

Never Recovering Wound: Misery of Rohingya Women

Md. Imran Khan Reedoy^a, Shiblee Nomani^{b*}

^a*BSS (Hons) in International Relations and Master of International Relations, Department of International Relations, Faculty of Security and Strategic Studies (FSSS), Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP), Dhaka, Bangladesh*

^b*BSS (Hons) in International Relations, Department of International Relations, Faculty of Security and Strategic Studies (FSSS), and Master of Development Studies, Department of Development Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP), Dhaka, Bangladesh, Address: H#75/A North Manikdi, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka-1206, Bangladesh*

^a*Email: mdimran.reedoy59@gmail.com*

^b*Email: shiblee.official@gmail.com*

Abstract

Rohingya women are the victim of one of the world's most protracted ethnic cleansing. In any war, women and children are the most vulnerable ones. Rohingya people are seeking asylum for long three decades in their neighboring country Bangladesh. They faced a series of physical and psychological incubus in Myanmar; contrariwise, Bangladesh bears a hand to them and assisted them with all sorts of humanitarian treatment, shelter, food, medicine, and security. Assorted civil society organization working willfully to accommodate Rohingya women in camp life and engaging them in a leadership program for peacebuilding, disaster mitigation, and resilience. Apart from that, they have launched the MPWC program which is women intensive employment program; through this program, they can work for NGOs and earn money. UNHCR is arranging a safe place for Rohingya women which will be free from all kinds of gender-based violence against women. Considering the women's safety, the Bangladesh government adopted a women and children friendly repatriation program but the Myanmar government still not being able to create a repatriation safe atmosphere in the Rakhine state and compel them to accept indefinite national verification cards. To assist this paper, intersectionality and feminist theory have been materialized. Policy recommendation has been given for the betterment of Rohingya women and to prevent violence against women. In this paper, qualitative and analytical research methods have been applied both primarily and secondarily.

Keywords: Gender-Based Violence; Rohingya Women; NGOs; Humanitarian Crisis.

* Corresponding author.

1. Introduction

Women are an intrinsic part of society. Although exceptional changes have taken place across the world in recent years, the status and fate of women have not changed much.

Women are considered inferior to men from the very beginning till now. They are remaining in the most vulnerable condition in every aspect of their life and the refugee crisis is one of them. Since World War II, more people have been forced to flee their homes by conflict and crisis than at any time [1]. Global Trends Report found that 24 people around the world are forced to flee their homes every minute [2]. So, every day 34,000 people leave everything behind in the hope of finding safety and a better tomorrow [3].

68.5 million Refugees are now in the world and forced to flee their country because of persecution, war, or violence [4]. A refugee always has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group. Among the 68.5 million refugee's half of the total number of refugees are women or girls in the world [5]. Among the whole women's population in the world, refugee women are affected or facing violations more.

They are the most vulnerable victims of the refugee crisis [6]. Rohingya refugee crisis is the world's rapidly emerging humanitarian crisis. In this 21st century, one of the most inhumane exoduses is the 'Muslim Rohingya exodus from Myanmar and they're perceived as the most mistreated minority ethnic group.



Figure 1: "Burma Insurgency and the Politics of ethnicity", by Martin Smith.

135 official ethnic groups are there in Myanmar, but the Rohingya people are not considered citizens of that country [7]. The community faces several restrictions which affect basic rights and many aspects of their daily lives [8]. Women are the major victims of it and suffering from severe exploitation from the very beginning till

now. Even after arriving in Bangladesh for seeking shelter, they are facing various difficulties and being exploited by the male members and from the aid providers as well. Apart from that, they are facing a shortage of several essentials that are needed to live properly and also because of a huge number of people's arrival, various other problems are increasing as well, such as water-borne diseases, health issues, shortage of food, limited access of water, lack of clothes and so on. This vulnerable situation is increasing because the number of refugees is increasing to live in these camps and it is high time, to take proper initiatives to reduce this problem because they are traumatized by facing those hostilities from the very beginning and their psychological and mental health are not in a good condition.

2. Research Objectives

The core objective of this research is,

-To identify and conceptualize the forms of violence that Rohingya women face on both sides of the border and by measuring this intense animosity, what type of government's policies or recommendations have taken so far have to analyze.

By sticking on this main objective, another two issues have been analyzed by considered as indispensable, including-

-To conceptualize the role of international institutions, voluntary and humanitarian organizations, NGOs in facing the crisis, and the responsibilities, states actors should perform and must illustrate the impacts of those initiatives.

-To provide policy recommendations to readjust the scenario in favor of the Rohingya women.

