

# BANGLADESH MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT BRIEF

Rohingya Refugees  
DECEMBER 2019

## CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY

In successive waves over four decades, Rohingya refugees have been fleeing to Bangladesh from Rakhine State, Myanmar. 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**. Most of the newly-arrived refugees have settled in hilly, formerly-forested areas that are vulnerable to landslides and flash-flooding in the monsoon season, and **rely heavily on humanitarian assistance** to cover their basic needs.

A Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (J-MSNA) was conducted among Rohingya refugees living in camps to support humanitarian planning and enhance the ability of operational partners, donors, and coordinating bodies to meet the needs of affected populations, with the specific objectives of: (1) providing a **comprehensive evidence base of household-level multi-sectoral needs for the humanitarian 2020 Joint Response Plan (JRP)**; and (2) providing the **basis for joint multi-stakeholder analysis**. A total of 3,418

households were surveyed across 34 refugee sites between 5 August and 15 September 2019. Sampling was designed to obtain representative results with a 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error at the camp level and a 95% confidence level and 3% margin of error at the response level.

The J-MSNA was funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). The assessment was coordinated through the **Inter Sector Coordination Group's (ISCG) MSNA Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Information Management and Assessment Working Group (IMAWG)**, led by ISCG and comprised of: UNHCR, International Organization for Migration Needs and Population Monitoring (IOM NPM), ACAPS, World Food Programme Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (WFP VAM), Translators without Borders (TWB), and REACH.

## KEY FINDINGS

**1.** Two years after the influx, MSNA findings **do not point to household-level outcomes indicative of widespread extreme gaps in basic living standards**. This suggests that the response is in many respects successful in implementing the provision of lifesaving assistance within the constraints of the operating environment.

**2.** However, there **remain outstanding gaps** in access and coverage of basic goods and services. Some of these concerns may affect the refugee community as a whole, regardless of who or where they are.

**3.** In some cases, these gaps in coverage seem to **disproportionately affect specific population groups or localities**. Substantially worse-off conditions were not concentrated in any area or population group, but findings are further explored in the [dashboard](#) and [report](#).

**4.** While findings point to generally high coverage of basic needs and services, refugees reported the need to **seek out additional means beyond humanitarian assistance to cover their needs**. Levels of household-level coping extended beyond aid dependency and selling of assistance items, potentially introducing additional risks.



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<sup>1</sup> The FCS is a composite score based on (1) dietary diversity; (2) food frequency; and (3) relative nutritional importance of nine weighted food groups. The FCS is recorded from a seven-day recall period. In Bangladesh, thresholds for FCS classifications set by WFP are as follows: > 42 Acceptable; > 28 - 42 Borderline; ≤ 28 Poor.

<sup>2</sup> Improved drinking water sources are those that have the potential to deliver safe water by nature of their design and construction

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organization / UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP). Available [here](#) (accessed 30 November 2019).

<sup>4</sup> Includes drinking, cooking, personal hygiene and other domestic purposes

<sup>5</sup> The strategies in red indicate "crisis" or "emergency" coping mechanisms, which may have long-term negative impacts on individual safety and/or well-being

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# BANGLADESH MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT BRIEF

Host Communities  
DECEMBER 2019

## CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY

The district of Cox's Bazar, located in southeastern Bangladesh, faces some of the poorest living conditions in the country, with **public services and infrastructure lagging behind the national average**. Existing development challenges have been compounded by the most recent influx of Rohingya refugees to Teknaf and Ukhiya Upazilas, increasing the **total number of Rohingya refugees in the district to more than 900,000**. Under the leadership and coordination of the Government of Bangladesh, rapid and effective humanitarian action has responded to the **life-saving needs of refugees** while also responding to **potential impacts on affected host communities**. Increasing concerns over local environmental degradation, falling wages and rising prices following the refugee influx in part contribute to perceived tensions between Rohingya refugees and host communities.

A Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (J-MSNA) was conducted among Bangladeshi host communities in Ukhiya and Teknaf. The assessment aimed to support humanitarian planning and enhance the ability of operational partners,

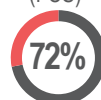
donors, and coordinating bodies to meet the needs of affected populations, with the specific objectives of: (1) providing a **comprehensive evidence base of household-level multi-sectoral needs for the humanitarian 2020 Joint Response Plan (JRP)**; and (2) providing the **basis for joint-multi-stakeholder analysis**. A total of 1,321 households were surveyed across 11 Unions in these two Upazilas between 7 August and 9 September 2019.

The J-MSNA was funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). The assessment was coordinated through the **Inter Sector Coordination Group's (ISCG) MSNA Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Information Management and Assessment Working Group (IMAWG)**, led by ISCG and comprised of: UNHCR, International Organization for Migration Needs and Population Monitoring (IOM NPM), ACAPS, World Food Programme Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (WFP VAM), Translators without Borders (TWB), and REACH.

## KEY FINDINGS

**1. J-MSNA findings do not point to widespread extreme gaps in basic household-level living standards** in host communities. Households may struggle to meet certain isolated needs, but are not facing extensive gaps across all sectors. This **reflects the development-driven socio-economic environment** that should underpin considerations of host communities' needs.

% of households with acceptable Food Consumption Scores (FCS)<sup>1</sup>



% of households reporting accessing improved water sources



% of households reporting at least one adult who worked to earn an income in the 30 days prior to data collection



**2. However, there are certain gaps in access to basic goods and services.** Many of these concerns appear to affect the assessed host communities as a whole. Significantly worse-off conditions or needs did not exist in any area or for any population groups, but existing differences between localities and population groups are further explored in the [dashboard](#) and [report](#).

% of households by dietary diversity<sup>5</sup>



% of households reporting the presence of at least one person with an illness serious enough to require medical treatment



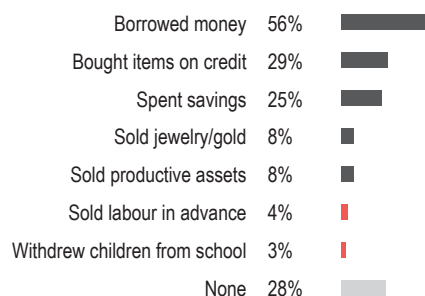
**3. Households have access to and rely on a diverse range of public, private, and non-governmental service providers** (e.g. education, health, or non-food items) to meet a variety of needs. These are often associated with **incurred costs**.

% of individuals reported to have an illness serious enough to require medical treatment who sought treatment, by treatment location



**4. Spending on items and services is underpinned by greater access to livelihoods and participation in income-generating activities, as well as asset ownership.** However, J-MSNA findings show that households are still **engaging in coping mechanisms in order to meet basic needs**.

% of households reporting engaging in coping mechanisms due to a lack of money to meet basic needs during the 30 days prior to data collection<sup>2</sup>



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<sup>5</sup>The standard module to calculate a Household Dietary Diversity Score (24-hour recall period) was not included in the questionnaire. These findings represent the % of households who reported consuming numbers of food groups at least six or seven times in a week.