

**Situation Analyses of Migratory Patterns  
of Cox's Bazar District**

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## Key Words

ASA	Association for Social Advancement
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
BRDB	Bangladesh Rural Development Board
COAST	Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
ILO	International Labour Organisation
MSF Holland	Medicins Sans Frontieres, Holland
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
RMMRU	Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit
SHED	The Society for Environment and Human Development
TNO	Thana Nirbahi Officer
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
YRF	Young Researchers' Forum
UAE	United Arab Emirates

## Executive Summary

The Cox's Bazar region has a long experience in cross border population movements with Burma (Myanmar). Geographical proximity, porosity of the border, shared religious beliefs and cultural practices, social contacts and exchanges, access to each other's market and informal exchanges in commodities have all led to regular and long drawn interactions between the members of the communities that live across the border. The voluntary flows of people have also been supplemented by forced movements when state sponsored policies of exclusion in Burma were accompanied by violence, as evidenced in 1978 and again in 1991-92. It is generally assumed that more than 250,000 people have moved into the southern part of the country from Burma after 1991. Information collected from the District, Upazilla and Union Council offices suggest that in 2006 there were 6079 and 25,918 persons of Burmese origin staying as "illegal residents" in the upazillas of Ukhia and Teknaf respectively. In addition, there were another 6032 illegal residents of makeshift camp in Dumdumia under the Nhila Union

This study looks into the patterns of movement of two groups of migrants (a) those who came from neighbouring state of Arakan of Burma and settled in the study sites and (b) for comparison it will also deal with Bengali migrants from other districts. The study attempts to deal with (a) livelihood opportunities (b) the role of host community, public functionaries, NGOs and international organisations; (c) migrants' access to services such as education, health, employment and credit. This executive summary presents findings pertaining to the Rohingyas.

The Rohingyas noted that political persecution in the state of Arakan of Burma was the principal reason why they fled. Lack of employment opportunities were assigned as a major cause of migration by some Rohingya households while others cited social reasons such as joining other members of households who had migrated earlier.

The current average age of Rohingyas was 41.5 years and an overwhelming 90 percent were not literate before migration. The rate of separation and divorce was high among the Rohingya households and, having large number of children at a relatively young age precludes the Rohingya widows to get married again. 20 percent of the Rohingya households were headed by women. In most cases their male partners were living in the Gulf countries, in other cases they were widows. The average size of Rohingya households stood at 6. Some members of the Rohingya community stated that sending children to school was not a high priority as children were required to be engaged in income generating activities.

The average monthly income of households was Tk. 3,054. Engagement in petty trade, often cross-border, has been the principal livelihood strategy for many. Following promulgation of the emergency with stricter border control, incidence of illegal cross border activity somewhat waned. Those engaged in informal trade usually finance their operation by securing loans from local money lenders. It was further reported that children are used as carriers of contraband items as they are suspected by the law enforcing agencies.

Local people of Bangladeshi origin were generally sympathetic to the Rohingya migrants. Although there was discrimination in rates of wages between them and the Bangladeshi workers, the situation has improved in recent years. There has also been a marked improvement in workers getting properly paid on completion of their work.

40 percent of the Rohingya households had at least one member as international migrant. They stated that they secured the help of dalals as the latter are quite deft in getting the residency



clearance from local Union Council members. 70 percent of the international migrant households were in receipt of remittances.

Quite a few contradictory views were noted with regard to access to education by the Rohingya households. In some instances school authorities were reticent in admitting Rohingya children, in other cases no such problem was noted.

Many respondents informed that they go to both government health complexes and local private practitioners. The doctors of the government health complexes also stated that they did not make any distinction between Rohingyas and Bangladeshis. They further informed that incidence of malaria, rheumatism and diarrhoea are very common among the Rohingya community. They also stated that the Rohingya children suffer from malnutrition and pneumonia. Both at government and non-government levels there was a major concern about the threat of HIV AIDS virus.

Although there has been a marked improvement in the spread of sanitary toilet facilities in most parts of Bangladesh, the UKhia-Teknaf region is yet to make its mark in this regard. Use of sanitary ring toilets is rather limited and defecation in open space is particularly common in the hilly areas.

With regard to access to credit the members of Rohingya community stated that they mainly depended on each other if needs arise. Usually such credits are of small amounts, taken for short duration and are interest free. In case of higher amounts they may secure credit from money lenders against high interest. Only a handful household reported that they secured credit from NGOs. The Bangladesh Rural Development Board officials stated that they strictly adhere to the policy of providing credits to the locals. They candidly stated that Rohingyas do not qualify to get loans under the BRDB scheme.

About 38 percent of the Rohingyas were registered as voters. They informed that their good relationship with the locally influential helped them put their names in the voting rolls. Most of them however expressed doubts that if they would be able re-register as voters when the new list is prepared.

Rohingyas reported that they generally they avoided any kind of trouble with the local community and interaction with the police. The police officials informed that the Rohingyas avoided coming to the police stations for fear of being detained for illegal entry into Bangladesh. Despite the common perception that Rohingyas were engaged in criminal activities, Teknaf and Ukhia police records show that the Rohingya involvement in crimes committed in the area in 2006 was not more than 5 percent. Their involvement was in petty crimes such as theft and robbery.

## Section I

### Introduction

#### 1.1 The Context

The Cox's Bazar district, located in the south-eastern tip of Bangladesh, is bounded by Chittagong district in the north, Bay of Bengal in the south and east and Bandarban district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Naaf River and Burma in the east. The region has a long experience in cross border population movements. Geographical proximity, porosity of the border, shared religious beliefs and cultural practices, social contacts and exchanges, access to each other's market and informal exchanges in commodities have all led to regular and long drawn interactions between the members of the communities that live across the border. The relative isolation of the Arakan region from mainland Burma due to the existence of the Arakan Yoma mountain range, have contributed to its inhabitants enhanced contacts with their western neighbours in Bangladesh.

It is generally held that over time there has been a steady flow of in-migration and settlement of the Arakanese people in the two study sites of Ukhia and Teknaf. Pre-existing social networks facilitate such process. The voluntary flows of people have also been supplemented by forced movements when state sponsored policies of exclusion in Burma were accompanied by violence, as evidenced in 1978 and again in 1991-92.

It is generally assumed that more than 250,000 people have moved into the southern part of the country from Burma after 1991. Information collected from the District, Upazilla and Union Council offices suggest that in 2006 there were 6079 and 25,918 persons of Burmese origin staying as "illegal residents" in the study upazillas of Ukhia and Teknaf respectively. In addition, there were another 6032 illegal residents of makeshift camp in Dumdumia under the Nhila Union (Breakdown available in Annex 1, and 2). The local administration sources, however, has not spelt out the criteria that has been used to determine the legality of their status.

#### 1.2 Objectives

This study looks into the patterns of movement of two groups of migrants (a) those who came from neighbouring state of Arakan of Burma and settled in the study sites and (b) for comparison it will also deal with Bengali migrants from other districts.

The study attempts to deal with (a) livelihood opportunities of migrants, (b) the role of host community, public functionaries, NGOs and international organisations; (c) migrants' access to services such as education, health, employment and credit.

The study will also deal with outward migration pattern of both Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants. In doing so it will deal with (a) the roles of social network and those of intermediaries in facilitating migration, and (b) their employment and remittance patterns and usage.

### **1.3 Methodology**

This study is based on primary information as well as secondary data. Based on the ILO developed TOR a number of research questions were identified and a draft questionnaire was developed at a workshop held at RMMRU office on 17 February 2007. A two-member team made a nine-day visit to Cox's Bazar, Ukhia and Teknaf at the end of February to meet the local stakeholders, including local government functionaries, and identify the sites for field study. They also held a series of focus group discussions with the local residents as well as those who migrated from Burma. On 7 March, findings of the preliminary visit were presented a meeting of partners held at the UNICEF office in Dhaka. Based on the discussion at that meeting the questionnaire was revised and a four-member team went on a field survey from 11 to 25 March 2007.

In each of the two study Upazillas one Union was selected: Nhila unon in Teknaf and Rajapalong. in Ukhia. In depth interviews of twenty-five respondents were conducted in each of these two unions. Among them twenty households had their origins in Burma, the rest were Bangladeshi internal migrants from other districts. Quite a few of the households also had at least one of their members as international migrants or migrants working in other districts of Bangladesh.

To understand the diversity of work and migration experience a number of focus group discussions (FGDs) were also held at Baharchara and Sabrong unions in Teknaf. Baharchara is a remote area by the sea that hosts a large number of migrants from Burma. The livelihood of the bulk of these migrants is centred on fisheries. Sabrong was selected because this union has the reputation of being the source of a large number of international migrants. To further assess the migration experience of yet another group from Burma FGDs were conducted with undocumented migrants of Dumdumia makeshift camp.

The issues of gender and generations were borne in mind while selecting the respondents for in depth interviews and also in organising the FGDs. In Teknaf, out of 20 in-migrants from Burma, 7 were female migrants. 3 of these 7 female respondents were heads of households. In Ukhia 11 of 20 in-migrants interviewed were women. Of the 11 women respondents 4 were household heads. In case of Bangladeshi respondents all 10 respondents in each of the study sites were males. In identifying them the diversity of their occupational patterns were taken into consideration. To understand the local people's view about the in-migrants a series of meetings were conducted with people of different economic and professional backgrounds. The list includes government officials, private doctors, local NGOs (Nishorgo), national NGOs (BRAC, COAST, ASA) school and madrasah teachers, chairpersons and members of local union councils, members of law enforcing agencies, press club officials and owner/employers of salt pans, trawlers and brick kilns. Interviews were also held with members of international organisations such as UNHCR and MSF (Holland). Information was also collected through informal interviews at market and other places.

The data generated was collated and analysed by using SPSS package. Findings were presented at another in house meeting held on 28 March 2007.

#### 1.4 Study Sites

This study was conducted in the Teknaf and Ukhia upzilla of Cox's Bazar District (Annex-3). The study sites were selected because they were considered to be most migration intensity areas in greater Chiitagong division, experiencing cross border movements, internal migration as well as out-migration to other districts and the Gulf states. The sites also hosted a large number of Rohingyas outside the camps of Cox's Bazar. These Rohingyas came to the region at different phases and a large number moved in after 1991. In the early 1990s, more than 250,000 Rohingyas became forced migrant and sought refuge Bangladesh where they were housed in 20 camps. Since then 236,000 have been repatriated and only 2 camps are now in operation. There are about 28,000 Rohingyas living in two official camps, Kutupalong (12,000) and Nayapara (16,000). Another makeshift settlement with a population of some 6,000 Rohingya in-migrants came into being which does not enjoy any official recognition.

In order to understand the migratory patterns and livelihoods strategies it is essential to understand the socio-economic situation of the study sites. Information was collected from the Statistics Division of Teknaf and Ukhia Upzilla (2005-2006).

##### *Geographical Characteristics of the Areas under Study*

The **Teknaf** upzilla is in Cox's Bazar district has an area of 388.68 sq km, is bounded by hilly Ukhia upazila in the north, the Bay of in the south and west and Naf river and Burma on the east. The upazila headquarter is located at a distance of 86 km to the south of Cox's Bazar Sadar. Teknaf Upzilla consists of 6 union parishads, 12 mouzas and 143 villages. The total number of land port is 1.

The **Ukhia** Upzilla covers an area of 261.80 sq. km. and is bounded by Ramu upazilla in the north, Burma and Naikhongchhari upzilla in the east, Teknaf upazila in the south, and the Bay of Bengal in the west. It consists of 5 union parishads, 13 mouzas, and 54 villages.

##### *Population*

The total population of Teknaf upzilla is 200,980. Among them, 104,95 are male and 96,030 are female. In Ukhia Upzilla, the total population is 154,280 (male: 80,300 and female: 73,980).

##### *Educational Profile*

The literacy rate of Teknaf upzilla is 19.72% (male: 24.84% and female: 14.58%). Educational institutions include 3 colleges, 4 high schools, 5 junior high schools, 17 madrasas, 34 primary schools (government) and 11 primary schools (non-government). The literacy rate in Ukhia Upzilla is 23.6% (male: 29.4% and female 17.5%). Educational institutions include 2 colleges (government), 2 colleges (non-government), 7 high schools, 10 madrasas, 40 primary schools (government), and 32 primary schools (non-government).

