



# PRAY FOR ROHINGYA BANGLADESH

## STATISTICS

Since August 2017, more than 700,000 Rohingya have fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh. In total, there are at least 1.2 million Rohingya confined to what is the largest, most densely populated refugee camp in the world. Over half of these are under 18 years old. There is currently no viable option for the Rohingya to return to Myanmar. In March 2019, Bangladesh announced it would no longer accept Rohingya fleeing Myanmar.

## HOW CAN WE PRAY?

- That one day soon, in the midst of the pain and suffering, the Rohingya will be “no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens among the holy ones in the household of God” (Eph 2:19).
- For wisdom and compassion for the Bangladesh government handling the Rohingya crisis. Pray that God will bless this country for giving them refuge.
- The authorities will allow education for children and youth, so they have hope and opportunities.
- That God softens the heart of the Myanmar government to give citizenship rights to the Rohingya.
- Against corruption, human trafficking, prostitution and those taking advantage of refugees.
- That God protects them from natural disasters and disease outbreaks.
- That the tension between the local community and the refugees will ease and the two communities build bridges for integration.

## WHAT LIFE IS LIKE

Minara was 15 when she left her parents in Myanmar and fled to Bangladesh with her brother and his family. For 15 days they walked through mountains, rivers, and forests with nothing but their clothes on the back. Now the six of them live in a small bamboo hut built by a humanitarian aid agency.

As an unmarried woman, Minara is not allowed to leave her hut. Her sister-in-law carries the heavy jugs of water from the public water pump to the hut every day. Regularly they get rice, lentils, and oil from aid organisations. Her brother has a job with a small aid organization and is able to buy vegetables, fruit, and sometimes meat with the money he earns. There is no school for her nephew- he goes to a Quranic school nearby where he gets a religious education. Minara's brother is looking for a husband for her. The sooner she marries the better because, for unmarried young girls, the camp is not a safe place

## CHALLENGES

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



**01 BASIC FOOD SUPPLIES** Many refugees brought little with them and are dependent on aid for shelter, basic food supplies, clothing, and healthcare.

**02 DISEASE OUTBREAK** Illnesses spread easily – conditions in the camps are woefully inadequate and unhealthy. Any disease outbreak has the potential to affect thousands.

**03 MONSOON RAINS** Each year the Rohingya battle to survive seasonal monsoon rains and the continuing threat of cyclones. They face flooding, landslides, and damage or collapse of their shelters

**04 NO FORMAL EDUCATION FACILITIES** There are no formal education facilities in the camps. Refugees can only access religious schools and basic learning centres.

**05 REPATRIATION** Most people desire to one day return to their homeland. They will not volunteer for repatriation unless they are offered citizenship and official recognition of their ethnicity

**06 TENSIONS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES** Local people are outnumbered by the refugees, leaving many feeling unsafe and fearful of the Rohingya. There is increased competition for the scarce resources in the region and tensions with the local community.

## HOW IS THE LOCAL CHURCH RESPONDING?

There are a few initiatives among local believers and organizations to reach out to the refugees with aid and the Good News. However, most of them are depending on foreign funding. Some local NGO employees are believers who witness in word and deed.



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