

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



World Food  
Programme

# WFP PEACE MEASURE

CONFLICT SENSITIVITY & SOCIAL COHESION MEASUREMENT

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

# 1. KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- The assessment measured WFP’s contribution to social cohesion and performance on conflict sensitivity. Across the Rohingya camps and host communities, WFP resilience building activities (Livelihoods, Disaster Risk Reduction, Self-Reliance) have had positive contributions on relationships within the host and Rohingya, trust levels and attitudes within and between host and Rohingya communities.
- Social cohesion levels within the host and Rohingya community is higher compared to between the host and Rohingya, hence emphasis on improving a sense of peaceful coexistence between the host and Rohingya refugee communities.
- Vertical social cohesion (trust between host and Rohingya refugee and authorities) is higher on the refugee side compared to the host community.
- Lack of income is identified as a key risk across both the host and refugee communities, with strong associations of conflicts within and between the households.
- Duration of activities and a focus on improving direct interaction among programme participants could have a positive impact on social bonding (intra-community relation) and bridging (inter-community relation).
- Mainstreaming of social cohesion and conflict risk mapping is critical to improving effectiveness of humanitarian-development programming and ensuring durability of the operation.
- Longer term resilience-building activities contribute positively towards populations’ ability to minimize the exposure to key risks. Emphasis to be placed on improving the sustainability of the positive changes introduced in the attitudes, behaviour and levels of engagement.

# 2. BACKGROUND

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The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) executed a pilot to assess the **contribution of WFP to peace**. It is a part of the WFP’s global effort to grasp the **humanitarian-development-peace** nexus, which includes conflict sensitivity and social cohesion mainstreaming across WFP programmes. This was executed in collaboration with PRO-P (Peace and Conflict team) in WFP HQ.

As part of the emergency operation in Cox’s Bazar, WFP has operationalized an integrated response whereby the most vulnerable population, numbering 857,937 Rohingya refugees as of February 2021, are assisted with life-saving food and nutrition assistance. Alongside this, WFP continues to support in-need populations in the host community, totalling 92,171 Bangladeshis as of February 2021, with tailored livelihoods assistance, nutrition and supplementary food assistance programmes.

# 3. OBJECTIVES

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The pilot is divided into two tracks:

- 1 The first part measures conflict sensitivity i.e., minimization of risks faced by affected populations and maximization of the positive peace contribution.
- 2 The second part measures WFP’s contribution to social cohesion. This track aims to establish indicators specific to WFP activities and identify areas of improvement/new programming to enhance social cohesion.

The objectives reflect two distinct data streams, one a deliberate contribution to peace and the other a real-time analysis of the ability of all programmes and operations to determine whether they are **‘peace and conflict sensitive’**.

## 4. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

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- Reduced income opportunities is the most prominent risk in inducing intra-household, inter-household and inter-community level conflicts across both refugee and host communities.
- Other major risks in the refugee community include health concerns, the inability of households to access basic products/services and youth and gender-based violence (GBV). In the host community socio-cultural constraints (child marriage and polygamy), access to nutritious food and lack of skills stand out as key risks.
- Key risks for women in the refugee community include GBV, reduced educational opportunities and deteriorating health. Men in the refugee community, on the hand, face very different risks: corruption, theft and blackmail, lack of job opportunities, competition over common resources, and drug use.
- Likelihood of conflict is higher at the household level across all catchments in camps, attributed to the key risks associated with lack of income opportunities, living space and health concerns. In Teknaf and Ukhiya sub-districts of the host community, inter-community conflict is noted as more likely, possibly linked to perceived competition over essential resources and services between refugee and host community.
- WFP resilience-building activities contribute significantly to social cohesion especially at the intra-community level (within communities).
  - Activity participants in both host and refugee communities demonstrate greater interaction among co-workers and with other community members than do non-participants. Interaction takes place predominantly at social events, during family emergencies and through home visits.
  - Participants in the resilience-building activities have more trust and willingly participate in communal activities than non-participants. There is also a higher level of confidence among participants that changes brought about by the programmes will be sustainable. Confidence level is much higher in the host community.
- At the inter-community level, between host communities and refugees, most interaction are driven by household or individual needs and via social events. Plausibly, this could be owing to the implicit sense of empathy within the communities which is overshadowed in a situation of overt competition for resources and employment opportunities.
- The refugee community demonstrate greater willingness to engage with the host community than vice versa. They are more willing to share language skills, educational skills and workspaces than host-community individuals. This could be because of the sense of gratitude within the refugee community for the Bangladeshis who supported the refugees to meet their critical needs.
- Access to food, income opportunities and ensuring education were identified as critical services for maintaining stability within the community.