##### *Agricultural Land, Crops Production and Price*

The agriculture production of Teknaf and Ukhia Upzilla are presented in Annex 4-5. It includes major crops, total cultivated areas, total production and harvest price/Quintal. In additional information on forestry, irrigation ponds fishing, shrimp farming/cultivation, hatchery, fish nursery, fisherman and fishing co-operatives have been presented in Annex 6.

## Section II

### Socio-Economic Profile of Respondents

In this section the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents will be discussed. This will include gender and age composition, marital status, educational profile, household composition and income and occupational and landholding patterns. Changes that have occurred before and after migration in matters of age, marital and education have also been noted.

#### 2.1 Sex

Table 2.1 shows that out of 50 respondents 32 were males and 18 were females. Of the 25 respondents in Teknaf 18 were males and 7 were females and the corresponding figures for Ukhia were 14 males and 11 females respectively.

Table 2.1: Gender Dimension

Sex	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Male	13	5	9	5
Female	7	0	11	0
Total	20	5	20	5

#### 2.2 Age Composition

Table 2.2 informs the current age and age at the time of first migration of the respondents. In Teknaf the average current age of Rohingyas was 48 years. It was 31 years at the time of their first migration to this country. The minimum age of the Rohingya respondents was 20 years, while the maximum was 80 years. In Ukhia the average current age of the Rohingya migrants was 35 years with a minimum of 21 years and a maximum of 57 years. The table also notes that at the time of first migration Rohingya respondents of Teknaf and Ukhia were 31 years and 22 years of age respectively.

In contrast the Bangladeshi in-migrants were relatively young (19 years) during the time of their first migration.

Table 2.2: Age at the time of first migration and current age of Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants (in years)

Sex	Teknaf Upzilla				Ukhia Upzilla			
	Rohingya		Bangladeshi		Rohingya		Bangladeshi	
	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F
Average	48	31	37	19	35	22	36	19
Minimum	20	7	30	18	21	5	24	7
Maximum	80	60	53	25	57	36	56	38

\* C: Current age

\* F: Age at the time of first migration

### 2.3 Education Level

Out of forty Rohingya respondents an overwhelming 36 were not literate before migration. Only four of them learnt to sign and one more furthered his education level. Most of the Bangladeshi migrants had the opportunity to have some education before they migrated to the region. However, as many as 7 out of 10 could not continue with their education once they migrated.

In the FGDs some members of the Rohingya community stated that sending children to school was not a high priority as children were required to be engaged in income generating activities. In the coastal areas of Baharchara of Teknaf and Shonapur in Ukhia children collected shrimp fries to meet the demand of the hatchery industry that has thrived in the nearby locality. For the consumption of their families as well as for sale children were also involved in collection of firewood in the forest. In both Teknaf and Ukhia teachers of primary schools noted that the Rohingyas find it relatively difficult to write in Bangla script. This statement was corroborated by local NGO personnel who stated that they found it more convenient to teach the Rohingyas sign their names in English than in Bangla.

At both study sites the Rohingya parents stated that even though they did not have to pay the tuition fees for their children's education at primary level, they could not afford the other costs associated. This factor contributed strongly to send their children to learn Arabic in mosques.

It may be noted that not a single of the 18 Rohingya female respondents was literate. In comparison to their Bangladeshi counterparts their level of awareness about the need for imparting education on their children was found to be poor. It was further noted that most of the Rohingya households that have at least one member as international migrant put their children into schools. However, the scope for female school going children to go beyond the secondary level was very limited as many parents informed that they would prefer to marry off their girl children as soon as they attained puberty. In contrast the Bangladeshi migrants were found to be quite aware of the value of education for both male and female children.

It may be pertinent to state here that with a literacy rate of 18.14 percent for Ukhia and 19.72 percent for Teknaf the region lags far behind the national average of 51.93 percent (BBS 1999).

Table 2.3: The Education Profile

Level	Teknaf Upzilla				Ukhia Upzilla			
	Rohingya		Bangladeshi		Rohingya		Bangladeshi	
	B	C	B	C	B	C	B	C
Not literate	18	17	2		18	14	1	1
Can Sign	1	2				3	2	
Class I to V	1		1	1	1	1	1	
Class VI to X			1		1		1	
SSC				1				
HSC			1			1		
Could not continue		1		3		1		4
Total	20	20	5	5	20	20	5	5

\* C: Current; \* B: Before

## 2.4 Religion

All the respondents of the study were Muslims. Although there were a few Hindu and Buddhist households in the study unions, they were all permanent residents and did not have much migration experience.

## 2.5 Marital Status

Of the 40 Rohingya respondents 29 were married before they migrated to Bangladesh. In comparison only 3 out of 10 Bangladeshi internal migrants were married when they migrated. Two separate issues were noted during the FGDs. Firstly, the rate of separation and divorce was high among the Rohingya households and secondly, having large number of children at a relatively young age precludes the Rohingya widows to get married again.

Table 2.4: Marital status of the migrants

Level	Teknaf Upzilla				Ukhia Upzilla			
	Rohingya		Bangladeshi		Rohingya		Bangladeshi	
	B	C	B	C	B	C	B	C
Married	17	16	1	5	12	17	2	4
Unmarried	3	1	4	0	8	2	3	1
Separated		1						
Widow		2				1		
Total	20	20	5	5	20	20	5	5

\* C: Current

\* B: Before

## 2.6 Household Size and Composition

The study found that out of forty Rohingya households 30 were extended family units. Usually, the extended family covered two to three generations with aging parents or in laws living with their sons or daughters and grandchildren. In other instances, parents or male siblings gave shelter to their widowed or separated female children or siblings. In comparison, the Bangladeshi migrant households had a balanced distribution of nuclear and extended families.

Table 2.5 Current type of Family

Type	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Nuclear	7	2	3	3
Extended	13	3	17	2

Table 2.6 shows that eight of the 40 Rohingya households were headed by women. In most cases their male partners were living in the Gulf countries, in other cases they were widows. When asked now that their husbands / sons were away if they enjoyed greater autonomy in household decision making process, most replied in the affirmative. However, some qualified the statement by adding that their husbands or sons still retained control by giving instruction over mobile phone on important household decisions such as purchase of land, home renovation and marriage of members of household.

## 2.6: Head of the family by sex

Head	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Male	16	5	16	5
Female	4		4	

The following table shows that the average size of Rohingya households stood at 6, while that of Bangladeshi migrants was 7.5; much above the national average of 5.44 (BBS 2000)<sup>1</sup>. As an explanation to this scenario the local officials of the health and family planning division noted that the inhabitants of the area were very conservative in outlook and it was extremely difficult to promote family planning methods. Some active participants of a female Rohingya focus group discussion in Ukhia noted that although they were in receipt of family planning kits they wanted to have at least four children each. It was observed in another FGD of Rohingya *majhees*<sup>2</sup> in Shonapur slum area of Ukhia that they were not willing to take responsibility of conveying message of family planning to their community as it would be contrary to their religious belief. It was found that the average number of children in Rohingya household was 4.5 and that of Bangladeshi household was 2.4.

Table 2.7: The current family size

Type	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Average	6	8	6	7
Minimum	3	4	3	4
Maximum	13	13	11	11

## 2.7 Household Income

It was noted that 22 of the forty Rohingya households were dependent on income of single earner. Seven households had two earning members while another 10 had more than two members. In one household the respondent maintained subsistence by begging; only seasonally she earned some income through catching fish fries. The number of households of more than one earner was high due to inclusion of children who contributed to family coffer by collecting firewood and shrimp fries.

Table 2.8: Number of earning members of households

Number	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
1	9	2	13	3
2	4	2	3	2
3	4	1	4	
4	1			1
5	1			
N/A	1			
Total	20	5	20	5

<sup>1</sup> GoB (2000) 'Statistical Year Book of Bangladesh 1999', Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Dhaka: BBS.

<sup>2</sup> Majhees are unelected Rohingya community leaders.



The Table 2.9 shows that current average monthly income of Rohingya households was Tk. 3,054 as against Tk. 6,450 for Bangladeshi households. The maximum monthly income of the Rohingyas in Teknaf was found to be Tk. 13,125. International migrants contributed substantially to higher income Rohingya households. Sometime these households had more than one member earning overseas. The lowest income of Tk. 900 was that of a widow who had no other income earner. She had a dependent daughter with a child whose husband deserted her. In case of Bangladeshi internal migrant the highest figure registered was Tk. 14,000. The household was engaged in trading of aluminium and glass and had quite a few earning members. The Bangladeshi who earned the lowest amount of Tk. 2500 was a day labourer.

Table 2.9: Total current monthly income of the household

	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Average	3064	7800	3040	5100
Minimum	1000	4000	900	2500
Maximum	13125	14000	6000	7000
N/A	1			

It was found that a large number the Rohingyas were dependent on harnessing the nature to maintain their livelihood (firewood collection and fishing). Table 2.10 shows that in as many as 20 cases the Rohingyas earned as day labourers either in agriculture work or as domestic help. As many as 16 Rohingya households had at least one member as international migrant.

In the FGDs it was noted that the contractors preferred to engage Rohingyas in earth and road work as they could be paid as less as 50 percent of their Bangladeshi counterparts. In most cases Bangladeshis are engaged in shop keeping, small business and petty trading or work as factory workers.

During the FGDs with local community leaders and during individual interviews it was widely stated that engagement in informal petty trade has been the principal livelihood strategy for many of residents of the region, both Burmese as well as Bangladeshis. It was further reported that following promulgation of the emergency with stricter border control, incidence of such illegal cross border activity somewhat waned. The officer of a local police station pointed to the flip side of this. He linked increase in crime rate in recent times to the inability of the local people to engage in irregular trade. It may be noted that the extent of involvement of poor people in irregular trade is limited to a few kilograms of rice, cosmetics and household items such as bed sheets, spreads and towels. It was also reported that those engaged in informal trade usually finance their operation by securing loans from local money lenders; in some cases they channel part of the micro-credit received from NGOs in this business. It was further reported that children are used as carriers of contraband items as they are suspected by the law enforcing agencies.

Table 2.10: Type of occupation of the respondent's family (Multiple)

Occupation	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Day labourer	12		8	
Agro farmer	3			
Fishing	9			
Construction	1			
Factory worker				3
Firewood collection	8		10	
Earthwork	2		7	
Beggar	1			
Working abroad	10		6	
Shopkeeper		2		
Bus driver		1		
Business (fishing, bakery, aluminium etc)		3		2
Petty trading (vegetable, teastall)		2		4
School teacher		1		
Carpenter			1	2
Rickshaw puller			1	
Imam			1	

## 2.8 Land Holding Pattern

Table 2.11 shows that out of 40 Rohingyas only 12 owned land. Among them 6 had only homestead land and the other 6 had homestead land, arable land and pond. In most cases the land owning Rohingyas had at least one of the members of their households as an international migrant. It was revealed during FGDs in Teknaf that local people of Bangladeshi origin were generally sympathetic to the Rohingya migrants and provided them shelters. In some cases they even allowed them to stay in their homesteads. In other instances the local Union Council members or Chairs provided them support by allowing them to squatter in the government land. It may not be wrong to assume that the patrons of these Rohingyas would call on their services when need arise. This may include providing extra labour when needed and act as muscleman in the political activities. It was found that in some instances the Rohingyas paid rents for their shelter.

Out of ten Bangladeshis nine owned land. The person without any land is a relatively new migrant from Chittagong and now lives in rented accommodation.

Table 2.11: Respondents' ownership of land

	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Yes	9	5	3	4
No	11	0	17	1
Total	20	5	20	5

Table 2.12: Number of respondents of land holding

	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Homestead	9	5	3	4
Arable	3	3	1	1
Pond	2			

## 2.9 Conclusion

In this section the socio-economic profile of the Rohingya and Bangladeshi internal migrants to Ukhia-Teknaf region has been presented. The current average age of the Rohingya migrants were found to be 41 years and that of Bangladeshis 36.5 years. The literacy rate among the Rohingya migrants was rather low. The Bangladeshi migrants although were more literate, a good number had to discontinue their education upon arrival at destination. Most of the Rohingyas were married before migration whereas the majority of Bangladeshis were unmarried. The number of extended households was higher and the average family size was also more than 6 in both communities. Likewise, in households of both communities the single earning members were the majority. However, the multiple earning members were high among the Rohingyas than among the Bangladeshis. As Bangladeshis are mostly involved in business and petty trading their average income was relatively higher than Rohingyas, the majority of whom were day labourers and collectors of fish fries and firewood. A small segment of the Rohingyas held titles to land and in sharp contrast most of Bangladeshis did so.

