items. Some have died from not receiving treatment. [...] Even when visiting traditional doctors in the community, we need at least 50,000–100,000 Myanmar Kyat [~17–35 GBP] for treatment. We can't afford it, and most elderly people die due to lack of healthcare and medicines."

- 30, FEMALE, SITTWE TOWNSHIP

As with Rohingya communities elsewhere, respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township expressed an urgent need for rice, other basic food items, shelter, healthcare, and malnutrition treatment for children, women, and the elderly.

"Shelters have been damaged since we relocated here, many because of flooding, and we need shelter support. Without food assistance, people are surviving on just rice porridge. Many children are suffering from malnutrition, and even some elderly women have died from it. In June, one woman died in her house. The neighbours did not know and later found out she was dead from starvation. People cannot help each other because we have no regular income."

- 35. FEMALE. KYAUK TA LONE



KYAUK TA LONE RELOCATION SITE, KYAUKPYU TOWNSHIP

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

... ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township expressed concern about SAC forced recruitment of both young people and older adults. Because of this, they said, men relocated from the camp to safer locations, and only women, children, and the elderly are left in the camp. They said that the fighting between the SAC and AA was intensifying near the camp, and that the ULA/AA had warned Rakhine villagers to relocate but given no information to Rohingya or Kaman people at Kyauk Ta Lone.

"We can hear the gunshots and heavy artillery during the night. Children are scared and cry whenever they hear the sounds. Currently, the SAC subjects all men to forced recruitment. Even men in poor health and the elderly are not spared. Some people fled the camp to escape from forced recruitment. The ULA/AA informed neighboring Rakhine villages that they needed to relocate to AA controlled villages. They have been provided with shelter there. However, the AA doesn't share information about the current conflict with us and also does not advise us to evacuate to safer places."

- 40, MALE, KYAUK TA LONE

Respondents in Pauktaw Township and in Taung Paw Ward (an 'officially closed' camp) in Myebon Township expressed concerns about ULA/AA restrictions on their movement. They reported that although they could travel to AA controlled areas, they needed permission letters from the ULA/AA administration, which were not free. A respondent in Myebon Township said that ULA/AA allowed Rohingya to use the internet near its office but made them pay and only allowed 50 per day to do so.

Respondents in Sittwe Township reported that the SAC ordered CMCs to organise forced recruitment, with each camp required to provide 20 men in June. They said that SAC forces and CMCs extorted camp residents for different reasons. They also expressed concerns over other abuses by CMC members, including sexual abuse against Rohingya women in camps, and said that SAC police did not take action against perpetrators, even after victims filed cases against CMC members.

"The CMC members extorted IDPs by using their power and collaborating with SAC forces. CMC members committed sexual harassment and abuses against women in camps. In the second week of June, a CMC member committed sexual abuse against a girl displaced from Buthidaung Township. When the complaint was made to the

CMC and police station, the police did not take any actions against the perpetrator."

- 30, FEMALE, SITTWE

... INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

Respondents in Taung Paw 'ward' ('officially closed' camp) in Myebon Township, and in Pauktaw Township, reported regular communications and no tensions — with their Rakhine neighbors. Respondents in Sittwe Township likewise noted generally positive relationships between Rohingya people and Rakhine villagers, but one noted that, following a robbery committed by Rakhine people, some Rohingya people avoided traveling through Rakhine villages. Another respondent in Sittwe Township said that people could travel to Sittwe town and access private clinics owned by Rakhine people without discrimination.

"There is positive interaction between us. Rakhine people come to Rohingya villages and Rohingya people also go to Sittwe town, where the majority of Rakhine people live. Rohingya patients can go to Rakhine-owned private clinics in town, the doctors also do not discriminate against us."

- 30, FEMALE, SITTWE

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township expressed concern about potential tensions in the future. They said that there was no physical violence between Rakhine and Rohingya people at the moment, but that some Rakhine people blamed them for being conscripted into the SAC's forces and threatened to kill all Muslim people in the township after it was fully under the ULA/AA's control. Two expressed concern that ULA/AA and Rakhine

people might force Muslim people to leave Kyaukpyu Township after the AA captured the area.

