



Rohingya Voices

ATMOSPHERIC REPORT

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OCTOBER 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.

Photos included in this report are used with permission. Source information has been withheld by request due to security concerns.

KEY FINDINGS

/ PERCEPTIONS OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Rohingya community members in Bangladesh reported a lack of medicines, shelters, education support, and nutritious foods — especially for children.

- Respondents in Bangladesh reported an urgent need for medicines, saying that many patients with chronic illness were not receiving proper healthcare to control their conditions. Respondents on Bhasan Char also reported that due to the lack of the antiretroviral therapy (ART) medicines, patients with HIV could not receive sufficient medicine or other support (e.g. psychosocial support).

- Compared to September, 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, nutrition support for children and elderly people, clean water, construction materials, healthcare, cash, and hygiene kits.

- The reported concerns of Rohingya villagers in Rakhine State did not change significantly from September, but concerns about nutritious food, medicines, and shelter — especially construction materials — appeared to become more pressing.

- Respondents in several parts of Rakhine State expressed significant challenges in accessing sufficient food, noting that pregnant women, children, and elderly people were facing starvation or malnutrition.

Rohingya community members in camps in Rakhine State said that they needed hygiene kits, toilet facilities, food assistance, and healthcare services — especially for pregnant women and elderly people.

- Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township reported that an elderly person died due to lack of food and healthcare support.

KEY FINDINGS

/ PERCEPTIONS OF ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

Rohingya community members in Bangladesh reported that the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) had decreased activity in Cox's Bazar but were active in northern Rakhine State, where they often targeted civilians and United League of Arakan/Arakan Army (ULA/AA) camps.

■ Respondents in Cox's Bazar expressed positive views of the Bangladeshi interim government for organising conferences on Rohingya issues and taking actions against Rohingya armed actors. However, one respondent said that recently elected Rohingya leaders had limited power to implement their mandates.

Rohingya community members in villages in Rakhine State expressed concern about forced recruitment, extortion, and detention by the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and AA. As in September, respondents in ULA/AA-controlled areas expressed greater concerns about potential attacks, including airstrikes, by the MAF.

■ Respondents in Minbya, Kyauktaw, and Mrauk-U townships reported that, in meetings with Rohingya people in these areas, the ULA/AA urged community leaders that to organise recruitment and warned people not to identify as or use the term "Rohingya" in Rakhine State.

Rohingya community members in camps in Rakhine State reported that the MAF and ULA/AA — in areas under their respective control — regularly communicated with Camp Management Committee (CMC) members and camp leaders.

■ Respondents in Sittwe Township reported that, in meetings with Rohingya camp leaders and community leaders in Sittwe town, the MAF ordered CMCs to collect data of Rohingya people not holding ID cards and to urge those with ID cards to vote in the coming elections.

KEY FINDINGS

/ PERCEPTIONS OF INTERCOMMUNAL TENSIONS

Rohingya community members in Bangladesh reported tensions between Bangladeshi host communities and refugees.

■ Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported that tensions between host communities and refugees were increasing due to cases of kidnappings, killings, extortion, and a rape. They said that Rohingya refugees avoided leaving camp at night, and that some even avoided travel near host villages in the daytime.

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

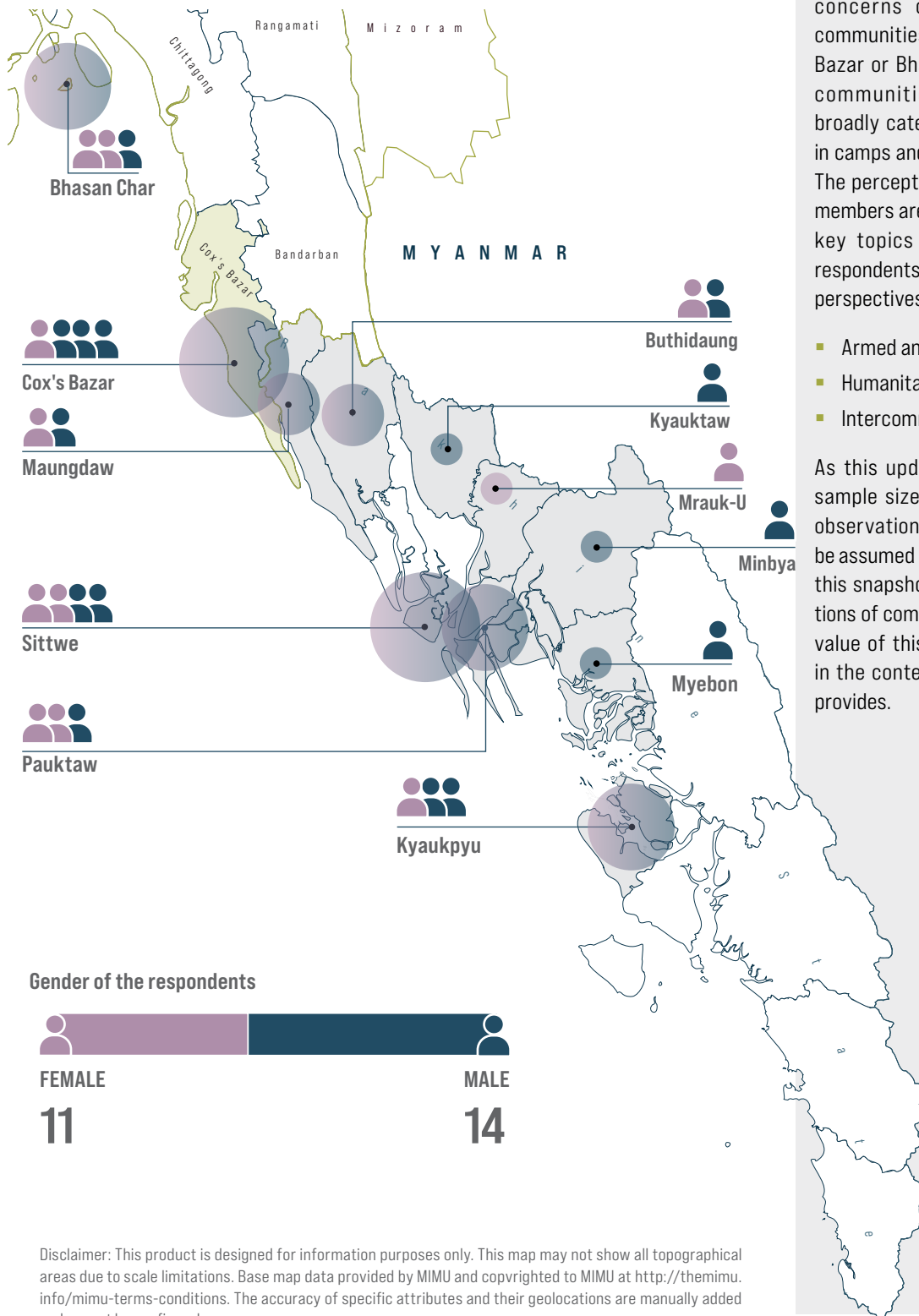
■ Despite saying there were no current tensions, respondents in Maungdaw and Buthiduang townships expressed concerns over movement of Rohingya armed actors and discrimination and verbal abuse by Rakhine businessmen.

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

■ However, amid continued fighting in Sittwe and Kyaukpyu townships, respondents in those areas expressed concerns about rising tensions between Rakhine and both Rohingya and Kaman Muslim communities. They reported increasing misunderstandings toward Rohingya and Kaman people because the MAF allowed Muslims to travel to Kyaukpyu town while tightly restricting the movement of Rakhine people.

RESPONDENTS

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



Gender of the respondents



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 community members are structured around three key topics on which 25 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 25 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.

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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 in both Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char.

- Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported that at least five Rohingya refugees were kidnapped by local criminal gangs in the first two weeks of October. They said that Bangladeshi criminal gangs raped and killed a Rohingya woman, and dumped her body near her camp, after her family was unable to pay ransom.

