



# Rohingya Voices

ATMOSPHERIC REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

FEBRUARY 2025

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The information and analysis presented in this report represent the perceptions of the individuals interviewed, and these findings have not been independently verified by this analytical unit. While extensive efforts have been undertaken to ensure accuracy and reliability, it is important to acknowledge that, due to the complex and dynamic nature of the situation in Rakhine State, there are limitations related to the data and findings. The perspectives presented in this report are not representative of the perspectives of these communities as a whole. Therefore, no guarantees can be made regarding the completeness of the information presented. This report is crafted with the intention to provide valuable insights and foster a comprehensive understanding of the prevailing environment in Rakhine State. By shedding light on various perspectives and experiences, it aims to contribute to a nuanced understanding of the issues at hand. However, it is imperative for users of this report to approach its contents with caution. Users are strongly advised to independently verify critical information where necessary.

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## KEY FINDINGS

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### / PERCEPTIONS OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

**Rohingya community members in villages** in Rakhine State reported a lack of assistance including health-care and said that pregnant women need maternity care and medicine to control the outbreak of skin diseases.

- Compared to January, the reported concerns of Rohingya villagers in Rakhine State did not change significantly, but concerns about clean water, toilet facilities, shelters, and agricultural support appeared to become more pressing.

- Respondents in Buthidaung Township reported urgently needing healthcare assistance for women and children, especially pregnant women; they reported that due to a lack of professional healthcare workers, pregnant women are frequently suffering from miscarriages in their early pregnancy and stillbirths.

**Rohingya community members in camps** in Rakhine State expressed concerns about shortages of food and said they urgently need nutrition support.

- Respondents in Sittwe Township said that, due to the lack of food assistance, children and elderly people are suffering from malnutrition.

- In February, respondents in camps reported more urgently needing food (especially rice), clean water, contraceptive pills, and other medications.

**Rohingya community members in Bangladesh** expressed concerns about a lack of food, shelter, and drinking water in Cox's Bazar.

- Respondents in Bangladesh expressed concern over some NGOs temporarily stopping activities due to funding shortfalls related to the USAID Stop Work Order, and added that elderly Rohingya people need healthcare support to manage chronic diseases.

- Compared to January, the reported concerns and humanitarian issues of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh did not change significantly.

## KEY FINDINGS

## / PERCEPTIONS OF ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

**Rohingya community members in villages** in Rakhine State voiced concerns over State Administration Council (SAC) air and artillery attacks on Rohingya villages. Furthermore, compared to January, respondents expressed greater concern about United League of Arakan/ Arakan Army (ULA/AA) movement restrictions, forced labour, and arrests, especially in Kyauktaw, Minbya, Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships.

- Respondents in Pauktaw and Buthidaung townships reported that in many Rohingya villages, the AA forced Rohingya villagers to clean the market, pave the road, build its administrative offices and to conduct night sentry duty.

**Rohingya community members in camps** in Rakhine State reported that the SAC and ULA/AA have regular communication with Camp Management Committee (CMC) members and camp leaders.

- Respondents in Sittwe Township expressed greatest concern about movement restrictions, extortion and confiscations of food items and materials by SAC forces and its trained Rohingya conscripts. Respondents also reported that SAC forces often physically abused women and children.

- Respondents in Pauktaw and Myebon townships expressed concerns about movement restrictions, forced labour, and mandatory “tax” by the ULA/AA.

**Rohingya community members in Bangladesh** said Rohingya armed actors held a mass gathering in Cox’s Bazar camps to organise recruitment of young people, and added that some religious leaders were also involved in recruitment of Rohingya young people and under aged children.

- Respondents expressed concerns over the lack of protection by local authorities and allowing Rohingya armed groups to organize mass gatherings, conduct military activities, and recruit members.

## KEY FINDINGS

## / PERCEPTIONS OF INTERCOMMUNAL TENSIONS

**Rohingya community members in villages** in Rakhine State expressed concerns about potential tensions between Rohingya and Rakhine villagers.

- Respondents in Sittwe Township reported tensions between a Rohingya auto-trishaw driver and Rakhine men in an urban area.

- Respondents in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships reported that there was no regular interaction between Rohingya and Rakhine people and said that in Maungdaw Township, Rakhine teachers avoided working in Rohingya villages due to security concerns.

**Rohingya community members in camps** in Rakhine State reported that Rohingya camp residents had regular interaction with their Rakhine neighbours.

- Compared to other areas, respondents in Pauktaw and Taung Paw Ward (an 'officially closed' camp) in Myebon Township expressed greater concerns about ULA/AA officials intentionally discriminating against Rohingya IDPs, as well as oppression and exclusion for various reasons. They added that such actions would increase mistrust and tensions between Rohingya and Rakhine people in the future.

**Rohingya community members in Bangladesh** expressed that tensions between refugees and host communities were rising due to kidnappings for ransom by Bangladeshi criminal gangs and local communities.

- Respondents also voiced concerns over kidnappings and abductions by these gangs, stating that newly arrived Rohingya children and girls were being targeted, with ransoms demanded from their families.

- Respondents on Bhasan Char Island noted that while there was tension between camp authorities and refugees, the relationship between host businessmen and refugees remained good.

## RISK INDICATORS OF INTERCOMMUNAL VIOLENCE IN RAKHINE STATE

### Violence



Violence includes any violent incident occurring between Rakhine and Rohingya communities, including those involving armed actors, civilians, or any combination thereof.

Violence did not appear to change significantly in February, but violence by the SAC, AA, and others continued to impact communities, particularly in northern Rakhine State.

- On 5 February, local media **reported** that SAC forces shot at and detained 60 Rohingya people hiding in a coconut plantation in Bokpyin Township, Tanintharyi Region. The same source reported that these people had travelled from Rakhine State and planned to travel to Thailand, and that during the arrest one man was killed and six others were seriously injured.
- Rohingya local residents and sources close to the AA **told** local media that AA officials and administrative officials appointed by the AA were looting from shops owned by Rohingya, taking goods without payment and beating Rohingya villagers, including elderly people, almost every day in Rohingya villages, Maungdaw Township.

### Cohesion



Cohesion includes actions, stated sentiments, and other conditions that foster positive intercommunal relations.

Social cohesion between ethnic Rohingya and Rakhine communities did not appear to change in February in many areas of Rakhine State.

- Respondents in Sittwe, Minbya, Kyauktaw, and Pauktaw townships, and residents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township, said that there was regular communication between Rohingya and Rakhine neighbours, and that they could go to Rakhine villages.

### Tension



Tension includes actions that do not rise to the level of violence, as well as fears of violence or such actions.

Tensions between ethnic Rohingya and Rakhine communities did not appear to change in February in many areas of Rakhine State.

- Respondents in Taung Paw Ward ('officially closed' camp) in Myebon Township reported that they had good relationships with some of their Rakhine neighbours. However, they said that some Rakhine people had accused Rohingya villagers who worked as day labourers of theft and physically abused them, leading Rohingya villagers to feel unsafe while working in Rakhine villages.

### Perceptions



'Perceptions' includes the expressed sentiments of Rohingya people (e.g. respondents).

Respondents in Rakhine State did not express perceptions of intercommunal relations that differed significantly from January. Respondents in Minbya, Kyauktaw, and Pauktaw townships expressed concerns that the ULA/AA's actions and discrimination against Rohingya people might negatively impact the relationship between Rakhine and Rohingya communities.

## RISK INDICATORS OF INTERCOMMUNAL VIOLENCE IN RAKHINE STATE (CONT.)

## Statements



Statements include any official or public statements made by armed or governance actors, activists, or community representatives.

Various actors issued statements in response to dynamics involving Rohingya people.

