



# Rohingya Voices

ATMOSPHERIC REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

APRIL 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.

Photos included in this report used with permission. Sources withheld by request due to security concerns.

## KEY FINDINGS

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### / PERCEPTIONS OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

**Rohingya community members in villages** in Rakhine State reported a lack of assistance, especially food, shelters, healthcare and water.

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

- Respondents in Kyauktaw Township reported urgently needing agricultural support and said that due to increasing prices of agricultural supplies, many Rohingya farmers were unable to cultivate paddy.

**Rohingya community members in camps** in Rakhine State expressed concerns about medicine shortages and lack of nutritious food — especially for children and elderly people — and construction materials to repair houses.

- Respondents in Taung Paw ward (an 'officially closed' camp) in Myebon Township said that, due to the lack of healthcare assistance and medicines, chronic disease patients were unable to access needed healthcare services.

- In April, respondents in camps reported more urgently needing food, nutrition for children and the elderly, and medications.

**Rohingya community members in Bangladesh** expressed concerns about a lack of sufficient food, drinking water, livelihood support for widows, and education support in Cox's Bazar and on Bhasan Char.

- Respondents in Cox's Bazar expressed concern over NGOs reducing site management and healthcare services and said that there was an urgent need for support to manage drainage systems to control flies and mosquitoes.

- Compared to March, 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 expressed greater concern about forced recruitment by the State Administration Council (SAC) and United League of Arakan/Arakan Army (ULA/AA). Compared to March, respondents expressed greater concerns about forced labour, checks and searches of Rohingya people's houses, and extortion at AA checkpoints in Pauktaw, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Maungdaw, and Buthidaung townships.

- All respondents living in ULA/AA-controlled areas expressed negative views of the ULA/AA administration. However, some residents of Maungdaw Township expressed positive views after the AA allowed some Rohingya people to return to their homes in Maungdaw and Buthiduang townships.

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

- Respondents living in ULA/AA-controlled areas reported that ULA/AA held meetings with Rohingya community leaders and asked them to organise recruitment of Rohingya to join its military training and warned them not to support ARSA.

- Respondents in Sittwe townships expressed concerns about movement restrictions, harassment, and threats by SAC forces. They said that in April, SAC forces warned Rohingya camp leaders and IDPs not to cooperate with the AA and immediately report any AA movement in camp areas.

**Rohingya community members in Bangladesh** reported that fighting and killings between the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) had decreased.

- Respondents expressed concern over Bangladesh authorities meeting with SAC leaders about Rohingya repatriation and expressed concern about return under ULA/AA administration.

## KEY FINDINGS

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**/ PERCEPTIONS OF INTERCOMMUNAL TENSIONS**

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

■ Respondents in Maungdaw Township reported tensions between Rakhine and Rohingya villagers following the disappearance of a Rakhine villager near a Rohingya village.

■ Respondents in Sittwe Township reported experiencing physical and verbal abuse and robbery by Rakhine people and members of the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP).

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

■ Respondents in Sittwe and Pauktaw townships said that they experienced discrimination and verbal abuse by doctors and nurses in Sittwe town.

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

■ Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported that Bangladeshi nurses verbally abused them and employers often exploited Rohingya day labourers.

■ A respondent on Bhasan Char reported that host community members sustained relationships with Rohingya refugees as they have to rely on refugees to sell commodities in camp.

## 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 April, but violence by the SAC, AA, and others continued to impact communities, particularly in northern Rakhine State.

- On 2 April local media **reported** that ARSA killed four Khami men who were traveling from Myawaddy village to Aung Gandaru village in Maungdaw Township. On 30 March, locals discovered the bodies of the deceased on the Badga Taung Kyaw mountain pass road in the Mayu Mountain range with gun wounds in their bodies.
- On 3 April, local media **reported** that a 10-year-old Rohingya girl was robbed and killed by ARSA members in Tha Yet Oke village, Maungdaw Township. The victim's family complained to the ULA/AA, which then detained alleged ARSA members at its police station in Nga Ku Ra village.

### Hate speech



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

Hate speech did not change significantly in April.

- On 1 April, local media **reported** that ARSA leader Sheikh Burkhan had been spreading threats and hate speech through videos and audio files online, often using religious themes to incite violence. On a daily basis, new audio and video materials produced by ARSA leaders called for attacks in northern Rakhine State, and social media pages run by ARSA supporters shared those threats online. The same source reported that, on 31 March, a video released by ARSA on Eid festival included threats and hate speech directed at the AA and Rakhine people.
- Respondents in Maungdaw Township reported that some Rakhine groups were intentionally sharing hate speech and misinformation to incite attacks against Rohingya villagers in northern Rakhine State.

### 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 4 April, 41 organisations **urged** the Federal Court of Argentina to issue a red notice for 25 individuals identified in the arrest warrant in the case before it concerning genocide against Rohingya people. The organisations also urged the police forces of Interpol member states to fully cooperate with Interpol in the arrest and extradition of the warrantees.
- On 5 April, the Rohingya Committee for Peace and Repatriation (RCPR) **issued** a statement regarding the SAC's claimed verification of 180,000 Rohingya refugees for repatriation. RCPR demanded citizenship rights, the restoration of destroyed homes, properties, and lands of Rohingya communities in Rakhine State, the protection of human rights, guarantees of freedom of movement, and the establishment of safe zones for returnees.

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

## 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 continued in April in many areas of Rakhine State.

- On 4 April, local media **reported** that at least 50 Rakhine residents of Ngar Khu Ya and Chyan Pyin villages in Maung-daw Township raided Rohingya villages — U Shey Kya, Pwint Phyu Chaung, and Kyar Gaung Taung villages — armed with sticks and machetes, searching for a Rakhine man who went missing on 2 April. During the search, the group reportedly threatened and verbally abused Rohingya villagers. The incident followed a **report** by Rakhine news agency Narinjara, which claimed that the missing 42-year-old Rakhine man from Chyan Pyin village had been abducted by ARSA near U Shey Kya village. Ostensibly to facilitate a search, on 5 April, the AA **prohibited** Rohingya villagers from U Shey Kya, Pwint Phyu Chaung, Kyar Gaung Taung, and Tha Yet Oke from leaving their villages. Afterward, the AA also reportedly forced residents to stand under the hot sun in open fields, without food or shelter, as punishment.

## Cohesion



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

Social cohesion between ethnic Rohingya and Rakhine communities appeared unchanged in April in many areas of Rakhine State.

