

Brick-made roads are prone to damage and need regular repair

Find out more on page 2

There is a need for proper staircases in many, particularly hilly, areas

Find out more on page 3

There are concerns about retention walls, improper drainage systems and lack of lights at night

Find out more on page 3

Women are more likely to be concerned about retention walls/slope protection than men

Source: Community feedback collected in camps 1E, 1W, 2E, 2W, 3, 4, 4Extension, 5, 6, 7, 8E, 8W, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 25, 26, Kutupalong RC and Noyapara RC between March to August 2020 by Care Bangladesh, DRC, Save the Children International, Solidarity International and UNHCR (Base-24207, Men-59%, Women-41%). Even though data is collected from all those camps, site-related concerns are only from 13, 14, 16, 8W, 11, 12, 8E (in descending order). To understand Rohingya communities' site-related concerns in more depth, BBC Media Action conducted telephone interviews with 9 Rohingya community people from camps 13 and 14, of whom 5 were men and 4 were women.

WHAT MATTERS?

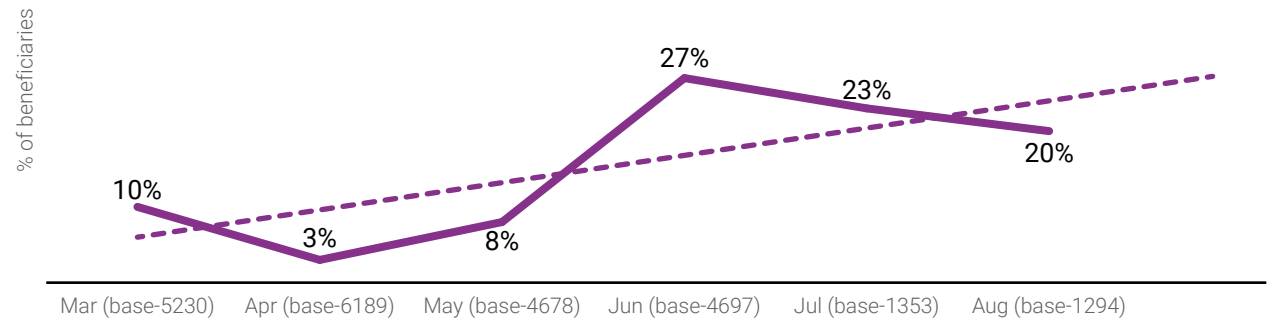
Humanitarian Feedback Bulletin on Rohingya Response

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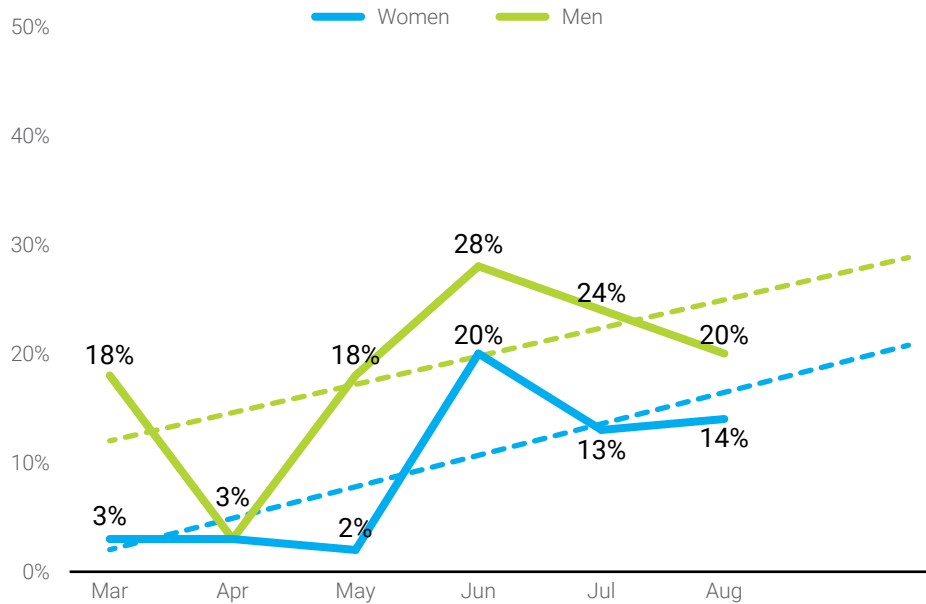
Between March and August 2020, 12% of all the community feedback collected referred to concerns about site-related issues. Feedback included worries about bridges, stairways and pathways, sewerage and drainage systems, retaining walls and slope protection, soil erosion and landslides, as well as lighting in the camps. Over the last few months, many people have highlighted these problems, and this reached a peak in June 2020 where 27% of feedback was related to site concerns. The data indicates an increasing trend, and it is expected that communities will face more of these types of problems in the upcoming months.

