



Rohingya Voices

ATMOSPHERIC REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

JULY 2025

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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.

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KEY FINDINGS

/ PERCEPTIONS OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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

- Compared to June, the reported concerns of Rohingya villagers in Rakhine State did not change significantly, but concerns about shortages of food (especially rice), medicines, and agricultural supplies appeared to become more pressing.

- A respondent in Ramree Township reported that due to lack of regular income, many Rohingya people there could not afford to repair or rebuild their houses and urgently needed wood, bamboo, and other construction materials to repair structures damaged by State Administration Council (SAC) airstrikes in January 2025.

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

- Respondents in Pauktaw Township reported that, due to SAC restrictions on access to waters near Sittwe Township and heavy rain, many fishermen could not access their livelihoods and urgently needed food and nutrition support for children.

- In July, the need for food, medicines, hygiene pads, and contraceptive pills appeared to become more pressing among respondents in camps.

Rohingya community members in Bangladesh said that they needed WASH, sanitary, and medicine support to control seasonal flu and dengue fever in Cox's Bazar and on Bhasan Char. They said that many households were suffering from flu and dengue fever but had not received proper treatment.

- Respondents in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char said that NGOs reduced their cooking fuel support and stopped supporting education, leading to many learning centres being shut down and many Rohingya volunteer teachers losing their jobs.

- Compared to June, 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 SAC and Arakan Army (AA). Compared to June, respondents expressed greater concerns about forced recruitment, arbitrary detention, and extortion by the AA, the SAC, and SAC-appointed camp leaders and village administrators (VAs).

■ Respondents in Maungdaw Township reported that the United League of Arakan (ULA)/AA increased security along the border with Bangladesh and severely restricted travel to Bangladesh, even for medical purposes. Respondents said that the ULA/AA detained and tortured Rohingya who returned from Bangladesh.

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, and at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township, expressed concerns about SAC forces pressuring camp leaders to organise forced recruitment. They said that residents who could afford it moved to Yangon to avoid the SAC's forced recruitment but nonetheless many men were forcibly recruited by the SAC.

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 but that Rohingya armed actors often held community meetings to persuade refugees and religious leaders to support them.

■ One respondent in Bhasan Char said that camp leaders and camp authorities demanded bribes from Rohingya refugees who wanted to travel to Cox's Bazar for medical purposes or to be reunited with family.

KEY FINDINGS

/ PERCEPTIONS OF INTERCOMMUNAL TENSIONS

Rohingya community members in villages in Rakhine State reported that the relationship between Rohingya and Rakhine villagers was generally good.

■ However, respondents in Maungdaw and Buthiduang townships reported that due to the movement and activities of ARSA, Rakhine people avoided Rohingya people, increasing misunderstanding and had very limited interactions between two communities.

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

■ However, amid continued fighting in Kyaukpyu Township, respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site expressed concerns about tensions between Rakhine and both Rohingya and Kaman Muslim communities. They said that the intercommunal misunderstanding and hatred was increasing because the SAC had forced Rohingya and Kaman conscripts to demolish property owned by Rakhine people.

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 Bangladeshi teachers organised protests in Cox's Bazar camps — due to the reduction of Bangladeshi teachers in community learning centers — during which they chanted hate speech against Rohingya refugees and expressed dissatisfaction with hosting Rohingya refugees.

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 July, 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 by Rakhine people near Rakhine villages. One said that Rakhine people robbed and beat at least three Rohingya people and threatened to kill them if they complained to the police.

Hate speech



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

Hate speech did not appear to change significantly in July.

- Respondents in Maungdaw Township reported that due to the movement and activities of Rohingya armed actors in the township, some social media users shared negative comments and hatred against Rohingya people.

Statements



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

One actor issued media releases in response to dynamics involving Rohingya people:

- On 13 July, the Arakan Rohingya National Council (ARNC) **announced** the formation of a new political body aimed at unifying and advancing the political struggle, including "rights, recognition, and political representation", of the Rohingya community. It also stated that the ARNC would respond to decades of systematic exclusion, state-backed persecution, and attempts to erase the Rohingya identity.

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 July in many areas of Rakhine State.

- Respondents in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships reported that due to the movement and activities of Rohingya armed groups, the ULA/AA threatened to burn down Rohingya villages. Respondents also said that, due to safety and security concerns, Rakhine people avoided interaction with Rohingya people.

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 July in many areas of Rakhine State.

- Respondents in Rakhine State, except Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships, said that they had good communication with their Rakhine neighbours. Respondents in Sittwe Township expressed that intercommunal relations were good, especially among young people.