"There is tension between the Rakhine and Rohingya communities. Rakhine people often threaten to kill us all because camp residents were recruited by the SAC and joined the SAC forces. They said after fighting SAC forces, they would kill all Muslim 'Kalars' and wipe out all Muslims from Kyaukpyu Township. Though

there is no physical violence, Rakhine people have a negative view of us. We are worried about being targeted by Rakhine people like in the past. We also are worried that if AA captures Kyaukpyu Township, the AA will force us to leave our camp and go to other areas like they did to Rohingya in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships."

- 40, MALE, KYAUK TA LONE

KYAUK TA LONE RELOCATION SITE, KYAUKPYU TOWNSHIP





Rohingya people living in villages in Maungdaw, Buthidaung, Rathedaung, Mrauk-U, Minbya, Kyauktaw, Pauktaw, and Sittwe townships have historically had greater ability to move around — and therefore greater access to income and services — than Rohingya camp residents, but their movement is still heavily constrained. In 2021, the SAC restarted the practice of requiring Rohingya villagers to provide documentation if they need to travel to other villages (a recommendation letter from a VA) or cross township lines (a recommendation letter and a so-called Form 4). While the ULA/AA has not imposed analogous movement restrictions since it took over these areas (all except Sittwe), since early 2024 it has reportedly limited Rohingya people's movement in order to reduce tensions between Rohingya and Rakhine communities. Because Rohingya villagers (as opposed to camp members) interact more with the ULA/AA, they are often exposed to 'taxation', recruitment, and other abusive practices by the group. Those travelling for healthcare, work, or other purposes in Sittwe Township also have greater interaction with SAC troops, making them more vulnerable to extortion and other abuses by these actors as well.

MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP



/ PRIMARY CONCERNS

Respondents in Sittwe Township expressed deep concerns over food insecurity and the lack of job opportunities, saying families often shared a single egg. One highlighted challenges to earning income: SAC movement restrictions; landmine risks; high costs of livestock raising and farming; and heavy extortion and restriction of fishermen.

"The landmines planted by the SAC near the coast and rivers prevent Rohingya from fishing and farming. The SAC allows only a few small boats to fish at night, and only after paying high fees, with restricted access to fishing areas. Large boats are not permitted at all. [...] Poultry farmers are facing losses due to the high cost of chicken feed. Paddy farming has declined because of the costs of labor, land rental, and agricultural supplies. As there are no job opportunities, many try to flee to Malaysia".

- 33, MALE, SITTWE

Respondents in Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, and Minbya townships expressed growing concern over malnutrition among children and the elderly. They reported that rising food prices had made it difficult for many families to afford essentials. Respondents in Mrauk-U Township highlighted additional challenges, noting that increased prices of agricultural supplies meant many farmers were

/ PRIMARY CONCERNS

unable to grow vegetables and paddy, worsening food security.

"Many people here are farmers. Due to the high cost of fuel and agricultural supplies, farmers cannot grow vegetables and paddy. They are not getting good prices in the market when they sell farm products either. Due to the high transportation cost involved, we cannot sell in other townships. Goods imported from India and Bangladesh are also sold at very high prices. We can't even afford to have meat or fish once a month."

- 20, FEMALE, MRAUK-U

Respondents in Kyauktaw and Pauktaw townships expressed growing concern about SAC airstrikes, following airstrikes in Kyauktaw in May. One respondent in Pauktaw Township also reported an urgent need for healthcare facilities and services, but expressed hope that food prices might decline after the ULA/AA replaced its commander in Pauktaw Township.

"As Kyauktaw was bombed by SAC fighter jets, we cannot go there to buy essential items. Prices have gone up, and it is difficult for people to afford them. Prices of cooking oil and onions have skyrocketed. The previous AA commander, who extorted Rohingya boat owners and businessmen, was replaced with a new commander, so

we hope that boat owners will resume transportation and prices will drop soon. It is also very difficult for us to access healthcare services in emergency situations; many people have died due to lack of healthcare services."

