

Recent Rohingya Crisis and Environmental Concern In Bangladesh

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Subject: Letter of Transmittal

Dear Sir,

With due respect we, the undersigned students have reported on “Recent Rohingya Crisis and Environmental Concern in Bangladesh” under the course Geo205.

Though we are in learning curve, this report has enabled us to gain the knowledge and analysis of Rohingya issue in Bangladesh. Therefore, it has become an extremely challenging but interesting experience. Thank you for supportive consideration for formulating an idea.

We hope you find this research paper satisfactory. We have tried to make the research paper as convenient as we could. We would be thankful once again if you kindly give your judicious advice on our effort.

Sincerely

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Index and abbreviation

DPSIR – Driver, pressure, state, impact and response

UN- United Nations

UNHCR- United nations high commission for refugees

SDG- Sustainable development goal

UNDP– United nation development programme

DEPP- Disaster emergency preparedness programme

STP- Shifting the power

DAM - Dhaka Ahsania mission

CORD- catholic organization for relief

CCDB-Christian commission of Bangladesh

DSK- Dushtha Shasthya Kendra

NFI-national forest inventory

G20 - the group of 20

MOU- memorandum of understanding

R2P- response to protect

ARSA- Arakan rohingya salvation army

RSO- Rohingya solidatary group

IS- Islamic state

ASEAN - The Association of Southeast Asian Nations

ARF - ASEAN regional forum

BIOMSTEC - Bay of Bengal initiative of multi sectoral technical and economic cooperation

Acknowledgement

First of all, from the depth of our hearts we would like to thank Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam our honorable faculty. It is our good fortune to be students of such high intellectual ability and scholar person. It is our pleasure to have a chance to work under you and we are very proud for the knowledge our faculty shared with us for our work. We also want to thank specially the department of environmental science and management for offering such a wonderful course. As through it we were able to grasp a lot of significant geographical factors related to Bangladesh more over we were given such a good opportunity to do a study related to Bangladesh and its environment. This made even more aware of the Rohingya crisis and helped understand its factors and situations. We would like to acknowledge all the scholar's, researchers and reporters full credits as we have used their work and also cited them and discussed the issues.

Abstract

The study is about the Rohingya issue and its environmental concern in Bangladesh. Rohingya crisis is a very new global topic and everyone more or less aware of it. In our study we tried to show the details of the Rohingya issue of how it all started and currently what is going on. Then we provided all the facts and figures necessary for people to know. Moreover, we discussed about the issue gave possible solution of what can be done with the refugees as they are sent away from their own country. Bangladesh is a very important factor here as the refugees are taking shelter here as a result there are environmental impacts. Through DPSIR model we also tried to discuss and depict the specific factors involved. Next, we tried to show the possible relationship with Bangladesh Myanmar. We also discussed the solution possible for the refugees and how they will be served better in the community and how to resettle them overcoming all the problems and allegation

Chapter 1: Introduction

This project is about the recent Rohingya issue and the genocide and due to it what the impacts are globally and why it is unethical and a human rights concern.

Rohingya people are a stateless people from Rakhine State, Myanmar. They are the victims of ethnic cleansing as they are indigenous and minority in Myanmar (Mahmood, 2016). They face discrimination because of their different race and Muslim religion in a country of Buddhist majority. As they are being killed by government and military it became evident that it is one of the biggest genocide of this era hence they are fleeing to Bangladesh as it is a neighboring country. UN describes them as one of the persecuted minorities in the world (David 2009). Since 1982, the Rohingya population is denied citizenship under Myanmar nationality law as govt. claims they cannot trace the history of the population (Human rights watch, 2017). In our country, they are deprived from all sources of fundamental rights that the citizens deserve such as job, education, housing and even their movements are restricted (BBC, 2017). This one of the biggest injustice as country wants to remove entire Rohingya population. But according to the historians and Rohingya ancestors they are indigenous to western Myanmar with heritage of a millennium and influenced from Arabs, Mughals and Portuguese. Myanmar part of south East Asia was an independent kingdom and Rohingyas were accepted before even they were given position in the parliament in the 20th century (The Independent, 2017). But the recent government claims they are illegal immigrants who came from Bangladesh and so the Government plans to call them “Bengalis” instead of Rohingyas. As a result, the Rohingya campaign groups notably Arakan Rohingya national organization demand rights and self-determination within Myanmar. This issue as a result took a toll on the population by means of execution, disappearances, ill-treat, discrimination, rapes and so on as UN found evidence and religious intolerance by “ultra nationalist Buddhists”. Military launched clearing operation in Rakhine state as a result the population of 1.3 million decreased to 300000 as rest fled to nearby countries and took shelter. In 2017, UN backed international court where Myanmar was found guilty. (Amnesty international, 2017)

1.1 Statement of the problem

The Rohingya denied citizenship because they do not fall within the defined ethnicities of Myanmar. Bangladesh is facing another exodus of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, but this time with a force that was not seen since the crisis began in 1978. There have been at least two large scale Rohingya migrations since that year. The largest number, counting up to three hundred thousand refugees, was reached in the year 1992. However, small scale migration or infiltration of Rohingyas never ceased. Now the flood gates of refugees are open once again, it seems like the Rohingya exodus from Rakhine State will continue in the foreseeable future, at least till the Myanmar authorities relent.

Rohingya migration into Bangladesh and other neighboring countries including India and Thailand has been going on for the last five decades, for reasons that are well documented. The Rohingyas were denied citizenship because they do not fall within the defined ethnicities of Myanmar, nor are they descendants of ancestors who settled in the country before 1823, at the beginning of British occupation of Arakan State. The Rohingyas claim that they are descendants of people who had settled in the country since ninth century. But their claim falls on deaf ears as the Rohingyas are not one of the thirteen recognized national races.

The festering citizenship issue is further complicated by their religion (Muslim) and their language (a dialect derived from Bengali). This has prevented the Rohingyas from blending with the Arakanese, who are mainly Buddhists by religion. This difference also made the Rohingyas somewhat politically ambitious since the independence of Myanmar (then Burma) from the British. The Rohingyas formed clandestine political groups, hoping to establish a state of their own, when Myanmar was fighting guerrilla groups along the Chinese and the Thai border, including in the Arakan State.

The frequent clashes between the Burmese army and the guerrilla groups had led to the first eviction of the Rohingyas by the government in 1978, although technically on grounds of them being non-citizens.

The first repatriation of the Rohingya refugees in 1979 was possible for three reasons. First, Bangladesh chose not to escalate the crisis to the international level but dealt with the issue on a bilateral level. Second, the Myanmar government responded positively to resolve the problem by not only agreeing to accept all refugees, but also by ensuring security for them. Third, the clandestine political organization of the Rohingyas did not obstruct to the repatriation.

Unfortunately, the Rohingya issue has grown much larger in scale and complexity in recent times. While at one level, the issue can be viewed as a humanitarian crisis, the reason why the international community is anxiously watching the events unfold. At another level, the issue is intermixed with terrorism. Ironically, what was originally a state sponsored terror against a helpless minority, has now gone full circle to a terror group attacking the state. Myanmar authorities now cite the recent attack by the secretive Rohingya political group as the main cause of Rohingya sufferings.

As the situation stands now, the Myanmar authorities are not likely to relent. The attack by the so called Rohingya guerrillas has added more fuel to the fire that was ignited by the Buddhist monks during violence against Arakan Muslims in 2012. It is ironic that a state that was shared by two communities for hundreds of years (Buddhists account for 52%, and Muslims for 42%), would suddenly be split primarily on religious grounds.

This tragic turn of events cannot stop until Myanmar itself brings the situation under control. As the history of Burma tells us, the country cannot be forced by outside powers to heed to their demands. Muslim countries of the world can express solidarity with the Rohingyas and offer financial help, but they cannot offer them security in their homeland. Only Myanmar can do that.

To do that, Bangladesh will have to deal its hands deftly, and with caution. First and foremost, it is necessary to continue our dialogue with Myanmar at all levels, including at the borders and the central. Second, Bangladesh should seek support from India in this dialogue, as a third party which is equally concerned at the Rohingya exodus.

There are more than a million Rohingyas living in Arakan. If all of them leaves, will India be spared? The best thing going on for Bangladesh now, is that the international community is viewing our plight with understanding and compassion. The crisis needs to be portrayed as a humanitarian support that Bangladesh is extending to the nationals of a foreign country who have fled their homes for civil unrest. But we will also need to categorically point out to Myanmar and the outside world, that we cannot offer a permanent home to the Rohingyas.

They belong to their country. Myanmar will need to change their citizenship laws, to facilitate the return of the Rohingyas to their true home. (Choudhury, 2017).

