

JOINT MULTI-SECTORAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

ANNEX: ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS AGAINST HOUSEHOLD AND RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

June 2019; Refugee sites in Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh

CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY

In successive waves over four decades, Rohingya refugees have been fleeing to Bangladesh from Rakhine State, Myanmar, where they have suffered systematic, ongoing persecution. Since August 2017, an estimated 745,000 Rohingya refugees have arrived in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, increasing the total number of Rohingya refugees to more than 900,000.¹ Most of the newly-arrived refugees have settled in hilly, formerly-forested areas that are vulnerable to landslides and flash-flooding in monsoon season and rely heavily on humanitarian assistance to cover their basic needs. As the crisis moves beyond the initial emergency phase, comprehensive information on the needs and vulnerabilities of affected populations is needed in order to inform the design and implementation of effective inter-sectoral programming.

To this aim, a Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (J-MSNA) was conducted across Rohingya refugee populations to support humanitarian planning and enhance operational and strategic decision-making. The J-MSNA was conducted in support of the mid-term review of the 2019 Joint Response Plan (JRP), with the specific objective of enabling the tracking of JRP 2019 indicators for monitoring and review purposes.

A total of 876 households were surveyed across 33 refugee sites between 9-24 June 2019.² The assessment used a simple random sampling methodology of shelter footprints within official site boundaries. Each survey was conducted with an adult household representative responding on behalf of the household and its members. Findings are generalisable to refugee populations living within each of the two Upazilas² with a 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error. This J-MSNA was funded by UNHCR and coordinated through the MSNA Technical Working Group of the Information Management and Assessment Working Group (IMAWG), led by the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) and comprised of: UNHCR, IOM Needs and Population Monitoring (NPM), ACAPS, WFP VAM, Translators without Borders, and REACH.

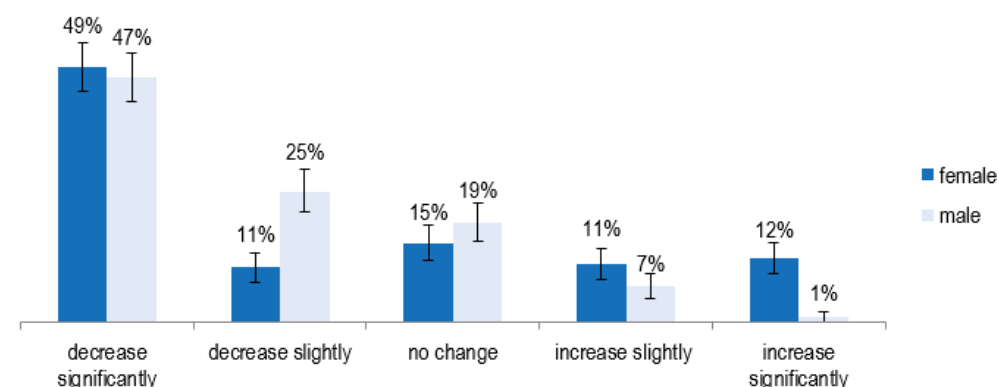
KEY FINDINGS

At the overall response level, certain household or respondent characteristics were found to be associated with varying responses to key indicators. The below section outlines findings as they relate to respondent gender, the highest level of education within the household, household size, and date of arrival to Bangladesh. Additional household characteristics, such as the disability status, gender, and marital status of the head of household were investigated but yielded no significant associations with households' preferred modalities of assistance, severity of coping strategies to cover basic needs, reported challenges accessing health services, and access to employment opportunities.

Respondent gender

Among all households surveyed in Teknaf and Ukhiya Upazilas, 49% of respondents were male and 51% of respondents were female. Analysis into the reported perceptions of safety in camp blocks shows a slight variation in responses between male and female respondents. When asked whether the respondent had witnessed an increase or decrease in verbal threats between neighbors in the 6 months prior to data collection, a higher proportion of female respondents reported a slight or significant increase (23%) as opposed to male respondents (8%).