Violence did not appear to change significantly in Rakhine State. However, violence by the MAF, AA, and others continued to impact communities, particularly in northern Rakhine State, and MAF violence affecting Rakhine communities — potentially involving Rohingya conscripts — threatened to increase violence against Rohingya communities.

- On 1 October, local media **reported** that the AA had found six bodies of Rakhine civilians near Inn Chaung village in Maungdaw Township. The same source claimed that ARSA had killed those people and dumped their bodies.
- On 11 October, ARSA reportedly **attacked** three Rakhine men — transporting goods by motorbike — in Leik Ya village, Maungdaw Township, killing one. On 5 October, ARSA members reportedly **attacked** three Rakhine men in Thayar Kone village, Maungdaw Township, injuring one of them. On 25 October, the Maungdaw District Muslim Affairs Council **condemned** Rohingya armed actors' targeting of civilians.

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 October.

- According to monitoring by this analytical unit this month, on 12 October, social media users **shared** a video clip in which ULA/AA leader Twan Mrat Naing calling Rohingya "Kalar", and in response to which social media users posted negative or hateful comments about the Rohingya community.
- Respondents in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships reported that, due to Rohingya armed actors' movement, activities, and targeting of Rakhine civilians, hatred against Rohingya people was increasing in these areas, resulting in growing tensions and mistrust between the two communities

Cohesion



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

Social cohesion between Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh did not appear to change in October. Respondents in Bangladesh reported positive interactions with Bangladeshi businessmen and street vendors.

Social cohesion between Rohingya and Rakhine communities appeared to be unchanged in many areas of Rakhine State in October. Respondents in Rakhine State said that they had good interactions with Rakhine and non-Rakhine neighbours.

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 increasing cases of kidnapping for ransom by host criminal gangs. Rohingya refugees said that due to the kidnapping, killing, and ransom demands by the host criminal gangs, tensions and fear were increased in Cox's Bazar refugee camps.

Tensions between ethnic Rohingya and Rakhine communities continued in October in many areas of Rakhine State. Respondents in northern Rakhine State reported growing tensions between Rakhine and Rohingya villagers due to the movement of Rohingya armed actors in these areas.

Perceptions



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

Respondents in Bangladesh did not report any significant changes in perceptions of intercommunal relations in October. However, they raised concerns that relations between host communities and refugees were limited due to the activities of host criminal gangs.

Respondents in Rakhine State did not report perceptions of intercommunal relations that differed significantly from September. However, they expressed concerns that the MAF and ULA/AA's actions and discrimination toward Rohingya people might negatively impact the relationship between Rohingya communities and people of other minority ethnic groups.

Statements



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

Two actors made statements on issues involving Rohingya people:

- On 11 October, the ULA/AA **issued** a statement claiming that officers of Border Guard-Bangladesh (BGB) were providing medical aid, food, leadership, security, aerial reconnaissance, and military intelligence to ARSA and the RSO. The ULA/AA **urged** the Bangladeshi government to stop BGB officials allegedly supplying weapons to Rohingya armed actors.
- On 20 October, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar **reported** that, over the past two years, Rohingya armed actors had exploited, oppressed, and attacked both Rohingya and Rakhine civilians. He said that ARSA and the RSO had forcibly recruited Rohingya from camps in Bangladesh and sent them to fight in Rakhine State, with some reportedly abducted or sold to the MAF. Meanwhile, he said, AA officers had coerced Rohingya civilians to leave for Bangladesh, often extorting money to facilitate the journey and detaining Rohingya who returned from Bangladesh. The statement noted that AA leader Twan Mrat Naing has denied all allegations of abuses against the Rohingya and **invited** the rapporteur to investigate, and visit the site of, an alleged massacre in Buthidaung Township.

KEY CONTEXT DEVELOPMENTS

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

On 8 October, an unnamed Bangladeshi intelligence official [confirmed](#) that five ARSA militants, wounded while fighting the AA in northern Maungdaw Township, Rakhine State, had been transported to Bangladesh. On 11 October, local media cited Bangladesh sources in [reporting](#) that the BGB was on heightened alert along the border with Rakhine State and was closely monitoring the situation. On 16 October, local media [reported](#) that an ARSA member had been found alive on the western shore of Shahpori Island, located at the mouth of the Naf River. According to him, around 70 ARSA members had been on the boat, and all of them drowned, though local media said it could not confirm this information.

“As some Rohingya armed groups are active in northern Maungdaw these days, we are worried that violence could break out in the region. If they are active, the AA will persecute us more by arresting, torturing and [imposing] many other restrictions.”

- 25, FEMALE, MAUNGDAW

On 5 October, the AA formed a new mosque committee in Maungdaw Township and ordered it to transfer rents from shops around the mosque compound, which had previously been used to fund mosque activities. On 10 October, local media [reported](#) that the ULA/AA had instructed mosque committee members to hand over the rental fees from 22 shops owned by Rohingya who had fled to Bangladesh or Yangon during the conflict. The same source stated that the AA had been collecting rental fees from at least 44 shops belonging to Rohingya people displaced from Maungdaw town.

“This month, the AA started to collect rental fees from the shops that were owned by Rohingya who fled to Bangladesh and to Yangon during the 1027 operation in Rakhine State. The AA also accused those who fled to Yangon of being MAF supporters in order to seize their properties in Maungdaw Township.”

- 25, FEMALE, MAUNGDAW

On 16 October, local media [reported](#) that the number of Rohingya leaving Bangladesh by boat in the first half of this year had tripled compared to the same period last year, as conditions in Cox’s Bazar camps worsened. According to this source, at least 1,088 refugees — including approximately 87 children — reportedly set out for neighbouring countries by boat. The source also reported that funding cuts had severely reduced access to essential services like education and healthcare, posing particular challenges for children in Cox’s Bazar refugee camps

“Our major challenge is lack of income. The food assistance is not enough for us and we can’t buy meat and fish. Children are facing malnutrition, and instead of providing sufficient nutritious food, organizations provide treatment to malnourished children when they become malnourished. Children under two years old are in dire need of nutrition support.”

- 45, FEMALE, COX’S BAZAR

KEY CONTEXT DEVELOPMENTS (CONT.)

