



# Rohingya Voices

ATMOSPHERIC REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

AUGUST 2025

## CONTENTS

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### KEY FINDINGS 3

Perceptions of humanitarian assistance 3

Perceptions of armed and  
governance actors 4

Perceptions of intercommunal tensions 5

### RESPONDENTS 6

### METHODOLOGY 6

### RISK INDICATORS OF INTERCOMMUNAL VIOLENCE 7

### KEY CONTEXT DEVELOPMENTS 9

### KEY SECURITY INCIDENTS 11

### ROHINGYA CAMPS IN BANGLADESH AND RAKHINE STATE 12

### ROHINGYA VOICES: BANGLADESH

#### HUMANITARIAN AND POLICY TAKEAWAYS 13

#### ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR 15

#### PRIMARY CONCERNS 15

#### REFLECTIONS ON ...

... humanitarian assistance 17

... armed and governance actors 18

... intercommunal relations 19

### ROHINGYA VOICES: RAKHINE STATE

#### HUMANITARIAN AND POLICY TAKEAWAYS 20

#### ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES 21

#### PRIMARY CONCERNS 21

#### REFLECTIONS ON ...

... humanitarian assistance 23

... armed actors 24

... intercommunal relations 26

#### ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS 27

#### PRIMARY CONCERNS 27

#### REFLECTIONS ON ...

... humanitarian assistance 29

... armed and governance actors 29

... Intercommunal relations 30

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

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### / PERCEPTIONS OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

**Rohingya community members in Bangladesh** reported a lack of education support and a lack of protection for women, children, and activists. They said that the lack of education opportunities put girls at higher risk of early marriage.

- Respondents in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char reported an urgent need for nutritious foods, solar panels, and medicines to control seasonal flu and skin diseases — especially among children.

- Compared to July, the reported concerns and humanitarian issues of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh did not change significantly.

**Rohingya community members in villages** in Rakhine State reported a lack of assistance — especially food, shelter, and healthcare, including vaccination for pregnant women and children.

- The reported concerns of Rohingya villagers in Rakhine State did not change significantly from July, but concerns about shortages of food (especially rice) and medicines, and about lack of support for rehabilitation after recent flooding, appeared to become more pressing.

- Respondents in several parts of Rakhine State expressed significant challenges in accessing essential food items in markets, specifically noting shortages of medicines and basic food items.

**Rohingya community members in camps** in Rakhine State said that they needed hygiene kits, cooking fuel, and healthcare assistance.

- Respondents in Pauktaw Township reported that, due to Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) 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 their children.

- In August, there appeared to become more pressing needs for food, medicine, healthcare facilities, treatment for malnourished people, and hygiene kits.



## KEY FINDINGS

## / PERCEPTIONS OF ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

**Rohingya community members in Bangladesh** reported that Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) activities had decreased in Cox's Bazar, but they also said that Rohingya armed actors were active in northern Rakhine State and often targeted civilians.

- One respondent in Bhasan Char said that Rohingya gangs were becoming more active there and expressed concern over these gangs' movement and activities, including kidnapping, rape, sexual harassment, and threats to those who opposed them.

**Rohingya community members in villages** in Rakhine State expressed concern about forced recruitment by the MAF and Arakan Army (AA). Compared to July, respondents expressed greater concerns about potential attacks, including airstrikes, by the MAF on United League of Arakan (ULA)/AA controlled areas.

- Respondents in Maungdaw Township reported that, during a 1 August meeting at its office, the ULA/AA told Rohingya fishermen and villagers that they were required to apply for permission — providing all personal details — to go fishing. The ULA/AA also reportedly demanded that Rohingya fishermen pay 'tax' and share some of their catch with AA forces, as well as support the ULA/AA and join the AA when it started recruitment.

**Rohingya community members in camps** in Rakhine State reported that the MAF 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 increasing military tensions between the MAF and AA in their areas.

## KEY FINDINGS

## / PERCEPTIONS OF INTERCOMMUNAL TENSIONS

**Rohingya community members in Bangladesh** reported tensions between host communities — especially Bangladeshi villagers — and refugees.

■ Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported that some Bangladeshi villagers refused to share toilet and bathing facilities with Rohingya refugees. They also said that in some host community areas, these communities required Rohingya refugees to share food assistance in order to stay.

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

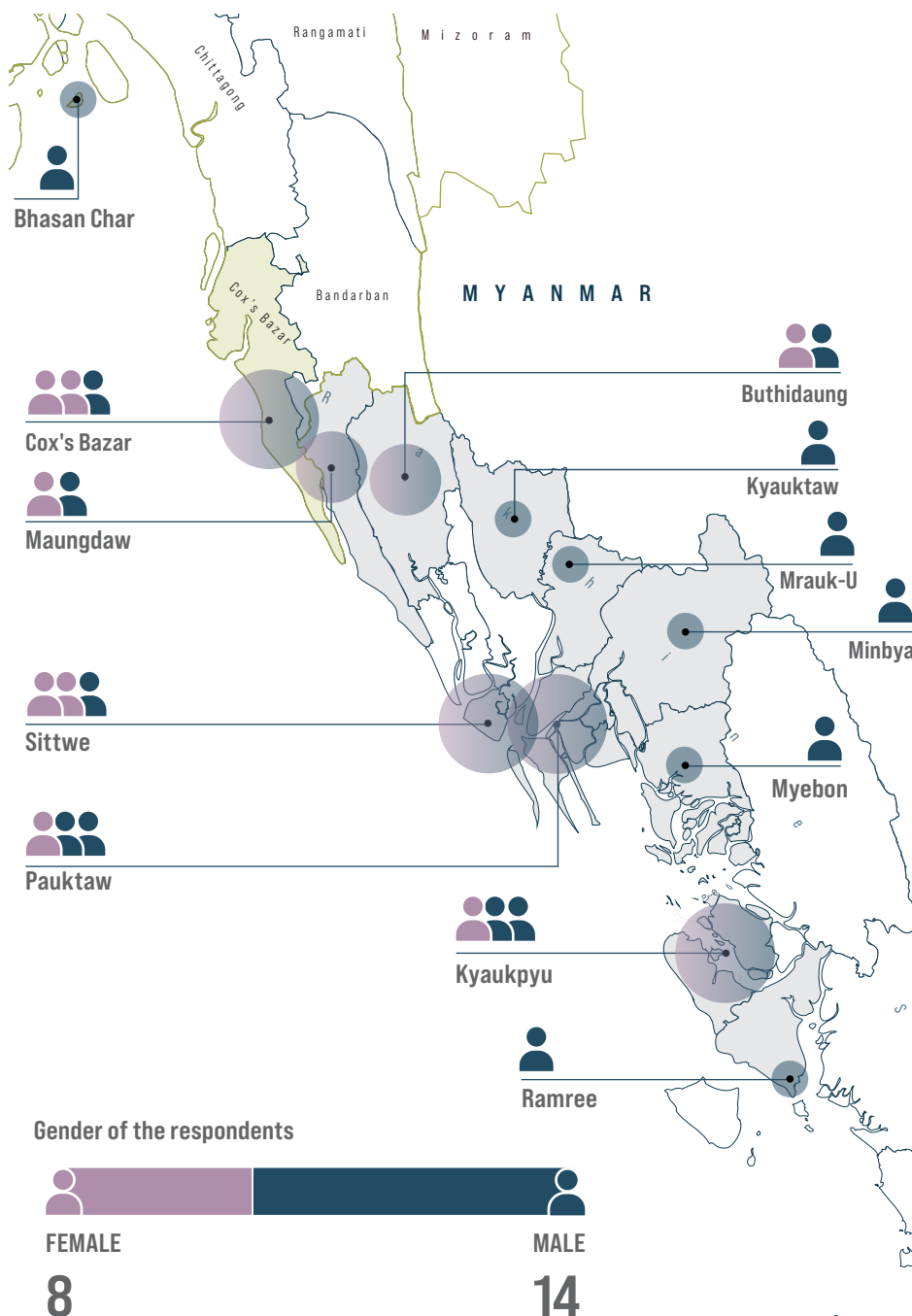
■ However, respondents in Maungdaw and Buthiduang townships reported that, due to the movement and activities of ARSA, Rakhine people avoided Rohingya people — increasing misunderstanding — and there was very limited interaction between the two communities. Respondents in Pauktaw Township said that they faced discrimination by healthcare staff in private clinics in Mrauk-U Township.

**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 misunderstanding and disputes were increasing between Rohingya and Kaman conscripts and some Rakhine villages as the MAF forced those conscripts to conduct home inspections in Rakhine neighborhoods.

## 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 Bangladesh, in Cox's Bazar or Bhasan Char, and Rohingya communities in Rakhine State, broadly categorised as communities in camps and communities in villages. 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.