3. Methodology

The writing "Never Recovering Wound: Misery of Rohingya Women" is based solely on qualitative analysis that involves a continual interplay between theory and analysis. A combination of explorative and descriptive research was undertaken where we had to entirely rely on qualitative data from both primary and secondary sources. Qualitative research requires complete, narrative data and a detailed explanation of what is observed. While researching by maintaining qualitative analysis, other aspects have given importance such as conceptualization, interpretation, and better understanding about the perspectives and emphasized description of variables. In this paper, the organization's responses have been considered descriptive and narrative. Also had to face several limitations while completing the research.

3.1. Literature Review

Rohingya Crisis in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh: Health Sector Bulletin: The report has been published to concern about the health issues of the Rohingya people especially women, who came into Bangladesh to live in the camps. There are some other concerning issues such as upcoming cyclone seasons, heavy rainfall, and floods

that make the areas completely uninhabitable to live, and also people may get infected with various water-borne diseases such as typhoid, cholera, diarrhea, malaria, dengue, chikungunya and so on. They are also suffering from malnutrition. In this report, some other issues have been considered as concerning issues such as women's reproductive health. Difficulties can be seen in avoiding infant mortality and transporting patients in the safety-based birth process. By concerning all these issues, in this article, several health services accesses have been given such as 107 national and international partners have responded in need of mobile healthcare facilities [9]. For better planning, WHO Directorate General Health Service Coordination Center are responded in emergency response. Several groups have been involved in current needs, some are including maternal treatment, mental health, and psychological support (MHPSS), community health, severe watery diseases, vector-borne diseases [9]. There are some other vaccine-preventable diseases. So, vaccination campaigns are implemented. Training is given to the vaccinators through health sector partner support. So, in this article, all the troubles regarding health issues that the Rohingya women are facing in the camps have been shown and preventive measures have been taken.

Bangladesh: Analysis of Gaps in the Protection of Rohingya - The key identified bodies of this report are administrative and legal framework, host communities and refugees, sexual and gender-based violence, security and the administration of justice, health care, durable solutions, major international and regional protection instruments, national legal and administrative protection framework, partnerships to strengthen protection capacity, migration policies and refugee protection principles, local protection receptivity towards those minorities, educational and vocational programs, ability to achieve self-reliance, information of right and responsibilities [10]. Since 2006, UNHCR follows the resettlement policy and successfully advocates skill training to improve women's quality of life. In need of money, self-reliance programs have taken. It is estimated that 40% of refugee households are being led by women, so they are highly dependent on humanitarian aids [10]. Also, it has been seen that the Rohingya marriage certificates are not issued. This is a major issue they are facing. Also, women do not get access to education from the Government. So, they seek help from other organizations. Several educational and vocational training has been given to them by UNHCR. Apart from all these, women need several other things, which are their basic needs. To maintain hygiene, they need a sanitary napkin to prevent several diseases. For the accommodation issue, they face several problems and for several natural disasters, they are suffering from several diseases as well. So, in this report, there has been given several initiatives to handle this issue.

'Gender-based violence in the Rohingya camps in Cox Bazar' - The main theme of his paper was to focus on gender-based violence from the Rakhine state to the camp in Bangladesh. Rohingya people are the ethnic minority people who traditionally live in the Rakhine state in Myanmar. But Rohingya community was systematically excluded from the citizenship act in 1982 [11]. And the act made the Rohingya people a stateless community. The author focuses on his article the gender-based violence in several ways. The author defines that gender-based violence or sexual violence, sexual exploitation forced prostitution are often used as gender-based violence. Gender-based violence can be physical, emotional, or psychological [11].

Here the author project the term intersectionality. The intersection of male dominance with race, ethnicity, age, caste, religion, culture, language, sexual orientation, migrant and refugee status, and disability is often termed

'intersectionality' which is active at many levels concerning violence against women. Intersectionality projects how power relations make the figure of social liabilities. It also shows how social imbalances may be present within a group of marginalized and vulnerable people. Here the writer connects intersectionality with the marginalized Rohingya people who are excluded from the decision-making process. According to a UN brief [12], a huge number of Rohingya women experienced unwanted pregnancies after being raped in Myanmar before they fled. And they project those women are engaged in survival sex, prostitution, become victims of trafficking and are revealed to domestic violence, rape, and sexual harassment, and they are discriminated against and disempowered because of their gender.

He said that members of humanitarian organizations have engaged in the sexual exploitation of vulnerable refugees. He also says that the aid providers won't breach it means a termination of the contract and with no possibility to work for the organization again. Many organizations have these policies already, but they should become universal. He said that there is no doubt that humanitarian organizations, the UN, NGOs, and other organizations work together and prevent gender-based violence [11]. To prevent deeply rooted gender-based norms it will take effort, time, and gender-based knowledge.