- Respondents in Sittwe, Kyauktaw, and Minbya townships stated that there was good communication between Rohingya and Rakhine neighbors. They reported that they could visit Rakhine villages, and that Rakhine people also visited Rohingya villages and camps.

## Perceptions

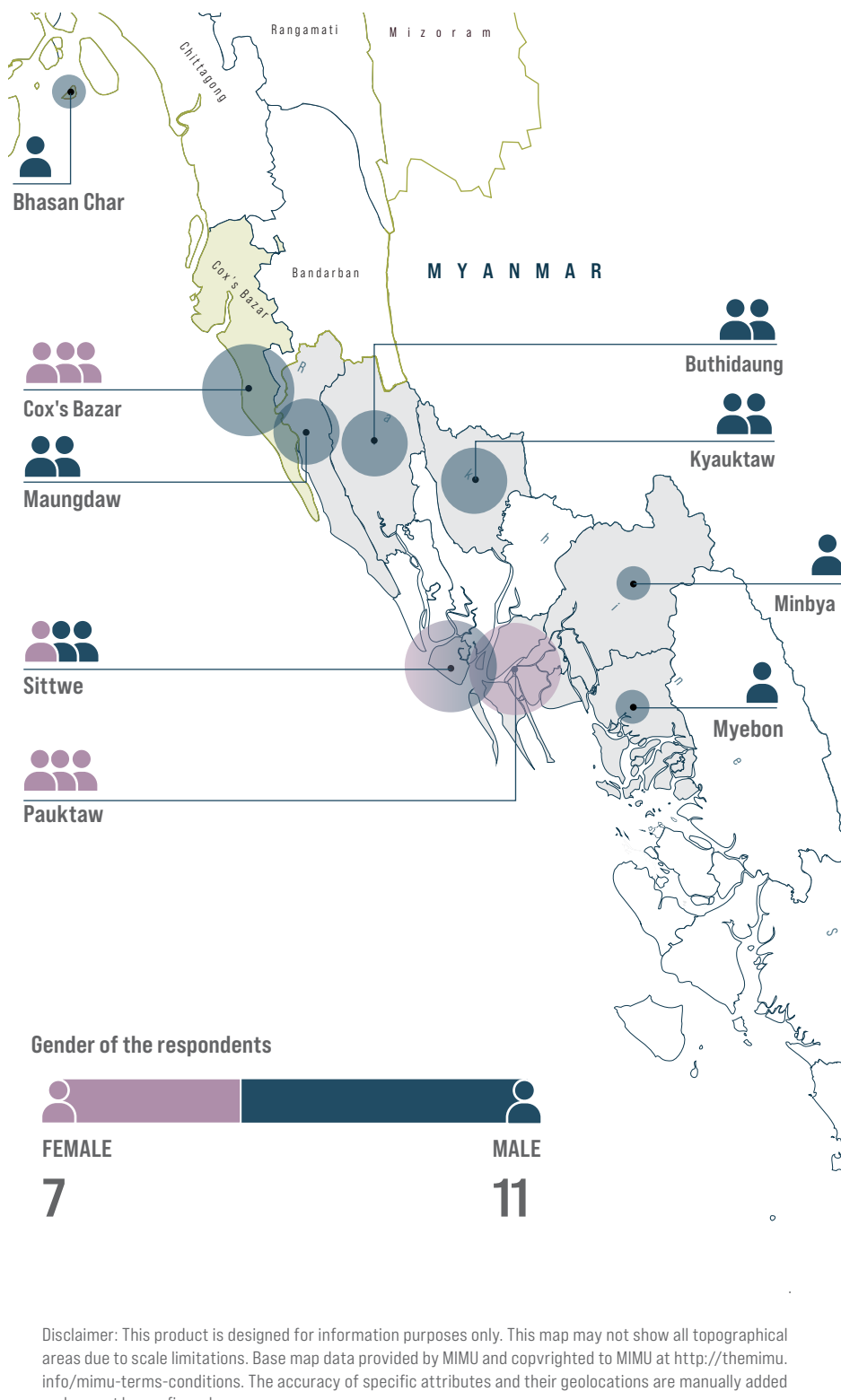


'Perceptions' includes the expressed sentiments of Rohingya people (e.g. respondents).

Respondents in Rakhine State did not report perceptions of intercommunal relations that differed significantly from March. Respondents living in ULA/AA-controlled areas expressed concerns that the ULA/AA's actions and discrimination toward Rohingya people might negatively impact the relationship between Rohingya communities and people of other minority ethnic groups.

## RESPONDENTS

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



## 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.

2  
April

Local media [reported](#) that ARSA planned to launch attacks against the AA in Maungdaw Township in April. The same source reported that ARSA movement had increased in areas of Myanmar near the Bangladesh border, and that on 29 March, around 60 ARSA members [attacked](#) five AA members near Taungpyo and Mee Taik villages, Maungdaw Township, killing two.

3  
April

Local media [reported](#) that the AA warned Rohingya villagers in Maungdaw Township not to cooperate, support, or provide shelters or foods to ARSA.

9  
April

Local media [reported](#) that, since 1 April, the ULA/AA had allowed displaced Rohingya people to return to their homes in Maungdaw Township. According to Rohingya residents of Maungdaw Township, the ULA/AA issued household registration lists to all Rohingya families, and arranged transportation for displaced people to return home.

