

Families are struggling to cook: Why?

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WHAT MATTERS?

Humanitarian Feedback Bulletin on Rohingya Response

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Monsoon: Firewood shortage makes cooking a challenge.

This analysis is based on feedback collected in five ACF/ BBC Media Action information hubs from 28 May – 20 June. It has been analysed to understand the key issues being reported by the Rohingya community. This feedback comes from residents of camps 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 13 and 14.



The majority of feedback came from females (416 pieces), because these information hubs are close to the nutrition centres which are mostly visited by the women.

Analysis of community feedback suggests that cooking has been the main concern raised by the Rohingya community throughout June. A quarter of complaints raised by men, and one fifth of complaints raised by women during this time period were linked to cooking. Cooking has also been raised as a concern with Internews' community correspondents, and within weekly listener group discussions run by other agencies.

Lack of firewood is the main issue. Of the people who raised cooking as a concern, 72% said they were facing a firewood shortage, and 26% said they needed a gas stove in order to be able to cook to feed their families. The ongoing monsoon season is preventing people from collecting wood in the forest, and the wood is too wet to burn. Also, people mentioned that wood used to be distributed by humanitarian agencies every month. This has now changed to every two months, and is not enough to meet their needs.



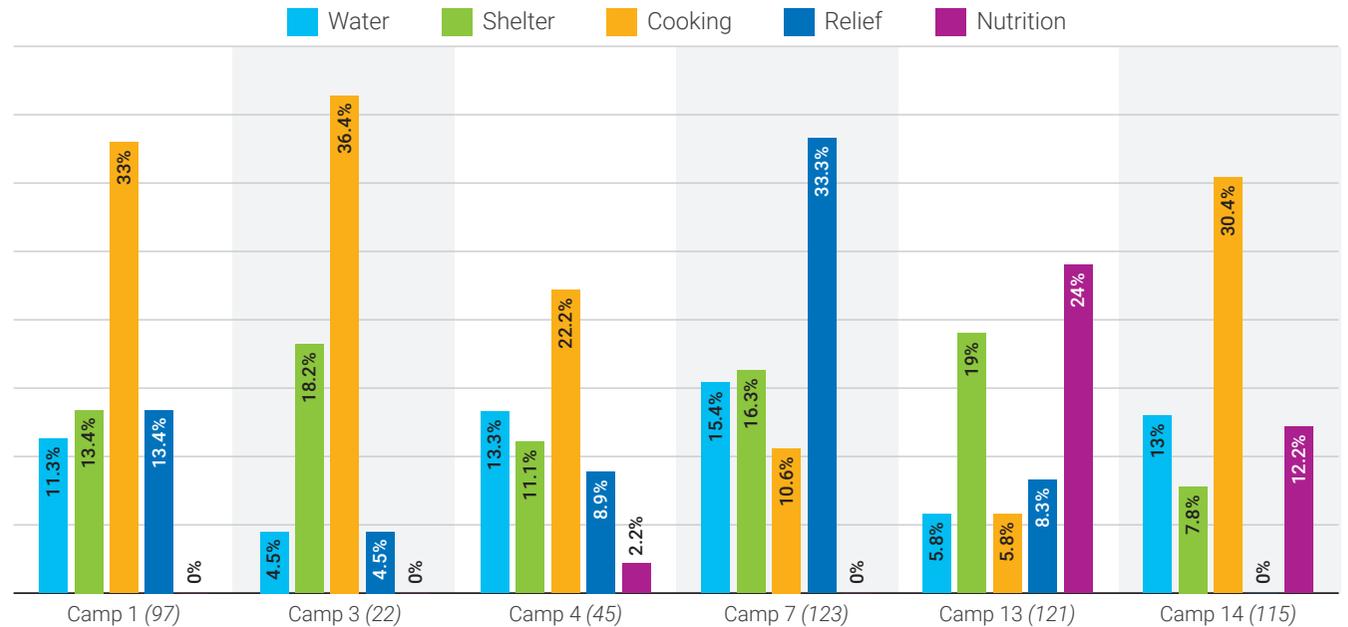
Due to rain we cannot go the mountains to collect firewood. Also, the wood is wet. For these reasons we are suffering very much. We do not have enough firewood to cook. We need firewood or a gas stove so that we can cook food."

- Male, Camp 7

Cooking was the main concern raised in all camps except camp 7, where relief (e.g. Quantity and quality of food, loosing or not getting different cards, not getting NFI properly and Mahjis not distributing reliefs properly etc.) is the main concern, and camp 13, where nutrition is the main concern followed by shelter and water. It is not currently clear why firewood worries are less pronounced in these two camps.

The second highest concern for men across all the camps was shelter (19% of complaints), while for women it was relief (15% of complaints). The problems related to shelter included small living space, lack of construction material, and rain water entering their shelter causing waterlogging. The relief related problems are mostly around not having their desired food.

Major concerns of the Rohingyas by camp



*number mentioned in parentheses are bases of the calculation

Tensions increase as host communities struggle to make a living

“ Because of the Rohingya influx my income has decreased. Compared to the previous situation, I now earn 200 taka for the same work which used to pay 500 taka. This has make my life very hard.”

- Male, Age 42, Teknaf

The biggest concern raised by local host-community audiences of the June 2nd Betar Sanglap, a radio debate programme, was the financial crisis they are currently facing. Regardless of age, gender and occupation, audiences mentioned three key issues affecting their livelihoods: the Naf river fishing ban (put in place to reduce cross border movement); the Rohingya people working as day laborers at a very low wage, which they feel is pushing the daily rate down and reducing the work available for local people; and a perception that use of land by Rohingya people is making it difficult for local people to continue agricultural activities and collect wood.

