

# WASH Household Baseline Assessment

Conducted in support of the Cox's Bazar WASH Sector, Bangladesh  
Rohingya Refugee Response

April 2018



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# Introduction and methodology



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# Introduction and Methodology

## Objectives and Research Questions

### Objectives:

- To establish a baseline for needs and vulnerabilities in relation to WASH amongst Rohingya refugee populations in Cox's Bazar
- Inform monitoring and strategic planning for WASH sector partners in line with the March-December 2018 WASH sector strategy

### Core research questions:

- How do Rohingya refugee households access water and what, if any, are the main obstacles to accessing water?
- What sanitation conditions do Rohingya refugee households experience?
- What hygiene conditions do Rohingya refugee households experience?





# Introduction and Methodology

## Methodology

### Approach

- Household survey
- Simple random sample using randomly placed GPS points tied to shelter footprints
- Stratified by camp to provide data that is representative at 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error for each camp, and 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error for the response as a whole. **This allows for the identification of large differences between camps.**
- Tool developed in collaboration with UNICEF PME and Global WASH cluster, aimed to align with with Cox's Bazar WASH sector and Global WASH cluster standards where possible.
- Data collected mid-April 2018. Total sample size was 3,576 interviews.



# Introduction and Methodology

## Methodology

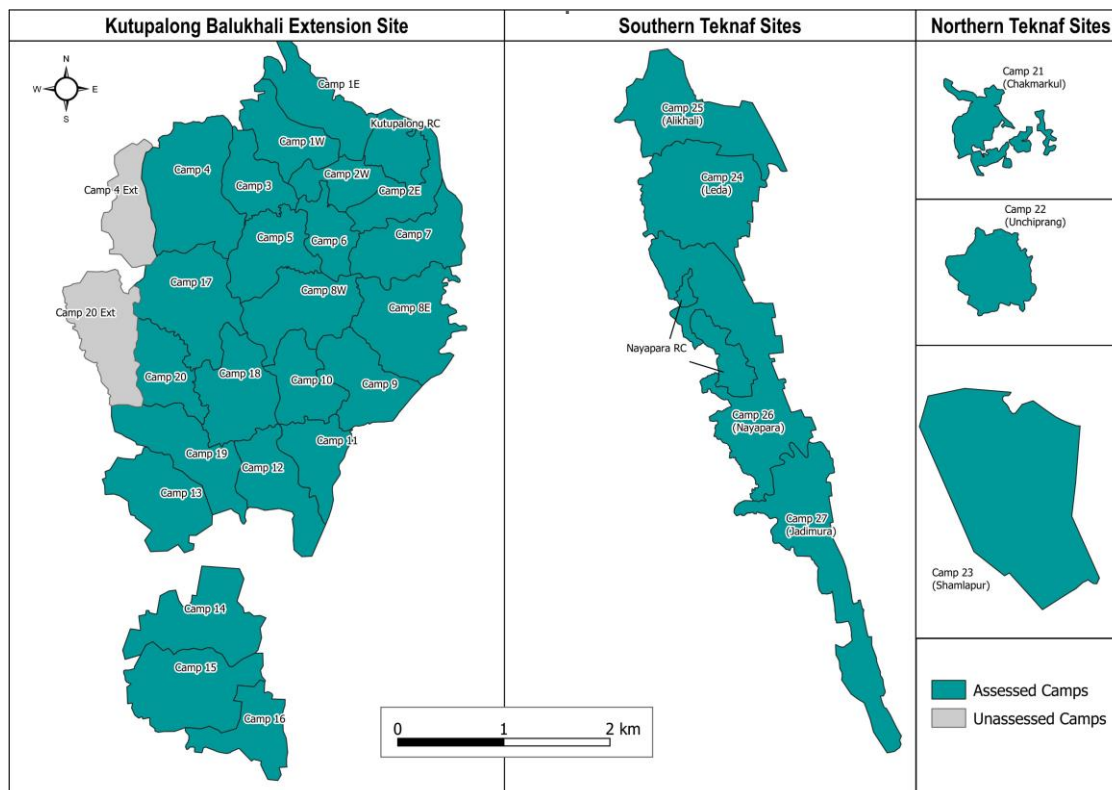
### Limitations

- Heads of household were prioritised for interview, meaning **low representation of female respondents** (only 37% of sample)
- Questions seeking to measure litres of drinking water per person per day relied on respondent estimations of container size rather than a system to standardise measurement estimates. This produced data that are likely a significant under-estimate of available drinking water when compared to the known volumes of containers distributed as part of hygiene kits.
- Questions on menstrual hygiene management were only asked to a small number of respondents (n=224), meaning findings cannot be generalised to the population as a whole.
- Lack of qualitative data means that contextual detail is lost, “how” and “why” questions cannot be answered.



# Assessed camps

All 35 ISCG-recognised camps were assessed during this survey



(note: this assessment pre-dated the establishment of Camp 4 Extension and Camp 20 Extension)



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Water

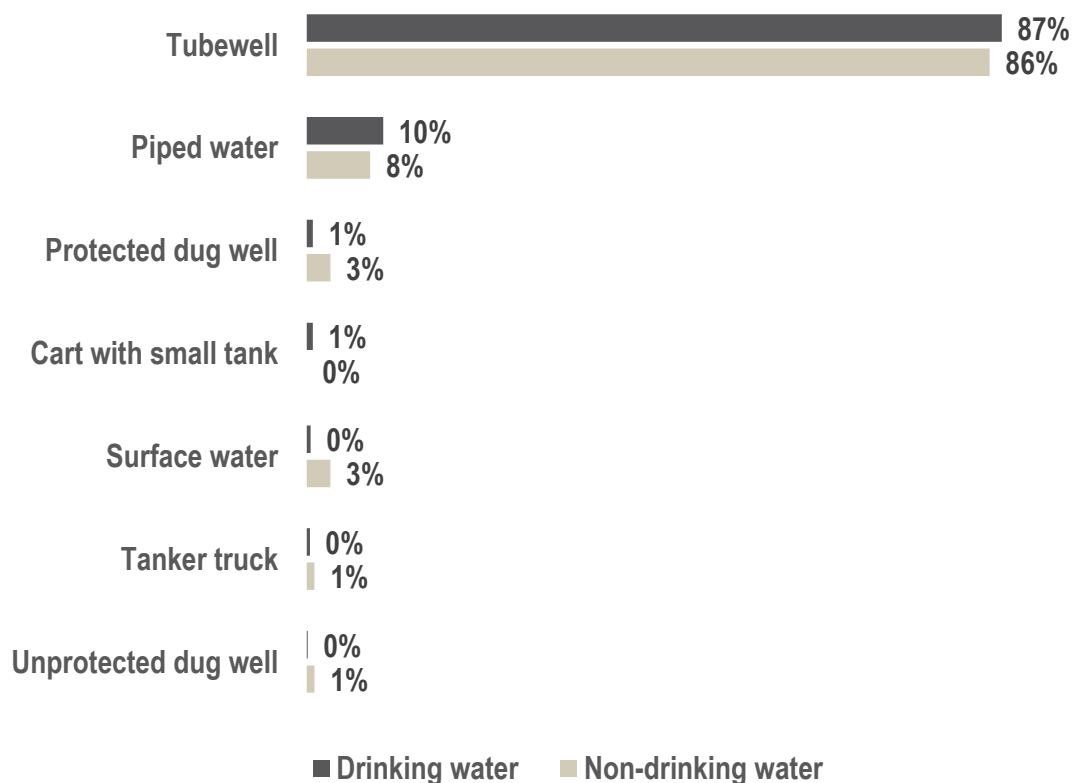


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# Water

Proportion of households reporting primary water sources for drinking and non-drinking water



## Household water sources

- >99% of all households rely on improved water sources for primary and secondary source of drinking water, mainly in the form of tubewells (87% of all households).
- Camp 20, 27% reported using unprotected dug wells.
- Jadimura, 14% reported using surface water.