- 55, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

As with Rohingya villagers in Kyauktaaw and Pauktaw townships, respondents in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships expressed concern about SAC airstrikes. They also stressed the urgent need for shelters and healthcare services, saying that recent flooding affected Rohingva villagers and destroyed shelters. Rohingya in Maungdaw Township said that many people were suffering from dengue fever and urgently needed healthcare. One highlighted a lack of education support in Rohingva villages, but another reported that the ULA/AA had allowed the opening of schools in one village, established education committees, and ordered VAs to recruit Rohingya volunteer teachers to run the school. The ULA/AA also reportedly collected school admission fees from Rohingya villagers.

"The ULA ordered the Min Ga Lar Gyi village and education committees to accept the admission of children at the school. Before, teachers used to teach in the school, but those teachers did not come to teach under ULA

administration. The ULA also asked the VA to organize students who completed matriculation exams to teach the children in the school. But those students are not trained teachers and have no experience teaching. Fees were also collected during the admission process. Although the previous government used to support learning materials and stationery, the ULA/AA doesn't support anything for the students."

- 25, MALE, MAUNGDAW



MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Respondents in Sittwe Township expressed concern over the increasing rate of malnutrition among children and pregnant women, as well as the lack of food assistance and healthcare. One reported that, though organizations had provided healthcare assistance to children and pregnant women, services and support remained insufficient overall.

"[An organization] provides healthcare services to children under five and pregnant women. [Another] provides support to malnourished children and also offers healthcare awareness. But it is insufficient. Rice is our greatest need right now. If people get rice only, it helps a bit and people can eat rice with salt, although they can't afford curry. Children and pregnant women are suffering from malnutrition. Older people also cannot access sufficient food, and they are suffering from diseases and dying without proper healthcare."

-33, MALE, SITTWE

Respondents in Pauktaw Township reported urgently needing food, shelter, and healthcare support. They said that around 500 households received soap and hygiene pads in the last week of May, but no support was provided in June. One respondent said that people were dying because of ULA/AA movement restrictions and the lack of healthcare services.

"Many children have fallen sick due to the seasonal flu. We don't have access to healthcare services. Many elderly people have died from chronic diseases because they could not access healthcare. My husband died when we were preparing to take him to Mrauk-U Township for treatment. We needed permission from ULA/AA to travel. Another woman, 25 years old, also died because she didn't receive healthcare services in time. Children are more vulnerable. My children have been suffering from fever for more than two weeks and have not recovered. We need medicine for them."

Respondents in Mrauk-U, Minbya, and Kyauktaw townships likewise reported urgently needing food, shelter, and nutritional support for pregnant women, children, and the elderly. They added that they required agricultural assistance, including seeds and fertilizers.

- 55, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

"We didn't receive any humanitarian assistance. Neither the AA nor any other organizations have provided support to us this month. In the past, the government provided us with seeds, fertilizers, and agricultural supplies. Now, because we cannot farm, we are facing food insecurity. The current price of a sack of fertilizer is 350,000 Myanmar Kyat [~123 GBP], which is unaffordable for most farmers. Many

have been forced to give up farming due to the rising cost of agricultural supplies and the lack of support."

- 20, FEMALE, MRAUK-U

Respondents in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships reported that an organization conducted landmine awareness and social cohesion training in June. Respondents in Buthidaung Township said they received hygiene and sanitation support from an organization but urgently needed food assistance, healthcare, and clean water. Respondents in both townships also reported that heavy rain, flooding, and strong winds destroyed the shelters of displaced Rohingya people, who urgently needed materials to rebuild. They noted that flooding in both townships also damaged roads, which now require urgent repairs.

"Many IDPs are facing extreme difficulties as their shelters have been damaged and they don't have the money to repair them. Due to heavy rain and strong wind between the last week of May and the first week of June, there was flooding and shelters were destroyed. They urgently need support, including bamboo, tarpaulin sheets, and ropes to rebuild their shelters. In some places, water shortages are also critical. People have to walk for hours to fetch water."

- 29, MALE, BUTHIDAUNG

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

Respondents in Maungdaw Township reported that one organization provided livestock to a few poor households and widows, while another distributed water filters and cash to landmine victims. One respondent highlighted the urgent need for healthcare to control the spread of dengue fever and emphasized the need for fuel and firewood for cooking.