Perceptions

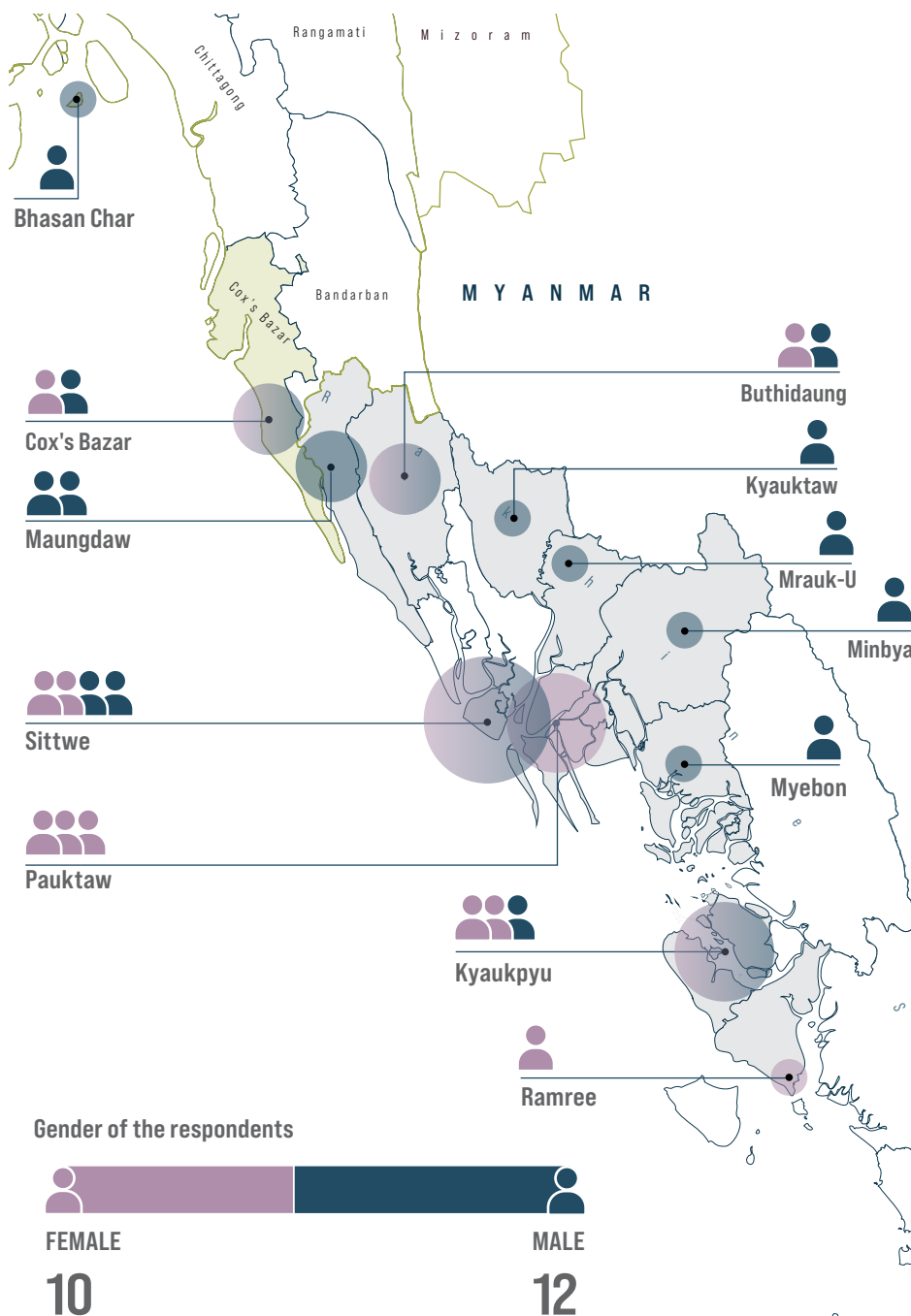


‘Perceptions’ includes the expressed sentiments of Rohingya people (e.g. respondents).

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 minority ethnic groups.

RESPONDENTS

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



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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 22 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 22 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.

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.

1
July

Local media [reported](#) that, due to heavy rain and flooding in Maungdaw Township, residents were experiencing challenges in accessing electricity and livelihoods, disturbing communication and food security and making it difficult for people to charge their phones.

4
July

Local media [reported](#) that ARSA attacked a ULA/AA outpost near Bandula village in Maungdaw Township, resulting in some ULA/AA casualties. However, on 5 July, the ULA/AA spokesperson [claimed](#) that there had been no incidents of ARSA targeting an AA camp along the northern Maungdaw border and that videos of an attack spread by ARSA supporters on social media were fabricated news.

6
July

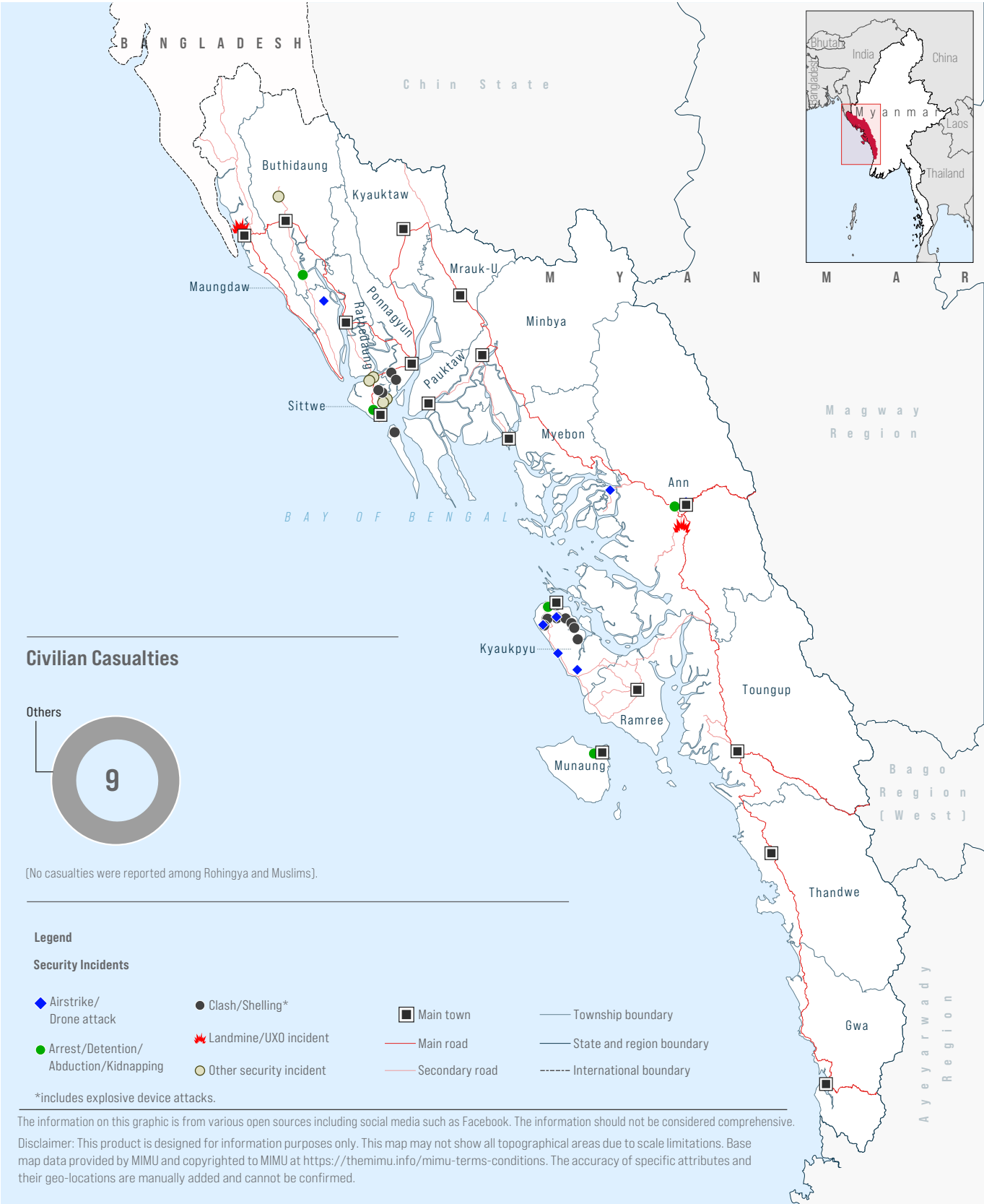
Local media [reported](#) that the ULA/AA confiscated a mosque in U Hla Phe village in Buthidaung Township and was using it as a military camp. The same source reported that the ULA/AA had confiscated another four mosques in Ywet Nyo Taung village tract, Buthidaung Township, and used these religious buildings as recruitment centres.

