



Bhasan Char Sectoral Needs Assessment (BCNA)

SNAPSHOT OF THE FINDINGS

December 2023

- **Safety and Security:** 86% of respondents did not face challenges in reporting safety or security incidents. This indicates majority of respondent found it relatively easy to report issues related to safety and security, highlighting effective mechanisms in place.
- **Unaccompanied and Separated Children:** **1%** of households having a child living away, primarily due to the lack of livelihood opportunities and security concerns.
- **Psychosocial Distress and Early Marriage:** **59%** of households reported psychosocial distress and instances of early marriage, with **3%** of households reporting early marriage.
- **Access to drinking water:** Despite the infrastructure challenges, **100%** of households have access to drinking water from deep tubewells, which is noteworthy.
- **Latrine condition:** **65%** of households reported latrine issues, for instance, poor latrine use, lack of light, and privacy concerns. These indicate critical areas for intervention to ensure dignity and safety in daily life.
- **Access to healthcare:** Around **60%** of individuals reported needing healthcare with **90%** of these able to obtain care when needed, among whom **35%** reported having had to pay for healthcare services¹. **51%** of births occurred at home with the assistance of an untrained person.
- **Shelter condition:** The widespread complaints about shelter conditions, **98%** reporting issues such as leaks during rain, and a stark lack of electricity (an average of only 3 hours of electricity per day), indicate significant gaps in basic living conditions.
- **Access to Education:** Access to education is constrained, **20%** of individuals aged 5-18 did not enroll in learning facilities. This indicates a gap on enrollment and regular attendance. While **100%** of the households reported that their children could travel to and learn in safe conditions. Barriers to education included limited access to learning materials, lack of qualified teaching staff, and inadequate WASH facilities.
- **Access to Livelihood:** **67%** of households struggle to find livelihood opportunities, in contrast, **8%** of persons with skills training are engaged in relevant livelihood opportunities. This finding seems to indicate that skills training improved access to find livelihood opportunities.
- **Satisfaction with Humanitarian Response:** A significant **91%** of households reported being satisfied with humanitarian assistance.

1. Healthcare services - In the questionnaire, healthcare services also capture informal private practices, generally conducted by Rohingya refugees themselves. For instance, by refugees who previously worked as doctors or health professionals in Myanmar.

Introduction

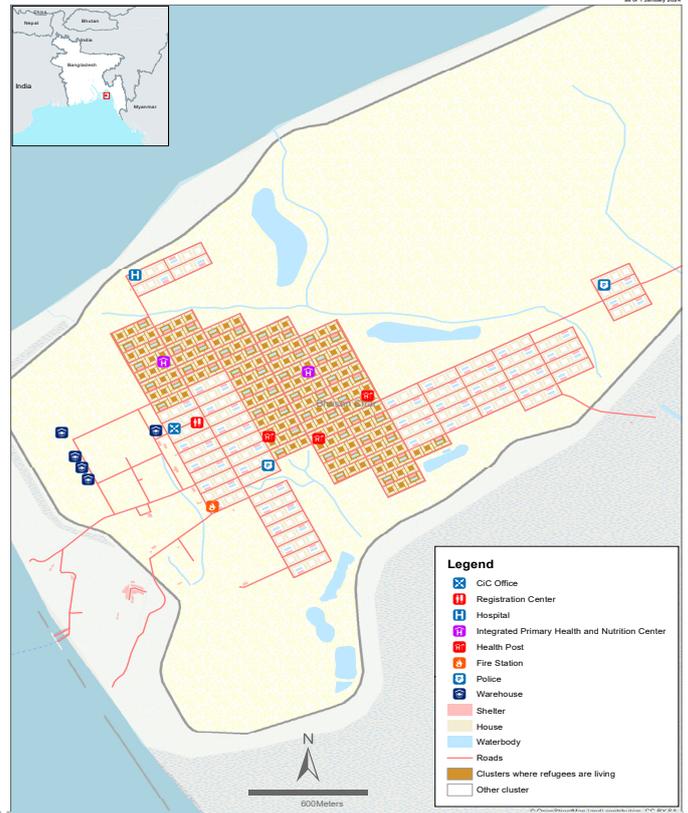
Following a wave of violence in August 2017 in the Rakhine State, Myanmar, approximately 730,000 Rohingya refugees fled to nearby Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. Nearly one million refugees reside in the overcrowded 33 camps. To address the overcrowding and to improve living conditions, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has started relocating refugees as part of a plan to move around 100,000 refugees to Bhasan Char. As of 31 December 2023, 32,560 Rohingya refugees live on Bhasan Char. UN involvement on Bhasan Char is aimed at supplementing and complementing the humanitarian activities of the national NGOs in support of this national led effort. The Government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, on behalf of the United Nations agencies working in Cox’s Bazar) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that established a common protection and policy framework for the humanitarian response on the island.