11  
April

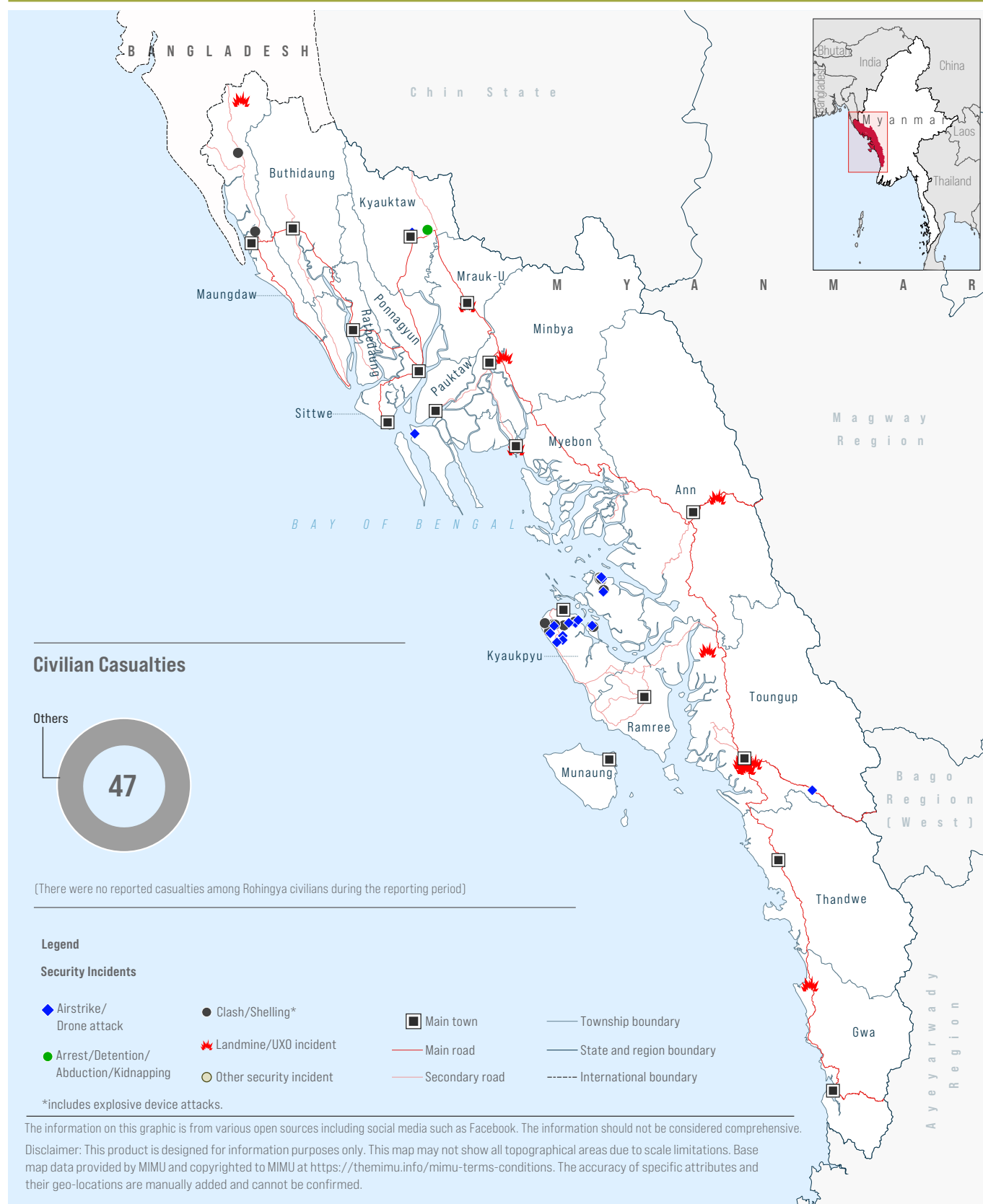
Local media [reported](#) that SAC aircraft dropped four 500-pound bombs on Ah Nauk Ye village, but there were no casualties. The same source reported that although SAC claimed to be implementing a nationwide ceasefire after the earthquake, its airstrikes continued to target civilian areas, homes, religious buildings, and hospitals nationwide, including in Rakhine State.

19  
April

Local media [reported](#) that more than 1,000 villagers have been displaced from Nan Yar Kone village in Buthidaung Township for over a year, and that the ULA/AA still had not allowed them to return to their homes. The same source reported that, after the AA took full control of the village in April 2024, its members looted rice mills, machinery, auto rickshaws, and motorbikes belonging to Rohingya villagers, and destroyed religious buildings, including four mosques and an Islamic high school.