16
July

According to Bangladeshi media, Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar were set to hold [internal elections](#) to form a civil society committee aimed at representing their voices to the global community. The same source reported that the election aimed to select 500 representatives from across the camps, of whom some 30–40 members would be chosen to form a core committee for a three-year term to represent the Rohingya refugees.

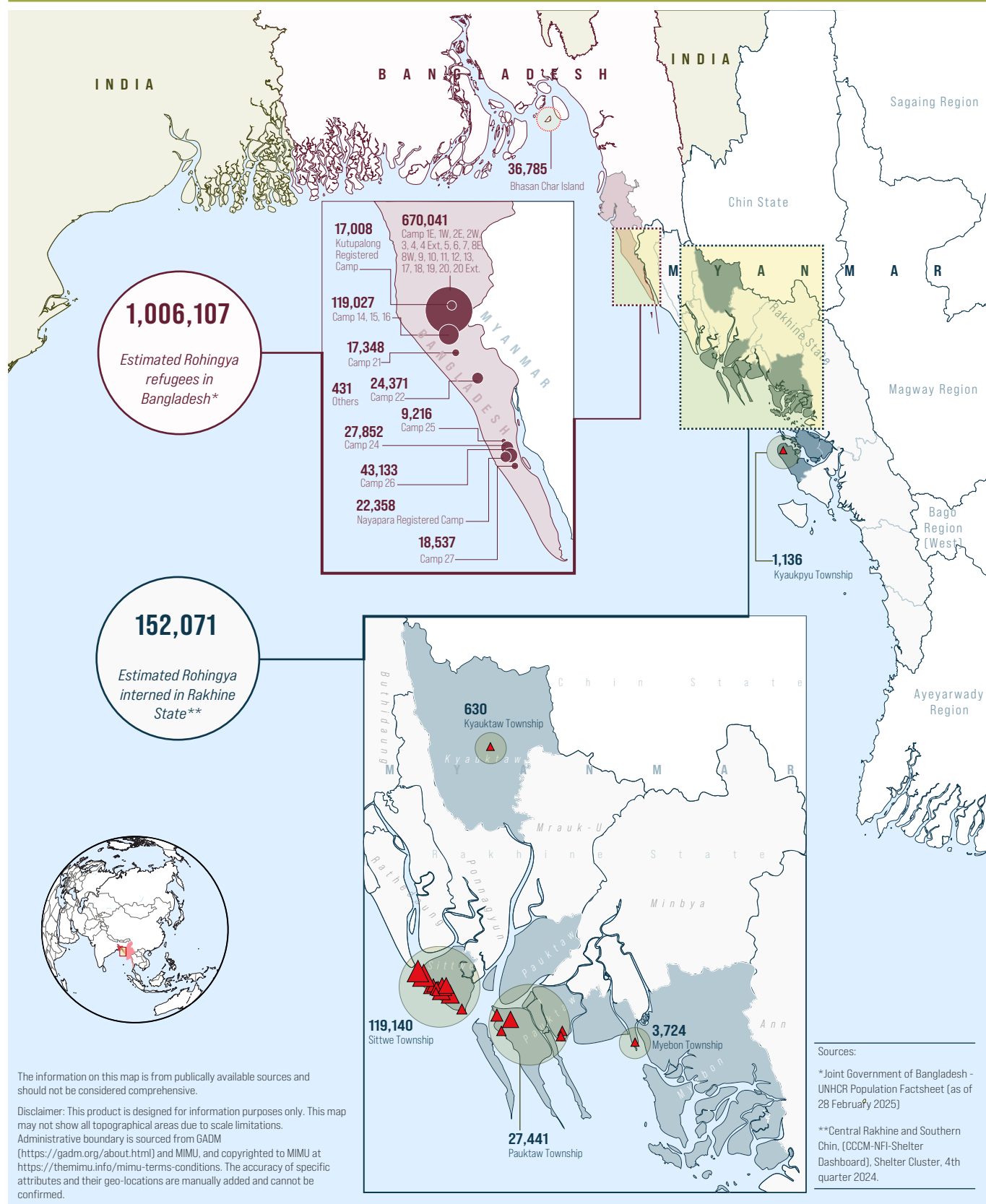
KEY SECURITY INCIDENTS

JULY 2025



ROHINGYA CAMPS IN RAKHINE STATE AND BANGLADESH

JULY 2025



ROHINGYA VOICES

Rakhine State

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

Rohingya 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 expressed growing concerns about shortages of rice and other basic food items. They said that, due to a lack of regular income, many IDPs could not afford regular meals and malnutrition cases were increasing. They also reported that petty crime was increasing for the same reason, with many IDPs facing debt problems.

“There is no regular income among IDPs, and we are facing food shortages. Meat and fish are not sold at the market due to shortages of live-stock. We can’t afford nutritious foods due to high prices, and I can’t afford meat or fish once a month for my family. Due to lack of livelihoods and general hardship, people want to escape from Sittwe Township with human traffickers to find job opportunities outside of the country.”

