



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).

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.

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 and 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.





PRAY FOR ROHINGYA MALAYSIA

STATISTICS

There are an estimated 200,000 Rohingya refugees living in Malaysia. The majority are single men, working to support family members in Bangladesh/Myanmar. In the past couple of years, there has been an increase in the number of women being trafficked into Malaysia as brides; with marriages being arranged in the refugee camps of Bangladesh. People tend to cluster around big cities where work is available: Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Klang Valley, and Johor Bahru have the largest populations.

WHAT LIFE IS LIKE

Amira is 16 years old – she was trafficked to Malaysia to marry, and within a month of arriving she was married and pregnant. She spends her days alone, as her husband works long hours six days a week on a construction site.

About to start her own family, Amira deeply misses her mother. She has not accessed any pre-natal care because she doesn't have a UNHCR card and is scared of being arrested. Unable to speak the local language, she will soon deliver her baby at hospital with no understanding of what is happening.

CHALLENGES

WHAT CHALLENGES DO THE ROHINGYA FACE IN MALAYSIA?

01 TRAFFICKING ROUTES

02 NO PROTECTION OR WELFARE

03 ILLEGAL FOR REFUGEES TO WORK

04 ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

05 CHILDREN CAN'T GO TO WORK

06 ADEQUATE HEALTHCARE

01 TRAFFICKING ROUTES People arrive in Malaysia through trafficking routes. Most travel by boat; some come overland via Yangon and Thailand; a few come by air using fake passports.

02 NO PROTECTION OR WELFARE The state offers no protection or welfare for refugees in Malaysia. The UNHCR is present and works to protect the rights of refugees in Malaysia. Many Rohingya do not have a UNHCR card which puts them at risk of arrest and time in detention.

03 ILLEGAL FOR REFUGEES TO WORK It is technically illegal for refugees to work, leaving the Rohingya open to exploitation. Most men work long hours, earning up to US\$15 a day. Sadly, many bosses are unscrupulous, often paying less than promised or withholding salary. People send money to their families in Bangladesh/Myanmar, leaving very little for food and rent.

04 ISOLATION AND LONELINESS Rohingya women typically do not leave the home, so do not learn Bahasa Melayu or English. This can lead to isolation and loneliness. Sadly, domestic violence is prevalent within many homes.

05 CHILDREN CANNOT GO TO SCHOOL Rohingya children cannot go to local schools. There are some refugee schools, but they are not accessible to all. Currently very few children have access to education past elementary level.

06 HEALTHCARE Access to safe and affordable healthcare is a challenge for many refugees. Those without a UNHCR card fear arrest and high medical bills; with a UNHCR card people are entitled to a 50% discount at government hospitals and should not be arrested.

HOW IS THE LOCAL CHURCH RESPONDING?

There are a handful of local churches committed to serving and loving the Rohingya across Malaysia. Efforts include helping start and sustain refugee schools, medical outreach and teaching English. These churches are a beacon of light in an otherwise bleak situation. Many Christians are still fearful of reaching out to Muslims, or simply unaware of the needs that exist in their city.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

- That the Rohingya will have a thirst for truth and soft hearts to receive the Father's love.
- For peace and love to be present in Rohingya homes within Malaysia.
- For the women living in a country foreign to them, for them to be open to the love of Isa.
- That local believers and Malaysian churches will grow a heart for the Rohingya.
- That the Malaysian government will give the right to work and access education to refugees.
- For protection and safety for people making the journey to Malaysia who are currently in the hands of traffickers.





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.

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

02 DISEASE OUTBREAK

03 MONSOON RAINS

04 NO FORMAL EDUCATION FACILITIES

05 REPATRIATION

06 TENSIONS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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 centers.

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.

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.

WWW.PRAY4ROHINGYA.ORG



PRAY FOR ROHINGYA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STATISTICS

There are a minimum of 10,000 Rohingya refugees living in the United States. Although the exact numbers are difficult to calculate, large groups of Rohingya families are located in a few major cities. One of the largest groups can be found in Chicago, IL, where approximately 400 families reside near the Rohingya Cultural Centre that opened in 2016. Milwaukee, WI, is the home to a large community of Karen minority Rohingya. Over 300 families are reported to live in Atlanta, GA, and Dallas, TX. Other known locations of small Rohingya populations include Phoenix, AZ, and Seattle, WA.

WHAT LIFE IS LIKE

Heron is a middle school student who has lived in the United States with a foster family since 2017. He often thinks about his parents in Myanmar, who placed him on a boat to escape in hopes they would one day join him in the USA.

Heron often wishes he was older with the financial ability to ensure his family in Myanmar could afford shelter, food, and safety. Currently, he is working hard to learn English and make friends. Heron feels trapped and isolated, and his peers don't understand why his family is separated.

CHALLENGES

WHAT CHALLENGES DO THE ROHINGYA FACE IN U.S.A?

01 ENGLISH

02 HIGH COST OF LIVING

03 EMPLOYMENT

04 SUPPORT SERVICES

05 ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

01 ENGLISH Without the ability to speak English, important tasks such as enrolling their children in school can feel impossible. There are very few resources or organizations to aid in the integration of refugee families.

02 HIGH COST OF LIVING The high cost of living, including the need for housing and transportation is a challenge to many.

03 EMPLOYMENT Many Rohingya hold temporary or low skilled employment, leaving them and their families vulnerable in a changing economy.

04 SUPPORT SERVICES Many Rohingya do not access any support services. There is a lack of research, knowledge, and communication of the needs of the Rohingya populations with relief organizations and local churches.

05 ISOLATION AND LONELINESS There is isolation and loneliness that comes with living in a new country, without knowing the language. Typically, extended or immediate family members are unable to join their relatives in the USA.

HOW IS THE LOCAL CHURCH RESPONDING?

Many churches have partnered with overseas organizations to provide relief abroad. However, awareness of the Rohingya in the USA is lacking. In addition, there are communication challenges in reaching out to Rohingya people and helping them in a holistic way. The local church is still learning about the Rohingya in the USA and how to serve the.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

- Pray for awareness to be spread, that the church and believers in the United States would find ways to reach their local Rohingya populations with the gospel.
- Pray for the organizations laboring to reach the Rohingya populations to continue to have the resources and workers available to serve families.
- Pray for the education of Rohingya children to overcome obstacles and receive the assistance they need to become successful students.
- Pray for the Rohingya that are interested in having a relationship with Christ to overcome the fear and challenges of being distanced from their Muslim community.
- Pray that the Rohingya believers would be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to share with other family members and those in their communities.



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