- On 14 February, the Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK (BROUK) **issued** a media release regarding the international arrest warrant issued by a court in Argentina against Min Aung Hlaing, 22 Burmese military officials and three civilians, including former State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and former President U Htin Kyaw. BROUK stated: "This courageous decision by the Argentinian judiciary sends a clear signal to Min Aung Hlaing and other officials that no one is above the law." However, they added that: "In December 2023 BROUK requested international arrest warrants against military officials only. BROUK did not present any evidence regarding Aung San Suu Kyi and Htin Kyaw" and noted that their request to exclude these civilian leaders from the case was dismissed.
- On 18 February, the National Unity Government **issued** a statement that welcomed the Argentina court's arrest warrant. However, the statement noted that the inclusion of former State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and former President U Htin Kyaw in the case could create misunderstandings between the Rohingya community and other ethnic groups and might also hinder long-term peace, reconciliation, and democratic transition.

## Hate speech



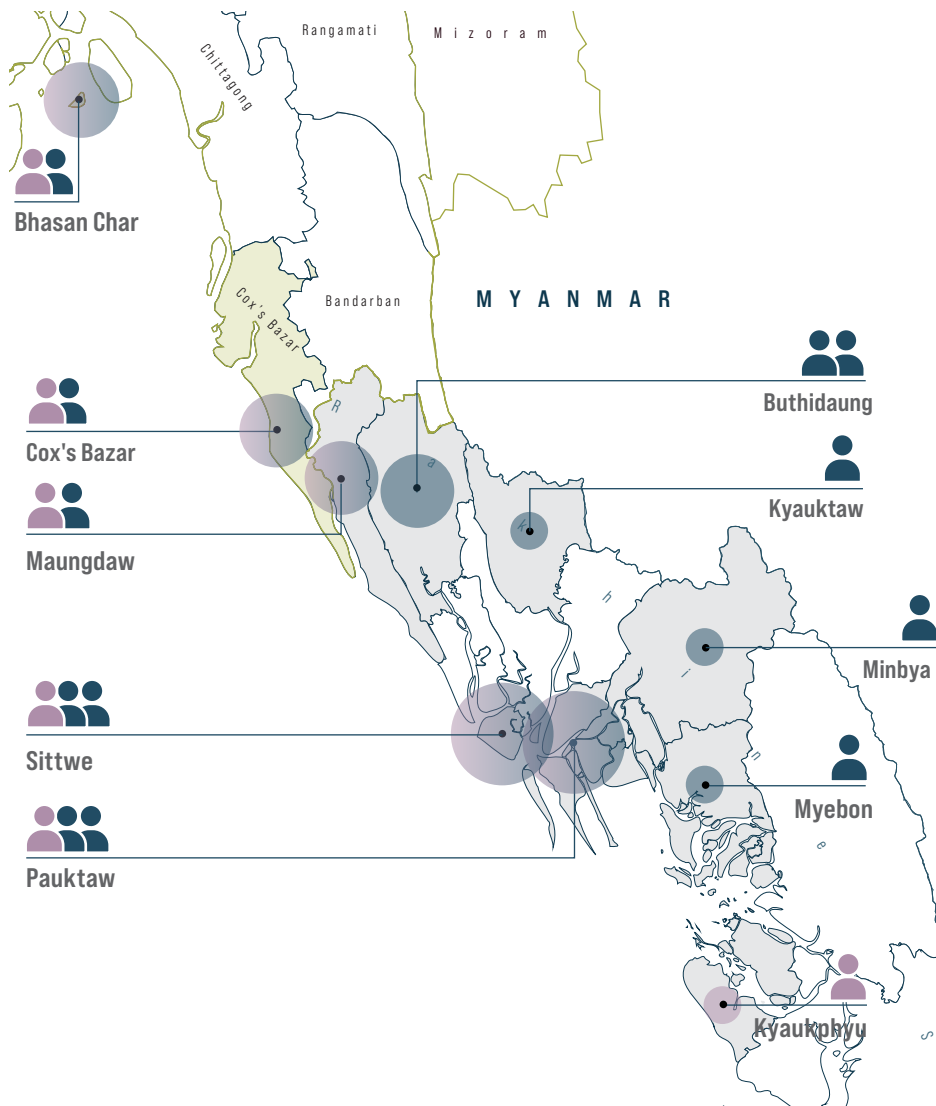
Hate speech includes abusive or threatening speech or writing that expresses prejudice on the basis of Rohingya identity.

Hate speech significantly increased in February.

- In response to the inclusion of Aung San Suu Kyi and U Htin Kyaw in the arrest warrant issued by an Argentinian court, social media users — who appear to support or belong to the former civilian government — blamed and attacked Rohingya leaders and the Rohingya community by using the racial slurs "Bengali" and "Kalars."
- On February 12, local media **reported** that since early February, incitement of violence and hatred against Rohingya in Sittwe Township has been circulating on social media platforms like Facebook and Telegram.

## RESPONDENTS

RESPONDENTS WERE BASED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF RAKHINE STATE AND BANGLADESH:



### Gender of the respondents



Disclaimer: This product is designed for information purposes only. This map may not show all topographical areas due to scale limitations. Base map data provided by MIMU and copyrighted to MIMU at <http://themimu.info/mimu-terms-conditions>. The accuracy of specific attributes and their geolocations are manually added and cannot be confirmed.

## METHODOLOGY

This document is structured around highlighting the perceptions and concerns of different Rohingya communities in Rakhine State, broadly categorised as communities in camps and communities in villages, as well as Rohingya communities in Bangladesh, in Cox's Bazar or Bhasan Char. The perceptions of these communities are structured around three key topics on which 18 Rohingya respondents were asked to share their perspectives:

- Armed and governance actors;
- Humanitarian assistance; and
- Intercommunal relations.

As this update is based on a small sample size of 18 respondents, the observations found here should not be assumed as representative. Rather, this snapshot illustrates the perceptions of community members, and the value of this qualitative approach is in the context-specific knowledge it provides.



## KEY CONTEXT DEVELOPMENTS

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These context updates are not meant to be a comprehensive overview of the developments in Rakhine State over the past month. Instead, these are intended to provide a brief background on the key developments impacting the context in Rakhine State and Bangladesh and the Rohingya communities living there.

11  
February

Local media [reported](#) that the AA confiscated houses and buildings belonging to wealthy Rohingya individuals and businessmen who they accused of being affiliated with Rohingya armed actors. The same source reported that in Shwe Zar village, Maungdaw Township, at least 50 houses owned by Rohingya businessmen were seized by the ULA/AA.

13  
February

Local media [reported](#) that ULA/AA held a meeting with Rohingya village representatives in Maungdaw Township and ordered them to contribute labour and financial support to repair the road near Kyauk Hlay Gar and Kyee Kyan Pyan villages.

16  
February

According to the Political Prisoners Network of Myanmar (PPNM), the SAC [released](#) 936 Rohingya people, previously detained for travelling without documents, from Yangon's Insein prison; they were sent to Sittwe Township. The same source predicted that SAC might recruit the males among them into its troops. On 19 February, those Rohingya [arrived](#) in Sittwe Township.