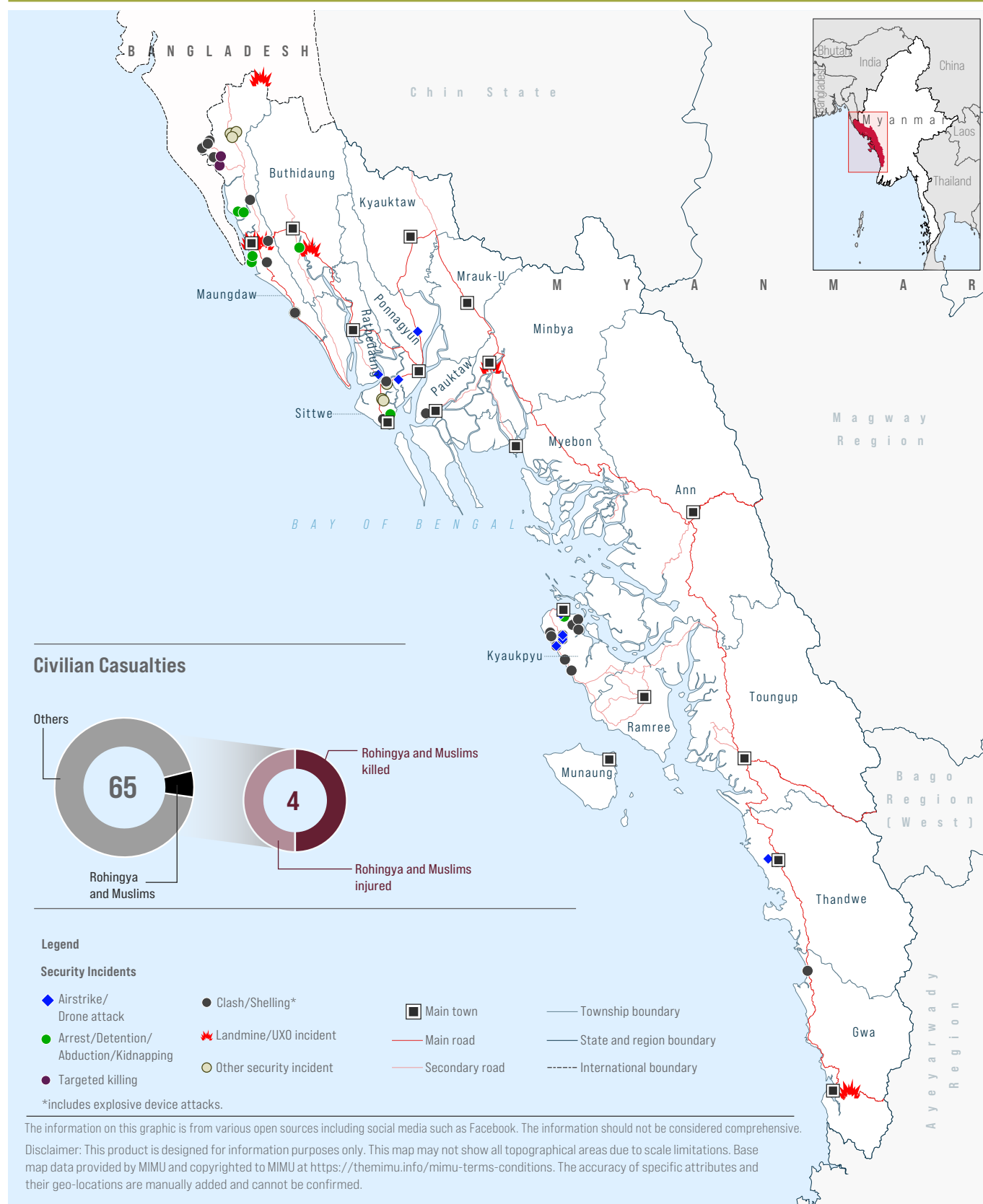
On 21 October local media [reported](#) that the ULA/AA had strictly prohibited Rohingya people in Kyauk Hlay Kar, Min Ga Lar Gyi, La Baw Zar, Paung Zar, and Pyin Phyu villages in Maungdaw Township from entering Maungdaw town unless they had two recommendation letter from ULA/AA administrators. The same source said that individuals were required to pay 5,000 Myanmar Kyat [~1.78 GBP] in order to receive the recommendation letters, and that Rohingya villagers had also been prohibited from traveling to nearby villages such as Kyauk Hlaykar, Tha Yet Oak, and Pyin Phyu.

“We are subjected to strict movement restrictions as well as restrictions on our livelihoods. We are not allowed to go to rivers to catch fish or to the jungle to collect wood. We can’t go out of our houses at night. We are living in open prisons under their administration.”

- 40, MALE, MAUNGDAW

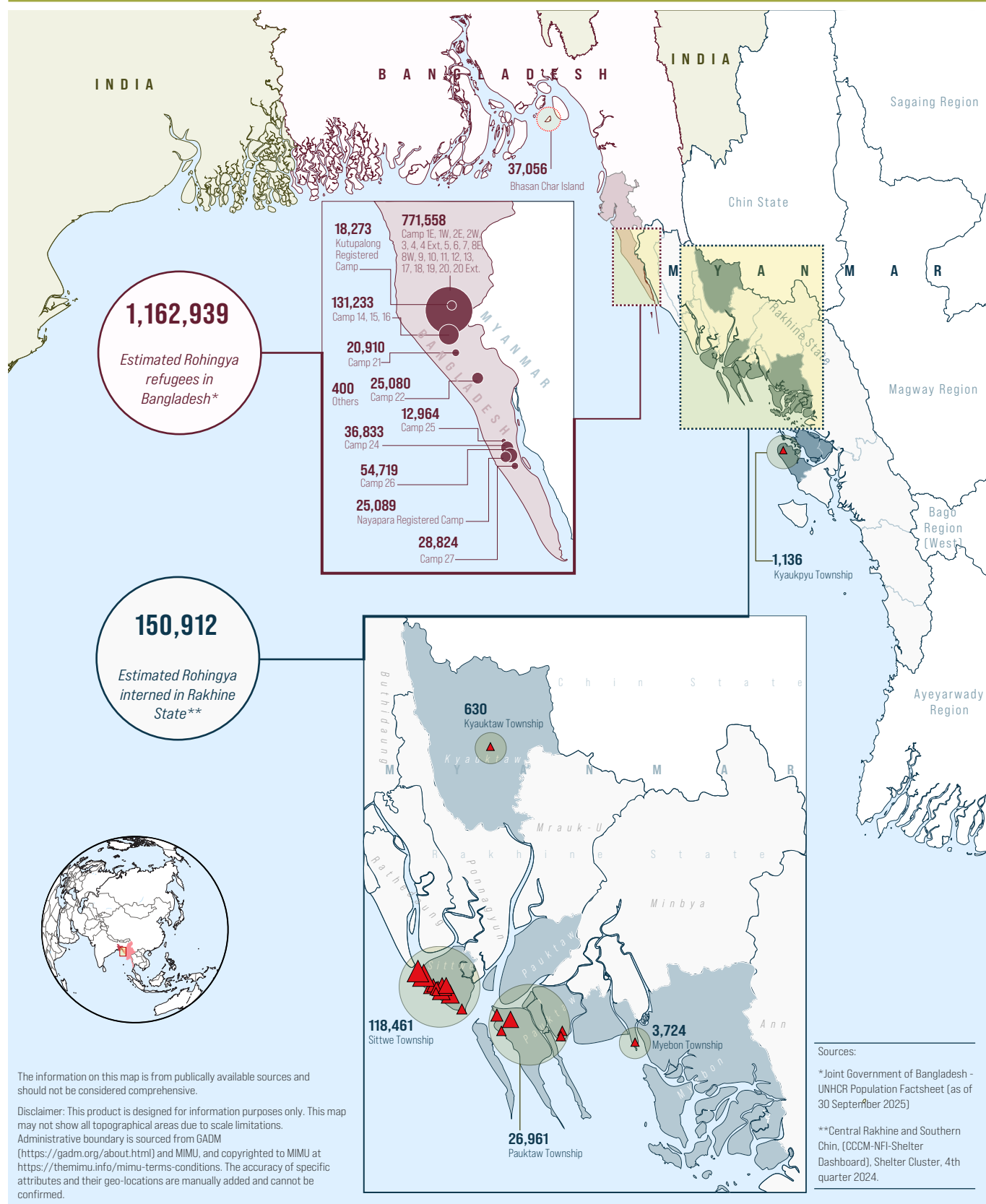
KEY SECURITY INCIDENTS

OCTOBER 2025



ROHINGYA CAMPS IN BANGLADESH AND RAKHINE STATE

OCTOBER 2025



ROHINGYA VOICES

Bangladesh

HUMANITARIAN AND POLICY TAKEAWAYS

For humanitarian practitioners
and donors:

- **Respondents reported significant difficulty meeting basic needs, suggesting a risk of negative coping mechanisms and rising insecurity.** Insufficient food assistance and irregular aid distribution have reportedly forced families to buy food on credit, leading to debt problems. Children under two years old reportedly need nutrition support. Food insufficiency is said to be compounded by inflated prices when using ration cards at designated grocery stores, pointing to a need for more flexible funding. Furthermore, the lack of cooking fuel has reportedly forced refugees to collect firewood, which is unsafe and can lead to disputes or arrest.
- **Healthcare services are reported to be critically inadequate, lacking essential resources and medicines.** On Bhasan Char, basic healthcare services are the only option available, with no surgeons in camp clinics for urgent surgery, and no treatment for serious or chronic illnesses. Respondents said that patients must often purchase expensive medicines privately or travel long distances, sometimes risking death, especially during rough weather.
- **Respondents reported an urgent need for shelter support,** particularly on Bhasan Char and for new arrivals who face challenges accessing assistance because they are not registered. Sanitation and infrastructure reportedly pose serious risks: poor waste and drainage management leads to persistent odors and potential disease spread, and on Bhasan Char, a lack of fencing around water ponds has reportedly resulted in children drowning. Additionally, the lack of electricity on Bhasan Char reportedly causes intense heat due to tin roofing.
- **Protection risks are reportedly heightened by criminal elements, particularly on Bhasan Char,** where criminal gangs are reportedly active in killing, rape, kidnapping for ransom (especially during boat travel), and theft. The lack of separate toilet and bathing facilities on Bhasan Char also reportedly increases safety and security risks, including sexual harassment and robbery.