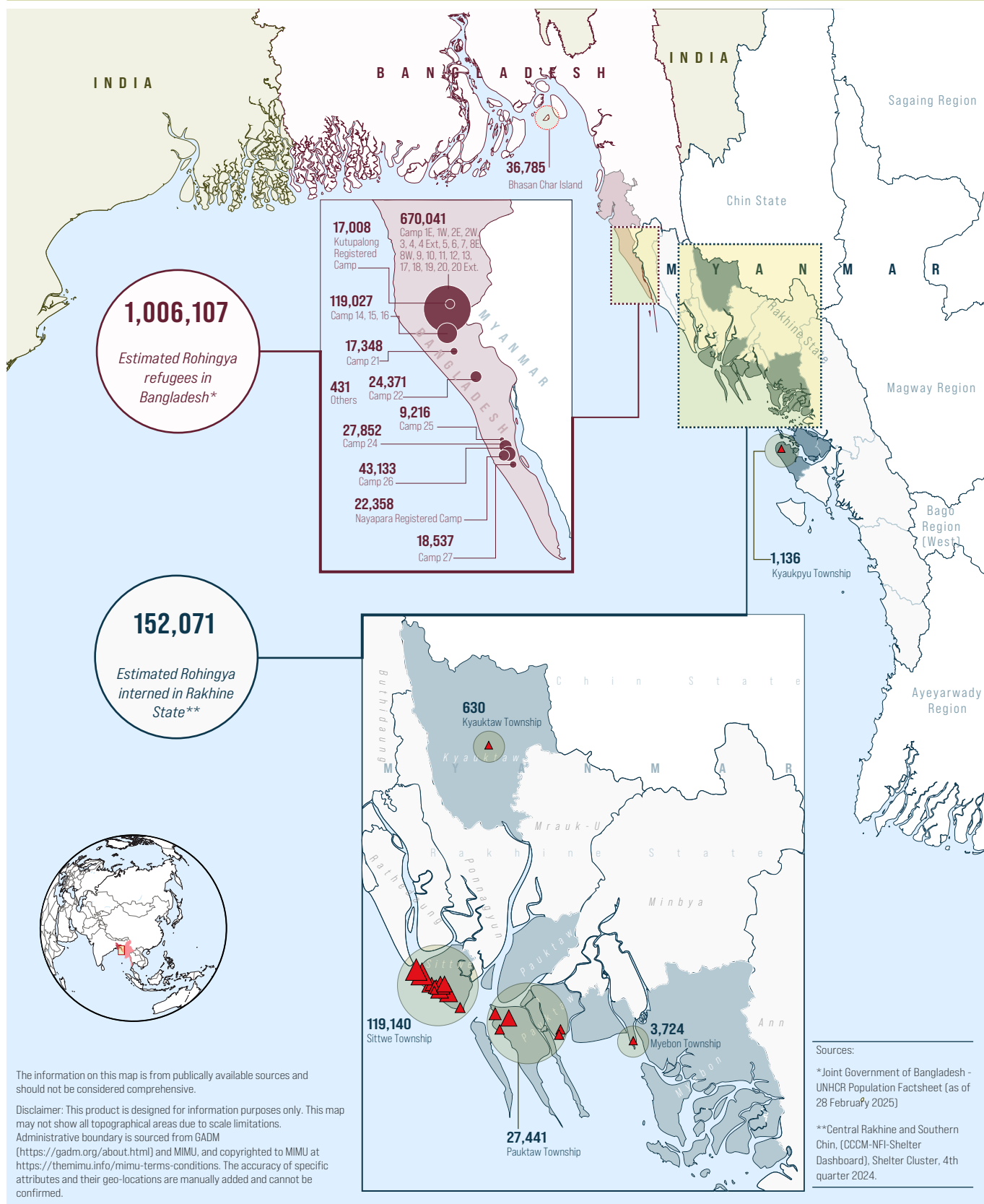
## KEY SECURITY INCIDENTS

APRIL 2025



## ROHINGYA CAMPS IN RAKHINE STATE AND BANGLADESH

APRIL 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 reported that many IDPs struggled to secure even one meal per day and highlighted the urgent need for food assistance in the Rohingya camps. The lack of job opportunities, coupled with irregular or discontinued food assistance from humanitarian organizations, reportedly left families with increased hunger and malnutrition. One said that food insecurity even forced some parents to send their children to beg.

“I am divorced and have four children, all under 18. I face many challenges in accessing income to cover the costs for my children. Some parents push their children under 18 to work, while others ask their children to go out and beg in different villages. Some families sold the rice they received from [an organisation] last month. I also sold two bags of rice, so I could buy some other necessary items to provide meat for my children.”

- 37, MALE, SITTWE

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

## / PRIMARY CONCERNS

## MYEBON TOWNSHIP

A respondent in Taung Paw ward (an 'officially closed' camp) in Myebon Township reported the urgent need for shelter support. He said that the ULA/AA was planning to arrange a football match and forced Rohingya to provide meals for the Rohingya audience and players coming from ULA/AA controlled areas. He added that because families were barely surviving on irregular, low-paying labor and odd jobs, the ULA/AA request increased financial pressure on many families.

“As the rainy season approaches, we are worried about being unable to repair shelters. The AA arranged a football match and they said we need to provide meals for the Rohingya audience who come from different parts of Rakhine State. The AA is doing a media campaign to show the international community that the

relationship between Rakhine and Rohingya are improving. But it is very difficult for us to feed 500-1000 people for 4-5 days. The AA is not going to support us with anything.”

-55, MALE, MYEBON

## PAUKTAW TOWNSHIP

Respondents in Pauktaw Township reported concerns over increasing prices of food items, limited access to jobs, and debt problems. One respondent reported that, although the ULA/AA allowed fishermen to access the sea, boat owners and fishermen were often detained and shot by the SAC navy near Sittwe Township. Another respondent reported that Rohingya women found greater difficulties accessing work as they often faced harassment by Rakhine villagers while working or selling things

in Rakhine villages. Due to lack of regular income, families in Pauktaw Township reportedly took loans with high interest rates — often over 10 per cent — that pushed them into long-term debt. According to respondents, while Muslim religious leaders stressed that taking loans with interest goes against Muslim beliefs, families did so anyway because they had no alternatives for survival.

“Our major challenges are about livelihoods. The prices of food and other necessities have increased while we have limited income. Many people are taking loans with high interest. The interest rates are more than 10%. The religious leaders forbid taking or borrowing loans with interest, but we don't have any other alternatives. Some people sell things in Rakhine villages or work as labourers in Rakhine villages. But it is not safe for Rohingya women.”

- 47, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

ROHINGYA CAMPS, MYEBON TOWNSHIP





## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

## ... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Respondents reported that people in Say Tha Mar Gyi camp, Sittwe Township, received cooking fuel and hygiene kits but had not received any food assistance since March. One aid worker reportedly informed camp residents that food assistance had been temporarily suspended, but that nutrition support would continue for children under five years old, pregnant women, and people with disabilities. The respondent added that Rohingya IDPs took significant risks to earn a small income in order to provide food to their families.

“More children under five are becoming malnourished and people are suffering from various health problems due to the lack of sufficient and nutritious food. When some people tried to earn a small income by fishing along the beach, they faced the risk of landmine explosions. Some women seek jobs in Rakhine villages to earn an income, but they are paid very low wages, and there are serious safety risks for women both on the way to the Rakhine village and while working there.”

- 35, FEMALE, SITTWE

One respondent in Taung Paw ward (an 'officially closed' camp) in Myebon Township reported an urgent need for food and essential medical supplies.

He said that, with no humanitarian assistance in the area, families were struggling to afford even basic nutrition, and those with chronic illnesses were unable to access necessary medicines due to high costs. He said that lack of income and high costs of health care services increased the vulnerability of elderly, patients with chronic diseases, and children.

“This month, we didn't receive any humanitarian assistance. We are in dire need of food and medicines. [...] I have hypertension and I need around 200,000 Myanmar Kyat [~71.11 GBP] every month to buy medicines to control the illness. As I can't afford that, I can't take medicines. As the cost to access healthcare is high, chronic patients face a lot of difficulty accessing medicines and treatment.”

- 55, MALE, MYEBON

Respondents in Pauktaw Township reported shelter, healthcare access, and education support needs. They said that, due to lack of regular income, people there could not repair shelters before the rainy season and could not afford proper education for their children.

“We urgently need support to repair our shelter. If we can't repair it, it will be very difficult during the rainy season, especially for children and elderly people. The school supported by

[an organisation] has been shut down since 2023, and children are losing their opportunities to study. Parents who can afford it provide private tuition for their children, but the majority of parents cannot afford it and can only provide religious education.”

- 36, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

## ... ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

Respondents in Pauktaw Township and in Taung Paw 'ward' ('officially closed' camp) in Myebon Township expressed concerns about forced recruitment and mandatory “tax” by the ULA/AA. They also said that the ULA/AA told villagers and religious leaders to facilitate its recruitment and not to support ARSA. Respondents in these areas reported that they must pay a regular tax on every business, and that AA members also forced people to buy motorbikes, cement and other items for them. They said that boat owners who smuggle commodities from Bangladesh to Rakhine State have to pay a 5 per cent commercial tax to the AA, which increases the prices of commodities in the markets.