20  
February

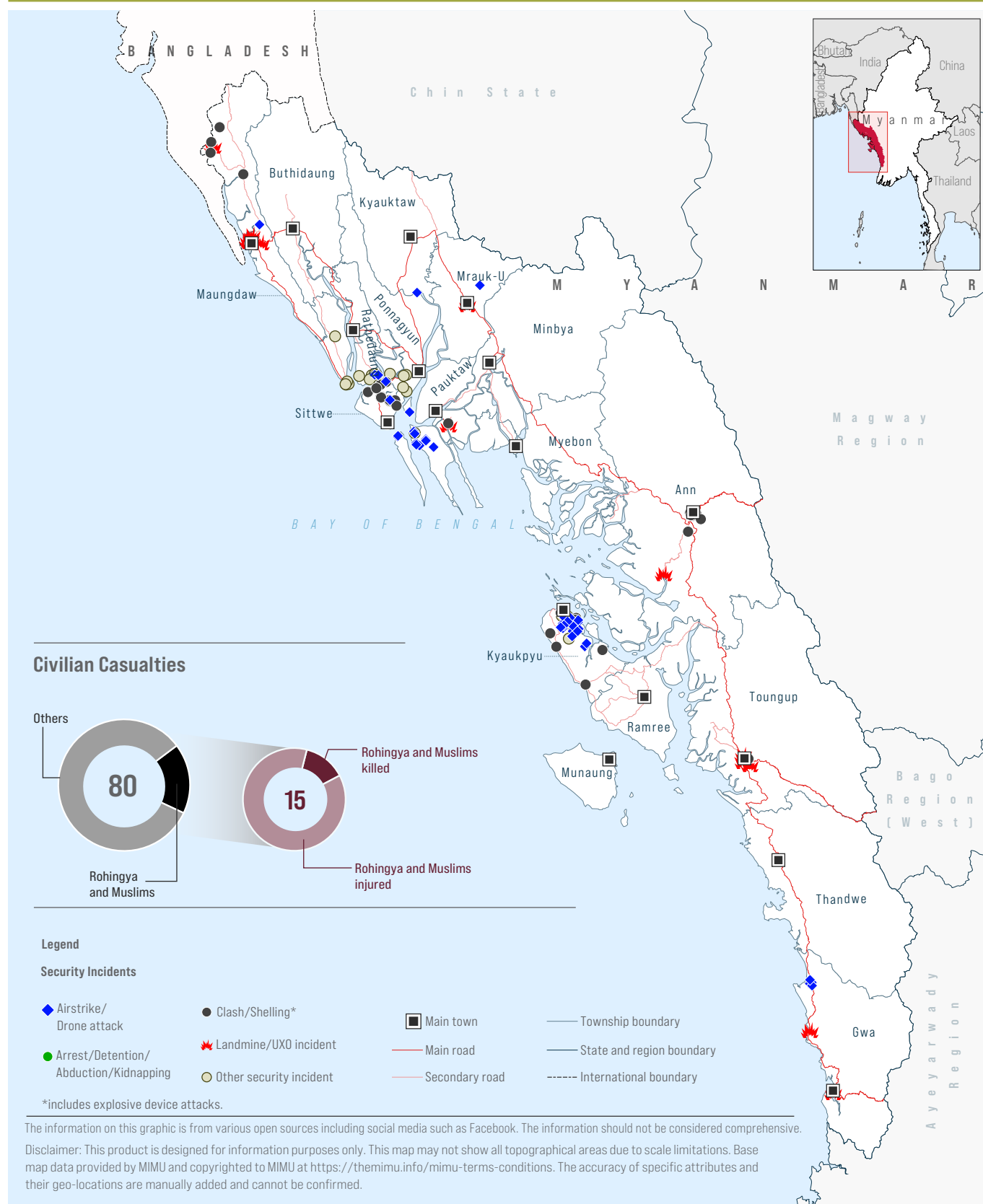
Local media [reported](#) that the ULA/AA was planning to form administrative committees in Shwe Zar and Zar Thi Pyin villages with Rohingya community leaders. The same source reported that ULA/AA ordered the community leaders to form an administrative committee with five members for villages with less than 100 households and eight members for villages with more than 100 households.

23  
February

Local media [reported](#) that there was intense fighting between AA and ARSA in northern Maungdaw Township, near the Myanmar-Bangladesh border. The same source said that Rohingya armed actors were taking up positions in the Mayu mountain area of Maungdaw Township, conducting ambush attacks, capturing civilians, and planning further attacks on the AA.

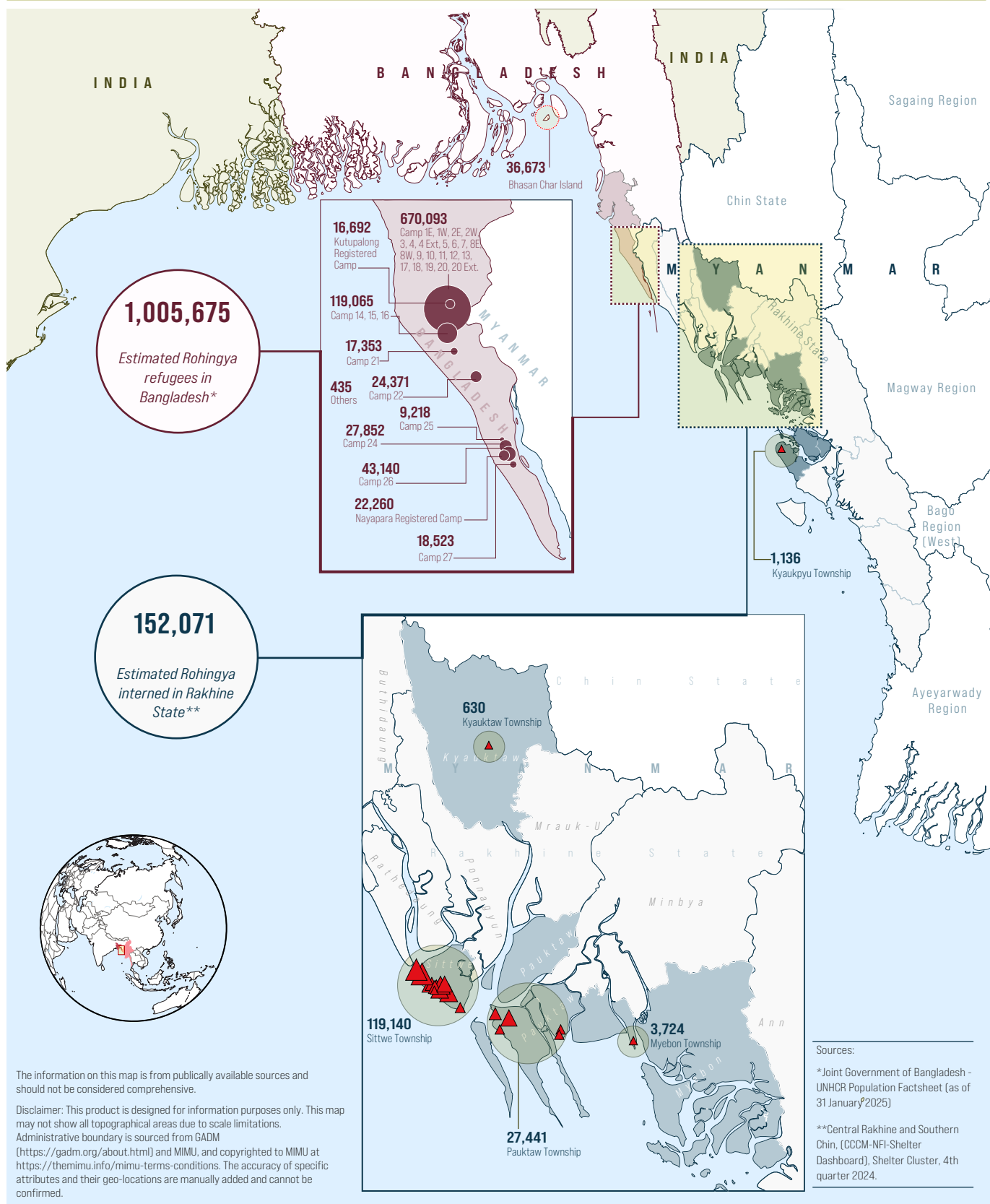
## KEY SECURITY INCIDENTS

FEBRUARY 2025



# ROHINGYA CAMPS IN RAKHINE STATE AND BANGLADESH

FEBRUARY 2025



## ROHINGYA VOICES

## Rakhine State

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

Rohingya people in four townships of central Rakhine State — Sittwe, Pauktaw, Myebon, and Kyaukpyu — have been living in camps since 2012, when they were displaced by violence often termed ‘inter-communal’ but which also involved state security forces. While these are sometimes called IDP camps, they differ from other IDP camps in Myanmar, mainly in that the movement of their residents is heavily restricted. In addition to living in impoverished areas and being limited in movement by SAC checkpoints outside their camps, fear of violence by neighbouring Rakhine communities has historically been a factor preventing many of these people from seeking work, healthcare, or goods outside camps, making them heavily reliant on humanitarian assistance. In some cases — such as in Pauktaw and Myebon townships — the AA offensive since November 2023 has removed the presence of SAC troops, but introduced a new actor (the ULA/AA) which requires ‘taxes’ and may expose camp members to other types of abusive practices. There are also contextual differences between these camps, including their composition: Kyauk Ta Lone (in Kyaukpyu Township) is a mix of ethnic Rohingya and Kaman, with Kaman in the majority, whereas the other camps are entirely or mainly Rohingya.

