

COX'S BAZAR PANEL SURVEY ON BHASAN CHAR

Basic Information Document, December 2023

Bhasan Char Strata of Cox's Bazar Panel Survey

The Cox's Bazar Panel Survey (CBPS) is a partnership between the Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale (Y-RISE), the Gender & Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) program, and the Poverty and Equity Global Practice (GPVDR) of the World Bank. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) funded and implemented the Bhasan Char stratum of the CBPS, which is an extension of the original design. UNHCR gratefully acknowledges the support from the CBPS research partners for access to their survey instruments, technical support, and valued partnership.

The information document applies to data collected under the core CBPS household and individual surveys as well as the GAGE surveys collected under a common sample generated from UNHCR's registration and verification database of the population who relocated to Bhasan Char from Cox's Bazar.

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

An enumerator surveying an individual adult in a refugee household using tablets. © Amos Halder/ UNHCR

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Introduction

The Cox's Bazar Panel Survey (CBPS) started in 2019 tracking about 2,500 refugee and 2,500 host community households in the Cox's Bazar region. The survey – representative of the refugee population across the camps – was jointly led by Gender & Adolescence: Global Evidence programme from ODI, UK, the Poverty & Equity Global Practice of the World Bank, and the Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale (Y-RISE) at Yale University. UNHCR has continued to bilaterally engage with the three partners on joint research and advocacy objectives. The group continued to survey the panel independently with multiple rounds of high-frequency phone surveys between 2020 and 2022 as access to camp was limited due to COVID-19 pandemic measures. A second round of in-person survey of CBPS has been planned for 2022 – 2023 tracking the same households over time.

However, between these two in-person rounds, about 30,000 refugees have relocated to the Bhasan Char island – an island in the Bay of Bengal located under the administrative geography of Hatiya Sub-district and Noakhali district. Given the stark difference between living conditions between Bhasan Char and Cox's Bazar, CBPS has introduced a new stratum for the Bhasan Char island, where 962 households have been included as an extended sample. As the only Bangladeshi nationals living on the island are humanitarians, law enforcement agencies, government actors and some traders supporting the refugees on the island, no host community sample was collected on Bhasan Char. UNHCR funded the Bhasan Char activity and implemented through one of its implementing partners with presence on the island.

Sampling

UNHCR conducted a registration/ verification exercise of Rohingya refugees living in Cox's Bazar jointly with the Government of Bangladesh since 2019. As refugees started to relocate to Bhasan Char, UNHCR continued to verify refugee relocation data and update their registration data. Using the latest updated UNHCR population data as of October 2022, UNHCR generated a one-step randomized sample of 1,040 households representative of the island refugee population.

Refugee Sample

962 households were surveyed from this random sample, representing about 12% of all households on the island. One individual adult aged 15 or above was selected from each household for administering an individual adult survey also to the same household. These two questionnaires comprise of the core CBPS modules.

GAGE Sample within the Refugee Sample

394 of these households had an eligible adolescent aged between 10 to 12 years and between 15 to 17 years. These households were then administered an individual questionnaire for the adolescent (core respondent) and then an adult female caregiver questionnaire to their female caregiver in the family who is aged 18 or above. A total of 368 survey responses were captured for the core respondent questionnaire, and 362 responses captured for the female caregiver.