For policymakers:

- **Growing tension between refugees and host communities has reportedly escalated** into direct threats, extortion, and violence. Kidnappings for ransom by host criminal gangs — targeting Rohingya women, children, and laborers — are reported almost daily. This insecurity causes refugees to avoid leaving camps after 6pm, leading to lost income from day labor. Rohingya laborers also reportedly face extortion and robbery. Law enforcement is needed to address these crimes and ensure that refugees are also protected by the law, as many Rohingya refugees are allegedly unable to file cases with authorities.
- **Movement and livelihood restrictions reportedly continue to severely limit refugee self-sufficiency.** Respondents said that refugees had been arrested and imprisoned for basic actions like collecting firewood due to lack of cooking fuel. Respondents also accused authorities of corruption and of restricting Rohingya livelihood activities, prohibiting them from running businesses while allowing host communities to monopolize trade and inflate prices. Equal protections and rights under the law could help refugees to enjoy greater livelihood and food security.
- **Respondents suggested that protection is undermined by criminal elements working in coordination with local authorities** — especially on Bhasan Char, where there are allegedly illicit business activities like human trafficking and illegal transportation.
- **There appear to be growing tensions between Bangladeshi authorities and the ULA/AA,** following reports of alleged abductions of Bangladeshi fishermen and subsequent restrictions on the transportation of goods into Rakhine State. The ULA/AA has also made statements accusing Border Guard-Bangladesh (BGB) officers of providing multiple types of support to Rohingya armed actors.

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 about insufficient food assistance, shelters, and hygiene kits. They said that new arrivals to the camps faced significant challenges in accessing humanitarian assistance as INGOs and NGOs refused to provide it to those not registered in the camps; that NGOs did not accept newly arrived children at schools; and that new arrivals also faced difficulties renting houses from host communities.

"We face discrimination against us as we are newcomers. NGO and INGO staff often abuse newcomers and refuse to provide assistance due to our lack of documentation. We face many challenges. We would like to request camp authorities and agencies to listen to our concerns. We need [...] shelter, food, and healthcare services."

- 28, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents also expressed concern about the lack of work opportunities and regular income amid reduced food assistance. They also said that NGOs had stopped providing nutrition and food support to children under two. One said that due to security concerns and the lack of protection, Rohingya avoided working outside the camp or in host villages.

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

/ PRIMARY CONCERNS

“The food assistance is not enough for us and we cannot afford to buy meat or fish. Children face malnutrition, but instead of providing nutritious food to all children, they only provide treatment to malnourished children. Children under two years old are in dire need of nutrition support as NGOs stopped providing food for them.”

- 45, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents in Bhasan Char reported that refugees urgently needed shelter support, especially for roof repairs, as well as cooking fuel and protection. They said that children had no space to play and often drowned in ponds or drainage ditches near their shelters. One added that criminal gangs often kidnapped children for ransom, and that authorities neither provided protection nor took action against perpetrators.

“NGOs dug water ponds by cluster and we are using those water for general consumption. But there are no fences around those ponds and few children died from drowning in those ponds. We have to be very careful taking care of our young children. There is also a threat of kidnapping of children by criminal gangs[.]”

- 27, FEMALE, BHASAN CHAR

Respondents in Bhasan Char also reported dire conditions in accessing healthcare services. In the camp, they said, only very basic healthcare services are available, and the hospital and clinic do not provide sufficient medicines or treatment for transmissible diseases. Residents are not provided with necessary medicines, and struggle to obtain healthcare even in emergencies. A Rohingya woman suffering from HIV her situation:

“Only basic healthcare services are available on Bhasan Char. There is no treatment for diseases such as Hepatitis B and C, diabetes, TB, or HIV. [...] I am living with HIV and it is very stressful for me. Though I am provided with ART, it is not enough for one month. The doctor asked me not to have an intimate relationship with my husband rather than providing adequate healthcare. My husband is very upset and asked for divorce. I always faced domestic violence from him because of my disease. Because of HIV, I have poor vision and I need to travel to Noakhali to see an eye specialist. I also suffer from physical pain and feel very depressed. Oftentimes I think about ending my life.”

- 40, FEMALE, BHASAN CHAR

COX'S BAZAR



ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Respondents expressed urgent needs for cooking fuel, shelters, medicines, healthcare services for chronic patients, and livelihood support. They said that due to the lack of job opportunities and regular income, women-headed households faced severe challenges in fulfilling household needs. Reductions in healthcare services reportedly meant that Rohingya patients needed to walk long distances to access them and there were none for patients with chronic conditions. NGOs reportedly only provided limited healthcare in critical Hepatitis B and C cases, and only if patients met stringent criteria.

"We need livelihood training for women. Healthcare services have been decreasing due to lack of funding. Healthcare support for chronic patients has totally stopped. [...] There are no surgery services in the camp clinics. As we don't have income, it is extremely difficult to access healthcare services at the private clinics."

- 45, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents in Cox's Bazar emphasized the urgent need to reform food distribution and increase staff at distribution centers. One respondent explained that refugees often needed to wait for hours under harsh weather conditions, with disorganized queues

and no special assistance provided for the sick or elderly. In October, a refugee reportedly **died** from heat exhaustion at a food distribution point. Respondents also noted that NGOs had reduced cooking fuel and food support for children. One said that refugees urgently needed nutrition support for children and awareness on how to make and feed nutritious food to children.

"[I]n the past when a new baby was born, rations were immediately supplied. But now, children under two years old do not receive food assistance. There is some nutrition support for children with malnutrition, but parents do not know how to deliver it. Some parents even fed those nutrition packets to chickens."

- 43, MALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents in Bhasan Char voiced major concerns about insufficient food, cooking fuel, and safe drinking water. They reported that camp authorities reduced cooking fuel for families who worked as volunteers with NGOs or had a small income, forcing many families to buy fuel themselves. They explained that collecting wood for cooking was also unsafe.

"We face many challenges in cooking due to the lack of cooking fuel. Due to funding shortage, the supplies have

been put on hold for those who work as volunteers with NGOs and who have income. [...] The support is also insufficient for a month and runs out after 10 or 15 days, so we have to arrange [things] by ourselves."

- 40, FEMALE, BHASAN CHAR

As with respondents in Cox's Bazar, respondents in Bhasan Char also expressed concerns over the lack of proper healthcare services. One reported that there was no medical support for chronic patients, no surgeons, no services for complicated childbirth, and security concerns for pregnant women traveling to Noakhali hospital for treatment.

"We urgently need healthcare support. There are very few nurses and doctors in Bhasan Char. Currently there are not enough resources to provide adequate treatment to refugees. There is no operation room, surgeon, or proper child delivery room. Chronic patients with diabetes, hepatitis, and hypertension don't receive regular medications. For C section delivery, pregnant women must travel to Noakhali hospital by boat. During the rough weather it is extremely risky and many times people die traveling by boat while seeking healthcare facilities at Noakhali hospital."