“There are regular interactions with the AA, and it allows boats to fish in the sea. However, fishermen have to pay taxes to the AA for allowing them

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN CAMPS

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

to go fishing in the sea. The AA also informed us that from 2025 onward, every business and shop must pay ‘tax’. On 3 April, the AA held a meeting with the camp leaders and elders. During the meeting, the AA threatened to burn down the village if any ARSA member was accommodated in a village or camp. They also asked to organise eight people per village and camp to join AA police force and its military training.”

- 35, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

Respondents in Sittwe Township reported negative views of the SAC this month due to ongoing forced conscriptions, extortion and abuse at checkpoints, and false accusations by SAC forces and its appointed camp leaders. One said that men and youths were regularly targeted for conscription, and that families without eligible men — especially women-led households and widows — were forced to pay increasing amounts of money. SAC forces also reportedly warned Rohingya IDPs not to support that AA and required that they immediately inform the SAC of any AA movement in camp areas.

“Before, we were required to pay 28,000 Myanmar Kyat, and later 30,000 Myanmar Kyat [~9.95 to 10.66 GBP]. Now it is 100,000 Myanmar Kyat [~35.55 GBP] monthly via

CMC members for conscription if we can’t provide men. On 8 April, three Rohingya motorbike drivers from Say Tha Mar Gyi camp were arrested and their families had to pay 200,000 Myanmar Kyat [~71.11 GBP] per person for release to CMC and SAC forces. On 3 April, a Rohingya motorbike driver was beaten at Khaung Dukkha checkpoint by SAC forces.”

- 45, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

## ... INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

Respondents in Taung Paw ‘ward’ (‘officially closed’ camp) in Myebon Township and in Pauktaw Township reported regular communications — and no tensions — with their Rakhine neighbors. However, in Pauktaw Township, concerns reportedly remained over ARSA’s presence in northern Rakhine State, and the AA warned Rohingya leaders not to cooperate with ARSA. In Taung Paw ‘ward’, the ULA/AA reportedly held football matches to build inter communal relationships between Rakhine and Rohingya people.

“Currently, there is a normal relationship between the Rohingya and Rakhine communities. Sometimes, the AA holds friendly football matches between Rakhine and Rohingya

people. It seems they are doing that to show the international community that they are trying to build trust between the two communities. We can easily go to Rakhine villages to work and there is no issue between us so far.”

- 55, MALE, MYEBON

Respondents in Sittwe Township likewise noted generally positive relationships between Rohingya people and INGO staff, but they also noted discrimination at the hospital — by healthcare workers and nurses — and in urban areas.

“The intercommunal relations between Rakhine and Rohingya staff working for INGOs are generally good, but discrimination still exists in the hospital and urban areas. Rohingya who travel to Sittwe town for work opportunities often feel unsafe due to harassment from some Rakhine individuals. For example, when I went to the Sittwe market to buy a battery in March, a Rakhine woman vendor told me that we, the Rohingya — using the term ‘Kalar’ — were supporting the SAC forces by participating in conscription. I explained to her that we couldn’t refuse the demands of the SAC, as our community leaders face various forms of pressure and coercion.”

- 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.

### BUTHIDAUNG TOWNSHIP



### / PRIMARY CONCERNS

Respondents in Sittwe Township expressed significant concerns over the lack of humanitarian assistance in Rohingya villages, saying that many families were forced to rely on borrowing money, begging, or selling valuables to survive, and that some became victims of human trafficking. One also said that many people were suffering from health issues like skin diseases and diarrhea, even as access to healthcare and essential medicines was extremely limited and unaffordable.

“We didn’t receive food assistance in 2025 but we received it in 2024. The heat of the season has increased in Sittwe Township after the earthquake in central Myanmar and many people are suffering from skin diseases and diarrhea. The SAC also restricted transport of medicines, and there are shortages in Sittwe Township.”

- 32, MALE, SITTWE

Respondents in Kyauktaw and Pauktaw townships expressed concerns over the ULA/AA's forced recruitment and extortion. According to respondents, villagers felt trapped between the AA and the SAC, as cooperation with AA could lead to targeted SAC airstrikes on their communities. Respondents in Kyauktaw Township reported that AA forces had also collected money from villagers, saying they planned to support victims of SAC airstrikes in Pauktaw Township, and that AA soldiers also confiscated five motorbikes.



## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

## / PRIMARY CONCERNS

“We are worried about the AA’s forced recruitment. We heard that new recruits are going to be used to fight against the ARSA. AA forces collected money from the villagers by saying they were planning to support the victims of airstrikes in Pauktaw Township. They took five motorbikes from us. There were no AA officers there when they confiscated them; it seems the AA soldiers were taking money and motorbikes for themselves.”

- 59, MALE, KYAUKTAW

Rohingya villagers in Minbya Township expressed concerns over a severe lack of job opportunities, which they said made daily survival extremely difficult. One said that boat owners and workers faced additional pressure from the AA, which demanded boats to transport 300 sacks of cement for free as a form of ‘tax’. Rohingya businessmen who smuggled goods from Bangladesh were reportedly required to pay a five per cent tax to the AA and also

carry the AA’s goods without getting transportation fees.

“Our main concern is the lack of job opportunities. Currently, I am working as a laborer on a boat. The AA recently demanded that we transport 300 sacks of cement, free of charge, as a form of tax. Boats bring goods from Bangladesh to sell here, and owners are already required to pay a 5% tax to the AA. On top of that, the AA also forces us to carry their goods without any payment. As a result, the prices of goods have increased. When we are forced to carry 300 sacks of cement, there is no space left for other goods in a boat, which makes transportation more expensive and limits the supply of essential items. Instead of making a profit, we are now losing money because of the AA’s demands.”

- 55, MALE, KYAUKTAW

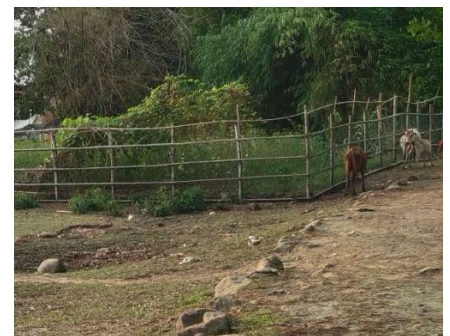
Respondents in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships also stressed the urgent need for healthcare

services, food assistance, kitchen utensils, and water, as well as difficulties accessing roads, bridges and transportation. Respondents in these areas reported that Rohingya villagers faced water shortages because water in ponds and lakes was contaminated and unsafe for drinking and Rakhine people did not allow Rohingya people to fetch water in their areas.