"An organization provided water filters to the villagers from Shwe Zar village. Rakhine, Rohingya, and Hindu families received them. They also provided 200,000 Myanmar Kyat [~70 GBP] to each landmine victim. Dengue fever is spreading across our township, but we don't have access to healthcare facilities or doctors. We urgently need healthcare assistance, fuel, and firewood."

- 45, MALE, MAUNGDAW

... ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

Respondents in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships said they viewed the ULA/AA administration negatively due to its forced labour, extortion, arbitrary arrests, movement restrictions, and curfew orders. Respondents in both areas said that the ULA/AA collected money from Rohingya to donate meat to celebrate

the Eid festival. One said that some poor families viewed the ULA/
AA's donation of cattle or money to
Rohingya villagers for Eid, and its asking more fortunate Rohingya people
to donate and share meat with poor
Rohingya villagers positively. However,
another said that the ULA/AA's collecting money from Rohingya people
to donate cattle to Rohingya villagers
was a financial burden for them.

"The AA collected donations from households to distribute cattle and meat to the poor households through the committee it formed. It collected 100,000–300,000 Myanmar Kyat [~35–106 GBP] per each household. It is a burden as many households lack regular jobs and income. The committee threatened households that couldn't pay."

- 45, MALE, MAUNGDAW

In Buthidaung Township, the ULA/AA reportedly forced Rohingya villagers to repair roads, and collected money from others for road repairs though many could not afford to pay. Respondents in Buthidaung Township also reported that the ULA/AA falsely accused and detained Rohingya people for affiliation with the SAC, and that those detained were severely tortured and imprisoned under ULA/AA law.

"The AA collects 20,000 Myanmar Kyat [~7 GBP] from every household to repair the road. We are forced four times a month to work for the ULA/AA. If we can't work, we have to pay 20,000 Myanmar Kyat [~7 GBP] as a fine. Rohingya are struggling to survive, and such forced labour and collection is an additional burden for us. The AA also arrested Rohingya with false accusations and severely tortured them. Some Rohingya were unable to walk due to severe torture by AA forces. They were not allowed to meet with their family members, and some were imprisoned for cooperating with the SAC."

- 26, MALE, BUTHIDAUNG

Respondents in Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, and Minbya townships said that they did not receive cattle or meat donations from the ULA/AA during Eid. They also said that Rohingya who wanted to sacrifice cattle needed to get permission from the ULA/AA and pay a 'tax' of five per cent of a cow's worth to make the purchase.

"[P]eople told AA officials that they could not afford to pay a five per cent tax to sacrifice cattle. Later, the AA asked for 5,000 Myanmar Kyat [~1.76 GBP] per cow to get permission. To get permission, Rohingya cattle owners needed to provide a recommendation letter from a village administrator and a letter from the ULA/AA tax department showing evidence that the owner paid tax to ULA/AA when he/she buys the cattle. Individuals

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

who buy cattle are required to pay a five per cent tax to the ULA/AA's tax department."

- 20, FEMALE, MRAUK-U

Respondents in Pauktaw Township reported that the ULA/AA held a 10 June meeting with VAs it had appointed in Mrauk-U Township during which it asked Rohingya VAs about difficulties and abuses under its ULA/AA administration. One respondent reported that the ULA/ AA appointed a new commander in Pauktaw Township after it found out the previous commander's extortion of boat owners and Rohingya businessmen. She added that ULA/AA kept around 100 to 200 trafficked Rohingva from different areas in its warehouse in Sin Thet Maw village, Pauktaw Township and sent them to Malaysia and Thailand.

"Boat owners were ordered to bring 300 sacks of cement by the previous ULA/AA commander. AA higher authorities heard the news and replaced him with a new commander. We heard that the previous commander and his brother were under investigation by the AA. The businessmen and boat were required to pay a five per cent tax to the ULA/AA under its tax law. We also heard that the ULA/AA and its allied human trafficking gang kept 100-200 Rohingya

from different places in Sin Tet Maw before sending them to Malaysia and Thailand."