Dignity and the displaced Rohingya in Bangladesh 'Ijot is a huge thing in this world' by Kerrie Holloway and Lilianne Fan-throughout this paper author described Rohingya concept of dignity and tried to explore what does Rohingya people think about dignity, and do they believe that humanitarian response of Bangladesh is upholding their dignity or undermining it. According to an interviewee - 'Dignity is a very huge thing in this world [13]. If a person does not have dignity, he has no reason to live' [14]. In the chapter "Gender sensitivity and Dignity" it has been described that how most of the people urged for the separate distribution of aids and services for men and women. Several single women felt that they are not being able to maintain "purdah" as they are standing in the aid distribution line, and it made them less dignified. Many other women wished that if they would be able to receive their aid first, they could return home quickly and take care of their household activities and their children. In many humanitarians' policy guidelines, it was promoted that there would be separate distribution queues for men and women but in practice, it was always not possible [14]. There was a positive outcome where separate distribution queues took place, one woman felt that these agencies took into consideration the problem that women face in the distribution line, other women felt that her dignity was considered as there was a separate queue which was staffed by female volunteers. Likewise, other women felt that her dignity was assured as they distributed "womanly things" by female volunteers and staff. Rohingya women give importance to their purdah, and it creates problems to WASH Facilities. According to 30-year-old women, dignity is being able to have privacy and have access to a clean, safe, and private place to bathe. The latrine facility in the camp is so embarrassing nearly 40 to 50 families use one single bathroom. Both men and women must stand in a queue to go to the bathroom, which is very shameful to some [15].

'JRP for Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis' by Mia Seppo, Andrew Mbogori, Sarat Das- Joint Response Plan for Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis was led by the Inter-Sector Coordination Group in Cox's Bazar and the Strategic Executive Group in Dhaka. The vision of JRP was to address the immediate needs of the refugees and help affected host communities. According to the source, Bangladesh has hosted the Rohingya minority for three decades and there is a total of 918,936 Rohingya people in Cox's Bazar as of 21 June 2018. Among them 52%

are women and 16% are single mothers [16]. UNMPWC in Bhalukhali Camp has served 9,922 women and teenage girls and 946 children. UN Women worked in the field and addressed the needs of women and girl refugees who were arriving in Bangladesh. UN provided dignity kits, safe spaces, and skills training and promoted women's leadership in peacebuilding, disaster mitigation, and resilience. UN Women with the help of Action Aid and UN Women National Committee of Australia set up the first Multi-Purpose Women's Center in Balukhali another is under construction in Ukhiya [16]. These Centers are information hubs for women, and they participate in awareness sessions on health, nutrition, prevention of gender-based violence, and other issues that serve their interests.

They also offer referrals to the services, psycho-social support, and skill-based training and mentoring based on peer groups to the Rohingya women who have arrived in Bangladesh before the crisis of August 2017 [16].

3.2. Research Gap

Identifying a research gap is one of the important parts of any research project. Identifying the knowledge gap and setting out to address, it is generally what makes the research worthwhile. In this research projects several journal articles, reports are reviewed for a clear understanding of the conceptual knowledge. And some loopholes were identified which are relevant to the study.

There are several articles were talking about the gender gap in the refugee camp, where the author Nordby addresses the gender gap and power relation [11]. In his article, there have been seen many perpetrators who are involved in exploiting women. But there has not been found any issue about radical ideology. As Rohingya women are surviving in this vulnerable situation, there are huge possibilities to involve in terrorist activities for improving their financial condition.

This research paper addresses the issue and recommendations to the security agency to be aware of it. In other literature, there were projecting the maternal health issues [9]. But there was not an arena of human resources, physical infrastructure, equipment, laboratory, water and sanitation, healthcare waste management capacity, and infection prevention and control, but have been reflected in the paper.

The literature there has been shown different variables in the refugee camp but did not focus on environmental issues. Lastly, the existing literature shows the temporary solution for the crisis, but in the research paper, there has been shown different policies of state and non-state actors such as Bangladesh's policy, Myanmar's policy and UN's involvement regarding this issue have included and given a descriptive approach of the crisis.

3.3. Research Question

How gender-based violence made the Rohingya women the most vulnerable community?

3.4. Theoretical Framework

The lack of women's participation in international politics also has intensified the Rohingya crisis, which was a