- 39, MALE, BHASAN CHAR

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

... ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

Respondents in Bangladesh had positive views of the Bangladeshi interim government for organizing Rohingya conferences and taking action against Rohingya armed actors in Cox's Bazar. One reported however that, following the Rohingya leadership election in Cox's Bazar, recently elected Rohingya leaders had limited power to implement their mandates.

"After the election in the camp, the armed groups' role is diminishing in the camp. Rohingya leaders who were elected by the camp residents have very limited power in the camp. They are not given any authority by government officials, yet Dil Mohamed was able to open an office in the camp and officially run his activities. He is very close to the MAF. Bangladeshi authorities give favour to him rather than Rohingya leaders."

- 43, MALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported that there was increased support for ARSA activities in Rakhine State, but one said that ARSA lacked the capacity to make meaningful change.

"Rohingya have a positive view on the current interim government. After they came to power, they suppressed Rohingya armed groups and it became

peaceful in the camp. After evidence of the Rohingya massacre carried out by AA emerged, people are supporting ARSA to fight against AA. But in my personal view, I don't think ARSA can fight against AA and have capacity to control townships."

- 25, MALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents in Bhasan Char shared negative views of Bangladeshi authorities, citing corruption and the lack of protection for refugees. Respondents said that in October, the authorities arrested six Rohingya and sentenced them to three months in prison for illegally cutting trees for firewood. Local authorities also reportedly prohibited Rohingya from running businesses, allowing only host communities to sell food and commodities in the camps. They noted that host vendors often inflated prices for Rohingya refugees.

"The criminal gangs bribe the authorities to carry out criminal activities. Due to the lack of cooking fuel, many refugees go to the forest and collect firewood. The authorities arrested them and six Rohingya were sentenced to three months imprisonment for illegally cutting trees. The authorities don't allow Rohingya to run businesses, and all the shops in the market are run by the host community."

- 40, FEMALE, BHASAN CHAR

Respondents in Bhasan Char reported insecurity due to the presence of criminal gangs on the island, which they said engaged in illicit activities such as human trafficking and illegal transportation between Bhasan Char and the mainland with the cooperation of some local authorities. They also said that these groups sometimes intervened in disputes among refugees, often threatening individuals after receiving money from others. One respondent reported that masked gang members armed with machetes kidnapped a camp leader.

"There is no activity of Rohingya armed groups in Bhasan Char. But there are some criminal gangs active here. Those gangs work in coordination with local authorities, especially at night. They focus on illicit business activities — particularly human trafficking and illegal transportation between the island and mainland. [...] In the last week of September, gang members kidnapped a camp leader. They came at night wearing masks and with machetes. No one knows why they kidnapped him, either for ransom or any other reason. There are many lawless activities here."

- 27, FEMALE, BHASAN CHAR

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

... INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported that discrimination and abuse were increasing between host and refugee populations. They reported growing anger against the host community due to incidents of kidnapping, rape, and beatings by locals, particularly targeting Rohingya women, children, and workers in host villages. One reported that at least five Rohingya people were kidnapped by criminal gangs while returning from Kutupalong camp to Balukhali camp around the start of October. He said that a criminal gang raped and killed a Rohingya woman and then dumped her body near the camp as her family could not pay ransom. Due to the kidnapping cases, refugees reportedly avoided leaving camps or leaving their shelters after 6pm, and many lost their small income from doing day labour in host community areas.

"There are kidnapping cases almost every day. Yesterday, one of my friends had to pay 250,000 Taka [~1,534 GBP] ransom for his release. Most of the cases take place near Kutupalong and Balukhali camps. My friend was abducted in Kutupalong but he was released after paying ransom. Two days ago, a teacher, a refugee, and an 11-year-old child from my camp were abducted by a host community member. We can't file those cases with the authorities. Many Rohingya refugees are very disappointed and angry at those crimes. Now, it's been more than two months since I have set foot outside the camp because of the kidnapping cases. Some children were even kidnapped from the camp areas. Ten days ago, a woman was kidnapped and as she wasn't able to pay ransom, the kidnappers raped and killed her. Her body was dumped near the camp. The authorities don't solve or take action on those crimes. We don't feel safe here."

- 43, MALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents said that while there was not physical abuse by host community members (apart from gangs), Rohingya living with host communities in some areas faced extortion, particularly when transporting food items. Respondents said that they are very cautious about communicating with hosts in order to avoid potential tensions with them.

"The relationship between the host community and Rohingya refugees is not very sensitive. New Rohingya refugees rent houses in host community villages. Host communities can earn money from the Rohingya. But sometimes, they extort money from us for carrying food and other items from camps. They said that if we want to transport things we need to pay tax to the host community. In the last week of September, I was extorted: I was coming here after receiving food assistance, and a group of host people forced me to pay if I wanted to carry food to enter the village. I had to pay them 20 Taka [~0.12 GBP]."

- 25, MALE, COX'S BAZAR

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

Respondents in Bhasan Char reported regular communication with local businessmen and NGO workers. They noted however that, despite regular communication, some Bangladeshis threatened or verbally abused them if they went to forest areas or shrimp farms, and the host community did not allow Rohingya people to go fishing.

“In Bhasan Char, we were allocated host community land to stay on, so some host communities have negative views of us. Due to international

support, such negative views are gradually decreasing. But from time to time we experience negative treatment from the host community.”

- 40, FEMALE, BHASAN CHAR

Respondents in Bhasan Char reported that Rohingya generally avoid creating tensions with the host community. They expressed concern that as the Rohingya population there declines, this could lead to greater abuses and discrimination.

“As more and more Rohingya flee to Cox's Bazar, we have become a minority here, and we are concerned that there might be tensions in the future. We are very dependent on the host community, so we always try to behave well and avoid any kind of conflict with them. We have regular interactions with them, especially through humanitarian work with NGO staff.”

