

A Study on Possible Solutions to The Problems of Rohingyas in Bangladesh

GOSHA RAIZADA¹, DR. BASHIR AHMAD DAR²

¹ Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, LPU - Punjab

² Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, LPU Jullundur, (Punjab)

Abstract— The paper investigates conventional solutions to the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh. According to academics and practitioners, a context-specific solution for Rohingyas is recommended, combining national restoration of their civil and political rights in Myanmar, political and economic burden-sharing by prosperous countries, and capacity-building of refugees to influence their own futures (Rashid, 2019). This study is an exploratory survey that use qualitative research approaches. It investigates resettlement as a long-term solution option and offers a series of suggestions for assuring refugee protection and dignity. It contends that any solutions should be developed in conjunction with the refugee community. The findings of this study also demonstrate why, in the absence of a credible repatriation procedure, resettlement paths for vulnerable members of the refugee population should be available to guarantee safety and possibilities in a third nation (Mithun, 2023).

Index Terms- Rohingya, possible solutions, refugees, legal framework, Political support, Bangladesh & Myanmar.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Rohingya crisis refers to the plight of Rohingya refugees who fled violence in Myanmar and sought refuge in Bangladesh. The crisis began in August 2017 when hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees, including many children, crossed the border into Bangladesh to escape the unspeakable violence and brutality they faced (unicef, 2023). The refugees joined around 300,000 people who were already in Bangladesh from previous waves of displacement (unicef, 2023), effectively forming the world's largest refugee camp (unicef, 2023).

The Rohingyas rely entirely on humanitarian assistance for protection, food, water, shelter, and health. They are living in temporary shelters in highly congested camp settings (unicef, 2023). The crisis has had a significant impact on children, who face disease outbreaks, malnutrition, inadequate educational opportunities, and risks related to neglect,

exploitation, and violence (unicef, 2023). Annual cycles of heavy monsoon and cyclones pose substantial risks to both Rohingya refugees and host communities (unicef, 2023).

The Rohingya crisis has also had an impact on Bangladesh. The country is facing economic, social, environmental, and legal problems due to the massive influx of Rohingya refugees (Kudrat-E-Khuda, 2020). The crisis has strained resources and put pressure on infrastructure and services (Kudrat-E-Khuda, 2020). However, organizations like UNICEF have been working on the ground to provide clean water, healthcare, protection, nutritious food, and education to Rohingya children (unicef, 2023).

II. OBJECTIVES

- To know about the problems and challenges faced by Rohingyas in Bangladesh.
- To find possible solutions to the problems faced by the Rohingyas in Bangladesh.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study is an exploratory survey that use qualitative research approaches. It investigates resettlement as a long-term solution option and offers a series of suggestions for assuring refugee protection and dignity (Rashid, 2019).

The study is based on secondary data from sources such as academic papers, websites, books, government publications, and so on.

IV. HISTORY OF ROHINGYAS IN BANGLADESH

The Rohingya people have a long and complex history in Myanmar and Bangladesh. The Rohingyas are a Muslim minority group in Myanmar, but they are regarded by many Myanmar Buddhists as illegal migrants from Bangladesh (Wikipedia, 2023). The

Rohingyas have lived in Myanmar for generations, and the Bangladesh government has called on Myanmar to take them back (Wikipedia, 2023).

The Rohingya crisis began in August 2017 when hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees fled violence in Myanmar and sought refuge in Bangladesh (Dhaka Tribune, 2019). The crisis has its roots in the history of the Rohingya people, including their ordeals since 1784 (Dhaka Tribune, 2019). Here is a brief timeline of key events:

In 1784, King Bodawpaya invaded Arakan, a Rohingya polity. Britain invaded Myanmar multiple times, leading to three wars. Myanmar became a British colony in 1886-1942. During WWII, Rohingya Muslims fought alongside the British, while Rakhine Buddhists sided with Japan. In 1947, Myanmar secured independence and elected Rohingya as governing members. In 1948, the new parliament recognized all citizens as equal, and national identification began. From 1951 to 1960, several Rohingya leaders were elected. Military rule began in 1962, and in 1974, Rohingya national registration cards were confiscated. In 1978, Operation 'Dragon King' launched, leading to a 1982 citizenship law excluding Rohingya. In 1989, citizens were required to obtain new identification cards, leading to Operation 'Clean and Beautiful Nation' and the formation of NaSaKa. Rohingya refugees fled to Bangladesh, but returned to Myanmar in 1992. The Myanmar constitution was revised in 2008, and in 2012, a Buddhist nationalist movement, "The 969," emerged, causing thousands of Rohingya to flee Myanmar (Dhaka Tribune, 2021).

