

World Refugee Day 2023

Rohingya Communities & Humanitarian Face of Bangladesh





World Refugee day

What & Why

- World Refugee Day: An international day recognized by the United Nations since June 20, 2001.
- Annual Celebration: Marked on June 20 each year.
- Purpose: Raise awareness of refugee challenges and celebrate their contributions to society.
- Global Impact: Currently, 32.5 million refugees worldwide.

Rohingya crisis & **Concerns** of the Locals

- Rohingya Population: More than 1 million Rohingya in Ukhiya and Teknaf.
- Challenges: Abduction, drugs, terrorism.
- Local Job Dismissals: Locals are dismissed from NGO jobs frequently.
- Security Concerns
- Delayed repatriation causing frustration.



Abduction, Drug, and Terrorist Activities

- Abduction Issue: Abduction incidents are occurring by some Rohingyas and locals in Ukhiya and Teknaf, which was not prevalent before the arrival of the Rohingya.
- Drug Expansion: The drug trade has increased since the Rohingya influx, although it was already a concern in Cox's Bazar.
- Law and Order: Strict enforcement of law and order is crucial to address these issues effectively.
- No Sympathy: Neither NGOs nor UN agencies show sympathy towards the perpetrators, whether they are Rohingya or local individuals.

4 Rohingya youths abducted from Teknaf freed on ransom



Concern over security

- **Terrorism Concern:** Ongoing terrorist activities in the camp contribute to increased anxiety within the host and guest community.
- **Safety Concerns:** Local people and Rohingya community both have legitimate concerns about safety and security.
- **Tourism Sector:** Security is crucial for the tourism industry in Cox's Bazar.
- **NGO Worker Safety:** Ensuring the safety of NGO workers in the camps is of utmost importance.

Positive image is effective to utilise economic opportunities

- UN Peacekeeping: Approximately 7,000 Bangladeshis are engaged in the UN peacekeeping mission.
- EU Duty-Free Facility: Bangladesh enjoys duty-free export privileges for readymade garments in the European Union. It is the top garment exporter to the EU, constituting around 80% of its garment exports.
- US Garment Exports: Despite facing tariffs, Bangladesh ranks third in garment exports to the United States.
- Middle-Income Status: Although declared a middle-income country in 2026, Bangladesh aims to maintain its duty-free benefits, EU has already committed for GSP plus.
- Foreign Exchange Earnings: The garment sector contributes around 80% of Bangladesh's foreign exchange earnings.

What should we do

- International Attention: It is important to attract the attention of the international community and seek their support.
- Political and Commercial Diplomacy: Utilizing political and commercial diplomacy is necessary in this regard.
- Localization of Crisis Management: Emphasizing the localization of overall crisis management is crucial, e.g., Participation of local government leaders in formal Rohingya refugee response structure. Leadership of local NGO in field level while INGOs and UN role should be limited to in monitoring, technical assistance and fund raising.

What should we do

- Integrated NGO Programs: NGOs should initiate integrated programs in Cox's Bazar for the betterment of the region.
- Advocacy by Public Representatives: Public representatives need to be aware and vocal about ensuring the safety of Cox's Bazar.
- Resettlement of Army Camps: Consideration should be given to resettling army camps to address security concerns.
- Income Opportunities for Rohingyas: Creating income opportunities within the camps can discourage criminal activities.
- Local Preference in NGO Jobs: Giving priority to locals in NGO job opportunities can benefit the community. Government and UN agencies should be involved in this, especially to monitor appointment and termination of locals from the jobs.
- Insurance for NGO Workers: Provision of insurance coverage for NGO workers is important for their safety and well-being.
- Enhancing Law and Order: Efforts should be made to improve the law and order situation in the camps' area.

Repatriation is the Only Solution

- Repatriation as a Solution: Total repatriation serves as a permanent solution to this crisis.
- International Pressure: The international community, including the United Nations and developed countries to put pressure on Myanmar, rather than continuing arm business with Myanmar governments (e.g. country like India and China) should exert pressure on Myanmar to facilitate repatriation.
- Protecting Dignity and Rights: The dignity and rights of the Rohingya community must be safeguarded before any repatriation process.
- Social Harmony: Peaceful coexistence is crucial. Long-term investment in social cohesion should be enhanced.
- Pool Fund: Any pooled fund objectives should not only be limited to funding to LNGOs, it must be to promote local civil society, who are promoting human rights/refugee rights in Cox's Bazar.

Repatriation is the Only Solution

Ongoing Case at the International Court of Justice: The case regarding the Rohingya crisis is currently ongoing at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and in Argentina, although it may take a considerable amount of time to get a verdict.

Sanctions against Myanmar's Junta: Several sanctions have been imposed against Myanmar's junta government in response to their actions.

NUG's Promise of Repatriation: The National Unity Government (NUG) has pledged to repatriate the Rohingyas once they come into power with citizenship. As the battle with the junta government and People's Defence Force (PDF) continues, Junta is under pressure.

Strengthening Rohingya Future and Hope: Efforts should be continued to strengthen the hope of the Rohingyas to return to their homeland with dignity, better skill and better hope, as best gift from Bangladesh.

Initiatives of Bangladesh Government

Diplomatic Efforts for Repatriation: Intensive diplomatic efforts are underway to facilitate the repatriation process.

Round-the-Clock Operations: Multiple departments, including the RRRC, are deploying significant resources and working tirelessly.

Aid Allocation to Local Communities: The government is urging stakeholders, such as INGOs and the United Nations, to allocate a portion of the Rohingya financial aid to support local communities too.

Education Programs: The government has approved education programs based on the Myanmar curriculum to ensure a smooth repatriation process.

**Thank
you**

