

Rohingya Response Rumour Tracking - Issue #01 June 2018

Welcome to the first issue of Flying News Rumour Tracking Bulletin. The Flying News bulletin captures rumours and perceptions of the Rohingya population to eliminate information gaps between humanitarian agencies and refugees. By providing field staff and volunteers with current rumours and basic facts to answer them, the Flying News Bulletin aims to create a better understanding of the needs of the Rohingya and helps answer rumours before they can do any harm.

'Bala-Bura'



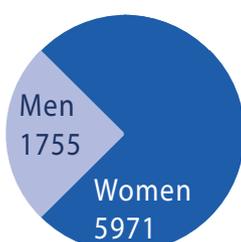
Some of these rumours are also being addressed in the Internews HIS narrowcast programme 'Bala-Bura' (played in listening groups throughout the camps) and the Internews HRSM radio programme 'Talking Peace' (every Monday 16.00h on Radio Naf).



Heard a rumour? Want to give feedback? Please send your rumours, questions and feedback to bd-rumours@internews.org

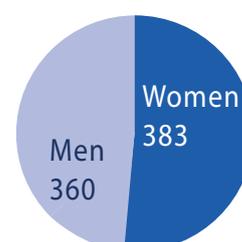
The rumours and issues presented here were collected by field staff and volunteers from Internews and BRAC using the ETS connect APP, based on their face-to-face conversation with 8469 people between February 27th to April 24th 2018 (BRAC) and between April 1st to June 5th 2018 (Internews). The selection was done on the basis of prevalence and relevance. The information presented here is correct at the time of issue.

BRAC



Total Feedback: 7726

Internews



Total Feedback: 743

Rumour #1 Extreme Weather

“Why do cyclones only happen in Bangladesh?”
(Man, 27, Balukhali MS)

Answer

Cyclones are a natural hazard that occur in many places around the world. In Bangladesh cyclones usually happen during summer and rainy season. If there is a cyclone approaching there will be several ways you will be warned. Cyclone Preparedness Volunteers (CPP) – women and men wearing orange jackets - will share early warning messages. CPP early warning flags are red, with a black square in the middle. They are square and 1.5ft high by 1.5ft wide and will be displayed on a pole 18ft high. Make sure you know where in your camp the flags will be displayed. If a cyclone forms at night, CPP volunteers will use megaphones and sirens to give warning messages.

FLAG 1 – WARNING

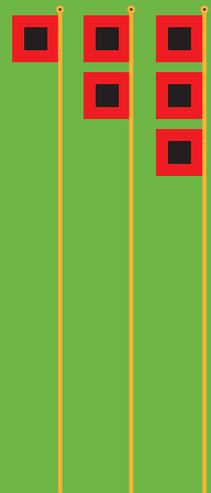
A storm has formed in a distant area
No megaphone will be used to play warning messages

FLAG 2 – DANGER

A cyclone has formed and may come to this area
A megaphone will also be used to play early warning messages

FLAG 3 – GREAT DANGER

A cyclone has formed and will impact this area soon
A siren will sound, and a megaphone used to play early warning messages



More questions? You can get information on disaster preparedness from the CiC office and Cyclone Preparedness Volunteers (CPP).

Looking for the weather forecast? See:

http://www.bmd.gov.bd/?/nwp-products/&/meteogram/&l=coxs_bazar_district_met and
<https://www.ventusky.com>

Rumour #2 Safety in new relocation site

“We are scared because we heard that some of the houses will be relocated to Madhurchara. Three houses were already relocated. Some [of us] refused to move out because we heard that the newly relocated area is more dangerous.
(Man, 40, Camp 1W)

“The place where they want to relocate us supposedly has bandits.”
(Woman, 50, Kutupalong MS)

“Another thing we heard that there is an elephant killing people in that area where they planned to relocate us.”
(Man, 42, Camp 1W)

Answer

Relocation of families is the responsibility of the CiC supported by the Area of Responsibility focal point agency (IOM or UNHCR) and the Site Management Support agency. Currently the site management team across Rohingya camps are relocating households that are at risk of flooding or landslides. Some relocations can also take place because space is needed to build a structure that is essential to the community, such as a hospital.