“As we are now in the summer season, we are facing a severe water shortage and have to travel long distances to fetch clean water. The ponds and lakes in our area are contaminated and unsafe to drink from. We also face threats from neighboring Rakhine villagers, related to fetching water, following the disappearance of a Rakhine person. The situation has become even more difficult due to the curfew by the AA, which is imposed from 7 p.m. until early morning, limiting our ability to fetch water safely.”

- 29, MALE, MAUNGDAW

## MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP



## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

## ... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Respondents in Pauktaw, Minbya, and Kyauktaw townships reported an urgent need for food, healthcare, shelter, and cash assistance. In particular, respondents in Kyauktaw Township emphasized the need for agricultural support, noting that rising prices of seeds and fertilizers had left many Rohingya farmers unable to cultivate paddy. Some farmers reportedly had to take out high-interest loans to purchase essential agricultural supplies.

“Most of the villagers are farmers, but due to the rising prices of seeds and other agricultural supplies, they are unable to cultivate their farms. People were forced to take loans to buy these supplies. We have no means of accessing emergency healthcare, and people are dying due to the lack of healthcare services.”

- 50, MALE, KYAUKTAW

Similarly, respondents in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships highlighted their urgent need for food, healthcare and medicines, shelter, clean water, and electricity. One respondent in Maungdaw Township reported that AA restrictions on the transportation of goods from Bangladesh had increased market prices and made it more difficult for Rohingya people to access nutritious food. Respondents noted that, while the AA allowed

people to return to their homes in Buthidaung town, many Rohingya houses had been destroyed during the fighting, leaving families in urgent need of rehabilitation support.

“On 7 April, the AA allowed Rohingya from Buthidaung town to return, but now they need shelter and water. Most of their houses were burned down, so they need tarpaulin sheets, bamboo, ropes, and nails to repair and rebuild their homes.”

- 31, MALE, MAUNGDAW

Rohingya villagers in Sittwe Township reported that they did not receive any assistance in April, although some villages had received hygiene kits, rice, peas, and cash assistance from organisations in March. One respondent highlighted that food, livelihoods, and shelter remained the most pressing needs for Rohingya communities, and that movement restrictions meant that families struggled to meet basic household needs. He added that growing numbers of children and elderly people were suffering from malnutrition, and that some families had been forced to send their children to beg in other Rohingya villages.

“Food and livelihoods are the most pressing needs, and shelter is urgently required as the monsoon season approaches. Authorities have banned fishermen from going out to sea.

The number of beggars has increased, mostly women, and poor parents are forcing their children to beg from others. Some elderly people also have no choice but to beg due to the lack of food assistance and the difficulty accessing livelihoods.”

- 32, MALE, SITTWE



BUTHIDAUNG TOWNSHIP



## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

## ... ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

Respondents in Pauktaw, Minbya, and Kyauktaw townships reported that ULA/AA members frequently targeted Rohingya people, extorting money, motorbikes, and other belongings. In Minbya Township, respondents reported that AA troops and Rohingya traffickers were actively involved in trafficking Rohingya people to Malaysia and other countries. Respondents in Kyauktaw Township reported that the ULA/AA prohibited Rohingya people from selling commodities at the local market, despite the market being built on land owned by Rohingya villagers. They also added that the ULA/AA confiscating Rohingya-owned and handing it over to Rakhine people had fueled tensions.

“The AA doesn’t allow us to open shops or run businesses. We even have to buy butcher’s licenses from Rakhine people to provide halal meat for Rohingya villagers. Rohingya are not allowed to sell goods in the market near our village. The AA has built a market on land seized from Rohingya, but Rohingya are not allowed to open shops there. The AA has been seizing land from Rohingya and handing it over to Rakhine people, and this has created tension between the AA and the Rohingya community.”

- 59, MALE, KYAUKTAW

Respondents in Minbya, Kyauktaw, and Pauktaw townships reported that the ULA/AA had forced village and community leaders to organize recruitment, with each Rohingya village required to send 20–40 people for military training. Respondents also reported that the ULA/AA restricted Rohingya people from traveling to Sittwe Township or Bangladesh to seek medical treatment, that this was only possible after paying a ‘tax’ to the ULA/AA, and that some who returned from Bangladesh were detained by the AA under false accusations.

“To travel to Sittwe Town, we have to pay 1 million Myanmar Kyat [~355.59 GBP] to ULA/AA administrators. If we need to travel to any area under SAC control or to Bangladesh, we have to pay a ‘tax’ to the AA. At the AA tax office, they take photos and record the personal details of anyone planning to travel. My husband went to Bangladesh for eye treatment with permission from the ULA/AA, but when he returned, he was arrested in Maungdaw Township and the AA accused him of being affiliated with ARSA.”

- 38, FEMALE, PAUKTAW

Respondents in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships also expressed fear and described the ULA/AA’s oppression of Rohingya villagers. In Maungdaw Township,

respondents raised particular concerns about the AA conducting house inspections in Tha Yet Oke, Kyar Gaung Taung, and Pwint Hpyu Chaung villages and detaining four Rohingya people from Kyar Gaung Taung. They also reported that AA troops often physically abused Rohingya people who passed through their checkpoints and forced them to buy alcohol, betel, and cigarettes. However, one respondent in Maungdaw Township noted that some Rohingya people viewed the ULA/AA more positively after it allowed Rohingya people to return to their original homes.

“On 7 and 8 April, the AA relocated and allowed IDPs from the Hla Poe Khaung village area to return to their original places. Among them, Rohingya from Wards 1, 2, and 4 are involved. However, Rohingya IDPs from Ka Nyin Tan and Maung Ni have not yet been allowed to return to their villages. Some members of the Rohingya community view the ULA/AA positively for allowing people to return to their homes, but others remain skeptical of its treatment of Rohingya.”

- 25, MALE, MAUNGDAW

Respondents in Buthidaung Township reported that the ULA/AA forced them to provide security at sentry posts nightly and required them to work

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

on building AA camps and repairing roads three days per week. They also noted that the ULA/AA restricted access to forests and rivers, which are essential for their livelihoods.