Audiences also raised concerns about environmental degradation, perceived rising criminal activities by Rohingya people, educational problems and fear of Rohingya people attacking or stealing from them. Local newspapers have also been reporting on the increasing tension between the two communities.



Rohingya Community Feedback – World Refugee Day and returns, drugs, landslides and relocation and water

World Refugee Day and returns

“ We have heard that today World Refugee Day is celebrated across camps. They [the Rohingya community] shared that all the [Rohingya] people who lost their homes, family, land and relatives, are living here in agony. Everyone is concerned about them. They [the people who participated in rallies and marches] said that they will not take NVC [National Verification Card], they will not live in camps in Myanmar, they are not Bengali either. They [the government of Myanmar] need to accept us as Rohingya, they need to return us back our own homes and lands. [...]”

- Man, 48, Camp 1W

“ We have seen that near Lambashia Bazaar, many people stood next to the road, holding banners and posters; the banners say: ‘Not: Bengali, Yes: Rohingya.’ Also, through many of the posters the community expressed that they want dignity, security, and citizenship. They also told us that today is World Refugee Day and to have a look at what they are doing. The community members [...] are very concerned that they don’t know when and how or if they will ever return to Myanmar. [...]”

- Man, 56, Camp 1W

There was a rise in community feedback regarding citizen rights in Myanmar and related themes in connection to World Refugee Day. Some of the Rohingya community shared that they do not want a National Verification Card (NVC) as they do not consider themselves as Bengali but as Rohingya who should be recognized as citizens of Myanmar. Some community members have also requested international organisations convince the Government of Myanmar to do more to enable their safe return. Individuals have also expressed frustration and disappointment that so far, no initiatives regarding their safe return to Myanmar seem positive and actionable to them.

This analysis is based on feedback collected from May 20th to June 30th, 2018 by 13 to 20 Internews community correspondents and one feedback manager using the ETC Connect app and data collected through ACF/BBC Media Action information hubs from 28th May to June 20th, 2018. In total, 1,063 interactions have been analysed to present the concerns and questions of the Rohingya community.

Internews

Total Feedback



528

259

269

ACF / BBC Media Action

Total Feedback



535

416

119

Drugs

“ Our children are being spoiled because of yaba [drug] tablets.”

- Man, 45, Kutupalong RC

“ Yaba businessmen are spreading yaba addiction to the young people and children, which is bad. We have heard that the government [of Bangladesh] has taken initiatives to shoot people involved in yaba business, and we are happy that we will be safe.”

- Man, 30, Kutupalong RC

Rohingya community members have reported hearing of yaba drug consumption by some adolescents and adult men in camps. Some community members said that they heard that in some drug raids innocent Rohingya people were killed too. They shared concern that drug dealers would easily take advantage of helpless, economically vulnerable people in the camps if drug related issues are not carefully monitored and dealt with. Some Rohingya people therefore asked for support from law enforcement to handle issues related to drugs and disciplinary actions in Rohingya camps.



Landslides & relocation

“ It has been two months that they said they will relocate us [to a safer place]. Till today, we have no news regarding relocation. Now it has been raining a lot, and my home is broken because of landslides and an uprooted tree. We are suffering a lot, we want to move from this place immediately. Please tell them to relocate us as soon as possible. We are very scared of living here because of landslides.”

- Man, 50, Camp 1W

“ We have heard that some homes are broken in Balukhali; our houses are on the top of the hill; that's why our houses got wrecked after a continuous rain of five days. [...] We don't know where they will relocate us. If they relocate us, that's okay. They need to provide us exactly the same house we had here [the one that got broken]; then only we will move from here to the new place.”

- Man, 32, Camp 1W

Since mid-February community feedback has included themes related to extreme weather events. One of the continuous themes from the data are concerns about landslides and relocation. While some individuals are reluctant to be relocated others are keen to move to a safer space. However, the collected feedback shows that some community members are not clear who they can contact if they want to be relocated.



Lack of Water

“ We are suffering a lot in our block for not having sufficient water that we all need. There is only one tube-well in our block. We can't drink enough, can't bathe properly, can't cook. We wait for rain to collect rain water. When there is no rain, we suffer a lot. If you try to help us get a tube well for this block, it would be very good.”

- Woman, 20, Camp 18

“ We are suffering a lot due to lack of pure water, and we do not have any tube well in our block. We always have to go to another camp to collect water. There are 110 households in our block. When we go to another block to collect water, residents of that block yell at us and sometimes do not let us collect water. We wait in queue for a long time. We suffer, yet we are patient because we need water. We informed the majhee in our block, he is trying to get a tube well for our block. Some NGOs told us that they will dig a tube well in our block, but they just say they will do it, and they never do anything. How can we get a tube well for our block?”

- Woman, 26, Camp 1E

Lack of water has been a continued concern in the data since March 2018. Sub-themes of these concerns are long distances to water sources and tube wells that have dried out. Some community members said that even though they have requested tube wells from both majhees and NGOs several times no action has been taken. An additional issue that some individuals shared was that community members from other blocks are reluctant to share their water resources.

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

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

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions regarding *What Matters?*, you are welcome to get in touch with team by emailing info@cxbfeedback.org