



Rohingya Response Rumour Tracking - Issue #02 July 2018

Welcome to the 2nd issue of Flying News Rumour Tracking Bulletin. The Flying News Rumour bulletin captures rumours and perceptions of the Rohingya population to eliminate information gaps between humanitarian agencies and refugees. By providing field staff and volunteers with facts, the Flying News Bulletin aims to create a better understanding of the needs of the Rohingya and help answer rumours before they can do any harm. You can sign up for Flying News here: <http://eepurl.com/dy3AVv> and find all issues of Flying News here: <http://bit.do/internews>

'Bala-Bura'



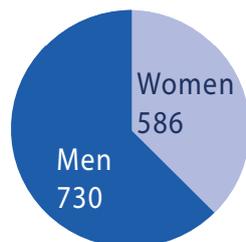
Some of these rumours are also being addressed in the Internews HIS narrowcast programme 'Bala-Bura' (played in listening groups and mobile listening posts throughout the camps and on <http://bit.do/shongjog>) and the Internews HRSM radio and podcast programme 'Shantir Lai Kotha Koi' - 'Talking Peace' (every Monday 16.00h on Radio Naf, on <http://internews.podbean.com> as well as through listening groups in the camps and host communities).



Heard a rumour? Want to give feedback? Please send your rumours, questions and feedback to bd-rumours@internews.org

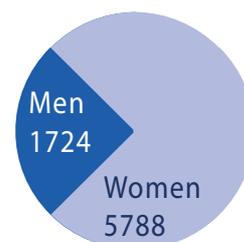
Sources:

Internews (May 1st to July 14th 2018)



Total Feedback: 1316

BRAC (February 27th to April 25th 2018)



Total Feedback: 7512

BRAC data is used to contextualise the newer data and to show that some of the rumours were discussed as early as March 2018 and are still circulating in the camps.

Rumour #1 Food

“Why do you store expired oil for us?”
(Man, 25, Balukhali MS)

“We heard from the victims that rice distributed [...] 12 days ago was ruined and people who ate it are having health problems.”
(Man, 25, Kutupalong MS)

“The rice we receive is not enough for us. They say that the packet they give us contains 25 kg, but it actually contains only 23 kg.”
(Woman, 35, Camp 1W)

Answer

Across all the Rohingya refugee camps several organisations distribute food (for example WFP and IFRC). Most food items will show both a production/package date which is in the past and a use by date (see image 1). So, if a date is in the past it is important to check if this is the production/package date or the use by date. All agencies who distribute food have strict guidelines on food safety and quality. Distribution points can help with concerns and questions about the quality of food and agencies will take back food that doesn't meet health standards. For example, WFP is one of the leading agencies who provide food across the Rohingya camps. WFP provides rice, lentils, and oil. During every food distribution WFP staff check food quality. Food is normally provided twice a month and the amount distributed depends on the number of family members. If for any reason food distribution is late, it is announced or shared with the community through WFP Rohingya volunteers, who can also give more information on the time and date of the next distribution and any other questions related to WFP's food distribution.



Image 1: Oil distributed by WFP, the blue arrow shows the production date (05/06/2018) and expiration date (04/06/2019). It also shows the batch no. of the product (156/18).

More questions? See:

<http://bit.do/wfp-Food-Quality>

and

<http://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/food-safety>

Or contact: WFP through their hotline 09606999777 or WFP and any other agency distributing food through their distribution points.

Rumour #2 Human trafficking

“We are really worried after we have heard this rumour that in Madhurchora two young girls were promised job and they left home with a man because of this. No one now knows [the whereabouts of] these girls. Nobody has heard that they got a job either. Now we are hearing that they had been trafficked. [...]

(Man, 31, Camp 1E)

Answer

A trafficker will often be friendly, make false promises and offer unexpected help or support to solve issues related to money and any other types of hardship. Traffickers may offer work, better living conditions or education outside the camps.

Without knowing somebody very well, you, your child or anyone in your family should never leave the camp with them. Children and elderly people in your family should always be accompanied by someone or should be watched over carefully. You should tell children, youth or elderly persons in your family to not agree to take any job offer, gifts or anything in exchange or leaving the camp to go along with a stranger. Keeping the home free of violence is also important to make sure that a children and young people do not become vulnerable to offers from strangers. **Any suspicious offers for assistance to a family which entails taking a child away should be reported to the CiC and/or camp committees immediately.** Even if parents agreed to send their child away, humanitarian agencies will still give help for trafficking cases.

More questions? See:

<http://bit.do/humanitarianresponse>

(page. 37-57 and page. 62-63).

Or contact:

Community members who are concerned about human trafficking can report this to site management support agencies, protection agencies (that include child protection and protection focal points and outreach workers) and CiC officers in your or any other camp. Women and girls can also go to women’s spaces for help. The community can also call UNHCR Hotline: +88 01703593300.

Field staff can use the IOM counter trafficking phone number to report incidents:
+88 01872 74 1801

Rumour #3 Extortion

“There is a local person living in our block who asks rent, BDT 500 taka from everyone in our block. If we do not give money, they come to beat us up. We don’t have money. As we don’t have money, we give them a portion from the relief we receive. The rice we received is not enough for us; however, we are very scared of the local people and that’s why we give a portion of our relief to them.”

(Man, 46, Camp 1W)

“Local people demand money from us, they are threatening to kill us if we don’t give money.”

(Woman, 55, Moynarghona)

Answer

All humanitarian assistance and services across the Rohingya camps are free of cost. You do not have to give money, sex or other favours in exchange for land, goods, food or services. Refugees have the right to complain about this and should report incidents to the agency directly or to another agency they trust. Throughout the camps there are different ways to give feedback such as hotlines, complaints boxes, information points, help desks and humanitarian field staff.

You can request that the information you provide will be treated in confidence. UN and Humanitarian agencies have a zero-tolerance policy of sexual abuse and exploitation and will take reports of such incidents very seriously.

More questions? Contact:
Any CiC and Site Management Support office or protection agency.

Concern #1 Broken tube wells

“We are suffering a lot due to lack of water. The tube well breaks frequently. Once its broken, it’s really difficult to repair it. [...] There are too many people for the number of tube wells available.

(Woman, 36, Camp 2E)

“There are 98 families living in this area and there is only one tube well which is not working. We either want it to be fixed or a new one to be installed so that we can use that. We walk a long way to get water.”

(Woman, 46, Camp 1W)

Answer

Across the Rohingya camps different organisations are distributing tube wells. Tube wells have different depths depending on where they are built (tube wells on higher ground are dug deeper). Normally the agency that built the tube well is responsible for repairing and maintaining the tube well. But, sometimes an agency that has built a tube well stops working in the camp, then CiC and site management support should be informed. If you do not have a tube well in your block or if the tube well is broken, you need to report this to the CiC office and site management support team. They can help you to get a new tube well or repair the existing one.

More questions? See:

Bala-Bura episode 3 includes an interview with a WASH focal point that explains the process of fixing broken tube wells and also a community interview with community members who fixed their own tube well. <http://bit.do/shongjog-org-bd>

or contact:

The CiC and site management support office in your camp.

The selection of rumours was done on the basis of prevalence and relevance. The information presented here is correct at the time of issue. The 'Flying News Rumour Bulletin' is published by Internews with joint contributions from the Internews HRSM programme funded by the United States Agency for International Development and the Consortium Common Service with BBC Media Action and Translators without Borders, delivered in partnership with IOM, the UN migration agency, and funded by the UK Department for International Development.