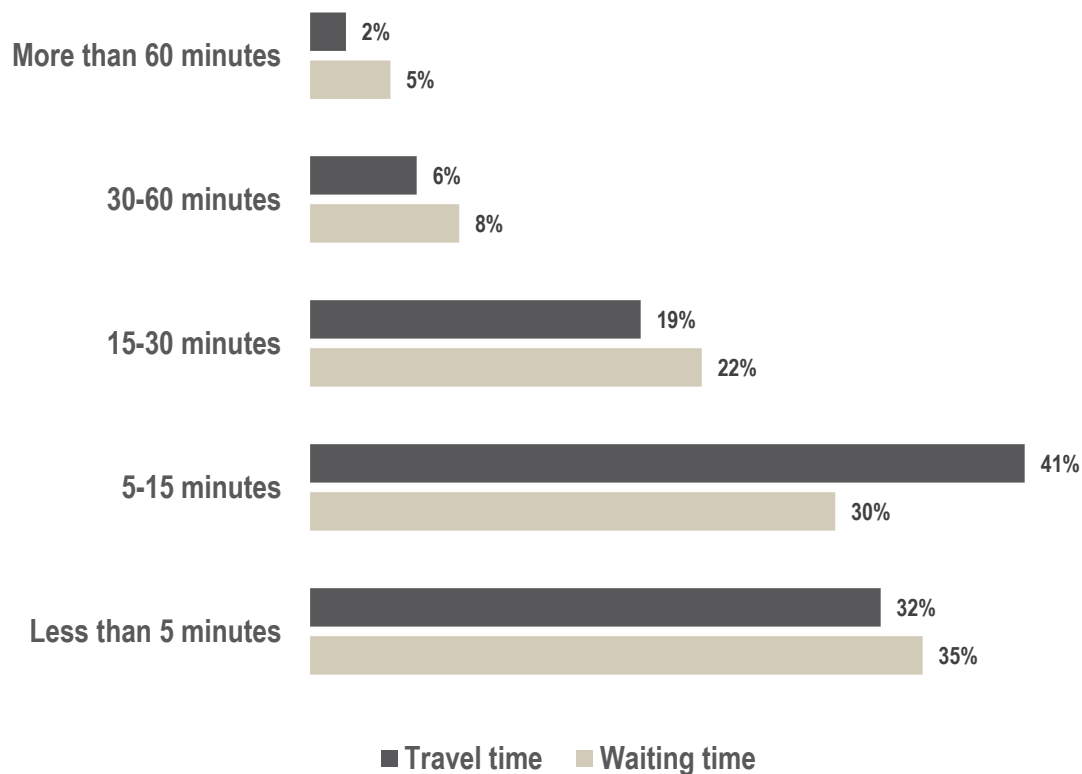
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# Water

Proportion of households reporting travel time to/from and waiting time at water source (in minutes)



## Water collection

- Women are primarily responsible for water collection, with 79% of households reporting women involved compared to 23% reporting men
- Waiting times at water points of longer than 30 minutes were reported by 13% of households,
- Travel time to and from water points of longer than 30 minutes were reported by 8%.