## Section III

### Migration Experience

In this section migration experience of the respondents will be presented. This will include patterns of migration from Burma and other parts of Bangladesh, duration, role of social network and processes of migration decision.

#### 3.1 Years of Migration Experiences (to Teknaf/Ukhia)

On average the Rohingya in-migrants have been living in the study unions for 13.30 years. The maximum duration of 32 years was reported in Teknaf. The person concerned stated that he came across the border with his parents who came for work and was supported by other members of his extended family. The minimum period of 2 years was reported by persons who said they could not make their ends meet in Burma and thus had to look for new opportunity across the border.

In case of Bangladeshi in-migrants the average number of years spent in the locality was 17.5 years. The highest was 30 years in Ukhia and lowest was 2 years. In most cases the internal migrants from other parts of Bangladesh was drawn to the region for trading/business purposes. They stated that they had prior trade/business contacts with the region before they decided to settle down. This claim was validated at a focus group discussion of vendors in Nhila union. These people had come from Munishiganj, Manikganj and Bikrampur districts of greater Dhaka district and spend two to three months in the locality to sell their aluminium pots and pans. While returning they take back with them household goods that come across the border through informal channels and market them in Dhaka and in their places of destination. Some informed that they were specialised in used aluminium and metal products that come from across the border and are used as raw materials for aluminium products.

Table 3.1: Migration duration

Migration Experience	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Average	15.55	19	11.5	16
Minimum	2	12	2	2
Maximum	32	27	29	30

#### 3.2 Role of Social Networking in Migration (to Teknaf/Ukhia)

Table 3.2 shows the sources of information for migration to Teknaf and Ukhia. 19 of the 40 Rohingya respondents noted that they received information from their immediate family members. In some instances the respondents joined their parents when the latter migrated. In other instances, the families migrated in stages. In the first instance one or two members migrated and settled themselves and subsequently other members joined them. 13 respondents stated that their neighbours and friends were the purveyors of information about the destination regions and a further 8 identified their relatives.

4 of the 10 Bangladeshi respondents informed that they migrated to the region with their families. The sources of information were neighbours, friends and relatives. One respondent noted that he was a supplier of food items in the region. He felt that he had a bright future in the region and subsequently he decided to migrate and settle down.

During FGDs in Teknaf and Ukhia quite a few of the migrants from south eastern districts of Bagerhat and Satkhira informed that they had prior contacts with the region for trading in fish fries. This contact helped them to settle down in these unions as opportunities were available.

Table 3.2: Source of Information on Migration

Sources	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Immediate family	9	1	10	3
Relatives	5	1	3	1
Neighbour/Friends	6	2	7	1
Business contact		1		
Total	20	5	20	5

### 3.3 Migration Decision

Table 3.3 informs that as many as 19 Rohingya migrants took the decision for migration collectively with their families while 11 stated that took the decision on their own. 9 respondents stated that they were quite young when their families migrated which was essentially a decision of their parents. As many as 7 Bangladeshi migrants informed that they took the decision independently. 3 informed that their families and relatives were instrumental in taking such decision.

If one compares migration decision of the two communities than one sees that for the Rohingyas in most cases it was a matter for the household to decide. In contrast for the Bangladeshi in-migrants the matter was more of an individual choice. Perhaps Bangladeshi respondents had better information available to them about the destination than their Rohingya counterparts. It is for this reason the latter group was more circumspect and relied on their households for making such important decision of their lives.

Table 3.3: Migration decision making (In Migrants to Teknaf/Ukhia)

Migration Experience	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Himself/Herself alone	7	4	4	3
Collectively with family	9	1	10	1
Parents	4		5	
Relative			1	1
Total	20	5	20	5

### 3.4 Principal Factor Contributing to Migration Decision (In Migration to Teknaf/Ukhia)

Twenty one of the 40 Rohingya respondents noted that *political persecution* in the state of Arakan of Burma was the principal reason why they fled. Another four respondents noted that they were too young at the time of movement but they had heard from their elders that persecution of the *Maghs* was the principal factor that pushed them out of Burma. Many respondents assigned a host of factors for their migration. Some stated that they or their family members were taken away by the Burmese army and were forced to work to clear forests and at construction sites (roads, army barracks and bridges). In many instances they were required to carry their own food and were not paid at all for the services they rendered. Those who owned land had to part with large segments of their produce. For others unscheduled absence for prolonged period affected their crops.

*Lack of employment* opportunities were assigned as principal cause of migration by three respondents. *Social factors* such as joining other members of households who had migrated earlier and polygamy and early marriage (breaches of law in Burma) were noted by five respondents. Three households followed the instructions of their heads to move to Bangladesh after the former successfully re-migrated to the Gulf states through Bangladesh. Two others came on a visit to Bangladesh but decided to stay back as they found that opportunities for employment were better than what exist in Burma. In contrast another two stated that they mainly came for *treatment* but could not return to Burma as they had planned.

A separate set of issues were identified by Bangladeshi internal migrants to Ukhia and Cox's Bazar. Eight of the ten Bangladeshi respondents came to the region for trading and decided to settle here. One came as a teacher in a government school and got married to a local and subsequently settled in Teknaf. Another person in Ukhia was too young when he migrated could say what made his parents to come from Noakhali and settle here.

#### **The Unintended Migrant**

a Rohingya man in Ukhia, family in Burma

Mr Nazir is originally a Bangladeshi, but in 1972 he married a Burmese women and started to live there. He has 8 children now at Burma. About 1 year ago, one of his sons fled or lost somewhere in or outside of Burma. Nazir, then came here to look for his son, but could not trace him. He had no intention to stay back here but could not cross the border. With his own family living in Burma, he is forced to be with his family as his mother is still alive. Nazir now works in a hatchery and earn Tk. 100 taka daily. Although he wished to send his earnings to his family in Burma, he cannot do so and thus spend it in his mother's family. He is trying to bring his whole family here, and would no longer like to go in Burma.

### 3.5 Experience of Migration to other Districts (from Teknaf/Ukhia)

It is interesting to note the some of the Rohingya households had a good exposure about opportunities available in other districts of Bangladesh. As many as 14 of the 40 respondents responded in affirmative when they were asked if they had visited other districts. However, Table 3.5 informs such exposure is essentially limited to greater Chittagong district. The single Rohingya who visited Dhaka informed that she

undertook the trip to join her husband who worked in Saudi Arabia. That plan, however, failed to materialise and she had to come back to Ukhia. In the FGDs it was noted that those who were trying to go abroad had a good exposure outside of greater Chittagong district. 3 Bangladeshi in migrants informed that they had to travel to other districts for business purposes.

Table 3.4: Number of person migration experience to other district

	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Yes	6	1	8	2
No	14	4	12	3

Table 3.5: Destination places

	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Cox's Bazar	4		4	2
Chittagong	1		3	1
Patia			1	
Comilla		1		
Dhaka	1			
Barishal/Bagerhat				2

### 3.6 Role of Social Networking in Migration (other districts)

When Rohingya respondents were asked about their sources of information about other district they informed that market place was one such major source (Table 3.6). Others pointed out neighbours and friends to be sources of information. For Bangladeshi migrants, friends, relatives and market place constituted sources of information.

Table 3.6: Source of Information on Migration (to other district)

Migration Experience	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Market Place	2	1	4	1
Relatives	1			3
Neighbour/Friends	3		4	1

### 3.7 Migration experience to other districts

Those engaged in inter-district migration for work for short duration was asked the number of times they had undertaken such trip. On an average Rohingyas of Teknaf undertook five such trips and those in Ukhia 2 trips.

3.7: Number of times migrated to other districts

Times	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Average	5	1	2	2

### **3.8 Conclusion**

In this section inward and outward migration experiences of the Rohingyas and Bangladeshis have been discussed. With most of the Rohingyas coming after 1991 their average duration of stay in Ukhia-Teknaf region was shorter than their Bangladeshi counterparts. For both the communities the extended family played a major role as the most important source of information and also in migration decision. It was found that the majority of the Rohingyas identified political persecution to be the most important factor that contributed to their migration decision. The other contributory factors were ethnic conflict, lack of employment and social factors. In case of Bangladeshis trading and business were the principal motivating factors. For both the communities' employment and business are the reasons for onward migration to other districts. In this instance market place, neighbours and friends played a major role in securing information. However, only a handful was involved in such inter-district migration.



## Section IV

### Work Condition and Livelihood Strategies

This section deals with work conditions and livelihood strategies of the respondents. It covers issues such as sources of information about work, working days and hours and income patterns of in-migrants in Teknaf and Ukhia and out-migrants in other districts of Bangladesh.

#### 4.1 Information about work in Teknaf/Ukhia

Table 4.1 informs that market place has been prime source of information for work for as many as 16 Rohingya respondents. The other sources include extended family, friends and neighbours and relatives. During FGDs it was noted that one who has already secured work facilitate securing work for other members of his/her households and/or friends and relatives. In many instances, the local people in need of labour directly contact the workers at the market place. The primary source of information for Bangladeshi migrants is families, friends and neighbours.

Table 4.1: Source of Information in getting work (in Teknaf/Ukhia)

Source	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Market Place	7		9	
Extended family	5	2	5	2
Relative	2	1	2	3
Friend/Neighbour	2	2	4	
Not Applicable	4 <sup>3</sup>			
Total	20	5	20	5

#### 4.2 Working Hours (in Teknaf/Ukhia)

The average working hours of Rohingya respondents was 8.34 hours and that of Bangladeshi in-migrants was 9.6 hours. During FGDs it was noted that while the Rohingyas spent about 8-10 hours on agricultural and day labour activities each day, those engaged as workers on fishing trawlers work for long hours that may extend upto 15 hours. However, those involved in wood cutting usually spent 4-5 hours each day. During FGDs of female and working children in Ukhia it was stated that they went in groups for collecting firewood in the forest. On many occasions after completion of their work they have to spend long hours for fear of elephants and can only get back home safely after elephants clear off the area. They further reported that at certain times they cannot go to the forest due to increased presence of wild elephants. This obviously hinders their earnings. As Bangladeshis were engaged in their own petty trading and business their hours was longer than those of their Rohingya counterpart.

<sup>3</sup> These respondents do not work and live on the remittances sent by members of their families from overseas.

Table 4.2: Hours of work per day

Hour	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Average	8.57	9.4	8.1	9.8
Minimum	5	5	4	6
Maximum	14	13	11	13

### 4.3 Working Days (in Teknaf/Ukhia)

Table 4.3 indicates that members of both groups of respondents work for more than six days a week. It may however be stated during the FGDs those who were dependent on others found it difficult to get work on a regular basis. During such period they get engaged in wood cutting and collection of fish fries.

Table 4.3: Working days per week

Days	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladesh i	Rohingya	Bangladesh i
Average	6.57	6.6	6.1	6.8
Minimum	4	6	3	6
Maximum	7	7	7	7

### 4.4 Monthly Income ( In Teknaf/Ukhia)

The average monthly income of Rohingya respondents was relatively lower than Bangladeshis. As the local informal wage rate is similar in both the Ukhia and Teknaf there was not much of a difference in income among the residents of the two areas. During FGDs the Rohingya participants stated that although there was discrimination in rates of wages between them and the Bangladeshi workers, the situation has improved in recent years. There has also been a marked improvement in workers getting properly paid on completion of their work. It may further be noted that earlier one of the first issues that the potential employers was concerned about was the status of the labour provider. Nowadays, there is very little interest on their part to check if the labour provider was Rohingya or not. This claim was further corroborated by local Union Council members and other influential persons. They stated that the Rohingyas' commitment to work was higher than their Bangladeshi counterparts and it is this quality that is drawing potential employers to engage the Rohingyas.

