

A Sustainable Resolution of the Rohingya Refugee Crises: Multi-Faceted Approach

Moses Obinna John*

SIMEC Bulletin
2025, Vol. 2(1), 6-12
© The Author(s) 2025
ISSN: 3006-211X (online);
3006-2101 (print)
https://doi.org/10.71391/sbv2i1_0004
<https://simecinstitute.edu.bd/simec-bulletin>

The logo for SIMEC Bulletin, featuring the word "SIMEC" in green above the word "Bulletin" in blue.

How to Cite: John, M.O. (2025). A Sustainable Resolution of the Rohingya Refugee Crises: Multi-Faceted Approach. *SIMEC Bulletin*, 2 (1), 6-12. https://doi.org/10.71391/sbv2i1_0004

Abstract

The Rohingya refugee crisis, one of the most protracted and complex humanitarian challenges of the 21st century requires comprehensive, sustainable, and collaborative solutions. This paper proposes a multifaceted framework encompassing diplomatic efforts, regional cooperation, and community-based strategies to foster durable solutions.

Keywords: *Rohingya Crisis, Refugee Crisis, Statelessness, Bangladesh, Myanmar*

Introduction

The Rohingya, a Muslim ethnic minority from Myanmar's Rakhine State, have faced decades of systemic discrimination and statelessness, entrenched by the 1982 Citizenship Law. Denied basic rights and repeatedly subjected to violence, the 2017 military crackdown forced over 700,000 Rohingya people to flee, primarily to Bangladesh (UK Home Office, 2023).

Bangladesh, a densely populated country with limited resources, has provided refuge to nearly a total of one million Rohingya despite immense socio-economic and infrastructural strain. Cox's Bazar, a Southeastern district of Bangladesh, which is housing most refugees is now the world's largest refugee settlement (Ansar & Khaled, 2021). However, efforts to repatriate the Rohingya have stalled due to Myanmar's refusal to take the Rohingya refugees with providing their ethnic recognition, citizenship, and ensuring their safety once returned. Notably, this ongoing crisis not only affects the Rohingya

community and Bangladesh but also poses risks in destabilizing the region, highlighting the need for sustainable and collaborative solutions to address the issue (International Crisis Group, 2023).

Problem Statement

The Rohingya refugee crisis is a complex challenge encompassing human rights violations, political instability, and regional security issues. Despite extensive international efforts, the lack of unified strategies and accountability mechanisms has exacerbated the suffering of millions (Thapar & Shivamurthy, 2025). Furthermore, Rahman (2024) explains that central to this problem is the statelessness of the Rohingya, which hinders their access to basic rights and opportunities for repatriation. Meanwhile, host communities are under increasing socio-economic strain, and global responses to the crisis remain fragmented and insufficiently funded. Addressing these

* MBA, LIGS University, Hawaii, USA. E-mail: mosesobinnajohn@gmail.com

challenges necessitates a comprehensive approach that integrates political, humanitarian, and developmental perspectives.

A Brief Background of the Rohingya Crisis

The Rohingya's plight stems from long-standing ethnic tensions and discriminatory policies. The 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law rendered them stateless, stripping them of basic rights and recognition (Ghose, Bharadwaj, & Ali, 2023). Systematic marginalization, coupled with periodic outbreaks of violence, resulted in the 2017 military-led "clearance operations," and these armed attacks, massive-scale violence, and serious human rights violations forced thousands of Rohingya to flee their homes in Myanmar's Rakhine State, during which at least 6,700 Rohingya were killed in the first month alone, including 730 children under five, and thousands were injured due to gunfire, landmines, and other brutal attacks (MSF, 2024). Other estimates suggest the number might be higher, with some sources indicating up to 25,000 deaths (Ghose, Bharadwaj, & Ali, 2023). This made the United Nations describe the Rohingya as "the most persecuted minority in the world." (UNHRC, 2024). Bondhon (2024) traced the history of the Rohingya crisis and explained that the root causes were the following factors – a long history of discrimination, persecution, domestic and intercommunal acts of violence, the 1982 Citizenship Law, the 2017 Military Crackdown, and huge entry of refugees into Cox's Bazar in southeastern Bangladesh. These actions reflect deeper issues of ethnic nationalism and authoritarian governance. Additionally, other scholars have contributed to understanding these causes. Shahabuddin, (2019) explained how colonial legacies combined with post-colonial policies have contributed to the ongoing marginalization of the Rohingya. Brett and Hlaing (2020) studied how the 1982 Citizenship Law has been a pivotal legal instrument in denying Rohingya citizenship. Moreover, Lee (2021) analyzed the 2017 military operations as part of a broader, systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing, while Payandeh (2024) highlighted the state's role in perpetuating discrimination through legal and