Relocations are happening to protect you from potential dangers due to extreme weather or to serve the community. The process of relocation will happen in a safe and sound way. You will not be moved without the people living in your household. All essential services (such as food, WASH services, latrines) will be provided in the new relocation areas. Either shelter will be provided or you will be supported to bring your own shelter with you.

Relocation sites have been checked carefully to ensure their safety. There are ongoing programmes to make sure that the sites are safe. For example, construction of elephant watch towers and training of community elephant response teams to identify when elephants are near the site and to move them away safely. You can always report security incidents to the CiC or site management support office.

More questions? If you have questions about safety in relocation sites you can ask the site management support and CiC office at your camp.

Rumour #3 Repatriation

“Are you sending us back [to Myanmar] by lying to us?”
(Woman, 35, Kutupalong MS)

Answer

Nobody will be sent to Myanmar under the premise of being relocated within the camp. If you are told that you will be relocated, you have the right to ask the CiC and Site management support office where the new relocation site is. Refugees should make a decision on return based on accurate and sufficient amount of information. Refugee returns to Myanmar can only occur when they feel the time and circumstances are right. UNHCR considers that conditions in Myanmar are not yet conducive to returns. In Myanmar, UNHCR and UNDP signed a MoU with the Myanmar Government in order to support the creation of conditions in Rakhine State favourable to voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees who fled violence.

More questions on this topic? Contact:
UNHCR Senior Public Information Officer in Cox's Bazar, Ms. Caroline Gluck,
Email: gluck@unhcr.org, Tel. +880 187 269 9849

Rumour #4 Vaccinations

“Aren’t these frequent vaccinations going to kill our kids?”
(Woman, 30, Balukhali MS)

“The dose of diphtheria will certainly kill.”
(Woman, 35, Kutupalong MS Extension)

“It’s said that getting vaccinated will convert them to Christians!”
(Woman, 24, Kutupalong MS Extension)

Concern:

“Why do children get fever after being vaccinated?”
(Women, 40, Moynarghona)

Answer

Some diseases, such as diphtheria, can be prevented by getting vaccinated. While some vaccines are taken orally, others are directly injected to our bodies.

Vaccines contain ingredients that are effective in preventing diseases and are safe. Some vaccines need several doses to work properly; therefore, it is extremely important to make sure to always take the full course of a vaccine. Sometimes vaccines can cause some side-effects such as fever, body pain, or nausea. Therefore, you may notice that some children and adults get a mild fever for a day or two after the vaccination. It is normal to have this sort of side effect for a short time after being vaccinated as the body reacts to some of the ingredients of vaccines. These side effects of getting vaccinated will last only one or two days.

When you or your child receive a vaccination, you can always ask the person giving the vaccine if a future dose is necessary. Vaccinations are provided for free in the camp and there will be different ways of how the vaccinations will be announced, such as through flags and megaphones.

More questions? See: <http://www.who.int/topics/vaccines/en/>

Rumour #5 Healthcare for pregnant women

“When pregnant women go to the health centre, they do not treat them. That’s why we do not want to go there.”
(Woman, 22, Moynarghona)

Answer

There are nearly 200 health posts or facilities for pregnant women of all ages across the Rohingya camps. All pregnant women are welcome into any health post, facility or hospital for reproductive health services. In fact, women are encouraged to seek support early during their pregnancy. There are trained midwives who work every day for 24 hours to ensure that pregnant women are cared for and are able to give birth safely. Midwives are available to support with:

- ▶ Delivery care
- ▶ Newborn care
- ▶ Nutritional advice
- ▶ Antenatal care
- ▶ Vaccinations
- ▶ Post-natal care
- ▶ Counselling
- ▶ Family planning

Psycho social services for women experiencing trauma or issues related to their pregnancy can be referred as well. The UNFPA Women Friendly Spaces also provide support to pregnant women by other woman. Rohingya volunteers will accompany women to find the services they need in the area. At the health clinic women who are pregnant will receive a clean delivery kit with necessary items for giving birth to carry with them if they cannot make it to the health clinic to give birth. However, hygiene is important, so birth at a health facility is preferred. UNFPA also provides a 'Mamma Kit' with items such as blankets, cloth and baby clothing important for first few days after birth. There are emergency 'tom tom' available to transport women to health facilities if needed, which can be called through the midwives at any health facility.

More questions? See: http://bangladesh.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA_SitRep_External__16-April%20Final.pdf (page 3-4)

Or contact:

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