- 23, MALE, SITTWE

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

/ PRIMARY CONCERNS

MYEBON TOWNSHIP

As with respondents from Sittwe Township, one respondent in Taung Paw ward (an 'officially closed' camp) in Myebon Township reported urgent need for food assistance, needs for toilet facility repairs, and transportation challenges. Another reported significant challenges to travel for residents — and particularly children and elderly people, noting that all roads in the camp were severely damaged and turned to mud. He said that, due to a lack of regular income, camp residents could not afford road repairs, and the ULA/AA did not provide support to repair it.

“The main concern is there are no humanitarian agencies, since the ULA/AA captured the township, and no assistance for IDPs. We urgently need support to repair roads and toilet facilities. All roads are damaged and unusable, so people find it difficult to travel from one place to another. This significantly affects children and elderly people.”

- 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 Rohingya fishing boats avoided fishing near Sittwe Township, because of heavy rain and SAC restrictions, resulting in reduced income opportunities. They said that camp residents urgently needed food assistance, shelter, and livelihood support.

“As we are fishermen, we have to rely on fishing. Due to heavy rain and restrictions by the SAC in Sittwe Township, we have to travel to Myebon Township for fishing, which costs more than travel to Sittwe Township for fishing. Many fishermen cannot afford to go to Myebon Township to fish and lose regular income. We need support, especially rice and food items, shelters, and livelihood support.”

- 28, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

KYAUK TA LONE, KYAUKPYU TOWNSHIP

Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township expressed serious concerns about food shortages, lack of regular income, and the intensification of fighting between the SAC and AA near the camp. They said that residents — especially children — could not sleep at night because of the sound of artillery. They also reported that flooding in the camp in June caused cases of diarrhoea and an urgent need for medicines.

“In the camp, we can hear the sounds of fighting every night, which frightens us all the time. The SAC forces are very close to our camp and we don't feel safe here anymore. Elderly people, children, and women are very concerned about the intense fighting near camp. Our houses were also inundated with water during the flood. We could not sleep on the floor and had to sleep on chairs and benches in the house. Many people are also suffering from diarrhoea in the aftermath of the flood. Due to lack of money, we can't access healthcare services.”

- 35, FEMALE, KYAUK TA LONE

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Respondents in Sittwe Township reported significant challenges in accessing food and healthcare. One respondent said that two organisations had provided hygiene kits and non-food items (NFIs) recently, but none had provided food assistance, in the camps. They said that IDPs needed food assistance and some needed shelter support.

“An organisation provided a pack of non-food items such as a mosquito net, blanket, and cooking pot to each IDP household in our camp in the last week of June. Another organisation provided packs of hygiene kits in the first week of July. We have not received food assistance for a long time [though]. People also need shelters, as the roofs of shelters were damaged and need to be repaired. The most urgent need for us is food assistance. IDPs are starving due to lack of food assistance and income.”

- 23, FEMALE, SITTWE

Respondents in Pauktaw Township, and one in Taung Paw ward (an ‘officially closed’ camp) in Myebon Township, reported urgent needs for food, shelter, toilet facilities, and livelihood support. Respondents in Pauktaw Township also said that increasing food prices made it harder for IDPs to afford nutritious food.

One respondent in Myebon Township suggested that humanitarian agencies cooperate with the ULA/AA to support IDPs in areas under its control.

“We didn’t receive any assistance in July. As many IDPs are fishermen, we don’t have regular income. Due to heavy rain and winds, we can’t go to the sea to fish. My family has not had income for two months and we have no savings. We need food assistance, especially rice, and shelter support.”

- 28, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site Kyaukpyu Township said they urgently needed rice, cash assistance, medicines, hygiene pads, and contraceptive pills. They noted that one organisation provided soap in May and June, and also conducted bakery and soap-making training to 20 women per session. The organisation later reportedly gave cash assistance to those who completed the training to help them start small businesses.

“We urgently need rice, medicines, and hygiene support. [An organisation] provided bakery training with 20 women and [it] provided training to make soap. After the training, the organisation provided 500,000 Myanmar Kyat [~177 GBP] to each participant.”

- 43, FEMALE, KYAUK TA LONE

... ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone site in Kyaukpyu Township reported serious concerns about SAC forced recruitment. They said many families had lost income because the SAC recruited male breadwinners. According to responders, camp leaders and residents were pressured to join, and while some people fled to Yangon, many are now living in fear.

“The SAC instructed camp residents to join the militia to provide security to the town. Because of that, many people fled to Yangon to avoid being forcibly recruited. But the majority of people cannot escape, and they are living in fear.”

- 35, FEMALE, KYAUK TA LONE

Respondents in Pauktaw Township and in Taung Paw Ward (an ‘officially closed’ camp) in Myebon Township said that they had to follow the rules and regulations implemented by the ULA/AA and to regularly report to the ULA/AA on the situation in camps, via AA-appointed VAs. They said that they viewed the ULA/AA administration positively, however.

“We have to follow the rules and regulations set up by ULA/AA. But there was no forced recruitment and extortion by ULA/AA this month. We view

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

the ULA/AA administration positively, as it does not abuse us like the SAC did.”

- 28, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

Respondents in Sittwe Township expressed grave concerns about SAC and Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) members detaining Rohingya people to extort them. They said that the ALP intentionally targeted Rohingya at checkpoints, threatened, beat, and extorted them. The SAC also reportedly restricted Rohingya people's movement and pressured camp leaders to organise people for forced recruitment.

“SAC and ALP members intentionally target Rohingya and threaten and arrest them for extortion. Rohingya are forced to pay to release them. These kinds of cases are increasing daily, and we are not safe to go outside because of ALP members' abuses. The SAC pressures camp leaders to organise people for its recruitment, and if individuals don't want to join, they need to pay camp leaders and SAC forces.”

- 23, MALE, SITTWE

... INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

Respondents in Pauktaw Township and in Taung Paw Ward (an 'officially closed' camp) in Myebon Township reported regular communication, and no tensions, with Rakhine neighbors. Respondents in Sittwe Township also noted generally positive relationships with Rakhine villagers. One respondent in Sittwe Township said that travel to Sittwe town was generally safe and that many Rakhine people followed ULA/AA orders not to create tensions.