“The AA has forced Rohingya villagers to work as sentry watchmen every night. Under the SAC administration, we were not forced to do this. We do not trust the ULA/AA, as they discriminate against us. On 14 April, the AA forced 30 Rohingya from Tha Peik Taung village to work on building an AA camp and repairing roads. This kind of forced labor is demanded three days a week in our area.”

- 28, MALE, BUTHIDAUNG

Respondents in Sittwe Township expressed concerns about raids and searches carried out in Rohingya villages and camps, extortion at SAC checkpoints, and forced recruitment. SAC forces reportedly collected money from Rohingya villagers, claiming the funds were intended to support victims of the recent earthquake in Mandalay. Additionally, households unable to provide recruits were required to pay large sums.

“They collect 2,000 Myanmar Kyat [~0.71 GBP] from everyone, saying this is to support earthquake victims in Mandalay. It’s fishing season, but fishermen are not allowed to go to sea because the SAC restricts

them. There’s forced recruitment in every village, and if someone can’t join, their family has to pay 1.5 million Myanmar Kyat [~533.39 GBP]. Most of the officers at the checkpoints are Rakhine people, and Rakhine villagers don’t face the same problems as us — they don’t have to pay anything at the checkpoints.”

- 34, MALE, SITTWE

## ... INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

Respondents in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships expressed significant concerns over the spread of hate speech and misinformation in their communities. Respondents in Maungdaw Township expressed concerns about growing intercommunal tension. They reported that, after a Rakhine villager went missing, a group of Rakhine villagers searching for the missing person threatened to burn down the entire Rohingya villages of Kyar Gaung Taung and Pwint Hpyu Chaung and kill villagers there. On 9 April, Rakhine villagers burned the forest near these villages to prevent ARSA members from using it as a hiding place.

“Currently, some extremist Rakhines are spreading hate speech on social media. They want to drive all the Rohingya out of Rakhine State. They

say, ‘If there are Kalars, there are ARSA [members].’”

- 25, MALE, MAUNGDAW

“After the disappearance of a Rakhine villager in the last week of March, Rakhine people threatened to kill Rohingya villagers from Kyar Gaung Taung and Pwint Hpyu Chaung villages with sticks and machetes. They also threatened to burn down entire villages. On 9 April, they set fire to the forest near Kyar Gaung Taung village so ARSA members couldn’t hide there. If the activities of Rohingya armed groups continue, violence could break out between the two communities.”

- 29, MALE, MAUNGDAW

In Sittwe Township, respondents reported that they maintained regular communication with their Rakhine neighbors. One Rohingya villager shared that they celebrated Eid and shared food with their Rakhine friends. However, he also noted robberies of Rohingya villagers, which they suspect were carried out by members of the ALP or pro-SAC groups.

“I heard of 56 incidents where Rakhine youths robbed mobile phones from Rohingya people traveling through Min Gan ward between March and April. A few days ago, when I went to town, I witnessed

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITIES IN VILLAGES

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

two Rakhine youths robbing two Rohingya boys from Basara village. I believe they are members of ALP or affiliated with pro-SAC groups.”

- 32, MALE, SITTWE

Rohingya villagers in Pauktaw, Kyauktaw, and Minbya townships reported that they had regular communication with their Rakhine neighbors and were able to visit Rakhine villages. However, those in Pauktaw

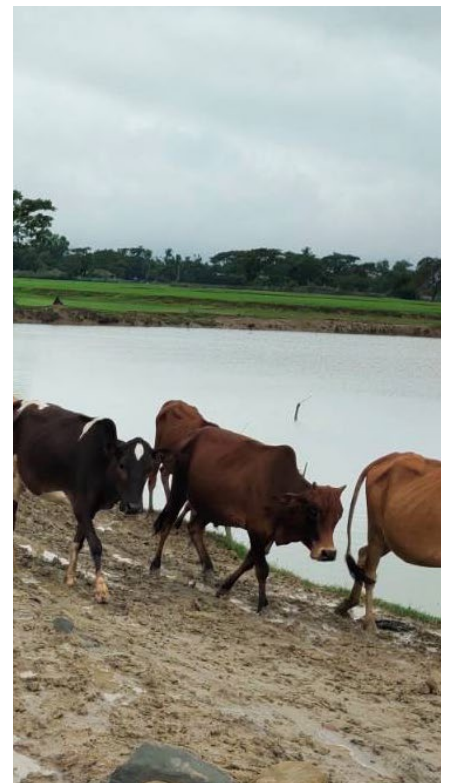
and Kyauktaw noted that their Rakhine neighbors had warned them not to support ARSA or its activities. One respondent in Pauktaw Township also described discrimination by a Rakhine doctor in Sittwe Township, who allegedly verbally abused Rohingya people, misdiagnosed them, and did not allow some to seek treatment.

“It is very difficult to see Rakhine doctors in Sittwe Township. My husband

is suffering from an eye disease. The doctor in Sittwe Township misdiagnosed his disease and later he lost his eyesight. We learned about it when we saw a doctor in Bangladesh and the doctor confirmed that he was misdiagnosed. When he went to see the Rakhine doctor in Sittwe, he had to shave his beard as he asked him to shave. The doctor abused him verbally by saying, ‘You Muslims must go to Allah, not to me.’”

- 38 FEMALE, PAUKTAW

## 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 concerns over the safety and security of women and girls in the camps, including privacy issues when accessing toilet and bathing areas. They noted that while there are separate bathing and toilet facilities for men and women, men often occupied the women's facilities. Respondents also reported that, due to limited humanitarian assistance and the lack of income in many refugee households, cases of domestic violence were increasing — but that slow and ineffective responses from camp leaders and protection teams discouraged women from reporting these incidents.

"Domestic violence against women is increasing. Though there is a support system to assist women facing domestic violence, the process takes a long time, and women become frustrated and eventually stop filing complaints due to the delays. It usually takes around 3–6 months, and during this period the perpetrator moves to other camp areas and sometimes even marries other women to avoid any action. If the crimes are committed by members of Rohingya armed groups, NGOs don't take any action at all."

