

## CCNF Statement on the Five Years of Rohingya Influx

# UN Must Succeed in Putting Pressure on Myanmar for the Rohingya Repatriation



More than 773000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh as a result of the Myanmar military's widespread executions and assaults against them in 2017. There were 936733 registered Rohingyas up until July 2022. The overall population of Rohingya in Bangladesh is now 1.2 million, according to the foreign ministry of Bangladesh. This number is attained with the birth of 30.000 new children each year. The Rohingya issue has now lasted five years as of today, August 25, 2022. Numerous local, national, and international organizations, including the UN, offer humanitarian assistance to this vast number of populations under the direction of the Bangladeshi government. Between these 5 years, a number of helpful changes occurred in management and humanitarian assistance. But still, there are many lacking in this humanitarian response. By fulfilling that lacking humanitarian response can be made more effective. And also, by recovering the loss of host community people, sustainable and durable repatriation can be possible immediately. This statement of CCNF is to draw the attention of national and international policymakers.

### **Repatriation is first priority: Must be a priority of United Nation and International Community. What is the strategy of Bangladesh Government?**

Recently, Bangladesh's foreign minister expressed the hope that repatriation may begin in December. The United Nations Human Rights Commission issued a resolution on July 7, 2022, calling for the Rohingya refugees in Myanmar to be repatriated in dignity. However, the UN and the international community appear to have failed to exert pressure on Myanmar, which is why the process of the Rohingya's repatriation is discouraging thus far. Prior to it, the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar took a joint initiative. These efforts were hampered by the COVID

19 crisis and the military coup in Myanmar. The two nations have begun speaking and consulting about the verification of Rohingya refugees.

Just to state the obvious, Myanmar is running very slowly when it comes to repatriation. The Myanmar government has confirmed the biometric data of 42000 of the 830000 Rohingyas that Bangladesh gave, according to a report released in 2022. The UN and the international community, in our opinion, have shockingly failed to exert pressure on Myanmar to accept the Rohingyas back, ensure their citizenship, and provide for their security. Because of its own structure and the weak role played by several powerful nations, the UN is unable to take any action against Myanmar. It is evident that certain major nations are blatantly assisting Myanmar.

Pressuring Myanmar to ensure the repatriation of the Rohingya should be the main focus of international organizations, the international communities, and the United Nations right now. Bangladesh is taking responsibility even though it is not to blame for the turmoil in Myanmar. Bangladesh must be set free from this crisis, and it is the responsibility of the world community.

### **Especially youth groups of the Rohingya community should be engaged in positive works with camps area:**

About 40 to 50 percent of the Rohingya population are children and teenagers. For them, learning about democracy and

human rights is crucial. If this can be accomplished, youth from the Rohingya community will develop their self-confidence. To achieve this, the Myanmar curriculum and technical education are both required. If Rohingya youngsters can receive technical education, they will be able to apply these talents even if they return to Myanmar. If we can give young people inside the camp work options, we can lessen our need on foreign aid.

### **Environment pool fund should be created to recover the environment:**

The environmental situation of Cox's Bazar is under pressure because of giving shelter to the Rohingyas. The entire refugee center is situated on hills and in forest areas. A loss of roughly Tk 200 crore has been incurred, and it is estimated that 6,000 acres of hills and 2000 acres of forest have been devastated. In these forested areas, the social forestry effort involved about a thousand and a half families. However, those social forestry programs suffer, and those families suffer as a result. For them, no suitable compensation has yet been guaranteed. For environmental recovery, specialized funding is critically required. This fund should be designated for vulnerable individuals and should be meant for urgent environmental recovery.

According to reports, groundwater is under significant strain to suit the demands of the roughly 1.2 million Rohingya population, and water levels are reportedly dropping dangerously in many places of Ukhiya and Teknaf. We have long urged people to look for alternative water sources. An excellent water alternative is to use surface water, particularly water that can be purified from the Naf River and water that can be stored from natural sources. The use of plastic is having yet another hazardous effect on the ecosystem. In the camps, plastic usage ought to be entirely prohibited.