- 27, FEMALE, BHASAN CHAR

COX'S BAZAR

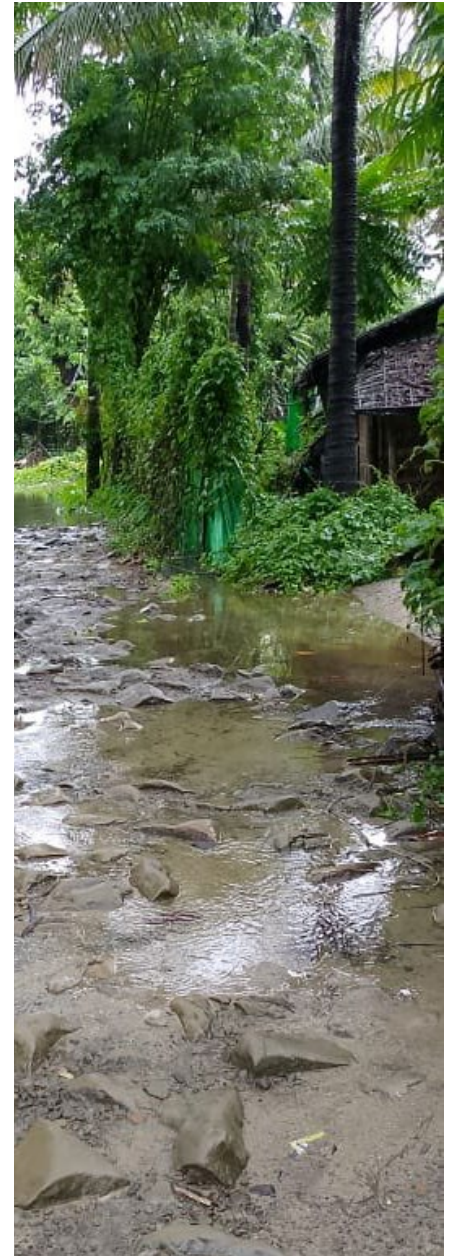


ROHINGYA VOICES

Rakhine State

HUMANITARIAN AND POLICY TAKEAWAYS

- **Humanitarian conditions appear to be deteriorating**, with respondents in both camps and villages reporting critical shortages of food, shelter, and medicines. Food shortages have reportedly become more pressing and contributed to malnutrition, begging, debt, and petty crime. Furthermore, monsoon impacts, such as flooding damaging paddy fields, threaten future rice shortages and push farmers into debt.
- **Healthcare and shelter access were reported to be extremely limited**. Villagers often cannot access even emergency healthcare, sometimes leading to death or severe complications, and there are said to be significant shortages of medicines for chronic diseases and endemic illnesses. In villages, there is reportedly an urgent need for shelter support and construction materials to repair homes.
- **Protection risks are reportedly heightened by abuses, extortion, and restrictive policies from both the MAF and the AA**. Respondents in Sittwe reported increased extortion, physical abuse, and forced labor by the MAF. The MAF has also reportedly ordered CMCs to collect data on Rohingya not holding ID cards and pressured those with ID cards to vote in upcoming elections, raising concerns about coercive activity around the election. Meanwhile, the ULA/AA has reportedly pressured camp leaders and village administrators to organize recruitment, facilitated human trafficking, and detained and physically abused Rohingya people.
- **Livelihoods are said to be severely undermined by MAF fishing bans and ULA/AA movement restrictions**. The lack of income pushes vulnerable households, such as widows, to beg for food or send their children away to work. Hardship, combined with concerns about AA forced recruitment, is reportedly pushing more households to sell their property and leave Myanmar via traffickers.
- **Insecurity and rumours contribute to heightened intercommunal tensions**. Reports of Rohingya armed actors targeting Rakhine civilians have reportedly increased mistrust, and concerns exist that recruitment and discriminatory MAF policies could negatively impact relations. Respondents described generally positive intercommunal relations but also discrimination, hostility, and verbal abuse.
- **Lack of telecommunications and electricity hinders essential services and communication**, limiting access to information and online education opportunities.



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.

MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP



/ PRIMARY CONCERNS

Respondents in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships expressed concerns about ULA/AA discrimination, movement restrictions, and Rohingya armed actors. They said that ULA/AA-appointed teachers discriminated against Rohingya students and demanded monthly fees. They also reported that villagers urgently needed clean water, education support, medicines for chronic diseases, and sanitary pads for women. They called for solar panels, saying that elephants entered villages and destroyed paddy fields due to the lack of electricity at night. They also noted that ULA/AA movement restrictions prevented villagers from watching over their villages at night to prevent destruction by wild elephants.

"Normally this would be the harvest season for paddy, but this year most fields were destroyed by wild elephants. During the SAC era, we could watch for the elephants during the night, but the AA restricts us from leaving our houses after 6pm. It has affected our harvest this year."

- 26, MALE, BUTHIDAUNG

Respondents in Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, and Minbya townships raised concerns about the lack of regular income and livelihood opportunities, ULA/AA forced recruitment, and potential

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

/ PRIMARY CONCERNS

MAF airstrikes. They said that due to general hardship and concerns about ULA/AA recruitment, many households planned to sell their property and travel to Malaysia or Thailand with traffickers. They said that a lack of work had made villagers more vulnerable.

“Many men are fleeing to Malaysia, and women are facing many difficulties. The recruitment by the AA is also part of the reason why people flee from here. We are also worried about MAF airstrikes. [...] Many people are struggling to survive due to lack of income. Most widows must beg for food as it is the only means to survive. There are no odd jobs available for them either here.”

- 60, MALE, KYAUKTAW

Respondents in Sittwe Township expressed concerns about MAF restrictions preventing Rohingya boat owners and fishermen from going to sea. They said that many fishermen lost their jobs, because of MAF restrictions, and faced challenges earning income and fulfilling household needs. They also expressed concern about the lack of healthcare facilities to control illness and skin diseases among children.

“The MAF ordered Rohingya boat owners not to go fishing. Fishermen lost their occasional fishing jobs and now they face many challenges managing family needs. People including children suffer from different diseases, and especially children suffer from skin problems, but they can't get the required treatment, buy medicines, or pay to see doctors at private clinics.”

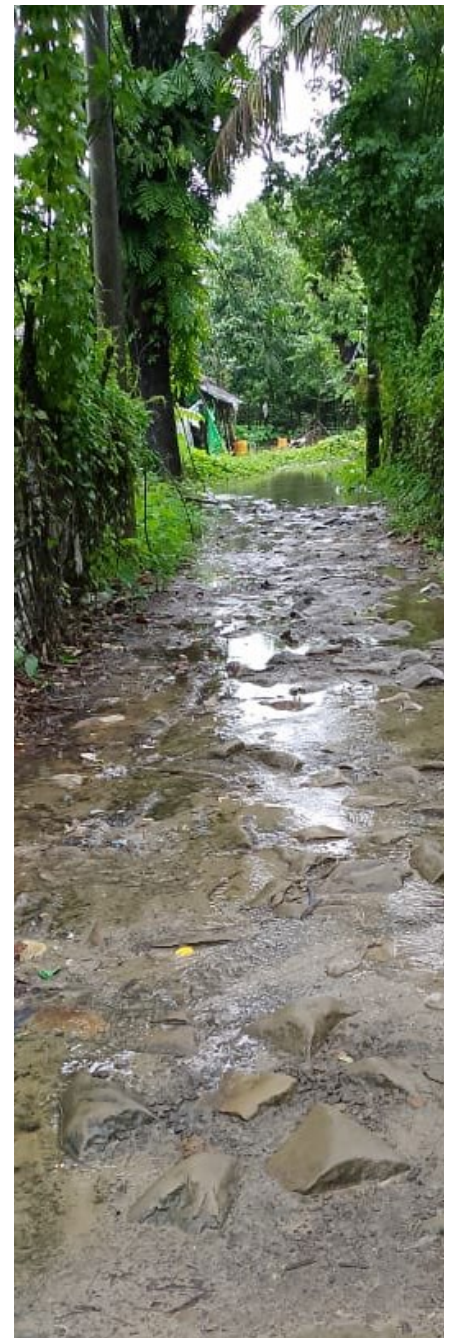
- 38, MALE, SITTWE

As with respondents elsewhere, one respondent in Pauktaw Township expressed concern about potential fighting between the MAF and AA. She said that the ULA/AA detained many Rohingya villagers on false accusations.

“The AA has been arresting innocent Rohingya villagers. My husband was detained for more than two years and I received no information about him. He was arrested for no reason; nobody witnessed any crimes. I am extremely worried about his wellbeing. I am also worried about fighting between the AA and MAF. The entire village would suffer if any armed clashes took place between them. The AA has been planning to attack MAF forces from our village. We don't know where to flee. I think fighting will begin very soon.”

- 37, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP



ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Respondents in Mrauk-U, Minbya, Kyauktaw, and Pauktaw townships reported urgently needing food, cash assistance, healthcare, and hygiene support. One said that Rakhine organisations provided food assistance in Rakhine villages but there was no such support in Rohingya villages. Respondents said that women-headed households faced greater hardship than others, and some households sent their children to work elsewhere.

“We face challenges accessing food items. Transport blockades have also affected jobs, especially for women. Many widows face greater difficulties [...] Some households had to give away their children to work as maids so they could have enough food. Some shop owners and farmers gave the children food rather than a salary.”

- 55, FEMALE, MRAUK-U

Respondents in Buthidaung Township said that people received cash assistance but this was not sufficient. They also expressed an urgent need for shelters, saying that the high prices of construction materials prevented Rohingya returnees from repairing their houses.