## RISK INDICATORS OF INTERCOMMUNAL VIOLENCE

### Violence



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

Violence did not appear to change significantly in Bangladesh, but continued to be perpetrated by criminal gangs.

- Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported that refugees faced kidnappings, threats, and physical abuse for ransom when they traveled to host community areas. They added that women and human rights defenders had faced sexual harassment and intimidation by Rohingya armed actors.

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

- On 10 August, local media **reported** that ARSA killed one Rakhine fisherman and injured another near [Pa] Nyaung Pin Gyi village, Maungdaw Township.

### 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 August.

- According to this analytical unit's monitoring, social media users posted negative and hateful comments against the Rohingya who were commemorating the 8th anniversary of the Rohingya genocide on 25 August. Many users commented derogatory terms such as "illegal Bengali", "Kalar", and "Muslim terrorists".
- Respondents in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships reported that Rakhine people shared negative comments and hatred against Rohingya people, resulting in growing tensions and mistrust between the two communities.

### Statements



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

Two actors issued statements in response to dynamics involving Rohingya people:

- On 4 August, the Arakan Rohingya National Council (ARNC) **alleged and condemned** a mass atrocity committed by the AA, the killing of more than 600 Rohingya civilians in Htan Shauk Khan village in Buthidaung Township in May 2024. The ARNC **accused** the AA of carrying out systematic killings of children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities, many of whom it said were burnt alive or executed.
- The Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) **reported** that it had launched investigations into serious international crimes against Rakhine, Rohingya, and other civilians in Rakhine State, including detention, torture, killings, indiscriminate attacks, forced transfers, and restrictions on movement and aid. It also claimed to be examining alleged crimes by the AA, such as summary executions, torture, and beheadings of soldiers and civilians suspected of being military informants.

## RISK INDICATORS OF INTERCOMMUNAL VIOLENCE (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 Rohingya refugees and host communities did not appear to change significantly in Bangladesh. Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported tensions between the host community and Rohingya refugees, as the host community restricted or denied Rohingya access to water. They also noted that some host communities forced newly arrived Rohingya to leave their villages.

Tensions between ethnic Rohingya and Rakhine communities continued in August in many areas of Rakhine State. Respondents in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships reported that there was tension due to the movement and activities of Rohingya armed actors. Respondents said that, due to safety and security concerns, Rakhine people restricted visits to their villages by Rohingya people.

## Cohesion



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

Social cohesion between Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh appeared unchanged in August. Respondents in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char reported positive interactions with host community vendors and shopkeepers, saying that they sell goods fairly and without discrimination.

Social cohesion between Rohingya and Rakhine communities appeared unchanged in many areas of Rakhine State in August. Except in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships, respondents in Rakhine State said that they had good communication with their Rakhine neighbours.

## Perceptions



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

Respondents in Bangladesh did not report perceptions of intercommunal relations that differed significantly from July. However, they expressed concerns that the actions of both Rohingya armed actors and host criminal gangs and discrimination of host communities toward Rohingya people might negatively impact the relationship between refugees and host communities.

Respondents in Rakhine State did not report perceptions of intercommunal relations that differed significantly from July. 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.



## KEY CONTEXT DEVELOPMENTS

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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 Bangladesh and Rakhine State and the Rohingya communities living there.

On 3 August, local media [reported](#), citing eyewitnesses and survivors, that the ULA/AA had killed nearly 600 women, children, elderly people, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and other civilians in Htan Shauk Kan village, Buthidaung Township, in May 2024. Other sources, including [OHCHR](#), released [state-ments](#) on the alleged incident. However, on 11 August, the ULA/AA spokesperson [denied](#) the accuracy of the claims, saying that those killed were MAF members. Some [media outlets](#) cited community members supporting the AA's claims, but local sources told this analytical unit that these people had likely been pressured into giving specific testimony.

"After we heard the news that AA massacred more than 600 Rohingya in Htan Shauk Kan village, Buthidaung Township, many of the remaining Rohingya in that area and nearby villages are living in fear, as AA members could carry out the same atrocity again against Rohingya villagers."

- 24, MALE, BUTHIDAUNG

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On 4 August, local media [reported](#) that the ULA/AA had carried out operations to remove ARSA from hilly areas of Buthidaung Township and in Taung Pyo Let Wae village, Maungdaw Township. The same source reported that on 21 July, the AA captured an ARSA base approximately 10 miles north of Buthidaung town during one such operation. Another incident allegedly involving ARSA and the AA reportedly [occurred](#) on 23 August in Leik Ya village, Maungdaw Township. Attacks by, and the reported presence of, Rohingya armed actors is likely to push the AA to keep — or increase — heavy restrictions on Rohingya people in northern Rakhine State.

"I heard that ARSA has been active in some areas of northern Maungdaw Township. However, ARSA cannot openly operate there due to the presence of the AA, which has been reinforcing its positions to repel ARSA's sporadic attacks. Because of ARSA's activities, we face various forms of persecution under AA's administration. I do not support ARSA, and we do not want their activities in Maungdaw Township. As a result, we are forced to guard our village every night under the leadership of the village administrator and in accordance with AA's instructions."

- 25, FEMALE, MAUNGDAW

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On 13 August, local media [reported](#) that the Bangladesh interim government was considering granting the Rohingya community legal access to SIM cards with a separate number series from other SIMs. According to the same source, Rohingya people over 18 years old would be eligible, and after issuing the new SIMs the government would deactivate SIMs illegally used after purchase with Bangladeshi national IDs. Bangladeshi SIM cards allow Rohingya people on both sides of the border to receive and communicate critical information, as well as education, and the security of legal access could also allow for greater use of mobile banking services in Bangladesh.

"Under the current Bangladesh SIM sales policy, users must provide a Bangladesh National identity document and biometric verification. As we do not possess such IDs, we couldn't access SIM cards legally. If government allowed to buy SIM cards legally, we could use mobile banking such as Bkash and Nagad."

- 35, MALE, COX'S BAZAR

## KEY CONTEXT DEVELOPMENTS (CONT.)

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On 14 August, local media [reported](#) that Rohingya women in Cox's Bazar refugee camps were facing health hazards due to a lack of sanitary facilities and the need to travel long distances to access toilet facilities and bathing areas. The same source reported that camps lacked sufficient toilets for women and that many toilets remained broken for extended periods. As noted in previous Rohingya Voices reports, the lack of adequate materials and facilities has led to infections, particularly because of barriers to accessing healthcare, and the lack of adequate facilities exclusively for women has created security concerns for women and girls.

"We have to share toilets with men, and it is very difficult for us to access toilet facilities safely. Some girls have experienced sexual harassment while waiting to access toilets. They avoid using the toilets during daytime, as some men secretly recorded videos or took photos while girls were using toilets and then threatened them. We receive hygiene kits only once every six months. It is also very difficult for us to access sanitary pads in the markets. [... M]any women and girls are suffering from yeast infections and vaginal discharge."

- 25, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

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On 16 August, local media [reported](#) an election had been organised in Bangladesh refugee camps, for the first time in eight years, to choose Rohingya leadership to represent the Rohingya internally and internationally. Five representatives were reportedly elected and will share leadership through a rotational system, with each representative serving as 'president' for six months. Observers [told](#) local media that this model ensures stability and fairness by preventing domination by any single group.

Read more in the CASS situation update: [Rohingya 'Elections' in Bangladesh](#).