The gradual increase of the population on the island through relocations of Rohingya refugees from Cox’s Bazar has become imperative to have a more comprehensive view of the needs and capacities of the population on the island. Therefore, against this background, a joint multi-sector assessment was implemented in 2023 through the established sector coordination mechanism and in collaboration with all stakeholders involved in the Bhasan Char response, aiming to fill the existing information gaps.

The specific objectives of the Bhasan Char Sectoral Needs Assessment (BCNA) were (1) to provide a comprehensive baseline of refugee population needs on Bhasan Char; (2) to plan and design programme activities based on evidence and information for effective prioritization and resource allocation; (3) to harmonize data collection efforts to avoid duplication of efforts and resources, minimize intrusion into the lives of beneficiaries, maintain data compatibility, quality, and comparability; and (4) to provide the basis for a joint multi-stakeholder needs analysis and interpretation process.

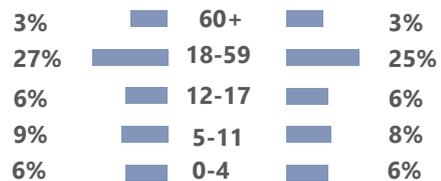
A total of 408 households across 59 clusters were surveyed using a stratified random sampling approach, which categorized the samples by the sex ratio of the household head and the presence of persons with specific needs (PSNs). Household survey data collection took place between 17th and 25th October 2023. Each interview was conducted with an adult household representative responding on behalf of the household and its members. Data collection was conducted by ACTED for the BCNA.

Household-level findings in this factsheet are presented at the overall response level and generalizable to all Rohingya refugee households living on Bhasan Char at a 95% confidence level and with 5% margin of error, unless stated otherwise.



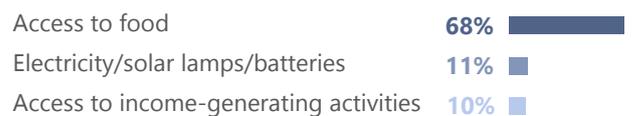
Survey Demographics

48% Males | Females 52%



Priority Needs

The most frequently identified priority assistance



Aid Distribution

95% of HHs reported **receiving humanitarian assistance** in the 12 months prior to data collection

1% of HHs reported **not having been satisfied with the aid** received, mostly because the assistance was insufficient

The most commonly reported type of assistance received:⁴



9% of HHs reported have **fewer goods and services** compared to last year

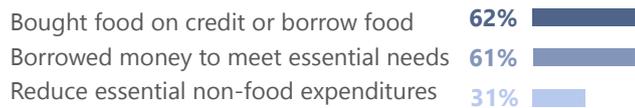
The top three reported basic needs that were insufficient, compared to last year:³



1. Households are considered having sectoral living standard gaps if they score 3 or 4. For more information, refer to annex 1.
 2. Respondents could select up to 3 options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%.
 3. Respondents could select up to 5 options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%.
 4. Respondents could select multiple options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%.

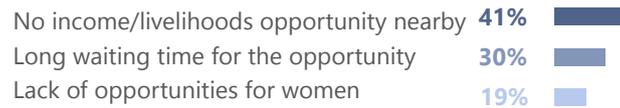
Livelihoods and Skills Development¹

The most common reported coping strategies were:²



67% of households reported facing obstacles in finding livelihood/income opportunities.