administrative measures.

The Rohingya crisis has placed immense pressure on host countries, particularly Bangladesh, which accommodates nearly one million Rohingya in overcrowded camps in Cox's Bazar. This has strained local resources, heightened social tensions, and raised security concerns (Reza, 2024).

Methodology

To arrive at the outcomes, this study used an organized strategy that comprised:

Data Collection: Materials were obtained from auxiliary sources such as global body reports like UNHCR, scholarly diary articles, government archives, and essential sources from charitable organizations working with Rohingya displaced people.

Thematic Examination: The materials collected were analyzed to recognize key topics related to the Rohingya calamity, counting its chronicled foundation, helpful challenges, and conceivable answers.

Comparative Investigation: This work compared different reactions to the predicament, counting the procedures of Bangladesh, the position of Myanmar, and mediations from global communities.

Evaluation of Involvement Procedures: The effectiveness of past and continuous hard work to discover parts and means for updating was evaluated as well.

Results

Current International Involvements in Solving the Rohingya Crisis

The answer of the global community to the Rohingya disaster has involved some key areas of involvement:

Humanitarian Aid: Non-governmental groups like the World Food Programme, and the UNHCR have been helpful in supplying food, shelter, and other necessities. For instance, more than 800,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh are receiving food aid from the World Food Programme (WFP, 2025; MSF, 2024).

Furthermore, UNICEF has been dedicated to providing health services, such as immunizations, treatment for malnutrition, and mental health assistance. In addition, UNICEF is addressing the issues that children face and offering health care services (UNICEF, 2023). To guarantee that Rohingya children receive an education, the Rohingya Children's Fund is striving to offer informal education and implement certain initiatives, such as the Burmese curriculum, in refugee camps, despite the difficulties (UNICEF, 2023).

Protection and Human Rights: The UN and other human rights groups keep track of abuses of human rights and fight for the rights of the Rohingya. Regarding human rights abuses, the UN Fact-Finding Mission in Myanmar has been outspoken (Norris, 2019). In addition, there have been legal measures to address some of critical problems. For example, Gambia brought Myanmar before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on genocide allegations, which was a significant legal intervention meant to ensure accountability, but the procedure could not inflict much of an effect (Islam, 2022).

Policy and Political Issues: Resolutions denouncing the atrocities against the Rohingya have been voted on by the UN Security Council and General Assembly, although nations like China and Russia have frequently softened them. Despite adhering to a non-intervention policy, ASEAN has participated in numerous mediation efforts, such as unofficial meetings and discussions regarding the problem, but has not taken any further action (Kumar, 2024). To alleviate the overpopulation in the main refugee camp, Bangladesh has started relocating some Rohingya from Cox's Bazar to Bhasan Char Island; nevertheless, the plan has generated controversy due to worries about accessibility and living conditions (Banerjee, 2023).

Repatriation Efforts: A lack of trust and unfavorable conditions in Rakhine State have caused some repatriation attempts to fail. No mass repatriations have occurred as of yet, but the plan calls for a collaborative verification process between Bangladesh and Myanmar

(UNHCR, 2024). Indeed, UN agencies organize an annual budget request (Joint Response Plan, or JRP) to assist charitable activities for the Rohingya. But funds are running low, and aid is frequently cut off (UNHCR, 2023).