## 5. METHODOLOGY

### Conflict Sensitivity

The qualitative approach comprised focus-group discussions, with participants disaggregated by geographic location (25 camps), age and gender and other specific social profiles, where needed.

As part of the context mapping, 22 focus-group discussions were conducted among the refugees (12 groups with 220 participants) and host communities (10 groups with 188 participants) to map the context of the drivers of change faced by each community and identify the associated risks.

### Social Cohesion

A quantitative approach was implemented with a sample size of 600 individual interviews conducted, equally distributed between host and refugee communities.

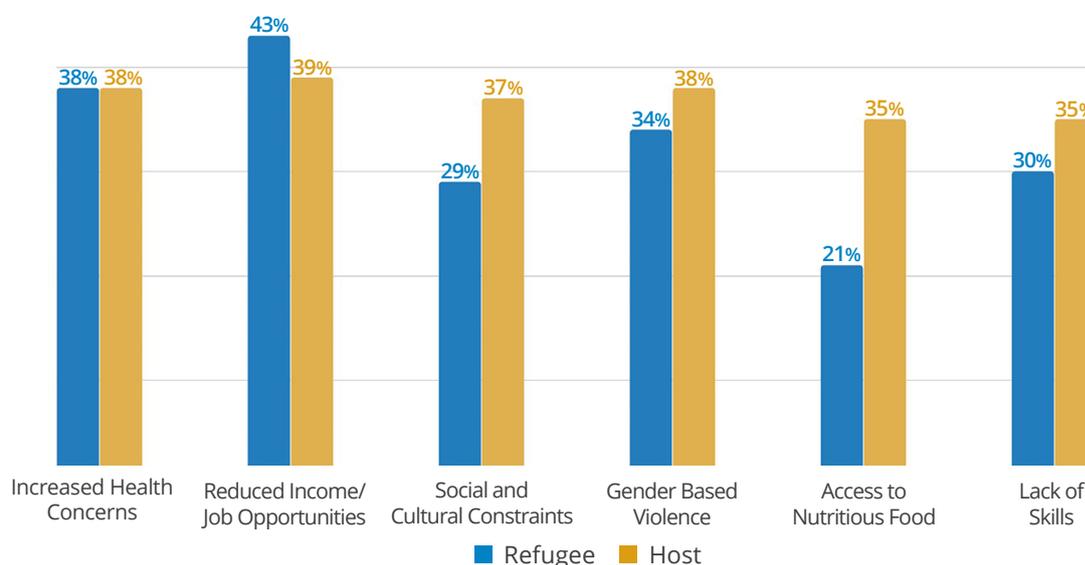
The samples were disaggregated by participants in resilience building activities and individuals not involved in any cash-for-work activities, as well as by areas (four sub-districts in host community and 23 refugee camps), gender, and age.

## 6. COMPONENT I: CONFLICT SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

Through participatory focus-group discussions, the key risks to populations were identified—a total of 202 risks were identified which were categorised under 13 main risk categories and 42 sub-risk categories.

In both refugee and host communities, risks related to reduced income opportunities, reduced health, and gender-based violence were reported by a relatively higher share of the population in both host and refugee community, both at the intra- and inter-community level (Figure 1).

