

THE COX'S BAZAR PANEL SURVEY

LIVING CONDITIONS AND ASSET OWNERSHIP FOR THE HOST AND ROHINGYA POPULATIONS IN COX'S BAZAR



This is the fourth in a series of briefs to disseminate findings from different modules of the CBPS, by the Poverty and Equity GP.



HOUSING



ASSETS

The modules on housing characteristics and assets were administered as part of the household questionnaire of the Cox's Bazar Panel Survey (CBPS) to the household head or an adult member (age 15+) with substantial knowledge about the daily activities of the household. Data was collected from 5,020 households across camp and host settlements (Camp settlements are defined as areas within the camp boundaries set by the government, UNHCR and IOM jointly. Host settlements are defined as all areas outside of the camp boundaries), on topics of housing conditions and asset holdings. This includes information on the construction material of housing, water and sanitation facilities, lighting and electricity usage, and current and past ownership of assets. The module generates representative statistics for hosts and displaced Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar; and it can be further disaggregated into hosting areas with low and high exposure to the Rohingya influx.

HOST COMMUNITY HOUSING CONDITIONS IN COX'S BAZAR

HOUSING CONDITIONS AND INFRA-STRUCTURE SERVICES ACCESS ARE POOR IN HOST COMMUNITIES.

While home ownership is high, housing conditions are poor, especially in high exposure areas. Close to half of all host households use shared water and sanitation facilities. Households in low exposure areas receive twice the hours of electricity from the grid as those in high exposure areas.

HOST COMMUNITY ASSET OWNERSHIP

HOST HOUSEHOLDS REPORT LOW RATES OF OWNERSHIP OF HIGH-VALUE CONSUMER DURABLES AND PRODUCTIVE ASSETS.

Despite an increase in the ownership of household assets since 2017, less than 20 percent of households in high exposure areas, and only about a quarter of households in low exposure area own higher value assets such as televisions and refrigerators. Ownership of productive assets is low for all hosts.

RECENTLY DISPLACED ROHINGYA

DISPLACEMENT FROM MYANMAR WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A HEAVY LOSS IN ASSETS FOR THE ROHINGYA.

The Rohingya in camps suffered a heavy loss of productive and household assets during their displacement from Myanmar in 2017. While camps provide these households with access to improved water and sanitation, these facilities are shared with many.

LIVING CONDITIONS AND ASSET OWNERSHIP IN COX'S BAZAR



This brief uses data from the Cox's Bazar Panel Survey (CBPS) baseline survey to document housing conditions, access to water, sanitation and electricity, and the ownership of household and agricultural and business assets among the host Bangladeshi population and the recently displaced Rohingya. Despite high rates of home ownership, use of poor housing materials is widespread in host areas, particularly in high exposure areas. While access to electricity is widespread, high exposure areas receive only 7 hours of supply per day, half that in low exposure areas. These differences reflect the relatively high-

er level of urbanization in low exposure areas. In general, access to services is poor: Half of host households rely on unimproved sanitation facilities or shared water sources. Moreover, ownership of assets for productive purposes is limited, with host households reporting an increase in household assets only since 2017. 48 percent of host households do not have an improved cookstove. Among the recently displaced Rohingya population, the loss of assets due to displacement is stark; and while coverage of services is good, these are shared across many households, reflecting the density of camp settings.