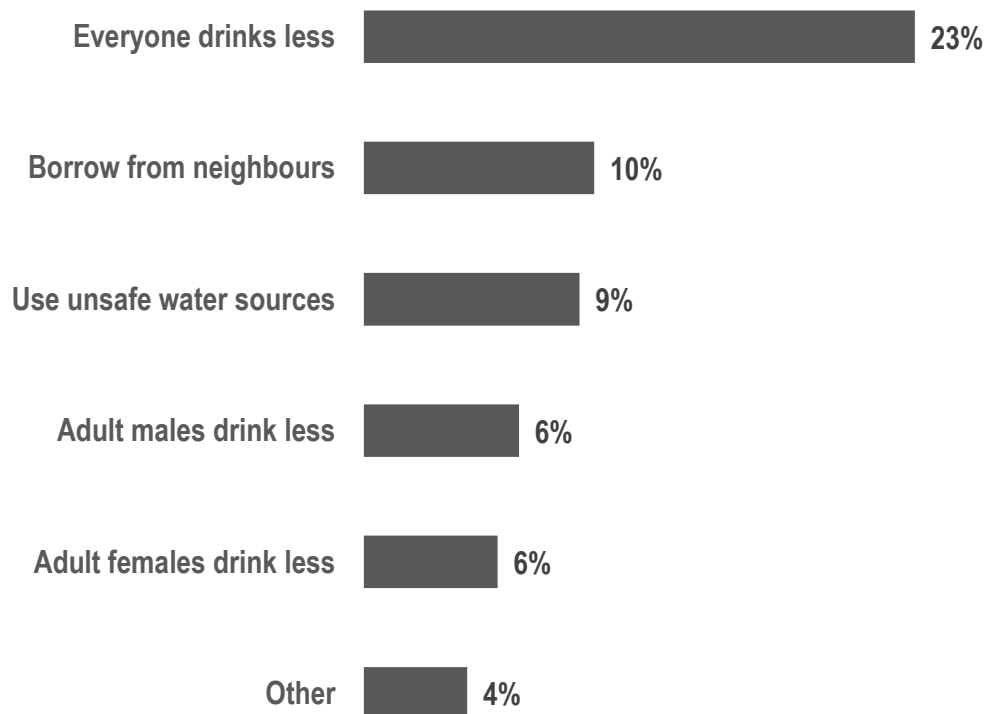


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# Water

Proportion of households reporting different coping strategies to mitigate lack of water



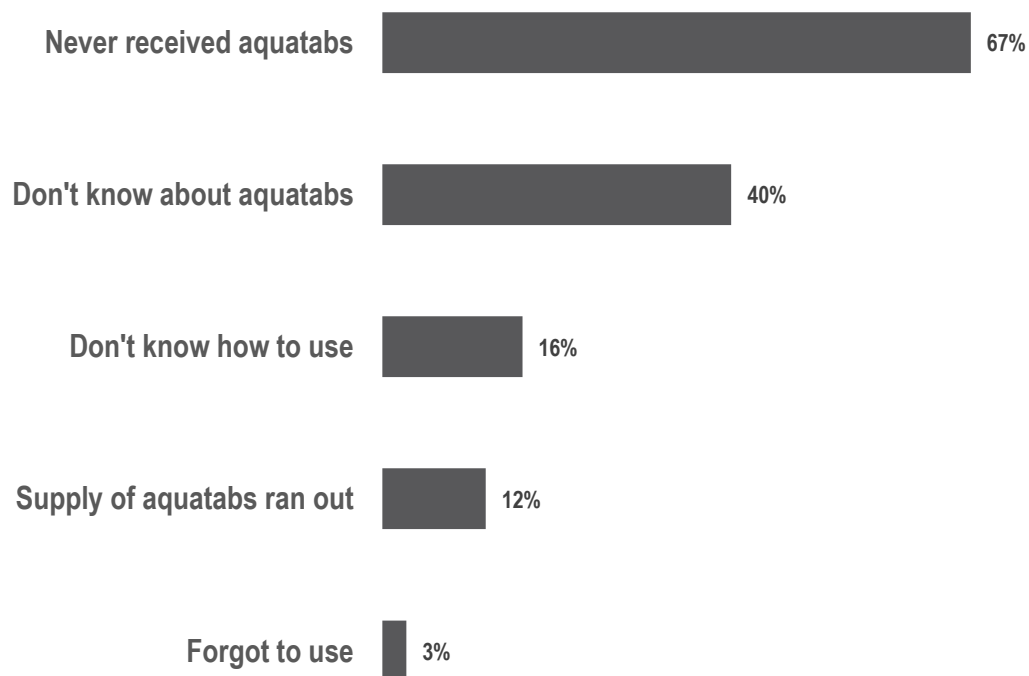
## Problems with water collection

- Problems with access to water were reported by 56% of households.
- Largely related to long distances (43% of all households) and long wait-times (41% of all households)
- Use of coping strategies to deal with a shortage of water was reported by 40% of all households
- In general, reported rates of problems and coping strategies are significantly higher in Southern Teknaf sites and in Camp 20.