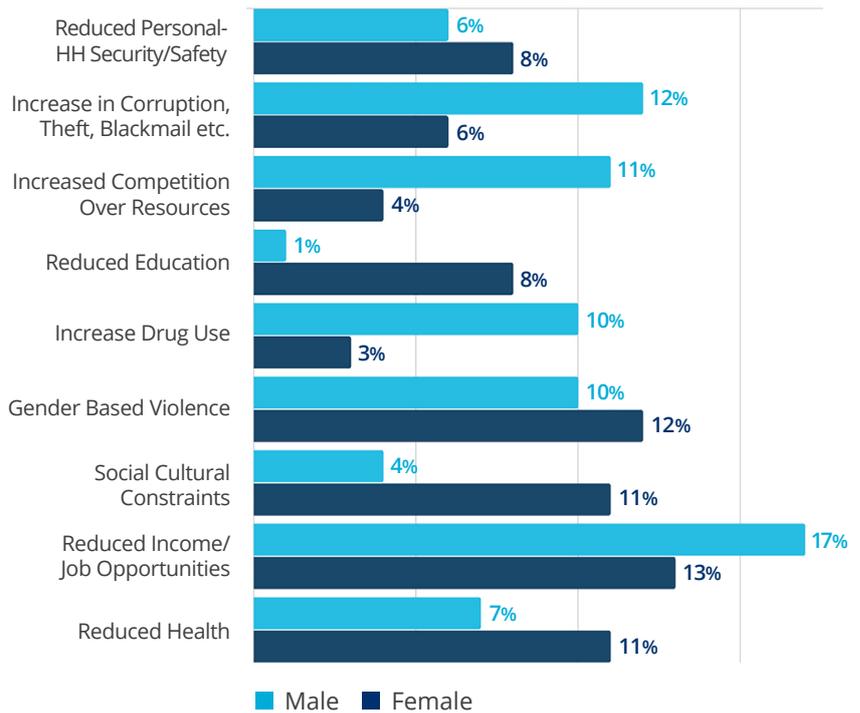
Figure 1: Key conflict risk identified Host and Refugee communities



The major risks were further disaggregated by catchment areas in the camps and sub-districts in the host community. Reduced income opportunities were identified as a key risk across the host and refugee populations.

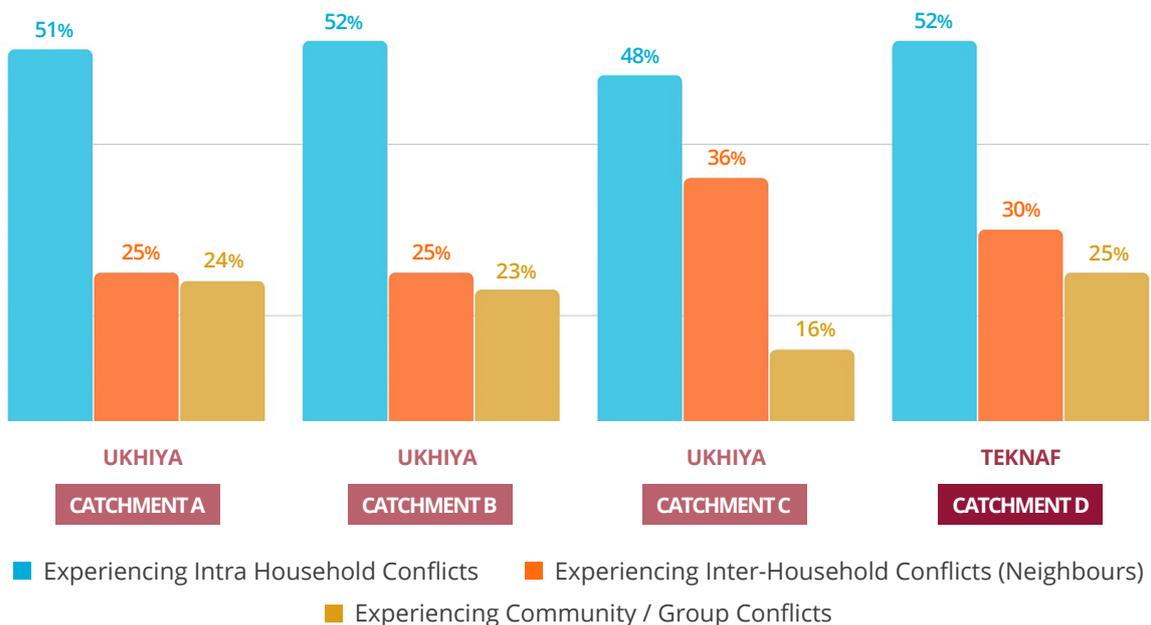
Disaggregation of risks was also done by gender within the refugee community (Figure 2). Female participants' major risks pertained to socio-cultural constraints, gender-based violence, reduced physical health among others. Male participants on the other hand faced risks related to reduced income opportunities, corruption, competition over resources and drug use.