long-time demand for feminist like Cynthia Enloe and others. As Mr. Hubin Amelia Chew has mentioned that the wars make different exploitive milieus for the women, the condition of the Rohingya women is also not an exception as their condition is near to unthinkable in both sides of their land and where they are sheltered. More gender respective international policy by the international authorities can resolve the issue of Rohingya women and their larger scale of victimization by the power-seeking state actors. As per the report of Annabelle Heugas [17], the exodus of Rohingya is also a subject to the construction or ideation of knowledge, as the Myanmar authority constructed these Rohingya people as an intruder to their state from the surrounding country, Bangladesh as there is a religious similarity. Even though the Rohingya community has the best credibility of being counted as Myanmar citizens, the Myanmar authority has excluded them from the Myanmar citizen list in the 1982 Citizenship Law, replacing the 1948 Union Citizenship Act. And the Myanmar authority depicts the exodus of Rohingya communities as the repatriation under the UNHCR program when many Rohingya have fled to neighboring after an operation was initiated by the Myanmar government as a part to stop the entry of illegal Rohingya which is also part of knowledge construction. This idea of knowledge construction has relevance with the intertwined identities of Women, has paved a way for the exploitation of women. For example, their identity of Gender, Rohingya as a race, educational backwardness as the status, Islam believers as religion etcetera have very much influence on the Rohingya women nightmare experience in the interim time. Many believe, including the academicians that the Rohingya exodus from the Arakan to Bangladesh has just pushed them from one form of violence experience to another form of violence. Because the Rohingya women are not safe in Rohingya camps as well, they live as extremely disadvantaged groups in the camps and are always at the risk of sexual violence, deportation, and forced labor. In addition, they do lack medical care in both pregnancy and normal time, in obtaining an education. It can be concluded by claiming that the scenario for women on both sides is disadvantageous but in a different context.

4. Status of rohingya women in myanmar and bangladesh

4.1. Isolated From Family

Rohingya women fled from Myanmar to escape the brutality of the Myanmar army in Rakhine State. There are so many examples where only women were able to flee from Myanmar, as their husbands were either killed or abducted. Women are vulnerable than men because of their gender. When women tried to escape from Myanmar with their children, on the way they lost their children or many of them died themselves. One respondent named Amina Khatun, a 40-year Rohingya woman; now she is in a Rohingya camp, but she fled from Myanmar with her son, but her husband was killed by the Myanmar army [18]. Like her many Rohingya women saw their husband, son killed in front of their eyes. They had no last resort to lean on in Myanmar. The execution mainly started in 2012 since then millions of women were fleeing from Myanmar with or without their husbands.

They live isolated even in Bangladesh. In the meantime, of crossing the border, after being scared of losing life, many young boys and girls lost connections with their family members. They start living all along inside the camp, sometimes they live with the families they used to know in Rakhine. Proper identification and monitoring process are very much needed to reunite the lost family members to their families. Because this causes very much psychological trauma for a mother when she loses her child or her husband [19].

4.2. Sexual Abuse

When the internal conflict arose between the Myanmar army and ethnic armed groups, men were killed, and women were raped or sexually assaulted in front of their families. Many women committed suicide as they were only left alone from the murder. In the UN report, it has come out that the Myanmar army should charge for rape, genocide, molestation, and brutality. Among 800 testimonies, one example is enough to hold up the scenario; the victim said she was lucky enough to be raped by only 3 men [20]. By the statement of such brutality, Ms. Coomaraswamy – a former UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict was shocked by the extent of horrific violations. She also added that all this brutality, violence, rape is the deliberate strategy to terrorize the civilian people and compel them to leave the country. These are tactics of war where rape, gang rape, sexual slavery, forced nudity, and mutilations were used [20].

After 9 months of Myanmar army brutal rape, there has been an abundant number of childbirths. United Nations committee requested information on the military's responsibility for the rape of Rohingya women and girls in northern Rakhine State. So, Human Rights Watch and Fortify Rights these two groups presented an 11-page joint report on sexual violence which was committed by Myanmar's security forces against Rohingya people in the meantime of 2016 and 2017 [21]. Also in November 2017 CEDAW, requested the Myanmar government to submit a report about the circumstances of women and girls who were living in northern Rakhine State by May 28, 2018. But this request was not for the first time, they requested it 3 times before and every time they denied such involvement [22]. 21 Rohingya women shared their experience of rape in Myanmar. Most of them were raped more than twice, some of their husband blamed them for being raped, gave birth to the child of the rapist. Some women bled for days after their rape but whom to ask for justice. They are still bearing the trauma from their abuse [23].

The sexual abuse of the Rohingya women continues in camps as well. In Myanmar, there was only Myanmar army of law enforcement forces to be blamed for the sexual abuse. But, in Bangladesh, many groups are involved. The camp authorities, workers of various security forces, host communities, police, aid workers, relief distributors, etc. A study has been published in the Indian Journal of Gender Studies of 2014, on the Rohingya women's experience of sexual violence or other forms of violence. That research used a particular set of questionnaires to collect the information from the responders [24].

Women are the most victims of this sexual abuse most of the time, in comparison with the male in the Rohingya camps. To some extent, the people involved get punishment, but most of the time they are not apprehended, let alone the punishment. But many concerned NGOs and international organizations took the policy to resolve the issue, especially to stop these incidents for their workers.

For example, many NGOs have initiated a principle for their workers that if the NGO finds the involvement of any of its members in the sexual abuse or verbal abuse, he or she might be fired and also might give punishment.

