



Shelter / NFI Sector, Cox's Bazar Rohingya Refugee Crises Assessment of Shelter Upgrade Needs October 2017











Executive Summary

The distribution phase (1) of the Shelter/NFI (S/NFI) response is on-going with emergency shelter kits and household items being distributed to those refugees who arrived after 25 August and those that were in the settlements prior to the latest influx. The S/NFI Sector recognises the need to strategise and plan for the next phase of interventions to improve living conditions and upgrade shelters. This phase is being referred to as phase 2 and relates upgrades and decongestion phase. With the cyclone season about to peak and in preparation for the next rainy season, the S/NFI Sector is promoting rapid consultation with affected communities to better understand the shelter needs what can be done to improve the immediate environs (localised site improvements).

A S/NFI Sector task force incorporating participants from Save the Children, UNHCR, IOM and the Coordination Team carried out a rapid assessment of 12 households in Zone EE of Kutupalong Makeshift Camp using Key Informant methodology. This exercise is seen as an initial pilot with the intention for its wider roll out and dissemination of findings to support planned activities.

Findings are summarised here

-  Households reported that the local authorities had indicated where space for the shelters could be found and the families selected their own plots. No payment for the plot was required or solicited and households were grouped together roughly based on familial ties or other social ties from their point of origin.
-  All households had used a combination of cash (for bamboo and plastic sheeting) and foraging for sticks/timber to provide the materials for their emergency shelters.
-  The majority of shelters conform to a basic 'row house' design and are self-built (photo & sketch below).
-  Seven (7) out of twelve (12) households reported receiving assistance in the form of shelter grade tarpaulin and rope.
-  Those HHs receiving the shelter grade tarpaulin had installed it on the roof.
-  To improve the structural integrity of the shelter, most respondents indicated that they would like to raise the shelter height; raise the floor and cover with cement/mud mix; reinforce the walls (bamboo matting) and insulate the ceiling.
-  To improve living conditions (and note that the women interviewed contributed most to this part of the discussion): reduce heat; improve cooking facilities and fuel so that there is less smoke and provide storage/shelves for goods and belongings.
-  In order to make these improvements, the households interviewed suggested the following inputs: tools, materials (bamboo and bamboo matting in particular); cement; cash; fixings and improved stoves (though type not specified).

The **findings in this report remain inherently qualitative and therefore indicative**, rather than representative, of key shelter needs. The shelter/NFI sector partners are highly encouraged to increase consultation with the community to better understand the needs of the broader community and carry out more detailed and wider assessments.



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Introduction

Following an outbreak of violence on 25 August 2017 in the Rakhine State of Myanmar, a new massive influx of Rohingya population to Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh started in late August 2017. The majority of the Rohingya population are living in Ukhia and Teknaf Upazilas of Cox's Bazar, a district bordering Myanmar identified as the main entry area for border crossing.

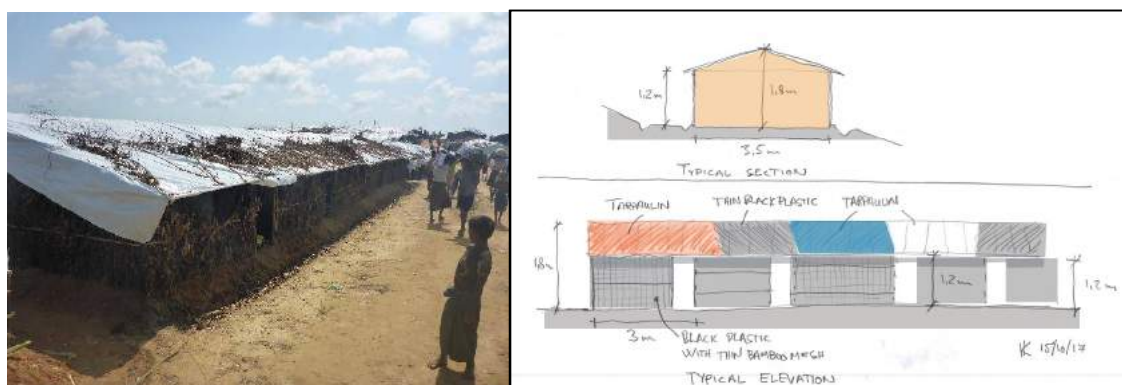
A total of **28 Collective Sites** and **99 locations with dispersed setting in host communities** were assessed between 30 September and 9 October 2017. A Total of **794,658 Rohingyas** were identified in Cox's Bazar District.