Figure 2: Key risks disaggregated by gender in Rohingya refugee community



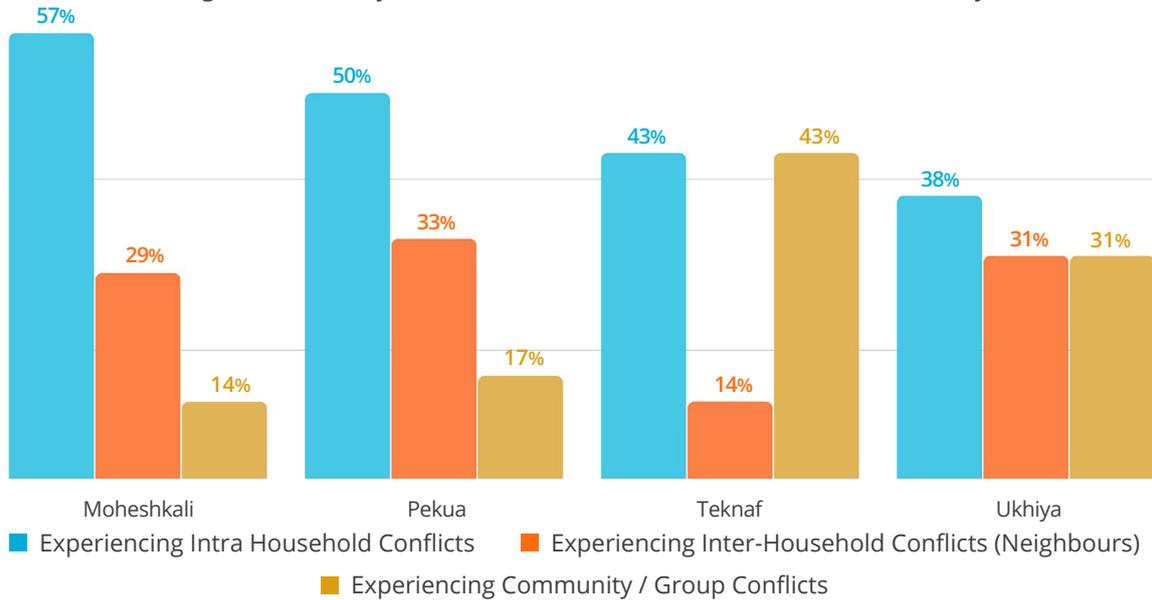
An effort was made to categorise the major kinds of conflict across different levels (household, local and community), which was critical to understand which risks and drivers should be prioritised vis-a-vis programme priorities (Figure 3). Across the refugee camps, conflict at the household level was most prevalent, followed by inter-household and inter-community conflict.

Figure 3: Intensity of conflict across catchments in the Rohingya refugee community



In the host community, intra-household conflict was at the highest across all sub-districts followed by inter-household conflict with neighbours<sup>1</sup>. Conflict between host and refugee community was more frequent in Teknaf and Ukhiya compared to the northern sub-districts of Moheshkali and Pekua, potentially driven by the former pair's proximity to the Rohingya camps (Figure 4).

