

## 'WHAT MATTERS ?' HUMANITARIAN BULLETIN OVERVIEW ON ROHINGYA RESPONSE - OCTOBER 2020



### Introduction

This overview of the 'What Matters' Humanitarian Bulletins<sup>1</sup> on the Rohingya Response is produced by TorqAid<sup>2</sup>, an Australian-based humanitarian consultancy. This should be read in conjunction with the 'Understanding the Rohingya Crisis' Summary Sheet<sup>3</sup>, also produced by TorqAid. This material is designed for practitioners, researchers and others involved in supporting the Rohingya humanitarian situation in Bangladesh.

### 'What Matters?' Overview

'What Matters?'<sup>4</sup> is a regular Humanitarian Feedback Bulletin on the Rohingya Response in Cox's Bazar District in Bangladesh. It is produced in both Bangla and English, and is largely compiled by BBC Media Action and Translators without Borders (TWB)<sup>5</sup>. The 'What Matters?' bulletins appear on the Bangladesh Shongjog<sup>6</sup> ([www.shongjog.org.bd](http://www.shongjog.org.bd)) website. Shongjog is a member organisation of the Global Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities (CDAC) Network<sup>7</sup>.

### Issues covered in 'What Matters?'

Summarised below are the key issues covered in the 'What Matters?' bulletins, these being produced in both Bangla and English

Edition	Edition date	Issues covered
43	14 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Rohingya community's perspective on social relationships with different aspects</li><li>○ Areas where the two communities (ie Rohingya &amp; host) agree</li></ul>
42	17 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Rohingya people's suggestions about Covid-19 testing</li></ul>
41	27 <sup>th</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Covid-19 reaching many, but not all: Some community and religious leaders need more information</li><li>○ With rain, Rohingya people are becoming more worried about their shelter</li></ul>
40	29 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Documentation-related problems among Rohingya community</li><li>○ Rohingya community concerns about lack of information, goods &amp; services</li><li>○ Terminology updates around Covid-19</li></ul>

<sup>1</sup> [www.torgaid.com/rohingya-what-matters](http://www.torgaid.com/rohingya-what-matters)

<sup>2</sup> [www.torgaid.com](http://www.torgaid.com)

<sup>3</sup> [www.torgaid.com/understanding-rohingya-crisis](http://www.torgaid.com/understanding-rohingya-crisis)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.shongjog.org.bd/response/rohingya>

<sup>5</sup> And with funding from the European Union Humanitarian aid, and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID)

<sup>6</sup> Shongjog means 'Linkage' in Bangla

<sup>7</sup> [www.cdacnetwork.org](http://www.cdacnetwork.org)