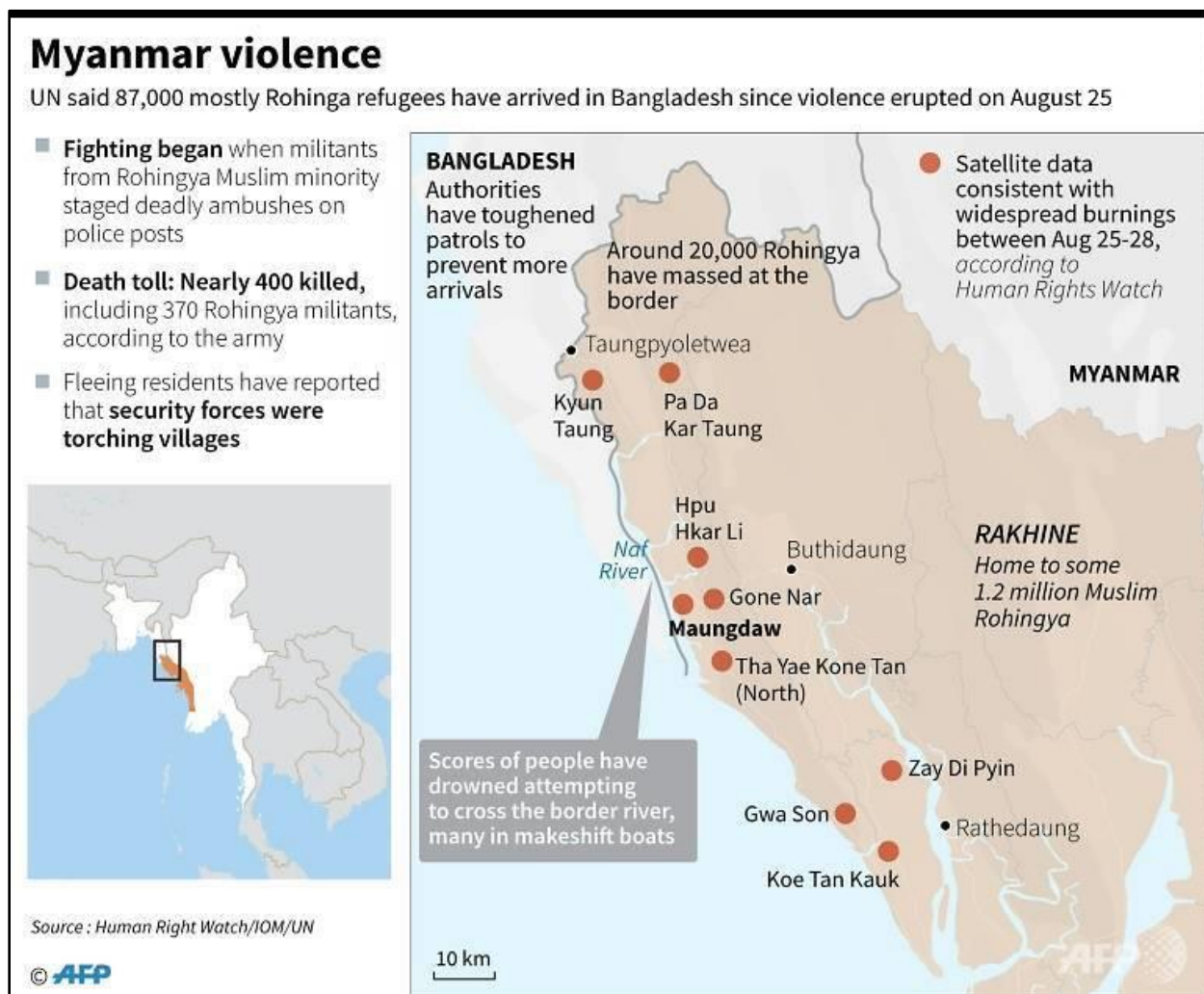


Fig: 1 Rohingya attacks in map

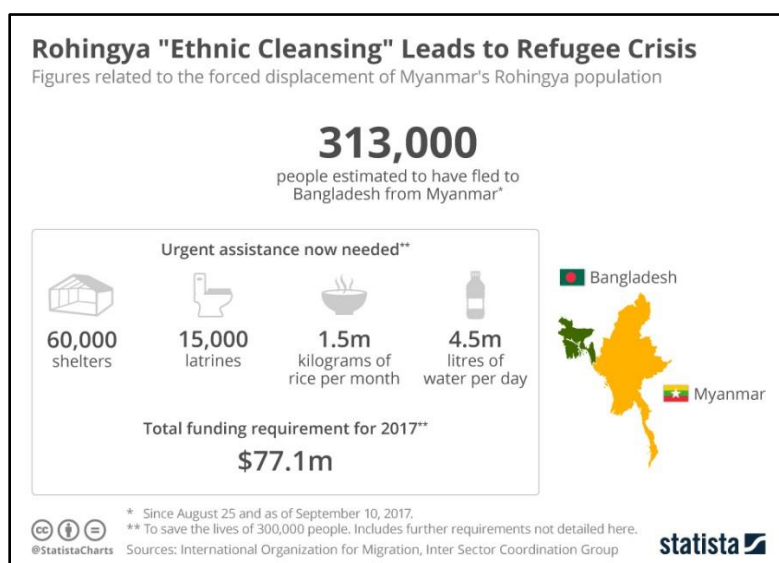


Fig: 2 Crisis

1.2 Literature Review

The Rohingya, who numbered around one million in Myanmar at the start of 2017, are one of the many ethnic minorities in the country. Rohingya Muslims represent the largest percentage of Muslims in Myanmar, with the majority living in Rakhine state. They have their own language and culture and say they are descendants of Arab traders and other groups who have been in the region for generations. But the government of Myanmar, a predominantly Buddhist country, denies the Rohingya citizenship and even excluded them from the 2014 census, refusing to recognize them as a people. It sees them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

Since the 1970s, Rohingya have migrated across the region in significant numbers. Estimates of their numbers are often much higher than official figures. In the last few years, before the latest crisis, thousands of Rohingya were making perilous journeys out of Myanmar to escape communal violence or alleged abuses by the security forces. The latest exodus began on 25 August 2017 after Rohingya Arsa militants attacked more than 30 police posts. Rohingyas arriving in an area known as Cox's Bazaar - a district in Bangladesh - say they fled after troops, backed by local Buddhist mobs, responded by burning their villages and attacking and killing civilians.

Rohingya crisis: Refugees tell of 'house by house' killings. At least 6,700 Rohingya, including at least 730 children under the age of five, were killed in the month after the violence broke out, according to Medecins, Sans Frontiers (MSF). Amnesty International says the Myanmar military also raped and abused Rohingya women and girls. The government, which puts the number of dead at 400, claims that "clearance operations" against the militants ended on 5 September, but BBC correspondents have seen evidence that they continued after that date. At least 288 villages were partially or totally destroyed by fire in northern Rakhine state after August 2017, according to analysis of satellite imagery by Human Rights Watch.

Human Rights watch say most damage occurred in Maungdaw Township, between 25 August and 25 September 2017 - with many villages destroyed after 5 September, when Myanmar's de facto leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, said security force operations had ended. The UN says the Rohingya's situation is the "world's fastest growing refugee crisis". Before August, there were already around 307,500 Rohingya refugees living in camps, makeshift settlements and with host communities, according to the UNHCR. A further 655,000 are estimated to have arrived since August 2017. Most Rohingya refugees reaching Bangladesh - men, women and children with barely any belongings -

have sought shelter in these areas, setting up camp wherever possible in the difficult terrain and with little access to aid, safe drinking water, food, shelter or healthcare. The largest refugee camp is Kutupalong but limited space means spontaneous settlements have sprung up in the surrounding countryside and nearby Balukhali as refugees keep arriving. While the Kutupalong refugee camp has grown from 13,901 to 22,241 since August 2017, the number living in makeshift or spontaneous settlements outside the camp has climbed from 99,495 to more than 547,616. Other sites in the region have also expanded - as of mid-January 2018, there were eight sites occupied by more than 242,000 people. There are also around 79,000 people staying outside the camps in host communities.

The need for aid is overwhelming.

The whole refugee population - almost one million people - require food aid

21,677 children under five have been treated for severe acute malnutrition

315,000 children under 15 years of age have received a five-in-one vaccination, which includes cover for diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough.

44,493 temporary emergency latrines have been built Bangladesh military

21,000 metric tons of aid has been delivered in 17 airlifts

There has been widespread condemnation of the Myanmar government's actions but talk of sanctions has been more muted:

The UN Security Council appealed to Myanmar to stop the violence, but no sanctions have been imposed

The UN's human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini has said an act of genocide against Rohingya Muslims by state forces in Myanmar cannot be ruled out

The US urged Myanmar's troops to "respect the rule of law, stop the violence and end the displacement of civilians from all communities"

China says the international community "should support the efforts of Myanmar in safeguarding the stability of its national development"

Bangladesh plans to build more shelters in the Cox's Bazaar area but also wants to limit their travel to allocated areas

Myanmar urged displaced people to find refuge in temporary camps set up in Rakhine state. In November Bangladesh signed a deal with Myanmar to return hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees, but few details have been released

The UK has pledged £59m in aid to support those fleeing to Bangladesh. UK Prime Minister Theresa May also said the military action in Rakhine had to stop. The UK has suspended training courses for the Myanmar military (Aljazeera, 2016)

1.3 Significant of study

Rohingya issue is very recent and totally related to our country. Moreover, internationally it is very big as humanitarian reasons are involved. Our study involves detail research of the Rohingya and how it is impacting the environment, the causes of the issue and the after math. The aim is to evaluate the entire scenario and depict the important facts and figures. Moreover, in the discussion part we discussed about all the surrounding issues related to Rohingya crisis which are arising. And lastly gave a recommendation to the problem. We also conducted DPSIR model which gives specific ideas about the factors involved. The study answers many questions such who are the Rohingya, how they came to Bangladesh and the reason, their struggle and also entire history of Rohingya.

1.4 Limitation

As this issue is a recent crisis information is very limited. Our study was based purely on secondary research as primary research would be very difficult and not feasible. The data sources were mainly newspaper and some limited scholarly papers. The facts and figures can deviate with the most recent as this issue is dynamic for example the exact number of Rohingya population or the people entering the country could be difficult than actual as it is a crisis scenario and lot of constraints all reports, and information may not be fully accurate. More over since it is a controversial issue the Myanmar government is trying their level best to hide certain issues regarding Rohingya because they are being criticized internationally.

1.5 Organization of study

Chapter 1 discusses about the Rohingya issue in details of how it all happened and the current scenario more over it discusses the details of the project how everything is being done and the process used and limitation

Chapter 2 discusses about the tools and mediums used to research and the references of the study

Chapter 3 discusses the background of the study and issues related to it back and forth it also contains comparisons

Chapter 4 discusses about the results of the study and what we found about Rohingya and important issue discussions and also recommendation to the solution

Chapter 5 is the conclusion here we discuss about end results and comprehensive overview of factors involved.

Chapter 2: Study site and methods

2.1 Study area and issues

Our study area and issues will be the basics of Rohingya and the environmental impacts. Firstly, what caused the problem in the first place? Then the current scenario. And due to the current scenario, we will try to identify and analyze the problem. We will deeply analyze the basics of Rohingya issue and current scenario analysis and discuss alternating issues linked to it all will try to demonstrate a feasible solution.

2.2. Data sources of study

Data sources of study are all secondary as we are taking contents from mainly newspapers and scholarly papers. And using these resources we are analyzing and giving our own perception. This is because primary research is very difficult to visit and also survey not possible

2.3 Methodology of Data Collection and analysis

After finding legit imitate data we analyze it and give credentials and further discuss the topic to reach a conclusion and solution. We also used DPSIR model as it gives specific field of observation from the root of the problem to solution of it.

DPSIR Model for Rohingya Crisis

DPSIR is a framework for describing the interactions between society and the environment developed by the European Environmental Agency (EEA). It is based on the PSR model proposed by the OECD, and it has been applied to the organization of systems of indicators and statistics in relation to policy aims.

DPSIR Model for Rohingya Crisis

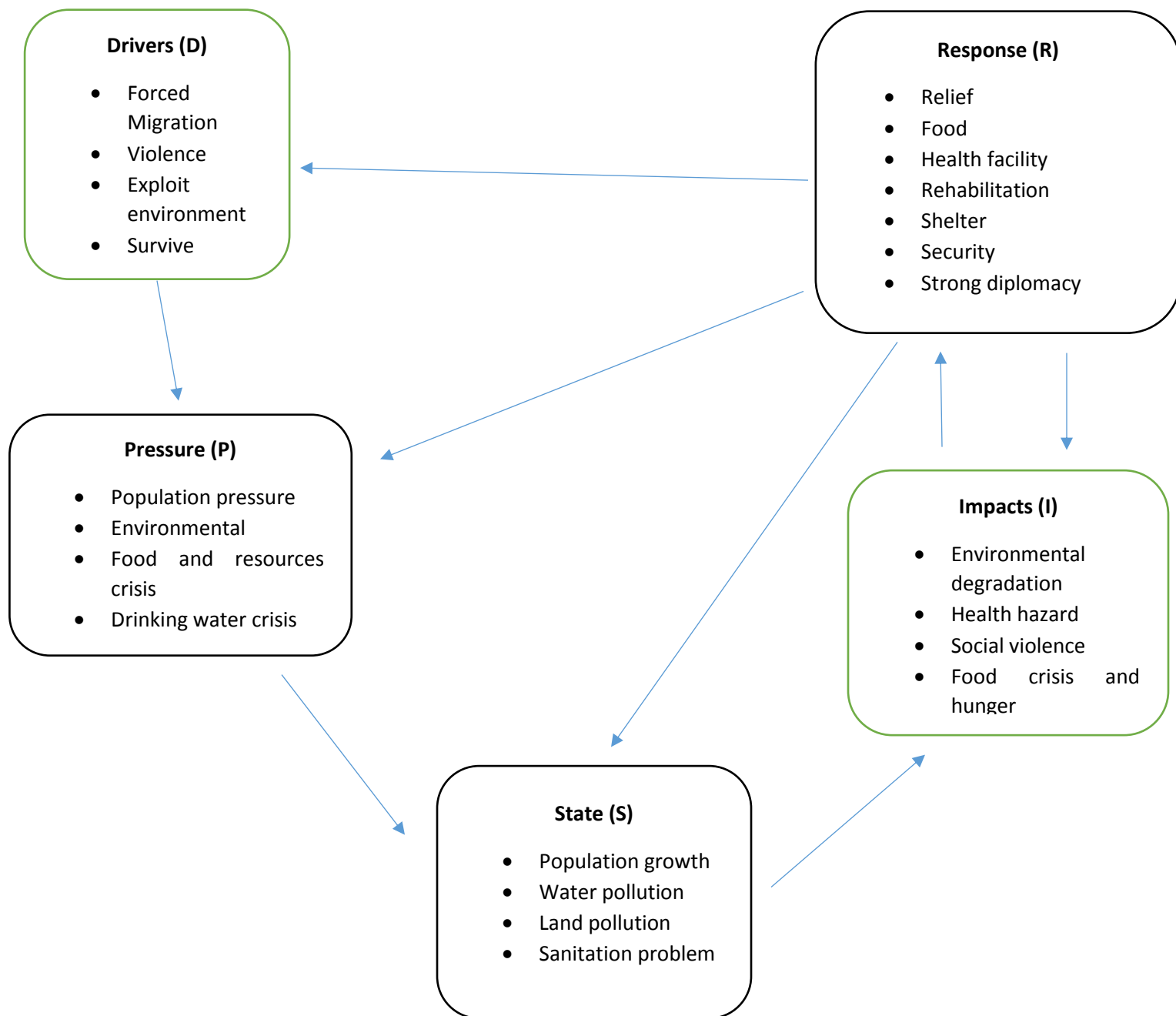


Figure 3: DPSIR model for the Migration measures for Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh

Chapter 3: Scenarios of the Problem in Global and Regional Contexts

3.1 Previous Scenarios or Conditions:

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh refer to the Rohingya refugees from Myanmar living in Bangladesh ("Rohingya exodus to Bangladesh nears 300,000") As of December 2017, an estimated 655,000 to 700,000 Rohingya people have fled to Bangladesh since 25 August 2017, to avoid ethnic and religious persecution by Myanmar's security forces (see Northern Rakhain state clashes). There are more 300,000 Rohingyas living in Bangladesh who fled in earlier wave's violence from the Burmese government over the last three decades. Moreover, Rohingyas in Hyderabad feel insecure in India they also try to enter into Bangladesh as the Rohingyas in Myanmar do. ("Hyderabad Rohingyas feel insecure in India, going to Bangladesh", 2017)

Rohingyas are Muslim minority in Myanmar regarded by many Myanmar Buddhist as illegal migrants from Bangladesh. The Rohingyas have lived in Myanmar for generations and the Bangladesh Government has called back Myanmar to take back the refugees. They are delayed citizenship in Myanmar and have been described as world's most persecuted minority. Rohingyas are persecuted in Myanmar by security forces and Buddhist extremists. Myanmar has denied persecuting the Rohingyas.

Since the 1970s, Rohingya refugees have been coming to Bangladesh from Myanmar. In the 1990s, more than 250,000 resided in refugee camps in Bangladesh. In the early 2000s, all but 20,000 of them were repatriated to Myanmar, some against their will. This respite ended in 2015 and by 2017, an estimated 300,000 to 500,000 Rohingya refugees were in Bangladesh. Most of the refugees are located along the Teknaf-Coxs Bazar highway that is parallel to the Naf River which is the border between Bangladesh and Myanmar. Most of the refugees are located in or near Cox's Bazar, a coastal area dependent upon tourism. ("Hyderabad Rohingyas feel insecure in India, going to Bangladesh", 2017)

Bangladesh blamed the refugees for crime and 2012 Ramu violence in Cox's Bazar. Bangladesh also follows a policy of making the country unwelcome for Rohingya refugees. The majority of the refugees are unregistered, with only 32 thousand refugees registering themselves with UNHCR

and the Bangladeshi government. An estimated 200,000+ refugees are living unregistered in Bangladesh. Amnesty International reports have stated that the Myanmar security forces are committing rape, extrajudicial killing, and burning homes belonging to the Rohingya in a December 2016 report. Refugees have been displacing the indigenous people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. They have also been blamed for importing the drug Yaba. ("Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh", 2018)

Genocide of Rohingya:

The exodus began on 25 August 2017 after Rohingya militants attacked police posts, killing 12 members of the security forces.

Those attacks led to a security crackdown. Myanmar's military says it is fighting insurgents but those who have fled say troops and Rakhine Buddhists are conducting a brutal campaign to drive them out.



Figure-4: The vulnerable situation of homeless Rohingya under open sky.

The Rohingya a stateless mostly Muslim minority group have faced years of persecution in Myanmar. Deep-seated tensions between them and the majority Buddhist population in Rakhine have led to deadly communal violence in the past.

On 25 August Rohingya insurgents armed with knives and home-made bombs attacked more than 30 police posts in northern Rakhine, the government said.

Huge numbers of Rohingya civilians then began fleeing over the border into Bangladesh.

Many of them say that Burmese troops, backed by local Buddhist mobs, began burning their villages and attacking and killing civilians in response to the 25 August attacks. Some of those who have arrived in Bangladesh have bullet or other wounds.

Observers on the ground and satellite images confirm many razed Muslim villages across northern Rakhine state. Myanmar Government against humanity that have forced over 6200,000 Rohingya to flee their homes over the past few months

Bangladesh one of the world's poorest countries, has stand for half million Rohingya refugees:

The world watched in shock as well over half a million people fled an intense campaign of violence in Myanmar that was systematic, organized and ruthless. The Myanmar military killed Rohingya women, men and children, raped Rohingya women and girls, and burnt entire Rohingya villages.

The UN stated that the latest wave of violence and persecution of the Rohingyas in Myanmar was “well-organized, coordinated and systematic” and that the “clearance operations” had begun well before the insurgent attack on August 25 on police posts. (Aljazeera, 2017)



Figure-5: Rohingya children in the refugee camp in Bangladesh

In that situation an estimated 519,000 Rohingya have crossed the border into Bangladesh since 25 August 2017. The Government of Bangladesh has allocated 3,000 acres of land to accommodate the growing influx.

The most urgent needs among Rohingya refugees still remain food, shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene. Indeed, the overcrowded living conditions inside the settlements, as well as the lack of safe water and sanitation facilities, promote diseases and outbreaks. Different agencies working to distribute shelter and hygiene kits to some of the most vulnerable newly arrived Rohingya refugees who have fled Myanmar with nothing but the clothes on their back. ("Bangladesh warns Myanmar of repeatedly violating air space amid refugee crisis", 2017)

"Most people, if not all, in the camps came with nothing. In order to escape violence and death, they have fled from their village and hidden in the jungle for days before being able to cross the river and the border into Bangladesh. With hundreds of refugees still arriving every day, and still many organizations waiting for the government's green light to operate, the needs are overwhelming. Despite the trauma and rough conditions, Organization staff has been impressed with the resilience and courage the Rohingya have demonstrated. "We can barely imagine what these families have been through in the past month, the stories we hear are harrowing; yet, they meet us with grateful smiles and helping hands."

3.2 Comparison with other countries and global perspective



Fig 6 – Global perspective

The world is witnessing the highest amount of population displacement due to refugee crisis among many countries not only Myanmar the amount is staggering 65.6 million (UNHCR, 2016)

People have been forced from their home due to conflict or persecution, among the 65 million 22.5 million are under 18 years of age and around 10 million are denied nationality and access to basic human rights (UNHCR, 2015)

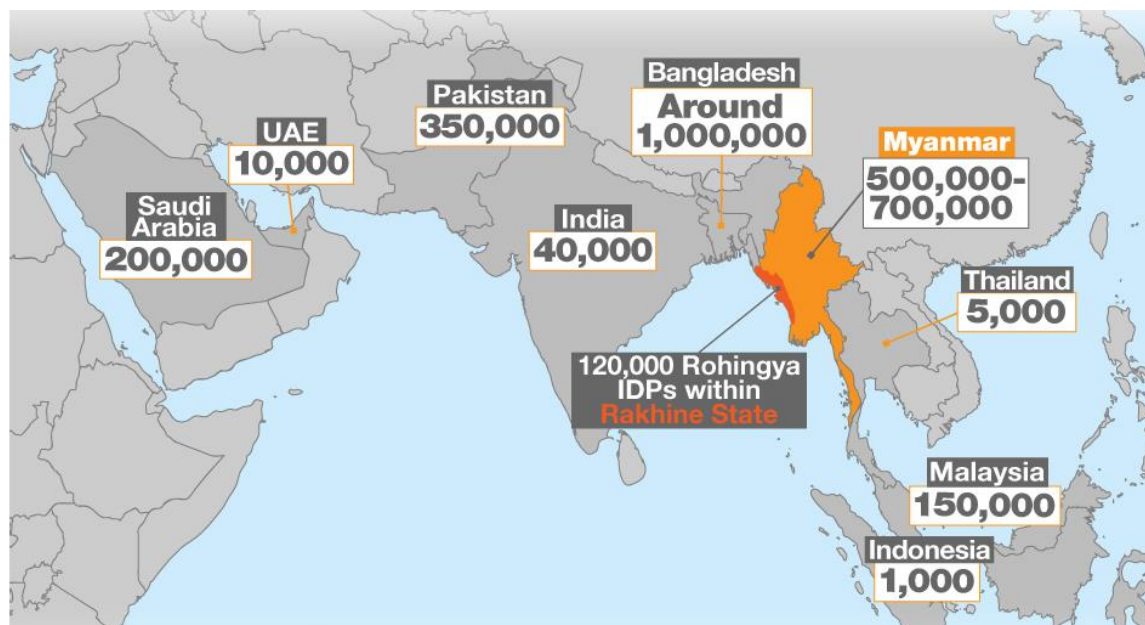


Fig: 7 Refugees around the world

Syria

Syria refugee crisis is also a big thing it's now been 7 years and has 13.5 million refugees (2016) among it 6 million are innocent children, 400,000 are killed and 1 million killed till 2016. Turkey hosts over 2.9 million registered Syrians. The majority of them live in urban areas, with around 260,000 accommodated in the 21 government-run refugee camps. There are more than a million registered Syrians in Lebanon and 660,000 in Jordan. Iraq has also seen a growing number of Syrians arriving, hosting more than 241,000, while in Egypt UNHCR provides protection and assistance to more than 122,000.

Palestine refugees are particularly vulnerable with an estimated 460,000 people receiving regular assistance around Syria. School attendance has dropped by more than 50 per cent and roughly one-quarter of schools have been damaged, destroyed or are used as collective shelters. More than half of Syria's hospitals have been destroyed or badly damaged. Water supply has decreased to less than 50 per cent of its pre-crisis levels. An estimated 9.8 million people are considered food insecure and many more are living in poverty.

South Sudan

In 2016, the disastrous break-off of peace efforts in July in South Sudan contributed to an outflow of 737,400 people by the end of the year. That number has continued to rise during the first half of 2017.

UNHCR in the Field

The UN Refugee Agency has its Headquarters in Geneva, but about 89 per cent of staff are in the field. Today, a staff of more than 9,700 people in 126 countries provides protection and assistance to nearly 59 million refugees, returnees, internally displaced and stateless people. The largest portion of UNHCR staff are based in countries in Asia and Africa, the continents that both host and generate the most refugees and internally displaced people. Many are in isolated locations where staff work in difficult - and often dangerous - conditions. Among the biggest UNHCR operations are Afghanistan, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Pakistan, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq.