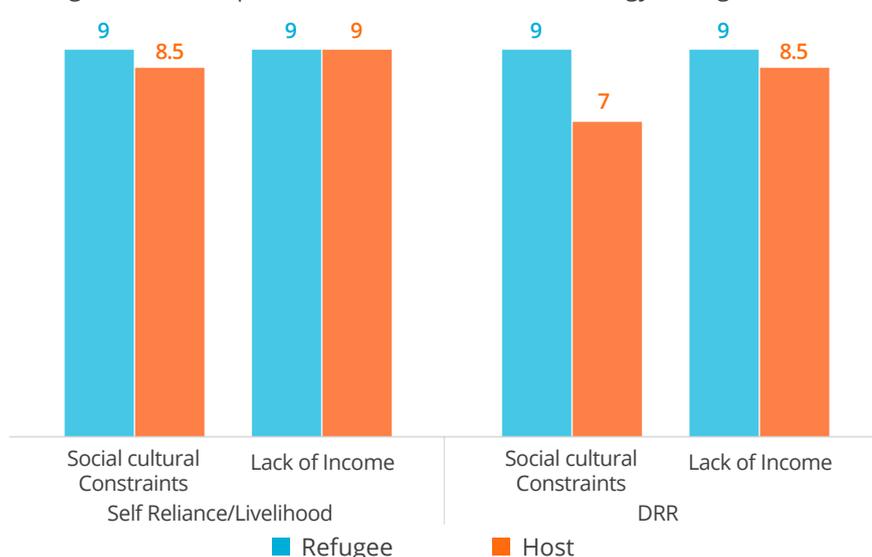
Figure 4 : Intensity of conflict across sub-districts in the host community



Further analysis was done to assess some of WFP's programme activity's performance against risks related to income and social cultural constraints on a scale of 12<sup>2</sup> (Figure 5). In the refugee community, the results showed a significant contribution of resilience-building activities (Self-reliance and Disaster Risk Reduction) in reducing intra-household conflict caused by lack of income, poor access to basic services, and socio-cultural constraints.

In the host community, Livelihood and DRR activities have contributed to reducing intra-household and inter-community conflicts caused by perceptions of reduced income opportunities and socio-cultural constraints. Duration of the activities is found to have a major impact on the effectiveness of activities towards minimizing risks.

Figure 5: WFP impact on risks in the host and Rohingya refugee communities



<sup>1</sup> Inter-community conflict encompasses tensions/conflicts between the two communities, host and refugee community in this context.

<sup>2</sup> The scale of 12 consists of three evaluation criteria based on Relevance, Extent, and Duration of which each criterion measured a risk in a scale of 4. Higher score refers higher contribution of activity on the minimization of the risk.

## 7. COMPONENT II: SOCIAL COHESION

This part of the assessment aimed at measuring the contribution of WFP to social cohesion between Rohingya and host community in the context of Cox's Bazar. Three further objectives within this part were:

1. Objective I: *Measure WFP's overall contribution to social cohesion.*
2. Objective II: *Identify areas within existing programmes/activities to enhance social cohesion.*
3. Objective III: *Develop tailored monitoring and evaluation frameworks (indicators) to routinely monitor progress.*

### a) Intra-community/Social Bonding (IaC):

Intra-community/social bonding (IaC) is considered as relationships within the same group or community (including religious, ethnic or socio-economic strata).

For refugees, participants in the WFP resilience-building activities (DRR and Self-Reliance) demonstrated greater trust and cooperation within the Rohingya community than non-participants.

Host community participants showed a higher level of intra-community bonding (98 percent) than Rohingya refugee participants (52 percent). This could be due to the duration of the activities and the intensive interactions between participants facilitated through different livelihoods activities<sup>3</sup>.

Three-fourths of both refugees and hosts suggested that they would be willing to leave their children with neighbours should there be an emergency. As illustrated in the graph below, this was far higher among participants than non-participants across host and refugee communities.

