

## **PRAY FOR ROHINGYA** MYANMAR

## There are an estimated 500,000 to

**STATISTICS** 

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.

WHAT CHALLENGES DO THE ROHINGYA FACE IN MYANMAR?

### **01 FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT**

**01 FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT** is a major issue for Rohingya in

**03 EDUCATION** 



**02 ADEQUATE HEALTHCARE** is lacking in Rakhine state. Many

Rakhine State. They must obtain local permissions to travel between

**02 ADEQUATE HEALTHCARE** 

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

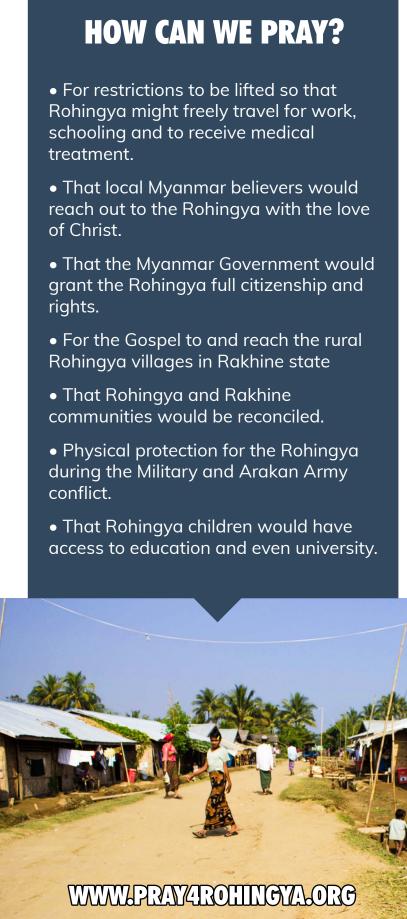
other ethnic groups and they often will not show up; leaving the kids without an education. Elsewhere, community teachers are hired but

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

many Rohingya without access to news or means of communication with their families abroad.

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.

and landmines. Fighting has further restricted travel and in many areas the government has shut down internet access. This leaves





# **PRAY FOR ROHINGYA** MALAYSIA

### There are an estimated 200,000

**STATISTICS** 

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.

### 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

WHAT LIFE IS LIK

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.

#### **01 TRAFFICKING ROUTES** 03 ILLEGAL FOR REFUGEES TO WORK

and Thailand; a few come by air using fake passports.

**CHALLENGES** 

05 CHILDREN CAN'T GO TO WORK **06 ADEQUATE HEALTHCARE** 

WHAT CHALLENGES DO THE ROHINGYA FACE IN MALAYSIA?

within many homes.

past elementary level.

that exist in their city.

Father's love.

the love of Isa.

**01 TRAFFICKING ROUTES** People arrive in Malaysia through trafficking routes. Most travel by boat; some come overland via Yangon

02 NO PROTECTION OR WELFARE

04 ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

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

**02 NO PROTECTION OR WELFARE** The state offers no protection or

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

**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

**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.

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

## **HOW CAN WE PRAY?**

 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

That the Rohingya will have a thirst for

truth and soft hearts to receive 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

• That local believers and Malaysian churches will grow a heart for the

currently in the hands of traffickers.



WWW.PRAY4ROHINGYA.ORG



# **PRAY FOR ROHINGYA** BANGLADESH

## Since August 2017, more than 700,000

Rohingya have fled from Myanmar to

**STATISTICS** 

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.

### 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

**WHAT LIFE IS LIKE** 

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** 

#### **01 BASIC FOOD SUPPLIES 03 MONSOON RAINS**

#### • 04 NO FORMAL EDUCATION FACILITIES **05 REPATRIATION 06 TENSIONS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

WHAT CHALLENGES DO THE ROHINGYA FACE IN BANGLADESH?

**01 BASIC FOOD SUPPLIES** Many refugees brought little with them

has the potential to affect thousands

schools and basic learning centers.

healthcare

and are dependent on aid for shelter, basic food supplies, clothing, and **02 DISEASE OUTBREAK** Illnesses spread easily – conditions in the

**02 DISEASE OUTBREAK** 

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

camps are woefully inadequate and unhealthy. Any disease outbreak

**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. THE LOCAL CHURCH

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

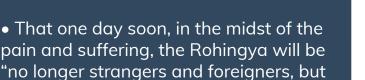
**HOW CAN WE PRAY?** 

fellow citizens among the holy ones in

 For wisdom and compassion for the Bangladesh government handling the

the household of God" (Eph 2:19).

are believers who witness in word and deed.



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

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.

Myanmar government to give citizenship

- That the tension between the local community and the refugees will ease and the two communities build bridges
- for integration.

VWW.PRAY4ROHINGYA.ORG



# **PRAY FOR ROHINGYA**

# UNITED STATES **OF AMERICA**

### There are a minimum of 10,000

Rohingya refugees living in the United

**STATISTICS** 

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.

#### 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

WHAT LIFE IS LIKE

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

families.

local churches.

**01 ENGLISH** Without the ability to speak English, important tasks such as enrolling their children in school can feel impossible. There are

**05 ISOLATION AND LONELINESS** 

for housing and transportation is a challenge to many.

very few resources or organizations to aid in the integration of refugee

**02 HIGH COST OF LIVING** 

**04 SUPPORT SERVICES** 

**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

**02 HIGH COST OF LIVING** The high cost of living, including the need

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.

**05 ISOLATION AND LONELINESS** There is isolation and loneliness

Many churches have partnered with overseas organizations to provide relief abroad. However, awareness of the Rohingya in the USA is lacking.

