

# SNAPSHOT: ROHINGYA COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON EXTREME WEATHER

Cox's Bazar – Bangladesh (April 2018)

Analysis by Internews

All data collected February/March 2018 by BRAC & Save the Children



*Community Mobilisation Volunteer collecting feedback (image: BRAC)*

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## Introduction:

This document serves as a snapshot of community feedback on extreme weather. All data was collected by BRAC Community Mobilisation Volunteers (CMV) who were recruited by a UNICEF funded initiative under their Communication 4 Development (C4D) Project. BRAC have a team of 800 strong CMV Rohingya community who are recruited to disseminate critical messaging on health, hygiene, sanitation, nutrition and protections through inter personal communication. The volunteers are provided with an app called “ETC Connect” on their mobile devices where feedback is captured into a database. The app is designed by the Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) for the World Food Programme and piloted with BRAC.

This data was then analysed by Internews (BBC Media Action, Internews, and Translators Without Borders are working together in a consortium to collect and collate feedback from communities affected by the Rohingya crisis). The data was triangulated with data collected by Save the Children.

This snapshot aims to give a cross-sectoral overview over community feedback and contribute to inform what questions, concerns and requests are currently talked about within the Rohingya community about the different phases of extreme weather. Some of the concerns and questions fall under two sectors and others are cross-sectoral, the headings are therefore not to be understood strict categories but rather as signposts. Protection, Health, WASH, Site Management and Shelter were the sectors that within this sample were particularly important to respondents. Additionally, the frequent requests for more information, for instance on how to prepare for extreme weather events and what services are available, point towards the importance of a cohesive CwC approach.

It is important to note that the diversity of the Rohingya community is also mirrored in their feedback on extreme weather. This document therefore does not claim to be an accurate representation of all community feedback. Instead it aims to give a quick snapshot on the very concrete concerns and questions of the Rohingya community.

One of the key findings was that while many of community members had concrete questions on how to deal with extreme weather (suggesting existing knowledge of weather patterns), the biggest gap in knowledge found is about what kind of services humanitarian organisations will provide before, during and after extreme weather events. This suggests that transparency on humanitarian activities and decision making could be improved.

For questions please contact Viviane Lucia Fluck, Internews project lead ([vfluck@internews.org](mailto:vfluck@internews.org))

## Method:

The feedback was collected by the CMV of BRAC, who each regularly visit the same 50 households. In total 3439 feedback entries were collected. The feedback was collected in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazila between February 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 2018.

The feedback was collected partly as written notes and partly through the ETC connect app and was then collated in the ETS database by BRAC. Feedback was preselected through BRAC community volunteer managers, who chose key topics to include in the database, this means that the feedback is not representative in a quantitative sense.

The analysis focused on finding themes within the data, looking at frequency, topics and levels of urgency.

The findings were triangulated with data collected by Save the Children, who as part of their post-distribution survey asked community members about extreme weather events. The Save the Children data was collected from 687 respondents in Ukhiya Upazila in March 2018.

## Rohingya Community Feedback

### Communicating with Communities (CwC)

Knowledge of extreme weather varies widely within Rohingya respondents. Some community members have basic questions about weather patterns such as their intensity and length and how they differ to weather patterns in Myanmar, while others are knowledgeable of the different risks and challenges. There are questions about how to be warned before extreme weather and how to communicate during extreme weather. Some Rohingya ask for hand mikes, radios and cell phones to spread the news of an extreme weather event.

- Is cyclone very scary?  
(Woman, 22, Kutupalong MS)
- How long does a storm stay?  
(Man, 28, Balukhali MS)
- Is everything we have going to be destroyed during a cyclone?  
(Man, 60, Moynarghona)
- What shall we do when a cyclone occurs?  
(Woman, 30, Kutupalong MS)
- What is the possibility of storm?  
(Man, 25, Kutupalong OO)
- How will we know that a cyclone is going to occur?  
(Woman, 45, Moynarghona)
- How will we know which place is safe to stay during a Cyclone?  
(Woman, 20, Uchiprang)
- Provide us some hand mikes so that we can inform everyone and make them aware before a cyclone or storm occurs  
(Woman, 25, Kutupalong RC)

## Food Security & Nutrition

There are a lot of request for dry food for storage among the respondents and special food for children. Some Rohingya are uncertain whether food will be provided during and after extreme weather. Some are worried that there will be a shortage of food.