Climate change, natural disasters and displacement

In addition to persecution and conflict, in the 21st century, natural disaster (sometimes due to climate change) can also force people to seek refuge in other countries. Such disasters – floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, mudslides – are increasing in frequency and intensity. While most of the displacement caused by these events is internal, they can also cause people to cross borders. None of the existing international and regional refugee law instruments, however, specifically addresses the plight of such people.

Displacement caused by the slow-onset effects of climate change is largely internal as well. But through its acceleration of drought, desertification, the salinization of ground water and soil, and rising sea levels, climate change, too, can contribute to the displacement of people across international frontiers.

Other human-made calamities, such as severe socio-economic deprivation, can also cause people to flee across borders. While some may be escaping persecution, most leave because they lack any meaningful option to remain. The lack of food, water, education, health care and a livelihood would not ordinarily and by themselves sustain a refugee claim under the 1951 Convention. Nevertheless, some of these people may need some form of protection.

All of these circumstances - conflict, natural disasters, and climate change pose enormous challenges for the international humanitarian community. (UNHCR, 2016)

There are many reasons and problems for population to displace according to care.org. They are such as Asylum seeker, stateless person, not legally being recognized as refugee

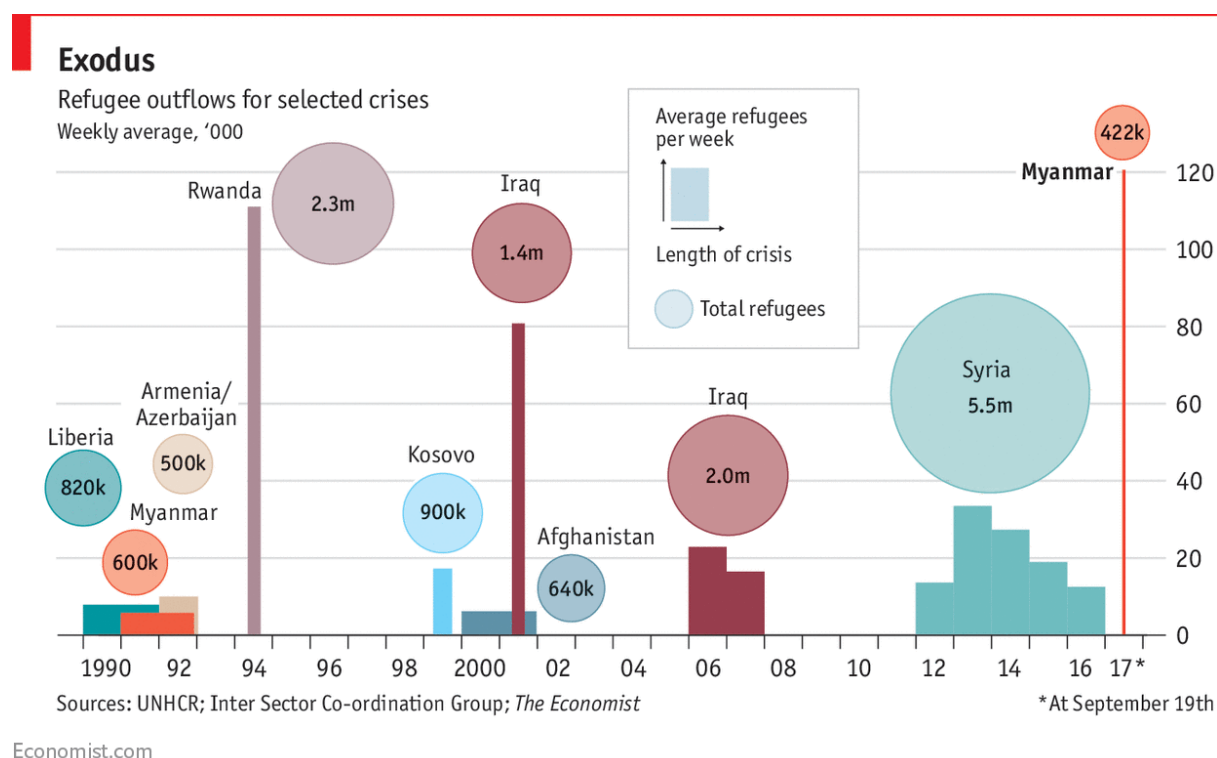


Fig: 8 Refugee outflows

Here are some of the surprising facts and trends from this new report according to national public radio USA 2016.

1. A shockingly high percent of the worlds displaced are kids:

More than half the refugees around the globe are under the age of 18, even though children make up 31 percent of the world's population.

2. Many of these kids are fleeing alone:

In 2016 alone, according to UNHCR, 75,000 children applied for asylum as "unaccompanied minors." Most were from Afghanistan and Syria. The country receiving the greatest number of requests for asylum for these children was Germany: 35,900.

3. The greatest burden of the global refugee crisis falls on low-income and middle-income countries:

Turkey remains the largest host of refugees globally, with nearly 3 million living inside its borders. Pakistan is second. Among the top ten host nations only one is a high-income country: Germany, at number 8 on the list, hosting 669,500 refugees and asylum seekers.

4. Most people who are driven from their homes by armed conflict don't end up officially as refugees:

If they haven't crossed an international border, the U.N. designates them as "internally displaced persons" or IDPs. In 2016 there were 40.3 million internally displaced persons around the world, far overshadowing the 25.3 million refugees. From the UN's perspective this is an important distinction. Refugees fall under the auspice of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and are entitled to certain rights and basic assistance. IDPs are the responsibility of their own government, often the government that failed to protect them in their homes in the first place.

5. Colombia has the highest number of IDPs in the world: 7.6 million:

A huge portion of its population are internally displaced because of the decades-long conflict between the FARC rebels and the government.

Syria had the second highest number of people listed as internally displaced last year, with just over 6 million (UNHCR, 2015)

Global Perspective

World Reaction about Rohingya Issue:

WASHINGTON —

Protests have popped around the world over the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar. Even the Dalai Lama and South African rights leader Desmond Tutu have weighed in, seeking better treatment for the Muslim minority group. Protesters rallied in Jakarta, shouting "God is great," while in Tokyo, police had to separate those who support the Rohingya from counter protesters who call them terrorists. In Afghanistan's western Herat province, protesters demanded an end to violence against the Rohingya, and in Islamabad, demonstrators stomped on pictures of Myanmar's state leader, Aung San Suu Kyi.



Figure-9: The protest against the situation of Rohingya in a Muslim country

Protests also were reported in India and Iran:

The United Nations says about 270,000 people have fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar's Rakhine state in the past two weeks, after a group calling itself the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army attacked several police posts

In a recent report on Myanmar's Rohingya refugees, Save the Children depicts a sordid story of helpless mothers and their vulnerable babies. More than 48,000 Rohingya babies will be born in 2018 in the squalid refugee camps of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh and exposed to malnutrition from birth with life expectancy below five years. Rachael Cummings, Save the Children Health Advisor stated, "There are a huge number of pregnant and lactating women needing maternal health support."

Preceding the current tragedy are countless stories of horror and brutality unthinkable in the modern era of openness driven by digitalization and social media. As Rajuma, a petite Rohingya young woman with light brown eyes, was being beaten by a pack of Burmese soldiers, she wrapped her arms around her baby to protect from the soldiers. The soldiers burned her village and threw her son into the fire and raped her after that. According to human rights investigators, Myanmar's military has killed more than 1,000 civilians and the exact figure may be higher as Myanmar is not letting UN or anyone else in the affected areas. Around 6.5 million people have fled to Bangladesh

and 374,680 children are in need of humanitarian assistance. Many of the men from numerous families were either killed or went missing since the violence erupted.

Mohammed Rashid, a 45-year-old Rohingya Muslim had surgical dressing under his eyes as the Myanmar army injured them with bullet splinters. He hid in a forest for two days and then was stopped at the border. He managed to get into Bangladesh but on his way heard the heart wrenching story that their village has been burned down. The Myanmar soldiers apparently arrested a large number of Rohingya men, took them to a village hut and then burned the hut. "My brother was killed, and the army burned him with the group," Fortify Rights quoted 41-year-old Abdul Rahman of Chut Pyin.

On the receiving end is one of the most densely populated countries and natural disaster-prone countries of the world i.e. Bangladesh with 1,252 people per square kilometer and GDP per capita around US\$ 1,400. Turkey, with a per capita income of US\$ 11,000, which is more than seven times than that of Bangladesh's, receives \$853 as aid per refugee compared to Bangladesh which received \$14 per refugee till end of last year. While more than 850,000 refugees were to receive special debit, cards financed by the EU this August in Turkey, refugees in Bangladesh still struggle to get access to basic needs.

Some of the influential regional powers are either standing on the sidelines or waiting for things to play out. India, world's largest democracy which prides itself for its secular and pluralistic values and terms its relationship with Bangladesh as "role model for neighbor relations" to the utter surprise of many stated, "We stand by Myanmar, we strongly condemn the terrorist attack on August 24-25 and condole the death of policemen and soldiers." Even going by commercial interests, India's exports to Myanmar is around US\$ 1billion while it is around US\$ 7 billion to Bangladesh. One wonders whether India would have acted the same had the Rohingyas been Hindus instead of being Muslims. However, India has sent 7,000 tons of relief materials to Bangladesh.

China has been advocating resolution through bilateral efforts between Bangladesh and Myanmar and has offered to negotiate. Beijing and Moscow questioned UNSC's jurisdiction to take any measure and contended that any interference would worsen the situation. While China has been awarded series of mega infrastructure projects in Bangladesh and Russia is building the country's first nuclear plant, both countries have opted for Myanmar at the expense of Bangladesh in pursuit of economic and strategic interests in the region. Hence, world's largest democracy, biggest

communist state, and a powerful Eurasian country, all have lined up with Myanmar turning a blind eye to the “text book case of ethnic cleansing” as aptly stated by Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Rex Tillerson, the US Secretary of State had opined that sanctions against Burma were “not advisable” at this time as “We want Myanmar to succeed; we want its democracy to succeed.” The Bosnian genocide in 1995 resulted in mass killing of more than 8,000 Bosnian Muslims in and around the town of Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the genocide in August 1995, the NATO forces attacked the Serbs from the air, which led to the Serbs’ surrender and the Dayton agreement was signed in Ohio which ended the Bosnian war as the US and Russia put pressure on Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia to attend the peace conference. Rohingyas are neither from Europe and are one of the poorest and persecuted minorities of the world.

So why would either the West or the East care enough to either punish the Myanmar or send the Rohingyas humanitarian assistance they need? After all, the poor deserve to be treated poorly and being a brown colored Muslim minority persecuted in a remote corner of the world is not a qualifier for either sympathy or support.

Except few Muslim-majority countries, response from the Islamic world has been equally pathetic. A recently opened pipeline running through Myanmar, also known as Burma, carries oil from Arab countries and the Caucuses to China's land-locked Yunnan Province. The pipeline starts at the Bay of Bengal in western Myanmar's Rakhine state, the location from where most of the Rohingya have been forced out. "One could argue that Saudi Arabia is less likely to be outspoken on this (Rohingya) issue because it actually relies on the Burmese government to protect the physical security of the pipeline," said Bo Kong, a senior associate at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies. Turkey however has helped the Rohingyas by building refugee camps for 1 lakh refugees. Turkish Prime Minister Yıldırım came to Bangladesh this December and helped aid efforts by international groups along with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), and Turkey’s Religious Affairs Directorate in the region.