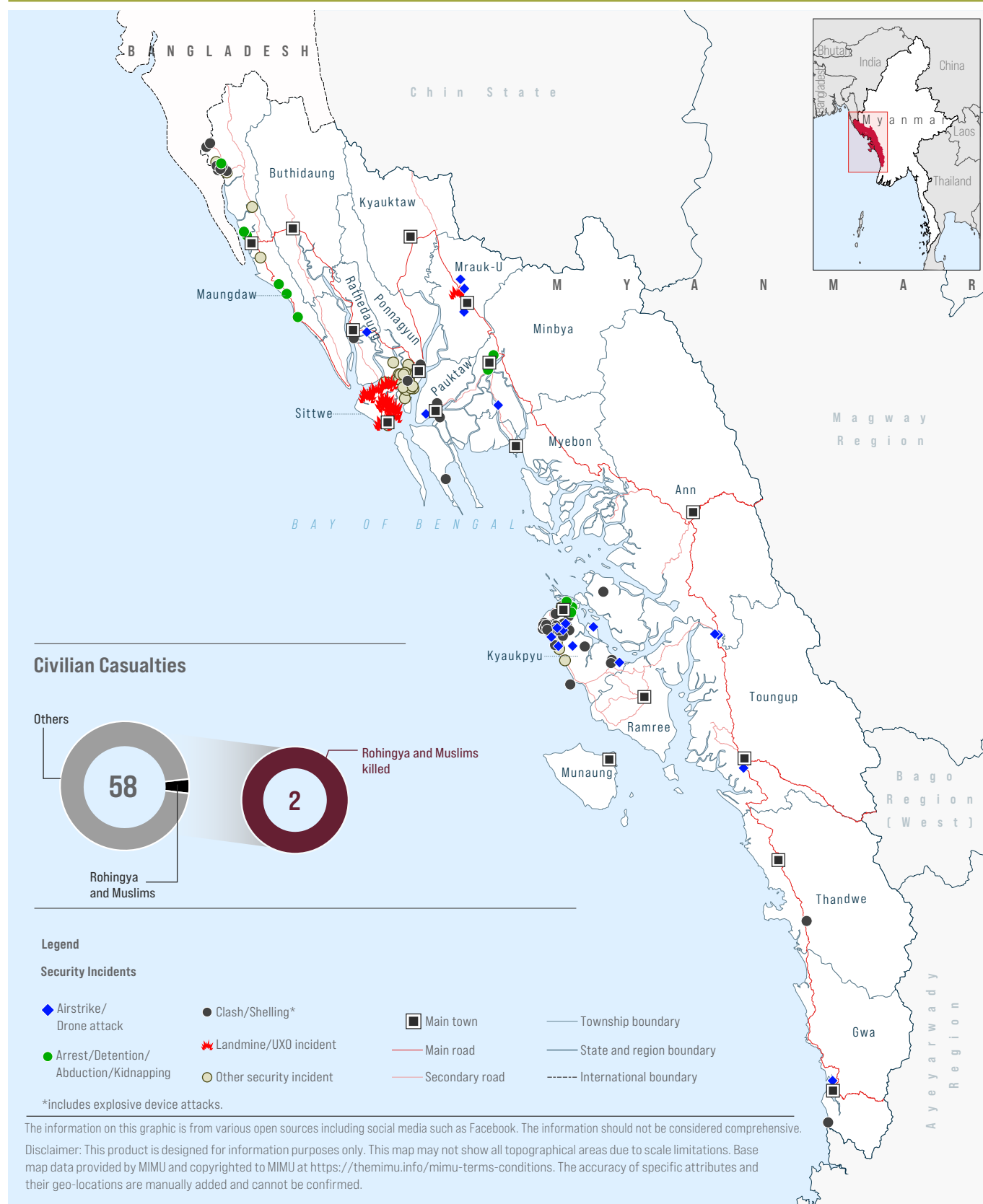
"Bangladesh authorities are holding an election in the camp to elect Rohingya representatives to represent Rohingya refugees for the first time. The authorities are planning to hold elections in every 14 sectors in every camp. From 13th July, elections will be held in 8 zones and 400 people will be elected. I heard that 100 people from the diaspora community would also be elected. After that, they will elect the executive committee."

- 35, MALE, COX'S BAZAR

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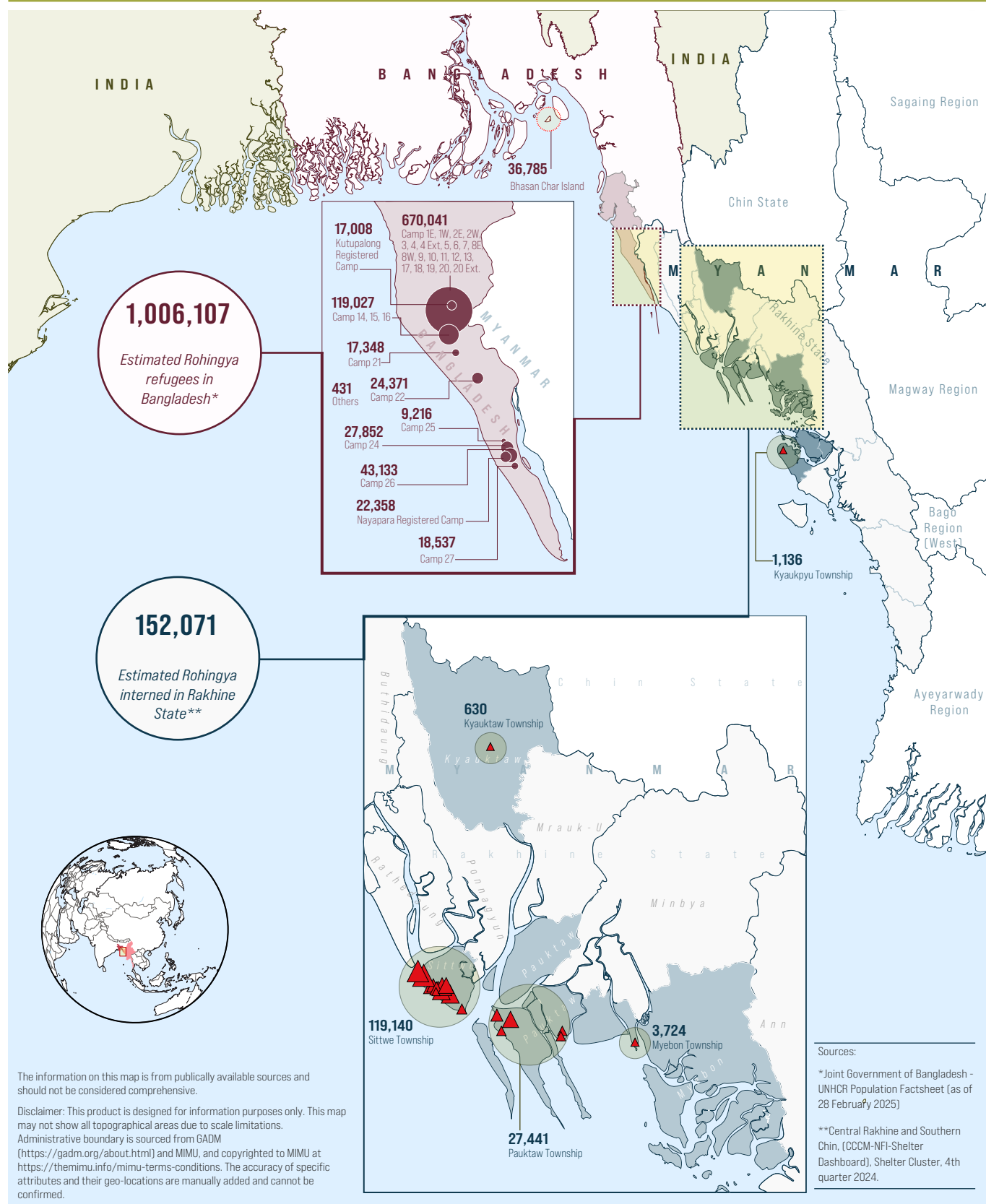
## KEY SECURITY INCIDENTS

AUGUST 2025



## ROHINGYA CAMPS IN BANGLADESH AND RAKHINE STATE

AUGUST 2025



## ROHINGYA VOICES

## Bangladesh

## HUMANITARIAN AND POLICY TAKEAWAYS

## For humanitarian practitioners and donors:

- **Funding cuts are affecting perceptions of service delivery, particularly in light of major cuts over the past year.** This is perhaps most apparent in terms of access to food and nutrition, but Rohingya respondents also report significant needs for NFIs and other types of support. Only through consistent and sufficient funding for nutrition, health, education, and protection services can humanitarian practitioners avoid further deterioration of conditions.
- **Respondents report even further concerns in Bhasan Char.** Respondents report health concerns related to weather, safety concerns due to a lack of electricity, difficulty reaching services on the mainland, and inflated costs of goods.
- **Protection and education appear to be key priorities, to ensure that there are safe spaces, particularly for children.** The near total closure of schools is not only disrupting education and future work prospects — it is leaving children without safe spaces and putting girls at higher risk of early marriage. Beyond this, work is needed to address gender-based violence and security threats to children.
- **Healthcare access and quality, and sanitation, are major challenges for people in the camps.** Distance, cost, discrimination by health facility staff, and inadequate medical resources all hurt Rohingya refugees' chances of receiving even basic treatment, which is likely to result in further medical problems and livelihood issues at the household level. The lack of care worsens issues caused by hunger and poor sanitation. A lack of medicines means that health conditions — which could be addressed with low-cost interventions — affect many people, particularly in monsoon season. Resources could also be used for health system strengthening.
- **Intercommunal tensions threaten Rohingya refugees now and in the future.** Aid cuts have simultaneously shrunk refugees' resources, dimmed prospects for the future, hurt host communities, and thereby exacerbated tensions. In the immediate term, this increases security threats to refugees who leave the camps and diminishes the prospect of refugees trading with or accessing resources outside them. In the longer term, it threatens to strengthen opposition to these refugees' presence in Bangladesh. On all accounts, programs aimed at fostering positive relationships between communities could pay significant dividends.