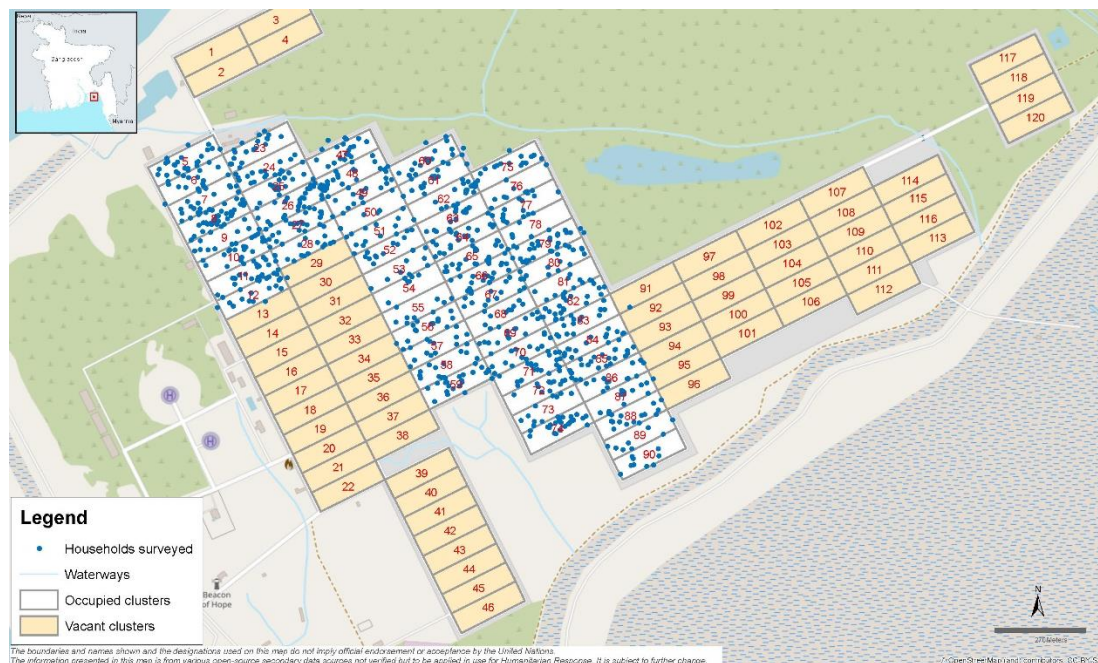


Figure 1: Map of Households surveyed in Bhasan Char Island, Hatiya, Noakhali.

Survey Instruments

The survey instruments are based on the 2019 CBPS instruments, with the following modifications:

1. Some questions have been rephrased or added to fit the island context.
2. Some questions have additional choices to reflect the learnings from training, pilot, and field experience on the island.
3. Some questions have been changed or removed in line with planned changes for the second in-person CBPS in Cox's Bazar.
4. Some questions have been left out for shortening time required to administer the questionnaires.

The questionnaires were coded into ODK¹ in two languages: English and Bengali. The language and translations used in 2019 version have been retained to the extent possible. The survey, however, was administered in Rohingya dialect. The questionnaires will be made available with the dataset.

¹ Open Data Toolkit

Household Questionnaire Modules

Household Roster (LS): Household composition and basic information (relation to household head, age, marital status, religion, ethnicity), educational information (literacy, level of education, type of schooling, reasons for no schooling) and working status.

Housing Characteristics (CV): Housing and amenities (dwelling characteristics, access to latrines and type of latrines, access to drinking water, cooking fuel, lighting fuel, electricity, rental status).

Food Consumption Score (FCS): aggregated household-level data on the diversity and frequency of food groups consumed over the previous seven days using WFP's Food Consumption Score index module.

Consumption (CS): Household non-food consumption in the last thirty days (sources of items, expenses incurred if items were purchased). Access to markets (location of frequented market, time of commute of market, mode of commute, difficulties accessing markets).

Household Income (HI): Sources of income of all household members, amount earned from each source, total income earned in a year.

Assistance (SS): Types of assistance or aid received by the household, when they received them, and from whom did they receive the assistance. This also includes a section on relocation grant assistance provided to households during relocation to the island, and how they used the grant.

Assets (AT): Current household assets and household assets owned before 2017, perceived current resale value.

Adult Individual Modules

Labor Market (LM): Current employment information of selected adults (employment status, primary and non-primary work descriptions, type of work, hours worked, wages/profits, reasons for unemployment, job-seeking networks) including a question to identify if any of the jobs fall under cash for work or refugee volunteer activities.

Migration History (HM): Location of birth, residence at the age of 12, details for each migration wave, specifically. Short-term migration: all migrations in the last 12 months of at least 2 weeks and up to 1 month for the purpose of work (destination, date of migration, duration, reason, type of residence, type of work).

Use of Health Services (HT): Health status, illnesses and/or injuries suffered from in the last 12 months, expenses on medication, visits to the hospital or health care center, details of visit, duration and mode of commute, cost of visit, satisfaction with health care services, COVID-19 prevalence, vaccination rate.

Crime and Conflict (CC): Types of crimes experienced and/or observed in neighborhood and reporting or conflict resolution practices.

Trauma and Mental Health (TR): Symptoms of depression (Patient Health Questionnaire, 8 items).

Adolescent Core Respondent Modules

Family Background: information on parents, if they are alive, lives in the same household, education, number of siblings, marital status of siblings.

Education: attend school or not, age of enrollment, class size, rank in class, highest educational attainment, absence, non-formal education, punishment in schools, leadership in class/school.

Cultural Perceptions: perceived norms around gender bias.

Health and Nutrition: health status, physical functioning, illness and injuries, treatment seeking behavior, freedom to access health services.

Mental Health: 12-item General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12) commonly used as a screening instrument for measuring mental disorders like anxiety and depression, social dysfunction, and loss of confidence.

Mobility, Voice, and Agency: mobility outside house or island, ability to voice opinions, agency on decisions concerning themselves.

Migration Attitudes: attitude towards migration and preference of countries.

Social Inclusion: participation in sports, different clubs/groups, membership, frequency, preference, friends outside household members.

Role Models: role models inside or outside household.

Information and Communication Technologies: access or use of television, radio, newspapers, computer, phone, text messages, and internet. Concerns over any message received that bothered them.