Among those assessed, **51% are women and girls**. An estimated total of 582,140 New Arrivals have arrived since 25 August 2017 including 61,516 individuals who arrived after 20 September (NPM Round 5). The influx continues making planning figures difficult to estimate. Those fleeing are concentrated in two upazilas; Ukhia (72% of refugees are located in Ukhia) and Teknaf, putting an immense strain on infrastructure, services and the host population.

Pre-existing settlements and camps have expanded with the new influx, while new spontaneous settlements have also formed and are quickly growing. Significant numbers of new arrivals are also being absorbed into the local host community. As of 30 September, there were two formal refugee camps, four makeshift settlements and at least five new spontaneous sites spreading from Kutupalong RC to Nyapara RC in the South, some of these spontaneous settlements are merging together as the refugee numbers expand. There is a comprehensive program of emergency shelter and Non-Food Item (household goods) distributions on-going. However, it is time to initiate the next phase of upgrades recognising that measures are required to mitigate for poor living conditions and potential natural hazards such as cyclones and monsoon rains.

The S/NFI Sector mobilised partner agencies to carry out a rapid assessment of 12 households in Zone EE of Kutupalong Makeshift Camp using Key Informant methodology.

Examples of Existing Self-Built Emergency Shelters



Recommendations

The feedback from the households interviewed can be summarised and presented as recommendations for consideration by the S/NFI Shelter Upgrade Technical Working Group as they formulate the objectives and strategy for the next phase. The recommendations are also aimed at informing sector partner agencies as they engage with communities, donors and other stakeholders to obtain more information and resources.



R1

S/NFI Sector agencies should move swiftly from distribution of emergency shelter items to providing assistance which will improve living conditions in the longer term



R2

Increase consultation with the community to better understand the needs of the broader community.



R3

Integrate protection, gender and extremely vulnerable considerations into the assessments and involve women and children in consultation process.



R4

Consider a multi-faceted shelter upgrade program – provision of tools and materials (and potentially cash) to enable households to improve the shelters. Integrate technical assistance and training to improve construction techniques and promote risk reduction measures.



R5

Agencies are requested to increase Post Distribution Monitoring activities to identify how shelter kits have been used, appropriateness of NFIs and additional NFI needs and replenishment needs.



R6

Consider introduction of wider settlement considerations as well as examination of socio-economic infrastructure

Non-Shelter needs were not the focus of this report, and as such, related findings merit further investigation and information gathering. However, several main non-Shelter and some NFI related emergency needs were articulated to the assessment team during the process of this assessment; namely

- a widespread need for WASH assistance,
- common demand for cooking utensils,
- fuel for cooking and blankets and lights/torches.
- Improved roads, paths and drainage



Additionally, protection issues were reported like the dangers related to collecting wood – tension with host communities, elephant attacks and possibility of sexual abuse and trafficking. It was also reported that women and girls are afraid of leaving the shelters at night to use WASH facilities or if they do, are concerned about abuse.

Assessment Objective

The S/NFI Sector identified that consultation with affected communities had not yet been carried out in any comprehensive manner to assess needs beyond the initial distribution phase.

The focus of the current assessment is therefore to provide some initial information to the sector about the needs identified by key informants and to promote the wider use of the rapid assessment methodology to gather information from other parts of the affected communities.

The information and needs assessment will contribute to the formulation of a strategic framework for the sector's phase 2 response. The strategic framework, associated standards/guidelines and technical guidance is now part of the ToR of the Shelter Upgrade Technical Working Group.