- 55, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

Respondents in Sittwe Township expressed concerns over movement restrictions, curfew orders, extortion at SAC checkpoints, forced recruitment, and false accusations and extortion by SAC police and VAs. SAC forces reportedly extorted nine million Myanmar Kyat (~3,183 GBP) from Rohingya villagers, claiming the money was intended to cover the salaries of Rohingya conscripts for the months of April-June. According to one respondent, some villages had to provide five conscripts per month, who were forced to clean SAC compounds and dig trenches, and in some cases were sent to Kyaukpyu Township to fight against the ULA/ AA. One respondent reported that the SAC's General Administration Department (GAD) ordered VAs to collect population data of Rohingya households.

"The interactions between SAC authorities and the community have been overwhelmingly negative. They started collecting detailed household data beginning on 25 May, including information about types of houses, number and types of animals owned, deaths in the family, and employment

details of each household member. This data is collected by the township GAD via VAs. Each household is required to pay 500 Myanmar Kyat [~0.17 GBP] to the VA during the data collection. This year, even to sacrifice cattle for Eid, Rohingya families had to obtain a permission letter from the township GAD, costing 15,000–30,000 Myanmar Kyat [~5.30–10.61 GBP]."

- 33, MALE, SITTWE

... INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

Respondents in Sittwe Township reported having regular communication with Rakhine and other ethnic communities. However, one expressed concern about tensions between Rakhine and Rohingya communities if the ULA/AA captured Sittwe Township, due to misconceptions about forcible SAC recruitment of Rohingya people. There were also reportedly cases of Rohingya villagers being robbed in Rakhine neighborhoods.

"The relationship with Rakhine neighbors and other communities is generally good. Four Rakhine teachers from different villages are teaching Rohingya students every day in Bumay village. However, [...] I heard that near No.1 High School, a young Rohingya

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

man was returning home by bicycle from the hospital when three Rakhine youths stopped him, beat him, and robbed him of around 12,000 Myanmar Kyat [~4.24 GBP] and his phone. When he called for help, nearby Rakhine bystanders saw [...] but did nothing."

- 33, MALE, SITTWE

Respondents in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships expressed concerns about intercommunal tensions due to movement of, and threats from, ARSA. They said that they had very limited interactions with Rakhine people and, due to the movement of Rohingya armed actors and the SAC's forced recruitment, Rakhine people accused them of being traitors and blamed them. One highlighted the importance and need for social cohesion activities and awareness due to

increasing tensions between communities and rumours.

"An organisation provided social cohesion training to only 10 youths and there are still many youths in our community who should receive the training. Currently the situation is tense between the two communities due to various rumours and young people need training on social cohesion to address the issue."

- 25, MALE, MAUNGDAW

Rohingya villagers in Pauktaw, Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, and Minbya townships reported that they had regular communication with their Rakhine neighbors and were able to visit Rakhine villages. However, they expressed concerns about potential tensions and violence stemming from discrimination by the ULA/AA. One respondent in Mrauk-U Township noted that if the ULA/AA administration ensured equal rights for both Rakhine and Rohingya communities, the relationship between them might improve in the future.

"There is no issue between Rakhine and Rohingya. As long as AA treats both equally, I don't think there will be violence or tensions between us in the future. The intercommunal relations depend on how ULA/AA treated Rohingya. If they exclude and discriminate against Rohingya, the tensions might be growing between the two communities. Currently, the relationship is good."

- 20, FEMALE, MRAUK-U

MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP





ROHINGYA VOICES

Bangladesh

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

he Myanmar military's 2017 'clearance operations' displaced some 1 700,000 Rohingya people from (mainly northern) Rakhine State into Bangladesh, where these people joined hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people displaced by earlier waves of violence. Upwards of one million Rohingya people now live in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and neighbouring areas. However, these camps have offered no respite from violence; particularly since 2019, competition between — and little policing of — ARSA, RSO, and other criminal actors in the camps have left Rohingya refugees dead, injured, and fearful, and may be the cause of deadly fires that have destroyed thousands of homes. In addition, stringent restrictions by Bangladesh authorities mean that camp residents are not allowed to leave the camps to access markets, or seek work, healthcare, or education in neighbouring communities, and violence by Bangladeshi communities has often prevented even informal movement. Bangladesh's Armed Police Battalion (APBn) has frequently used violence, extortion, forced labour, and arbitrary detention to enforce restrictions. Rohingya refugees are heavily reliant on humanitarian assistance, particularly since Bangladeshi authorities demolished businesses in the camps in 2022.