4.3. Restriction on Humanitarian Access

Rohingya women were reportedly ill-treated by the Rohingya Salvation Army and by the natives too. Their

torture included physical assault by bamboo sticks, gun butts, metal rods, and body parts. Other than these they also stressed people for periods ranging from one hour to three days and psychological torture was the norm, including forcing victims to watch family members be abused.

The OHCHR interviewed individuals who were reported for lack of access to medical care, beatings, stabbings, and shootings; discriminated based on ethnicity and religion and they had restrictions on freedom of their movement. Their ability to work was ceased. A respondent named Joynab from our field research said that one of his sons was shot in the leg when they were fleeing from Myanmar and one of her cousins was shot to death. Now they are even scared to go back to their homeland [3].

The respondent said that the civilian government and the military continued to torture them severely and arbitrarily restrict humanitarian access and placed thousands of people at risk in Rakhine State. They restricted aid access in Rakhine State in the wake of the August ARSA attacks and suspended it entirely in the north of the state. But later on, authorities allowed the Red Cross Movement and the World Food Program to operate in that area. Notwithstanding, their access was restricted and inadequate to meet the needs of the assaulted people. Other parts of Rakhine State couldn't be saved for access to humanitarian help. As local tensions were arising, and they showed hostility towards international aid groups. Burmese people were repeatedly showing anger to the Rohingya minorities. The authorities also restricted the displaced population from entering Northern Myanmar. Besides Myanmar Army stopped the delivery of 200 UN-stamped "dignity kits" that included the basic sanitary supplies for women and girls who were displaced in that area and controlled by the Kachin Independence Organization. This report was compiled after interviews with more than 200 Rohingya refugees who fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh.

One mother described how her five-year-old daughter was murdered while trying to protect her from rape. She said a man "took out a long knife and killed her by slitting her throat" [4]. One can imagine the pain of the mother, who saw her daughter die while saving her. Also, an eight-month-old baby was reportedly killed while five security officers gang-raped his mother. These unspeakable sorrows were continuously committed by the Myanmar Army.

4.4. Trafficking

The violence against the Rohingya minority was at its peak of a moment in 2012, men were searching for a new home where they can settle with their family whom they left behind in Myanmar. Most of them were stranded at the sea or in jungle camps and caught into the hands of smugglers in Thailand or the Malaysian border. Smugglers demanded 1200\$ - 2000\$ to let them continue to their destination but most of them failed [25]. In May 2015, both the government of Thailand and Malaysia found 180 graves, according to the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand all these graves were composed of male body but where did the women go? In 2012, when there was an increased risk of sexual violence of women in Rakhine state, they were forced to join the boat journey to Thailand or Malaysia. In this journey Human rights advocates who were lending support for Rohingya refugees and migrants have noticed a new trend – girls as young as 13 were traveling alone on the boats in the hope of being reunited with their unseen husbands in Malaysia [26]. In a study of UNHCR

conducted by K. Haldorsen, 'Child Marriage among Rohingya Refugees in Malaysia' it was found that girls under 18 marry an older man, who was living in Malaysia. Most of this marriage was welcomed by the girl's family as it was the only way to save their girl from instability in their homeland. Relatives and male family member settled outside of Myanmar was an intermediate for these marriage proposals. Media also reported that girls were being trafficked for forced marriage and it was becoming a business for the traffickers in Thailand and Malaysia mostly. They were said that life will be better in Malaysia or Indonesia as they are also Muslim majority countries and end up being held in captivity if not, they pay the ransom. The amount was so high that the family couldn't afford the money. So, they were left with no choice but to accept the marriage with a stranger; otherwise, they will be sold into prostitution in Thailand [27].

In Bangladesh, many humanitarian organizations are working to ensure humanitarian access to Rohingya people. But they are sufficiently affluent with the supply. For example, the food and nutrition condition of the Rohingya women is not satisfying due to corruption in the aid distribution and aid distribution process also the corrupted distributors. In January 2002, WFP launched a US\$2.1 million appeal for the means to end malnutrition among the Rohingya people. Water supply, Health issues are also important aspects. Shortage in water supply has a relation with intensifying spreading of various types of diseases. Even though UNHCR planned to provide 25 liters of water per person, per day, as the emergency standard; the refugee families of the camps never attained the allocated amount [28]. Since there are restrictions over building any semi-permanent structure inside the camp, so the shortage of latrine is causing health concerns for the Rohingya women especially. Maternal issues are also related to health issues, especially for women. 'Human Rights Watch' report found that widespread threat and use of sexual violence was integral to their strategy, humiliating, terrorizing, and collectively punishing the Rohingya community [22]. Many Rohingya women conceived because of uncontrolled use of sexual violence and their maternal security has become a major concern for the Camps administration since most of the women don't want to disclose actual information to avoid the social stigma. Bangladesh has a history of confining Rohingya inside the camps. They are also suggested not to take shelter to take rents from the host community, outside of their designated areas. The police have issued the order to prevent the Rohingya movement [8]. Lastly, along with these, the Bangladesh government has assured some rights to the Rohingya people even though they are not been refugees till now.