ROHINGYA CAMPS,  
SITTWE TOWNSHIP

## / PRIMARY CONCERNS

## SITTWE TOWNSHIP

Respondents in Sittwe Township expressed concerns over a lack of humanitarian assistance and said that food and healthcare services were urgent needs for IDPs. Respondents also said that the SAC restricted fishing, even though many Rohingya IDPs rely on it for their livelihood. They added that restrictions on movement and a lack of regular income made it more difficult to access healthcare. One respondent reported that although many IDPs are suffering from eye diseases, a Rakhine ophthalmologist refused to provide services to Rohingya people and verbally abused them when they tried to seek treatment.

“We couldn’t access healthcare to treat eye disease in Sittwe Town because the Ophthalmologist refused to treat Rohingya people. He even verbally abused Rohingya by saying that ‘Rohingya must seek treatment from Allah’ and told us not to come to his clinic, that he didn’t need money from Rohingya people.”

- 38, MALE, SITTWE

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

## / PRIMARY CONCERNS

## MYEBON TOWNSHIP

As with respondents in Sittwe Township, respondents in Taung Paw Ward (an 'officially closed' camp) in Myebon Township expressed concerns over a lack of regular income. One respondent also expressed concern over SAC airstrikes, stating that SAC often launched airstrikes and artillery attacks in Pauktaw and Kyauktaw townships, resulting in civilian casualties.

"In Pauktaw and Kyauktaw townships, SAC have been conducting airstrikes and firing heavy weapons. Another major challenge is unemployment and lack of regular income. As we don't have regular income, we can't fulfil the needs for the family."

- 54, MALE, MYEBON

## PAUKTAW TOWNSHIP

Respondents in Pauktaw Township stressed the urgent need for education support. They added that although the ULA/AA provided educational support to Rakhine villagers, such support was not available for Rohingya people. Another respondent said that access to healthcare services was extremely difficult for Rohingya people due to movement restrictions imposed on them by the ULA/AA, while Rakhine people were allowed to travel freely and have access to healthcare services in India, Myebon, and Kyauktaw townships.

"AA has restricted us from accessing healthcare services as well as traveling. There is a shortage of medicines in our area and we can't easily access healthcare services. But for Rakhine people, AA supports them with financial assistance and they are able to move freely in the region."

- 29, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

## KYAUK TA LONE, KYAUKPYU TOWNSHIP

A respondent at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township expressed greater concerns about the lack of clean water and the absence of regular humanitarian assistance. She added that due to the use and consumption of unclean water, many residents were suffering from skin diseases, with children being particularly vulnerable. The situation is worsened by the lack of healthcare services both in the camp and in urban areas.

"Currently our main concern is water. There is a shortage of water in our community. We have only one pond in the camp and the water is not clean and is unsafe to drink. Many people are suffering from skin diseases. We are concerned that the lack of water might be worse during the summer. We can't afford to buy purified drinking water and we are compelled to drink unsafe water. We are also worried about diarrhea outbreaks due to lack of safe drinking water."

- 38, FEMALE, KYAUK TA LONE

KYAUK TA LONE RELOCATION SITE, KYAUKPYU TOWNSHIP





## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

## ... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

A respondent at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township said that two organizations provided hygiene kits and food assistance in November and December 2024, but there was no assistance in January and February 2025. Residents at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site urgently need nutritious food, clean water, purification tablets, and contraceptive pills, adding that contraceptive pills were very expensive and often in short supply in the market.

“Contraceptive pills are expensive and there are often shortages, so we cannot afford to buy them. Children need nutritious food and we urgently need clean water and purification tablets.”

- 38, FEMALE, KYAUK TA LONE

A respondent in Taung Paw Ward in Myebon Township reported an urgent need for humanitarian assistance, particularly food support, shelter, and medicines. Respondents in Pauktaw Township said that camp and community leaders sent petitions to international organizations requesting urgent humanitarian assistance for Rohingya camps and villages. Respondents also said they were unable to afford healthcare services due to a lack of regular income.

“Currently, we urgently need cash assistance and healthcare support. Due to a lack of regular income, many Rohingya are unable to access healthcare services. I have a fish farm, but fish prices have dropped, and ice is unavailable for storage. Due to transportation restrictions imposed by the AA and the high cost of ice, many fishermen are losing profits when selling fish in the market.”

- 30, MALE, PAUKTAW

According to local media, IDPs in Thae Chaung, Tha Kay Pyin, Baw Du Pha, Ohn Taw Gyi, and Ohn Taw Chay camps did not receive food assistance for two months now. Respondents also said that they had not received any support since January, with children and the elderly being particularly vulnerable to impacts of the lack of food assistance. Respondents reported an urgent need for food assistance and nutrition support for children and the elderly.

“Our main concern is the lack of access to nutritious food. As we do not receive regular food assistance, children and the elderly are suffering from malnutrition. I am a daily wage laborer, and I do not have regular work. Sometimes my family was forced to skip meals due to food shortages in the household. I also heard that ration support would be reduced in the coming months due

to funding shortages, so we are very concerned about the lack of regular food assistance in the camp.”

- 38, MALE, SITTWE



ROHINGYA CAMP, SITTWE TOWNSHIP

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

## ... ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

Respondents in Sittwe Township expressed concerns over SAC forces' extortion, forced recruitment, and the arrest of camp leaders and fishermen. They said that Rohingya women and children were most vulnerable and often faced physical abuse by SAC forces. They reported that SAC forces often threatened camp residents and leaders and restricted fishermen from going out to fish, and that SAC forces had detained at least four people from the camp daily, accused them of various offenses, and extorted them upon release.

"Women are abused by SAC forces at checkpoints while traveling to access farmland. Children are also physically abused by SAC forces when they go out to collect waste plastic and empty cans to sell and earn some income for their parents. In the second week of February, 30 Rohingya fishermen were arrested by SAC forces while fishing and were severely abused."

- 37, MALE, SITTWE

A respondent at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township expressed concern about the SAC's military presence and potential airstrikes in Kyaukpyu Township. She reported that SAC forces had

planted landmines in the mountains behind the camp and restricted residents from accessing forest and mountain areas.

"SAC forces are active in Kyaukpyu Township, mobilizing and reinforcing their presence. Since Kyauk Ni Maw village was bombed by an SAC airstrike, we fear they might do the same to our camp. SAC forces have also restricted camp residents from bringing essential goods, such as rice and other basic food items, more than the household needs into the camp. A curfew was put in place from 6pm-6am in the camp. We are not allowed to go to the mountains, where we collect firewood for cooking, because SAC forces have planted landmines there. Since the camp is located between two SAC Light Infantry Battalions, we fear for our safety if there is fighting."