In 2020, Bangladeshi authorities began relocating Rohingya refugees to Bhasan Char, a silt island in the Bay of Bengal that is exposed to dangerous weather events and which offers almost nothing in the way of work or subsistence opportunities. Bhasan Char residents are largely prevented from leaving due to formal restrictions and the difficulties associated with travelling back to the mainland, meaning that the only income opportunities are a small number of NGO positions, and the only healthcare option (except in dire emergencies) is a single 20-bed hospital. Reporting suggests that humanitarian assistance is greater on Bhasan Char than in Cox's Bazar camps, but is still inadequate.

COX'S BAZAR



/ PRIMARY CONCERNS

COX'S BAZAR

Respondents in Cox's Bazar expressed concerns over flooding and landslides that destroyed and damaged houses in camps. They said that heavy rain destroyed shelters of many newcomers living in camp (27), and that Rohingya refugees urgently needed shelter support. Respondents also reported water shortages and a lack of sanitation and hygiene support, saying these things had led to skin diseases. They expressed concern over organisations shutting down learning centers and education support.

"Camps are very crowded and there is no proper sanitation to dispose of garbage. Many diseases are spreading due to lack of sanitation. We needed clean drainage so that water can flow easily and the camp area stays clean. There are also water shortages in camps."

- 26, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR



ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

/ PRIMARY CONCERNS

"Organizations providing education support in the camps announced that they shut down learning centers and stopped contracts with Rohingya volunteer teachers, and people are very concerned about it. Although those learning centres are providing formal education, it is still important for young children. Now many children and adults are spending their time on online games and become victims of illegal activities like smuggling methamphetamine tablets."

- 45, MALE, COX'S BAZAR

BHASAN CHAR

In Bhasan Char, residents continued experiencing rising temperatures and said that many people, especially women, were suffering from heat exhaustion. One said that there was no electricity and too few widows for ventilation in their shelters. He also noted that, after many Rohingya people submitted applications to visit their relatives in Cox's Bazar, camp authorities took bribes but did not permit them to travel to Cox's Bazar.

"The main concern is rising temperatures and people, especially women, are suffering from symptoms of heat exhaustion. The shelters have low ceilings, not enough windows, and there is no electricity to use fans inside the shelters. In [June and May], many people submitted applications to visit their relatives in Cox's Bazar. The authorities are cheating. They did not allow people to visit officially but accepted applications to get bribes from people. People are escaping from this island for many reasons. This month a boat sank in the sea, leaving two Rohingya and eight host community members dead."

- 35, MALE, BHASAN CHAR

COX'S BAZAR





ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported urgently needing humanitarian assistance including food support, hygiene, proper healthcare, water, and shelter. Respondents said that people were suffering from infectious disease because of water shortages, and that pregnant women and women are more vulnerable. One added that they received food assistance from an organisation but the rice provided by the organization needed time to clean up and suggested that an organisation should provide good quality of rice for Rohingya refugees.

"In our camp, we are facing a shortage of water. We can get only two buckets of water, which is not enough for my family. Some people who can afford it buy water from the host community for 2,000 Taka [~12 GBP] per month. Only a few households can access water like this. The rest take showers once a week; their hygiene is compromised and skin diseases are spreading to many households. Pregnant women and women with young children are more vulnerable in the current situation. They are also prone to many diseases due to lack of hygiene because of water shortage. The rice provided by [an organisation] is not clean and it needs to be cleaned, which is time

consuming and stressful for me as I have hypertension. I would like to request [the organization] to distribute good quality rice to us."

- 26, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents in Bhasan Char expressed concern about the lack of adequate humanitarian assistance — especially limited food support and stopping the provision of nutrition foods for children. One said that a camp in charge (CIC) requested organisations to provide sufficient food for Rohingya refugees.