“On 4 October, [an organization] provided cash assistance to Rohingya households from Ward (1). Rohingya

in Hpon Nyo Leik and Kyet Yoe Pyin villages also received cash assistance and that organisation said that they will provide cash assistance for the next five months. Due to the increasing prices of food items and other commodities, we can’t afford to buy nutritious food, and cash assistance wasn’t sufficient.”

- 20, FEMALE, BUTHIDAUNG

Respondents in Maungdaw Township reported that cash was provided only to displaced Rohingya, leading to complaints from Rohingya villagers about exclusion. Respondents also expressed the need for food, livelihoods, and healthcare support.

“There are no doctors and healthcare facilities in our areas. We urgently need blood donations for pregnant women. [...] sometimes we have to pay 300,000 Myanmar Kyat [~107.4 GBP] for a bottle of blood.”

- 40, FEMALE, MAUNGDAW

As with respondents elsewhere, respondents in Sittwe Township said that they urgently need healthcare support, shelters, and food assistance. One said that elderly people and children were more vulnerable and many were facing starvation. He added that, due to difficulties in accessing food, petty crime and begging were increasing.

“The most pressing needs for villagers here are healthcare and shelter assistance because many people cannot repair their houses and shelters. [...] Elderly people are at risk of death because they do not get enough food and cannot access healthcare.”

- 28, MALE, SITTWE

... ARMED ACTORS

Rohingya respondents in Sittwe Township reported facing increased extortion and physical abuse by the MAF, as well as forced labour at MAF checkpoints. They reported that the MAF issued a 9pm curfew order and detained Rohingya who violated it. Rohingya villagers were also reportedly required to pay monthly fees to support Rohingya conscripts.

“People in camps and villages need to give men for conscription every three months. CMCs and village administrators collect money from every household monthly in order to provide to the families of the conscripted men. [...] If any household fails to provide [this money], the MAF detains and physically abuses the family head at checkpoints.”

- 28, MALE, SITTWE

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

Respondents in Pauktaw, Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, and Minbya townships said that the ULA/AA met with Rohingya from these areas in the second half of September. During the meeting, an AA commander reportedly told attendees that the AA would ensure security and the rights of Rohingya equally, with the Rakhine community. However, he also reportedly warned them not to use the term “Rohingya”, saying the term never existed in Rakhine State, and urged them to identify as “Arakan Muslims.” He also reportedly told them not to support Rohingya armed actors and encouraged them to join the AA forces.

“I heard that AA held a meeting with Rohingya village leaders in the last

week of September and told them that we don’t need to worry about safety and security. The AA commander said that Rakhine and Muslim are all the same like brothers. Muslims have the same rights as Rakhines and we don’t need to use the name “Rohingya” anymore. If Muslim insist on using the name “Rohingya” then there could be a problem for us.”

- 37, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

Respondents in Pauktaw, Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, and Minbya townships expressed growing concern about the ULA/AA’s facilitation of human trafficking in these areas. A respondent in Kyauktaw Township said that during the September meeting, Rohingya

community leaders requested that AA to address this issue but the commander said the AA would act later. Respondents said that due to AA forced recruitment and worsening livelihood conditions, more Rohingya planned to travel with human traffickers affiliated with AA.

“During the meeting with the AA, Rohingya requested them to stop human trafficking. But so far that hasn’t happened yet. Everyday 400–500 people are fleeing and I heard that the AA is earning a lot of money for its operations by supporting human trafficking. The AA also informed us to be ready for recruitment [...] to counter the MAF.”

- 60, MALE, KYAUKTAW

MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP



ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

Respondents in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships reported concerns over detentions, extortion, movement restrictions, ‘tax’ collection, and forced labour by the ULA/AA. In Buthidaung Township, the ULA/AA reportedly raided Pyin Hpyu Paung Zar village and forced Rohingya villagers to leave after finding a letter with the word “ARSA” written on a village wall. Also in Buthidaung Township, the AA reportedly seized lands owned by Rohingya to expand roads. In both Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships, the AA reportedly detained Rohingya who had returned from Bangladesh, accusing them of affiliation with ARSA, and some disappeared after this. In Maungdaw Township, the ULA/AA reportedly collected data on Rohingya displaced to Yangon and Bangladesh during Operation 1027 in Rakhine State and confiscated property owned by these people.

“The AA confiscates lands owned by the Rohingya who fled to Yangon and Bangladesh. We think they are worse than the MAF in their treatment of Rohingya. The AA also accused those who fled to Yangon of being MAF supporters in order to seize their properties. This month, the AA started to collect rent from shops that were owned by Rohingya who fled to Bangladesh and to Yangon. They forbid the relatives of those Rohingya from collecting rent from those shops.”

- 24, MALE, BUTHIDAUNG

... INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

Respondents in Pauktaw, Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, and Minbya townships said they had good relations with their Rakhine neighbours and interacted regularly with the Rakhine community, while respondents in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships reported limited interaction with Rakhine people. Respondents expressed increased concern about Rohingya armed actors targeting Rakhine civilians, saying that these attacks had increased mistrust and intercommunal tensions. Rohingya in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships stressed that although they regularly interacted with Rakhine businessmen, they often faced verbal abuse. Although respondents in Maungdaw Township welcomed the AA’s reopening of the mosque in Maungdaw town, they suggested that AA did this to divert attention from its killings in Buthidaung Township.

“Most businesses are dominated by Rakhines, and Rohingya have no choice but to buy things from Rakhines. They are always hostile to us and use abusive words in communicating with us. Because of the activities of Rohingya armed groups, the mistrust between the two communities is increasing. [...] The ULA/AA also allowed us to reopen the big mosque in Maungdaw town. I welcomed that as we want to coexist in peace with

the Rakhine people. But I heard that it opened the mosque to divert attention from the massacre of 600 Rohingya in Htan Shauk Khan village[.]”

- 25, FEMALE, MAUNGDAW

Respondents in Sittwe Township reported having good communication with their Rakhine neighbours, particularly in business. However, one expressed concern that although Rohingya people could access health-care services at private clinics owned by Rakhine people, the staff at those clinics prioritised Rakhine patients. He added that an organisation replaced Rohingya staff with Rakhine staff from Sittwe town, which Rohingya NGO workers felt was discrimination against them.

“Doctors at private clinics and hospitals prioritise seeing Rakhine patients rather than Rohingya people. Also, an organization replaced Rohingya staff with Rakhine people from Sittwe town last month, and we feel that it is discrimination against Rohingya staff. Before, they hired Rohingya community staff to work in camps and villages, but now they replaced them with Rakhine people. Camp-based Rohingya staff lost their job opportunities.”

- 28, MALE, SITTWE

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.

KYAUK TA LONE RELOCATION SITE, KYAUKPYU TOWNSHIP



/ PRIMARY CONCERNS

Respondents in Sittwe Township expressed concerns about the rising prices of food and other essentials because of restrictions on transport into the township. They also reported increasing food shortages and debt problems. They said that in camps, many people needed to buy food on credit and then repay their debts with cash assistance — but that irregular aid distribution meant many could not repay debts and shopkeepers faced losses.

“The prices of commodities are very high due to restrictions on the transportation of goods from Yangon to Sittwe Township. Rohingya street vendors and small shopkeepers cannot afford to buy food and commodities in the markets to resell here. We relied on aid; we used to buy food in the camp on credit and pay the shopkeepers when we received cash for food assistance. As we have not received regular cash assistance, many of us cannot pay our debts, and now some shopkeepers have lost their investment. For my family, the major challenge is food. I have eight members, and we can’t afford to buy enough rice to eat. [...] We only prioritise the children to eat.”

- 52, FEMALE, SITTWE

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

/ PRIMARY CONCERNS

Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township expressed serious concerns about food, healthcare, and malnutrition among children and mothers. They said that many people had died or suffered severe health complications due to these factors.