During FGDs in Baharchara Union of Teknaf the improved skill of the Rohingya fishing folk provided them the leverage to negotiate deals that would accrue them 40 percent control of the total catch. If for any reason they fail to catch fish in a trip, the Rohingyas have to pay off the costs for using the trawler. Usually the amount is adjusted from income of follow up trips.

Table 4.4: Amount of Taka earned per month

Days	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Average	1608	4800	1467	3300
Minimum	400	3000	500	2500
Maximum	2500	5000	2100	6000

Discrimination of wages between males and females and females and children were reported in betel leaf plantation work. The female participants of FGDs in Rajapalong union of Ukhia claimed that women received Tk. 25 per day with two meals as against Tk. 100 and two meals that their male counterparts received. If women had forgone their meals they would receive an additional Tk. 5 per day. The children received Tk. 15 and two meals per day for work in the plantation.

**Sheltered by a Locally Influential**  
Rohinga female at Dalpara of Jalia Palons, Ukhia

This family came here 10 years ago. At first her husband came alone to work, but he could not cross back to Burma. So subsequently with her 5 children she came to Bangladesh to join her husband. Her husband and one son now work in a hatchery and earn about Tk. 120 daily. But this a seasonal work and rest of the time they work as wage labourers. She herself works in a betel leaf plantation and earns about Tk. 50 daily. But this is not a regular employment either. One of their sons is disabled. He used to work as labour, but once he was made to climb tree and fell, thus lost a leg and a hand. His employer paid for some costs of treatment but did not give any other compensation.

Although they tried to enroll as voters, the authorities did not allow them to register. She said she received 30 kg rice from the Army and periodically Zakat from the local people.

She said her landlord, who is member of a local Union Council, has allowed them to live there. In return they attend to the land and look after its produce.

#### 4.5 Working Hour (Other Districts of Bangladesh)

It was stated earlier that a few of the respondents migrated to other districts of Bangladesh for work. The Rohingyas normally worked in the agriculture sector; two worked as hotel boys. Usually those who work in agriculture sector go on contractual arrangement during sowing and harvesting seasons. The duration of their stay normally ranged from 10 to 15 days. The persons who worked as hotel boys had to work for long hours, sometime stretching to 14-18 hours. Both informed they could not put up with such long hours any more, and thus decided to look for work in the locality.

Table 4.5 informs that the average working hour was a little more than 9 for Rohingyas. In case of Bangladeshi out-migrants it was 10.25. As Bangladeshis are mostly self employed they put in extra time to maximise profit. It was gathered that during festival time (Puja or Eid) the workload for those involved in tailoring shop and petty business goes up significantly.

Table 4.5: Hours of work per day

Hour	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Average	9.75	8	8.5	12.5
Minimum	5	8	6	11
Maximum	18	8	11	14

#### 4.6 Working Days (Other Districts of Bangladesh)

As duration of stay for both groups of out-migrants are for relatively short periods they have to work almost seven days a week. Even the two hotel boys also had to work seven days a week, though they stayed for longer periods of time.

Table 4.6: Working days per week

Days	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Average	7	7	5	6.5
Minimum	7	7	6	6
Maximum	7	7	7	7

#### 4.7 Monthly Income (Other Districts of Bangladesh)

The Rohingya out migrants' monthly income in other districts was found to be lower than their Bangladeshi counterparts. The explanation to this gap can be found in difference in occupational patterns. While the Rohingyas worked as day labourers, most of the Bangladeshi out migrants was engaged in petty trading. The Rohingya out-migrants stated that they had no problem in securing their wage.

Table 4.7: Amount of Taka earned per month<sup>4</sup>

Days	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Average	1475	3000	2000	3250
Minimum	700	3000	1400	2500
Maximum	2400	3000	4000	4000

#### 4.8 Accommodation and food arrangements (Other districts of Bangladesh)

As part of the work contract the out-migrant workers are provided accommodation by their employers. Usually such accommodations are arranged in groups in out-houses of the employing households. The employers also arrange their meals. The Bangladeshi out-migrants usually stayed in and had their food in messes at the destination places.

#### 4.9 Use of Income

There was quite a degree of similarity of use of income between the in-migrants and out-migrants. Both Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants used their earnings in food and clothing, home renovation, livestock, dowry and religious ceremonies. For Bangladeshi migrants engaged in business the earnings are mostly reinvested in their existing enterprises. Although the level of earnings of the Rohingyas was low a few of them could finance overseas migration of members of their households and purchase land. One Rohingya respondent stated that he could purchase two cows with his earnings from several forays to other districts.

#### 4.10 Conclusion

In this section work condition and livelihood strategies of the migrants in and from Ukhia-Teknaf upazillas have been discussed. Market place, extended families and relatives were major sources of information about getting work. On an average the work hours of the Rohingyas were 8.34 and for Bangladeshis it was 9.6. As they were mostly self-employed the work hours for the latter group were longer. Both the groups worked for almost seven days a week. The average monthly income was higher for Bangladeshis than the Rohingyas. As it was difficult for the Rohingyas to find regular employment they were mostly dependent on wage labour. In order to bring about diversity in livelihood strategy some Rohingya households explored the option of migration to other regions, mostly in greater Chittagong. The Bangladeshis migrated to other districts mostly for trading. The use of income for the Rohingya households has been in food, clothing and home renovation and for Bangladeshis it was mostly reinvested in existing business.

<sup>4</sup> Here period less than one month has been treated as a full month.

## Section V

### Experiences of International Migration

In this section experiences of international migration of the members of respondent households have been highlighted. It covers place of destination, source of information, processes of securing migration cost, passport and visa, amount remitted and utilisation of remittances.

#### 5.1 Number of Respondents

Out of fifty respondent households 16 Rohingya and 1 Bangladeshi household had at least one member as international migrant. Many other Rohingya respondents stated although none of their own household members was international migrant they had extended family members overseas. It was gathered through FGDs that Sabrong and Teknaf Sadar unions of Teknaf upazilla are important migration intensity areas. The study team found that one Rohingya household had as many as five members as international migrants. As the study focused on internal migratory patterns of Bangladeshis from and to study sites, only 1 household had an international migrant. (In the case studies presented experiences of Bangladeshi international migrants have been covered).

It is important to note that of the seventeen migrants of the study households only two went through regular channels, the rest through irregular routes.

Table 5.1: Number of International Migrants from Respondent Households

	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Yes	10	1	6	0
No	10	4	14	5
Total	20	5	20	5

#### 5.2 Place of Destination

Saudi Arabia constituted the most important destination of the migrant households. Out of the 16 households that reported having international migrants 11 went to that country, 4 went to UAE and recently one went to Malaysia. It was revealed at the FGDs that with opportunities for migrating to the Gulf region getting dried up, Malaysia is fast emerging as an important destination country for the Rohingya households.

Table 5.2: Countries of destination

Country	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladesh i	Rohingya	Bangladesh i
Saudi Arab	5	1	6	
UAE	4			
Malaysia	1			
Total	10	1	6	

### 5.3 Repeat Migration

Although repeat migration is a common phenomenon in other parts of Bangladesh, in only two instances that was reported at the study sites. In one instance a member of a Rohingya household migrated to Saudi Arabia both times, with a break of about two years. In another instance the migrant first went to Saudi Arabia and later moved on to the UAE. A few migrant households informed that the persons who migrated took a break and spent time in Bangladesh before they went back again to their destination countries. As the migrants mostly go in irregular capacity their opportunities to re-migrate or visit Bangladesh on holidays get restricted.

Table 5.3: Number of times migrated

	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Average	1.3	1	1	
Minimum	1	1	1	
Maximum	2	1	1	

### 5.4 Role of Social Networking in Migration

The study found that extended families and relatives constituted the most important sources of information for migrants. Four Rohingya households stated that their migrant members received information about migration from relatives working abroad. Although in personal interviews only one person reported that an intermediary was the source of information, during FGDs it was stated that in effect intermediaries had a key role in motivating migrants for overseas employment.

Table 5.4: Source of Information on International Migration

Sources	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Extended Family	2		2	
Relatives (Home)	3		2	
Relatives (Abroad)	3	1	1	
Neighbour/ Friend	2			
Dalal <sup>5</sup>			1	
Total	10	1	6	

### 5.5 Processing of Passport and Visa

Table 5.5 shows that local dalals had an important role in processing of passport. During FGDs the members of Rohingya households stated that they secured the help of dalals as the latter are quite deft in getting the residency clearance certificate from the local Union Council members. During FGDs of Bengali households some participants stated that the services of dalals become necessary to avoid harassment that is caused during police verification. The FGD participants further noted that the dependence of dalals have further increased and rates have gone up because recent changes in rules require them to collect documents from other offices including Upazilla.

<sup>5</sup> Dalals are intermediaries who facilitate migration. They do not have any formal establishment and often act as link between travel agencies / recruiting agencies and the migrants. Their role may vary from providing information, collecting money for migration, processing passport, visa and air-ticket.

Table 5.5 Facilitation in securing passports

Sources	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Relatives	3	1	1	
Local Dalal	3		4	
Travel Agency	4		1	
Total	10	1	6	

The visa of only two of the 17 international migrants from the study households were facilitated by licensed recruiting agencies. Visas for another 7 were facilitated by travel agencies, relatives living overseas arranged visas for 5 and local intermediaries for another 3 migrants. It may be noted that the cases that were facilitated by the travel agencies were all sponsored by the relatives overseas and the role of the travel agencies was only to arrange passport and tickets.

Table 5.6 Processing of visa

Sources	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Licensed Recruit Agency	2			
Travel Agency	3	1	3	
Local Dalal	1		2	
Relative-overseas	4		1	
Total	10	1	6	

## 5.6 Cost of Migration

It is seen from the Table below that there is a major difference in the cost of migration between the Teknaf and Ukhia migrants. The explanation for this difference lies in the fact that two of the Teknaf migrants went as early as 1978 through formal channels when cost of migration was rather low. Another has gone to Malaysia by boat in the three months preceding the field work costing only Tk. 25,000. The Ukhia migrants had migrated during the last five years when the cost of migration had gone up significantly. It cost the lone Bangladeshi Tk. 130,000 who went on Umra visa in 2004. During the FGDs it was noted that due to stricter issuance of Umra visa in recent years its cost has soared. Though the current informal market rate of Saudi visa is about Tk. 200,000, for the Rohingya households the visa costs were lower as they were sponsored by their family members and relatives staying overseas. During FGDs it was further stated that Malaysia is fast becoming a preferred destination for Rohingya migrants and now it costs between Tk. 25,000 to Tk. 40,000. As this route entails travel by boat the issuance of passport becomes unnecessary.

Table 5.7: Cost of migration

	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Average	77834	130000	122000	
Minimum	13000	130000	70000	
Maximum	120000	130000	160000	

## 5.7 Managing Cost

The international migrants raised cost of migration from different sources and as such multiple sources are cited. Most of them secured loans from their family members and relatives staying overseas on condition that they would be paid back from earnings overseas. Interest free loans from members of family and own savings constituted other important sources of information.

Table 5.8: Source of loan for migration (Multiple)

Sources	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Own savings	5		1	
Family (without Interest)	3		1	
Local money lender	1			
Remittance from relatives abroad	4	1	4	
Selling property (land and gold)	2			

## 5.8 Number of Households Receiving Remittance

Of the 17 international migrant households 12 were in receipt of remittances. Two non-receiving households stated that their members had gone overseas and were yet to send any money as they were paying off the loans. In other cases the migrants were either unemployed or were sick and hence had no earnings to remit.

Table 5.9: Number of household in receipt of remittance

	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Yes	6	1	5	
No	4		1	
Total	10	1	6	

Spouses and fathers were the main beneficiaries of remittance. In two instances as migrants were unmarried and fathers had passed away their brothers became the beneficiaries.

Table 5.10: Beneficiaries of remittance

Receiver	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Parents	2	1	1	
Wife	4		2	
Brother			2	
Total	6	1	5	

## 5.9 Methods of Transfer

Of the 12 remitters only 3 remitted money through the formal channel. The households of two Rohingya migrants who went through regular channel have their own accounts in local banks, the third person remitted money through his friend's



account. The rest of the households informed that they received money through informal channels. As the costs of transfer were incurred at the sending end none of the households had any idea about the figure. The availability of mobile phones and fax services in rural areas has greatly facilitated the remittance process, both through regular and irregular channels, the participants at a FGD informed.