“There is no tension between Rohingya and Rakhine people in July. We can travel to Sittwe town and there is no abuse by Rakhine people. We heard that the ULA/AA ordered them [Rakhine people] not to create any tension with the Rohingya. As many of them support the ULA/AA, they follow the order.”

- 23, MALE, SITTWE

Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township expressed concern about potential tensions between Rakhine and both

Rohingya and Kaman communities. They said that misunderstanding and hatred between communities is increasing as the SAC forced Rohingya and Kaman conscripts to demolish houses and property owned by Rakhine people. They noted that Rakhine people avoided camp residents because they perceived many of them as being affiliated with SAC conscripts.

“The tension between Rakhine and Rohingya is gradually increasing. Though Rakhine people do not openly express their hatred towards us, we can sense it. They no longer communicate with us like before. They misunderstand and are angry at us because camp residents are recruited to and join SAC forces. The SAC also used those conscripts to demolish vacant Rakhine houses in the villages and forced them to use those materials from the houses to build bunkers for the SAC forces. Rakhine people often say “Kalars are destroying our houses” and spread hatred against us. I think it is likely that violence could take place between the two communities in the future.”

- 35, FEMALE, KYAUK TA LONE

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

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.

BUTHIDAUNG TOWNSHIP



/ PRIMARY CONCERNS

Respondents in Sittwe and Ramree townships expressed concerns over the lack of food assistance, shelter support, and healthcare services, including doctors. They reported urgently needing shelter materials such as bamboo and tarpaulin; they said that some villagers were staying temporarily with relatives, but that many remained in damaged and wet shelters during heavy rain. Rohingya villagers in Sittwe Township also expressed growing concern about the lack of healthcare services, noting that some doctors had moved to Yangon.

"My father is suffering from a serious cough. There is only one doctor in Sittwe Township that we can see, and now he is travelling to Yangon. Other doctors moved to Yangon due to safety and security concerns in Sittwe Township. Many of us are forced to rely on traditional healers."

- 25, MALE, SITTWE

Respondents in Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, and Minbya townships expressed concern over difficulties accessing agricultural supplies including fertilisers and seeds. They said that restrictions by Bangladesh and the ULA/AA had led to increased prices of commodities such as agricultural supplies, preventing many farmers from growing vegetables or paddy.

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

/ PRIMARY CONCERNS

“Our key concern is lack of regular income. Most of the villagers are farmers. At the moment, there are shortages of agricultural supplies and we can’t afford to buy fertilisers or pesticides. Agricultural supplies are mainly transported from Bangladesh, but Bangladesh authorities restricted the transportation of agricultural supplies and other commodities [...] most of us can’t afford them and can’t grow vegetable and paddy.”

- 34, MALE, MINBYA

Respondents in Pauktaw Township expressed growing concern about tensions between Rohingya landowners and displaced Rohingya people. They said that displaced Rohingya had occupied — and built shelters on — their farmland, damaging the land and interfering with their ability to grow paddy.

“There is tension between Rohingya villagers and Rohingya IDPs. We owned lands near IDPs camp and now those lands are occupied by them. The paddy was damaged because of them and we were not able to grow paddy and vegetables as they built shelters on our lands.”

- 26, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

As in Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, and Minbya townships, respondents in Buthidaung Township expressed concerns about

increased prices of agricultural supplies and the inability of many farmers to grow paddy.

“As we are in the rainy season, we need agricultural supplies for cultivation. In the past, the fertiliser to cultivate one acre of land cost us 30,000 Myanmar Kyat [~10.62 GBP], but now the price has increased to 100,000 Myanmar Kyat [~35.40 GBP] per acre. Many people don’t cultivate their lands because they can’t afford to buy supplies.”

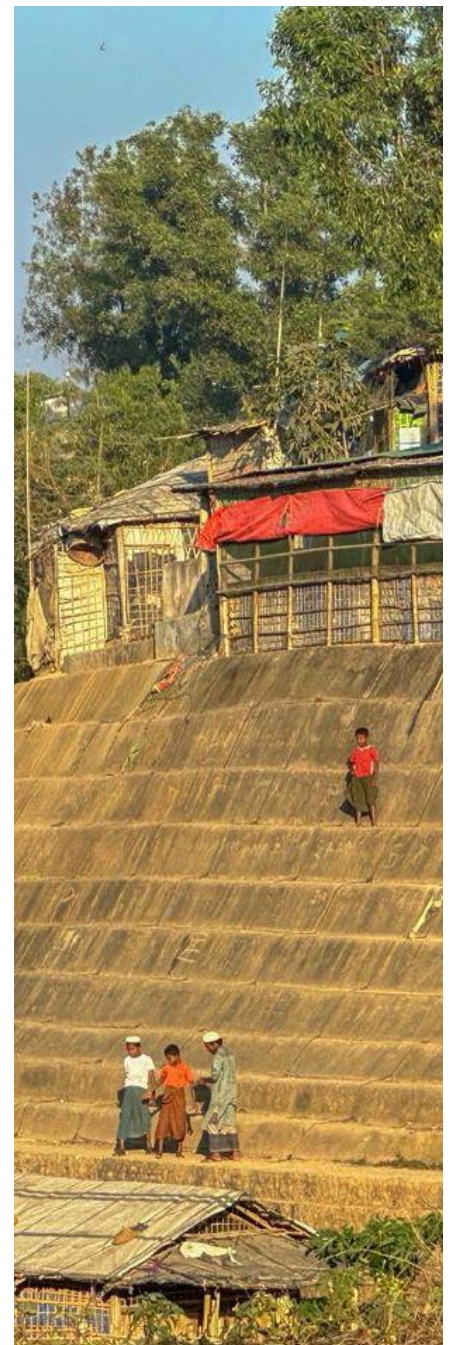
- 25, MALE, BUTHIDAUNG

Rohingya in Maungdaw Township expressed concern over the lack of electricity and telecommunications and the lack of healthcare services. They said they rely on candles for light at night, but that candle prices were skyrocketing. Respondents in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships said that many people were suffering from seasonal flu and that healthcare, nutrition, and reproductive healthcare support were badly needed.