Bangladesh government is trying its best to ensure a better life for Rohingya people, but for that Bangladesh must have an adequate supply. The donor countries must untie their promised money to solve the humanitarian crisis. They must provide other technological and logistical supplies to the Bangladesh government to make Bangladesh more capable of becoming more effective while dealing with this Rohingya crisis.

4.5. Forced Displacement

According to Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, the total number of IDPs because of conflict and violence till December 2017 was 635,000 among these new displacements from January to December was 57,000. This displacement situation can be described as a protracted procedure. Even after the ceasefire agreement of 2015, the democratically elected government failed to halt the decade-long civil war, nearly 100,000 people remained displaced till now. The ethno-religious conflict led to the cross-border displacement of

655,000 people [29]. As there is a very restricted rule for the entry of humanitarian organizations in the camps of Myanmar, they don't even know how many people are trapped inside the camp of Myanmar; so, it's very tough to take any effective response according to their need. The Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, Jan Egeland has described Rakhine state as a "full-blown humanitarian crisis that warrants a large-scale response." So, without access to the affected communities, we cannot ensure the safety of the people [29]. But the Rohingya women did not experience any sort of forced displacement in Bangladesh. Even as a part of the repatriation process, their choice has been given priority of going back to Rakhine or staying in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is trying to ensure a better humanitarian milieu for Rohingya in the Rakhine state by using international pressure on the Myanmar authority. Then the Rohingya people would like to go back to Rakhine state through a repatriation process.

5. Role of civil society

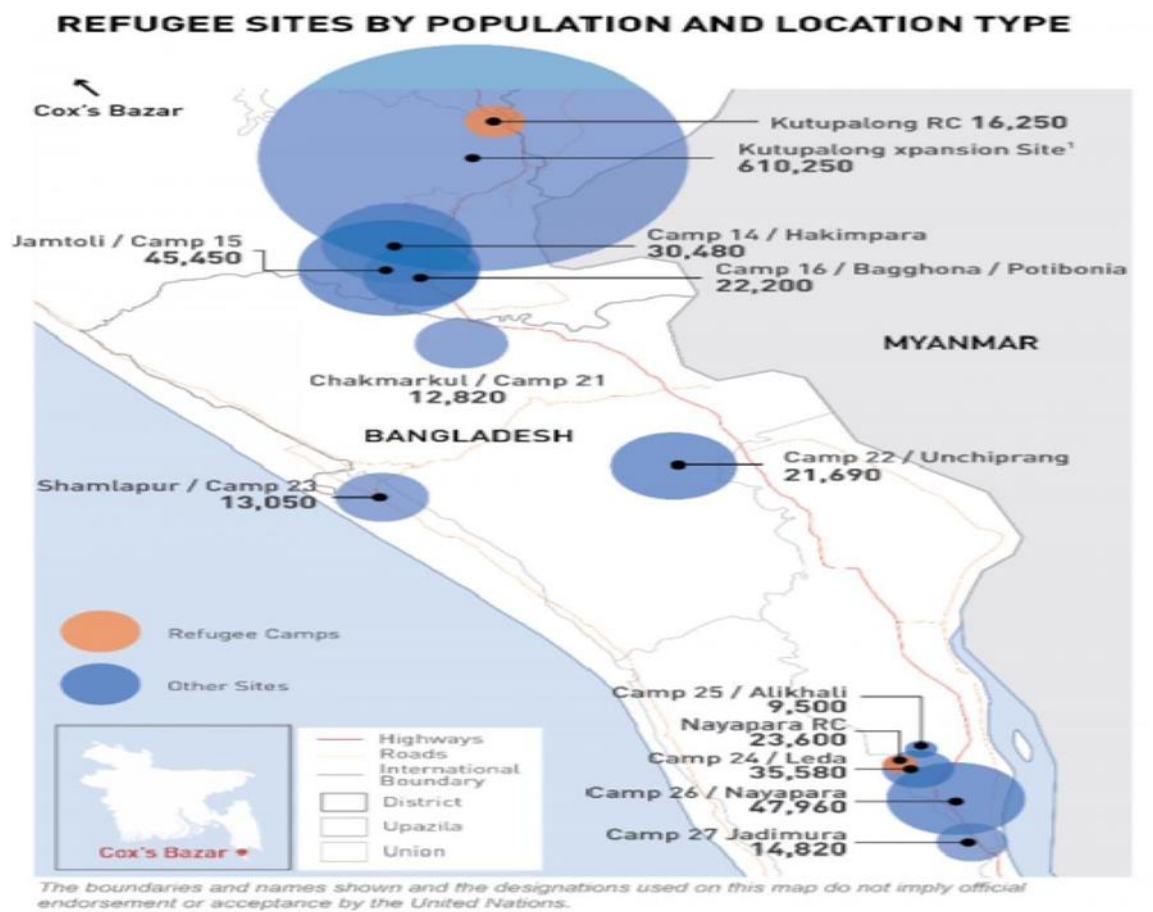


Figure 2: Refugee sites by Population and Location type in Bangladesh.