Methodology

The S/NFI Sector led team met at Kutupalong Makeshift Camp, agreed on 8 key questions and then carried out key informant interviews on an ad hoc basis in the field. The final tally of households covered in this assessment is as follows; 12 households.

The assessment team sub-divided into 3 groups led by UNHCR, IOM, and Save the Children. Each group had national staff in the team who carried out the interviews in Arakanese/Chittagonian based on the core questions agreed to by the group. Questions focused on how the households had coped with finding land and erecting emergency shelters as well as drawing out the shelter needs. The questions used provide the framework for the report below.

Data was collected on 14 October 2017.





Limitations

The nature of this report is qualitative, involving interviews with KIs in a single zone of one camp. It is recognised that the sample size is small and that these initial findings and preliminary recommendations are subject to refinement as further assessments are carried out. The S/NFI Sector actively encourages agencies to carry out more detailed and wider assessments.


As such, the **findings in this report remain inherently qualitative and therefore indicative**, rather than representative, of key shelter needs.

Key Informant Questions and Responses



Q1. How was the land / shelter allocated to your household?

-  Refugees were guided to the general area by local authorities and were able to select their plot.
-  Local authorities consulted with the households to coordinate gathering per row house.
-  3 households reported that they gathered under the same roof as they were relatives even though they used to live separately in Burma.
-  No payment for the plot was required or solicited








-  1 household reported that they were ordered to reconstruct their shelter but could remain on the same plot.

Q2. Who constructed the shelter?

-  Majority of shelters built by the family living in them
-  IOM report that 1 female head of household paid 2,000 Taka to have the shelter built and SC reports that 3 male head of households paid 1,500 Taka to buy 22 bamboos to build the shelter. Tarp was provided by IOM.










Q3. Did you receive shelter assistance (tarp, rope, bamboo)?

-  Bamboo purchased and supplemented with wooden sticks cut from adjoining land
-  IOM reports that 1 out of 3 households received shelter assistance from the humanitarian community; 1 HH borrowed a (shelter grade) tarp and tools from a neighbour and the other shelter roof is constructed with non-Shelter grade (black) plastic sheeting
-  SC reports that 4 out of 5 households received shelter assistance from either the government or the international community. 3 households receive tarp from IOM and 1 household's shelter was dismantled and rebuilt in a more durable way shortly after the household's settlement.
-  UNHCR reports that:
 - HH 1 had paid 6,000 Taka for bamboo and black plastic. White tarpaulin was donation
 - HH 2 had paid 2,000 Taka for bamboo and black plastic. White tarpaulin was donation
 - HH 3 had paid 8,000 Taka for all materials. No donations
 - HH 4 had paid 8,000 – 10,000 Taka for bamboo and black plastic. White tarpaulin was donation.
-  SC reports that:
 - HH1 purchased a black tarpaulin and collected bamboos from the forest.
 - HH2 was provided with 10 big bamboos for the shelter + 6 medium size bamboo per household by IOM
 - HH 3,4 and 5 collectively paid 1500 Taka to buy 22 bamboos. Tarpaulin was provided by IOM. Household's members report that they receive financial assistance from religious leaders. Informants don't know who they are but think they come from Dhaka and never saw them again.





Q4. If yes, did you use this material and if not, why?

-  Those HHs which received a shelter grade tarp installed it on the roof











Q5. Which improvements would you like to make to your shelter?

-  Raise the height of the shelter with additional bamboo (3 x IOM responses, 4 x UNHCR, 1 x SC)
-  Install a insulation under the roof line (using split bamboo or cloth (2 x IOM responses, 1 x SC))
-  Install bamboo matting (*basha berra*) to walls (3 x IOM responses)
-  Raise floor (2 x IOM, 2 x UNHCR responses, 1 x SC)
-  Lay a screed floor (cement and earth mix) (3 x IOM, 2 x UNHCR responses, 5 x SC)
-  Provide CGI for roofing (2 x IOM responses)
-  Provide additional tarpaulins for roofing (2 x UNHCR responses, 1 x SC)
-  Provide cash for materials and tools (2 x IOM, 1 x UNHCR responses)
-  Install shelving to raise goods off floor (protect from damp and infestation) (1 x IOM response)







-  Stronger walls (1 x UNHCR response, , 5 x SC responses)
-  Shaded exterior area for cooking (2 x UNHCR responses)
-  Resolve issue with interior condensation and dripping from roof at night (1 x UNHCR response)
-  Resolve issue with smoke inside from cooking (4 x UNHCR response, 5 x SC responses)







Q6. What is needed to support those improvements?