“We urgently need healthcare services and medicines as children are suffering from seasonal flu. Due to the curfew, we cannot access emergency healthcare services at night. We also need support for reproductive health aid as well as nutrition support for children and pregnant women.”

- 29, MALE, MAUNGDAW

MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP



ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Respondents in Sittwe Township reported that, although an organisation provided NFIs in Rohingya camps in late June and early July, no assistance was given in Rohingya villages. Respondents in Sittwe and Ramree townships said that Rohingya villagers' most pressing needs were food, shelter, and healthcare. They added that, due to the lack of humanitarian assistance in villages, widows and women-headed households were particularly vulnerable.

"Nobody can access any job opportunities and there is no income source. With the lack of assistance, widows' and women-headed households are most vulnerable because husbands went to work in places like Malaysia and Thailand, so women take responsibility for their children. They are struggling to fulfil their household needs".

- 25, MALE, SITTWE

Respondents in Mrauk-U, Minbya, and Kyauktaw townships likewise reported urgently needing food, NFIs, agricultural supplies, and healthcare support. They said that due to a lack of regular income, many families could not afford meat, fish, or nutritious foods.

"As we are farmers, we have enough rice but we cannot afford meat, fish, or vegetables. Those essential and nutritious foods are very expensive in our area. We need cash assistance and medicines."

- 34, MALE, MINBYA

Respondents in Pauktaw Township reported urgently needing food and healthcare support. One said that around 80 per cent of his village was unable to afford regular meals, and many people were suffering from malnutrition. He added that an organisation provided referrals to pregnant women for emergency treatment in Mrauk-U Township — but only for those who met the requirements — and said most people could not access healthcare.

Respondents in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships reported urgently needing food, healthcare, and shelter. They said that organisations provided nutrition packages to malnourished children and pregnant women, but that many households could not provide sufficient food for children and the elderly. Respondents in Maungdaw Township said that an organisation provided training related to psychosocial support, landmine awareness, and gender-based violence for Rohingya villagers. They also said that ULA/AA-imposed movement restrictions made it difficult for them to access healthcare services.

"There are no doctors or specialists, so people can't access healthcare services. As there are no formal healthcare services in Maungdaw Township, [only] people who can afford to bribe AA officials will get permission to travel to Bangladesh for treatment. But poor people can't afford to seek treatment."

- 40, MALE, MAUNGDAW

... ARMED ACTORS

Respondents in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships said they viewed the ULA/AA administration negatively due to its arbitrary arrests, taxation, movement restrictions, and forced labour. They said that the ULA/AA had increased security in border areas and strictly prohibited travel to Bangladesh. They said that the ULA/AA detained and mistreated at least nine Rohingya who returned from Bangladesh, and detained and tortured at least two Rohingya community leaders in Maungdaw Township. In addition, respondents in Maungdaw Township said that the ULA/AA threatened to burn down entire villages if villagers did not report any activity of Rohingya armed actors in their areas.

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

“As Rohingya armed groups are active in northern Maungdaw Township, the AA has increased security there. The AA also demanded that VAs and villagers report activities of Rohingya armed actors and threatened to burn down entire villages if they failed to do so. [...] In the last week of June, there were clashes between the AA and ARSA in northern Maungdaw Township. Taung Pyo Let Wae village is not so far from our village, so we are worried that our village will be subjected to clearance operations.”

- 29, MALE, MAUNGDAW

In Buthidaung Township, Rohingya people said that paying monthly ‘taxes’ to the ULA/AA was a financial burden. They also reported that the ULA/AA confiscated four mosques.

“Every month, we have to pay 2,000 Myanmar Kyat [~0.70 GBP] to the AA, whether rich or poor. This is a burden for us and many cannot afford it. AA forces confiscated four mosques in Ywet Nyo Taung village and are now using the mosques as their offices.”

- 27, FEMALE, BUTHIDAUNG

Respondents in Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, and Minbya townships said they had regular communication with the ULA/AA and that there was no forced recruitment or extortion by ULA/AA members in July. A respondent in

Kyauktaw Township said that the ULA/AA had ordered Rohingya people not to sell their land or houses and had ordered that VAs inform the ULA/AA of the village situation on a monthly basis.

“We have regular communication with the ULA/AA. We needed permission from the ULA/AA to do business and travel. VAs are also required to inform them about the situation of the village monthly.”

- 61, MALE, KYAUKTAW

Respondents in Pauktaw Township reported that ULA/AA officials detained and beat Rohingya people who failed to follow their orders and rules. One said that the ULA/AA restricted Rohingya from traveling to Sittwe Township, and that at least two Rohingya villagers who traveled there without permission were beaten and fined. He added that Rohingya had to pay tax to the ULA/AA on all businesses, including human trafficking.

“We need permission from the ULA/AA to travel. The ULA/AA prohibited Rohingya travel to Sittwe Township, and two people were detained, beaten badly, and fined for travelling to Sittwe Township without permission in July. In July around 12 human traffickers were also detained by the ULA/AA for failing to pay tax. If they pay tax, they can do human trafficking legally in Pauktaw Township.”

- 26, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

Respondents in Sittwe Township expressed concerns over movement restrictions, curfews, and forced recruitment by SAC forces and VAs. Respondents said that SAC forces pressured VAs to organize people for forced recruitment and collected 20,000–40,000 Myanmar Kyat (~7–14.16 GBP) monthly from villagers to provide support to families of conscripted Rohingya. One reported that SAC forces randomly detained Rohingya from villages and camps every night for recruitment.

“The SAC forces held a meeting and invited all camp and village leaders on 29 June, and then they held another meeting at the SAC police station in Bumay village. They implemented a curfew order starting from 1 July that prohibited people leaving home after 9 pm. They asked all leaders to collect the lists of all conscripted Rohingya members who attended training in previous months and years and said that those people would need to join the SAC forces soon. SAC forces came every night to the camps and villages and detained men randomly if they saw them outside of their homes. I heard that they detained seven Rohingya men in Thet Kae Pyin camp, four in Thae Chaung village and two in Dar Paing village on 3 July. They also detained about five men in Baw Du Pha camp but three of them were released later.”