The most common reported obstacles faced in finding livelihood/income opportunities were identified as follows:²

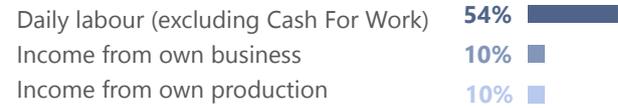


16% of households reported that their members had received some form of skills training.

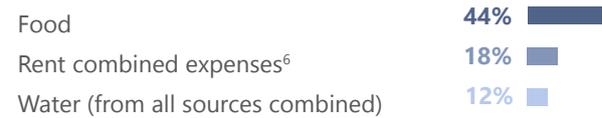
Median HH Income and Expenditure (month prior data collection)



The top three reported sources of HH income and cash in-flow in the 30 days prior to data collection:



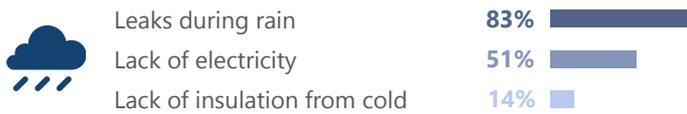
The main monthly HH expenditures in the 30 days prior to data collection:



8% of households reported not engaging in relevant livelihood opportunities/or self-employment.

Shelter & Camp Coordination and Camp Management (SCCCM)

The top three reported enclosure issues:²



40% of HHs reported **not having any improvement of their shelter** in the 12 months prior to data collection

78% of HHs reported **not living in a functional domestic space⁵**

The top three reported NFI needs:²

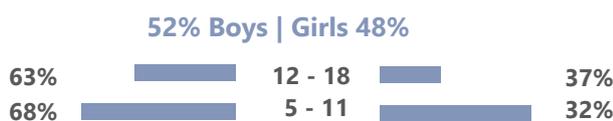


43% of HHs reported their **LPG refill ran out** before the next refill in the last 3 months

47% of HHs reported **not being aware of the complaint and feedback mechanism** to reach aid providers

Education

Reported regular school attendance by age and gender:⁷



80% of children aged 4 were reportedly receiving early childhood education

Among **20%** of HHs who reported that **at least one school-aged child (5-18 y.o.) was not enrolled or was not attending learning facilities regularly⁷** in the 2022-2023 school year, the most common reported barriers were:

- Early marriage and/or pregnancy
- Child helping at home /farm

1. Due to some technical differences between Refugee Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA), Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA), and BCNA, the findings of BCNA are not aligned with the other food security assessments. The Food Security sector will continue to reference the results of REVA and RIMA for their planning.

2. Respondents could select multiple options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%.

3. The effective exchange rate for Bangladesh was reported to be 109 Bangladeshi Takas (BDT) for 1 US dollar (USD) in September 2023.

4. Income sources: casual or daily labour, income from own business or trade, income from own production, cash for work, volunteer engagement in camps. Other cash inflow sources: loans from family or community members, humanitarian assistance, charitable donations, selling relief items, remittances, income from rent and other sources.

5. A functional domestic space where households can cook store water sleep, and use electricity without issues. If selected can do with issues or cannot do at all, domestic space was considered not functional.

6. Rent includes the expenses for leasing a shop, acquiring tool, renting rickshaw van, and other related costs.

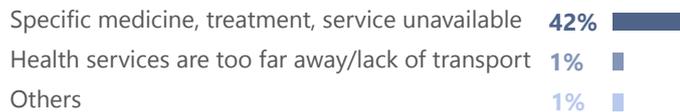
7. Definition of regularly: 4 days out of 5 or 80% of attendance.

Health

Among the **60%** of individuals who required healthcare services:

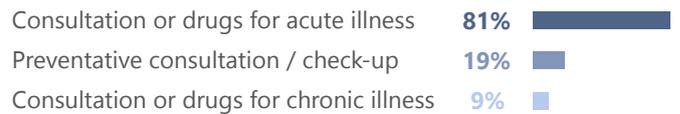


42% of HHs reported facing barriers to access healthcare*, with the top three reported barriers including:¹



*The question was asked to all HHs regardless of if they needed or not healthcare.