Marriage and Relationships: marital history including details on age, spouse's age, payments made, and co-wives, if any.

Adult Female Caregiver Modules

Investments in Children and Parenting: schooling, time spent, expectations and aspirations, changes in parenting since moving to Bangladesh.

Core Respondent Disability and Functioning: physical functioning (including vision, hearing, walking/climbing, concentrating, self-care, language use).

Information and Communication Technologies: access or use of television, radio, newspapers, computer, phone, text messages, and internet.

Attitudes: attitudes related to gender roles, community.

Marriage and Relationships: respondent marriage(s) including age when married, marriage payments, co-wives.

Fertility and SRH: pregnancy status, number of children, preference on number of children.

Social Norms: perception on social norms.

Survey Administration

Training



Figure 2: Photos from in-person training held in Cox's Bazar. © Masud Rahman/ UNHCR

Training participants included 40 enumerators who have been trained by UNHCR for tablet-based survey administration, communicating with Rohingya refugees, and have experience of administering surveys for UNHCR in refugee camps. A number of the participants also worked previously on Bhasan Char on other UNHCR projects.

The enumerators were provided the PAPI in PDF formats, as well as individual tablets where they could load the CAPI forms². In an extensive training across 4 days, enumerators were trained using the PAPI, CAPI, and a series of quizzes to identify areas requiring clarity which were further explained through several Q&A sessions. Following the in-person training, the

² CAPI: Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing. PAPI: Paper-Assisted Personal Interviewing.

enumerators had the opportunity to practice the CAPI at home using 'test' credentials which granted them CAPI access and submission without worry of adulterating the field data.

Piloting

A 38-member team conducted 3 days of pilots from November 28 – 30, 2022 on Bhasan Char. This led to some changes in the questionnaire, mainly on adding more choices and fixing some constraints on entering data on the CAPI. As no questions had to be changed significantly and any concerns on the data quality were followed up with repeat visits to the households, the pilot data was not excluded from the full survey data. The pilot was isolated within 6 clusters.

Main Survey Fieldwork



Figure 3: An enumerator inside a shed surveying an adult refugee individual. © Amos Halder/ UNHCR

The main fieldwork continued from November 28, 2022 to December 12, 2022. Two field supervisors were stationed with the enumerators on the island. The supervisors grouped the samples by proximity of clusters and assigned samples to the enumerators on a daily basis. Enumerators were provided four additional buffer samples per person on top of their daily targets in order to allow them to administer surveys in other households when selected sample was not available. Unused samples were carried over to the next day.

The protocol for selection of households was as follows: each enumerator used the location information and head of household information provided to them to identify the selected household. Once a household questionnaire was completed, they identified one random adult

in the household aged 15 years or above to administer the individual adult questionnaire. Then the enumerator or another enumerator from the pool was assigned to administer the core respondent survey if the household had one eligible respondent within the GAGE age brackets. If a household had an eligible core respondent adolescent, then their adult female caregiver was identified and interviewed with the adult female caregiver questionnaire. In the absence of the female caregiver, a male caregiver was interviewed.

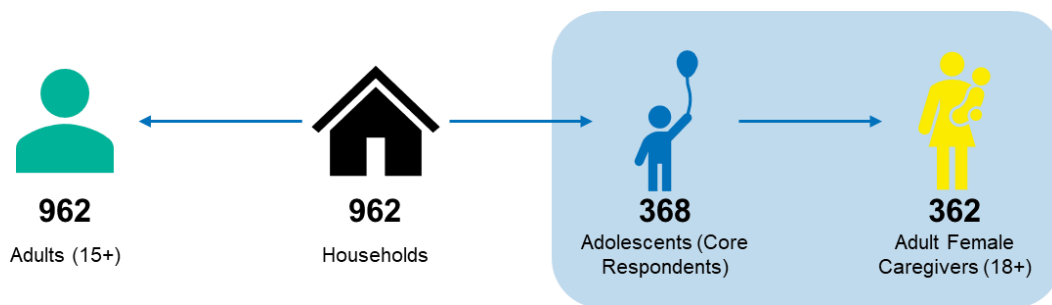


Figure 4: Survey selection protocol and number of surveys conducted for each questionnaire

Incentive for Households

UNHCR strives to ensure equal assistance to all refugees, with additional resources allocated to address vulnerability or specific needs based on established targeting criteria. As the households in this instance were randomly chosen, they do not fall under any targeting criteria, and thus no additional incentives were offered.

Quality Control

Reporting

Survey Forms: each enumerator submitted their completed CAPI forms by end of day and confirmed submission on a WhatsApp group created for the project. These forms directly feed data to UNHCR's own implementation of Kobo ODK server.

