



Concerns about road networks and drainage systems

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Rohingya community's concerns about road networks and drainage systems

Source: Feedback collected between February 16 and March 2 by the Internews feedback collection team in camps 1E, 1W, 2E, 2W, 3, 4 and 4-extension using the KoBo Collect app. Feedback is collected in the Rohingya language using English and Bangla scripts. In total, 258 interactions were analysed and the top issues identified were concerns over lack of free movement in camps due to insufficient road networks; and sanitation issues caused by drainage system disrepair. A total of 40 concerns were reported that related to road and drainage issues.

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With the summer and rainy seasons approaching, many Rohingya community members expressed their concerns about issues with camp road networks and drainage systems. They are worried that these issues could get worse and think that immediate action is required to prevent health and safety complications. Their concerns include:

- Lack of developed access paths from their houses to their block and from their block to the main road
- Narrow, steep and poorly-maintained roads
- No stairs constructed from the top of the hill, which creates problems for traveling and fetching water and other supplies
- Safety issues as people are getting injured using the current road systems, especially children and older people
- Houses near drains and dustbins have become uninhabitable because of odour, pollution and flooding
- Many blocks still do not have functioning drains or dustbins

Rohingya respondents are increasingly concerned about the impact that the lack of adequate roads, paths and stairs has on free and easy movement within their blocks. Without this basic infrastructure, they are worried that they will be severely restricted during the monsoon season when trying to get provisions. Many women expressed their frustration about how the poor condition of roads and stairs have made essential tasks like fetching water arduous and sometimes dangerous. In many

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blocks, there are no concrete stairs from the top of the hill to the bottom where the wells and latrines are located. For many, there are only narrow paths cut into the sides of hills, which are very steep and the earth can easily give way. The community feels that daily chores, like transporting full containers of water or large sacks of food on these paths, will become even more difficult during the monsoon. Residents fear that this will impact their ability to get adequate water.

“ The road in our block is not in good condition. ... There are 180 houses in our block which are all on the hill side. ... We have to bring water from the bottom of the hill to the top. There are no stairs on the path that we walk on. The road is also small and narrow. We face many difficulties to get down the hill with a full water pot and any other things. It will be very difficult for us in the upcoming rainy season.”

– Woman, 52, camp 2W

Numerous Rohingya community members reported that they are concerned for the safety of their family members as many have fallen and injured themselves when climbing on the hill paths. People are anticipating that the houses and paths at the bottom of hills will be easily flooded and waterlogged. Those whose houses have no access to roads are worried that, in the upcoming hot and wet weather, ready and easy access to food and water will be reduced. Using steep hill paths is particularly difficult for older people and children. Older respondents, who made up more than half of the feedback collected, shared the



problems they face due to the bad condition of road networks and drains. Several older respondents noted that they were no longer able to go to the mosque at night to pray because of the danger of attempting to return on steep paths in the dark. Parents also relayed their worries that their children might get injured on these paths, which they use to go to school and to the mosque.

“ Our small children fall down while walking up and down on the steep road. Older people are also facing difficulties to walk up and down on the road. Older people are not able to go to the mosque at night to say prayers. They fear falling down while using the road to go to the mosque so, they say prayers at home.”

– Woman, 52, camp 2W

Waste disposal continues to be a major concern for the Rohingya community. Sixty percent of feedback related to issues with drainage systems and rubbish disposal. After 18 months, community members in many blocks reported that they still do not have

functioning drains or dustbins. In some blocks, existing drains were constructed with bamboo and have fallen into disrepair because of lack of maintenance and deterioration of the bamboo. This has caused the waste to collect on the surface instead. Many respondents reported that water from the drain flows back into their houses, contaminating them with refuse. Over the two-week feedback collection period, there were numerous accounts shared by Rohingya community members linking blocked drains to the increased spread of certain diseases in the camps. Many of those who had contaminated water flow into their houses linked this with the development of skin problems. In addition to health problems, the blocked drains cause bad odours and have led to increased tension among community members who continue to dump their waste on the blocked drains. Those who live near the drains expressed frustration that all kinds of waste has been thrown in the drain, resulting in blockages, and said that the continued disposal of waste at these sites has caused severe odour pollution and occasional flooding.

“ A drain was built in our block on the hillside. The houses above also throw rubbish into the drain and the people below us have filled up the drain by throwing rubbish in it. It stinks now. ... We are not able to stay inside our house. We are affected with various kinds of diseases because of the bad smell. We feel that it will be very good if the drain in our block is cleared so that we can avoid disease.”

– Man, 63, camp 1E

“ We have many problems in our block because we have no place to throw away rubbish. We don't have any dustbins either. Buckets are provided to people to carry rubbish to other blocks and volunteers are also engaged to do cleaning work in other blocks. ... It will be very good if an NGO provided us with buckets to carry rubbish and volunteers to do cleaning work in our block.”

– Woman, 50, camp 1E

Rohingya community members shared strategies for potential solutions to the issues that they are facing with roads and adequate facilities for waste disposal. As the summer and monsoon season is coming, they stressed the importance of timely action to address issues now, before it becomes impossible to do any infrastructure work. Respondents requested that concrete stairs be installed on hill paths to residences and the paths be widened where possible to make transit with goods easier and safer. To alleviate the waste disposal issues, they asked that existing drains be cleaned out where they have been clogged so that liquid waste can be disposed of properly and not create more issues. Blocks which do not have dustbins requested that they be given dustbins or buckets to manage other waste materials.