“Due to lack of money, some pregnant women delivered their baby at home and the baby died afterwards. Due to lack of nutritious food, breastfeeding mothers cannot feed breast milk to their babies. Some babies also died of malnutrition or lack of milk. Many elderly people cannot access healthcare services as they don’t have money to pay for the treatment.”

- 40, FEMALE, KYAUK TA LONE

“Many households face starvation. Some of them cannot access healthcare services as they don’t have any money. This month, a young man and an elderly man died from malnutrition. Two infants, a newborn and a one-month-old, also died.”

- 47, MALE, KYAUK TA LONE

One respondent in Taung Paw Ward (an ‘officially closed’ camp) in Myebon Township reported a lack of humanitarian assistance, including food and healthcare support. Respondents in Pauktaw Township reported concerns about ULA/AA pressure on camp leaders and village administrators to organise recruitment in camps and villages. She said that the ULA/AA ordered 20 Rohingya per village

to join its military training, claiming that this was for the protection of the Rohingya community. However, Rohingya respondents expressed concern that they might be sent to the frontline to fight against the MAF, and one suggested that the MAF might target the Rohingya community if people joined the ULA/AA.

“The AA has been recruiting in the camp. They said they would recruit 20 people from every village and camp. People are worried about it as they might be sent to the frontline to fight against MAF soldiers. If MAF knows about it, they might target our villages with airstrikes. On 9 October, the AA commander came here to recruit people.”

- 25, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

KYAUK TA LONE RELOCATION SITE, KYAUKPYU TOWNSHIP



ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township reported receiving hygiene kits and assistance to repair toilet facilities and roads. However, respondents reported urgently needing health-care services, food and nutrition for children and elderly people, warm clothes, and mosquito nets. They also expressed increased concern about increasing malnutrition cases among children and the elderly compared to previous months.

“As the winter is approaching, we need warm clothes and mosquito nets. Mosquito nets supplied by [an organisation] a long time ago are all damaged and we need new ones. We can’t afford to buy them ourselves as we don’t have any income. The weather here is very cold and we are not well nourished to stand the weather. Elderly people and children are mostly malnourished. They suffer from many health issues.”

- 40, FEMALE, KYAUK TA LONE

In Sittwe Township, organisations reportedly provided cash-for-food assistance, and one respondent reported cash assistance for pregnant women as well. However, respondents continued to convey food, nutrition, healthcare, and shelter support needs.

“In October, we received 45,000 Myanmar Kyat per person for one month. In the past, we used to receive only 35,000 [...], but this time they increased the amount. Pregnant women also received 35,000 Myanmar Kyat. We need shelter support as most of them are damaged. As the prices of food and other commodities increase, we face more difficulties in our livelihood. Many people face malnutrition, and due to lack of regular income many people are also unable to afford to access healthcare services.”

- 56, MALE, SITTWE

Respondents in Pauktaw and Myebon townships said they received cash assistance, but not for all household members. Respondents in Pauktaw

Township said that a Rakhine organisation providing cash assistance collected household data and removed family members not present from their lists, which would lead to more people losing assistance in coming months. Respondents in these areas expressed urgent needs for health-care assistance, especially for pregnant women, as well as NFIs and hygiene kits.

“This month, we received 35,000 Myanmar Kyat per person, but the assistance wasn’t provided to everyone in the household. We have five household members but we only received cash assistance for three people. [An organisation] also collected a list of people in each household for future distribution, but they did not add anyone missing and they removed people from the distribution list. Some people were traveling to Myebon Township for [work], but they insisted on removing them from the list.”

- 25, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

... ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

As with Rohingya villagers, respondents in camps in Pauktaw and Myebon townships reported a meeting in late September at which the ULA/AA promised to ensure equal rights but said Rohingya people must follow all ULA/AA rules, not support Rohingya armed actors, and not use the term “Rohingya”. Respondents in Pauktaw Township also reported that ULA/AA officials physically abused Rohingya businessmen for failing to pay ‘tax’.

“There is no difference between the AA and the MAF. Under the AA, we have to get travel permission, so it is basically the same. I think once the AA has taken over all of Arakan state, the persecution will become worse for us. The AA doesn’t recognise us as citizens of Arakan. Now, we are not even allowed to call ourselves Rohingya.”

- 25, MALE, PAUKTAW

Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township said that the MAF regularly interacted with the CMC and provided salaries for Muslim militia members in October. They said that the MAF allowed camp residents to travel to Kyaukpyu town for health-care and allowed Muslim militia members to meet their families and

receive medical treatment in Yangon. However, the MAF reportedly warned it might recruit camp residents.

“I have neither a positive nor a negative view on MAF. They have never provided any help to us, and they come to our camp and force people to do this and that whenever they want. However, while Rakhines have been restricted from movement, we are allowed to go. For emergencies, we are allowed to go to the hospital/clinic, even during the night. Now we can move freely, and militia forces are allowed to visit their families.”

- 47, MALE, KYAUK TA LONE

Respondents in Sittwe Township said that the MAF prohibited Rohingya people from going out, and Rohingya shops from operating, after 9pm, and punished violators. They reported extortion and physical abuse at checkpoints, but one said that the MAF replaced its Rakhine staff with Bamar officials in Sittwe Township. One added that the MAF had collected household data on Rohingya people and said Rohingya must vote in the election.

“The MAF held a meeting with around 60 people, including CMCs and community leaders from camps and villages, and said that individuals who hold ID cards were required to vote in the election. They also asked the

CMC to collect ID cards in camps. The CMC from my camp collected a list of people in October and submitted it to MAF’s township administration department.”

- 52, FEMALE, SITTWE

... INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

Respondents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township said they had good relationships with Rakhine and non-Rakhine neighbours, but they also said that some individuals spread hatred. They expressed concern over the increasing fighting in Kyaukpyu Township fear of greater discrimination if the AA captured Kyaukpyu. One said that although camp residents had good relationships with Rakhine neighbours, some Rakhine people had negative views of them because they joined the MAF’s recruitment.

“We have a good relationship with Rakhines and other ethnicities. Currently, there is no tension between Rakhine and Rohingya. Both communities are suffering the impact of the conflict [...]. As the MAF has been using Rohingya as their people’s militia and giving them responsibility for taking security duties, some of the Rakhine have a negative view of us.”

- 47, MALE, KYAUK TA LONE

ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

/ REFLECTIONS ON ...

Respondents in Sittwe and Pauktaw townships, and in Taung Paw Ward (an ‘officially closed’ camp) in Myebon Township, also noted generally positive relationships with Rakhine villagers. They said that relationships in business and marketplaces were generally good, but that some Rakhine people still called Rohingya “kalar” and held negative views about Rohingya armed actors. Rohingya in Sittwe Township said that some Rakhine people came to beg for food in Rohingya camps and villages, and that Rohingya who could afford to do so shared and donated food to them. Another respondent added that

Rakhine vendors interacted positively with Rohingya and avoided creating tensions. However, respondents in Sittwe Township expressed concern that Rakhine criminal gangs intentionally robbed and physically abused Rohingya in their neighbourhoods.

“Rakhine vendors in Sittwe town say that they are happy if we go and buy things from them and they do not like causing tensions between the two communities. So, we can buy commodities from the Rakhine shops in urban areas, but we need to worry about robbery on the way. I heard from others that Rakhine businessmen want

to do business together with Rohingya as well. [...] Rakhine people also come to our camp and Basara village to sell snacks and for other purposes every day.”

- 52, FEMALE, SITTWE

“At present, we have generally good relations with the Rakhine community. We are able to go to town and buy things from Rakhine shops. In my personal experience, I have not encountered any rude or hostile behaviour from Rakhine people.”

- 43, FEMALE, SITTWE

ROHINGYA CAMPS IN SITTWE TOWNSHIP



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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