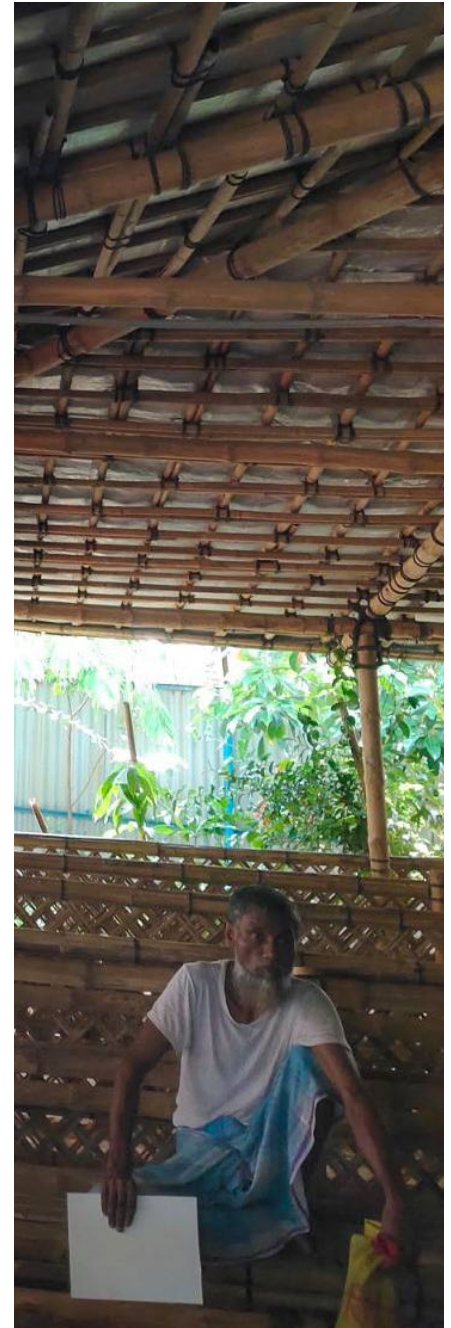
COX'S BAZAR



## HUMANITARIAN AND POLICY TAKEAWAYS

## For policymakers:

- **Greater protection and accountability remain major concerns for respondents.** Rohingya refugees report facing threats from criminal actors in both the refugee community and host communities. Fair and consistent law enforcement by Bangladesh security actors, both in and outside the camps, would not only keep refugees safe but pay dividends in more broadly; it would decrease the influence of organised criminal actors and the prevalence of drugs and other illegal contraband in Bangladesh, reduce costs that follow from violence, and generally make it easier to manage camp areas. Similarly, addressing reports of violence and abuse by Bangladesh security actors could provide wider benefits in Bangladesh, in terms of the functionality — and trust in — these actors.
- **Tensions between refugees and host communities appear to be worsening.** However, the primary issue seems to be economic in nature, related to sharing or competition over resources. This suggests that much of the tension could be relieved through improvement to resources and economic development of communities around the camps, and through more efficient and formalised rules around their use. Community engagement strategies could complement these changes. Where tensions manifest as violence, this should be addressed through effective and proportionate law enforcement.
- **Refugees report a lack of adequate resources and facilities in the camps.** Many people are living hand to mouth and in some cases must choose between eating and seeking essential services. Permission for businesses to operate in the camps, systems for refugees to legally work outside the camps, and greater access to SIM cards for refugees could all go a long way toward improving the situation. Refugees should also be permitted access to schools and healthcare facilities outside the camps if they do not exist inside — though this also requires adequate policies and training to ensure that services are provided in a non-discriminatory fashion.
- **Camp governance appears to lack effectiveness and buy-in.** The recent ‘elections’ appear to have been facilitated by Bangladesh actors, without transparency, and without consideration of refugee sentiment. If elections are not democratic, the chances are greater of misrepresentation, general non-compliance, and ineffective leadership. There are also major concerns that this could elevate actors with particular viewpoints that are ultimately harmful to refugees.



COX'S BAZAR

## ROHINGYA VOICES

## Bangladesh

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

The MAF'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. Over one million Rohingya people, including at least 150,000 arriving since the AA launched an offensive in Rakhine State in late 2023, 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

Respondents in Cox's Bazar expressed concerns over the lack of protection for human rights defenders and women, saying these people often faced intimidation, sexual harassment, and threats from Rohingya armed actors and Bangladeshi authorities — including because nobody was providing protection. They reported that organisations had halted assistance for children, as well as vegetable support for elderly people and people with disabilities. Respondents also noted shortages of clean water and hygiene kits and a lack of adequate healthcare facilities and education support.

"The major concern for Rohingya refugees here this month is that food and nutrition assistance will no longer be distributed to children under six months old. If lactating mothers can't provide enough milk to their children, it may cause malnutrition in those children. Elderly people and people with disabilities no longer receive vegetables, as INGOs have stopped distributing them. In some areas, there are water shortages and refugees need clean water support."

- 25, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

In addition, respondents said that aid cuts had doubly affected refugees there, by both decreasing the availability of goods and services and

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

## / PRIMARY CONCERNS

engendering hostility from host communities that lost jobs and income and viewed refugees as burdensome. One noted that host community members had threatened to kidnap children and burn shelters if refugees did not speak out in defense of their jobs.

“Those who lost jobs from INGOs also may treat us unfairly later. If we need to stay a long time with very limited international assistance in the camp, I think there may be violence between us and them. [...] They may create different kinds of conflicts against us if they cannot get job opportunities or any support from Rohingya refugees staying in camps in the future.”

- 25, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents in Bhasan Char reported difficulties accessing safe transportation and healthcare facilities for chronic illnesses. One respondent stressed that the island's ecological make-up and location mean that it is subject to extreme temperatures and flooding during the rainy season, and that its isolation makes it difficult for people there to access the goods and services they need — particularly healthcare.

“We can't travel to get emergency medical treatment or reach Kutupalong camp on time. During the rainy season, the weather is harsh and dangerous. Elderly people do not receive proper care for

chronic illnesses. NGO/INGO clinics only provide basic medicines; x-rays, ultrasounds, and lab tests are unavailable. For serious illnesses, people must travel to Chittagong, but the sea journey is perilous. Sometimes, we also encounter gangs at sea and risk being kidnapped. Many people have died while seeking treatment. There is also no designated playground for children. Some children have died after falling into drainage pits or lakes while playing. I have reported to [an organisation's] protection team to support my disabled child, but so far no assistance has been provided.”

- 35, MALE, BHASAN CHAR

## BHASAN CHAR





## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

## ... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Respondents expressed particular concern about the lack of protection for children, women, and Rohingya youth activists. They said that because education had almost completely stopped, children lacked safe spaces, and girls were at risk of early marriage.

“As they cannot go to school now, they are not safe. They face neglect from their parents, and with the schools shut down, they have lost a safe space to play. Sometimes they play in the rain and later fall ill. As they move around the camp, they are often at risk of being kidnapped by criminal gangs [...] Closing the schools also affects adolescent girls in the camp [...] parents push them and the situation encourages them to accept early marriage. The rate is increasing in the camps now.”

- 35, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents in Cox's Bazar also reported an urgent need for shelter support — especially for new arrivals — and for medicines to treat skin diseases and seasonal flu, noting that many households were suffering from those diseases. They said that the lack of healthcare resources forced people to rely on “quack” doctors, and that water scarcity, poor sanitation,

and infrequent distribution of hygiene kits led to health issues, especially for women.

“Many people are suffering from flu and fever, and there are no proper healthcare services. Some people are also suffering from Hepatitis C and they cannot access any services. Even the basic healthcare services in the camp are given improperly. Healthcare staff often treat people with discrimination and they also don't refer the patients to respective health centers.”

- 35, MALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents also voiced major concerns about the insufficiency of food, largely in light of rations cuts. Refugees in Cox's Bazar alleged that people no longer received vegetables, and that rations would be stopped for children under six months old. One woman explained that malnutrition was both causing, and amplified by, health issues.

“People need to sell rations provided by INGOs to cover costs for health problems at clinics outside the camps. In order to sell food, they have to reduce their meals, consuming far fewer calories than they need. This creates more malnutrition problems and mental issues in camps.”

- 25, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

A respondent in Bhasan Char expressed concern about the lack of adequate humanitarian assistance (and work opportunities) and a reduction in cooking gas distribution. One respondent mentioned that two organisations had provided dried fish and eggs as well as NFIs such as mats, mosquito nets, and soap. However, he reported that the food available at grocery stores was of poor quality, and highlighted urgent needs for electricity, nutritious food, and medicines to treat general illnesses, skin diseases, and diarrhea, particularly among children. Prices were far higher than on the mainland, he said.

