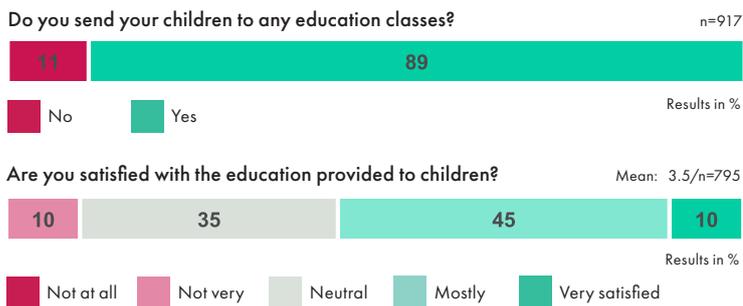
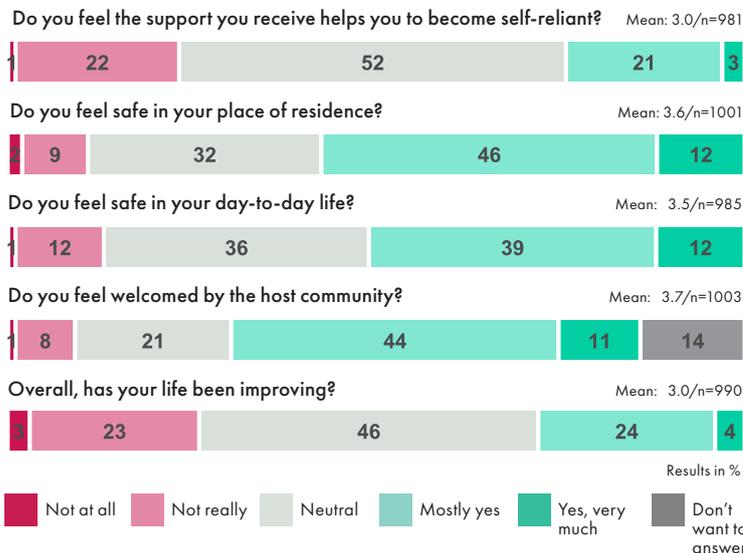


Bulletin • Rohingya

Safety and outlook



Summary findings



Factors that would make people more optimistic about their future

-  Permanent / better housing
-  Returning home / information about repatriation
-  More / better food
-  Staying with family
-  Water
-  Employment

Background

This thematic bulletin on safety and outlook presents findings and recommendations based on Ground Truth Solutions' (GTS) surveys conducted with 1,003 Rohingya in Bangladesh. The survey, carried out in July 2018, was administered in 23 collective sites in the Ukhia and Teknaf sub-districts. The goal is to use the views of affected people to inform the humanitarian response and to adjust programming to their priorities. GTS developed the survey questions and the sampling in conjunction with the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Needs and Population Monitoring unit (NPM), Internews, and Translators without Borders (TWB). GTS will track how these perceptions evolve over time in two additional survey rounds over the next eight months. The majority of questions are closed and use a 1-5 Likert scale to quantify answers.

Demographics 1003 respondents

Location	Gender
Kutupalong Expansion Site*	58% (579)
Camps 14, 15, 16	17% (167)
Camps 21, 22, 23	10% (102)
Camps 24, 26, 27	10% (105)
Kutupalong & Nayapara RC	5% (50)
	Gender
	55% (554) Male, 45% (449) Female
	Age
	18-30 years 38% (386)
	31-40 years 30% (301)
	41-85 years 32% (316)

All data were analysed according to demographic variables and disaggregated by gender, age, location, date of arrival in camps, disability, and gender of the head of household. Where considerable, these differences are mentioned in the text. The surveys were conducted by trained NPM enumerators who speak Bengali and Chittagong, and who received Rohingya language training from TWB. Data was collected using a random sampling strategy between 24 July and 6 August. The survey data was supplemented by Key Informant Interviews (KII) among humanitarian agencies and focus group discussions within camps.