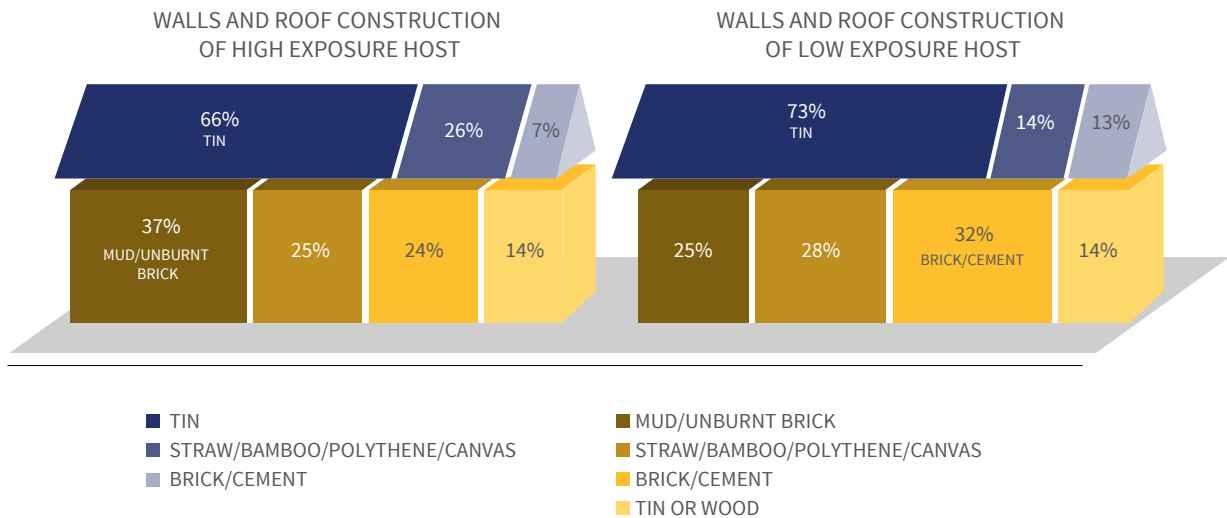
HIGH RATES OF HOME OWNERSHIP WITH POOR HOUSING QUALITY, ESPECIALLY IN HIGH EXPOSURE AREAS

The majority of host households live in an owned dwelling: 87 percent in high exposure (HE) areas, and 83 percent in low exposure (LE) areas¹. Home ownership rates for hosts improved relative to 2017, by 2 percentage points for LE hosts, and 4 percentage points for HE hosts.

The quality of construction materials used in these dwellings reflects poor housing standards, and this is particularly true for HE hosts. Most houses in HE areas are constructed with poor building materials. 62 percent of HE households live within walls made of mud and unburnt bricks (37 percent); or straw, bamboo or some type of polyethene (25 percent). Only 7 percent of these host households live under a brick/cement roof. 26 percent of them have a roof made from straw, bamboo or a polyethene material; and 66 percent live under a tin roof. Households

in the relatively more urbanized LE areas report slightly better housing conditions. 13 percent report a brick/cement roof, while 73 percent have a tin roof. Close to a third of these households reported having brick/cement walls (compared to less than 24 percent for HE areas). Overall, the poor quality of housing materials is a cause for concern, particularly in a disaster-prone area such as Cox’s Bazar.

Host households report having 2.5 rooms on average with 1 room for every two members. In addition, 78 percent of host households report having a separate kitchen in the house, with those in LE areas (79 percent) being marginally more likely to have one than HE households (75 percent). Close to half of the households (48 percent) use an improved gas or cookstove with no differences across high and low exposure areas.



¹ To distinguish between host communities that are more or less affected by the arrival of these Rohingya, the survey’s sampling strategy uses a threshold of 3-hours walking time from a campsite to define two strata for hosts: (i) Host communities with potentially high exposure to the displaced Rohingya (HE), and (ii) Host communities with potentially low exposure (LE).

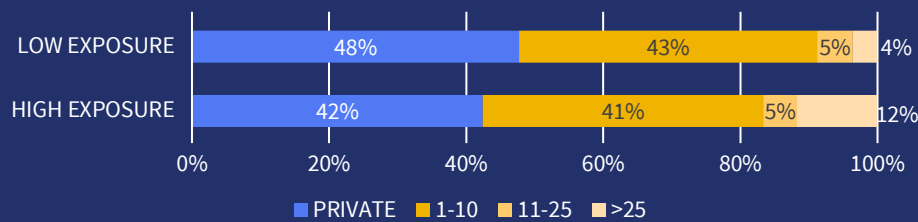
CLOSE TO HALF OF ALL HOST HOUSEHOLDS USE UNIMPROVED SANITATION FACILITIES AND SHARED WATER SOURCES

While hosts in HE and LE areas in Cox’s Bazar report access to similar types of drinking water sources and sanitation facilities, HE hosts report a greater reliance on shared and unimproved sources of drinking water. LE areas, which are more urban², are marginally more likely to rely on shared sanitation facilities.