5.1. The Role of NGOs

The possible Rohingya repatriation process is delayed and there is no light of hope for it to be resolved sooner [30]. Since last year, from August in Cox's Bazar; different international and local non-governmental organizations 815 crores released to continue the humanitarian programs [31]. The projects for giving medical

service taka 88.74 crores are required, for household items 53.34 crore, for food 69.06 crore, for sanitation 56.29 crores, for providing clothes 51 crores, for setting up sanitary latrines 20 lakh and 20 crores for setting up tube wells are required in and around the Rohingya camps [31]. Data has been formulated by NGO Affairs Bureau that some NGOs such as ActionAid are running projects of 60.83 crores, CARE Bangladesh 88.84 crore, World Vision Bangladesh 47.92 crore, Save the Children International 44.19 crore. Besides those, there are some other NGOs such as BRAC, Christian Aid, Concern Worldwide, Dun Church Aid, Plan International Bangladesh, United purpose, and Water Aid that are also implementing humanitarian programs in Cox's Bazar camps with foreign funds [32].

Some NGOs activities regarding this issue are given as follows:

5.2. Oxfam

By observing the terrible conditions of the Rohingyas who have fled more than 7, 00000 since August 2017 and living in the camps of Bangladesh; but the condition in the camp is very poor [33]. Various organizations are focusing on this issue and trying to make a sustainable refugee camp for them. One of these organizations is OXFAM which is a non-governmental aid organization. This organization is trying to assist them by providing clean water, sanitation, and certain necessary things that they need badly. Approximately, it reached 266,000 people but targeting to reach 300,000 [34]. It has been asserted that the Rohingya women and children who are living in the Cox's Bazar camps, for the 72 million are required for humanitarian aid [34]. It has been seen that women are increasingly suffering from health problems because of the camp's providence of unsafe and unsuitable facilities. In most cases, it has been found that they are suffering from infection, abdominal pain because of the use of unhygienic clothes. So, Oxfam is providing or assisting in several ways:

This organization has built more than 200 deep tube wells and over 400 shallow tube wells which help to prevent water from being contaminated after heavy rainfall and leading to an outbreak of disease [34]. Installing water points, toilets, showers, and distributing soap and other essentials such as sanitary cloths. More than 300 Rohingya volunteers have been appointed or recruited so far to assist 11,000 refugees to let them know about the importance of good hygiene [35]

For women and girls, this organization provides solar-powered lights around the camp and torches and portable solar lanterns so that they can move freely at night without hesitating and can do their work or can go to the latrine which they couldn't do before and used to wait by remaining at home.

This issue is quite concerning and by realizing it, this kind of initiative has been taken in August 2017 and today's phenomenon a great change can be seen.

Oxfam provides 24,000 households with a voucher to the Rohingya people to get their food and to do shopping or get some vegetables and ingredients to supplement their basic rations by showing that and thirteen items are available for them including dried fish, spices, eggs, potatoes, and spinach [35]. Also, Oxfam supplies fabric and vouchers for tailors to give those refugees new clothes.

So, this organization's main motto is to create a long-term sustainable refugee camp for people.

5.3. *Unicef (united nations international children's emergency fund)*

Rohingya children face an uncertain future. Considered a lost generation because they have no idea when they might return home. One Rohingya man living in Uchiprang camp in Cox's Bazar district named Hussein Johar asserted that more than 500,000 Rohingya children in Bangladesh are being denied the chance of proper education [36]. So, investment in education is desperately needed to prevent Rohingya children from becoming a lost generation. Girls are at severe risk of being excluded. So, UNICEF is accelerating progress and opportunity for everyone to ensure gender equality. It also increases quality maternal care and empowers the role of women in the design and delivery of water, sanitation, and hygiene ecosystems. It empowers adolescent girls at risk of child marriage, or who are already married, by providing them with information and fundamental life skills. Apart from these, digging hundreds of waters bore wells, and installing thousands of latrines. It produces, compiles, analyses, and disseminates gender statistics across a wide range of sectors, including education, health, protection from violence and exploitation, and water, sanitation, and hygiene. They focus on health, education, nutrition, child protection, communication for development.

5.4. *Action Aid*

Giving importance to women and children, this international non-governmental organization is establishing women-led committees to get complaints or get to know what those people especially women and children want and what kind of troubles they are facing. They are appointing women volunteers to get the accurate issues from those women and girls, what they need or what kind of tortures they have faced and still facing. Keeping in mind these issues, services have been provided such as women-friendly spaces, latrines, and bathing areas. Also provide hygiene kits such as towels, soap, and clean underwear [37]. To prevent water-borne diseases other initiatives have been taken.