- 38, FEMALE, KYAUK TA LONE

Respondents in Pauktaw Township and Taung Paw Ward in Myebon Township expressed negative views of the ULA/AA administration, stating that ULA/AA officials were using various pretexts to oppress Rohingya people in these areas. Respondents in Pauktaw Township also reported that Rohingya IDPs are forced to provide labor and financial contributions to repair and pave roads under the orders of ULA/AA. Additionally,

they are required to pay a mandatory monthly "tax" to ULA/AA and need travel permits, valid for only seven days, to leave their townships.

"We didn't have to pay a 'tax' to SAC monthly, but now we have to pay 'tax' to AA for everything. Because of this taxation, the prices of goods have increased. We need permission from AA for everything — from traveling to conducting business. To travel to Kyauktaw, Minbya, Myebon, or Mrauk-U township, we need permission letters from AA authorities. However, Rakhine people do not need such permissions and can travel freely. Under the ULA/AA administration, the discrimination and persecution against the Rohingya people remains the same as under the SAC."

- 30, MALE, PAUKTAW



KYAUK TA LONE RELOCATION SITE,  
KYAUKPYU TOWNSHIP

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

## ... INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

A respondent at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu Township said that they have regular communication with their Rakhine neighbors and maintain good relationships with them. She explained that due to SAC's movement restrictions on Rakhine people, they often rely on camp residents to buy food items for them from the market.

"There is a good relationship between Rakhine villagers and IDPs. IDPs also help Rakhine villagers with their needs. Since Rakhine villagers are not allowed to go to town, Muslim IDPs help them buy necessities. We usually visit their villages to sell goods, so there has been a normal relationship between us so far."

- 38, FEMALE, KYAUK TA LONE

Respondents in Pauktaw Township and Taung Paw Ward ('officially closed' camp) in Myebon Township reported having good relations with their Rakhine neighbors and stated that there were no tensions between different groups. However, they expressed concerns about potential future tensions as ULA/AA officials continue to discriminate against and exclude Rohingya in these areas. While in general the relationship

between Rakhine and Rohingya people was reported as good, a respondent in Taung Paw Ward ('officially closed' camp) in Myebon Township reported that some Rohingya villagers were worried about their safety when traveling and working in Rakhine villages as daily laborers due to accusations of theft by some Rakhine villagers, leading to physical abuse.

"There is a good relationship between Rakhine and Rohingya people. There are no issues with traveling to Rakhine villages, but in some Rakhine villages, Rakhine villagers accused Rohingya of stealing and then physically abused them. We are also worried about potential tensions between the two communities because ULA/AA leaders and officials discriminate against us in many ways. We believe these actions encourage Rakhine people to do the same to the Rohingya community. Rohingya also fear that if AA captures the entire Rakhine State, they would oppress us even more."

- 54, MALE, MYEBON

Respondents in Sittwe Township said that the relationship between Rohingya and their Rakhine neighbors was generally good, and some Rakhine people even gave them equipment and materials when moving to Yangon for safety reasons. However,

they noted that Rohingya elders advise caution when traveling to Sittwe Town due to rumors about Rohingya armed groups planning to attack ULA/AA in border areas, which could lead to increased tensions between Rohingya and Rakhine people. One respondent reported an incident in which two Rohingya boys were beaten and robbed by Rakhine men, whom they believed to be Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) members, near the SAC military compound in Sittwe Township.

"Poor Rakhine individuals, including monks, come to our camp to beg for food from Rohingya families. Similarly, some Rakhine families give used household equipment and materials to their Rohingya friends when they move to Yangon. Rohingya people also send and share vegetables and other commodities with their Rakhine friends. But this month, two Rohingya boys from the camp went to collect old tin in the Kan Daw Gyi area near the SAC military compound. They were beaten by two Rakhine men, who were believed to be ALP members, and robbed of 35,000 Myanmar Kyat [~13.19 GBP]. Some Rohingya men working on fencing near the military battalion, as well as SAC forces stationed at the entrance point, saw the boys being physically abused but did nothing to help them."

- 37, MALE, SITTWE

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

Rohingya people living in villages in Maungdaw, Buthidaung, Rathedaung, Mrauk-U, Minbya, Kyauktaw, Pauktaw, and Sittwe townships have historically had greater ability to move around — and therefore greater access to income and services — than Rohingya camp residents, but their movement is still heavily constrained. In 2021, the SAC restarted the practice of requiring Rohingya villagers to provide documentation if they need to travel to other villages (a recommendation letter from a VA) or cross township lines (a recommendation letter and a so-called Form 4). While the ULA/AA has not imposed analogous movement restrictions since it took over these areas (all except Sittwe), since early 2024 it has reportedly limited Rohingya people's movement in order to reduce tensions between Rohingya and Rakhine communities. Because Rohingya villagers (as opposed to camp members) interact more with the ULA/AA, they are often exposed to 'taxation', recruitment, and other abusive practices by the group. Those travelling for healthcare, work, or other purposes in Sittwe Township also have greater interaction with SAC troops, making them more vulnerable to extortion and other abuses by these actors as well.

### MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP



### / PRIMARY CONCERNS

Respondents in Pauktaw, Kyauktaw, and Minbya townships expressed greater concerns over ULA/AA's movement restrictions, extortions, false accusations of affiliation with Rohingya armed groups, and arrest of Rohingya villagers for different reasons. Respondents said that due to the movement restrictions of ULA/AA, Rohingya were facing difficulties to access livelihoods and healthcare services, especially for pregnant women, even for emergency situations.

"We are constantly worried about living under AA's administration because of extortion, intimidations and all sorts of restrictions imposed on us. Even pregnant women are unable to access healthcare services due to such restrictions and many of them have died due to being unable to access maternity care."

- 34, MALE, PAUKTAW

"AA has been arresting Rohingya with false accusations. After arresting them, they simply accused them of being ARSA members, which was the easiest way to extort money from them. Movement restrictions are the main challenge for farmers as they cannot transport their farm products to the markets across Rakhine State and to Yangon. Therefore farmers are very badly affected under AA's administration."

- 48, MALE, KYAUKTAW



## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

## / PRIMARY CONCERNS

Rohingya villagers in Sittwe Township expressed concerns over difficulties accessing food items. One said that, due to increasing prices of food items in the market and the lack of a regular income, many Rohingya villagers were unable to afford sufficient food and urgently needed nutritional food; they reported that many children and pregnant women are suffering from malnutrition. She said that to cope with the difficulties in the household, many families skip meals and some are only able to afford rice or rice porridge.

“The price of basic commodities has become very high in the markets. Many households can only afford to eat rice with salt or rice porridge without meat or vegetables. People are very concerned about access to food due to skyrocketing prices of food items in the market and many people have skipped meals to cope.”

- 46, FEMALE, SITTWE

As with respondents elsewhere, respondents in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships expressed concerns about ULA/AA accusing young Rohingya people of affiliation with Rohingya armed groups and often arresting them. They said that they

urgently need shelters, food assistance, warm clothes for children, toilet facilities, hygiene kits and sanitary pads for women, especially for those who were forcibly displaced by the ULA/AA in the past months. Respondents said that those Rohingya villagers are sheltering in the fields without any support. Respondents from those areas also reported that due to lack of hygiene facilities/resources and clean water, many villagers, especially children, are suffering from skin diseases.

“In December 2024, two dead bodies were found in Myauk Taung village, Maungdaw Township and the AA accused ARSA of killing them and forced the entire villages to leave. Those villagers are currently taking shelter in Thu U Lar, Tha Yet Oke and Ngan Chaung villages. Some of them stay under tarpaulin sheets without toilet facilities. They urgently need hygiene kits, warm clothes for their children, and toilet facilities for women.”