Figure 1. Percentage of households reporting changes in the amount of verbal threats in their block in the past 6 months, by gender of respondent³



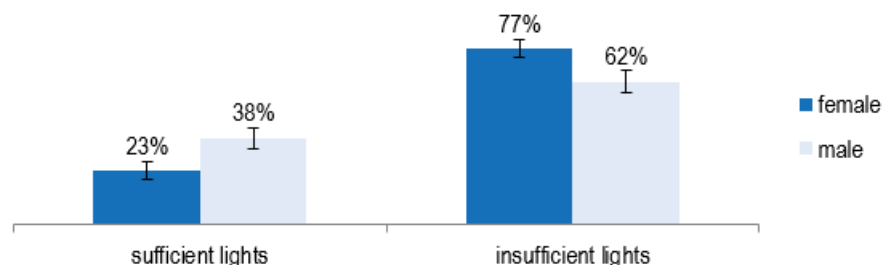
¹ 2019 Joint Response Plan for Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis

² Kutapalong Registered Camp (in Ukhiya Upazila) was not included in the sampling frame due to access restrictions.

³ Chi-squared test, p-value <0.001. Error bars on all bar graphs reflect the 95% confidence interval, meaning that if the assessment were to be replicated multiple times, the interval shown would contain the "true" value 95% of the time.

Additionally, a higher proportion of female respondents reported insufficient lights at night for people to access latrines as compared to male respondents.

Figure 2. Percentage of households reporting levels of lighting at night for household members to safely access latrines, by gender of respondent⁴



Furthermore, assessment findings found differences in expressed preferred modalities of assistance between female and male respondents. Respondents who cited food, shelter materials, household / cooking items, and clothing as priority needs were then asked their preferred modalities to meet that need. Across all 33 assessed camps, a higher proportion of female respondents reported a preference for in-kind assistance for each of those four types of assistance, while higher proportions of male respondents reported a preference for cash, vouchers, or both. (See Figure 3 graphics on opposite column).

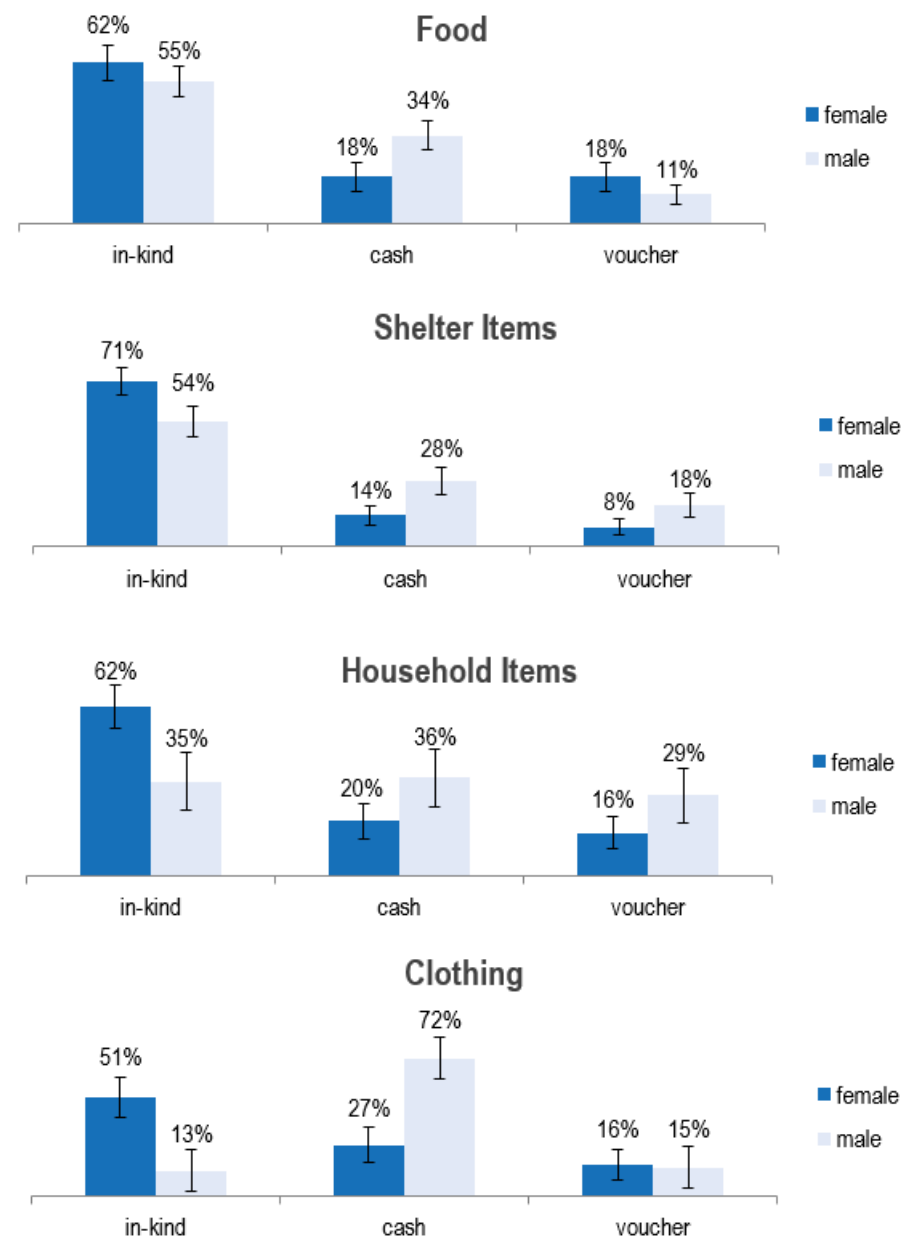
Highest level of education within the household