- 30, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

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

## / PRIMARY CONCERNS

## BHASAN CHAR

One respondent in Bhasan Char expressed concern over the rising prices of food items in the market. He added that, due to a lack of job opportunities on Bhasan Char, Rohingya men often escaped from the camp to seek jobs in Cox's Bazar, but were frequently arrested by host communities and Bangladeshi authorities. Additionally, Camp-in-Charge (CIC) officials (responsible for distributing gas donated by NGOs) reportedly stopped providing cooking gas to families as punishment for household members fleeing from Bhasan Char.

"The major concern is the rising prices of food and other commodities. Since most refugees are unemployed on Bhasan Char, many are fleeing to other places in search of jobs — the majority to Cox's Bazar. But many are arrested by the host community and police along the way. If refugees flee, the camp management reports it to the CIC, and the entire family is punished by cutting off their cooking gas supply. Families are then forced to rely on firewood for cooking."

- 37, MALE, BHASAN CHAR

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

## ... HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported an urgent need for humanitarian assistance, particularly access to sufficient food and clean water, support for managing drainage systems to control flies and mosquitoes, hygiene kits, and healthcare services for patients with long-term illnesses. Respondents noted that widows had become increasingly vulnerable after NGOs stopped the livelihood support programs designed for them. They also reported a reduction in sanitation and hygiene assistance, making it more difficult for women to manage their personal hygiene.

"There are shortages of medicines and proper support for managing chronic diseases. Some WASH project support has also been reduced — for example, the supply of soap. We used to receive four bars of soap, but now we only receive two. Other assistance, such as shelter materials and toilet repair supplies, has also been cut. Widows are especially affected by the reduction in livelihood support. The food rations are not enough, and when we have to buy items from outside, they are unaffordable. Previously, we used to receive sanitary and hygiene kits every three months, but now we only receive them every six months."

- 30, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

One respondent from Bhasan Char expressed concern about the lack of adequate humanitarian assistance, the reduction in education-related support, and the lack of protection for children. He explained that NGOs had reduced the number of Rohingya volunteers and staff working in the education and child protection sectors even though children were at high risk of drowning and were often targeted by human traffickers.

"This month, we received 12 USD in ration support, but in the past, we used to receive 15 USD. The number of NGO staff has also been reduced, along with the activities in the camp — especially in the areas of education and child protection. Because of this, children do not receive enough protection. Bhasan Char is a dangerous place. There are ponds where children drown, and they are also often targeted by human traffickers. Previously, there was one child protection staff member assigned to each cluster, but now only one staff member covers three clusters. Parents are very worried about their children's safety."

- 37, MALE, BHASAN CHAR



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

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

## ... ARMED AND GOVERNANCE ACTORS

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh expressed concern over the recent discussions between the Bangladesh government and the SAC during the SAC leader's 4 April meeting in Thailand. The Bangladesh government [stated](#) that Myanmar had confirmed that 180,000 Rohingya refugees, who have been living in Bangladesh since the 2017 conflict in Rakhine State, were eligible to return. Respondents in both Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char voiced concerns about returning to Rakhine State under the ULA/AA administration. One respondent in Bhasan Char noted that Bangladesh authorities should engage directly with the ULA/AA rather than with the SAC.

"We are worried about repatriation because there is no safety or security under the AA administration. We don't know where they would relocate the Rohingya or how they would carry out the repatriation plan. The AA restricts Rohingya access to healthcare and education. Since Rakhine State is under AA control, we do not feel safe, and we believe repatriation couldn't succeed under these conditions."

- 35, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

"I heard that the Bangladesh government discussed repatriation and the

SAC confirmed 180,000 Rohingya as eligible for return. However, Rakhine State is no longer under SAC control; it's administered by the AA. Rohingya people do not trust AA, and many are hoping for a safe zone under UN management. The AA persecutes and oppresses Rohingya in Rakhine State, and there is no protection for us. [...] Bangladesh authorities should discuss the repatriation process directly with the AA, not the SAC. During the SAC's rule, they never accepted the return of the Rohingya, and now that they've 'verified' the list, it seems they are using the Rohingya issue to gain legitimacy."

- 38, MALE, BHASAN CHAR

Respondents in Cox's Bazar also reported extortion and abuses by Bangladesh police in Cox's Bazar. They said that the activities of Rohingya armed actors, as well as fighting between them, had decreased in April. However, on 3 April, an unknown armed actor shot and killed a Rohingya person in Camp 26. Respondents noted that in some areas, ARSA had voluntarily recruited Rohingya refugees to join its ranks.

"On 3 April, 2025, a Rohingya from Camp (26) was shot and killed while returning from the mosque. So far, no one knows who was responsible for the killing. The activities of ARSA

have been decreasing and other ARSA members are also worried about being arrested."

- 31, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR

## ... INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS

One respondent in Bhasan Char reported that refugees maintained regular communication with local businessmen and that there was no tension between the host community and refugees in April. He noted that the host community relied on Rohingya people to sell food items and commodities, which helped sustain a good relationship between the two groups. However, he also said that when Rohingya refugees attempted to escape from Bhasan Char, the host community often arrested and beat them before handing them over to the authorities.

"On Bhasan Char, all the residents are Rohingya, and the host community comes here to sell commodities and food items to the refugees. Their income is heavily dependent on the Rohingya community, so the relationship between them is generally good. However, any refugees who try to flee from Bhasan Char are arrested and beaten by the host community before being handed over to the police."

- 37, MALE, BHASAN CHAR

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

## / REFLECTIONS ON ...

Respondents in Cox's Bazar reported facing discrimination from the host community, particularly from hospital staff, doctors, and nurses. They shared that Bangladeshi nurses often verbally abused and discriminated against Rohingya patients, sometimes accusing them of faking illnesses and refusing to provide healthcare. Rohingya people working outside of the camps also reportedly experienced exploitation by Bangladeshi employers, and sometimes those employers allegedly

refused to pay wages and beat Rohingya staff.

"The host community in Cox's Bazar discriminates against the Rohingya. Rohingya are often threatened and mistreated by both the host community and the authorities. Many host community members also exploit Rohingya by hiring them for work and then beating and refusing to pay them. Bangladeshi doctors and nurses often refuse to accept or admit Rohingya

patients to hospitals. Once, I visited a hospital with my 82-year-old mother-in-law, and the Bangladeshi staff verbally abused both of us and even threatened us. They didn't allow her to speak to the doctors. Normally talking to doctors relieves half of the illness [i.e. makes us feel better]. We had to leave without receiving any medical care because of the mistreatment and abuse by the nurses and staff at the hospital."

- 35, FEMALE, COX'S BAZAR.

## MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP



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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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