Supervision Forms: each day, enumerators prepared two forms: one to mark the samples completed, and one to mark the daily plan for the next day. The two forms were shared with UNHCR project manager by end of day for review.

A PowerBI based dashboard was set up that connects to Kobo server using API and refreshes the data to show submissions, plot the geocodes on a map, and display some demographic characteristics of the respondents.

A separate PowerQuery based Excel sheet was maintained to perform checks on responses to catch any deviations from expected range of inputs.

High-frequency Checks

To ensure data quality, the PowerBI and Excel dashboards were analyzed everyday to identify inconsistencies, deviations from expected means, outliers, and missing data. This was developed iteratively as the survey continued to progress.

Spot Checks

The supervisors continually conducted spot checks on every day of the fieldwork at all locations. They ensured questions were properly asked, the enumerators took the time to explain and probe when required, and that correct household and correct respondents were being interviewed.

Corrections

Following the high-frequency checks and visual inspections, all clarification required were uploaded as questions with the household ID, questionnaire name, supervisor name and enumerator name identified. The supervisors sat with their teams and sought clarification. They first went through the notes enumerators made during the survey administration, and if it was still not clear, enumerators were sent back to the household to get clarification.

The clarifications are then uploaded to the same google sheet, where the project manager validated their status as open or closed. The corrections will be logged into a separate dataset before correcting and cleaning the main data.

Merging datasets

Household to household

To merge household datasets together: do a 1:1 merge on uid1. Sample code:

```
use "HH_CV_Housing_Characteristics", clear
merge 1:1 uid1 using "HH_HI_Household", gen(hh_merge)
```

Individual to individual

To merge individual datasets together: 1:1 merge on uid1 and _id dyad. Sample code:

```
use "AA_LM_Labor_Market", clear
merge 1:1 uid1 using "AA_TR_Mental_Health", gen(mhealth_merge)
```

Household to individual

To merge household data into an individual dataset: m:1 merge on uid1 (assuming the individual data is the master and the household data is using). Sample code:

```
use " AA_LM_Labor_Market", clear
merge m:1 uid1 using " HH_HI_Household", gen(cv_merge)
```

Household into long (e.g. assets)

To merge household data into a long, household-level dataset (assets, consumption, income source, or assistance type): m:1 merge on uid1. Sample code:

```
use "HH_AT_Assets", clear
merge m:1 uid1 using "HH_HI_Household"
```

Long (e.g. assets) into household

To merge information from a long dataset into household data: open up the long dataset and manipulate until it is unique on the uid1 dyad (either by duplicates drop or collapse), save the long dataset as a tempfile, merge the tempfile into the wide dataset. Sample code:

```
use "HH_AT_Assets", clear
preserve
    use "HH_AT_Assets", clear
    keep if item == 1
    ren at01_hh_own_asset at02_sell_today
    tempfile temp
    save "`temp'"
restore
merge 1:1 uid1 id using "`temp'", gen(at_merge)
keepusing(at02_sell_today )
```

Merging crime data into individual data

To merge information from either the migration or crime modules into individual data: open up the long dataset and manipulate until it is unique on the uid1-id dyad (either by duplicates drop or collapse), save the long dataset as a tempfile, merge the tempfile into the wide dataset. Sample code:

```
use "cbps_baseline_id.dta", clear
preserve
    use "AA_CC_Crime_Conflict", clear
    keep if cc01_neigrhd_issue == 1
    collapse (sum) cc01_neigrhd_issue, by(uid1 id)
    tempfile temp
    save "`temp'"
restore
merge 1:1 uid1 id using "`temp'", gen(crime_merge)
```

Weights

Weights are added only to the adult module based on age groups and sex of the CBPS Bhasan Char data. This is done to facilitate a finite population correction, closely aligning the CBPS Bhasan Char sample with the characteristics of the UNHCR registration data. Such a correction is imperative for ensuring that the results accurately reflect the broader population from which the sample was drawn. However, no weights have been implemented for the household, core respondent, or adult female module. Generally, the appropriate weight to be used is based on the sampling unit.

Level of analysis	Variable name	Survey modules
Adult level	aa_weight	AA modules

Stata examples

Declaring the survey design

Stata will properly account for the survey design when estimating means using the “svy” syntax. The first step is “declaring” the survey design.

```
svyset [pweight= pweight], psu(uid1)
```

Subsequent estimation commands should be preceded by the “svy:” prefix.

Example: share of females in the labor market (unit of analysis: individual, module: AA).

```
svyset [pweight= pweight], psu(uid1)
svy: proportion sex
```

Number of strata = 1		Number of obs = 959	
Number of PSUs = 959		Population size = 13,855	
		Design df = 958	
	Proportion	Linearized std. err.	Logit [95% conf. interval]
sex			
Male	.4607723	.018976	.4238193 .4981615
Female	.5392277	.018976	.5018385 .5761807

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