Households reported on the highest level of education completed by any individual in the household, which were categorised into three: 1. No formal education (includes households who completed madrassas (Quranic schools) only); 2. Some primary-level education; 3. Completed primary-level education or more. At the overall response level, 34% had no formal education within the household, 37% had at least one member with some primary school education, and 29% had at least one member who completed primary education or more.

⁴ p-value < 0.001

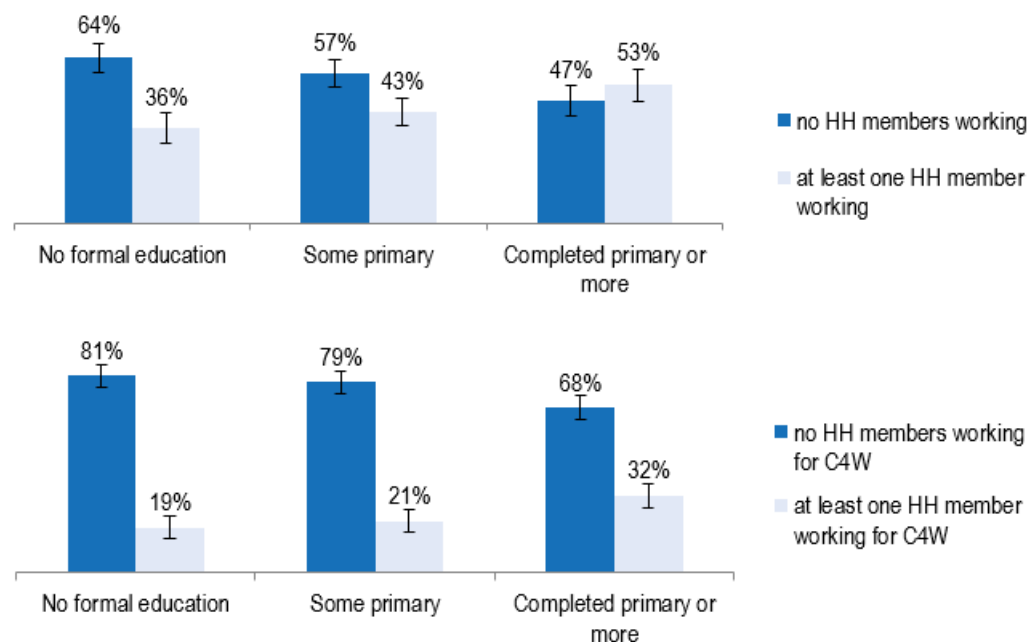
⁵ p-values for each of the modalities of assistance: < 0.001

Figure 3. Preferred modality of assistance among households who cited each as a priority need, by gender of respondent⁵



When considering the reported rates of employment within the household (either through a cash-for-work program or otherwise), a clear trend emerges. The lowest proportion of households who had at least one member working in the 30 days prior to data collection were households where no individuals had completed any formal education. The only group of households with a majority with at least one member working in the 30 days prior to data collection were households where at least one individual completed primary-level education or more. A similar trend is found when considering general employment or cash-for-work (C4W) specifically, which includes individuals who were reported to have worked and received an income from the United Nations or an NGO program.