- 30, MALE, MAUNGDAW

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

## ... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Rohingya villagers in Sittwe Township said an organisation provided healthcare assistance for children under five years old once a week in Bu May ward. One respondent said that food, nutrition support, healthcare services and medicines are pressing needs.

“Due to the lack of regular income, families are unable to afford treatment at the Thet Kae Pyin hospital and pregnant women are very vulnerable in this situation. 60% of villagers are suffering from skin diseases; some people suffer from it seriously. They didn't receive healthcare assistance because there is no healthcare assistance available from any organization in the village.”

- 46, FEMALE, SITTWE

Respondents in Pauktaw, Minbya and Kyauktaw townships reported that Rohingya villagers there have not received humanitarian assistance and urgently need food, agricultural support, education and healthcare assistance. A respondent in Minbya Township said that due to lack of community donations, Rohingya volunteer teachers have not received their salary for three months.



## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

“The majority of people are unable to access healthcare services and people have died from being unable to receive treatment. AA opened schools in our area but due to lack of money, the majority of the children are unable to go to school. I work as a teacher and this is my only income source. Since December 2024, due to the lack of community donations, I haven’t received a salary from the community school and my household is facing extreme challenges.”

- 31, MALE, MINBYA

Respondents in Maungdaw Township said that an organisation provided medicines to villagers through its community healthcare worker.

Respondents in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships said that due to lack of healthcare services for pregnant women, some women and infants died during childbirth. Respondents in Maungdaw Township reported that due to movement restrictions by the ULA/AA, villagers were unable to buy bamboo from Buthidaung Township to repair shelters and are unable to access healthcare services. She added that although an organization was providing medicines, many of the required medicines are available.

“Currently our community is in need of material support to repair houses, such as bamboo and palm leaves. Bamboo is only available in

Buthidaung Township and due to the restrictions by AA, we couldn’t buy it. [...] Due to the lack of doctors and medicines in our area, people are increasingly suffering from many diseases. One organisation was providing some medicines through its appointed community healthcare worker in Hla Baw Zar village, but the required medicines were not available with that organisation. We have to rely on traditional healers and sometimes the illnesses are getting worse.”

- 29, FEMALE, MAUNGDAW

### ... ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

Respondents in Minbya and Kyauktaw townships reported that the ULA/AA regularly met with Rohingya community leaders and VAs and continued forced recruitment. They said that the ULA/AA forced Rohingya farmers to cultivate paddy and vegetables for its forces and ULA/AA officials physically abused them. A respondent from Kyauktaw Township said that three Rohingya, who recently came back after getting approval from ULA/AA to return their village from Malaysia, were then arrested by the AA in Pauktaw Township and allegedly falsely accused of being members of ARSA. The village leader and family showed the household lists and other

evidence to release them, but the AA officials refused to release them. In Minbya Township, AA arrested at least 60 Rohingya, including religious leaders, under suspicion of murdering the AA-appointed village leader in Let Ma village. One respondent said that those Rohingya were tortured during the interrogation by the AA officials.

“Farmers are also forced to cultivate and provide crops to AA. If any farmer refuses, they could face intimidation and physical abuse. Rohingya are under constant persecution and oppression by the AA. The village leader appointed by AA was killed by a group of people because he extorted money from the Rohingya villagers to provide for ULA/AA financially and also for killing four Rohingya villagers. AA forces arrested 60 villagers related to that case, including 5 religious leaders. I heard that they are being interrogated and severely tortured. One of the arrestees confessed to the killing of the village leader.”

- 31, MALE, MINBYA

Respondents in Minbya, Kyauktaw and Pauktaw townships reported that the ULA/AA imposed more restrictions on Rohingya villagers such as mandatory “tax,” arrest and movement restrictions. Rohingya villagers were required to pay mandatory “tax” to ULA/AA monthly and were required to get permission from ULA officials

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

to travel to other townships. Rohingya villagers expressed concern over ULA/AA oppression and accusations of affiliation with Rohingya armed groups. A villager from Pauktaw Township reported that to travel to Sittwe Township for medical purposes, the villagers are required to bribe to get permission and added that ULA/AA also forced Rohingya villagers to pave the road. He said that a ULA/AA commander accused the villagers of there being ARSA members in the village and threatened that he would burn down the entire village.

“To travel to Sittwe Township for medical treatment, we have to pay 1,000,000 Myanmar Kyat [~375.86 GBP] as a bribe to AA officials. There are many human rights violations happening under ULA/AA. Before it wasn't like that, but now AA forces are increasingly discriminating against us through threats and intimidation. AA soldiers forced us to pave roads in Rakhine and Rohingya villages. Villagers have to buy construction materials with their own money to repair and pave the roads and bridges. Sometimes, AA forces order the villagers to redo the construction of roads if they are not satisfied. In our village, there are 2,000 people and we were forced to build 1,000 feet of roads at our own cost and labor. Even in Rakhine villages, Rohingya are the ones who have to build the roads;

this is not fair and is a clear example of discrimination against the Rohingya people.”

- 34, MALE, PAUKTAW

Respondents in Maungdaw Township said that the AA collected population data and issued new household lists to Rohingya villagers and they removed the name of the family member from the registration list if they were not present during the data collection of ULA/AA members at their houses. They reported that ULA/AA collected bamboo and 10 Rohingya labourers worked for two days to repair the bridge in Ka Nyin Taw village and collected 20,000 Myanmar Kyat (~7.51 GBP) from every household to build an administration office in Thu U Lar village. According to the respondents, villagers were unable to afford to pay the money to ULA/AA and due to the fear of repercussions they borrowed money from others to pay it. Respondents reported that ULA/AA officials often arrest Rohingya villagers for a variety of stated reasons, torture them, and extort them upon releasing them, and confiscate food from villagers.

“On 3 February, AA forces arrested a Rohingya youth on his way to a prawn farm in Tha Yet Oke village. He was severely tortured and has not been released yet. On 1 February, AA forces collected 20,000 Myanmar

Kyat from every household to build an administration office in Thu U Lar village. According to the villagers, many households could not afford to pay. However, as it was enforced by the AA forces, they had to borrow from others to make the payment.”

-30, MALE, MAUNGDAW

Respondents in Buthidaung Township said that ULA/AA also confiscated some houses in Sein Nyin Pyar, Tha Peik Taung, and Nyaung Chaung villages to use as schools and forced Rohingya from Ward 5 to clean the market at least ten times per month. Respondents expressed concern about the ULA/AA seizing houses and buildings owned by Rohingya people with false accusations of being affiliated with Rohingya armed groups.

“In the first week of February, AA seized houses owned by Rohingya people in Buthidaung Town. AA accused those homeowners of being members of Rohingya armed groups. They fled to safer locations due to fighting in Buthidaung Township a few months ago and they haven't returned to their houses yet. The act of confiscating houses by accusing the residents of being members of armed groups is completely inhumane, and Rohingya people are worried that this is an attempt to drive them out of Rakhine State by ULA/AA.”

- 40, MALE, BUTHIDAUNG

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

Respondents in Sittwe Township expressed concerns over SAC's extortion at the checkpoints, potential air-strikes and artillery attacks, and confiscation of food and other materials from Rohingya villagers. One said that the SAC assigned its trained Rohingya conscripts to work at the checkpoints and forced them to extort money from passengers who passed the checkpoints. On 8 February, SAC security forces arrested 26 Rohingya men at the immigration department for no known reason and extorted their families upon their release.

"Rohingya men who were recruited by SAC were assigned to work at every checkpoint. They were forced to be involved in the extortion of people at the checkpoints. SAC forces extort people without reasons and often come to Rohingya villages to confiscate food. SAC security forces arrested 26 Rohingya men, including young people, at the immigration department when they went to check their ID application process, as they thought the decision had been made at Union level to issue their ID cards. They were detained at the No. 1 police station in Sittwe Town, then families needed to pay a bribe of 500,000 Myanmar Kyat [~188 GBP] per person to release them."