Table 5.11 Method of transfer remittance

Receiver	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Bank	1	1	1	
Hundi	5		4	
Total	6	1	5	

### 5.10 Remitted Amount and Number of Times

The annual remittance received by 6 Rohingya households in Teknaf was Tk. 71,000 and 5 Rohingya households of Ukhia was Tk. 34,500. As in other parts of Bangladesh the households received remittances about 3-6 times a year. The flow of amount is larger when migrant households incur major expenses such as buying of land or renovating home.

Table 5.12: Amount Received by Migrant Households (In 2006)

	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Average	71000	100000	34500	
Minimum	36000	100000	16000	
Maximum	84000	100000	60000	

### 5.11 Use of Remittance

The table below provides information about the multiple uses of remittance by the receiving households. It is seen that in most cases food and clothing top the list of avenues for expenditure, followed up by loan repayment and land purchase. It is interesting to note while religious and social purposes figure prominently, unlike other areas of Bangladesh the use of remittances for education for children is markedly low. This reflects the low priority that the community gives to education.

Table 5.13: Use of Remittance (Multiple)

Use of Remittance	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Food, clothing and health	6	1	5	
Child Education	2	1	1	
Loan repayment	2	1	5	
Land purchase	3		1	
Home construction	4		1	
Religious & social occasions	4		2	
Religious contribution	3		4	

### **5.12 Types of Problem faced after Return**

The study team did not find any returnee migrant in the study households. However, three returnee migrants were interviewed all of whom were repatriated after they were apprehended by the authorities in the destination countries for violating immigration laws. They informed that due to their irregular status they could not get jobs that exposed them to new skills. The level of their savings was poor and was not enough to invest in business or trade upon return. As a result all three of them were working as day labourers and stated that migration brought about very little change in their lives. The only thing that changed was two of them could renovate their homes with their savings. All of three have plans to abroad if opportunities arise and two were seriously considering the Malaysian option.

### **5.13 Conclusion**

In this section international migration experience of 16 Rohingyas and 1 Bangladeshi was discussed. In contrast to experiences in other regions of Bangladesh most of them had single time migration experience. The Gulf states was the principal destination for these migrants. Extended family members and relatives abroad were the main sources of information. Local intermediaries and travel agencies played a major role facilitating such migration. The cost of migration ranged from Tk. 70,000 to Tk.130,000. Most of the international migrant producing households received remittance. Parents and wives were the principal beneficiaries of remittance. Remittances were sent mostly through Informal channel. The remittances were mainly used for food, clothing and health. Remittances were also spent on home renovation and religious and social occasions.

## Section VI

### Accessing Services

In this section the issue of access to services, both public and non-governmental, by Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants will be discussed. This covered are education, health care, sanitation, legal aid and credit. The section will also deal with availability of community support services.

#### 6.1 Access to Education

Quite a few contradictory views were noted with regard to access to education by the Rohingya households. It was stated earlier that education did not appear to be high on the agenda of the Rohingya households. Engaging children in activities for cash earning was a preferred option for many of the distressed Rohingya households. The households which wanted the children to receive education provided varied perspectives about their access to schools. In Baharchara Union of Teknaf female participants of a FGD stated that the local primary school authorities were reticent in admitting Rohingya children. When the matter was brought before concerned school authorities they justified such position on the ground that limited public allocation for the school did not allow them admit everyone. This meant making a conscious decision to admit those who are Bangladeshis. When asked how distinctions were made between the two communities, the authorities stated that the Rohingya households are generally sheltered in slum like conditions and also in the fishing villages.

In separate FGDs with local union council leadership, Rohingya households (both male and female) and a group of school teachers in Nhila Union of Teknaf it was noted that identity was not an issue of concern in admitting students into local educational institutions. The teachers, however, observed that though there was some interest for Rohingya households to put children in schools at primary level, there was hardly any Rohingya student at the secondary level.

The headmaster of Ukhia primary school informed that there were quite a few Rohingya students in his school. He stated he favoured education for all children and would like to contribute in his own way to make the goal of universal education be achieved. He however regretted that due to lack of funds he could not provide stipends to Rohingya students even if they deserved such stipends on merit.

When these issues were raised with the Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) and Education Officers of Ukhia and Teknaf they admitted that fund was a major constraint in providing stipends. They pointed out that the overall rate of literacy of the upazillas was much below the national average and they were doing their best to improve the situation. They further noted that the conservative Rohingya households and local Bangladeshis perhaps preferred to send their wards to the madrashahs and mosque based educational facilities that exist in large number in the localities. Peer pressure in their respective communities work against putting children in government run schools, one officer noted. One of the local Union Council members stated that pressure from local religious zealots forced a non-government organisation run school to withdraw from Sabrang area of Teknaf. The parents and guardians of its

students were obliged to put them in local madarashas and mosque run schools. Discussions with representatives of reputed national NGOs like Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) and Association for Social Advancement (ASA) informed that remoteness of the area, lack of awareness about the need for education and influence of religious leaders are major impediments in advancing secular education in these areas. During field work in Baharchara Union of Teknaf it was found parents were required to pay Tk.20 per month as contribution for education that was offered by a local mosque.

One internationally connected Rohingya community leader, claiming to be in charge of three large Madrashahs, informed that resources from the Middle East are mobilised not only to run those institutions but also to provide sanitation facilities, hand pumped tubewell for drinking water and for other services to the community. He said they also run periodic campaign so that local community and Rohingya households admit their children to these madrasahs. Usually, local mahfils (congregations) are held to convey such message.

During meetings with Bengali community leaders and FGDs it was found that some families who put their children in government schools also send the latter to mosques in the morning to receive religious education. This is how they try to strike a balance between their desire to provide proper education to their wards and peer pressure for religious education.

**Rohingyas are Polluting the Environment and Responsible for Crimes**

Mr. Mokhter, Head Master, Nhila High School, Teknaf

Mr. Mokhter, headmaster of Hnila High School is native at Teknaf thana. He stated that the Rohingyas are not interested in education. There is not a single Rohingya student in his high school. He was not sure if there was any Rohingya student in primary school division of his school.

Mr. Mokhter felt that Rohingyas are responsible for polluting the environment, and are engaged in crimes in the region. He also said that they are also responsible for spread of various diseases. Mr. Mokhter expressed his regret that, though we should do something to solve the Rohingya problem, but nobody (NGO, of government organization) cares to address this.

## **6.2 Access to Health Care**

When asked about the facilities they visit for health care services 18 respondents informed that they go to both government health complexes and local private practitioners. However, a good of them visit either government facility or see private practitioners. In Teknaf, Rohingya and Bangladeshi respondents stated that the services offered in government health complex are poor and time consuming, whereas respondents in Ukhia noted that the government health complex is located at a distance. Some Rohingya respondents and a large number of the FGD participants in Teknaf stated that they received good services from an international health NGO, MSF Holland. An official of the organisation told the research team that they provided their services to anyone who wants to avail them and did not make any distinction between Rohingyas and Bangladeshis. The doctors of the government health complexes also stated that they did not make any distinction between Rohingyas and Bangladeshis. They further informed that incidence of malaria, rheumatism and diarrhoea are very common among the Rohingya

community. They also stated that the Rohingya children suffer from malnutrition and pneumonia.

Table 6.1: Access to health care facilities

Facilities	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Government Hospital	6	1	8	1
Private Doctor	4	1	9	3
Both (Government and Private)	4	3	10	1
MSF (Holland)	4			
Refugee Camp	2			
Total	20	5	20	5

Only 3 out of 40 Rohingya respondents replied in affirmative when they were asked if they faced any discrimination in government health complexes. The rest claimed they were not treated any differently than their Bangladeshi counterparts. The latter view was corroborated by a reputed health NGO working in the area. Its representative noted that although Rohingyas were subjected to discrimination until some years back, there has been a general improvement in the situation. In serious cases the government health facilities nowadays are more receptive to Rohingya patients. Both Bangladeshi and Rohingya respondents and participants of FGDs informed that though it was meant to be free, they had to pay for services availed at the government health complex.

Table 6.2: Perception of discrimination at government health complex (for Rohingya respondents)

Nature of response	Teknaf Upzilla		Ukhia Upzilla	
	Rohingya	Bangladeshi	Rohingya	Bangladeshi
Yes	2		1	
No	18	5	19	5

A number of personal interviews were conducted with local TNOs, health and family planning officers and officials of national and international NGOs. It appeared that the government health officials were concerned about the increased birth rate among the Rohingya population. They noted that unhygienic living condition of the Rohingyas is “polluting the environment”, thereby further undermining the public health. The potentiality of the area as a tourism destination has demanded added attention of the authorities, the government health officials noted. In responding to high birth rate and health concerns the government agencies have geared up their activities in promoting male and female contraceptives and vaccination drives. The participants of FGDs corroborated these claims. The field level government health workers stated that despite their best of efforts they were scoring only modest success in reducing the birth rate in the locality.

**No discrimination against the Rohingyas**  
Sr. Official at Upazila Health Complex, Teknaf

When asked about the health and family planning status of Rohingyas a senior official of the Upazilla Health Complex of Teknaf stated that because of prevalence of heavy smoking among the members of the community they many of them suffer from respiratory problems. She also said that incidence of tuberculosis was also fairly high among the members of the Rohingya community.

When asked about family planning practices, she informed that polygamous nature of the Rohingyas has undergone some change over time. Earlier though there was a lot of resistance to contraceptives, its demand has risen over time. She also informed that that the Rohingyas are encouraged to adopt permanent methods of birth control and there has been good response to this. She however noted that that such surgeries are done somewhat clandestinely as clients would prefer it that way.

She also said that, there was a problem in drinking water even of the hospital, which has not yet been tested for arsenic.

When asked if there is any discriminations in case of providing treatment to the Rohingyas, she claimed that the authorities never ask for the identity of patients. She candidly stated that nowadays the Rohingya prefer to go to MSF clinic.

Both at government and non-government levels there was a major concern about the threat of HIV AIDS virus. A local health NGO SHED claimed that there was a good number of sex workers among the Rohingya women and this along with low usage of contraceptives, increase the risk of spread of the HIV AIDS virus. He recommended that a proper survey be conducted about prevalence of the disease in the area. The local police officers also stated that the brothels in the area including those in Cox's Bazar are mainly staffed by Rohingya girls and women. During the field visit in Teknaf the study team came across screening of a play to raise awareness on HIV AIDS by the government health agency in collaboration with local NGO.

**Diarrhoea and Skin Diseases Triggered Off by Unhygienic Living Conditions**

Dr. Nayan Kanti Pal, Ukhia Health Complex

Dr. Nayan Kanti Pal is the principal doctor in Ukhia health complex. He said that, they provide only primary treatment. The main diseases that prevalent in the area are malaria and pneumonia. Some other diseases are diarrhea and skin disease, mainly triggered off by the unhygienic living condition. Dr. Nayan Kanti Pal said that, though some Rohingyas come here, even sometimes directly from Burma, but the hospital authorities never deny services to any of them.

Dr. Nayan Kanti Pal said he had no figures about the prevalence of HIV virus among the Rohingya or local people. He stated that field workers of the family planning wing goes door to door to create awareness among all people and distribute condom.

**Concerns about HIV AIDS prevalence**

Md.Mokhlesur Rahman (SHED)

When asked about the activities of SHED, Md. Mokhlesur Rahman said that that his organisation worked for improvement of nutritional status. Each unit covers 200 households and provide supplementary food for women.

Mokhlesur blamed the Rohingyas for spread of HIV virus, as a section of their women are involved in sex work. Absence of other forms of support force these women to take this degrading profession, he noted. He informed that through a survey conducted 2 years ago his organisation has identified 600 sex workers among the Rohingyas. He further claimed that out of 493 HIV carriers, 7 are from Teknaf, and all of these 7 are Rohingyas. He also noted other sexually transmitted diseases are prevalent in the area.