# Water

Proportion of households reporting different reasons for not using aquatabs (top five reasons)



## Water treatment

- Use of water treatment in any form was reported by 18% of all households, with only 13% of all households reporting use of aquatabs
- The main reasons reported for not using aquatabs were not receiving them (67%), and not knowing enough about them (40%)
- Households are significantly more likely to use aquatabs if they have received training on how to use them.



# Water

## Water storage

- 97% of households had at least one covered container for storing drinking water,
- 41% using two or more covered containers for storing drinking water
- The most commonly used type of drinking water storage vessels were aluminium pitchers, which were used in 85% of all households.
- Measurement of available household drinking water can be found in full report, with methodological caveats.







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## Sanitation

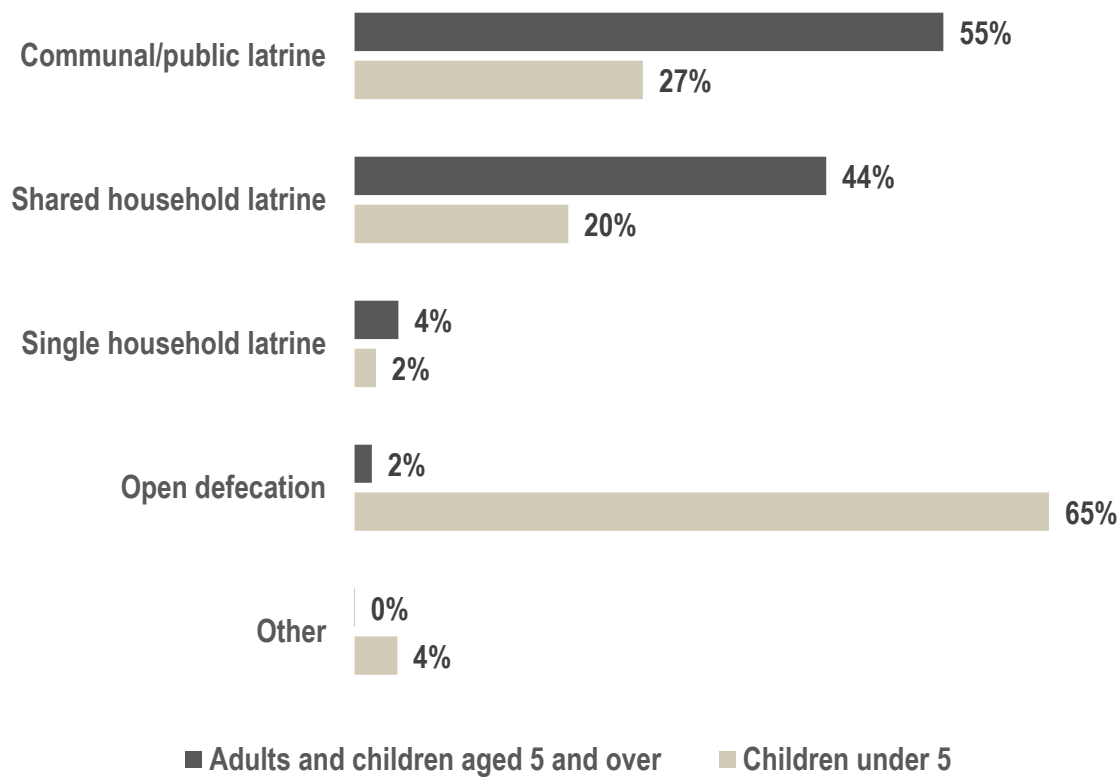


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# Sanitation

Proportion of households reporting members of different ages “usually” defecating in different spaces



## Sanitation facilities

- The main sanitation facility used by household members aged over 5 is communal latrines (reported by 55% of households), followed by shared household latrine (44%) and single-household latrines (4%).
- 98% of households reported that adult household residents “usually” defecate in a latrine, with 6% “sometimes” using open defecation.
- 65% of households reported that children under 5 “usually” defecate in the open, with 95% reporting that this “sometimes” happened.