Figure 4. Percentage of households with at least one individual reported to be working in the month prior to data collection, disaggregated by highest education levels in the household⁶

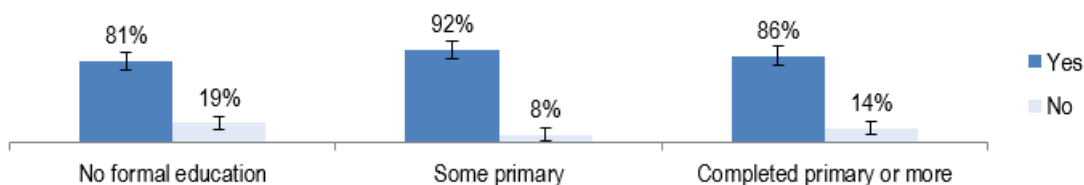


⁶ p-values = 0.001 for both chi-squared tests

⁷ p-value < 0.001

In addition to employment prospects, the assessment sought to further understand whether the highest education level in the household had any relationship with the households' reported ability to understand key messages circulated within refugee camps focused on cyclone messaging, landslide risks, and fire safety. While the majority of households reported having received cyclone messaging (87%), a slight difference in the reported understanding of the messaging seemed to be associated with the level of education within the household. This difference was only found regarding cyclone messaging and not landslide risks or fire safety messaging.

Figure 5. Percentage of households reporting understanding cyclone messaging, disaggregated by highest education levels in the household⁷

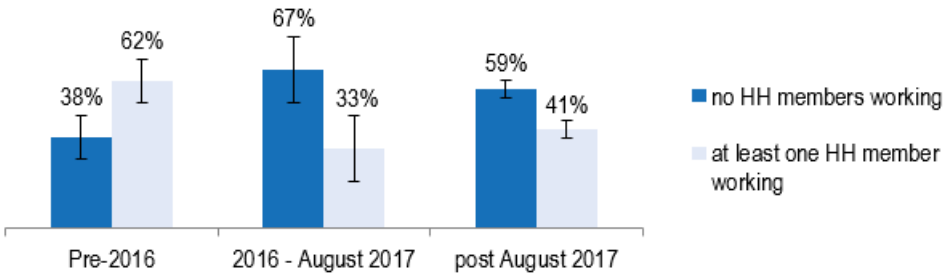


Date of arrival to Bangladesh

Among all households living in the 33 refugee sites, the vast majority (88%) arrived to Bangladesh after August 2017. Seven percent (7%) of households overall arrived prior to 2016, and the remaining 5% arrived between 2016 and August 2017. The reported employment rate of households was analysed against households' date of arrival to understand whether households who may be more established in Bangladesh might have higher knowledge of and access to employment sources.

Assessment findings show that the highest proportion of households with at least one member working in the month prior to data collection were those who had arrived prior to 2016. The majority of these households who arrived before 2016 reported at least one household member working for an income, while a majority of households who arrived after 2016 reported no working members.

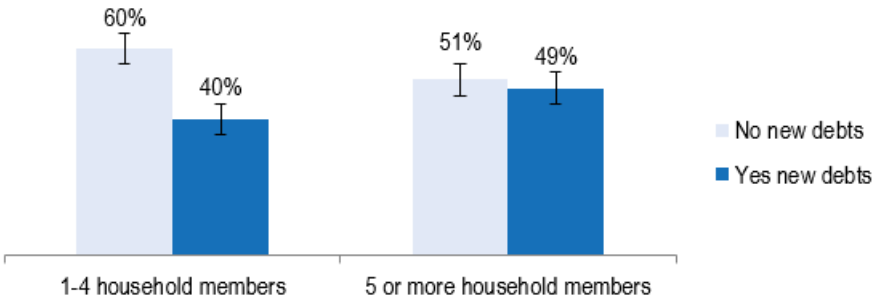
Figure 6. Percentage of households with at least one individual reported to be working in the month prior to data collection, disaggregated by date of arrival to Bangladesh⁸



Household size

Given that much of the assistance packages within the Rohingya response are planned for the median household size (5), additional analysis was conducted to determine specific additional vulnerabilities related to large household sizes. Assessment findings showed that a higher proportion of larger households (5 or more members) reported taking on new debts in the 30 days prior to data collection. Additional statistical testing resulted in non-significant associations with other household-level findings such as the highest level of coping within the household or whether households reported a lack of kitchen supplies as a key barrier to cooking.

Figure 7. Percentage of households reporting taking on new debts in the month prior to data collection, disaggregated by household size⁹



⁸ p-value < 0.001

⁹ p-value = 0.007

The Joint Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments are coordinated by:



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