Key takeaways

Only 24% of Rohingyas surveyed feel the support they receive will help them become self-reliant. They cite their inability to work and earn money and the need for more permanent housing as the main reasons for this (also see the [Needs and services](#) bulletin). Sentiments regarding overall life improvement are mixed, with 37% of men saying that their lives are improving compared to 17% of women. Rohingya who have been in the camps since before October 2016 do not feel any more self-reliant and do not see any greater improvements in their lives than newer arrivals.

When asked what would make them more optimistic about their future, many cited the ability to return home safely and peacefully, but only with certain assurances, including access to employment/livelihoods, education, and healthcare, as well as the granting of citizenship. A survey of over 3,000 Rohingya in Cox's Bazar, the *Forced Migration of Rohingya: The Untold Experience*, reveals that 79% want to return to Myanmar as soon as possible and would be most motivated by the granting of citizenship, the prosecution of perpetrators, and the recognition of Rohingya ethnicity by the Myanmar government.¹

Ninety-two percent of respondents in the camps have children, and 89% are sending their children to some sort of educational programme. Just over half of the parents surveyed are satisfied with the education their children receive, while many said that better education for their children would make them feel more optimistic about their future. Those who are unable to send their children to classes cite the distance from the nearest school or madrasa as the main obstacle.

Fifty-eight percent of respondents feel safe in their place of residence. In general, people feel slightly less safe in their day-to-day life; walking around the camp, travelling to shops or distribution points, and receiving aid than they do in their own shelters. Feelings of safety are highest in Camp 21 (Chakmarkul) and lowest in Camp 22 (Unchiprang), where 3% report feeling unsafe compared to 34%, respectively. Only 39% of people with a disability feel safe in their shelter, compared to 58% among those without a disability.

Women, particularly those between the ages 31 and 40, feel less safe in their place of residence than men, with 47% of female respondents reporting feeling safe, compared to 65% of men. Interestingly, women feel less safe in their own shelters than in their day-to-day life in the camps. Men are the opposite, feeling less safe in the camps than within their own shelters.

Poor lighting or complete lack of lighting at night was the main reason given for feeling unsafe. Respondents also cited strangers or animals being able to enter the shelters, lack of safe access to water and sanitation facilities, lack of privacy and safe spaces, human trafficking, as well as flooding as common reasons for feeling unsafe. Focus group discussion participants also mentioned theft as big factor in feeling unsafe in shelters. Protection partners in Cox's Bazar identified safety concerns surrounding distribution points in the camps. Children are often sent to distribution points unaccompanied where grooming is easier, and women and girls report facing verbal/sexual harassment, particularly as distributions are often crowded with men and might be far from women's households.²

Only 9% of respondents feel that the host community has been unwelcoming. However, in Camp 23 (Shamlapur), a coastal village where refugees live in close quarters with locals, 24% feel unwelcome. The main reasons given for feeling welcome are that the locals are helpful, friendly, and share their land, while those who feel unwelcome cite arguments, attacks, and locals not allowing refugees to collect firewood. Focus group discussion participants reported that sometimes host communities attack refugees if they go to collect firewood from the forests surrounding the camps.



There is very little improvement in my life. It would be better if I could get a job.

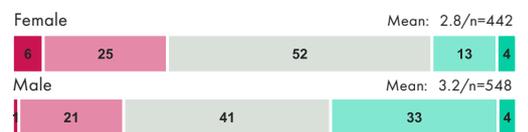


Children like the lessons. Slowly they know how to read and write.

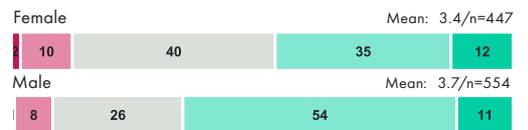


There is no opportunity to get a job. Send us back to our country with proper recognition.

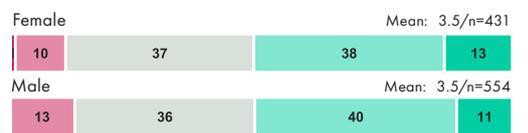
Overall, has your life been improving?