Figure 6: Engagement within the community (Intra-community/Social Bonding)

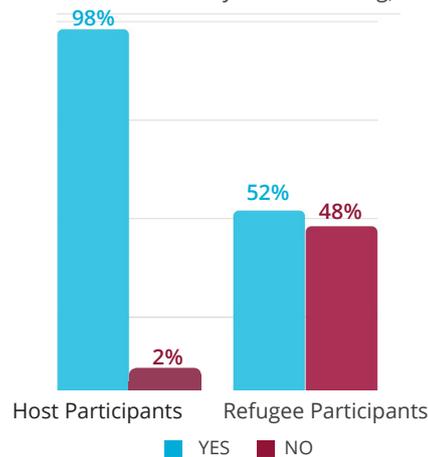
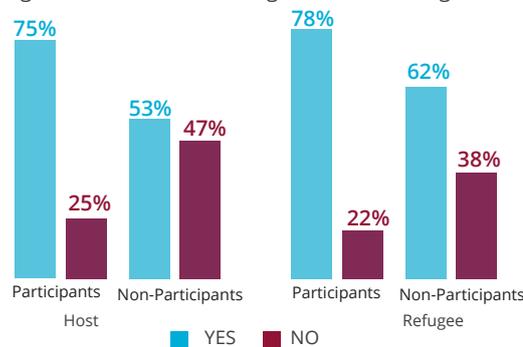


Figure 7: Trust levels-willingness to trust neighbours



\*Non-participants refer to the individuals not involved in any cash for work at the moment of this assessment

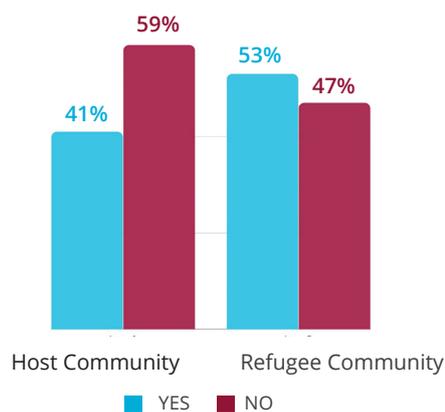
### b) Inter-community/Social Bridging (IeC):

Inter-community/Social bridging (IeC) is considered relationships between different groups or communities (different political groups, ethnicity, religious faction).

In the context of Cox's Bazar, this refers to interactions, trust and cooperation between the host and refugee communities.

Forty-one percent of the host and 53 percent of the refugees said they had interacted with the other community in the last six months to one year (Figure 8). This was primarily during situations of emergency or social events.

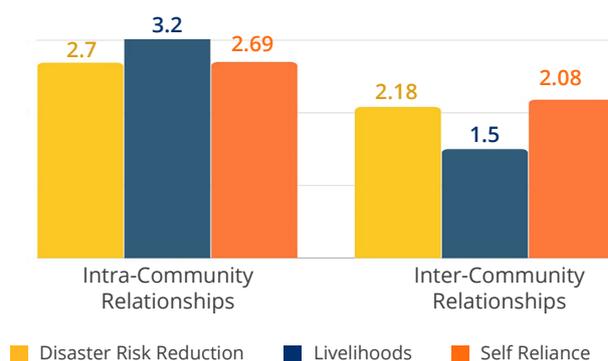
Figure 8: Extent of interaction between community (Social Bridging)



<sup>3</sup> The duration of Livelihoods programme in the host community is for two years and is interspersed with workshops centred around different social issues faced by the community members, the same is replicated in the Self Reliance programme implemented in the camps.

At the inter-community level, trust and willingness to cooperate is higher among participants compared to non-participants into WFP programmes, albeit still lower than in intra-community interaction. Overall, an attempt was undertaken to measure the Social Cohesion Index considering the different indicators on a scale of 5 (Figure 9). The participants into livelihood activities in the host community and self reliance activities in the refugee community have higher level of intra-community bonding compared to those participating in DRR activities. Inter-community relationship is lower in the host community participants than refugee participants.

