

Bulletin • Rohingya

Safety and outlook

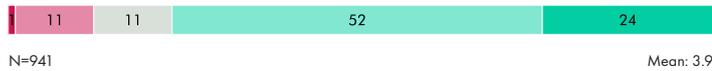


Summary findings

Do you feel safe in your shelter?



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



Do you feel the support you receive helps you to become self-reliant?

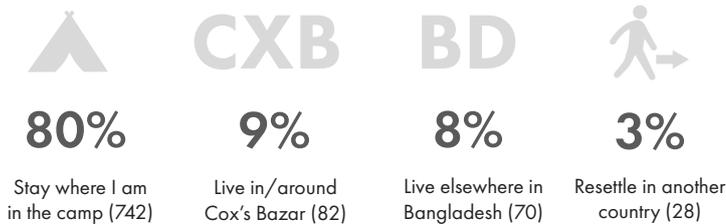


Overall, has your life been improving?



● Not at all ● Not really ● Neutral ● Mostly yes ● Yes completely

If you were not able to return safely to Myanmar in the next 5 to 10 years, and you could decide where you lived with your family, where would you want to live?



This thematic bulletin on safety and outlook presents findings and recommendations based on Ground Truth Solutions' (GTS) surveys conducted with 943 Rohingya in Bangladesh. The survey, carried out in October 2018, was administered in 24 collective sites in the Ukhiya and Teknaf subdistricts. It is the second round of data collection, with the first taking place in [July 2018](#). The goal is to use the views of affected people to inform humanitarian response and adjust programming accordingly. GTS will continue to track how these perceptions evolve over time, with the next survey round scheduled for spring 2019.

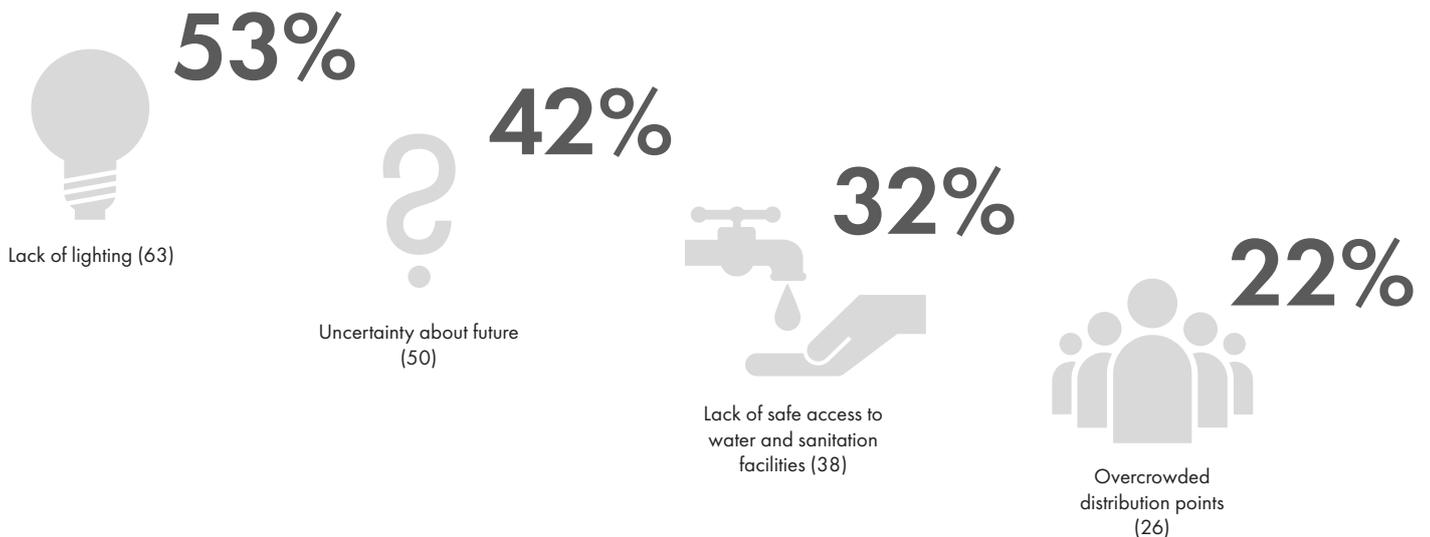
GTS will publish four bulletins from the second round of data collection on the Rohingya response: two more addressing Rohingya perspectives on [feedback and relationships](#) and [needs and services](#); and one on social cohesion, which will include the views of both Rohingya and host community. Separately, there will be dedicated reporting on the views of the host community, which will cover their perceptions on issues such as needs and safety.