“There is no regular assistance; we only receive support once every 2–3 months. [...] Due to a lack of job opportunities, people face many difficulties, and households without male heads struggle more to survive. Rice is somewhat sufficient, but other food items such as vegetables, cooking oil, fish, and meat are inaccessible. Children suffer from illnesses, skin diseases, and diarrhea. Elderly people with chronic conditions are particularly vulnerable. We need electricity. Solar panels are insufficient. In the past, there were solar street lamps, but all have been damaged and stolen, making it difficult for women to access toilets or attend mosques at night. Most of the food assistance provided by organisations consists

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

of old and rotten items. Fresh food is inaccessible. Due to the difficulty of transportation to Bhasan Char, prices have risen, and most of us can't afford things. For example, one kilogram of potatoes is three times higher here than in Kutupalong."

- 35, MALE, BHASAN CHAR

## ... ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

Respondents in Bangladesh said that ARSA and RSO had decreased activity in Cox's Bazar refugee camps but increased it in northern Rakhine State. On 12 August, ARSA claimed to have attacked two AA camps in Taung Pyo Let Wae village, killing five AA members. Respondents also said that refugees' perceptions of ARSA, at least, were improving as it stopped visibly extorting and detaining camp residents.

"They do not force people for recruitment right now. ARSA said that if anybody wants to participate in its group, they are welcome, but it does not force people to participate. However, I heard they mobilize people and talk to religious leaders in different fields on how they should work together to return [to our] original land."

- 25, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents in Cox's Bazar expressed mixed perceptions of Bangladesh authorities but also concern over movement restrictions and an election — facilitated by Bangladesh authorities — aimed at forming Rohingya leadership and committees for political and social engagement. They said that many refugees were not aware of the election process, and that some did not support it, believing it lacked transparency. On 17 August, local media reported that five candidates were elected to represent Rohingya leadership in camps.

"The authorities are holding an election in the camp to elect representatives for the Rohingya from among the refugees. Since 13 July, there have been elections in eight zones, and 400 people will be elected. I heard that 100 people from the diaspora community will also be elected. After that, they will elect the executive committee. I heard that the elections will be completed by September. Some young people don't support the elections due to the lack of transparency. Some youths' names were proposed without their knowledge. [...] Most of the candidates were selected by the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence and the Camp in Charge, who are also involved in the process."

- 35, MALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents in Bhasan Char reported facing significant security issues due to the increased activity of Rohingya gangs, who they said were involved in kidnapping, rape, and theft, including stealing solar panels from the streets. One respondent explained that one of the gang is associated with Nobi Hussein and is not politically active or affiliated with ARSA or RSO but actively commits crimes in the camp and threatens people opposed to it.

"In our camp, a member of Nobi Hussein's gang and another group are active. Single mother households are at high risk of sexual harassment by those gang members. They have also committed rapes, especially targeting single mothers. These people usually kidnap young children for ransom and have stolen solar lamp posts from the streets. Traveling to Chittagong or Kutupalong is unsafe because these gang members work as brokers. Sometimes, they also target female passengers and commit rape. [...] On 2 August, a young child was kidnapped from a playground. I am not sure if the child has been released. Last month, a girl was also raped. People have a negative view of them. As I work on legal issues, I have been threatened by these gang members."

- 35, MALE, BHASAN CHAR



## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

## ... INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

Although respondents in Cox's Bazar reported that intercommunal commerce continued and some refugees could access healthcare in host communities, they said that relations were worsening and discrimination was increasing, especially in areas where the two communities lived together. Respondents mentioned incidents of kidnapping and beatings by locals in August, particularly in Teknaf and Ukhiya. Respondents said that in some parts of the Cox's Bazar refugee camps, host villagers extorted refugees, forcing them to provide rice and cooking oil monthly in order to be allowed to live there.

"The relationship between refugees and host communities is not very good. If someone travels outside the camp, such as to Teknaf or Ukhiya, they could be kidnapped by the host community for ransom. Sometimes refugees are beaten or even killed by the host community. The hosts are also concerned about the increasing refugee population and fear terrorism coming from the camp. The host community oppresses and discriminates against Rohingya living in villages. In some places, Rohingya are forced to share the assistance they receive — such as rice, cooking oil, and soap — with the host community in order to be allowed to stay in those villages."

- 35, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

They also reported that hosts refused to share toilet facilities and water — provided by NGOs — with refugees and in some areas did not allow new Rohingya arrivals to stay.

"Refugees cannot access water any more from the water points which were provided by INGOs in the host community compounds and they also cannot afford to buy water from the host community. Before, refugees could access water free of charge. So, there are some arguments between refugees and host communities for water."

- 25, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents in Bhasan Char reported maintaining regular communication with local businessmen. One respondent noted that relationships between Bangladeshi hosts and Rohingya refugees were generally normal, but that some host community members discriminated against refugees due to the activities of the Rohingya gangs. He added that crimes such as theft, robbery, and rape committed by the gangs had raised security concerns and could create tensions with the host community in the future.

"There is regular interaction with host communities. In Bhasan Char, there is a small host community and most of us interact with NGO/INGO staff. As there are gang members active in

Bhasan Char, I am worried that there could be tension between the host community and us due to the movement and activities of the Rohingya gangs. Because of their activities, we are sometimes faced with discrimination by the hosts. Some of them say that this country does not belong to us, and others verbally abuse us."

- 35, MALE, BHASAN CHAR



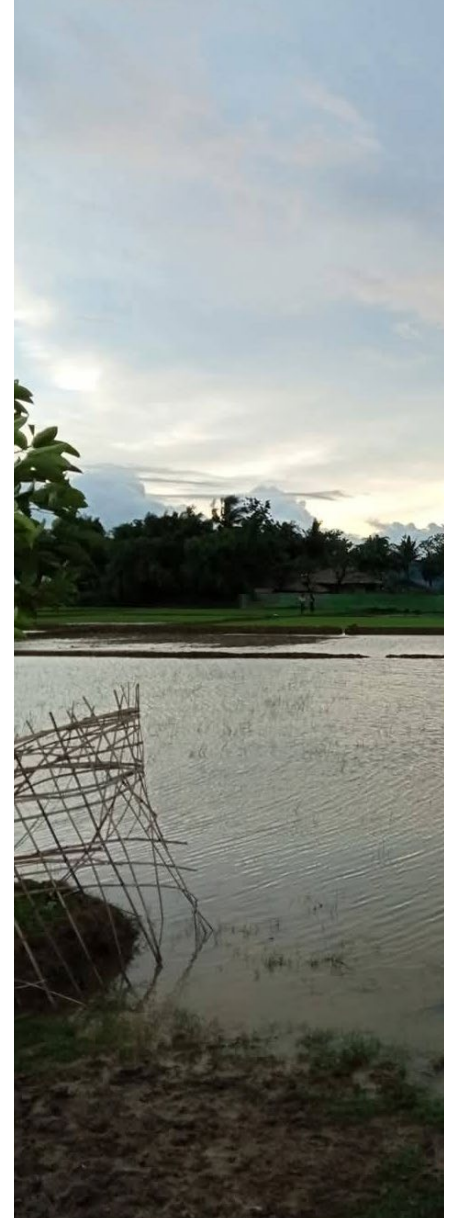
COX'S BAZAR

## ROHINGYA VOICES

## Rakhine State

## HUMANITARIAN AND POLICY TAKEAWAYS

- **Humanitarian conditions appear to be worsening for Rohingya communities in both camps and villages across Rakhine State.** Rohingya people face urgent shortages of food, shelter, and healthcare services, including vaccinations and medicines for various illnesses. Food shortages are reportedly leading to malnutrition, especially among children and the elderly. Meanwhile, both the MAF and ULA/AA continue to impose significant movement restrictions, affecting access to markets, work, and healthcare. In these conditions, humanitarian assistance is critically important.
- **Monsoon season rains have impacted livelihoods.** Recent flooding has caused widespread damage to agricultural land, prawn farms, and houses, resulting in increased food insecurity and a need for rehabilitation support. Additionally, restrictions and extortion by both the MAF and ULA/AA have led to fishermen losing their livelihoods. Despite funding shortfalls, there is a need for funding allocated to rehabilitation and livelihoods support to prevent further food insecurity.
- **Rohingya people report continued barriers to education and healthcare.** Respondents reported facing discrimination in healthcare settings, sometimes leading them to avoid using Muslim names. Education access is hindered by a lack of qualified teachers and the imposition of monthly fees in ULA/AA-run schools — particularly onerous for many Rohingya families — which contribute to growing dropout rates.
- **Intercommunal tensions and discrimination perceptions persist, particularly in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships.** Respondents reported hate speech and discrimination by Rakhine communities. Resources are needed for initiatives that mitigate rising intercommunal tensions, address hate speech, and foster social cohesion, particularly in areas where MAF or ARSA presence are allegedly increasing distrust.
- Respondents reported extensive abuses by both the MAF and ULA/AA. Reports of forced recruitment, arbitrary detentions, extortion, and other abuses by both the MAF and ULA/AA, highlight the importance of both protection and documentation. Disputed allegations of mass atrocities, such as the killing of over 600 Rohingya civilians in Buthidaung Township, illustrate the importance of both, as do accounts of ARSA attacks. Respondents also reported increased anxiety over potential MAF attacks in ULA/AA-controlled areas — a reminder of the security challenges faced by Rohingya civilians and the humanitarian responders who might assist them.



MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP

## ROHINGYA VOICES

## Rakhine State

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

Rohingya people living in villages in Maungdaw, Buthidaung, Rathedaung, Mrauk-U, Minbya, Kyauktaw, Pauktaw, and Sittwe townships have historically had some ability to move around (more so than Rohingya people living in camps) and access income and services, but their movement is still heavily constrained. In 2021, the MAF restarted the practice of requiring Rohingya villagers to show a recommendation letter even to travel between villages, as well as a so-called Form 4 for inter-township travel. While the ULA/AA has not imposed analogous movement restrictions since it took over these areas (all except Sittwe) in 2023–2024, it has reportedly limited Rohingya people's movement — particularly in predominantly ethnic Rakhine areas — in central Rakhine State, and even more heavily in northern Rakhine State. Because Rohingya villagers interact with the ULA/AA, they are often exposed to 'taxation', recruitment, and other abusive practices by the group.

There are currently major differences between contexts, and the lived experiences of Rohingya villagers, in different parts of the state. In Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships, heavy fighting between the MAF — allegedly using Rohingya conscripts — and the AA took place in heavily Rohingya-populated areas in 2024, leading to major displacement of Rohingya people, including into Bangladesh; and the AA has tried to securitise parts of these townships in order to minimise activity by Rohingya armed actors. By contrast, the fighting in 2023–2024 and AA concerns about other armed actors appear to have had less impact on Rohingya villagers farther south. For Rohingya villagers in Sittwe Township, the presence of MAF troops creates vulnerability to extortion and other abuses, particularly when on the move.

## ROHINGYA VILLAGE, MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP



## / PRIMARY CONCERNS

Respondents in Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, and Minbya townships expressed growing concerns over flooding, which they said had damaged agricultural land and paddy fields, and over food insecurity in Rohingya villages, saying that many households had lost their paddy and vegetable crops to the floods. Respondents in Pauktaw, Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, and Minbya townships also expressed concern about potential MAF attacks in AA-controlled areas, with one saying that some Rohingya businessmen had stopped ordering commodities and villagers had begun storing food and medicines.

"Our current concern is that the MAF might recapture Kyauktaw Township. Many people are spreading rumors that both Ponnagyun and Kyauktaw townships will be retaken by the MAF. In the past, the MAF also carried out airstrikes in Kyauktaw Township. Because of these concerns, many people are saving food and medicines in case fighting breaks out soon. We heard that the MAF would try to control and recapture the townships under AA within the next three months. Some traders even stopped ordering goods." –

27, MALE, KYAUKTAW



## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

## / PRIMARY CONCERNS

As with respondents in other areas, respondents in Sittwe Township expressed significant concerns about potential fighting between the MAF and AA. They also highlighted urgent healthcare needs, particularly vaccinations for pregnant women and children. Respondents in Sittwe and in Kyauk Ni Maw village, Ramree Township, said they urgently needed food, shelter, and healthcare services.

“My wife is pregnant, and she has not received any vaccines. We couldn’t afford vaccinations at private clinics because they are too expensive. I am also concerned about vaccinations for children. Many children in our area have not received them. We need support to access vaccines, as it is very difficult to manage on our own.”

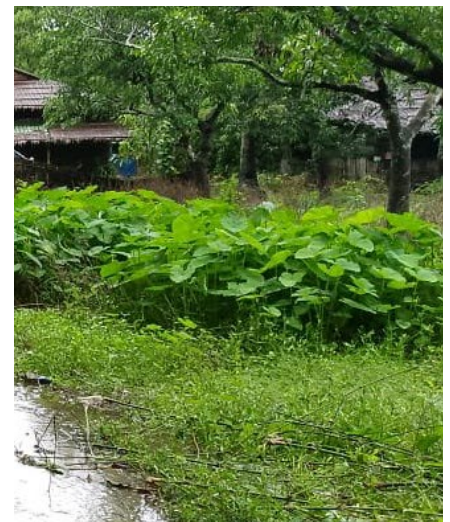
- 34, MALE, SITTWE

Rohingya villagers in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships expressed concern over shortages of medicines, particularly for diabetes and hypertension, a lack of qualified teachers to run schools in Rohingya villages, and insufficient food and shelter assistance. They also said that the threat of landmines, and arbitrary detentions and movement restrictions by the ULA/AA, made villagers feel unsafe traveling from one place to another. Respondents in Maungdaw Township reported that flooding had damaged farmland and houses, and stressed the urgent need for support to repair them. One respondent emphasized that prawn farms and paddy fields were destroyed by flooding, saying that rice production in the region would likely decline.

“Due to heavy rain this month, many prawn farms were destroyed by flooding. Paddy fields were also inundated with salt water. We are worried that rice production will be seriously affected this year and that we could face a rice shortage. We urgently need assistance to repair the prawn farms as well. We don’t feel safe traveling to other places because of the risk of AA arrests and the presence of landmines.”

- 39, MALE, MAUNGDAW

## ROHINGYA VILLAGE, MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP



## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

## ... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Respondents in Ramree, Pauktaw, Mrauk-U, Minbya, and Kyauktaw townships reported urgently needing food, shelter, agricultural supplies, and healthcare support. They said that due to transportation restrictions imposed by both the MAF and AA, food prices were rising and shortages of basic items were becoming more severe. A respondent in Pauktaw Township said that there were no healthcare facilities nearby, but that people also avoided travelling for fear of fighting.

“Goods coming from Myanmar and Bangladesh are also very expensive. The prices of onions, rice, and chillies are skyrocketing, and stock is very limited. Many people are facing malnutrition and we also can’t access healthcare services. In our village, we urgently need medicines and healthcare support. To get healthcare, we have to travel to Minbya or Mrauk-U townships, but because of the rumors of potential fighting, people avoid going to those areas to buy food or access medical care.”

- 33, MALE, PAUKTAW

Respondents in Mrauk-U, Minbya, and Kyauktaw townships reported urgently needing food and shelter.

They said that urgent support was needed to repair flood damage.

“There is no humanitarian assistance in our village. The entire village was affected by the recent flooding, and houses, roads, and farmland were damaged or destroyed. Since most villagers are farmers, they lost their paddy and vegetables and now can’t afford to cultivate again. We cultivated paddy in June so that we could harvest on time, but it was too late to cultivate again in late August. We urgently need rehabilitation support.”

- 27, MALE, MINBYA

Respondents in Buthidaung Township said that they did not receive any humanitarian assistance in August and urgently needed food — citing shortages of basic food items in the market — as well as shelter and sanitation facilities such as toilets and bathing areas. They also reported challenges to accessing education, explaining that ULA/AA-run schools lacked qualified teachers to run them and charged monthly fees.

“This month, we did not receive assistance from any organisation. Children are losing educational opportunities. In schools run by the AA, we have to pay monthly fees. High school students must pay 30,000 Myanmar Kyat [~10.54 GBP] per month, middle school

students pay 20,000 Myanmar Kyat [~7 GBP], and primary school students pay 5,000 Myanmar Kyat [~1.75 GBP]. There is also an inadequate supply of stationery and a lack of qualified teachers to run the schools. Because of the high costs, the dropout rate among children is increasing.”

- 22, FEMALE, BUTHIDAUNG

Respondents in Maungdaw Township reported urgently needing food, healthcare, and shelter. They said that an organisation had provided 35,000 Myanmar Kyat (~12.30 GBP) in cash support to its beneficiaries in Min Ga Lar Gyi, Thar Zay, Paung Zar, Hla Baw Zar, and Mee Kyaung Tet villages, and that another organisation provided healthcare assistance for 120 elderly people in Min Ga Lar Gyi. However, they said this support was insufficient and that villagers still urgently needed food, medicines, and healthcare. Due to a lack of doctors and healthcare workers, patients with emergencies reportedly had to travel to Bangladesh for treatment — though not all were successful.