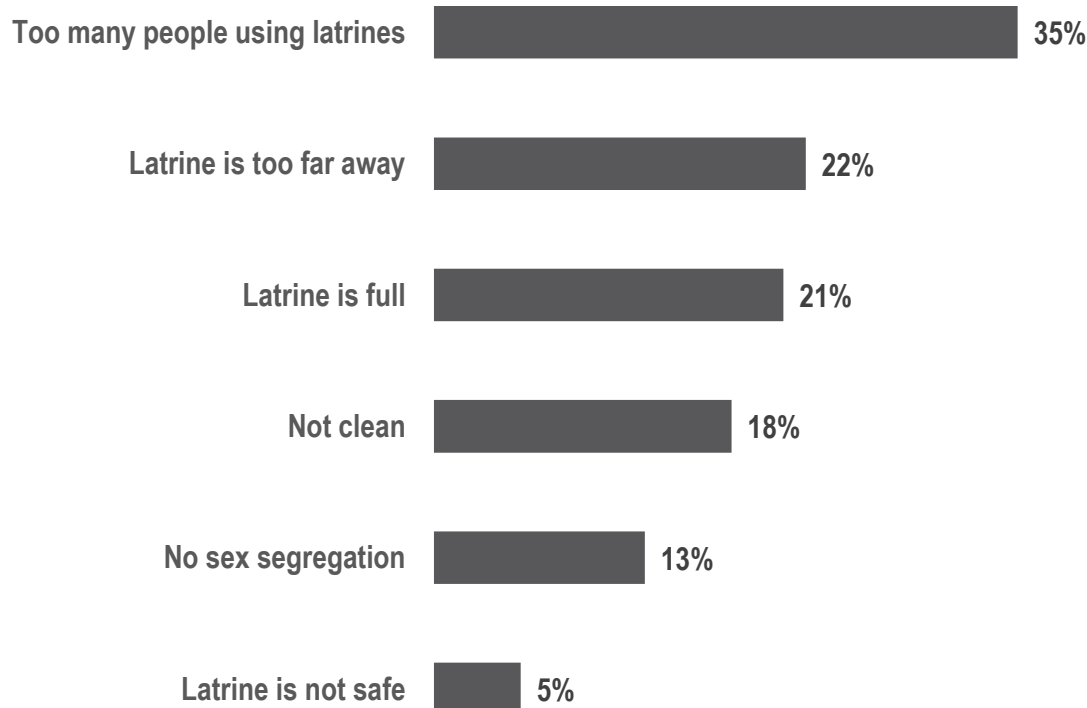


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# Sanitation

Proportion of households reporting different problems with latrine access (top five problems)



## Problems with latrines

- Problems with latrine access were reported by 53% of households.
- Most common problems were overcrowding (35% of all households), distance to latrines (22%) and latrines being clogged (21%)
- A majority of households (57%) reported that adult women would feel unsafe using latrines at night—significantly more than did so for either men or children