The crisis could turn into a regional inferno, as the violence continues. Rather than seeking a peaceful solution, “Suu Kyi's office is not only doing nothing to stop it — in some ways they're throwing fuel on the fire,” said Matthew Smith, the founder of a human-rights group, Fortify Rights, working in Bangladesh, to CNN.

While some critics call for Suu Kyi's Nobel Prize to be withdrawn, an editorial in The Washington Post urged Suu Kyi to heed the words of her own 2012 Nobel acceptance speech: "Ultimately our aim should be to create a world free from the displaced, the homeless and the hopeless," Suu Kyi said, "a world of which each and every corner is a true sanctuary where the inhabitants will have the freedom and the capacity to live in peace." (Independent, 2018)

3.3 Future scenario and our concern

In future a lot of things can happen. Currently one minister arrived from Myanmar to Bangladesh and told they are willing to mitigate the Rohingya issue, take them back give them national facilities. Social Welfare Minister Win Myat Aye, who is leading rehabilitation efforts in Myanmar's western Rakhine state, met about 50 Rohingya gathered in a community center run by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in the Kutupalong refugee camp in southeast Bangladesh.

Acknowledging their mistrust and fear of Myanmar, Win Myat Aye told the Rohingya to set aside the past and prepare to "go back to your own residences", promising new villages would be built with hospitals and schools.

"The most important thing is to the start the repatriation process as soon as possible. We can overcome all of the difficulties," he said as he left the meeting.

A Bangladesh foreign ministry official said his country wanted to show the visiting minister the challenges it was facing in hosting the refugees. Win Myat Ayat is expected to meet Bangladesh's foreign minister in Dhaka on Thursday.

Bangladesh wants the refugees to go home as quickly as possible and officials said this week they hoped the minister's visit would speed up repatriation.

But some refugees have said they are worried about going back to Buddhist-majority Myanmar, fearing persecution.

When asked about whether Rohingya could be granted Myanmar citizenship, which they had been long denied, the minister replied: "We are trying to have that."

For now, Myanmar is offering Rohingya national verification cards (NVC), which some refugees regard as inadequate.

The meeting became heated only when Win Myat Aye tried to persuade the refugees to accept the NVC, telling them they would be given an opportunity to apply for nationality later.

“Before, applying for the citizenship card took very long and (you) don’t get it in the end. Now, it won’t take long, and you might get it. You might get it according to the law.”

Dozens crowded around the minister, showing him their parents' and grandparents' identity documents and raising their voices to be heard.

Some remained unconvinced by the minister's words and later voiced their doubts about the Myanmar government's sincerity.

“At first, I was glad to hear the minister was coming here but after hearing his speech I am very upset,” said Mohammed Showife, 29, from Buthidaung.

“The Myanmar government does not wish to solve the problem,” Showife told Reuters.

Myanmar has rejected accusations of ethnic cleansing in Rakhine, saying its security forces launched a legitimate counter-insurgency operation on Aug. 25 in response to Rohingya militant attacks.

According to UN officials, nearly 700,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh since then. Refugees have reported killings, burnings, looting and rape by members of the Myanmar security forces and Buddhist vigilantes.

Myanmar has dismissed most such accounts, but the army said on Tuesday seven soldiers had been jailed for 10 years with hard labor for participating in a massacre of 10 Rohingya Muslim men in a village in September.

The two countries reached a deal in November to begin repatriation within two months, but it has not begun, with the Rohingya, who face restrictions on their movements in Myanmar, still arriving in Bangladesh.

Huts of bamboo and plastic sheets will provide meagre shelter for refugees when the monsoon rains and storms hit Cox's Bazar, the low-lying coastal strip bordering Myanmar where the camps are located, in June.

The minister asked the refugees whether it was better for them to go to Myanmar or somewhere else. They responded in unison: “We want to go to Myanmar.” (Reuters, 2018)

Toll on the Economy:

The influx of Rohingya refugees has created a pressure for the economy and overall security of Bangladesh, said the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem) yesterday.

Bangladesh's future development hinges on some critical projects in Chittagong and the hill tracts areas, such as the Chittagong port, special economic zones and deep-sea ports, which are very close to Myanmar, said the private think-tank.

“A possible conflict with Myanmar can hamper Bangladesh's efforts for integration with Southeast Asian countries,” the Sanem said in its latest quarterly economic review.

There is also a risk of a rise in military expenditure in Bangladesh, which can have implications on the development activities.

Subsequently, it called for prudent diplomatic strategies and proper management of refugees, aid and security issues to deal with the Rohingya crisis. Selim Raihan, executive director of the Sanem, presented the review at a program held at The Westin Dhaka.

The review also touched upon the recent increase in rice price, jobless economic growth and the Sustainable Development Goals. There has been a 44 percent rise in the price of coarse rice in recent days from a year ago.

“In order to contain the soaring price of rice, there is a need to increase the supply of rice in the local market,” the Sanem said, adding that the attempts to import the staple from India, Cambodia and Myanmar should be intensified.

The Sanem said the price of rice should be set at Tk. 20 a kg at the open market sale.

“There should also be careful actions against hoarding so that such actions don't disrupt the supply chain.”

The organization said Bangladesh is at the risk of jobless growth phenomenon.

Between 2013 and 2016, the share of industry and manufacturing in employment declined for the first time in Bangladesh.

Job creation was negative in agriculture and very small in manufacturing, while there was a large employment generation in the service sector.

To counter this, there is a need for economic diversification and promotion of labor-intensive and highly productive sectors, the think-tank said.

The review also touched upon the SDGs.

A recent study by the Sanem for the Planning Commission shows that additional resources needed to implement the SDGs in Bangladesh will amount to 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product in 2017 and it can go up to 24 percent by 2030.

“Given the changing global scenario, Bangladesh will have to rely more on domestic sources to finance the SDGs, and this is, no doubt, a big challenge.”

It is also important to note that the mere generation of resources would not ensure the implementation of the SDGs if institutional and governance related aspects are not properly addressed.

“Efforts need to be something extraordinary and a strong political commitment is needed to implement the SDGs.”(Economist, 2017)

Probable Future Impacts:

Though Myanmar Government several times violates the air of Bangladesh space but still we didn't take any hard initiative to against this situation only for our soft corner about Rohingya. Always we Bangladeshi belong the “Refugee sympathy” from the beginning of 1971 war. We and Our Prime minister believe to handle such critical situation with peacefully. But In hard and crucial situation in the question of our sovereignty Bangladesh would not take more time to protest strongly, even it would be war. After all, “1971” is our signature of sovereignty protection. In any hard situation Bangladesh must follow the “Zero Tolerance” rules. Finally, we can conclude that we are still keep our patience about Rohingya issue only for our humanity not for our any potential weakness

We have lots of duties as human beings. Humans are for humans. Bangladeshi people have been very friendly and helpful to these Rohingyas trying their level best to provide food and shelter. Many aids are coming every day from every corner of the world to help these innocent people. Locals are giving their lands as shelter food etc. Govt trying their level best to feed millions and international help is also coming. Our concern should be Rohingyas are innocent and they are deprived from their rights we should fight for it at the same time help them every way possible to have a better life (Daily star, 2016)

Possible Future Scenarios:

Around 7, 00,000 Rohingya have entered in Bangladesh. The number is quite alarming. Bangladesh is a small country with a huge population. A large number of people in Bangladesh are poor. The government cannot fulfil their basic necessities let alone the Rohingyas. Though a huge amount of relief is coming from different countries but that's not enough for them. Bangladesh government has to provide those places to stay and other necessities of daily life. Bangladesh let the Rohingyas stay in Cox's Bazar which is near Myanmar. The place is small and a natural resource for us. To give the Rohingyas a place to stay, hectares of land are being used. Thousands of trees are being cut down which is affecting the animals and nature as well. If this continues, one day the natural beauty of that will be lost and the animals will also lose their place. In the Rohingya refugee camp, there is a lack of sanitation facilities. There is no proper way of sanitation which can cause them various contagious diseases. Again, they are living in a very congested place where diseases can easily spread among the Rohingyas. This will affect the residents as well.

In the Rohingya camp, most of the kids are not getting chance of education. If they don't get the chance of education, they will be involved in unethical activities. Involvement of Rohingyas in unethical activities will have a bad impact on Bangladesh.

The local people who live near the Rohingya refugee camp, complained about them. The Rohingyas steal their belongings some also complained that some Rohingyas beat them as well. If this doesn't stop, one day the locals will leave the place.

Many news published that various crime syndicates are involved with Rohingya. The alarming one is human trafficking. Many Rohingyas are being sent to many countries by those crime syndicates. Especially women and children are the main target. Women are sent too many countries for prostitution.

Many crime groups are giving Rohingyas fake identity for their own interest. They give them Bangladeshi fake identity and in return they make Rohingyas do something unethical. It will be difficult to find the Rohingya if he does any crime as they don't have a legal entity. This will increase the number of crimes in Bangladesh and if it continues one day it will be challenging to stop them from doing crimes.

Many countries are now sending relief for the Rohingyas. But this will not continue forever. One day the burden will under Bangladesh Government. Bangladesh cannot fulfil the necessities of the people of Bangladesh let alone Rohingyas. When Rohingyas won't get their food and daily necessities they will start doing wrong to get their things. They may even steal which will destroy the peace.

Government of Bangladesh regarding the Issues of Rohingya problem:

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited a struggling refugee camp that has absorbed some of the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya who fled recent violence in Myanmar — a crisis she said left her speechless. (Imangyas, Reuters)

Hasina demanded that Myanmar "take steps to take their nationals back," and assured temporary aid until that happened.

"We will not tolerate injustice," she said at a rally at the Kutupalong refugee camp, near the border town of Ukhiya in Cox's Bazar district



Figure-10: Prime minister Sheikh Hasina at the refugee camp when consoling a Rohingya woman

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, "We've given shelter to them (Myanmar refugees) on humanitarian ground, but we cannot keep them forever," Sheikh Hasina urged the international community to mount pressure on Myanmar to take its nationals back.

She spoke in parliament during a discussion on a motion to bolster diplomatic efforts to mount international pressure on Myanmar to take back Rohingya refugees and ensure their safety by giving them citizenship on Monday.

I am going to the UN General Assembly and I will surely raise the Myanmar issue in my speech,” she said.

“Myanmar has created the problem and it will have to resolve it,” she said and assured the neighbor of cooperation to resolve the issue through discussions.

Myanmar has drawn global criticism for the treatment of Rohingyas (Dhaka Tribune, 2017)

Chapter 4 Results and Discussion:

4.1: Environmental Impacts due to Rohingya Issues

A large number of Rohingya penetration into Bangladesh has been a priority concern in dealing with the country's several challenges. Alongside with many socioeconomic challenges of the refugee access in the country, the situation will have an adverse impact on our environmental management issues. The huge Rohingya slums were built violating the environmental rules and laws of Bangladesh last year. There were 32 thousand 527 Rohingya people and now this is about eight lakhs and expecting to ten lakhs by this year. Eleven environmental impacts were identified that have been exacerbated by the Rohingya influx. Six of these were physical environmental impacts on: ground water; surface water; acoustic levels; indoor air quality; solid waste management; and soils and terrain; and the remaining five were impacts on ecosystems: natural forests; protected areas and critical habitats; vegetation; wildlife; and marine and freshwater ecosystems.

Bangladesh Govt. let about 1 million of Rohingya refugee enter into Bangladesh and gave them shelter in Cox's Bazar. But they are causing our environment many problems which are quite alarming.