Trend in mean scores since July

- ▲ Increase in mean score of 0.5 or more
- △ Increase in mean score of less than 0.5
- ▬ No change in mean score
- ▽ Decrease in mean score of less than 0.5
- ▼ Decrease in mean score of 0.5 or more

Reasons for feeling unsafe in day-to-day life n=120

Only the top four responses are shown. Percentages do not total 100 because respondents could choose multiple options – the number of times an option was chosen is displayed in parenthesis.



Key takeaways

The majority of Rohingya surveyed **feel safe in their shelters and in their day-to-day lives in the camps**. Feelings of safety have improved since the last survey conducted during the monsoon season in July.

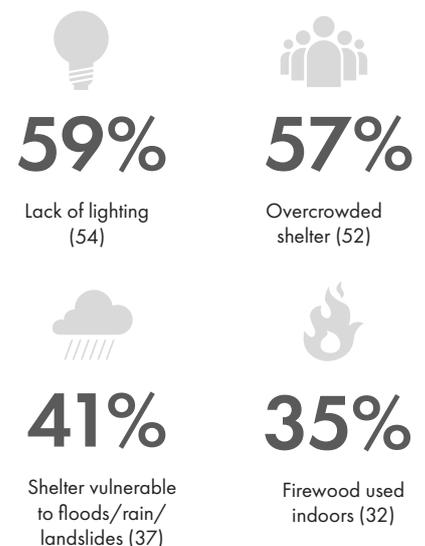
It is important to note that these surveys were carried out before news of the decision to begin repatriation in November 2018 had reached the Rohingya communities. According to the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) Situation Report covering 30 October to 12 November, this news has resulted in heightened anxieties and concerns across all camps,¹ and despite plans to postpone repatriation until after the upcoming election, concerns are likely to remain.

Those living in Camp 23 (Shamlapur) feel particularly safe in their day-to-day lives, with only 2% responding negatively, while in Camps 7 and 26 (Nayapara) safety is a greater concern, with 26% and 32% saying they feel unsafe, respectively. Unlike the responses in July, there was no notable difference between how safe male and female respondents, or those with a disability, feel in their shelters. Male respondents, however, do feel slightly safer in and around the camps.

Among those who feel unsafe, both within shelters and in the camps, lack of lighting is the most common reason given. Interestingly, it seems that those in camps with less lighting, feel less safe. For example, respondents from Camps 1E, 8W, 20 ext. and 26 (Nayapara) where there is less lighting, feel least safe. Respondents feel safer in Camps 12, 13, 15, 21 (Chakmarkul) and 23 (Shamlapur), where there is more lighting.²

Overcrowding and vulnerability to the elements, including floods, rain and landslides, are key factors that contribute to unease *within* shelters. A lack of safe access to water and sanitation (WASH) facilities, including toilets and showers, is also cited as a cause of vulnerability in the camps, especially among women. Specifically, lack of separate WASH facilities for men and women concerns women, especially at night.³ Uncertainty about the future also makes Rohingya feel unsafe. This has likely been compounded by news of possible repatriation, which has seen Rohingya “increasingly unwilling to engage in services for fear of being linked into the repatriation process,” especially until guarantees on conditions, including security from violence, basic rights and citizenship, are made.⁴

Reasons for feeling unsafe in shelters n=91



Only the top four responses are shown. Percentages do not total 100 because respondents could choose multiple options – the number of times an option was chosen is displayed in parenthesis.