- 25, MALE, SITTWE

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

... INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

Rohingya villagers in Ramree, Pauktaw, Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, and Minbya townships reported having regular communication with their Rakhine neighbors and being able to visit Rakhine villages. One respondent in Kyauktaw Township noted that interaction was limited due to SAC airstrikes in Rakhine villages and Rohingyas avoiding those areas.

“We have regular interaction with Rakhine people and we can go to town freely. There was no physical or verbal abuse by Rakhine people in July. But we have limited interaction with our Rakhine neighbours. We avoid visiting Rakhine people because we are concerned about SAC airstrikes in Rakhine villages.”

- 61, MALE, KYAUKTAW

Respondents in Sittwe Township reported good communication between Rakhine and Rohingya youths. They said that Rakhine young people come to Rohingya villages to play football. However, one expressed concern over robberies by Rakhine youth in or near Rakhine neighborhoods.

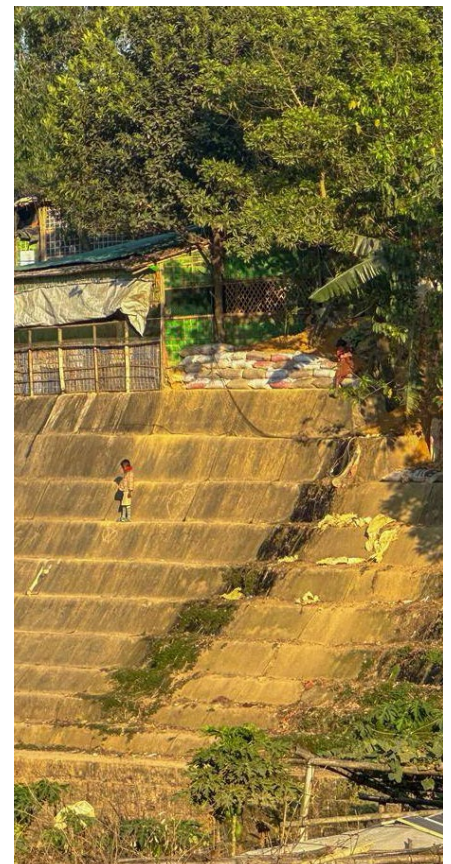
“Rakhine and Rohingya youths have good communication and they play football matches together. Sometimes, Rakhine youths come to Bumay and Dar Paing camp to play football with Rohingya young people. But we experienced robbery by Rakhine youths near Rakhine villages. In July, a group of Rakhine youths beat both a Rohingya father and son, and took their motor bike, phone, and 200,000 Myanmar Kyat [~70.81 GBP]. Rakhine people did not try to stop their robbery. Later a Rakhine woman helped them to rent an auto trishaw to go back home. On 4 July, when a Rohingya businessmen in Dar Paing village went to buy fish in Sittwe town, a group of Rakhine youths robbed eight million Myanmar Kyat [~2b831 GBP] and a gold ring in Ma Gyi Myine ward. They also threatened him that they would stab him if he came back to find them or report to police.”

- 25, MALE, SITTWE

Respondents in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships expressed concern about rising intercommunal tensions due to the fighting between ULA/AA and ARSA. They said interactions with Rakhine people were limited, and that Rakhine individuals were posting hateful content online, increasing mistrust and fear between communities.

“Since the news about ARSA attacking the AA post near Bandula village in northern Maungdaw Township on 28 June spread online, many Rakhines are posting negative comments and hatred towards Rohingya people which increased the tension between the two communities. As the video has been shared online widely, Rakhines have become more hostile towards the Rohingyas.”

- 40, MALE, MAUNGDAW



MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP

ROHINGYA VOICES

Bangladesh

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

The Myanmar military's 2017 'clearance operations' displaced some 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 the spread of a flu-like illness, which may be dengue; they said they were experiencing severe body aches, headaches, and loss of appetite but had not received proper healthcare. Respondents also reported shortages of cooking fuel and a lack of sanitation, site management, and WASH support, saying these factors had contributed to the spread of infectious diseases. They also expressed concern about the lack of regular income and job opportunities, noting that domestic violence cases were increasing — especially among young couples — and that many youths were becoming involved in illegal activities including kidnapping and smuggling.

"As there is no more cash for work positions in the camp, many Rohingya income has been affected. Due to lack of income, domestic violence is increasing in the camp especially among young couples. Many people are engaged in illicit businesses and some are involved in kidnapping."

- 42, MALE, COX'S BAZAR

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

/ PRIMARY CONCERNS

BHASAN CHAR

Many residents in Bhasan Char were reported to be suffering from dengue fever. One respondent said there were not enough healthcare services or medicines, and that doctors and nurses only prescribed paracetamol. He noted that children were particularly vulnerable, and that only those who could afford medicine from pharmacies could access proper

treatment. He also reported the need for improved child protection in the camp, saying that existing child protection activities by NGOs focused only on child marriage.

“Dengue fever has been spreading in the camp. But there are not enough medicines in the camp. The doctors and healthcare workers only prescribe paracetamol for every sickness. Many people are suffering from fever and

body pains. Coughs and body aches are very common among the refugees. Children are more vulnerable to this illness. Only a few people could afford to buy medicines from the pharmacies. There are no safety measures for children. Many children died from falling into the ponds. The child protection team only focuses on child marriages. They don't take proper actions for other safety measures for children.”

- 28, MALE, BHASAN CHAR.

BHASAN CHAR



ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported an urgent need for humanitarian assistance, including education, proper healthcare, healthcare awareness for women, and child protection. Respondents said women faced significant barriers to accessing healthcare due to restrictions imposed by religious leaders, leading many to avoid going outside. They also added that although Bangladeshi authorities had not shut down Rohingya-led private schools, NGOs had reduced the number of learning centers, Rohingya volunteer teachers, and host teachers. As a result, host community staff reportedly staged protests and urged NGOs to reduce the number of Rohingya teachers teaching the Burmese language at community learning centers.

"Many schools were shut down. But secondary schools from the learning centers are still open. On 5 July, host teachers staged a demonstration to reappoint them. They objected to the appointment of Rohingya teachers to teach Burmese language."