About 1 million people have fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar. They are staying in Ukhia, Cox's Bazar. Thousands of hectors of land are given to them for their camp. They are using fire woods from the forest which is destroying our forest around Cox's Bazar. Lands which can be used as cultivable land now are being used as a camp. The refugees are cutting down trees and taking away crops of the people who already living there. If they continue cutting tress for their firewood, it will effect proposed Inani National Park and Himchori National Park. They are destroying our nature which will be irreversible.

Because of the huge number of rohingya refugee in Cox's Bazar, the demand for water has increased. Thousands of shallow water pump have been installed in that area. The water pump are very near from each other to meet their huge demand. But the amount of ground water is decreasing as constantly people are using water. But the area doesn't have much surface water

excepting small streams. If they use the little amount of water too, people living there will face lack of water.

To give shelter to Rohingyas, the hills have been cut down indiscriminately. Due to this, the natural setting of the hills have been destroyed and the chances of landslides has increased. In the rainy season the risk will increase and life of the refugees will be at stake.

The wild life of Cox's Bazar is also in danger. Specially, the elephants are suffering the most. As they have lost their habitat. The elephants are not feeling safe. If this continues to happen, the elephants will be locally extinct from their place.

Rohingya people are destroying the natural beauty of Cox's Bazar as they don't have the proper sanitation system. They are throwing all the waste around the area which is polluting the area. Day by day the area will lose its natural beauty (Hamza,2015)

Environmental Impacts:

From the very long time, local residents have been cultivating crops with the leased land. But now the increasing trend of the present Rohingya situation has already been shrunk the production of local agricultural crops, which ultimately affect our livelihoods including many indigenous people.

Our country's most attractive tourist area is "Cox's Bazar" and it has fallen in an unbalanced natural beauty. There is a danger of local security and crimes at any time and a large number of natural and social disasters will lead to serious environmental disasters.

They are cutting down the hills, they're chopping all the trees, herbs, shrubs then erecting their shelters. As a result, the topography of that area has been greatly damaged.

Eight hundred tons of fuel wood are now needed daily, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization.

The Cox's Bazaar and Teknaf districts that run along Bangladesh's border with Myanmar have long had problems with water. Usable groundwater supplies in some parts are much deeper than usual, which makes getting to them hard and limits how much can be used in an area that already had around 300,000 Rohingya refugees living in it, mostly from influxes since 1991.

The IUCN also highlighted the region as one of 10 in Bangladesh that are severely vulnerable to saline water from the sea contaminating sweet-water sources locals may otherwise have been able to draw from.

Due to the indiscriminate hill cutting to provide shelters to the Rohingyas, the terrain of the hills has lost their natural setting while the vegetation cover has also gone, the UNDP report said. 50 percent of the hills have been completely denuded in the influx area. Erosion also hit many areas. The hills in some places have been so mercilessly cut that land slide may happen any time.

The Rohingya camps cause significant impact on the wildlife, especially on the elephants who suffer habitat loss and fragmentation. Some Rohingya camps were constructed in such a way that just on the corridors of elephants and hence an elephant-human conflict is obvious and for this it is expected that the elephants will be locally extinct from this area if this problem is not mitigated yet.

Many of the households like primarily bamboo, cane, medicinal plants, honey, sun grass, fruits, vegetables, fodder and various house building materials are collected by Rohingya. These NTFPs are decreasing at an alarming rate in the game reserve due to unsustainable collection rates and practices. It is found that, a few years ago, all kinds of NTFPs were available within a short distance from most households, but now people have to collect these products at a longer distance, inside the reserve.

Minor Forms of Forest Destruction is also occurred. The forest floor should be rich in humus and mineral nutrients when complete cycling of nutrients occurs. However, women and children from both local and refugee families collect litter from the forest floor. Removal of litter has no immediate effect upon site quality, but in the long run it lowers the quality of the site and ultimately leads to a decrease in soil nutrients and tree growth. Both local people and Rohingya refugees cultivate root crops such turmeric and ginger in the forest. They sometimes burn whole areas after collecting sun grass. These activities cause serious soil erosion during the rainy season.

Illegally established brickfields near the forest remain the main threat to the viability of forests and wildlife populations. Legal actions need to be taken against the owners to remove brickfields from the game reserve.

Environmental Impact of Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh: Bangladesh is an over populated country. The size of the country is very congested to accommodate this huge population. In this meantime, the billions of Rohingya entry is nothing but an explosion of population in the areas like Cox's Bazar. The aftermath of this population explosion is undoubtedly massive. Cox's Bazar, which is a place of natural beauty and Bangladesh's most common tourist area, has fallen in an immense danger and is facing a great natural imbalance due to the Rohingya crisis. The cutting of hill tracts and forest lands incites the degradation of land and water body in the refugee area make the environment vulnerable. The cutting of trees from the hills causes landslide which results the death of a huge number of population during the heavy rainfall in Monsoon. Indigenous and local people fear the severe environmental disaster in this area due to cutting of those trees and hills. They are concerned about the large scale of natural beauty and resource anytime. (Polin, 2017)

Food Availability: The rice prices have stabilized with the realization that there is plenty of food and stocking up at present high prices is foolish. Every year, Bangladesh imports rice to manage the whole country. However, in order to feed the billions of extra people, it must be a severe pressure on the food availability for the country. Because of this pressure, the Rohingya people are in great danger specially the pregnant women, growing up children and women nursing infants.

International Pressure on Myanmar: currently, Myanmar is in great international pressure. A General Committee has been formed by the 193 UN countries and this committee is concerned about human rights violation, arbitrary arrests, forced displacement, rape and other form of sexual violence, and other international humanitarian law. US also introduced the same resolution and said Myanmar to take back the people, give them full citizenship and stop Buddhist violence in them. There are some other ongoing protests around the different part of the world against the violence on the Rohingyas. (O'toole & Lwin, 2013)



Fig 11 Environmental Crisis



Fig 12 Rohingya's camp overflowing

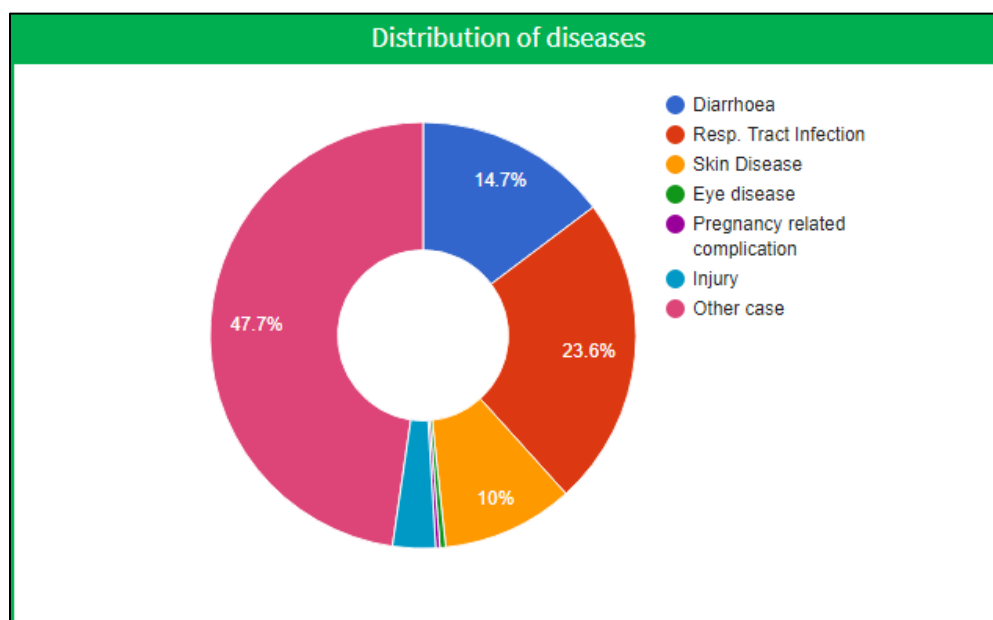


Fig 13 Rohingya diseases outbreak

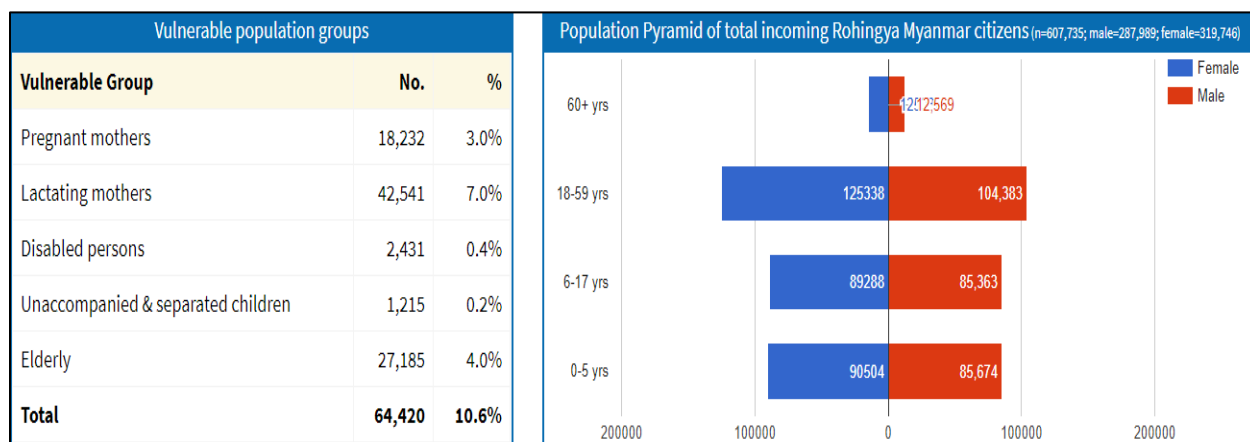
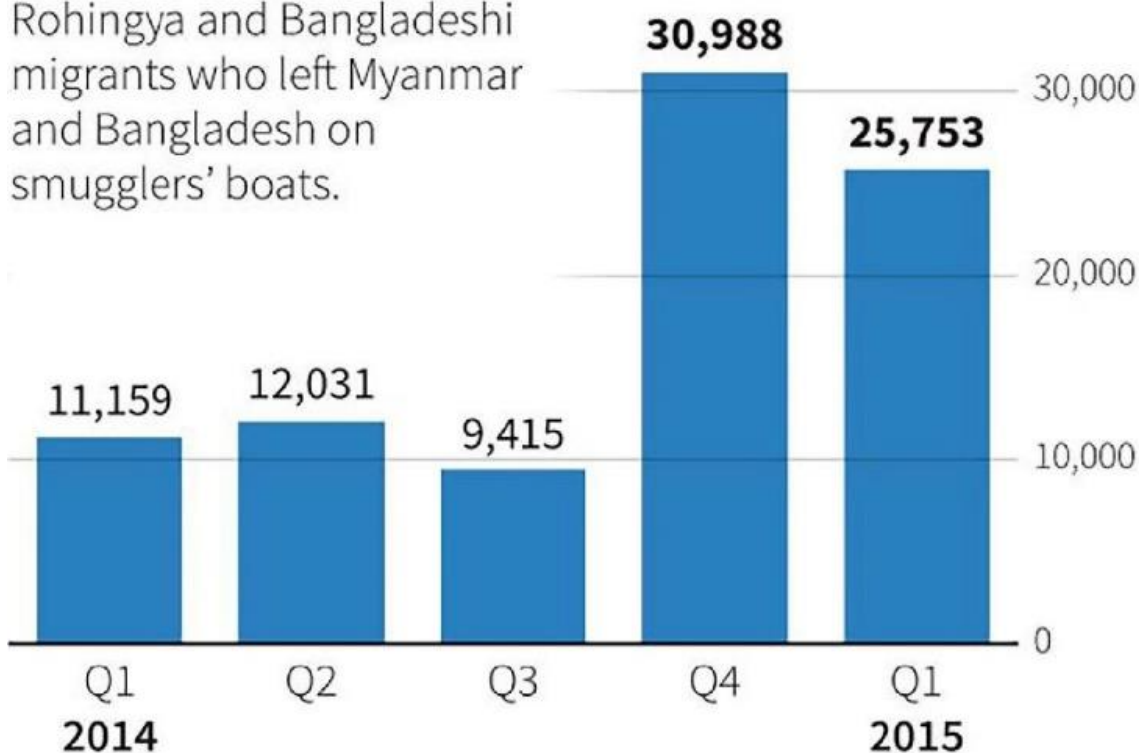


Fig 14 Rohingya statistics and population pyramid

Migrant movements

Estimated number of Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants who left Myanmar and Bangladesh on smugglers' boats.



Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

W. Foo, 18/05/2015

REUTERS

Fig 15 Rohingya movement over the years

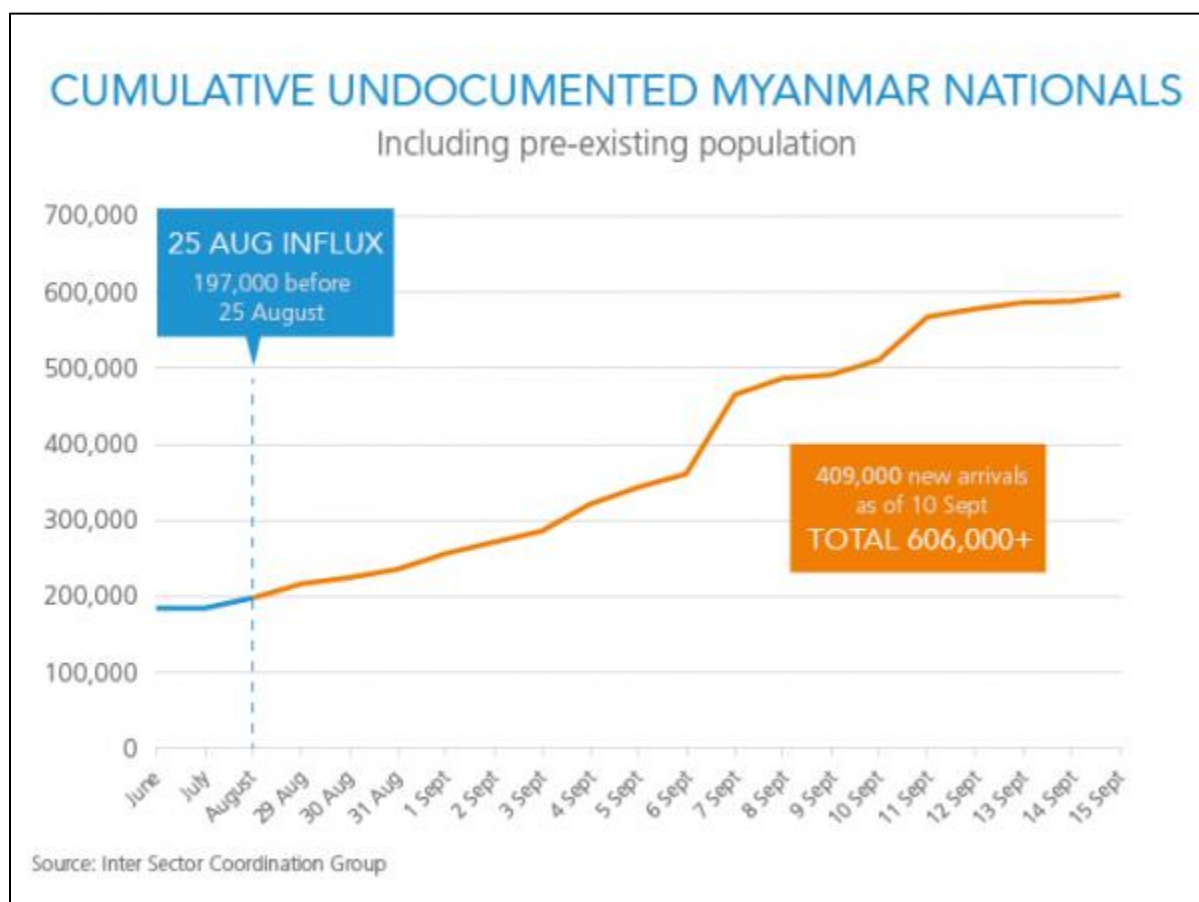


Fig 16 Rohingya incoming in 2016

4.2. Discussion:

Local Response

Violence in the Rakhine State, Myanmar, which began on 25th August 2017, has driven an estimated 537,000 Rohingya across the border into Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The speed and scale of the influx has resulted in a critical humanitarian emergency. The Disasters and Emergency Preparedness Programme (DEPP) has been actively involved in responding to the Rohingya crisis.

Shifting the Power (STP) partner, the Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) raised £16,000 to support 4000 families by providing health services. Additional funding is in the pipeline from partners internal funds along with funding from Christian Aid UK, CORD Aid and Save the Children for health and education support. DAM's response is being supported by Christian Aid, one of the Shifting the Power consortium members. This is the first time DAM and Christian Aid are collaborating in a response effort.

Sajida Foundation another partner of STP, who had previously little experience working in the humanitarian sector, has raised £7,407 from their internal sources and received funding from Broken Earth Canada to provide health and psycho-social support to 5000 families.

Three more STP partners, Caritas Bangladesh, CCDB, and DSK are also responding to the crisis. Around 85,680 displaced households are being supported with supplementary food, shelter, NFI & hygiene kits, safe water, healthcare and psycho-social care. Partners are mobilizing funds from multiple sources including their own contingency funds.

The Talent Development project also deployed some humanitarian graduates to help with the Rohingya response in Bangladesh. They shared how they have been able to support the Department for Disaster Management and what they have learnt (Amrina Rana, 2017)

Bearing the economic cost of the Rohingya crisis:

Bangladesh has been taking in Rohingya refugees from Myanmar since the 70s, right after independence, and the rate accelerated in the 1990s. Currently, we are sheltering, feeding, and providing various assistance to well over a million refugees and it is possible that the situation might get worse before it gets better.

The current crisis in South Asia is at par with the Middle Eastern refugee crisis that erupted in Europe in 2015. Who could have imagined that Bangladesh, which is trying to lift itself up by its bootstraps and does not have either the resources or the backing of rich neighbors that Greece, Italy and Turkey had, would so willingly take upon this Herculean responsibility?

However, we did, and while the cost to our not-so-rich country is mounting every day, we have put up a good fight to meet the demands of the situation as well as to raise the issue in international forums. It is also time to ask the international agencies and G20 nations to assume a fair share of the financial burden to resolve the humanitarian crisis.

The restraint exercised by the government of Bangladesh is laudable. As is known, international observers have backed us on many issues. The UN Human Rights Office said in a new report two weeks ago that the attacks by the Myanmar army against Rohingyas in northern Rakhine state were “well-organized, coordinated and systematic, with the intent of not only driving the population out

of Myanmar but preventing them from returning to their homes by instilling deep and widespread fear and physical, emotional, and psychological trauma among them.”

There are multidimensional aspects of the current crisis, and the magnitude of the challenges is huge. There are undoubtedly economic losses for residents of the densely populated areas along the Naf River in Cox's Bazar. Rohingyas settled in Teknaf and Ukhia upazilas, who now number over 600,000, are costing us more than USD 4 million daily to feed and shelter, not counting the other half a million who came earlier. We have come across reports that there has been a 70 percent drop in commerce between Bangladesh and Myanmar since the latest round of Myanmar's military operations. Communities in the Cox's Bazar region have witnessed visible signs of turmoil in their economic life, and any additional influx may even totally disrupt the daily activities of the residents. Harvesting, fishing activities, border trade, service, and daily commerce could come to a standstill. Prices of essential commodities are likely to go up considerably and that will bring hardship for the average family whose livelihood depends on a semblance of normalcy in the ecosystem.

The current situation has already cost us both directly and indirectly. Among the indirect or imputed costs, we should include the following: infrastructure, government services including security, natural resources, health and sanitation, and the labor market. According to some accounts, the tourism industry in Cox's Bazar has taken a hit.

It is to be noted, however, that there are some countervailing benefits resulting from the crisis. Some sectors of the economy, particularly the hospitality and airline industry, have witnessed a surge in demand from journalists, international observers, and human rights activists who are flocking to the Cox's Bazar region to report on the crisis, observe firsthand the condition of the refugees, and to offer assistance to the needy.

Last week, the UN pledging conference sought a total of USD 434 million response plan to help 1.2 million Rohingyas and the Bangladeshi host community. The UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, told delegates on that day that focus would be on mobilizing resources “to save lives and protect people”. Bangladesh can legitimately expect at least USD 1 billion per annum to provide services to these refugees, and this amount would still be negligible compared to USD 5 billion that the European countries promised Turkey in the wake of the Middle Eastern crisis.

All said and done, resumption of dialogue with Myanmar to facilitate the return of the Rohingyas to their homeland comes at a momentous time. The MoU signed by the two governments and the fact that the Myanmar authorities informed the Bangladesh home minister regarding the formation of a joint working group by November 30—a promise made by the Myanmar government on repatriation of the Rohingyas—are optimistic signs for Bangladesh, the Rohingya Diaspora, and the international community.

The Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handled the recent Rohingya issue in a very brilliant way. Her international stand has certainly raised after her humane, firm handling of this catastrophe. There will be plenty of difficulty in the next few months as the refugees struggle to get settled, find adequate shelter, as everyone works to establish medical facilities, to feed and care for the refugees and to control the movement and location of the Rohingya. (Cookson, 2017)

The international community will get excited about the disruption potential of the Rohingya influx. There are certain domestic groups that have views as to what should be done, but neither the military nor the Islamic groups, nor will the international NGOs have much impact on the direction of policy. (Cookson, 2017)

Human has 5 basic rights: food, clothing, abandonment, education and medication. Among them, Rohingyas are depriving of almost all these. They have less food than they need which contains less nutrition. They hardly have clothes. Their home is like tent and which get affected during the storms and other natural calamities in summer and monsoon.

If we look at the Rohingya camps in Teknaf and Cox's Bazar, we will see the drastic loss of moral values. Women are being abused sexually. Many people with bad intention go there and spread rumours and do create many problems.

Approximately 1 million stateless people resided in Rakhine State prior to 25th August, 2017, almost all of whom were Muslims who self-identified as Rohingya. They were born and raised in Myanmar multiple generations and know no other place to call home. It is said that, they are the largest stateless community in the world. The Rohingya are stateless due to the restrictive provisions and applications of the Myanmar citizenship law which primarily confers citizenship on the basis of race. ('UNHCR', 2017)

Sovereignty about Rohingya issue:

Sovereignty is sometimes an overused yet largely exploited concept in the world of international relations. In its truest sense, sovereignty is a fundamental term designating supreme authority over a certain polity. Sovereignty has been used by some as a tool to continue the activities of authoritarian regimes, whilst others have sought to celebrate it through the practice of democracy. Realizing the practical implications of misusing sovereignty as an international norm, the global powers initiated a 21st-century political commitment called the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). With the Rohingya crisis spiraling into a disaster of magnanimous proportions, this may be an appropriate time to invoke R2P against Myanmar.