1 Inter Sector Coordination Group, “Situation Report Rohingya Refugee Crisis” (15 November, 2018)

2 Site Management Sector Cox’s Bazar, “Camp Solar Street Lighting Coverage” (10 October, 2018)

3 BBC Media Action, Internews, and Translators without Borders, “What Matters?” (Issue 15, December 2018)

4 Site Management Sector Cox’s Bazar, “Camp Solar Street Lighting Coverage” (10 October, 2018)

While **both male and female respondents name lack of lighting, uncertainty about the future and lack of safe access to WASH facilities as the main reasons for feeling unsafe** in their day-to-day lives, there are some divergences of opinion between genders. Female respondents are more concerned about theft and overcrowded spaces and distribution points than male respondents. Male respondents name a lack of access to safe spaces, verbal harassment, attacks, fights and violence as reasons for feeling unsafe in camps more often than female respondents.

If Rohingya are unable to return to Myanmar, **80% would want to remain in the camps, as opposed to integrating into the host community in the Cox's Bazar area or moving elsewhere in Bangladesh.** This suggests that challenges to social cohesion between Rohingya and locals remain.

Over half of Rohingya surveyed feel that the support they receive helps them become more self-reliant, with particularly positive sentiments in Camps 12, 13, 17 and 23 (Shamlapur). Sixty-three percent of those living in Camp 27 (Jadimura) and 60% in Camp 8W do not feel this is the case. Newer arrivals also feel far less self-reliant than those who have lived in the camps for longer, and notably less than Rohingya born in Bangladesh. Those with disabilities feel slightly less self-reliant.

Looking to the medium/long-term, if respondents were to remain in Bangladesh for the next 5-10 years, they would like to **continue receiving support from international agencies** (also see [Needs and services](#) bulletin), but equally, **they would like the opportunity to work for a wage.** This demand for some self-reliance through work is unsurprising given recent research that linked employment to feelings of dignity among the Rohingya.⁵ This might require legal access to the job market, which brings about its own challenges. Most people said that if they had the right to work, however, they would appreciate training to gain new skills to access any available work opportunities. While the majority said they would do any type of work, many expressed a preference for working in agriculture, farming, fishing or forestry.

Sentiments around whether lives are improving are mixed, varying from camp to camp. Those living in Camps 6, 12, 13, 15, 22 (Unchiprang) and 23 (Shamlapur) are generally positive, with between 71–77% in each camp saying they feel their lives are improving. In contrast, only 35% in Camp 27 (Jadimura) and 37% in Camps 1E, 2E and 16 feel their lives are improving.

Cash distributions were cited most frequently as the factor that would make Rohingya's lives in Bangladesh better, as well as improved, more permanent shelters. The demand for cash is a consistent message that comes out of all the surveys (see more in the [Needs and services](#) bulletin).

Recommendations

It is positive to see that respondents feel safer than they did in July. **This should not, however, be cause for complacency**, especially given the on-going uncertainty around repatriation. Plans regarding repatriation are largely in the hands of the Bangladeshi Government, however, all efforts within the humanitarian community's control should be made to continue making Rohingya feel safe. This includes extending lighting within the camps in accordance with the [Sphere Standards](#), especially around WASH facilities where women and girls continue to feel at risk. Effort should also be made to improve shelter ahead of the next monsoon or cyclone season, as mentioned in the [Needs and services](#) bulletin.

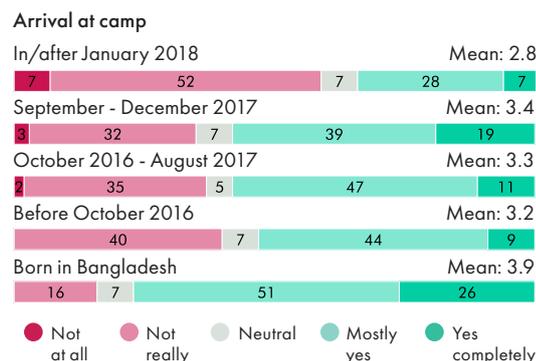
Agencies should **double-down on efforts to address gender-based violence (GBV)**. This includes the work started as part of the 16-days of activism and the efforts to de-normalise GBV, as recommended by the recent BBC Media Action report.⁶ It is also important to ensure sufficient GBV support services are available and well-communicated across the camps. According to a recent Innovations for Poverty Action report, Rohingya do not feel there is enough support for victims of GBV, and moreover that there is not enough trust in the services that are provided