The analysis of the community feedback data and communities' site-related concerns suggests that around 36% of people have raised concerns about slope protection or retention walls. In July, which is also the month a monsoon affected Bangladesh, the rate of reported feedback related to retention walls and slope protection reached a peak. People feared shelters would be damaged and some requested additional sandbags and bamboo to further protect their shelters from landslides and soil erosion.

Site related concerns among men and women, month wise



Site related concerns among men and women, month wise



A statistical analysis (logistic regression)¹ of the community feedback data shows that, for site-related issues, women are three times more likely to mention their concerns compared to men. Even for retention walls, women are 2.6 times more likely than men to raise concerns.

In the interviews with communities, people explained that their geographical location (those living in hilly areas in particular) and excessive rainfall are making their site-related problems severe. They also added that, due to the current pandemic, it is taking more time to repair or construct new sites which has prolonged their woes.

¹ Logistic regression with site-related issues as the dependent variable and gender as an independent variable in the regression model. Significant at 5% level

“Due to frequent rainfalls, landslides are happening more.”

– Rohingya woman, 21, Camp 14

The participants said that they need to leave their houses on a regular basis to collect water, use the latrine/bathroom, visit medical centres and/or collect relief items. Whenever they make such outings, they reported facing problems with damaged roads, broken staircases, improper drainage systems, weak embankments or improper retention walls. The participants also added that children, older people, and pregnant women are more vulnerable to these problems.

Brick-made roads are prone to damage and need regular repair

Community members explained that, in the camps, the roads are mostly made of bricks with a layer of soil beneath them. They added, as there was no cement beneath the bricks, heavy rains wash the bricks away into the nearby drains. As a result, the roads become muddy and challenging for people to use, especially

when they carry heavy materials like gas cylinders/sacks of rice or when taking sick people to the medical centres. The community people said that more sustainable solutions, such as bricklayers with added cement, would be beneficial for them.

“Our roads are getting broken as there is excessive rainfall during rainy seasons”

– Rohingya woman, age 26, Camp 13

The community people also said that in the camps there are places, up in the hills, where there are no proper roads. Some alleyways are narrow and uneven, and vehicles cannot travel on those roads. As a result, they sometimes need to walk for a long time to reach certain destinations. At night, they stated they need to be extra careful while walking as they might slip and get hurt.



There is a need for proper staircases in many, particularly hilly, areas

Some people stated that, because they are living in a hilly area, the rainwater makes the land slippery to walk on and proper staircases are needed where it is steep for them to get up and down. There are staircases in some areas, but recent rains have ruined many of them. The lack of staircases or damaged ones is making movement difficult, especially with heavy loads like gas cylinders. In some places, people have taken the initiative to fix the damaged staircases or build new ones on their own by, for example, filling rice/lentil bags they get from relief centres with sand and using them to build steps.

Rohingya women also shared concerns that, as women become weak during pregnancy, they might fall sick if they go up and down steep stairs.

“As there is no staircase in the hill I live in, it becomes challenging to carry the gas cylinder up and down the steep area. I have to carry the empty cylinder while leaving and then returning with a full cylinder.”

– Rohingya man, 25, Camp 13

“As I am pregnant, I feel sick and have headaches when I use the stairs to go to receive vaccination.”

– Rohingya woman, 26, Camp 13

There are concerns about retention walls, improper drainage systems and lack of lights at night

In the interviews, the Rohingya community people also mentioned their problems with improper drainage systems, lack of retention walls to protect their shelter from landslides, non-functioning bridges, and lack of proper lighting in the camps. They also added that they informed mahjis and site management volunteers about their site-related concerns. However, due to the current pandemic situation, the solutions are being delayed. As for coping mechanisms, sometimes community people are building/repairing the sites on their own, after collecting money from people within the community.

“Anyone can fall from the hills at night as there are no lights. We fear going to the latrines at night because of the darkness.”

– Rohingya woman, 26, Camp 14

“Some site problems have been there for one year. Now especially because of COVID-19, construction work is not progressing.”

– Rohingya man, 20, Camp 14

BBC Media Action and Translators without Borders are working together to collect and collate feedback from communities affected by the Rohingya crisis. This summary aims to provide a snapshot of feedback received from Rohingya and host communities, to assist sectors to better plan and implement relief activities with communities' needs and preferences in mind.

The work is funded by EU humanitarian aid and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions regarding *What Matters?*, you are welcome to get in touch with the team by emailing info@cxbfeedback.org