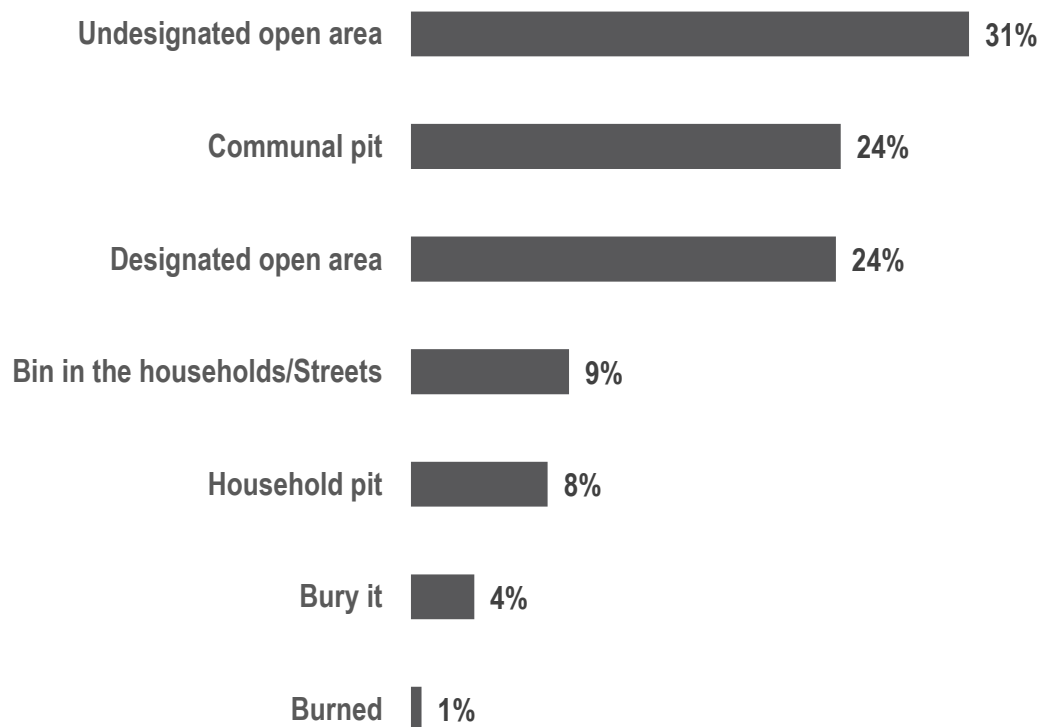


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# Sanitation

Proportion of households reporting different primary methods of disposal of household waste



## Solid waste management

- Almost half of households report using either communal pits (24%) or designated open areas (24%) to dispose of solid waste
- Almost one-third report using undesignated open areas to dispose of solid waste.



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# Hygiene

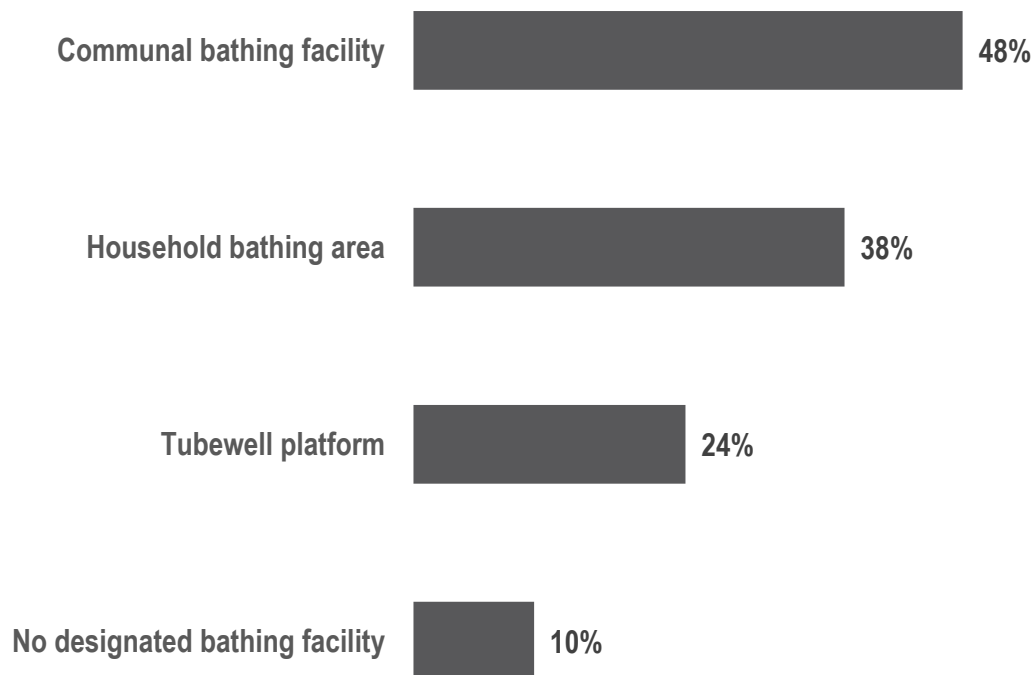


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# Hygiene

Proportion of households reporting use of different types of bathing facility



## Bathing facilities

- Only 48% of households report using communal bathing facilities,
- 38% reporting using bathing areas set up within their households,
- A further 10% reporting having no designated facility.