Figure 9: Social Cohesion indicators measure

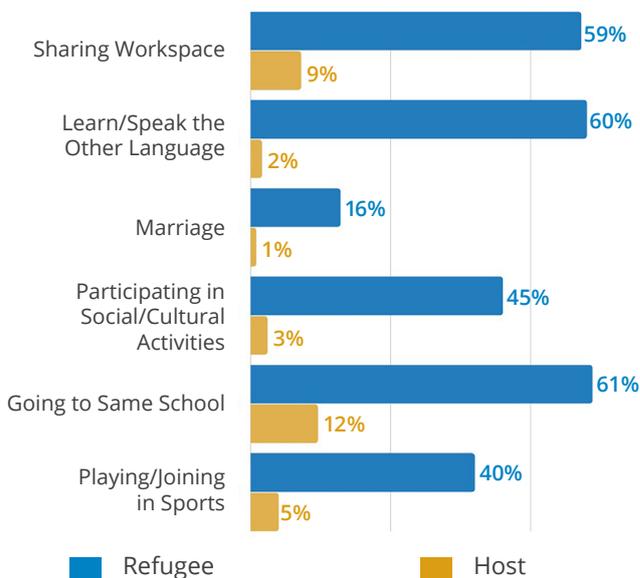


**c) Perception and attitudes towards the other(PO) :**

This refers to the level of understanding, sense of belongingness, awareness and acceptance of the other identities across the economic and socio-political spheres, and longer-term cohabitation. For the host community, preference for interaction and engagement with Rohingya was much lower than the willingness of Rohingya to engage with Bangladeshis.

Refugee respondents preferred to share resources and earn/adapt to the existing practices and culture more than host community respondents.

Figure 10: Willingness to engage between host and refugee community

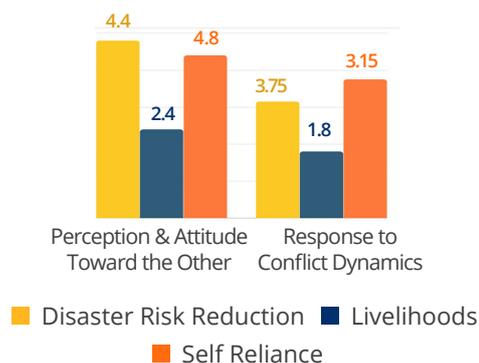


**d) Response to Conflict Dynamics (RCD):**

Response to Conflict Dynamics (RCD) refers to the resilience of the individual/ group to withstand conflict risks. Participants of Self-Reliance and DRR in the refugee community show higher level of endurance while dealing with conflict risks compared to the host community participants.

While considering the perception towards other community, the participants from host have a lower willingness of engagement and acceptance with the Rohingya refugee community and vice versa.

Figure 11: Social Cohesion indicators



*"I am the secretary of our self-help group. As a woman we face many restrictions especially pertaining to access. But after joining WFP livelihoods programme, I have had huge personal growth. I know my rights better, I can stand up for myself. We are a group of over 20 women who work towards earning a livelihoods of our own and becoming self-dependent. I feel much more confident in participating at the community level and discussions. I feel empowered."*

Nilufa Yeasmin, 26

Chameli women's group, Palongkhali, Ukhiya



## 8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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- Contribution of WFP activities are more significant within the communities than between the communities. More efforts are needed to foster understanding between refugee and host community as one way of ensuring peaceful co-existence.
- In the refugee camps, efforts should be channelled towards expanding resilience-building activities and creating synergies between the different activities implemented to ensure gains made are solidified and sustained.
- Programmatic interventions to be cognizant of pre-existing or underlying risks across different areas and between the different groups and prioritise or project amendments that contribute to reducing those risks.
- Continue to address gender-based violence, early marriage, polygamy and drug abuse, which have huge consequence on the core activities of WFP.
- Direct efforts to work with Government to increase host community participation in market spaces for the refugees like the WFP fresh food corners, farmers market, and organic community marketplaces. This would enhance common platforms of interaction and reduces fear between the communities.
- Conflict-risk mapping and measurement should be incorporated into the emergency and preparedness response systems across every stage, from the country office to the headquarters level.
- Monitoring and evaluation frameworks should integrate the key indicators linked to activities of social participation, social interaction, and response to conflict sensitivity.

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