



## PRAY FOR ROHINGYA MYANMAR

### STATISTICS

There are an estimated 500,000 to 600,000 Rohingya still living in Myanmar. The majority live in apartheid conditions in Rakhine state, while thousands more live in major cities like Yangon and Mandalay. With limited access to education, healthcare, and employment, many Rohingya continue to risk perilous journeys to escape Rakhine state. Most living in Rakhine state are supported by family members abroad or Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

### HOW CAN WE PRAY?

- For restrictions to be lifted so that Rohingya might freely travel for work, schooling and to receive medical treatment.
- That local Myanmar believers would reach out to the Rohingya with the love of Christ.
- That the Myanmar Government would grant the Rohingya full citizenship and rights.
- For the Gospel to reach the rural Rohingya villages in Rakhine state.
- That Rohingya and Rakhine communities would be reconciled.
- Physical protection for the Rohingya during the Military and Arakan Army conflict.
- That Rohingya children would have access to education and even university.

## WHAT LIFE IS LIKE

Nur Amin is 18 years old. In 2012, his home was destroyed in communal violence. He now lives with his ailing mother and younger brother in a small ten foot by ten foot bamboo room in the internally displaced camp. His family has survived off rations and support from NGOs since 2012. Like most kids, Nur Amin lost a few years of education in the transition after the violence. He is now in the fifth grade and striving to graduate high school to make a better life for his family.

Outside of school there is not much for Nur Amin to do. He spends his time sitting in the tea shops or browsing the internet on his phone. It's often an escape for him to call his friends that live in other countries and to hear news of what life is like in other places. He dreams of going abroad and making a better life for himself, but the reality of that happening is very slim.

## CHALLENGES

### WHAT CHALLENGES DO THE ROHINGYA FACE IN MYANMAR?

01 FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

02 ADEQUATE HEALTHCARE

03 EDUCATION

04 FIGHTING



**01 FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT** is a major issue for Rohingya in Rakhine State. They must obtain local permissions to travel between villages and towns. Even with permission, it is common to have to pay bribes at checkpoints, or to face harassment or arbitrary arrest.

**02 ADEQUATE HEALTHCARE** is lacking in Rakhine state. Many Rohingya are hesitant to go to government hospitals for fear of how they will be treated. Many have died of treatable problems because of the restriction of movement and not being able to get to a hospital in time.

**03 EDUCATION** In Rakhine state, schools are staffed by teachers from other ethnic groups and they often will not show up; leaving the kids without an education. Elsewhere, community teachers are hired but can go months without pay because of corruption. Teachers supplement their income with after school "tuition" classes that students need to pay for. Families often cannot afford this, and children drop out.

**04 FIGHTING** between the Myanmar Military and the Arakan Army, a Rakhine ethnic military group, has escalated steadily over the past few years. Many Rohingya, including children, have died from air attacks and landmines. Fighting has further restricted travel and in many areas the government has shut down internet access. This leaves many Rohingya without access to news or means of communication with their families abroad.

## HOW IS THE LOCAL CHURCH RESPONDING?

Sadly, the response of the local Myanmar church to the Rohingya has been close to non-existent. Most Christians hold to the popular view that Rohingya are illegal and do not belong in Myanmar. Many feed off the fears and propaganda on social media and see Muslims as dangerous and a threat. Praise God, there are a few local pastors who have growing hearts for the Rohingya. They are doing what they can to educate other Christians, break down racial barriers and reach out to the Rohingya.