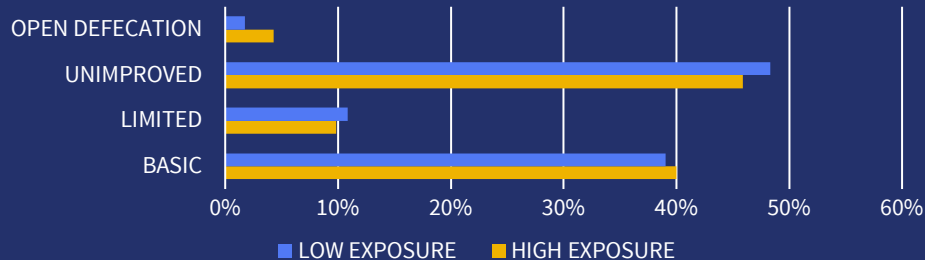
About 39 percent of hosts have access to basic (improved) sanitation, 11 percent have limited (improved, but shared) access, and 48 percent use unimproved sanitation facilities³. Differences across high and low exposure hosts are marginal: HE hosts report a slightly higher use of unimproved and limited sanitation facilities (by 2 and 1 percentage point respectively); while LE hosts report a slightly higher rate of open defecation (of 4 percent).

Tube-wells are the primary source of drinking water for host households (89 percent). Households in LE areas report a greater overall reliance on improved sources of water: 8 percent of these households rely on piped public water supply, and 91 percent rely on tube-wells. In contrast, 9 percent of HE households depend on unimproved water sources such as unprotected wells and springs. The major difference in quality of access to water across HE and LE areas comes from the number of households who report using shared water sources. HE households report a lower share of private water sources (42 percent) compared to LE households (48 percent); and 12 percent of HE hosts report sharing their water source with more than 25 households as opposed to only 4 percent for LE hosts.

HOUSEHOLDS SHARING WATER SOURCES



SANITATION FACILITIES AMONG HOSTS



² According to the 2011 census, 83% of HE areas in Cox’s Bazar are rural, while 74% of LE areas (which include Cox’s Bazar Sadar) are rural.

³ Definitions for sanitation indicators follow indicators set by the WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP): 2017 update. Improved sanitation refers only to the type of facility used – in the survey, “sanitary” and “pacca” latrines are classified as improved facilities. Basic sanitation services are defined as use of improved sanitation facilities which are not shared with other households. Limited sanitation services are defined as use of improved sanitation facilities which are shared with other households. The survey does not collect the data required to classify facilities as safely managed.

BROAD ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY ACROSS ALL HOSTS BUT SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES REPORTED IN QUALITY OF ACCESS BETWEEN HE AND LE AREAS

80 percent of host households in Cox’s Bazar have access to electricity from at least one source. Electricity from the public grid and solar energy are the two main sources of electricity reported by 88 percent and 13 percent of households respectively. Even though HE areas, which are closer to the camps, report having similar access to grid electricity (89 percent) as households farther away in LE areas (87 percent), there are important differences in the quality of this access. Households in LE areas report receiving 12.2 hours of electricity every day on average, which is almost double the amount that households in HE areas report (6.8 hours per day).

HOST HOUSEHOLDS REPORT LOW RATES OF OWNERSHIP OF HIGH-VALUE CONSUMER DURABLES AND PRODUCTIVE ASSETS

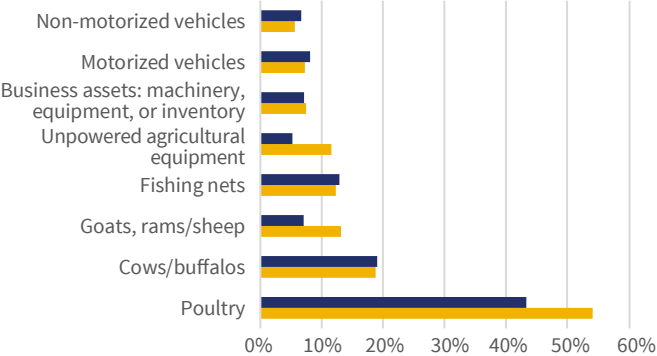
The CBPS survey collected data on 6 commonly owned household durables and mobile phones (7 household assets in all), and on 12 productive (i.e. farming or business) assets. While 95 percent of host households report owning at least one household asset, only 46 percent report owning a productive asset⁴.