Reasons for feeling unsafe in day-to-day life - male respondents n=58	%
Lack of lighting	53
Uncertainty about future	36
Lack of safe access to WASH facilities	24
Lack of access to safe spaces	24
Verbal harassment	19
Attacks/fights/violence	19

Reasons for feeling unsafe in day-to-day life - female respondents n=62	%
Lack of lighting	52
Uncertainty about future	47
Lack of safe access to WASH facilities	39
Overcrowded spaces/distribution points	29
Theft	23
Area vulnerable to floods/rain/landslides	15

Only the top six responses are shown. Percentages do not total 100 because respondents could choose multiple options.

Do you feel the support you receive helps you to become self-reliant?



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

6 BBC Media Action, "Violence Against Women Within The Rohingya Community: Prevalence, Reasons And Implications For Communication" (November 2018)

for people to use them.⁷ Ensuring community involvement in the design and provision of any GBV services is critical to their take-up and success.

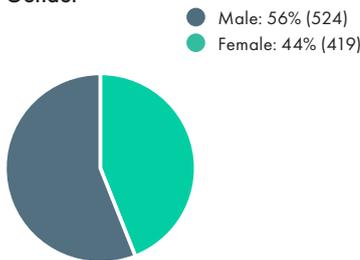
✔ **There is a need for more livelihood programming**, with Rohingya requesting the ability to earn money not just to be given it. This is important for Rohingya’s own sense of dignity as well as feelings of self-reliance. Such programming would be complementary to cash delivery, as mentioned in the [Needs and services](#) bulletin. Programming could include providing practical means for small-scale enterprises, such as sewing machines or fertiliser and seeds for small gardens. It could also include other support, such as training, micro-lending or community-lending groups. Advocacy at the policy level regarding legal access to the local job market would bring about its own challenges, although could still be valuable. A useful first step would be to commission an in-depth economic analysis of the possible impacts of granting Rohingya the right to work.

✔ Any livelihood programming, where possible, should be **inclusive of particularly vulnerable groups or those with specific protection needs**, including women, the elderly and those with disabilities. Several respondents mention an inability to work due to a physical disability and these people should not feel left behind. Considering a range of possible work options would be one way to ensure all groups have the opportunity to participate.

Demographics

943 Rohingya respondents

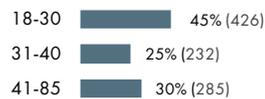
Gender



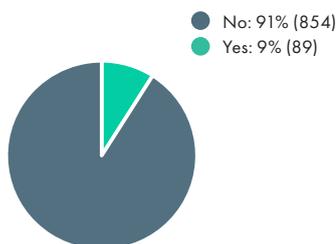
Head of household



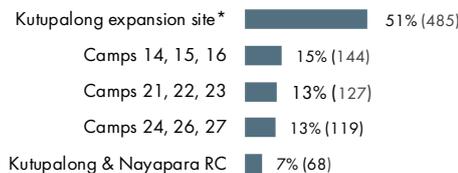
Age (years)



Respondents with a disability

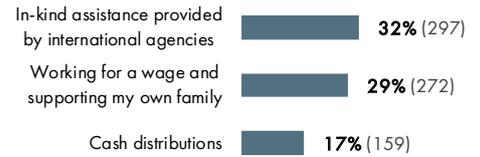


Location



*Camps 1E, 2E, 2W, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8W, 9, 12, 13, 17, 20 ext

If you were to stay in Bangladesh in the next 5 to 10 years, how would you like to support yourself and your family?



Only the top three responses are shown.



If I get full freedom to do any work, then I think my future will be brighter than it is today

Authors

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The majority of questions are closed and use a 1-5 Likert scale to quantify answers. 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 IOM Needs and Population Monitoring enumerators who speak Bengali and Chittagong, and who received Rohingya language training from Translators without Borders. Data was collected using a random sampling strategy between 24–31 October. The survey data was supplemented by Key Informant Interviews (KII) among humanitarian agencies.

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 (kai@groundtruthsolutions.org) or Rebecca Hetzer (rebecca@groundtruthsolutions.org).

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