"Although we received food assistance such as rice, beans, chili, and onions, it is not enough for us. We have to buy meat or fish or vegetables. Many people do not have income and they struggle to access nutritious foods. This month, the CIC requested organisations to provide extra food assistance, and [an organisation] provided dried fish and eggs. But [another organisation| providing nutritious foods to children stopped providing these due to funding shortages. We are very concerned about malnutrition among children because many cannot afford to provide nutritious food for them."

- 30, MALE, BHASAN CHAR

... ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported that Bangladesh's Armed Police Battalion (APBn) and host communities forced Rohingya to sacrifice cattle during Eid, but that the APBn also demanded bribes from Rohingya who passed its checkpoints with cattle. Respondents also expressed concern over the movement of ARSA in Rakhine State. They said that, while there were no tensions between Rohingya armed actors in Cox's Bazar, a new gang had emerged. One said that the gang, which included host community members, was active in camps and kidnapping and threatening refugees. She added that the gang was conducting military and explosive ordnance training for Rohingya young people, and that it forcibly recruited Rohingya young people to join ARSA and the RSO in Rakhine State.

"A gang called Alom has been active in our camp, and there are some host community members in that group. The gang has been involved in kidnapping Rohingya for ransom and drug trafficking. They bribe APBn to operate freely in the camp. They also have links with other Rohingya armed groups. They always threaten people in the camp by firing guns. We shut

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

our doors at 6pm to be safe. We are even afraid to go to the toilet during the evening hours. Even in an emergency, we try to avoid going out. The gang also forced many women in the camp to share positive content about it on social media. In the camp, no one dares to talk against them. If anyone from outside the camp visits the camp, they usually check them. I heard that the Alom gang forcibly recruited young Rohingya and sent them to Maungdaw Township to join ARSA and RSO. They also coordinated with other Rohingva groups to conduct arms training and explosive ordnance training."

- 26, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents in Bhasan Char said they had very limited interaction with CICs, security police, and Bangladesh authorities. They said that they viewed camp leaders' and CICs' activities negatively as these authorities took bribes from refugees.

"We have limited interaction with camp authorities, but they are very corrupt. The junior CIC staff and its appointed camp leaders are involved in widespread corruption and abuses of power. Individuals are required to pay bribes to CIC junior staff and camp leaders to submit applications to travel to Cox's Bazar to visit their families or seek healthcare."

- 30, MALE, BHASAN CHAR

... INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

Respondents in Bhasan Char reported that refugees maintained regular communication with local businessmen and that there was no tension between the host community and refugees in June. One noted tensions between Rohingya aid volunteers and Bangladeshi NGOs staff, who Rohingya volunteers reportedly felt exploited Rohingya and verbally abused volunteers.

"Although we have good communication with the host, there are tensions between Rohingya aid volunteers and host INGO and NGO staff. They often exploit and verbally abuse Rohingya volunteers and treat us as slaves. They do not respect us and they force us to do more than our scope of work. We have to work like full time staff but receive a very small salary."

- 30, MALE, BHASAN CHAR

Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported facing discrimination from host community members and reported a few incidents of extortion in June. They said that there was animosity from Rohingya refugees and the host community against INGOs and NGOs that stopped their contracts with host staff. During protests, the host community reportedly conducted hate speech against Rohingya refugees and

compared refugees to Israeli people occupying Palestine.

"Some host community members from the Teknaf area were registered as refugees in order to receive food assistance from [an organisation]. They bribed camp committee members to get registered on the beneficiary list. As rations were cut, some of them didn't receive any support and they became angry at Rohingya refugees and spread hate speech against the refugees. After organizations announced plans to shut down learning centers, the host community teachers protested in Uikya on 3 June. They blocked NGO vehicles from accessing the camps. They protested against the increasing numbers of refugees on their lands. They spread hate speech against refugees during the protest. Some of them have reportedly stated that if Rohingya refugees continue to live in Bangladesh for the next five more years, the situation would be worse than Palestine for the host community."

- 26, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

Contributing information sources to this document include public and non-public humanitarian **ROHINGYA VOICES** ATMOSPHERIC REPORT designated for humanitarian purposes only and as such should not be cited. Contact: analyst.myanmar2020@gmail.com