- 30, MALE, SITTWE

## ... INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

Respondents in Sittwe Township reported that they have regular communication with their Rakhine friends, but that there was an attack by Rakhine men on a Rohingya auto-trishaw driver in an urban area. The Rohingya auto-trishaw driver accidentally hit a Rakhine woman in Sittwe urban area, and a group of Rakhine men beat him badly. He was hospitalised due to the injuries, but his family discharged him one day later due to concerns of potential further attacks by Rakhine people at the hospital. Respondents also expressed concerns about robbery committed by the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) members targeted at Rohingya people.

"A Rakhine woman was hit by a Rohingya auto-trishaw in Sittwe urban. A group of Rakhine men abused and beat him badly and he was admitted to the hospital. His auto-trishaw was detained by police. Due to concerns of further attacks from the Rakhine people, the driver was discharged from the hospital by his relatives and family one day later. But we have regular communication with our Rakhine friends, they always come to our village and some poor Rakhine people come here to beg from Rohingya families in our village every day."

- 46, FEMALE, SITTWE

Rohingya villagers in Minbya, Kyauktaw and Pauktaw townships voiced concerns about potential intercommunal violence in the future. Rohingya villagers in these areas said that there was no tension between their Rakhine neighbours and Rohingya villagers, but due to discrimination and oppression by ULA/AA members, they were concerned that Rakhine people might act the same in the future.

"There is no issue in the relationship between Rakhine and Rohingya people. But AA officials discriminate and oppress the Rohingya villagers. We are worried that AA will intensify the discrimination and persecution against us in the future and Rakhine people could also act the same as the AA. This would deteriorate the relationship between us in the future."

- 34, MALE, PAUKTAW

Respondents in Buthidaung and Maungaw townships said that they have no regular communication with Rakhine people and said that there was no trust between the two communities. Respondents expressed greatest concern over potential intercommunal violence due to the movements and activities of SAC, SAC's allied Rohingya armed groups and ULA/AA. One respondent from Maungdaw Township said that in

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

### / REFLECTIONS ON ...

the past, Rakhine teachers came to Rohingya village schools, but those Rakhine teachers now avoid working in Rohingya schools due to safety and security concerns and ongoing military tension between the AA and Rohingya armed groups.

“Because of the actions of SAC, AA and Rohingya armed groups, the trust between the two communities has been affected. Rakhine people view us as terrorists. Before, Rakhine teachers used to work in Rohingya village schools, but now they avoid coming to

Rohingya villages due to ongoing conflict and security concerns.”

- 30, MALE, MAUNGDAW

## MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP





## ROHINGYA VOICES

## Bangladesh

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

The Myanmar military's 2017 'clearance operations' displaced some 700,000 Rohingya people from (mainly northern) Rakhine State into Bangladesh, where these people joined hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people displaced by earlier waves of violence. Upwards of one million Rohingya people now live in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and neighbouring areas. However, these camps have offered no respite from violence; particularly since 2019, competition between — and little policing of — ARSA, RSO, and other criminal actors in the camps have left Rohingya refugees dead, injured, and fearful, and may be the cause of deadly fires that have destroyed thousands of homes. In addition, stringent restrictions by Bangladesh authorities mean that camp residents are not allowed to leave the camps to access markets, or seek work, healthcare, or education in neighbouring communities, and violence by Bangladeshi communities has often prevented even informal movement. Bangladesh's Armed Police Battalion (APBn) has frequently used violence, extortion, forced labour, and arbitrary detention to enforce restrictions. Rohingya refugees are heavily reliant on humanitarian assistance, particularly since Bangladeshi authorities demolished businesses in the camps in 2022.

In 2020, Bangladeshi authorities began relocating Rohingya refugees to Bhasan Char, a silt island in the Bay of Bengal that is exposed to dangerous weather events and which offers almost nothing in the way of work or subsistence opportunities. Bhasan Char residents are largely prevented from leaving due to formal restrictions and the difficulties associated with travelling back to the mainland, meaning that the only income opportunities are a small number of NGO positions, and the only healthcare option (except in dire emergencies) is a single 20-bed hospital. Reporting suggests that humanitarian assistance is greater on Bhasan Char than in Cox's Bazar camps, but is still inadequate.

## / PRIMARY CONCERNS

## COX'S BAZAR

Respondents in Cox's Bazar expressed increased concern over the safety and security of women and girls and lack of clean water in the camp. One respondent stressed that water shortages are severe in camp 26 and refugees in that camp are required to travel a long distance to access water, have to wait in a long queue and sometimes face sexual harassment by refugee men. She also said that women and girls often face challenges to study or work due to movement restrictions by religious leaders and armed groups.

"Due to there being many people fetching water, only two buckets of water are allowed per person. The water collection place is also not safe for girls and sometimes they face sexual harassment. As fetching water is not safe, sometimes we have to consume unsafe water. As armed groups are active in the camps, women and girls cannot freely move around. When my sisters went to school, they faced many challenges as religious leaders and armed groups restrict the movement of Rohingya women and girls. [...] Religious leaders prohibit women going out of their homes for study or to work."

- 35, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR



## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

## / PRIMARY CONCERNS

Another respondent expressed concerns about the limited shelters for both new Rohingya arrivals and existing Rohingya refugees. He said that due to lack of the shelter support for newly arrived Rohingya, people are sharing shelters with their relatives, many of them are forced to leave after a few months by their relatives, and existing refugees also face difficulties as there is no room for their adult children.

“Access to shelter is the pressing issue among the refugees. There are no shelter supports for newly arrived refugees. Rohingya people who can afford it rent houses outside the camp or rent open areas and build shelters in the camp, but many of the newcomers stay with their relatives. Some newcomers tried to build shelters on the football grounds but the CIC came and destroyed them on 10 February. At the moment both newcomers and their relatives are facing challenges regarding sharing shelter in the long-term. The shelters provided by

an organisation are very small and there is no space for adult children.”

- 30, MALE, COX'S BAZAR

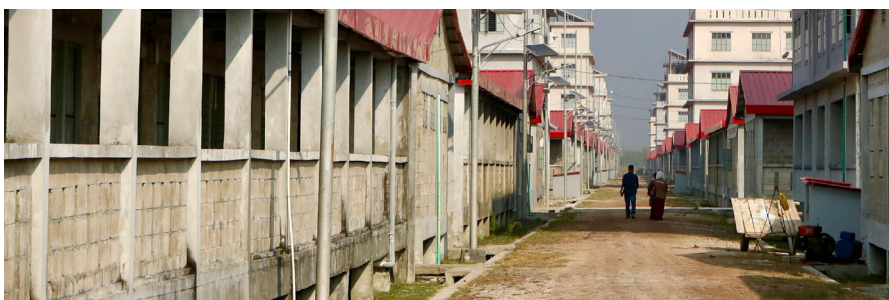
## BHASAN CHAR

Rohingya refugees on Bhasan Char Island expressed concerns about the lack of job opportunities and restrictions on movement. One respondent said that due to lack of the job opportunities on Bhasan Char, some people illegally travelled to Cox's Bazar or Teknaf to work for several months and then returned back to the camp. However, in recent months, camp authorities have strictly prohibited travelling outside Bhasan Char and cut food assistance and gas support to anyone who travelled or left from Bhasan Char as punishment. Another respondent in Bhasan Char said that in order to get official permission to travel to Cox's Bazar, applicants were required to bribe camp leaders, camp

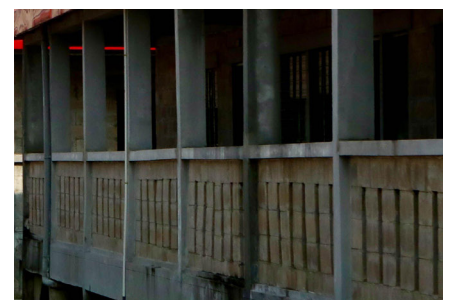
in charge, and Bangladesh security police and that, even if they get permission, they are not allowed to bring their children with them.