Do you feel safe in your place of residence?



Do you feel safe in your day-to-day life?



Results in %



¹ Habib, Mohshin and Jubb, Christine and Ahmad, Salahuddin and Rahman, Masudur and Pallard, Henri, *Forced Migration of Rohingya: The Untold Experience* (Ontario, 2018), 81.

² Child Protection Sub-Sector, Gender Based Violence Sub-Sector and Protection Working Group, "Safe Distributions: Guidelines to Reducing Risks for Children, Adolescents, Women and for Persons with Specific Needs in Non-Food Items and Food Distributions" (2018)

Recommendations

1. There are a series of ongoing discussions within various working groups around much-needed lighting in the camps; the data confirms this need. **Extensive lighting improvements, especially around WASH facilities are needed.** Moreover, consider providing every household with solar lamps and vulnerable individuals, particularly women and girls, should be provided with torches.
2. There also appear to be **issues around access to WASH facilities**, especially regarding the safety of vulnerable groups and the distance they must travel to get to the facilities. While the location of facilities is often a result of the physical environment, camp management should do everything possible to provide safe and easy access in line with accepted standards. This includes separate WASH facilities for men and women.
3. As mentioned in the Needs and services bulletin, there is a strong imperative to improve shelters. Better shelter would not only protect against flooding and landslides, but also help to improve privacy. This would greatly help with feelings of security in the camps, especially among women and those with disabilities. **Calls for better, more permanent housing come out of the data loud and clear.**
4. There is a **clear need to better support women** as a group. While the Feedback and trust bulletin calls for more women and girl-friendly spaces to ensure female voices are heard, there also seems to be a need to do more to create a safer environment in these spaces, where mother-to-mother support, case management services, and psychosocial support can be offered. Awareness raising on issues such as gender-based violence and services available might encourage more women to attend these spaces. Such awareness raising should also include engagement with men. Some KII participants suggested that providing specific items, such as culturally appropriate clothes, might make women feel more comfortable about leaving their shelters to access such services. A recent report also suggested that having separate aid distributions for men and women might increase feelings of dignity among Rohingya women.
5. The Needs and services bulletin calls for more livelihood programming, partly as a way to increase cash circulation in order to meet needs. Similarly, it is important to scale up such programmes to **increase positive feelings of empowerment and some sense of self-reliance**. This can include cash-for-work as well as learning opportunities (training in life skills and handcrafts). As always, for women and girls, these should happen in the respective friendly spaces. It is also important to review education opportunities within the camps. There is strong demand for formal education classes. Because this was identified as a source of optimism for the future, agencies would do well to focus on increasing access where possible.
6. One final source of concern is misinformation. Internews' Rumour Tracking highlights the **danger of misinformation and the role it can play in undermining feelings of safety**. There seems to be a role for communication in addressing safety issues, especially surrounding possible repatriation. As the Needs and services bulletin identified, clear and consistent messaging on the topic is difficult, but it would help alleviate concerns within camps. Similarly, the recent communication push on explaining the camp registration process should continue as this has also been identified as a source of fear and anxiety.



We just want to return to our country peacefully.



How much can we develop, being in a foreign land and taking help from others?



What will happen in the future? The help we're currently getting is not enough...we are facing great difficulties.



I want to stay together with all my family and give my children the opportunity to get an education.

Ground Truth Solutions is an international non-governmental organisation that provides the humanitarian sector with tools to systematically listen, learn, and act on the views of affected people. Our goal is to make the perceptions of affected people the touchstone and driver of humanitarian effectiveness.

For more information about GTS surveys in Bangladesh, please contact Kai Hopkins (Senior Programme Manager - kai@groundtruthsolutions.org) or Rebecca Hetzer (Programme Officer - rebecca@groundtruthsolutions.org).

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BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

³ Humanitarian Policy Group and Overseas Development Institute, "Dignity and the displaced Rohingya in Bangladesh" (August 2018).