In 2005, member-states of the United Nations endorsed R2P to prevent four types of humanitarian crisis: genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. The Rohingya crisis has been recognized by the Bangladesh government and many global institutions as being under the category of ethnic cleansing. So, what does R2P entail? As a norm, it demands that national governments essentially do not take sovereignty for granted. R2P is based on the principle that sovereignty requires a responsibility to protect all populations from mass atrocity crimes and human rights violations. Myanmar government's failure to protect a large proportion of the Rakhine-based Rohingyas makes a strong case for an intervention by the international community, either through taking measures stated in the R2P framework or by involving regional powers such as China or India to achieve a solution to an ever-growing problem.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already made it clear that her government has taken in Rohingya people purely on humanitarian grounds, nothing else. The Rohingya crisis ensued after the Myanmar government failed to exercise its responsibility to protect its own people from the horrors of ethnic cleansing. Considering that, many nations have initiated diplomatic efforts to pressure Aung San Suu Kyi into recognizing the severe failures of her government with regard to Rakhine and the outflow of migrants towards Bangladesh.

R2P also covers an interesting point that makes it even more applicable for the Rohingya crisis. Its coverage is extensive in the sense that R2P recognizes the fundamental rights of all people, whether one is a citizen or not—aliens or stateless. The fact that the Rohingyas are now stateless and being subjected to mass atrocity crimes means the R2P-bound international community has no option but to intervene to address Myanmar government's lack of accountability and action. It also means that the international community has a moral and legal obligation, as per international

law, to pressure Myanmar into taking action to prevent ethnic cleansing and simultaneously support Bangladesh in its effort to ensure the survival of the refugees (Eileen, 2015)

Violation of our Sovereignty and our Reaction:

In this agitated crisis of Rohingya, Myanmar helicopter violated the Bangladesh air space for several times within 3 days. That is totally against about our sovereignty.

The Bangladeshi Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that it had summoned the charge affaires of Myanmar's embassy in Dhaka to complain about a three-time encroachment on its airspace over the last week.

“Bangladesh strongly protested the instances of violation of her airspace by Myanmar military drones and helicopter on 10, 12 and 14 September 2017,” the ministry said in a statement.

“Bangladesh expressed deep concern at the repetition of such acts of provocation and demanded that Myanmar takes immediate measures to ensure that such violation of sovereignty does not occur again,” it added.

The ministry also warned that any more “provocative acts may lead to unwarranted consequences (Rachman, 2015)

4.3 RECOMMENDATION

Host refugees in our own homes or give free homes, this has been done in European countries. UN reported similar stories worldwide people donating their homes or letting people stay free of cost. Volunteering skills means rohingyas can have unique skills which might be in need for the country. Make them feel at home and integrate into the new culture and already they are Muslims it will be easy for them. Encourage educational institutions to offer free education to rohingya students.

Peaceful Proposal to solve this Critical issue:

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the United Nations and the international community to take immediate and effective measures for a permanent solution to the Rohingya crisis. She came up with the call while addressing the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly on September 22.

In her historic speech, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina put forward a five-point proposal to the global bodies for immediate and durable end of the protracted Rohingya crisis. “Myanmar must unconditionally stop the violence and the practice of ethnic cleansing in the Rakhine immediately and forever,” she said in the first proposal.

UN Secretary-General should immediately send a fact-finding mission to Myanmar, she said in her second proposal. “All civilians irrespective of religion and ethnicity must be protected in Myanmar. For that, ‘safe zones’ could be created inside Myanmar under UN supervision,” was her third proposal. Sheikh Hasina in her fourth proposal called for ensuring return of all the forcibly-displaced Rohingyas in Bangladesh to their homes in Myanmar. In her last proposal, she said the recommendations of the Kofi Annan Commission Report must be immediately implemented unconditionally and in its entirety.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, this was the 14th time she was addressing the UN General Assembly and this time she has come with a heavy heart. “I’ve come here just after seeing the hungry, distressed and hopeless Rohingyas from Myanmar who have taken shelter in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. This forcibly-displaced people of Myanmar are fleeing an ‘ethnic cleansing’ in their own country where they’ve been living for centuries,” she said. Bangladesh is currently sheltering over 800,000 Rohingyas,

ASEAN can play a leading role by formulating a mechanism to deal with the crisis by equitable distribution of the refugees among member nations, military escort of Rohingya boats, a timeline of the return of the refugees and pressure on Myanmar to resolve the conflict. The international community can also play a role by lending financial aid to the countries who will house the refugees. (Falak, 2015)

The Muslim nations can play a critical role here by offering aid and volunteers to look after the refugees. The OIC has a potential to be rejuvenated by the crisis as it can be utilized to launch a diplomatic campaign to highlight Rohingya oppression. (Falak, 2015)

The international community can make a forum in which presidents of the powerful countries can discuss with the president of Myanmar and try to convince them by telling the issues. If it doesn't work, then these countries should force Myanmar diplomatically are given pressure on them to resolve the problem as soon as possible (Falak,2015)

Chapter 5: Conclusion

The statelessness of the Rohingyas and the lack of empathy towards the plight of the Rohingyas have contributed to the adoption of extremist methods by them. If not addressed pragmatically, the Rohingya crisis will only cause more violence, leading to more refugees and chronic instability in the region. ASEAN, India and Bangladesh need to discuss the Rohingya crisis together to work for an optimum solution to the problem. The first step would be to convince the present government in Myanmar about the benefits of well-coordinated cooperation between ASEAN members, India and Bangladesh to tackle the issue.

The platforms of the regional and sub-regional institutions including ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) need to be more effectively used to convince the National League for Democracy (NLD) government in Myanmar to discuss the issue openly and take advantages of the experience of countries like India and Thailand who have long experience in dealing with insurgency and terrorism. Here, ASEAN needs to push aside the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of a member country as the Rohingya crisis is not a one-country problem.

Though the Rohingya refugees are involved in various destructive activities, they have no other clear options for income generating activities. Local people do not support the Rohingya, as they are perceived as an unwanted burden. Both local people and Rohingya refugees desperately need alternative income generating activities. Both groups want to collaborate with national and international organizations to resolve the refugee situation in a timely and congenial manner, and to repatriate Rohingya refugees to their country. By dividing the game reserve into various management units, local people can become involved in co-management systems. Local people who have been given an opportunity to be involved in participatory forest plantations have managed their plantation well and have produced rich and productive forest gardens (UNCHR,2016)

Implications for the Region:

Apart from impinging upon Myanmar's internal security, the Rohingya crisis is also posing a security challenge to the South and Southeast Asia. In November 2016, a person was arrested in Indonesia for planning an attack on the Myanmar embassy in Jakarta. He reportedly claimed affiliation with the IS. The IS, in some of its public messages has stated its concern over the repression of the minority Rohingyas by the majority Burman-led governments. Although ARSA has reportedly denied any connection with the IS, suspicions persist about linkages between the two groups. To clear the ambivalence regarding the connection between the ARSA and the IS, on August 26, in an interview with *Asia Times*, an ARSA leader mentioned that they are fighting to stop the state-led oppression against the Rohingyas in Myanmar and get citizenship rights to them.

The systematic deprivation and gross violations of basic human rights have forced Rohingyas to flee their native land and seek refuge in neighboring states including Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and India. They have been unable to rebuild their lives in most of these countries due to the lack of opportunities provided by the host nations to contribute to the economy of that country even through semi-skilled and unskilled labor work as well, due to the growing fear of their linkages with Islamic extremism.

The economic burden emanating from the huge refugee influx, the growing fear of linkages between the Rohingyas and the IS, coupled with the apathy of the countries of the region towards the problem, explains the stance of the ASEAN countries in advocating a domestic solution to the crisis. Thus, after meeting with the Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar Armed Forces, Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, in Northern Thailand on August 31, Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-Cha and Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan referred to the Rohingyas as 'Bengalis' (as desired by the Myanmar government who considers the Rohingyas as illegal Bengali immigrants from Bangladesh). General Prawit also urged the Thai media to use the term 'Bengali' instead of Rohingyas.

Bangladesh's Border Guards meanwhile are not permitting fleeing Rohingyas to enter the country, leaving hundreds of refugees stranded in the border areas. Bangladesh has received the most number of refugees in the recent crisis primarily for two reasons. First, geography makes it easier for Rohingyas to cross the border into Bangladesh. And second, Rohingya Muslims are culturally and ethnically closer to the people of Bangladesh, given that they are descendants of Bengali-

Muslims from the Chittagong area who had migrated to present-day Myanmar during the British Raj.

As far as India is concerned, a few days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first bilateral state visit to Myanmar on September 5-7, Kiren Rijiju, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, stated that India needs to deport those Rohingyas who are illegally staying in India. The Supreme Court of India, hearing a plea by two Rohingya refugees, has instructed the government to inform it about the detailed plans with regard to the deportation of Rohingya refugees. Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta is expected to present the government's stand on the subject to the Supreme Court on September

India's tough stand on deporting Rohingyas back to Rakhine State in the midst of the ongoing violence has evoked criticism from national and international human rights activists. The India-Myanmar Joint Statement, released when Prime Minister Modi visited Nay Pyi Taw, noted that the situation in Rakhine State has a 'developmental as well as a security dimension'. India will help Myanmar under the Rakhine State Development Programme and both sides are expected to finalize the implementation plan of this programme in the coming months. It will cover infrastructure development and socio-economic projects, especially in the areas of education, health, agriculture, agro-processing, community development, construction of roads and bridges, protection of environment and so on. The Joint Statement, however, has no specific mention about the recent clashes between the Rohingya Muslims and Rakhine Buddhists or exodus of the Rohingyas from Myanmar or India's plan about deportation of some 40,000 Rohingya refugees who are reportedly staying in India.

The countries of South and Southeast Asia need to ponder whether it is rational to push Rohingya refugees back to violence-torn Myanmar. Regional countries need to take into account the fact that the Rohingya crisis is not just Myanmar's internal problem; rather, its spillover effect into their own territories is already evident. The Rohingya crisis is a regional issue and it needs to be tackled at the regional level in a more comprehensive way (Economist,2017)

Response from Myanmar:

To address the Rohingya crisis, the Myanmar government and its de-facto leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, have taken a few steps. In September 2016, Suu Kyi appointed an advisory commission, comprised of six members from Myanmar and three international members, led by former Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, to investigate the situation in Rakhine State.

However, the commission was not mandated to investigate individual or specific cases of alleged human rights abuses. A few hours before the ARSA-led attack in Rakhine State on August 25, the commission released its final report recommending the government to ‘review’ the 1982 citizenship law, ensure ‘freedom of movement for all people in Rakhine State’, ensure access to education and health care services, adopt a ‘holistic anti-drug’ approach, ensure representation of the ‘underrepresented groups’, strengthen ‘inter-communal cohesion’, train the Myanmar military to deal with the humanitarian crisis and ‘monitor their performances’ in conflict areas, amongst other things.

However, it seems that Myanmar may take several more years to even begin to discuss the possibility of granting citizenship to the Rohingyas. In most speeches and documents delivered by government leaders and officials, the Rohingyas are referred to as Bengalis who have migrated from Bangladesh. Hence, one way of handling the situation might be considering aspects of citizenships to the Rohingyas who are living in Myanmar for centuries now (CBC news, 2015)

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