“The major challenge for us was travel restrictions to Cox's Bazar, even for family emergencies. It is difficult to travel and boats are not always available. Even if I am allowed to visit Cox's Bazar, I am not allowed to take my children with me even if they are very young. The authorities do not allow us to bring children as they think that we might not come back to the camp. It is very difficult for women who have young children to travel to Cox's Bazar. To travel to Cox's Bazar, I have to bribe CIC and other authorities to get permission; this costs me around 50,000 Taka [~325.46 GBP]. Many people cannot afford to pay so they cannot visit Cox's Bazar to meet with their relatives or family members or seek treatment.”

- 45, FEMALE, BHASAN CHAR



BHASAN CHAR



## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

## ... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported an urgent need for shelters and construction materials for fire victims and newly arrived Rohingya refugees, as well as food assistance. Respondents expressed heightened concerns about the US government freezing funding and how this may impact healthcare services, job opportunities for Rohingya, and development activities in camps. They said that due to funding shortages, some local NGOs stopped their activities, including provision of healthcare services, and many Rohingya volunteers lost their jobs in February. Respondents also said that both US and Australian resettlement plans were cancelled and Rohingya refugees who were planning to leave to the US and Australia had been in the process of waiting to do their interviews, which have now been cancelled. Respondents expressed concern about these policy changes.

"Some refugees are worried about the delay of ration distribution this month and they think it is related to the shutting down of USAID by the new US government. Refugees rely on monthly support from NGOs and they don't have any savings or rations for the coming months. Therefore, without NGO support, their lives are at stake. I heard that due to the stopping of USAID funding, more than

2,000 people have lost their jobs. Rohingya volunteers were also in that list and lost their jobs. I also heard that the US resettlement program was stopped and people are concerned about this. Some of the Rohingya refugees who are in the resettlement program lists have already sold their belongings and shelters in order to travel to the US."

- 35, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

"Due to the USAID funding cuts, a clinic was shut down in my camp and it will also affect side development projects."

- 37, MALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents on Bhasan Char also expressed concerns over some local NGOs stopping their activities and rumors about reducing food assistance in the coming months. Respondents also expressed concerns about adequate healthcare services on Bhasan Char and one said that there is an especially urgent need for the treatment of Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) patients, particularly the elderly.

In Cox's Bazar, NGOs provided NCD support, but on Bhasan Char, we didn't receive such support. Hypertension, diabetes, asthma and mental health conditions are very common among Rohingya refugees,

especially among the elderly. There is no support for chronic cases and those people do not receive regular healthcare treatment at all."

- 38, MALE, BHASAN CHAR

## ... ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

Local media reported that on 16 February, RSO killed a Rohingya traditional healer in Camp 13, Block C, Thaing Khali camp, Cox's Bazar. Respondents reported that Bangladesh authorities detained Rohingya who fled to Cox's Bazar due to safety and security concerns and some of them were forcibly returned to Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships. On 8 February, around 33 Rohingya, many of them women and children, were detained in Bandarban by Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) while they were entering Bangladesh.

Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported that Rohingya armed actors such as ARSA, RSO, ANDF, ARA, and Islamic Mahez organized several gatherings with Rohingya refugees to recruit young people from all the camps. ARA, RSO and ANDF were also providing military training to young people in the camps. Respondents in Cox's Bazar said that Bangladeshi authorities did not take any action about

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

those gatherings and respondents claimed that Bangladeshi authorities indirectly support those armed groups. Respondents said that, due to discrimination and persecution by the ULA/AA in Maungdaw and Buthiduang townships, increasing numbers of Rohingya refugees are showing their support to Rohingya armed groups in Cox's Bazar.

"After ULA/AA captured Maungdaw and Buthiduang and forced thousands of Rohingya to flee to Cox's Bazar, more and more Rohingya in Cox's Bazar are supporting the activities of Rohingya armed groups. Although there was no extortion by the Rohingya armed groups, a Rohingya business person smuggling goods from Cox's Bazar to Rakhine State was killed by ARSA, accused of cooperating with ULA/AA. Rohingya armed groups are organizing mass gatherings in camps to recruit people and Bangladesh has not taken any action. I think Bangladesh authorities are indirectly supporting those armed groups' activities."

- 35, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

Another respondent reported that Rohingya armed groups, especially RSO and ARA, are cooperating with religious leaders to recruit Rohingya students who are studying to become religious leaders. He added that at least 74 students, many of them under 18 years old, were recruited from the Madarasa school, trained them for a few months and then sent to Rakhine State to fight against ULA/AA.

"We think Bangladesh security intelligence forces are trying to use Rohingya armed groups as they are also concerned about increasing movements of ULA/AA in the border area. Rohingya armed groups are openly organizing and recruiting young people through using Rohingya religious leaders. 74 young children were recruited from the Madarasa. After a few months' training, they were sent to Rakhine State to fight against the AA. Only five children were able to return and the rest were all killed in battle. Bangladesh authorities allowed such recruitment and didn't take any action."

- 30, MALE, COX'S BAZAR

## ... INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

Respondents expressed concerns about attacks, abductions, or kidnapping by community members or Bangladeshi criminal gangs. Respondents said that local authorities often discriminate against Rohingya new arrivals and local criminal gangs also target newcomers to kidnap and demand ransom as they believe that newcomers bring money and gold when they flee to Cox's Bazar. One respondent said that Bangladeshi security police do not take any action against those criminal gangs or local people who kidnap Rohingya, and instead the police blamed the Rohingya for travelling outside the camp. He said that children and girls are often targeted by the community members or Bangladeshi criminal gangs as they get ransom easily from victims' families. He also said that according to people who were kidnapped by the locals, Bangladeshi security police were involved in the kidnappings and victims' families do not trust the police enough to report kidnapping cases.

## COX'S BAZAR





## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR AND BHASAN CHAR

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

“There is tension between the refugees and the host community. New refugees are more likely to be kidnapped as they are targeted by locals and Bangladeshi criminal gangs. One of my friends was abducted in January by local people and according to him Bangladesh security police were involved in the kidnapping. He saw the Bangladesh security police in a car when he was abducted by the locals. He was released after paying 300,000 Taka as ransom to the kidnappers. The Bangladesh police force blamed him for not reporting the case to them. But to report to the Bangladesh

police, people have to bribe them first and in many cases they are also involved in the kidnapping so people don't trust them. On 10 February, a young Rohingya girl was also kidnapped. A video of kidnappers torturing her spread online. Kidnappers target young children and girls as they can get easy ransom from the victims' families.”

- 30, MALE, COX'S BAZAR

Respondents on Bhasan Char said that although they have regular communication with local businessmen, there is no good communication or

relationship between refugees and local authorities. Respondents also reported discrimination by local nurses at the NGO clinics.

“We have good communication with local business people and street vendors as they rely on us to do business here [Bhasan Char]. But there are no good relations with local authorities, as they are very corrupt and women also have tensions with NGO nurses. Those NGO nurses are very rude and discriminate against Rohingya when we seek treatment at the clinics.”

- 38, MALE, BHASAN CHAR



BHASAN CHAR



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## ROHINGYA VOICES

### ATMOSPHERIC REPORT

Contributing information sources to this document include public and non-public humanitarian information. The content compiled is by no means exhaustive and does not necessarily reflect the position of its authors or funders. The provided information, assessment, and analysis are designated for humanitarian purposes only and as such should not be cited.

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