39	16 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rumours &amp; responses</li> <li>○ Loudspeakers &amp; Megaphones: Key Communication Tools in Crises</li> </ul>
38	20 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dynamics between the host community &amp; Rohingya people due to Covid-19</li> <li>○ Covid-19 response measures to reduce staff and use fewer volunteers also reduce communication with Rohingya people</li> </ul>
37	13 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Host Community: Perceptions on Covid-19</li> <li>○ Rohingya Community: Reduced NGO presence increases anxiety</li> </ul>
36	23 <sup>rd</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Covid-19: The Role of Religion &amp; Community Leaders</li> <li>○ Countering Rumours: WHO Advice for the Rohingya camps about various ‘cures’ for Covid-19</li> <li>○ Mahjis need more information about Covid-19</li> </ul>
35	8 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Covid-19: Rumours in the Camps</li> <li>○ Effective Use of Signs</li> </ul>
34	26 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Covid-19: Older Rohingya Community</li> </ul>
33	20 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Covid-19: Perceptions of Host &amp; Rohingya Communities</li> </ul>
32	13 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What are the priority needs of older Rohingya men and women in the camps ?</li> </ul>
31	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What are the priority concerns of adolescent Rohingya boys and girls in the camps ?</li> </ul>
30	7 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Spread of Misinformation in the Rohingya Camps</li> </ul>
29	10 <sup>th</sup> October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tensions in the Host Community. Fear, distrust, shift in demographics, misinformation – leading to increased tension between local people and the Rohingya community.</li> </ul>
28	18 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Two Year Anniversary. How the Rohingya community’s top concerns have shifted since the beginning of the influx.</li> <li>○ Prescription Medication in the camps</li> </ul>
Special edition	21 <sup>st</sup> August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Repatriation</li> <li>○ Language: Discussions on return and repatriation</li> </ul>
27	14 <sup>th</sup> August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussing disability</li> <li>○ Concerns of the Rohingya community: Health &amp; medical services</li> </ul>
26	31 <sup>st</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rohingya women: How gender impacts key concerns &amp; worries</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Is the Rohingya response delivering on community engagement and accountability ?</li> </ul>
25	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Camp-by-Camp Concerns</li> <li>○ Letters to the Editor: We Respond</li> </ul>
24	19 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Concerns &amp; Rumours: Relocation, Repatriation &amp; ID Cards</li> <li>○ Breastfeeding Terms &amp; Taboos</li> </ul>
23	17 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rohingya Community Concerns about road networks &amp; drainage systems</li> <li>○ Daily life challenges for host communities</li> </ul>
22	20 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Daily Challenges faced by Rohingya Women</li> <li>○ Refugee Community Feedback (RCF): Non-food Items &amp; Shelter</li> </ul>
21	13 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ RCF on food</li> <li>○ Mental Health in the Camps</li> <li>○ Host Community Feedback (HCF): Ramu</li> </ul>
20	3 <sup>rd</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reduction in tube-wells is leading people to find other ways of meeting their needs</li> <li>○ Cooking fuel remains primary concern, despite gas cylinder distribution</li> </ul>
19	6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rohingya People Concerned about Safety &amp; Security</li> <li>○ Discussing Safety &amp; Security in the Camps</li> </ul>
18	30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ration cards and water issues top the list of concerns (for Relief Supplies &amp; WASH)</li> </ul>
17	3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chittagonian and Rohingya: So near, and yet, so far</li> <li>○ Key priorities of host communities</li> <li>○ Rohingya relations with host communities</li> </ul>
16	17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Winter woes – preparing for winter</li> </ul>
15	5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Language considerations for repatriation</li> <li>○ Lack of cooking fuel &amp; equipment biggest concern for Rohingya community</li> </ul>
Special edition	12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Repatriation: Confusion about process and fear of implications. Rohingya views on repatriation</li> </ul>
14	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	<p>Minority Community Special</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Has the relationship between Muslim and Hindu Rohingya people changed ?</li> <li>○ Local indigenous people worry about livelihoods and environment</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hindu community most worried about health, security, shelter, supplies</li> </ul>
13	17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<p>Gender Based Violence (GBV) Special</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Intimate partner violence – women keep silent and cope</li> <li>○ Words of women: Discussing gender with the Rohingya community</li> <li>○ Rohingya Community Feedback (RCF): Rape survivors and their children</li> </ul>
12	3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Finding the right words in the Rohingya language</li> <li>○ Host Community Feedback (HCF): UN/NGO vehicles and increased communications costs</li> </ul>
11	19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ RCF: Bhashanchar &amp; education</li> <li>○ Early Marriage: A complex story, more than just age</li> <li>○ Rohingya men are providing more feedback, but women more satisfied with results</li> </ul>
10	5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Menstruation challenges for girls: Cultural stigma and shortage of products</li> <li>○ Colours in the camps</li> <li>○ RCF: Situation in Rakhine State; food cards; hospitals; and monsoon</li> </ul>
9	15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A Day of Sacrifice and Remembrance (Eid al Adna)</li> <li>○ HCF: Unemployment; dwindling resources; illegal behaviour amongst Rohingya</li> </ul>
8	1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lack of lights; waste; and water logging</li> <li>○ Information centres &amp; TV more important part of information mix</li> <li>○ Medley of measurements (language issues)</li> </ul>
7	11 <sup>th</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monsoon and firewood shortage makes cooking a challenge</li> <li>○ Tensions increase as host communities struggle to make a living</li> <li>○ World Refugee Day; drugs; landslides; relocation; and water</li> </ul>
6	26 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Women’s complaints not resolved as effectively as men’s</li> </ul>
5	4 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Not as easy as 1, 2 , 3 – Rohingya and other national numeral systems</li> <li>○ Rohingya community have concerns of own, but limited knowledge on how to express them</li> </ul>
4	16 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase in concerns related to robbery &amp; theft</li> <li>○ Language and cultural consciousness around Ramadan</li> <li>○ Concerns shifting over time (December to March)</li> </ul>

3	8 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A dialogue with host communities on their challenges, worries &amp; solutions</li> <li>○ A date with confusion. Dealing with four different calendars</li> <li>○ Rohingya need information on extreme weather preparation and nutritious food</li> <li>○ Newspaper Review Summary</li> </ul>
2	21 <sup>st</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rohingya feedback on extreme weather</li> <li>○ Host community concerns about living costs, livelihoods &amp; education</li> </ul>
1	28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rumour tracking</li> <li>○ Access to mobiles in Rohingya communities</li> <li>○ Communicating weather with local communities (3 languages)</li> </ul>

### Training

TorqAid is facilitating an online accredited Participatory Disaster Risk Management (PDRM) program from the 27<sup>th</sup> July through to the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – see [www.torqaid.com/online-pdrm-program](http://www.torqaid.com/online-pdrm-program) . This consists of five modules where Module 2 includes a review of the ‘What Matters?’ humanitarian bulletin news service in Bangladesh; and Module 4 includes the Rohingya situation as a conflict-related case study. Note the video links below for these two modules.

PDRM Module 2 Video: Participatory Tools, Project Management, & Teaching Tips  
<https://vimeo.com/434184949>

PDRM Module 4 Video: Complex Emergencies, Conflict-related Situations, & Pandemics  
<https://vimeo.com/434185111>

The online PDRM will be facilitated again twice in 2021, with the teaching semesters lasting from:

- End February to early June
- End July to early November

### Concluding Remarks

For more information about how TorqAid is involved in Bangladesh and Rohingya humanitarian consultancy and advisory work, training, and research, contact the TorqAid Director below.

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