V. CURRENT SITUATION OF ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN BANGLADESH

The current situation of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh is complex and challenging. The Rohingya refugee crisis is a long-standing issue that requires comprehensive and sustainable solutions to address the needs of both the Rohingya refugees and the host communities (MENAFN, 2023).

While long-term solutions such as safe and voluntary return to their homeland, large-scale resettlement in third countries, or local integration in Bangladesh may remain elusive for the foreseeable future

(MENAFN, 2023), there are steps that can be taken to improve the lives of the displaced Rohingya and host communities in the short term.

One approach is to strengthen the resilience of displaced Rohingya and host communities through investments in education and livelihoods (MENAFN, 2023). This can help create opportunities for self-reliance and reduce dependency on humanitarian aid. Efforts should also be made to provide access to formal education, sustainable housing, healthcare facilities, protection, and security (MENAFN, 2023). Additionally, targeted development assistance can be provided to host communities to mitigate any adverse effects caused by the presence of a large refugee population (Dhaka Tribune, 2023).

Advocacy for local integration in Bangladesh, including a gradual end to encampment, can also be considered as part of a comprehensive solution (Dhaka Tribune, 2023). This approach would involve providing support to host communities through targeted development assistance while moving some Rohingya to neighboring Asian countries under a managed scheme (Dhaka Tribune, 2023).

It is important for national policymakers, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and donors to work together promptly and effectively to address the challenges faced by the Rohingya refugees and host communities. By investing in education, livelihoods, and infrastructure, we can lay the foundation for long-term solutions to displacement and improve the overall well-being of both the Rohingya refugees and host communities (Dhaka Tribune, 2023) (Dhaka Tribune, 2023).

VI. PROBLEMS OF ROHINGYAS IN BANGLADESH

The Rohingya crisis refers to the plight of Rohingya refugees who fled violence in Myanmar and sought refuge in Bangladesh. The crisis began in August 2017 when hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees, including many children, crossed the border into Bangladesh to escape the unspeakable violence and brutality they faced (unicef, 2023). The refugees joined around 300,000 people who were already in

Bangladesh from previous waves of displacement (unicef, 2023), effectively forming the world's largest refugee camp (unicef, 2023).

The Rohingya rely entirely on humanitarian assistance for protection, food, water, shelter, and health. They are living in temporary shelters in highly congested camp settings (unicef, 2023). The crisis has had a significant impact on children, who face disease outbreaks, malnutrition, inadequate educational opportunities (unicef, 2023), and risks related to neglect, exploitation, and violence (unicef, 2023). Annual cycles of heavy monsoon and cyclones pose substantial risks to both Rohingya refugees and host communities (unicef, 2023).

The Rohingya crisis has also had an impact on Bangladesh. The country is facing economic, social, environmental, and legal problems due to the massive influx of Rohingya refugees (BANERJEE, 2020). The crisis has strained resources and put pressure on infrastructure and services (BANERJEE, 2020). However, organizations like UNICEF have been working on the ground to provide clean water, healthcare, protection, nutritious food, and education to Rohingya children (unicef, 2023).

VII. CHALLENGES FACED BY ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN BANGLADESH

The Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh face several challenges, including overcrowding, inadequate shelter, limited sanitation facilities, scarce access to clean water, limited access to healthcare, and a lack of basic services (Wikipedia, 2023). These conditions exacerbate their vulnerability to health risks, exploitation, and protection concerns (Anjum, 2023). The recent population boom at the Rohingya refugee camps has placed a strain on the infrastructure, leading to overcrowding and a lack of access to services, education, food, clean water, and proper sanitation (Wikipedia, 2023). The refugees are also vulnerable to natural disasters and infectious disease transmission (Wikipedia, 2023).

The global pandemic has further compounded the challenges faced by the Rohingya refugees. COVID-19 restrictions have limited movements, closed learning centers, and reduced on-site assistance provided by aid organizations (UNHCR, 2021).

Flooding and fires have also posed significant hardships for the Rohingya refugees. Heavy monsoon rains triggered flooding and landslides at the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, forcing thousands of refugees to abandon their homes and belongings (UNHCR, 2021). A massive fire in March destroyed nearly 10,000 shelters and claimed the lives of 11 refugees (UNHCR, 2021).