Among the **10%** of individuals who needed healthcare but were unable to receive it, **most reported gaps healthcare needs:**^{1,2}



The mode of transportation to the nearest functional healthcare facility:



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Sanitation:

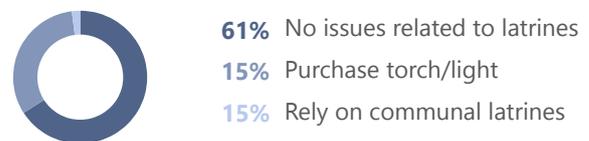
The proportion of households reporting problems related to latrine use, by gender of respondent:



64% of HHs reported sharing these latrines. On average, HHs **shared latrines with other HHs**

95% of HHs reported having minimum two waste disposal bins to segregate waste.

Access to adaption issues related to sanitation facilities:³



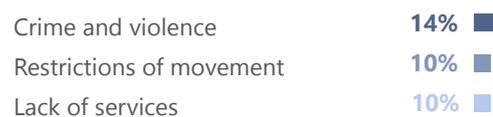
Water source and Collection:

100% of HHs reported the main source of water used by **their household for drinking is deep tubewell**

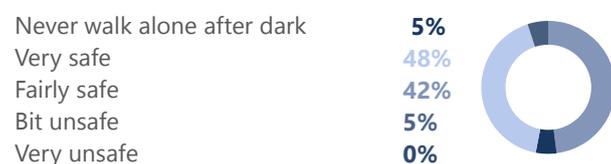
96% of HHs reported having observed to have access to **drinking water**

Protection

The top three reported protection risks:⁶



The feeling of safety after dark while walking alone in the camp:⁷



Psychosocial distress:

59% of HHs reported having a household member showing **signs of psychosocial distress or trauma**, of which **3%** HHs reported that at least one of their **children (3-17)** showed these signs⁸

Unaccompanied and Separated Children

1% HHs reported **children were not living at home, among whom 3%** reported children left the household **for marriage**

Top three reported service points for protection:⁹



1. Respondents could select multiple options except when selecting "None". Findings may therefore exceed 100%.
 2. Findings that are from very small subsets should be considered indicative only.
 3. Answers collected through observation when HHs gave permission to the field team to observe the handwashing facilities.
 4. Improved drinking water sources include tap stands such as public tap/standpipe, piped into compound, piped water tap/tap stand into settlement site, piped to neighbor, piped into dwelling.
 5. Households could choose 3 options except when selecting "No issues" (64%). Therefore, findings may exceed 100%.
 6. The feeling of safety after dark might be under-reported, given that the survey conditions (poor privacy inside and outside the shelter) didn't allow for total confidentiality.
 7. Signs of distress or trauma include: nightmares, lasting sadness, extreme fatigue without doing work, being often tearful; hopeless for the future; avoiding people, places or activities due to feelings of distress; anxiety or extreme worry for the future; extreme anger and out of control; uninterested in things that they used to like; unable to carry out essential activities; changes in appetite or sleep pattern compared to usual.
 8. Respondents could select multiple options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%.

Other indicators

Sector	Indicator	Categories	Percentage (%)
WASH	% of households segregating waste	No	6%
		Yes	94%
WASH	% of HHs with female family members feeling safe using the communal latrine at night/evening	No	31%
		Yes	69%
WASH	% of HHs engaging in coping mechanisms for water insufficiency	Reduce drinking water consumption (drink less)	3%
		Reduce water consumption for other purposes (bathing less, etc.)	1%
		Rely on less preferred (unimproved/untreated) water sources for drinking water	2%
		Rely on less preferred (unimproved/untreated) water sources for other purposes such as cooking and washing	0%
		Rely on surface water for other purposes such as cooking and washing	1%
		Fetch water at a source further than the usual one;	6%
		Send children to fetch water;	0%
		The household does not have any issue	85%
WASH	Average time taken for households to fetch water and comeback	Minutes	7 Minutes