- Dry food should be provided before a storm occurs.  
(Woman, 18, Hakimpara)
- If a storm occurs, dry food should be provided. What will we get and what will we eat?  
(Woman, 22, Hakimpara)
- Will they stop giving rations during a cyclone?  
(Woman, 24, Chakmarkul)
- Who will give us food during a storm?  
(Woman, 35, Balukhali MS)
- During a storm, there is a possibility for a food crisis.  
(Woman, 35 Kutupalong MS Extension)
- Who will give us food during a cyclone?  
(Woman, 26, Balukhali MS)

## Health

There are concerns on the impact of different types of extreme weather (heat, storms, cyclones and flood). There are concrete requests on support to tackle these health risks. Additionally, there is also uncertainty whether there will be medical support during and after extreme weather. Community members are especially worried about taking care of sick people during extreme weather events. There are also concerns about how to take care of dead bodies.

- Summer has begun, and we are suffering. It would be good if you provide each of us a solar fan.  
(Man, 45, Moynarghona).
- Sister, the kids are getting sick due to heat/in the summer. What shall we do?"  
(Woman, 17, Balukhali MS)

- After storm if different diseases spread due to air and water pollution, will we get immediate medical support/medicine?” (Woman, 26, Kutupalong MS Extension)
- Are hospitals going to provide services during a cyclone?  
(Woman, 27, Chakmarkul)
- We have no idea how are we going to take care of elderly and sick people.  
(Woman, 34, Kutupalong MS)

### Protection

There are many concerns about how women and children will be kept safe during extreme weather events. Especially, concerning are questions on whether children can be given to acquaintances for keeping them safe. Some Rohingya also ask for lamps and lights to be safer during extreme weather. Additionally, there are questions on how to keep personal belongings safe.

- If people who we know/our acquaintances want to take our children to a safer place, shall we allow them?  
(Woman, 20, Unchiprang)
- We have difficulties commuting around at night during monsoon, we need lamps.  
(Woman, 35, Balukhali MS)
- Where will we go during a cyclone, who will keep us safe?  
(Woman, 28, Hakimpara)
- Will our children be safe in cyclone centre?  
(Woman, 38, Kutupalong MS)
- Will our women get a safe place to stay during a cyclone?  
(Man, 55, Moynarghona)
- Where shall I keep my belongings when a cyclone occurs?  
(Woman, 30, Kutupalong MS)
- How are pregnant women going to get down from the hill during a storm? (Woman, 32, Balukhali MS)

## Shelter

Several of the respondents worried that their home is not fit to withstand strong winds and rains. There are many concrete requests for bamboo, rope, wood and tarpaulin to build strong and durable homes prior extreme weather. Connecting to concerns about the safety of existing shelter there are concrete questions on how to upgrade shelter and to get support to strengthen shelter.

- We need a safe place to stay during a storm. Where can we get bamboo, wood and tarpaulin/polythene?" (Man and woman, age range: 33-46, Balukhali MS)
- Sister before a storm occurs, make our home strong/durable. (Woman, 25, Kutupalong MS Extension).
- What shall we do when our homes get destroyed during a cyclone? where will we go (stay) then? (Man, 60, Moynarghona)

## Site Management

There are many concerns about access within camps, requests for better roads and worries about living on hills. Moreover, some Rohingya worry about having a place to stay and getting their original space back after an extreme weather event.

- It's a high hill, how can we get up and down during monsoon/rainy season? (Woman, 29, Balukhali MS)
- There are possibilities of landslides in hill areas during monsoon, what shall we do? (Woman, 20, Leda MS)
- The roads must be repaired. Otherwise, we won't be able to commute during monsoon. (Woman 42, Moynarghona)

## WASH

Some Rohingya people worry about water being polluted during floods, there are also concerns about safe drinking water after extreme weather. Additionally, there are worries about dehydration during the heat waves in summer and concrete requests on more tube wells and saline solutions.

- If the flood water is polluted, where will we get [clean] water? (woman, 27, Balukhali MS)

- We have scarcity of water. We need deep tube well. Will we get safe water after storm?  
(Woman, 32, Kutupalong MS Extension)

### Cyclone shelter & relocation

There appears a lot of confusion and uncertainty amongst the respondents on relocation and cyclone shelters. Some community members expect that they will be moved to a cyclone shelter, while others are aware there is none and are requesting one.

- Houses that were built for us are not enough. When the roof moves just by little wind, a storm is very scary. So, there is a need for strong houses to be protected from any disasters. To ensure the safety of the pregnant women, the child and the elderly. We don't have any cyclone centre in our camps, we need shelter centre.  
(Man, no age, Kutupalong MS Extension).
- We want cyclone centre in each block  
(Woman, 35, Balukhali MS).
- Sister when we move/go to a shelter/cyclone centre, will they give us food there?  
(Woman, 30, Kutupalong MS Extension)
- If there is a cyclone, where shall we take shelter?  
(Man, 29, Balukhali Ms)
- Where will you take us during a flood?  
(Woman, 25, Balukhali MS)
- How far will the shelter center be?  
(Woman, 28, Kutupalong MS).
- How can we all stay in a cyclone centre?  
(Man, 29, Balukhali MS)