On average, households report owning 52 percent of these household assets; and 10 percent of the productive assets. Median ownership of household assets is lower, at 25 percent. Within household assets, LE households are more likely to own more expensive durables such as televisions (9 percentage points), and refrigerators and electric fans (7 percentage points), while other durable ownership is similar across HE and LE areas. Ownership of productive as-

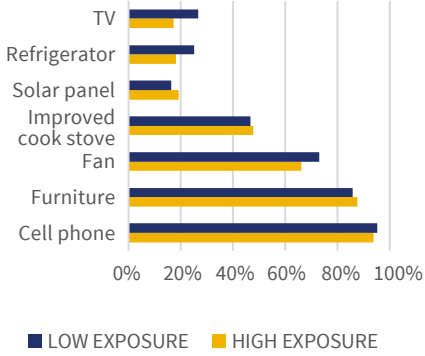
sets has remained broadly constant since 2017, while that of household assets has increased.

A quarter of host households in HE areas own no productive assets whatsoever, and this number increases to 37 percent in LE areas. This is in line with findings from previous briefs which document the higher reliance of HE areas on agriculture, and of LE areas on wage work. The differences in composition of productive assets between high and low exposure areas reflect the small-scale and labor-driven agricultural economy in the HE areas of Ukhia, Teknaf and surrounding areas with these households reporting high ownership of livestock and poultry and unpowered agricultural equipment, but low shares in more mechanized assets. Ownership of non-agricultural business assets is low across HE and LE areas.

SHARES OF PRODUCTIVE ASSETS ACROSS HOST AREAS



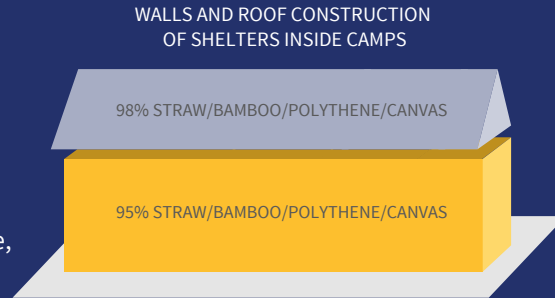
SHARES OF HOUSEHOLD ASSETS ACROSS HOST AREAS



⁴ Assets owned by households in the sample have been categorized into two types: productive assets i.e. assets that can be used to generate income and household durables. Due to concerns about misreporting that are common to such surveys, figures on cash and jewelry have been omitted from the analysis.

THE DISPLACED ROHINGYA LIVE IN LARGELY TEMPORARY SHELTERS IN DENSELY POPULATED CAMPS

The 2017 Rohingya influx into camps in Cox’s Bazar defined one of the highest known population densities in the world, currently standing at 24.2 square meters per person on average. Almost all shelters that house these displaced Rohingya (>95 percent) are constructed out of straw, bamboo, polythene, or canvas materials. These shelters have less than 2 rooms on average, and just over a quarter (27 percent) reporting having a separate kitchen in house. Three-quarters of camp households report using an improved or gas cookstove for cooking.

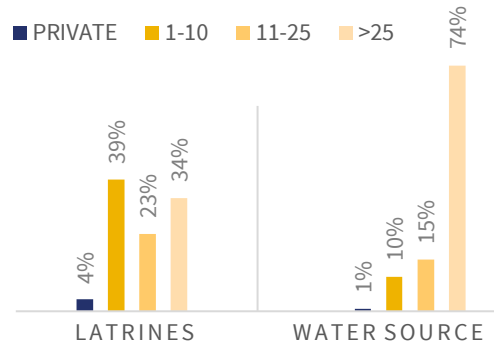


THE DISPLACED ROHINGYA HAVE SHARED ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER AND SANITATION FACILITIES

75 percent of the population inside camp report having access to limited sanitation facilities i.e. improved facilities that are shared among households. Beyond that, 2 percent have access to basic sanitation (improved and not shared) and 23 percent use unimproved sanitation facilities. No open defecation was reported by respondents, indicating well-implemented and widespread access to WASH facilities across camps. The limited access to sanitation facilities for camp residents is driven by the high incidence of sharing these facilities. One-third of the population (34 percent) reports sharing latrines with more than 25 households; 39 percent share with 1-10 households; and 23 percent share with 11-25 households. Only 4 percent of camp households report having a private latrine⁵.

Similar trends are observed in access to drinking water. While almost all households in camps have access to improved sources of drinking water (21 percent from public supply lines, 78 percent from tube-wells), they share these sources with a very

SHARED SERVICES AMONG CAMP HOUSEHOLDS



large number of households. Three-fourths of camp households share the same source of drinking water with more than 25 households.

Over one-third of households in camps (38 percent) have access to electricity. 96 percent of this electricity relies on solar powered sources. The majority of camp households rely on portable sources of lighting such as solar lamps (65 percent), battery powered lights (14 percent) and kerosene lamps (13 percent).