- 40, MALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents in Bhasan Char expressed concern about the lack of adequate humanitarian assistance and a reduction in the amount of cooking gas provided. One said that gas distribution had been reduced and

residents now had to buy gas themselves if they ran out. He also highlighted the need for nutritious food for children and educational programs for women, noting that many Rohingya women were reluctant to study with male teachers.

"We receive food assistance regularly. But [an organisation] reduced its support for cooking gas. Due to limited support, we have to buy gas ourselves if we run out. [The organisation] provided gas every 30 days but now they decided to provide it every 40 days. We need support for nutritious foods for children and we also need women teachers for Rohingya women. Many are illiterate and there are no Rohingya women teachers at schools for them. They don't want to study with male teachers."

- 28, MALE, BHASAN CHAR

... ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported that Rohingya armed actors often held meetings in the camps, encouraging the community to support them, fight for their rights, and stay united. One respondent expressed concern over an election led by Bangladeshi authorities to select Rohingya leaders and form committees for political and social

engagement. He said Dil Mohammed, a Rohingya man reportedly close to the SAC, was running a campaign and had received support from the SAC and the Bangladesh government.

"The Bangladesh government is planning to run an election for Rohingya leaders in Cox's Bazar. I heard around 100-150 people would be elected and committees would be formed to lead on social and political issues including repatriation. Dil Mohammed, who we believe is very close to the SAC, is planning to join the election and running election campaigns in the camp. He always proposes to unite with the SAC and I heard that the SAC provided him a budget to organise people to cooperate with SAC. He also gets favour from the Bangladesh government. People are very concerned about him as he could be elected as a leader. He persuaded religious leaders to support him and to organise for him. He has been in the camp for around eight months."

- 42, MALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents in Bhasan Char said they had very limited interaction with CICs, security police, and Bangladeshi authorities. One said that refugees had to bribe camp leaders to get permission to visit Cox's Bazar. He added that, due to restrictions and delays in issuing permits, many refugees decided to escape from the camp

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

illegally via fishing boats. He noted that lack of livelihood opportunities and isolation were key reasons for these escapes.

“Camp leaders and CICs are very corrupt. They demand money from refugees who want to travel to Cox's Bazar. I heard that around 20,000 people escaped from Bhasan Char in recent years. The main reasons for escaping from here is that there are no job opportunities and we can't meet with our families and relatives as it is very difficult to get permission from CICs.”

- 28, MALE, BHASAN CHAR

... INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported facing discrimination from host community members and mentioned a few incidents of kidnapping by locals in July. They also expressed serious concern about growing tensions between Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi teachers. After NGOs reduced Bangladeshi staff, many of these staff reportedly protested, criticising continued funding for Rohingya teachers and assistance for refugees, including for new arrivals.

“More than 400 learning centers were shut down due to lack of funding. Many school employees became jobless and

some staged protests against the shut-down. They also complained about Rohingya volunteer teachers who kept their jobs and expressed dissatisfaction about funding to provide assistance to new and older Rohingya refugees. During the protest, some demanded that if the job opportunities for locals are not restored, they demanded that half of the food assistance must be provided to them.”

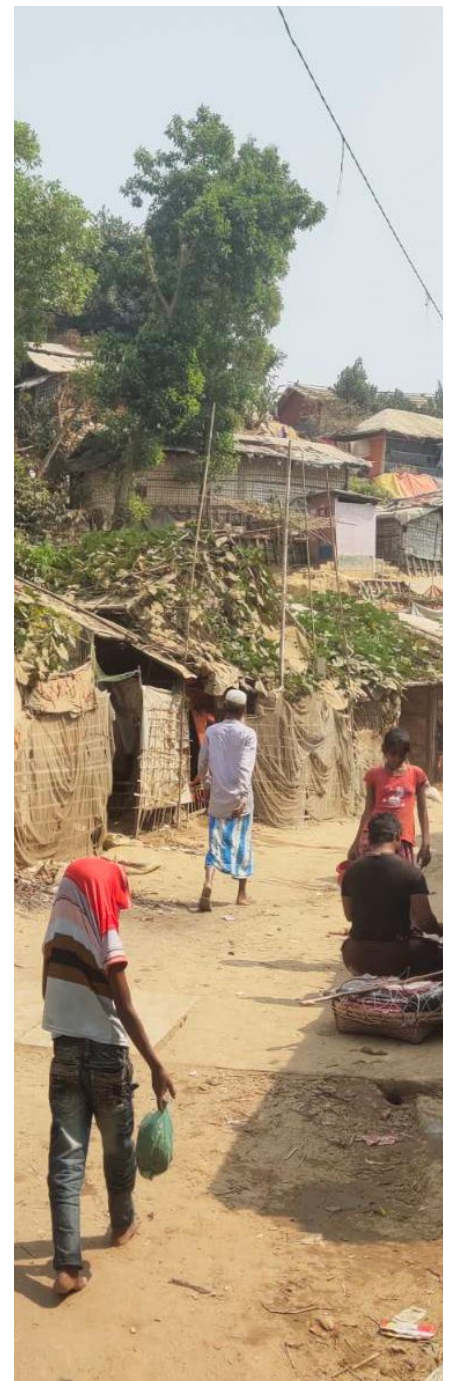
- 32, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents in Bhasan Char reported maintaining regular communication with local businessmen and said there was no tension with the host community in July. One noted that relationships between Bangladeshi and Rohingya refugees were generally normal, but he added that tensions existed due to NGOs reducing the number of Bangladeshi teachers in community schools and learning centers in Cox's Bazar.

“The relationship between host and refugees is normal. There is no tension between Bangladeshi teachers and Rohingya volunteer teachers in Bhasan Char but we heard that there are tensions between Bangladeshi teachers and Rohingya volunteer teachers after NGOs reduced Bangladeshi teachers from Rohingya community schools and learning centers in Cox's Bazar.”

- 28, MALE, BHASAN CHAR

COX'S BAZAR



ROHINGYA VOICES

ATMOSPHERIC REPORT

Contributing information sources to this document include public and non-public humanitarian information. The content compiled is by no means exhaustive and does not necessarily reflect the position of its authors or funders. The provided information, assessment, and analysis are designated for humanitarian purposes only and as such should not be cited.

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