**MSF Provides Health Services to All**

Dr. Md. Johirul Islam, MSF Dumdumia branch, Teknaf

Dr. Md. Johirul Islam is a doctor at Dumdumia branch of MSF in Teknaf. He said that MSF health services are availed both by local community as well as by Rohingyas and that MSF does not make any discrimination between the two communities. He said he was not aware about the rate and likelihood of prevalence of HIV AIDS among the Rohingyas.

### 6.3 Access to Sanitation and Drinking Water

Although there has been a marked improvement in the spread of sanitary toilet facilities in most parts of Bangladesh, the UKhia-Teknaf region is yet to make its mark in this regard. Use of sanitary ring toilets is rather limited and defecation in open space is particularly common in the hilly areas. The households that had designated spaces as toilets, the conditions were very poor. There were only 6 toilets in slum areas of Baharchara union of Teknaf that hosted about 500 Rohingyas. The local Union Council leaders also expressed their concern about the poor sanitary condition. They claimed that there was a major campaign to raise awareness about the need for the use of sanitary toilets. In the FGDs it was noted that the community was already aware about the issue but could not afford to pay for the ring toilets that cost about Tk. 500 per toilet.

Access to pure drinking water is an issue of major concern in both study sites. Although there are programmes for distribution of free tube wells of the government and national NGOs, in some instances households had to buy the same. The health complex and TNO of Teknaf informed that availability of water in Teknaf sadar upazilla was at a low level and thus people have to go a long distance to secure water where deep tube well are located. In order to provide safe drinking water MSF Holland are engaged in digging deep wells in various parts of the region. At the FGDs it was informed that in some areas the wells dried out and were in need of renovation. The study team found that the level of awareness about the need for pure drinking water was quite high in both the community.

#### Supply of Safe Drinking Water: Main Concern

Dr. Farid Osman, Upazila health and family planning officer, Teknaf health complex, Teknaf

According to Dr. Osman most patients of the hospital are suffering from malaria, typhoid, etc. But he does not know how many of them are Rohingyas as there is no method of identifying them. But he said that, all patients are same to him. He said it was not his duty to find out the Rohingya or thieves or criminals rather the matter is falls within the purview of law enforcement agencies. He was particularly concerned about the Rohingya community's destruction of the environment of the Ukhia-Teknaf area.

Dr. Osman stated that there is general lack of pure drinking water in the area. Even the hospital is short of water supply, so a deep tubewell is of great need. He also agreed that there should be facilities in the local hospital for HIV test due to proneness of the region to the disease.

### 6.4 Access to Credit

With regard to access to credit the members of Rohingya community stated that they mainly depended on each other if needs arise. Usually such credits are of small amounts, taken for short duration and are interest free. In case of higher amounts they may secure credit from money lenders against high interest. 6 out of 40 households Rohingya households reported that they secured credit from NGOs (ASA, BRAC and COAST) and banks (Grameen and Krishi Banks). Among them one respondent secured loan from both NGO and bank. They stated they were grateful to the other Samity<sup>6</sup> members, most of them were Bangladeshis, for

<sup>6</sup> Primary group of a NGO, usually comprised of 10-15 persons

accepting them as members that made them qualify to secure NGO credit. The person who secured bank loan stated that he furnished land ownership documents and a certificate from local Union Council that was not difficult to arrange. Their Bangladeshi counterparts reported that they had access to credit from within the community, the money lenders as well as from formal establishments such as NGOs and banks.

In personal interviews NGO officials informed that they did not make any distinction between Bangladeshi and Rohingya clients. They stated that membership of a Samity and regular savings are preconditions for securing NGO loan. If a Rohingya becomes a member of Samity and does some savings, she qualified to get credit. However, to provide large amounts of loan they would make sure that the person has assets as collateral.

The Bangladesh Rural Development Board officials stated that they strictly adhere to the policy of providing credits to the locals. They candidly stated that Rohingyas do not qualify to get loans under the BRDB scheme. In fact, even Bangladeshis from other districts are also not encouraged to seek BRDB loan. They claimed on earlier occasions some non-local recipients of BRDB credit left the locality without paying off their loans. This made them stringently follow their credit disbursement guidelines.

#### **BRDB Credit for Local Residents Only**

Golam Hossain, upazila project officer, BRDB, rural livelihood project, Teknaf

The main activity of BRDB is to provide micro credit among poor. They have 32 groups within their age limit 18 to 50, who receive the credit. They mainly provide credit to women.

The requirements to receive credit includes (a) membership of a group; (b) having names in the electoral rolls, and (c) not being a member of any other organisation. He said Tk. 5000 to Tk. 8000 is provided as credit. He also told that, receivers are to furnish a certificate from the chairman of the Union Council stating they are nationals of the country. The requirement of being enrolled in the voting rolls meant, not only the Rohingyas, but also migrants from other districts, even if they doing good economically or maintaining good social standing, disqualified for BRDB credit. , are also not allowed for the credit. BRDB's concerns is migrants and Rohingyas may leave the locality after receiving the credit.

#### **Rohingyas not Qualified to Get Credit**

Personal interview: Rupam Pal, COAST, Ukhia,

Rupam Pal is a assistant branch manager, at COAST in Ukhia. When asked about the activities of COAST, he said that they have 3 types of activities, such as, Credit programme, education programme and social justice programme.

In case of providing credit, COAST is different from any other NGOs, he claimed. It takes only 12.5% interest against credit. The receivers are hardcore poor, who receive Tk. 500 to 600. The Rohingyas and migrants of other districts are not included in their programmes. In fact, he stated that the Rohingya never came to their organization to avail credit or other facilities.



## 6.5 Access to Community Based Activities and Government Support

It was stated earlier that along with their Bangladeshi counterparts the Rohingyas are covered under the government sponsored vaccination and family planning programmes.

During FGDs with Bangladeshi community in Baharchara Union the study team was informed that local contractors preferred to engage Rohingyas in earth work and road construction as they can be paid lower amount than their Bangladeshi counterparts. However, only one of the 40 Rohingya respondents stated that he was engaged by a contractor for such work. Another two Rohingyas stated that they received some clothes and foodstuff during Eid celebration. The Rohingyas claimed that on occasions some organisations visited the area and registered their names but they never received any support from such organisations.

## 6.6 Voting Right

During individual interviews the respondents were asked if they were registered as voters. All the ten Bangladeshi respondents replied in the affirmative. Only 15 of the 40 Rohingyas (9 from Teknaf and 6 from Ukhia) stated that their names were in the electoral rolls. When asked about the year of their migration to Bangladesh, 14 of 15 informed they migrated in post-1991 period. Only one migrated in 1978. They informed that their good relationship with the locally influential helped them put their names in the voting rolls. Most of them however expressed doubts that if they would be able re-register as voters when the new list is prepared. Only two among them expressed confidence that their claim to Bangladeshi citizenship has been established beyond doubt as they are now married to Bangladeshi nationals.

Sixteen Rohingya respondents claimed that they registered their names with the field officers of the election commission but those did not appear in the voters' list that was subsequently published. Nine others stated that they did not register as voters as they were aware that the Burmese cannot be voters in this country.

### **Bangladeshi Origin Helps Secure Voting Rights**

Rohingya family at Jaliapalong at Ukhia

Nur Nahar came here 30 years ago with her husband. She is originally Bangladeshi, but her husband, a Rohingya, used to work here. After getting married he took her to Burma. There they lived for two years and then again returned to Bangladesh to settle here permanently. Her husband died last year. Nur Nahar has 5 children. Two daughters got married to Bangladeshi persons. Two of her sons work in the hatchery industry as labourers and earn Tk. 100 taka per day. Nur Nahar one received 30 kg of rice from the army. She lived on the land of local UP member. She looks after some projects and land of the member.

All the adult family members are enrolled as voters. Her Bangladeshi origin has helped her attain that right. Two of her sons used to go to school, when their father was alive. But they have to work and thus had to quit studies.

### **Resettlement in Canada will Attract More Rohingyas from Burma**

Sr. Government Functionary, Teknaf

A senior government functionary of Teknaf expressed the concern that the Canadian decision to 13 Rohingyas to Canada may act as a pull factor for other Rohingyas to come to the region. There is a need for reconsideration of such a decision, he argued.

Mr. Hossain informed that he took initiative not to enlist Rohingyas in the voters' list and advised land holders and home owners not to rent out to any unidentified people.

## **6.7 Access to seek redress of grievances**

During personal interviews and FGDs the Rohingyas reported that generally they avoid any kind of trouble with the local community and interaction with the police. In Baharchara Union an informal dispute settlement mechanism has been established by the Rohingya fishing community. Five out of 40 Rohingya respondents informed that they had some dispute with members of the local community. Four of them took their cases to local Union Council leaders. While three were satisfied with the decisions, one thought he was discriminated for being a Rohingya. In another instance the person, an international returnee migrant, went to the police and subsequently to court to seek redress of his grievance. He too was not happy with the court's verdict as the accused were released. He claimed that now he suffers from physical insecurity.

In personal interviews police officials informed that the Rohingyas avoided coming to the police stations for fear of being detained for illegal entry into Bangladesh. They stated that even if someone comes to seek redress they would attend to his/her complaint but would detain the person for violation of immigration laws. When attention was drawn to the claims of some quarters that the Rohingyas were engaged in criminal activities and are threats to law and order situation, a senior police official did not share such view. He cited Teknaf and Ukhia police station records which show that the Rohingya involvement in the total number of crimes committed in the area in 2006 was not more than 5 percent. Their involvement was in petty crimes such as theft, robbery and hijacking (Annex-10). In a few instances they have been involved in heinous crimes as murder and rape. The law enforcing officials noted that sometime criminal elements are protected by influential Bangladeshis such as trawler operators of Baharchara and Teknaf for their own selfish purpose. On occasions the poor Rohingya migrants are used as pawns by Bangladeshi criminal gangs.

The legal aid service of BRAC has its operation in both the study sites. However, none of the respondents or participants of the FGDs availed their services, nor were they aware about the services that it rendered.

## **6.8 Conclusion**

This section deals with experiences of migrants in accessing various kinds of services. It was seen that there was no coherent policy pursued by state schools with regard to providing education to Rohingya children. While some schools welcomed them, others refused admission. In most cases the meritorious Rohingya children were deprived of government stipend. Both Bangladeshi and Rohingya community leaned toward religious education. In some instances the community as well as the NGO sponsored secular schools were under pressure from Middle-east funded religious groups. The overall health care services including access to safe drinking water and sanitation, in the region were poor. Both communities took services from state health facilities as well as private practitioners. Although Bangladeshis have little difficulty in accessing credit, the options open to Rohingya was relatively little. In such case community members supporting each other and money lenders emerge as two sources for credit. Although most Rohingya migrants aspired to register as voters about 37.5 percent were successful in doing so. The Rohingya community prefers to settle disputes internally. Only in a few instances they accessed the traditional shalish mechanism. It was also found that the claims that Rohingyas were responsible for anti-social activities and deterioration of law and order situation in the study sites was mostly unfounded.

## Chapter VII

### Summary and Policy Recommendations

#### 7.1 Summary

This report looked into the migratory dynamics of Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants to and from Ukhia and Teknaf Upazillas of Cox's Bazar district. In the first section the background, objectives and research methodology of the study are presented. The second section deals with socio-economic profile of the 50 Rohingya and Bangladeshi respondents. The current average age of the Rohingya migrants were found to be 41 years and that of Bangladeshis was 36.5 years. The literacy rate among the Rohingya migrants was rather low. Most of the Rohingyas were married before migration whereas the majority of Bangladeshis were unmarried. The number of extended households was higher and the average family size was also more than 6 in both communities. Likewise, single earning members in households were the majority for both communities. However, the multiple earning members were high among the Rohingyas than among the Bangladeshis. As Bangladeshis are mostly involved in business and petty trading their average income was relatively higher than Rohingyas, the majority of whom were day labourers and collectors of fish fries and firewood. A small segment of the Rohingyas held titles to land and in sharp contrast most of Bangladeshis did so.