Other indicators 1

Sector	Indicator	Categories	Percentage (%)
Protection	% of household members with psychosocial distress	Yes	59%
		No	41%
		Don't know	0%
Protection	% of household members who would feel at higher risk or in-danger when walking alone in their neighbourhood	No special group at risk	89%
		Equally at risk	3%
		Women	4%
		Girls	2%
		Men	1%
		People with disability	3%
Protection	% of households reporting members of their community having reported safety or security incidents, or accessed protection services for any other reason, having faced barriers when doing so in the 12 months prior to data collection, by type of barrier	Did not face any issue	86%
		Problem was not resolved according to household's satisfaction	4%
		Service was not effective in the past, so did not try	5%
		Do not know where to report	4%
		Do not trust the available services	1%
Protection	% of households reported someone they know left the camp	No	90%
		Yes	10%
Protection	% of households satisfied with behavior of aid workers in the area	No	5%
		Yes	95%
Protection	% of households that reported having UNHCR registration documents	No: at least one person in the household does not have a valid UNHCR registration document	5%
		Yes: every person in the household has a valid UNHCR registration document;	95%
Protection	% of households who reported community resources or coping mechanisms that were helpful to address their protection needs	No	10%
		Yes	90%

Other indicators 2

Sector	Indicator	Categories	Percentage (%)
Shelter/ SMS/NFI	% of households living in a functional domestic space	Cooking: Functional, with issues	23%
		Cooking: Functional, without any issues	77%
		Sleeping: Functional, with issues	54%
		Sleeping: Functional, without any issues	46%
		Electricity: Functional, with issues	78%
		Electricity: Not functional	1%
		Electricity: Functional, without any issues	21%
Shelter/ SMS/NFI	% of households by type of energy used for lighting	Battery powered flashlight, torch or lantern	1%
		Candle	1%
		Electricity (from diesel generator)	50%
		Electricity (including solar mini-grids, hybrid mini-grids and national grids)	4%
		Rechargeable flashlight, mobile, torch or lantern	1%
		Solar home system	42%
		Solar-powered lantern or flashlight	1%
Shelter/ SMS/NFI	% of households reporting alternative sources of cooking fuel when their LPG refill ran out in the last 3 months prior to data collection.	Bought LPG refills	23%
		Bought firewood	6%
		Collected firewood	62%
		Other	12%
Shelter/ SMS/NFI	% of households obtaining LPG cylinders from distribution sites by	Using a bicycle	1%
		Using help from friends or family	4%
		Using transportation such as a van rickshaw	93%
		Other	2%

Other indicators 3

Sector	Indicator	Categories	Percentage (%)
Education	% of school-aged children between 5 and 18 years old who were enrolled in learning facilities during 2022-2023 academic year, categorized by type of programme	Early Childhood Development/Education	2%
		Adolescent programme	8%
		Myanmar curriculum (KG to Grade Eight)	90%
Education	% of children aged between 5-18-year-old who were able to safely travel to learning facilities and learn in safe conditions at the learning facilities during the 2022-2023 school year	No	0%
		Yes	100%
Health	% of households by reported travel time to the nearest, functional health facility	How long (in minutes) does it take anyone from your household to get to the nearest, functional health facility by your normal mode of transportation?	9 Minutes
Health	% of households reportedly having accessed health care reporting having paid for health services in the 3 months prior to data collection	No	65%
		Yes	35%
Health	% of households reported difficulty with any of the following:	So hopeless that you did not want to carry on living	5%
		Has stopped caring properly for his/herself because of feeling distressed/disturbed or upset.	47%
		Any other negative feelings	32%
WASH	% of households reporting worrying about insufficient water for household needs (bathing, cleaning, washing, cooking, personal hygiene and others).	Never (0 times)	82%
		Rarely (1-2 times)	16%
		Sometimes (3-10 times)	2%
		Often (11-20 times)	0%