Daily life challenges for host community

The host community living in Cox's Bazar feel that the Rohingya influx is having a huge impact on their lives in various ways. They feel they cannot move freely in their areas because of the Rohingya people. Furthermore, they say that they are also facing problems regarding their livelihoods as they feel that Rohingya people are taking their jobs. They also expressed their concern about the increasing cost of healthcare services and their fears about the decline of the tourist industry in the area. In addition, host community families have been facing problems getting birth certificates from municipal offices since the start of the influx, as authorities are no longer giving them out.

The host community stated that the road blocks which are in place to restrict Rohingya people's movements also restrict the free movement of the host community. When people in the host community were asked how the movements of the Rohingya people could be better controlled, they said they should be checked at camp check posts for their fingerprints. They think that this process will reduce the need for road blocks, and the host community will then be able to move around freely.

Livelihood has been a major concern for people in the host community since the Rohingya crisis started. Before the influx,

people with little education used to do a variety of jobs such as cultivating rice and vegetables; cutting wood and bamboo; working in shops selling vegetables, fish, meat, medicine and clothing; working as day labourers; and collecting and selling firewood. Educated people were working as teachers, government service holders, running small businesses and NGO workers. Since the Rohingya influx, the lower educated people say that they have lost their jobs for a number of reasons. Educated people have left their jobs within host communities and have taken up roles in NGOs supporting the Rohingya people, which pay higher salaries. They mentioned

Source: Feedback was collected from the host community audience of the radio discussion programme Betar Sanglap, recorded in the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Cox's Bazar on 13 March 2019. These concerns were documented from questions asked during the programme by the audience. The programme is produced by Bangladesh Betar with support from BBC Media Action and UNICEF. In total 36 audience members asked questions, of whom 75% were men and 25% were women. In addition, focus group discussions were conducted in the host community to understand more about their concerns.

that there was a list of 800 people from their community who applied for work to the district commissioner, but that they hadn't been updated on how many of them got a job.

Furthermore, local people who work as day labourers are facing a decrease in their daily wage as Rohingya people are replacing them and are happy to accept lower wages. Audiences explained that local people demand BDT 400-500 per day while Rohingya people will do the same work for a wage of BDT 200-300, because their basic needs are being fulfilled with relief goods which local people don't receive.

Audience members also explained that there has been a drastic change in the local grocery shops due to the influx, with many shops now owned by Rohingya people. Participants mentioned that Rohingya people are selling the items they receive as relief goods in local markets at low prices, since they don't need as much money as the host community because they receive relief goods. Some grocery shop owners stated that their per day income was BDT 5,000 before the influx, while the income has decreased to BDT 1,200 now. Moreover, Rohingya people

are driving auto bikes, rickshaws and vans at a lower rate than local people which has resulted in unemployment among host community people.

Participants explained that their income has halved, but their daily expenditure has doubled. For example, if they previously spent BDT 650 on food (rice, fish, meat and vegetables), they are now spending BDT 2000 since the influx. They also say that the cost of medical treatment, transport and education has doubled.

Participants demanded the immediate repatriation of the Rohingya people, as they fear that the number of Rohingya people will increase along with the problems in their daily lives. They think their problems will be solved if the Rohingya people are sent back to Myanmar. Otherwise, their suffering will not come to an end.

They wanted updated information about the relocation process initiated by the Bangladesh government. As a solution for their living facilities, they think the government can help them to

get their area free from the effects of the Rohingya people's existence and entrance in the area and the job market. They also think that the NGOs and the local administration and elected officials can only act once the central administration (MPs and ministers) orders them to remove the Rohingya people and their activities within their area.

“ Rohingya people are given aid for meeting their basic demands and so they work at a lower rate, but we don't get any aid. How can we work at a lower wage?”

– Man, 48, host community, Ukhiya

“ Earlier, we used to spend BDT 5,000-6,000 for medical expenses annually; which has become BDT 20,000 after the Rohingya influx.”

– Woman, 35, host community, Ukhiya

Host community people mentioned their cost of living for basic needs before and after the influx

Basic needs	Item	Price before influx	Price after influx
Housing	Brick	BDT 5-6/piece	BDT 9-10/piece
	Rod	BDT 60,000/ton	BDT 67,000/ton
	Cement	BDT 300/sack	BDT 450/sack
	Wood	BDT 300-400/foot	BDT 500-600/foot
	Bamboo	BDT 50-100/piece	BDT 250/piece
	Tin	BDT 4,000/bundle	BDT 6,000/bundle
Education	School fees	BDT 300/month	BDT 600/month
	Private tuition fees	BDT 200-500/month	BDT 1,000/month

Basic needs	Item	Price before influx	Price after influx
Medical	Doctors' fee	BDT 200-300/visit	BDT 500-1,000/visit
	Annual medical expense	BDT 5,000-6,000/year	BDT 20,000/year
Transport	Rickshaw fare	BDT 30/ride	BDT 60/ride
	Auto bike fare	BDT 5/ride	BDT 20/ride

Basic needs	Item	Price before influx	Price after influx
Food	Rice	BDT 25-28/kg	BDT 36-37/kg
	Fish	BDT 200/kg	BDT 400/kg
	Meat	BDT 400/kg	BDT 600/kg
	Vegetables	BDT 20-30/day	BDT 50-60/day
Clothing	Salwar kamiz	BDT 500/piece	BDT 1,000/piece
	Children's clothes	BDT 200/piece	BDT 500/piece

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.

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