### **Why the local government and civil society organizations are neglected in Rohingya response management?**

Local civil society has been calling for localization of aid since the beginning of the Rohingya crisis in order to improve the management of the humanitarian crisis. The UN-led Localization Task Force released a paper titled Localization Roadmap, which contains detailed proposals in this area from Grand Bargain Mission. No specific plan has been developed in relation to the localization

roadmap. The ISCG primarily coordinates the response to the Rohingya. There aren't many local leaders involved in the reaction and decision-making process. In the decision-making process for the Rohingya response, local groups, especially local government institutions, must be involved. Representatives of local governments have been grumbling about how programs and plans are made without their input. Head of Sub-office Group (HoSoG) is another significant platform for managing the Rohingya response, represented mainly by UN organizations. Recently, HoSoG carefully chooses two organizations that are also international organizations in the name of representation from local and national organizations. It must stop right away for local and national organizations to be ignored in the Rohingya response. Local and national leadership are capable of decision-making and responding to the Rohingya process.

### **No disregard for the host community here:**

Locals were the first to respond on August 25th, 2017, and they stood behind the Rohingya. The host community is meant to get 25% of all funds allocated for the Rohingya response. Programs implemented for locals are insufficient in comparison to those implemented for Rohingyas. Although there is a focus on Rohingya education, there is no initiative for the local populace. However, a lot of students are still employed in the camps in a variety of jobs, the number of girls dropping out of school has increased, and a lot of kids are no longer attending school because of the increasing traffic on the roads. Therefore, we think that the local communities in need should get 25% of the money raised to address the Rohingya situation. Although the Rohingya camps are in

Ukhiya and Teknaf, the situation is felt throughout Cox's Bazar. Therefore, the entire Cox's Bazar district's population should be taken into account as the affected local population, not simply Ukhia or Teknaf.

### **Local organizations should be in leading position in implementing field level programs:**

Local leadership at the local level is referred to as localization. However, the humanitarian response we are witnessing is the exact opposite of that scenario. International organizations' presence grew by 2367% following the Rohingya crisis in 2017. There were 967% more organizations from various regions of Bangladesh overall. Few local organizations participate in or are actively involved in implementing activities at the field level. A survey found that local groups are only involved in partnerships with the UN and INGOs in 8% of projects. We believe that if the local groups are in a leadership position, it is possible to give more humanitarian aid at a lower cost.

And there should be a specific policy of partnership selection. Partners should be selected in line with the policy and in a competitive way. But in many cases, it is seen that the partnership is being selected in an arbitrary way. No reasons are provided to organizations, against which applications are being rejected. This situation should be changed.

### **Financial aid is shrinking: Have to consider alternative**

The Rohingya crisis still needs more financial assistance than is currently available. In 2017, financial aid was higher than demand (114%). However, 82% of the overall demand was met by financial aid in 2018, 81% in 2021, and only 21% was met by the end of 2022. We must therefore consider ways to deliver more services for less money. The management

expenses of international and UN organizations account for a significant amount of this financial assistance. So, it is possible to reduce the operational costs if the activities of INGOs and UN organizations are reduced at the field level. Keeping the necessary expenses accurate, have to reduce the luxury expenses such as the use of more cars, luxury accommodation etc.

### **Operational costs of International and UN organizations are too high:**

Localization could be a best alternative; A recent study shows that in 2021 the total funds received for Rohingya response were 761.7 million dollars. According to calculations, every year each Rohingya family received 3949 US dollars. Only 42.4% of the total fund is being used for food, shelter, nutrition, water and sanitation sectors. That means, every year per Rohingya family received only 1676 USD. But 57.6% of the total fund is used for operational costs and other service-providing sectors. In addition, the operational costs of international and UN organizations are very high. In this regard, localization can be the best alternative solution. Implementation of the projects through the partnership of the local government, local NGOs and CSOs will remarkably reduce the operational costs. Through this much more welfare can be done for Rohingya and local people.



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