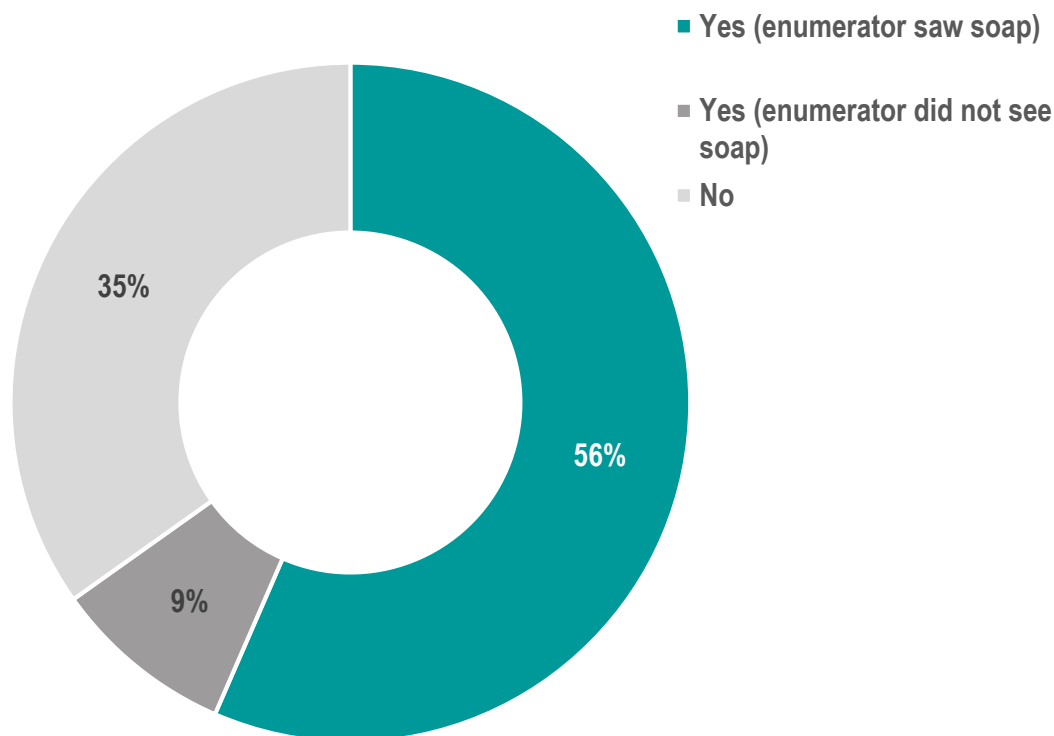


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# Hygiene

Proportion of households owning soap for hand-washing



## Access to soap

- 35% of households reported having no soap inside their homes.
- Outside of the home, 41% of households reported that the latrine they most frequently used “never” had soap nearby.
- 57% of households reported challenges to accessing soap, including 40% reporting that it was too expensive, and 38% reporting that it was not available.





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## Conclusion and next steps



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# Conclusion and next steps

## Conclusions

- Overall, these findings indicate that coverage of basic WASH services is extensive,
- However, accessibility, quality, and practices relating to these services are often falling short.
- While almost all households are using improved water sources, almost one-quarter are having to reduce water intake due to lack of available water.
- Very few households are employing adequate treatment practices in a context with substantial observed levels of contamination in household drinking water.
- While adults in a large majority of households are usually using latrines of some kind, these are felt to pose safety threats to women after dark, and open defecation among children under 5 is almost universal.
- Safety problems are felt to be similarly acute at bathing facilities, with many families relying instead on self-built bathing infrastructure at home rather than public facilities.



# Conclusion and next steps

## Next steps

### Products

The following products are available on REACH's resource centre, ReliefWeb, and HDX. They have already been shared through the WASH sector mailing list:

- Full report
- Camp-level factsheets for all 34 assessed camps
- Raw, anonymised dataset

### Next round of assessment

- WASH Household Monsoon Follow-up survey to be conducted between August 2018 and October 2018 aiming to understand changes in WASH conditions and perceptions between the dry and wet seasons across the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.





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