-  Bamboo matting
-  Bamboo (to raise the house)
-  Timber (to raise the house and strengthen the roof)
-  Cement for floor screed
-  (Shelter grade) Tarpaulin
-  CGI for roof
-  Wire for attaching bamboo matting
-  Nails for fixings
-  Tools – saw; hammer; pliers; bucket; shovel; machete; sack; hoe; iron bar;
-  burner for cooking






Q7. If you received a sum of cash, which shelter inputs/improvements would you spend the cash on?

-  Bamboo
-  Bamboo matting
-  Plastic
-  Burner/Stove











Supplementary Miscellaneous Information shared in course of Interview

-  2 households reported confrontation with elephants when collecting sticks from adjoining land
-  All 3 households interviewed by IOM had arrived in the camp 4-6 weeks prior to the date of the interview (i.e. approx. 1 – 15 Sept). 1 household interviewed by UNHCR had arrived 2 weeks prior
-  One household (IOM) estimated that 10,000 Taka was required to improve the shelter to their needs. 2,000 Taka is too small to make improvements.
-  Cooking stoves requested. Wood burning creates a lot of smoke in the shelter and the children are suffering. Have a kitchen space for each family, to avoid fire risk (1 x IOM response)
-  2 storey accommodation is culturally acceptable
-  Water-point on top of hill for easier carrying (1 x UNHCR response)



-  Firewood is difficult to find, even when paid for.
-  3 households interviewed by SC said that if they could segregate the space they would prefer that male and female sleep separately and that each family has its own cooking space to limit the exposure of adolescent girls.
-  1 male head of household interviewed by SC who lives on a steep slope reported that he dug a drain around the shelter which significantly reduced flooding inside the shelter when it rains. Respondent said he wasn't advised nor helped to dig the drain.
-  1 female interviewed by SC reported that she needed a torch to care for her younger children at night and go to the Wash facilities.
-  5 x 5 respondents interviewed by SC indicated that they would go to the maji for help and guidance if faced with a problem or a danger.

Key Informant / Household Information

-  1st location – joint assessment: Row houses with 5 families living in divided accommodation. Each family comprises of 5 – 6 members. (GPS: 21.2081, 92.1529)
-  IOM 1: Row house; household of 5. Husband and wife participated equally in the interview (GPS: 21.20827, 92.15243)
-  IOM 2: Double shelter with 2 families inhabiting the shelter – 14 persons; Husband and wife active in answering the questions (GPS: 21.20787, 92.15204)
-  IOM 3: 3 family plot with 13 persons living within the 3 row houses. 1 woman-head of household (husband missing in Rakhine). 4 women responded primarily to the questions though neighbourhood men also participated/intervened. (GPS: 21.20691, 92.15189)
-  UNHCR 1: End of rowhouse, 5 members HH. Husband and wife participated equally in the interview.
-  UNHCR 2: 1 unit in 7 unit rowhouse, 7 members in HH. This unit was divided and shared with another family.
-  UNHCR 3: 7 unit rowhouse, 9 members HH. Husband and wife participated equally in the interview.
-  UNHCR 4: 7 unit rowhouse, 5 members HH. Older woman with her adult son.
-  SC 1: 1 unit in 7 unit rowhouse, 7 members in household. Husband (35 years old) and wife (30 years old) participated equally in the interview.
-  SC 2, 3, 4: 3 unit family plot with 5, 4 and 5 family members per unit. Wives (20, 40 and 25 year olds) and one husband (26 years old) equally participated in the interview.