Despite these challenges, Rohingya refugee volunteers, together with Bangladeshi workers from the surrounding communities in Cox's Bazar District, have played a crucial role in delivering humanitarian services in the camps. They have been trained to respond to emergencies such as fires and flooding and have worked tirelessly to help their communities during difficult times (UNHCR, 2021).

Efforts are being made by national policymakers, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and donors to address these challenges. However, sustainable solutions that ensure the well-being of both the Rohingya refugees and host communities require continuous collaboration and investment in education, livelihoods, infrastructure, protection, and security (UNHCR, 2021) (Anjum, 2023) (Hossain, 2023).

VIII. INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR ROHINGYAS IN BANGLADESH

The Rohingya crisis is a complex issue that requires international support and cooperation. The Rohingya refugees need protection of their rights now more than ever (AMNESTY). The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide at the International Court of Justice is currently examining the military's crimes against humanity (AMNESTY). The Refugee Convention (1951), a key legal document, defines a refugee as someone unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion (Banerjee, NLM, 2021) (Banerjee, 2021).

Amnesty International calls on the government of Bangladesh to ensure the participation of Rohingya refugees in the decisions that affect them (AMNESTY). Bangladesh has no legal obligations

towards the Rohingya refugees from the 1951 Refugee Status Convention, as the country is not a party to that Convention except for those provisions that are established as customary international law; for example Article 33 of the Convention (Arif, 2020).

IX. POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR ROHINGYAS IN BANGLADESH

The Rohingya crisis has had a significant impact on Bangladesh, both politically and socially. Public opinion in Bangladesh is broadly supportive of the government's decision to allow Rohingya refugees into the country (K4D, 2017). Massive demonstrations in support of the Rohingyas have been held in several cities in Bangladesh (K4D, 2017). The huge influx of Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh is seen as likely to strengthen the position of the Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Awami League party (K4D, 2017). However, there are concerns that it will lead to further authoritarianism in the country and fuel extremist sentiment (K4D, 2017).

The Rohingya crisis is a complex issue that requires international support and cooperation. The government of Bangladesh has been working with international organizations and humanitarian agencies to provide assistance to Rohingya refugees (Hatdash, 2021). However, there have been challenges in providing adequate support due to restrictions on movement, limited access to education and employment, and the securitization of the camps (Hatdash, 2021).

It is important to shift conversations from repatriation to support for refugees and their host communities (Yayboke, 2018). Efforts should focus on improving living conditions in the camps, providing education opportunities, fighting crime, and ensuring the well-being of both Rohingya refugees and host communities (CRISIS GROUP, 2019).

X. SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF ROHINGYAS IN BANGLADESH

The Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh is a complex issue that requires long-term solutions to address the challenges faced by both the Rohingya refugees and the host communities. While

sustainable solutions such as safe and voluntary return to their homeland, large-scale resettlement in third countries, or local integration in Bangladesh may remain elusive for the foreseeable future (Iffat, 2023), there are steps that can be taken to improve the lives of the displaced Rohingya and host communities in the short term.

One approach is to strengthen the resilience of displaced Rohingya and host communities through investments in education and livelihoods (Iffat, 2023). This can help create opportunities for self-reliance and reduce dependency on humanitarian aid. Efforts should also be made to provide access to formal education, sustainable housing, healthcare facilities, protection, and security (Iffat, 2023). Additionally, targeted development assistance can be provided to host communities to mitigate any adverse effects caused by the presence of a large refugee population (Georgetown, 2021).

Advocacy for local integration in Bangladesh, including a gradual end to encampment, can also be considered as part of a comprehensive solution (Georgetown, 2021). This approach would involve providing support to host communities through targeted development assistance while moving some Rohingya to neighboring Asian countries under a managed scheme (Georgetown, 2021).

It is important for national policymakers, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and donors to work together promptly and effectively to address the challenges faced by the Rohingya refugees and host communities. By investing in education, livelihoods, and infrastructure, we can lay the foundation for long-term solutions to displacement and improve the overall well-being of both the Rohingya refugees and host communities (Iffat, 2023) (Georgetown, 2021). Please note that this response is based on available information and ongoing discussions surrounding the Rohingya refugee crisis. The situation is complex and evolving, requiring continuous efforts from all stakeholders involved.

The Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh is a complex issue that requires long-term solutions to address the challenges faced by both the refugees and

the host communities. Here are some possible solutions:

- **Strengthening Resilience:** National policymakers, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and donors should invest in education and livelihoods to strengthen the resilience of displaced Rohingya and host communities. This can help create a foundation for long-term solutions to displacement.
- **Transitional Solutions:** Developing transitional solutions is crucial to improving the lives of Rohingya refugees in the short term. These solutions could include safe and voluntary return to their homeland, large-scale resettlement in third countries, or local integration in Bangladesh.
- **Local Integration:** Advocating for local integration in Bangladesh, including a gradual end to encampment, can help support host communities through targeted development assistance.
- **Regional Responsibility Sharing:** Regional responsibility sharing and solidarity can be achieved by moving some Rohingya to neighboring Asian countries under a managed scheme.
- **International Support:** Bangladesh needs more support from the international community to resolve the Rohingya crisis. This includes providing assistance for safe and dignified repatriation to Myanmar.

It's important to note that finding sustainable solutions to the Rohingya crisis is a complex task that requires collaboration and support from various stakeholders. The situation calls for a comprehensive approach that addresses the immediate needs of the refugees while working towards long-term solutions

XI. ORGANIZATIONS WORKING WITH ROHINGYA REFUGEES

There are several organizations working to support Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Here are some ways you can contribute to their efforts:

- **International Organization for Migration (IOM):** IOM provides comprehensive humanitarian support for lifesaving assistance based on community feedback. Their priorities include the dignity, safety, and protection of the Rohingya,

provision of quality services across various sectors, and support for vulnerable host community members (IOM, 2023).

- **GlobalGiving:** GlobalGiving has a list of vetted nonprofit partners working on Rohingya refugee relief efforts. Each project listed on their website supports organizations providing aid to Rohingya refugees (Global Giving).
- **UNICEF:** UNICEF has been on the ground in the refugee camps in Bangladesh since the beginning of the crisis, providing clean water, healthcare, protection, nutritious food, and education to Rohingya refugee children (unicef, 2023).
- **Helvetas:** Helvetas is one of the 61 national and international non-governmental organizations that have called for action to protect the rights and cater to the needs of the Rohingya refugees (Helvetas, 2019). They continue to support the refugees on the ground (Helvetas, 2019).

XII. KEY FINDINGS

The Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh is a complex issue requiring sustainable solutions. While long-term solutions like return to their homeland (Iffat, 2023), large-scale resettlement in third countries, or local integration may be elusive (Iffat, 2023), there are steps to improve the lives of displaced Rohingya and host communities. One approach is to strengthen their resilience through investments in education and livelihoods (Iffat, 2023). Access to education empowers refugees to build a better future, while investments in livelihoods create economic opportunities and reduce dependency on humanitarian aid (Iffat, 2023).

Advocate for local integration in Bangladesh, including a gradual end to encampment and targeted development assistance for host communities, to foster social cohesion and reduce tensions between Rohingya refugees and the local population (Georgetown, 2021). Another solution is regional responsibility sharing and solidarity, which could involve moving some Rohingya to neighboring Asian countries under a managed scheme, alleviating strain on Bangladesh and improving living conditions for the refugees (Georgetown, 2021).

International cooperation is crucial for a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis, including the safe

repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar, addressing root causes and ensuring their safety (Jamshed, 2021).

XIII. RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The selection procedure for resettlement should be fair and free of the influence of powerful parties. persons with disabilities, religious minorities, survivors of gender-based violence, LGBTQ persons, and victims of organised crime should be prioritised in the hiring process. The international community should step up and absorb more Bangladeshi refugees in order to relieve strain on the country. The Bangladeshi government should work with the international community to make the relocation option available to more refugees. UN agencies and other humanitarian organisations should expand their capacity so that more refugees can participate in the preselection interview process. After extensive consultations with the refugees, a decision on resettlement should be made. As an alternative relocation option, the international community could investigate labour mobility and educational paths (Mithun, 2023).

CONCLUSION

For every solution scenario, it is critical to reach a shared understanding of the solution, and refugees should be meaningfully consulted. There have been several debates in Bangladesh about various Rohingya refugee solutions, but mere conversation will not address the situation. Every stakeholder must work together to develop a long-term solution to this problem. World leaders must begin to view these refugees as individuals who have lost everything and are attempting to live a decent and humane life in peace in Bangladesh following their exodus from Myanmar. As a result, they should collaborate to increase the resettlement option for Rohingya refugees so that they can rebuild their lives (Mithun, 2023).

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