They provide safe drinking water, food packages, and other necessary things. To protect the women and girls from violence; protection and assistance this organization is giving also. It assists efforts and builds capacities of actors of civil society and partner communities for promoting their rights for making their situation better. For women, Action Aid set up 33 women-led WATCH committees to monitor and prevent violence, provided 7,383 families with solar-powered lights, and supported 360 Rohingya women and girls with sewing training [37]. Also, create a field where women can participate in the decision-making process. Action Aid's vision is to see a world without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys their rights and lives their life with dignity. For this reason, it works for poor and excluded people to eradicate poverty and injustice.

5.5. *Action Contre La Faim*

It is an international non-governmental organization, responded since 2017, when massive population movements have occurred. They responded to the Rohingya crisis, this organization organized the prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition, take care of the people especially women's mental health because most of them were so traumatized when they came to these camps, about water, and sanitation issues [38]. It also tries

to reduce the risks of disasters strengthens the people to face disasters and gives proper training about what to do if any disaster occurs. Also provide them the medicines which are needed such as paracetamol, saline, first aid. Moreover, volunteers are being recruited to assist those people who are in need.

6. Recommendation and conclusion

6.1. Policy Recommendations

- Women living in the camps face various security threats by the host community, ration distributors, and aid distributing security enforcing members. They cannot move inside the camp without having the terror of being attacked or assaulted. In an interview with a Shamlapur refugee camp inhabitant, named Jannat, an incident has come forward, that her father has been killed by a local Bangladeshi, but the law enforcing community is not taking any actions against him even though there is enough evidence of the guilty person's involvement in the killing. That local Bangladeshi is still threatening Jannat's family. The activities of the aid and ration distributors must be followed up and laws regarding punishing them must be introduced. The law enforcement forces must be authorized to solve and scrutinize the claims of law violation and crime against the Rohingya community, especially against the women as they are special victims of different types of sexual violation.
- According to the components of the Refugee Convention of 1951, the refugees have some rights while they are living in a certain geographic area, including protection from discrimination, freedom of movement, and the right of identity and travel documents. Right to enjoy asylum, the right to work, housing, etc. But in the case of Rohingya minority condition in Bangladesh, they are not enjoying any sort of freedom as they are confined to a fixed border, enjoys no freedom in movement, don't get enough opportunity for education, housing, and lastly opportunity of working. Which causes financial difficulties for Rohingya women, and they are bound to get involved in various unethical and illegal activities. The perfect implication of the Refugee Convention of 1951 and its principles can pave a way for a better solution to these problems. If they get enough opportunities of working, they will be reluctant in engaging unethical and illegal activities like drug trafficking, arms smuggling, etc.
- Malnutrition and the spreading of various infectious diseases among newborn infants etc. are the results of lack of drinkable water, irregularities in the vaccination process run by the government. The regular flow of international aid and more intensified actions from the international humanitarian organization could be very helpful for this concerning issue. Including a very gender-based health issue, like the maternal health assistance to the pregnant Rohingya women must be given emphasized.
- The maternal issue is a very crucial concern in any emergency. At the same time, the health of infant babies is another major concern. But, to accomplish these important tasks perfectly, there must be available funds. But the money promised by the western community must be unpacked and must be delivered to the responsible authorities. Like the government of Bangladesh, UNHCR, MSF, and other international organizations.
- As the Rohingya people do lack money and usually live below living standards, there are some possibilities of manipulating them to be engaged in criminal activities, like terrorism and radical ideas so the law enforcement agencies have too aware of it. Because female terrorist has been seen nowadays vigorously. The opportunity of taking higher education is rare in the camp. But the girls need to be given the opportunity of obtaining

higher education so that they can come out as assets for their families and themselves.

6.2. Conclusion

Rohingya exodus in Bangladesh is a prolonged phenomenon. From last year till now, over 1.1 million Rohingya people have fled to Bangladesh and most of the Rohingya women carry the brutal experience of sexual assault and violation. According to the foreign and commonwealth report, the propagation of sexual violence is extremely high in the Rakhine state and the Myanmar army as a weapon of war. This paper set down a feminist right-based and gendered-based method to build an idea about the crisis of Rohingya women in Myanmar and Cox's Bazar. This paper represented various gender-based violence and challenges of women who are remaining in Rohingya camps, such as freedom of movement, lack of education, and lack of security, etc. Additionally, the study found the strategies, mechanisms of government, NGOs to affronting these challenges, but it is still not enough to reduce gender-based violence against women. Different organizations must consider women in an autonomous focus and gather more scope and information to reduce gender-based violence.

7. Conflict of Interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest associated with this publication.

8. Funding

This paper received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public or commercial agency.

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