“Currently, we are unemployed and urgently need food, medicines, and healthcare services. If we had enough food, we could survive, but now we don’t. Since there are no clinics or pharmacies in our village, we have to go to Maungdaw town or the



## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

Kauk Hlay Kar market to buy medicines. For serious health issues, we have to go to Bangladesh because there are no specialist clinics in Maungdaw Township. We also have to bribe the AA to get permission to travel there. During the trip to Bangladesh, some people were caught by Bangladeshi border forces and pushed back to Rakhine State.”

- 39, MALE, MAUNGDAW

Respondents in Sittwe Township likewise reported that food and health-care assistance were urgent needs for many Rohingya villagers. They said that due to food shortages, many people — especially the elderly — were suffering from malnutrition.

“The most pressing needs are food and healthcare. [An organisation] comes once a week and provides healthcare only to children under five; people in other age groups do not receive any assistance. Because people can’t access enough food, many in the village are suffering from illnesses. Due to food shortages, elderly people are also suffering from malnutrition. I heard that about six days ago, an elderly person in a nearby village died due to lack of food.”

- 34, MALE, SITTWE

## ... ARMED ACTORS

Respondents in Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, Ramree, and Minbya townships said they had regular communication with the ULA/AA. A respondent in Kyauktaw Township said that some Rohingya were involved in the ULA/AA’s justice and police departments. A respondent in Minbya Township reported feeling safe under the ULA/AA administration and not facing threats from Rakhine people in ULA/AA-controlled areas. However, a respondent in Ramree Township said that the ULA/AA strictly prohibited men aged around 18–35 years old from traveling, and that two villagers from his village were detained by the AA — but later released — for trying to travel to Yangon. Respondents in Mrauk-U and Kyauktaw townships reported that the ULA/AA searched Rohingya people, but not Rakhine people, at checkpoints.

“We need permission from the AA for everything, and at the checkpoints we are always checked. We don’t feel safe or free because of those checkpoints. Whenever we visit Mrauk-U town for healthcare services, we have to go through the checkpoints and they search us [...]. But they don’t stop or check the Rakhine people.”

- 62, MALE, MRAUK-U

Respondents in Pauktaw Township reported that ULA/AA tax officials often threatened and verbally abused Rohingya businessmen. One reported that Rohingya people were forced to provide cattle to high-ranking ULA/AA officials visiting Pauktaw Township, and that the ULA/AA had warned Rohingya businessmen in an August meeting to pay taxes regularly.

“We need travel permission from the AA to move from one township to another. Whenever we apply for it, the AA tax office always threatens us. They also verbally abuse us and treat us very rudely. They intimidate us by accusing us of having links with ARSA. In August, AA troops arrested a businessman from our village, accusing him of selling drugs. His family has no information about his whereabouts as the AA did not allow him to meet them. During a meeting in August, an AA officer threatened businessmen to pay taxes regularly. We also have to provide cattle such as chickens and goats whenever high-ranking officials visit Pauktaw Township.”

- 33, MALE, PAUKTAW

Respondents in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships reported concerns over detentions and forced recruitment by the ULA/AA and expressed fear after hearing reports

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

of killings of Rohingya villagers in Htan Shauk Kan village, Buthidaung Township. In Maungdaw Township, the ULA/AA reportedly ordered fishermen to apply for permits to fish in Naf river and to support its forces. In Buthidaung Township, the ULA/AA reportedly warned that Rohingya people would be shot if they went to mountain areas. Respondents reported that the AA had detained at least two Rohingya villagers in August, and at least 25 Rohingya farmers from Sein Hnyin Pyar village in July, who had not been released.

“The AA massacred more than 600 Rohingya in Htan Shauk Kan village, so many Rohingya still in this area live in fear that the AA could commit the same crime again. On 8 August, the AA arrested a 40-year-old Rohingya from Ward 1, and we don’t know why.

Similarly, the AA arrested a Rohingya who was coordinating with them on human trafficking in Sein Hnyin Pyar village in the first week of August. In July 2025, the AA also arrested 25 farmers from Sein Hnyin Pyar who went to the mountains to search for lost cattle.”

- 24, MALE, BUTHIDAUNG

Rohingya respondents in Sittwe Township reported facing increased discrimination and oppression from newly arrived MAF troops, including movement restrictions, curfews, and fishing bans. They reported that due to MAF oppression, forced recruitment, and worsening hardships, every day Rohingya fled to Malaysia and Thailand with human traffickers.

“The newly arrived MAF members oppress us more, and it is very difficult for us to survive under these conditions. They treat us very badly and extort us. They don’t allow fishermen to go to sea. In the past, fishermen could bribe them [MAF troops] to fish, but now it is very strict. Because of their growing extortion, the trishaw drivers stopped their business. They said they would launch another operation soon to recapture AA-controlled areas. We are not allowed to go to another village after 7pm. Due to many challenges, at least 20–30 Rohingya flee to Pauktaw Township every day. From there, they arrange to travel to Malaysia through human traffickers. When traffickers gather around 100–200 people, they [go] to Thailand and Malaysia to search for safety and job opportunities.”

- 30, FEMALE, SITTWE

## ROHINGYA VILLAGE, BUTHIDAUNG TOWNSHIP



## 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 Pauktaw Township, however, noted discrimination from Rakhine clinic staff and nurses in Mrauk-U Township. For this reason, he said, some Rohingya patients avoided using Muslim names when registering at clinics.

“There is discrimination against us [at the clinic]. We avoid using our Muslim names on the patient registration list and health record book because, when they see Muslim names, they ignore the patient. They don’t treat Rohingya and make us wait for long hours. Sometimes they refuse to treat us and say the doctor has already left, or sometimes they put our health record book at the very end even if we arrive first.”

- 33, MALE, PAUKTAW

Respondents in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships reported that hate speech and misinformation were spreading, resulting in increased mistrust and misunderstanding. Respondents in Buthidaung Township said that Rakhine people did not allow Rohingya to enter their villages, even

to search for cattle. They reported that interactions with Rakhine people were limited, but that Rohingya people maintained normal relationships with other ethnic groups. Respondents in Maungdaw Township said that some Rakhine people looted Rohingya houses, but that Rohingya people were afraid to report this to the ULA/AA.

“Some Rakhine people discriminate against and abuse us in many ways. For example, they looted Rohingya-owned houses in Maungdaw Township. We are afraid to report this to the AA or to stop them. There is no justice for us here, and the ULA/AA also discriminates against us.”

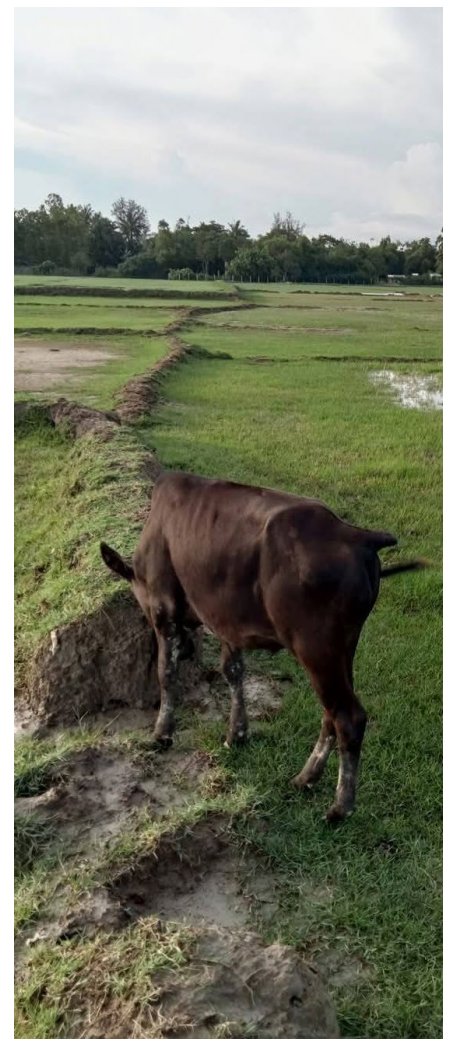
- 39, MALE, MAUNGDAW

Respondents in Sittwe Township reported having good communication with their Rakhine neighbors. However, they expressed concern over robberies committed by Rakhine youths in or near Rakhine neighborhoods. They reported that at least two robbery cases had occurred in Rakhine villages, both reportedly intentionally targeting Rohingya.

“[This month], when two Rohingya women — a mother and daughter — returned home after working in a Rakhine household in Sittwe town, some Rakhine boys robbed them and took their money and fish and

vegetables they had purchased from Magyi Myine market. In another case, a Rohingya man from Dar Paing village went to Sittwe General Hospital, where his sister had been admitted. Some Rakhine youths stopped him in Min Gan ward and robbed his phone and 1.2 million Myanmar Kyat [~421.81 GBP].”