The third section dealt with inward and outward migration patterns of the Rohingyas and Bangladeshis. With most of the Rohingyas coming after 1991 their average duration of stay in Ukhia-Teknaf region was shorter than their Bangladeshi counterparts. For both the communities the extended family played a major role as the most important source of information and also in migration decision. It was found that the majority of the Rohingyas identified political persecution to be the most important factor that contributed to their migration decision. The other contributory factors were ethnic conflict, lack of employment and social factors. In case of Bangladeshis trading and business were the principal motivating factors. For both the communities' employment and business are the reasons for onward migration to other districts. In this instance market place, neighbours and friends played a major role in securing information. However, only a handful were involved in such inter-district migration.

In the fourth section work condition and livelihood strategies were discussed. Market place, extended families and relatives were major sources of information about getting work. On an average the work hours of the Rohingyas were 8.34 and for Bangladeshis it was 9.6. As they were mostly self employed the work hours for the latter group were longer. Both the groups worked for almost seven days a week. The average monthly income was higher for Bangladeshis than the Rohingyas. As it was difficult for the Rohingyas to find regular employment they were mostly dependent on wage labour. In order to bring about diversity in livelihood strategy some Rohingya households explored the option of migration to other regions, mostly in greater Chittagong. The Bangladeshis migrated to other districts mostly for trading. The use of income for the Rohingya households has been in food, clothing and home renovation and for Bangladeshis it was reinvested in their existing business.

The fifth section dealt with international migration experience of 16 Rohingyas and 1 Bangladeshi. In contrast to experiences in other regions of Bangladesh most of them had were single time migrants. The Gulf states were the principal destination for these migrants. Extended family members and relatives abroad were the main sources of information. Local intermediaries and travel agencies played a major role in facilitating such migration. The cost of migration ranged from Tk. 70,000 to Tk.130,000. Most of the international migrant producing households received remittances. Parents and wives were the principal beneficiaries of the remittance. Informal channel was the principal conduit for money transfer. The remittances were mainly used for food, clothing and health. Remittances were also spent on home renovation and religious and social occasions.

The sixth section looked into experiences of Rohingyas in accessing various types of services. It was seen that there was no coherent policy pursued by state schools in providing education to Rohingya children. While some schools welcomed them, others refused admission. In most cases the meritorious Rohingya children were deprived of government stipend. There is general bias toward religious education both among the Bangladeshi and Rohingya communities. It was further found that Middle-east funded religious groups pose major challenge to mainstream schools as well as NGO sponsored secular schools. The overall health care services including access to safe drinking water and sanitation, in the region were poor. Although Bangladeshis can access credit, the options open to Rohingyas was relatively low. With regard civil and political rights most Rohingya migrants aspired to register as voters and about 37.5 percent were successful in doing so. The Rohingya community prefers to settle disputes internally. Only in a few instances they accessed the traditional *shalish* mechanism.

## **7.2 Policy Recommendations**

Both Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrant families practice early marriage that has major health and social ramifications. Appropriate awareness campaigns are to be launched highlighting ill effects of early marriage.

Literacy rate in the study sites were found to be alarmingly low. Special initiatives are to be taken by the government by increased budgetary allocation so that this imbalance is addressed. NGOs and international partners can play an effective role so that awareness level of the communities is increased. It is recognised that a good section of the households is dependent on earnings of their children, however low they may be. Therefore income generating opportunities for other household members are to be explored.

The local school authorities have highlighted resource constraints as a major factor in not being able to facilitate education of Rohingya children. This is particularly true for schools located in remote areas. Increased resource allocation and extensive education outreach programmes involving non-formal education are to be developed keeping in view the geographical terrain.

It was found that there is a general bias towards madrasa and mosque based education both among the Rohingya and Bengali communities. This situation calls for speedy implementation of the national policy for modernising madrasa education.

At the local level this can be achieved by raising awareness and mobilising support of the community and religious leaders in favour of such a change.

The average family size of both the communities was found to be higher than national average. It appears that the current methods of awareness campaign are having little impact in changing behavioural patterns of the communities concerned. Under such conditions new strategies involving local community elders, including religious leaders, are to be developed.

In order to shore up family planning activities in the study sites the local field workers are to be adequately motivated and trained.

The geographical location and migration intensity factor of the area make it vulnerable to spread of HIV AIDS virus. Concerns have been expressed by local government and NGO health workers about the likelihood of spread of the virus. In this context adequate and appropriate awareness raising programmes need to be conducted. Street plays, video shows and documentaries may be developed and organised to communicate awareness raising messages. The local authorities may consider incorporating HIV AIDS related messages in national day rallies and other local festivals.

It was noted that work conditions in local fishing, brick and salt industry were disorganised, unhealthy and hazardous, taking toll on the workers. In order to redress this a study may be conducted for improvement of work conditions in this sector and dialogues may be organised to raise awareness among the employers, industry owners and locally influential.

It was observed that internal migrants mostly worked in the informal sector. As this sector is outside the purview of the legal framework, it creates opportunities for the employers to exploit the workers, many of whom are migrants. In order to address the problem initiative is to be taken both by the Government and the international agencies working on labour issues.

Active awareness raising initiatives may be taken up by the non-governmental sector with the support of international agencies to highlight the issue of wage discrimination, long working hours and health and personal hazards at the work places.

Short term trainings may be organised to improve skills in fish processing and catching of fish fries.

Awareness campaign against child labour is to be organised. Until alternative livelihood options are explored as a first step in this direction involvement of children in hazardous work (such processing of fish and working in trawlers) may be eliminated.

Lack of sanitary toilets and access to pure drinking water were two major problems that the local communities faced, particularly those in the hilly and remote areas. Efforts are to be geared so that such facilities are made available within the financial reach of the beneficiaries.

Rohingya households were found to have no access to credit to BRDB sources and little information about availability of micro-credit. In this context micro-credit programmes of NGOs may be widened, particularly in the remote areas of the Ukhia and Teknaf. Concerned authorities are to be approached so that discrimination against internal migrants in disbursing BRDB loans is lifted.

It was noted that the Rohingya households were mainly dependent on collecting fish fries, firewood and wood cutting. They have little opportunity in learning new skills. It is in this context skill development programmes may be introduced by government agencies as well as NGOs that may accrue financial benefits to the Rohingya households. Imparting of skills in brick manufacturing and salt cultivation are two such avenues. The Youth Development Directorate may also consider organise training programmes along these lines.

It was found that Rohingya community was reticent in seeking redress from state agencies as well as community mediation structures. They mainly relied on their own community leaders for dispute resolution and were not aware about the legal aid services offered by some NGOs. The concerned NGOs need to provide more information about the services that they offer and take legal aid services in the remote areas. NGOs can also train the informal Rohingya leaders (*majhees*) in dispute resolution.

There has been a general reluctance in involving the Rohingyas in community mobilisation programmes such as campaigns on disaster management, HIV AIDS, nutrition, health, family planning and education. This myopic approach needs to change and the Rohingya community need to be involved in such programmes.

The study has found that the tendency to criminalise the Rohingyas is largely unfounded. Therefore, Bengali community leaders and the media are to be sensitised so that there is a change in perception about the community.

There is a large out-flow of International migrants from the region to the Gulf states. They are mostly unskilled. In order to maximise benefit from their migration, facilities may be created to train aspirant migrants in skills that are in demand overseas.

The international migrants mostly remit their money through informal channel. This calls for creating awareness raising and enabling arrangement so that the migrants remit money through formal banking channels.

Annex Table 1 Total number of “illegal resident” Rohingya households in Teknaf and Ukhia Upzilla (2002 and 2005)

Name of Upzilla	Total number of Union	Exact (received) number of Union	Number of Illegal Burmese	
			According to 2002 survey	According to 2005 survey
Ukhia	05	05	2506	6079
Teknaf	06	06	7533	20737
Teknaf municipal corporation	09 (wards)	09 (ward)	3253	5181

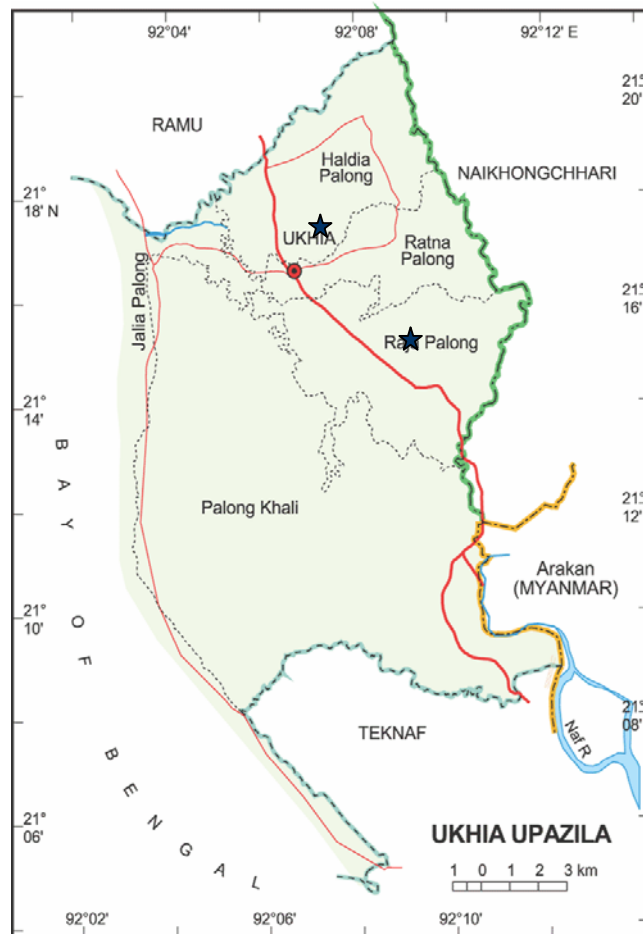
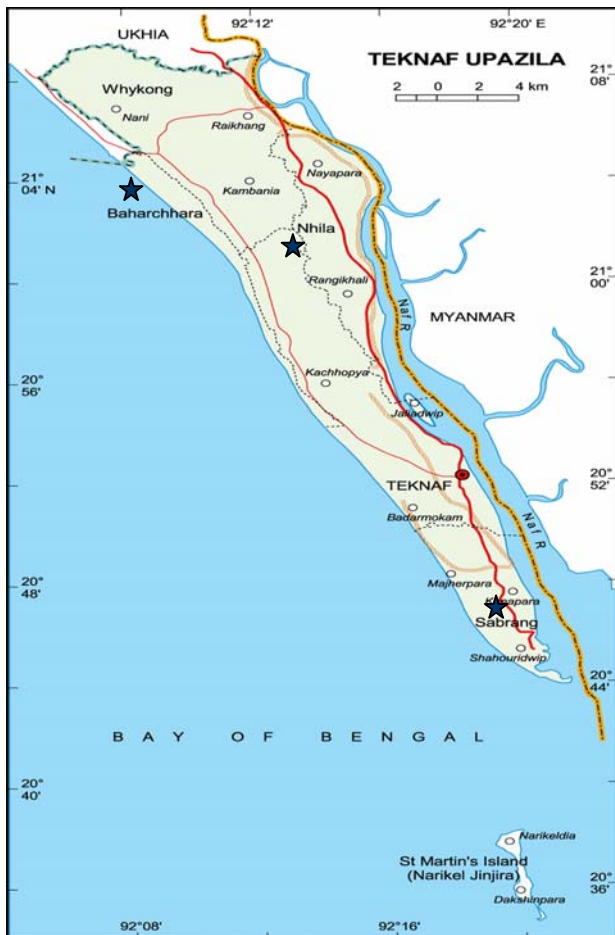
Source: Cox’s Bazar District Office, Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh

Annex Table 2 Floating Undocumented Rohingyas at the Dumdumia, Nhila Union, Teknaf Upzilla

Upzilla	Name of Municipal/Union	Household	Male	Female	Total
Teknaf	Nila (Dum Dum)	1477	3005	3027	6032

Source: Teknaf Upzilla Office, Cox’s Bazar District, Bangladesh.

