

# ADAPTATION WITH DISASTER: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

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## Introduction

The Rohingya refugees in the Cox's Bazar are not only unique in the sense of the rapidity and scale of the 2017 influx, but also in terms of the exposure towards natural hazards.<sup>1</sup> For instance, an extensive rainfall event on June, 2018 affected approximately 15,000 refugees in Rohingya camp.<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, the query is how this refugee community build resiliency to reduce the risks related to disasters?

## Aim and Objectives

The research aims to explore scopes and challenges related to disaster resilient strategies within the refugee context considering **Rohingya refugees** as an evident example.

### Objectives

- ❖ To examine refugees' coping strategies at pre, during, and post-disaster period.
- ❖ To understand how such strategies can be strengthened with organizational assistance.



Figure 1a: Use of sandbags for the slope stabilization

## References

1. UNDP (2018) Extreme Weather and Disaster Preparedness in the Rohingya Refugee Response. Monsoon Season 2018 Lesson Learnt. Available at: [http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/library/environment\\_energy/extreme-weather-and-disaster-preparedness-in-the-rohingya-refugee.html](http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/library/environment_energy/extreme-weather-and-disaster-preparedness-in-the-rohingya-refugee.html) (Accessed: 17 June, 2019).
2. IOM (2018) Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis Response. International Organization for Migration, Bangladesh. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/iom-bangladesh-rohingya-humanitarian-crisis-response-external-update-8-14-june> (Accessed: 10 February, 2019).
3. [https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/20180319\\_acaps\\_npm\\_bangladesh\\_pre\\_monsoon\\_thematic\\_report\\_summary.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/20180319_acaps_npm_bangladesh_pre_monsoon_thematic_report_summary.pdf) (Accessed: 17 June, 2019)

## Methodology



Literature Review: To research on past studies that are relevant to the topic.



Questionnaire Survey: Rohingya refugees (N=250) was interviewed in May, 2019. The questionnaire involves box-ticking and open-ended questions. Locations of the survey are shown in the map in Figure 2.



Analysis and Results: Data will be compiled and analysed in SPSS using statistical analysis and coding.



Figure 1b: Use of Tie Down Kits (TDKs) and bamboos to reinforce shelter

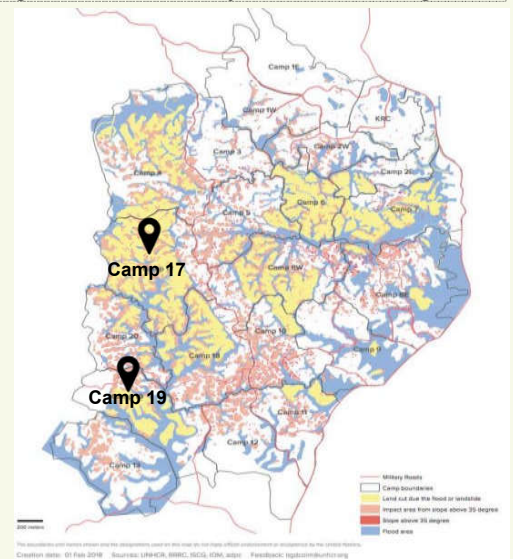


Figure 2: Locations of Surveys in the refugee camp<sup>3</sup>

## Preliminary Results

Data compilation is ongoing. Two common disaster resilient measures are shown in Figure 1 (a and b). Initial findings show that-

- ❖ Participants (N=250) perceived themselves to be vulnerable to three main hazards: Rainfall, Windstorm and Landslide (Figure 3).
- ❖ Percentage of female outweighed male in terms of adopting some resilient measures (Figure 4) at the pre-disaster period.

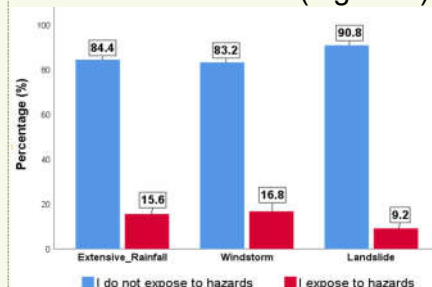


Figure 3: Perception of refugees towards hazards exposure

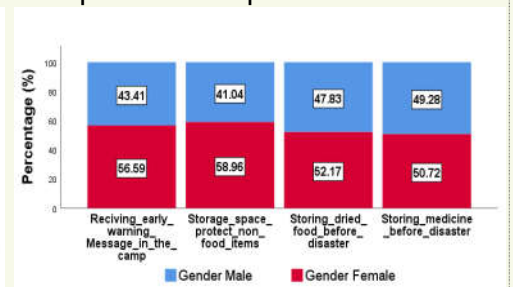


Figure 4: Adoption of different coping strategies with respect to gender

## Way Ahead

- ❖ To analyze the remaining data to achieve the research objectives.
- ❖ To produce a written report by the end of August.