- 34, MALE, SITTWE



ROHINGYA VILLAGE, MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP



## 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 MAF 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 MAF 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 majority ethnic Kaman, whereas the other camps are mainly or entirely Rohingya.

### ROHINGYA CAMPS IN SITTWE TOWNSHIP



### / PRIMARY CONCERNS

Respondents in Sittwe Township expressed growing concerns about shortages of food and medicine and the lack of humanitarian assistance. They reported that many IDPs were suffering from illnesses and urgently needed medical supplies. They also noted that many families could not afford regular meals, resulting in children, the elderly, and pregnant women suffering from malnutrition and related illnesses.

“We urgently need food and medicines. Due to a lack of income, we haven’t been able to buy medicines for family members who are ill. We also can’t afford regular meals. Often, we have only two packets of instant noodles, which we share among five family members, as we can’t afford enough food for everyone.”

- 29, FEMALE, SITTWE

As with respondents in Sittwe Township, one respondent in Taung Paw ward (an ‘officially closed’ camp) in Myebon Township reported an urgent need for food assistance and medical supplies. He also reported significant challenges and concerns about discrimination by ULA/AA members and the potential for MAF airstrikes. He said that, due to increasing tensions between the MAF and AA in Sittwe Township, many Rakhine IDPs relocated to Myebon Township but could still be targeted by the MAF there.

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

## / PRIMARY CONCERNS

“Many Rakhine IDPs have moved to Myebon Township as tensions between the MAF and AA in Sittwe Township increase. We are concerned that the MAF might target Myebon Township and launch airstrikes. The AA is building a market near our camp for the Rakhine community, and it could also be a possible target for MAF.”

- 52, MALE, MYEBON

As with respondents in Taung Paw ward (an 'officially closed' camp) in Myebon Township, respondents in Pauktaw Township expressed concern over potential MAF airstrikes. They conveyed rumours that the MAF might launch operations in all AA-controlled areas in the coming weeks or months.

“We are very concerned about rumours that the MAF will launch operations in AA-controlled areas. As our camps are close to Sittwe Township, we might be targeted and lose lives. If the MAF launches operations, we will lose our livelihoods, including fishing. Fishing is our only way to earn a small income right now, and there is no other support for us, including humanitarian aid.”

- 45, MALE, PAUKTAW

Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township expressed serious concerns about

diarrhoea spreading among residents after flooding in the camp. They said that residents — especially children — were suffering from body pain and illness and were unable to walk. They reported other concerns as well, including military tensions between the MAF and AA near the relocation site, and a lack of food, job opportunities, and regular income. Two respondents added that around 300 households were facing food shortages, saying many of them skipped meals and could only afford rice porridge after their male family members who could earn a small income were forcibly recruited by the MAF.

“My child is unable to walk, and many children have fallen ill due to malnutrition. Diarrhoea is spreading among residents. We urgently need food and other assistance, as many households are facing shortages. Male family members who could earn a small income were recruited by the MAF, and we have lost our income and are unable to afford regular meals.”

- 40, FEMALE, KYAUK TA LONE



ROHINGYA CAMPS IN SITTWE TOWNSHIP



## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

## ... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Respondents in Pauktaw Township reported urgently needing hygiene kits, cooking fuel, and healthcare assistance. They said that health-care assistance and medicine were the most pressing needs among IDPs. One respondent noted that two organisations which had previously provided nutrition treatment for malnourished children had since stopped.

“In the last week of July, an organisation provided cash for food assistance of around 35,000 Myanmar Kyat [~12.30 GBP] per person. This food assistance was given every 3–4 months, not monthly. We urgently need hygiene kits, fuel, and healthcare assistance. Before, two organisations provided cash and nutrition treatment for malnourished children in our camp, but now they have stopped this assistance. We requested them to continue the support, but they said they don’t have a budget for it yet.”

- 27, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township said they urgently needed rice, cash assistance, and medicines, explaining that MAF transportation blockages had led food, medicines, and other commodities to be in short supply in the township. They noted that

one organisation provided soap and hygiene pads to camp residents.

“An organisation provided soap and hygiene pads for residents, but this assistance is given only once every 2–3 months. We urgently need food assistance — especially rice — and cash support and medicines. There are severe shortages of food and medicines due to transportation and road blockages by the MAF in Kyaukpyu Township. We want organisations to resume food assistance in our camp.”

- 47, MALE, KYAUK TA LONE

Respondents in Sittwe Township and in Taung Paw ward (an ‘officially closed’ camp) in Myebon Township said they urgently needed food, shelter support, and healthcare assistance. One respondent in Sittwe Township said that many children and elderly people were suffering from seasonal flu and needed medicines to control it.

“After the heavy rain and flooding, many children and elderly people have been suffering from seasonal flu and urgently need medicines. Many are also suffering from malnutrition due to a lack of nutritious food. We need food, shelter support, and medicines.”

- 29, FEMALE, SITTWE

## ... ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

Respondents in Pauktaw Township and in Taung Paw Ward (an ‘officially closed’ camp) in Myebon Township said the ULA/AA required them to pay mandatory ‘tax’ and that its members often asked them to provide motor-bike fuel, cash, solar panels, and food. One respondent in Myebon Township said that the AA was building a market near Taung Paw ward (an ‘officially closed’ camp) but informed the Rohingya that they could not open shops or sell in the market, which is only for Rakhine business people. In Pauktaw Township, the ULA/AA reportedly restricted Rohingya from travelling to Pauktaw town, requiring long-distance travel to access health-care facilities in emergencies. One respondent also reported that ULA/AA members restricted the selling of land or houses without permission and extorted Rohingya fishermen, who were required to give half of the fish they caught to pass through AA checkpoints. He added that people reported this extortion to high-ranking AA officers, who said they needed to provide solid evidence to make a complaint.

“The AA restricts the sale of lands or houses owned by the Rohingya. They said that all lands in Rakhine State are owned by the Rakhine people, not us.

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

The AA also extorts fish from fishermen when we pass its checkpoints. We complained about it to them, but the high-ranking officials told us that we need photo evidence to complain about extortion. We don't dare to take photos of the incidents, and if they knew, they would even prohibit fishing.”

- 45, MALE, PAUKTAW

Respondents in Sittwe Township said that they had limited interactions with the MAF and its governance bodies. Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township said that MAF troops at checkpoints near the site extorted camp residents and did not allow them to travel without permission. One respondent reported that the MAF provided salaries to some people it had recruited, but only to around 100 individuals.

“This month, the MAF paid salaries to its recruited people. Each person received 125,000 Myanmar Kyat [~43.93 GBP], and they gave three months of salaries — 375,000 Myanmar Kyat [~131.81 GBP]. There are 147 people [recruited by] the MAF, and only 100 people received a salary. We are facing movement restrictions as the MAF checkpoint at the camp restricted and extorted us if we wanted to pass. Sometimes they also asked us for permission letters.”

- 47, MALE, KYAUK TA LONE

## ... INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township expressed concern about potential tensions between the Rakhine community and both the Rohingya and Kaman communities. They said that misunderstanding and hostility between communities was increasing because the MAF forced Rohingya and Kaman conscripts to conduct house inspections of Rakhine people. They noted that Rakhine people's fears of the Muslim community were growing because the MAF provided arms to Muslim conscripts. One respondent said that disputes sometimes occurred between Rakhine people and Muslim conscripts, who Rakhine people blamed for joining the MAF.

“There are tensions and disputes between Rakhine people and Muslim conscripts. Rakhine people say that Muslims are arrogant and that they would kill all of those Muslim conscripts. As they blame Muslim conscripts, sometimes there are disputes between some Rakhine people and Muslim conscripts. Some Rakhine people have shared hate speech, saying ‘if Muslims are being armed, we should also join ULA/AA to kill them.’ We are very concerned about tensions between the two communities.”

- 37, FEMALE, KYAUK TA LONE

Respondents in Pauktaw Township and in Taung Paw ward (an ‘officially closed’ camp) in Myebon Township reported regular communication, and no tensions, with their Rakhine neighbours. Respondents in Sittwe Township also noted generally positive relationships with Rakhine villagers. One respondent in Sittwe Township said that their Rakhine neighbours did not view Rohingya who had joined the MAF negatively, as they were aware that the MAF had forcibly recruited them.

“We have regular communication with Rakhine people and other ethnic groups. There is no tension in our neighbourhoods. Rakhine people help us if we need any support from them. Some of them understand that Rohingya are forcibly recruited by the MAF, and they don't view it negatively.”

- 29, FEMALE, SITTWE



KYAUK TA LONE RELOCATION SITE,  
KYAUKPYU TOWNSHIP

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## 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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