Annex 3 Picture: Location of the Study sites ★



Annex Table 4: Agricultural land, Crops Production and Price (Teknaf Upzilla)

Name of Crops	1999-2000			2000-2001			By Product- 2000-01	
	Cultivated area (Acre)	Total production (MT.)	Harvest price/ Quintal (Tk)	Cultivated area (Acre)	Total production (MT.)	Harvest price/ Quintal (Tk)	Production by product (MT/acre)	Market price of by-product (Tk/MT.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
<b>Paddy Aman</b>								
Local								
HYV	20679	32120	1050	20619	35402	1100	2.04	2500
<b>Paddy Boro</b>								
HYV	1875	3347	1000	1928	3526	1050	1.30	2000
<b>Beverages</b>								
Tobacco	9	10	4500	8	9	4500		
Betelnut	2429	2221	6500	2462	2351	6500		
Betelleaf	1381	9862	1400	1391	10043	1400		
<b>Fibres</b>								
Cotton	13	3	5000	16	3	6000		
<b>Fruits</b>								
Banana	102	330	3000	104	327	3000		
Mango	267	600	3000	271	610	3000		
Pineapple	25	125	1000	26	130	800		
Guava	3	11	2000	3	11	2000		
Jackfruit	177	510	1000	177	510	1000	0.14	5000
Papaya	27	24	1000	28	26	800		
Melon	767	6520	600	765	6426	600		
Lichies	22	40	4000	23	41	4000		
<b>Oil seeds</b>								
Coconut	290	554	1000	304	570	1000	0.19	570
<b>Pulse</b>								
Arhar	12	4	2000	13	5	2000		
Maskalai/Falum	345	173	1800	345	173	1850		
<b>Spices</b>								
Chilli	281	83	6500	283	85	6500		
Onion	177	531	1400	178	533	1400		
Garlic	10	16	4000	10	16	4000		
Turmeric	165	148	6500	165	148	6500		
Corriender seed	25	13	2800	26	14	3000		
<b>Sugarcane</b>	44	142	500	13	42	500	0.32	950
<b>Vegetables</b>								
Aram	41	107	1000	41	107	1000		
Karalla	21	23	1600	22	24	1600		
Jhingha	44	57	1400	40	48	1400		
Ladys finger	32	45	1400	33	46	1500		
Cabbage	6	18	800	6	18	800		
Pumpkin	144	382	600	144	382	600		
Bean	150	285	1400	150	285	1400		
Pui	7	3	1600	7	3	1600		
Cucumber	238	622	1200	240	624	1200		
Barbati	62	74	1400	61	73	1100		
Cauliflower	8	24	1000	8	24	1000		
Brinjal	95	34	1400	97	36	1400		
Radish	81	396	300	83	398	500		
Waterguard	34	38	460	35	37	400		
Chichingha	12	16	1200	12	16	1200		
Tomato	140	700	800	140	700	800		
Chal kumra	12	18	1000	12	19	1000		
Potato	134	877	700	130	845	800		
Sweet potato	50	400	500	50	400	600		

Source: Statistics Bureaus Division of Teknaf upzilla Government Office, Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh, 2007.



Annex Table 5: Agricultural land, Crops Production and Price (Ukhia Upzilla)

Name of Crops	1999-2000			2000-2001			By Product- 2000-01	
	Cultivated area (Acre)	Total production (MT.)	Harvest price/ Quintal (Tk)	Cultivated area (Acre)	Total production (MT.)	Harvest price/ Quintal (Tk)	Production by product (MT/acre)	Market price of by-product (Tk/MT.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
<b>Paddy Aman</b>								
Local	372	565	630	381	579	620	2	1000
HYV	17672	31676	715	17575	31526	715	2	1000
<b>Paddy Boro</b>								
Local	89	99	620	88	149	620	2	1000
HYV	9713	18066	585	9723	18084	585	1.9	950
<b>Beverages</b>								
Tobacco	64	180	6800	58	162	6800		
Betelnut	119	35	8000	130	38	8000		
Betelleaf	351	930	2500	361	956	2500		
<b>Fibres</b>								
Cotton	5	1.6	9000	6	1.7	9000		
<b>Fruits</b>								
Banana	60	286	2800	85	634	2800		
Mango	214	546	3000	214	642	2500		
Pineapple	99	774	1100	99	777	1100		
Guava	69	205	2200	69	205	2200		
Jackfruit	79	616	800	79	616	8.00	.9	3600
Papaya	16	92	800	10	92	1000		
Melon	32	208	500	33	214	500		
Lichies	12	47	6000	12	47	6500		
<b>Oil seeds</b>								
Groundnut	28	21	4000	28	21	4000		
Coconut	144	224	1300	144	224	1200		
Mustard	41	9	2200	42	10	2200		
<b>Pulse</b>								
Moong	23	6	3400	23	6	3400		
<b>Spices</b>								
Chilli	138	44	7800	139	45	7800		
Onion	38	68	1200	38	68	1400		
Garlic	13	14	3500	13	14	3500		
Ginger	72	190	3000	72	190	3000		
Turmeric	159	98	4500	160	98	4500		
Corriender seed	7	1.7	2600	7	1.7	2600		
<b>Sugar cane</b>								
Sugar cane	308	1848	500	298	1788	500	0.3	1000
<b>Vegetables</b>								
Aram	158	747	900	157	743	900		
Karalla	67	142	1400	71	150	1400		
Jhingha	81	166	800	85	175	800		
Ladys finger	39	88	1000	40	89	1000		

Cabbage	24	138	500	25	143	500		
Pumpkin	49	146	400	49	146	400		
Bean	81	152	1500	82	154	2000		
Pui								
Cucumber	27	49	1000	27	49	1000		
Barbati	39	156	1000	40	160	1000		
Cauliflower	24	73	700	24	73	700		
Brinjal	129	263	500	130	265	500		
Radish	114	592	300	14	42	300		
Watergourd	13	39	300	14	42	300		
Chichingha	71	49	1000	71	49	1000		
Tomato	66	167	600	69	170	600		
Chalkumra	60	357	400	55	327	400		
Potato	139	438	600	147	602	600		
Sweet potato	248	1170	600	250	1180	600		

Source: Statistics Bureaus Division of Ukhia upzilla Government Office, Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh, 2007.

Annex Table 6 Other Socio-Economic Information

Section	Description	Teknaf	Ukhia
<b>Forestry</b>	Govt. forest area (sq. km)	194.77	140
	Private forest area (sq. km)		5
	Average production of timber per month (cft.)	300	25000
	Average price of timber per ct	Tk. 450	Tk. 250
	No. of Saw millis		12
	Average monthly production of timber per saw mills (cft.)	1500	2000
	Trees felled and forest production produced: (a) Bamboo (00 Nos) (Qyt, per month) (b) Bamboo (00 Nos.) ( Price per unit) (c) Fire wood (MT) (Qyt, per month) (d) Fire wood (MT) ( Price per unit)	60 6 150 40	250 500 4380 1350
<b>Irrigation</b>	Total irrigated area (Acre)	3563	11331
	Traditional irrigated area (Acre)	3000	4456
	No. of Irrigation Shames	18	770
	No. of deep tube wells	18	
	No. of shallow tube wells	38	686
	No. of lift pumps	314	88
	No. of hand pumps for irrigation		18
<b>Pond Fishing</b>	No. of Ponds/dighi for cultivation of fish	235	796
	Total area for fish cultivation	168.17	2618
	Annual production of pons/dighi fishes (MT)	160	10
	Total annual fish catches in the Upzilla (MT)	8900	100
<b>Shrimp farming/cultivation</b>	No. of households engaged in shrimp farming	1062	400

	Area of shrimp cultivation area (Acre)	6607	2498
	No. of persons engaged for shrimp fry catching	8000	2000
	Average monthly income for persons for shrimp try catching	2000	Tk. 1800
<b>Hatchery</b>	No. of hatcheries	7	15
	Average annual income per hatchery	Tk. 3000000	Tk. 7000000
	Average annual expenditure per hatchery excluding labour cost	Tk. 2000000	Tk. 4000000
<b>Fish nurseries</b>	No of fish nurseries		2
	Annual income per fish nuersery		100000
<b>Fisherman</b>	No. of fishermen households	6734	500
	No. of fisherman's village/para	118	5
	No. of fisherman	8000	650
<b>Fisherman co-opetaive</b>	No. of fisherman samity	11	17

Source: Statistics Bureaus Division of Ukhia upzilla Government Office, Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh, 2007.

Annex Table 7: Total number of International migrants (country and gender wise) from Ukhia Upzilla (2005)

N o.	Country	Permanent Settlement			Temporary Settlement							
		Male	Female	Total	Profession al		Skilled Labour		Semi/Unskill ed Labour		Total	
					Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1.	Saudi Arab	250	200	450	-	-	1770	289	3690	211	5710	700
2.	Kuwait	-	-	-	-	-	51	-	13	-	64	-
3.	UAE	50	40	90	-	-	524	57	476	60	1050	157
4.	Bahrain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Qatar	5	3	8	-	-	55	30	10	-	70	33
6.	Oman	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	19	-	45	-
7.	Libya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Iran	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	7	-
9.	Singapore	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	3
10.	Brunei	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11.	Malaysia	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	9	-
12.	USA	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	8	-	14	-
13.	UK	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	2	-	8	-
14.	Italy	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	2	-	9	-
15.	Greece	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Australia	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-

17.	Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Korea	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	15	-
19.	Japan	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	5	-
20.	Other Country	10	-	10	-	-	226	30	6	-	242	30
	<b>Total</b>						<b>558</b>				<b>7254</b>	<b>920</b>

Annex Table 8 Total number of International migrants (country and gender wise) from Teknaf Upzilla (2005)

No.	Country	Permanent Settlement			Temporary Settlement								
		Male	Female	Total	Professional		Skilled Labour		Semi/Unskilled Labour		Total		
					Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1.	Saudi Arab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4002	-	4002	-
2.	Kuwait									2	2	2	2
3.	UAE									362	-	362	-
4.	Bahrain												
5.	Qatar									12	-	12	-
6.	Oman									4	-	4	-
7.	Libya												
8.	Iran												
9.	Singapore												
10.	Brunei												
11.	Malaysia									42	-	42	
12.	USA									3	-	3	
13.	UK									3	-	3	
14.	Italy									1	-	1	
15.	Greece									2	-	2	
16.	Australia									2	-	2	
17.	Canada									2	-	2	
18.	Korea									1	-	1	
19.	Japan									1	-	1	
20.	Other Country									212	-	212	
	<b>Total</b>											<b>4652</b>	<b>2</b>

Source: Cox's Bazar District Office, Bangladesh

Annex Table 9 Total number of International migrants (country and gender wise) in Nhila Union of Teknaf and Rajapalong Union of Ukhia (2005)

Country	Teknaf Upzilla			Ukhia Upzilla		
	Hnhila Union			Raja Palong Union		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Saudi Arab	1105	64	1169	501	39	540
Kuwait	2		2	51	-	51
UAE	300	14	314	292	07	299
Bahrain				-	-	-
Qatar				5	-	5
Oman	28		28	24	-	24
Libya	1		1			
Iran	1		1			
Singapore				3	-	3
Brunei						
Malaysia	4		4	9	-	9
USA	2		2	5	-	5
UK	2		2	6	-	6
Italy				5	-	5
Greece						
Australia	6		6	3	-	3
Canada						
Korea	1		1	15	-	15
Japan	1		1	5	-	5
Other Country	95	9	104			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1548</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>1635</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>970</b>

Source: Nhila Union Parishad Office of Teknaf Upzilla and Raja Palong Union Parishad Office of Ukhia, Cox's Bazar district.

Annex Table 10 Total number of criminal reported in Teknaf and Ukhia Upazilla and percentage of Rohingya's involvement (2006)

Upzilla	Year	Number of Cases (reported)	Type	Rohingya involvement (%)
Teknaf	2006	278	Stealing, robbery, land dispute etc	5%
Ukhia	2006	214	Stealing, robbery, land dispute etc	5%

Source: Teknaf and Ukhia Police Station, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Annex Table 11 Total number of Rohingyas arrested under the Clause 14, 1946 Foreigner's Act, (2003 up to February, 2007)

Year	Teknaf Upzilla	Ukhia Upzilla	Cox's Bazar Sadar
2007 (till March)	-	6	28
2006	63	27	0
2005	41	9	0
2004	20	7	0
2003		4	0

Source: Teknaf, Cox's Bazar Sadar and Ukhia Police Station, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.