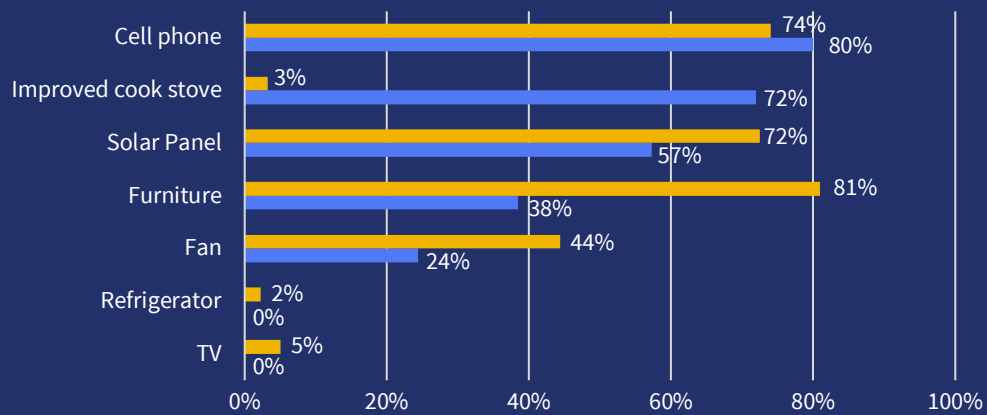
⁵ Houses in camps do not have access to attached or private WASH facilities. The term “private” has been used here to maintain consistency of phrasing and refers to public WASH facilities that the households report as not being shared with any other household.

FOR ROHINGYA HOUSEHOLDS, DISPLACEMENT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A DECLINE IN ASSET OWNERSHIP

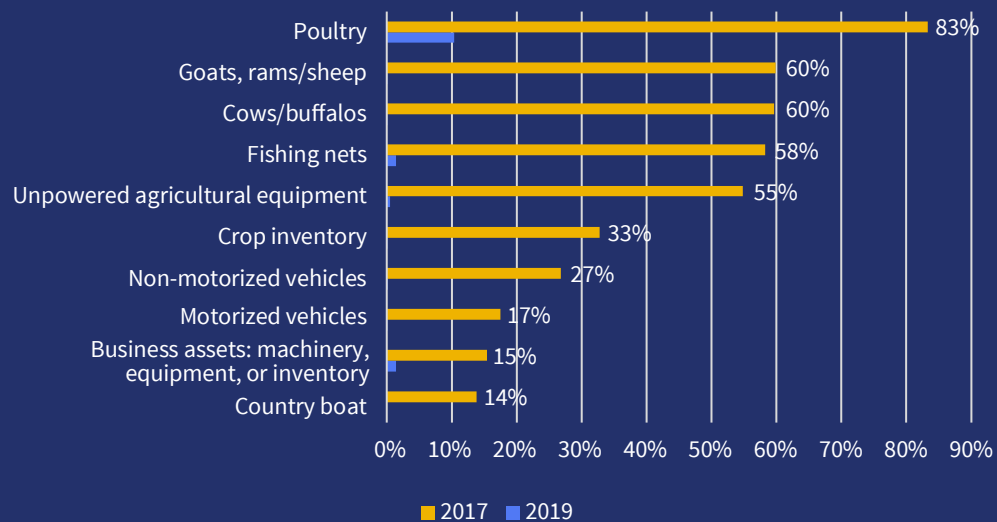
The asset portfolio of the displaced Rohingya in camps has seen a large change since 2017 with their displacement resulting in large losses of productive assets. The changes in shares of household assets are also indicative of how living conditions for the Rohingya have changed since they lived in Myanmar.

Ownership across most household assets have gone down since 2017, with improved cookstoves being a notable exception. Only 3 percent of the Rohingya camp residents reported owning an improved cookstove before, as opposed to the current rate of 72 percent.

SHARES OF HOUSEHOLD ASSETS PRE- AND POST- DISPLACEMENT



SHARES OF PRODUCTIVE ASSETS PRE- AND POST- DISPLACEMENT



The Rohingya in camps also report heavy losses in productive assets since 2017. The share of households reporting ownership of any productive asset declined from 83 percent in 2017 to only 10 percent in 2019. Currently, poultry is the only income-generating asset reported by a notable share of households (10 percent). 87 percent of households own no productive assets.