Limitations of Contemporary Involvements:

The reactions from the international community have been fragmentary. The geopolitical interests of both regional and international actors create obstacles that prevent cohesive solutions, and funding shortages have continued to impede the delivery of adequate humanitarian aid, among other limitations to the current efforts to address the Rohingya crisis (Thapar & Shivamurthy, 2025). Effective engagement is hampered by funding shortages and geopolitical factors, notwithstanding the vital assistance provided by agencies like UNHCR and IOM. There has been considerable opposition to using institutions such as the International Criminal Court (ICC) to hold Myanmar's military accountable. Furthermore, the lack of assurances about safety, citizenship, and dignity has caused the repatriation efforts, which are supported by bilateral agreements between Bangladesh and Myanmar, to fail (Mannan, 2024).

Importantly, while current interventions are important for short-term livelihoods, they must be part of a broader strategy that includes my call to move from crisis management to sustainable solutions that address the symptoms and root causes of the Rohingya crisis.

Finding Sustainable Solutions to the Rohingya Crisis: Some Recommendations

A sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis needs an all-inclusive approach that addresses the political, philanthropic, and socio-economic dimensions. Hence, there should be dual-focused strategies to handle the Rohingya crisis so as to gain a sustainable solution. Below are the proposed approaches:

Proposed Strategies for Repatriation

Legal Changes in Myanmar: The 1982 Citizenship Act caused many Rohingya people to

lose their citizenship and become refugees. Changing this law is essential for any way the Rohingya can go back home because it gives them legal status and rights, which helps solve the main issues. It is very important to change the 1982 Citizenship Act so that the Rohingya people are recognized as citizens and can return legally. This means working with other countries and talking to the Burmese government to encourage them to make changes.

Enabling Safe and Voluntary Repatriation:

The leaders in Myanmar, both civilian and military, should talk to each other to make it safe for people to return to their homes. There should be changes to the laws and outside supervision to make sure that the Rohingya people have their right to be citizens and to be protected. The reason is that because of past violence and problems in Rakhine State, it's important to create a safe place for people to come back. The global community will offer support and understanding to help build trust within the Rohingya community.

Nurturing Self-Reliance and Resilience among Refugees and Local People:

More funds should be provided by the international bodies to support communities that welcome refugees, especially for things like buildings, healthcare, and schools. It is also required to create job programs for refugees to help them become independent and rely less on aid.

Ensuring Accountability and Fairness:

International laws should be improved to make sure those who commit crimes are punished, including helping with ICC investigations. This would help people feel safe and trust again when they come back. Additionally, it is important to put specific restrictions on Myanmar's military leaders to help stop more human rights abuses. This will also include help for international courts or changes to local courts. Without being held responsible, violence is likely to happen again. Fixing past mistakes through the law helps to achieve fairness and as well prevents future problems and makes it safer for people to get back what they lost.

Helping and Rebuilding:

International aid should focus on rebuilding communities in Rakhine State. This includes providing support for things like roads, houses, and job opportunities. The buildings and roads in Rakhine State have been damaged because of the fighting. Investing in rebuilding isn't just about making houses; it's also about creating a stable economy, which is important for people to come back and settle in Myanmar.

Proposed Strategies for Integration in Bangladesh

Legal Status and Rights: To help solve the Rohingya crisis, Bangladesh should officially recognize the Rohingya people's status. This means giving them the right to work, allowing them to move freely in certain areas, and making sure they can access essential services like health care and education. This could be done by providing them with temporary protection status.

Policy Implementations: Making policies for helping and relocating refugees should be done by international and regional consultations. The rules should be clear to and backed by all stakeholders and organizations. Also, it is essential to create clear rules for helping refugees join the economies and societies of the countries they move to, making sure this is done in a way that doesn't disturb local communities too much.

Supporting Regional Cooperation: Strengthening the role of regional groups like ASEAN to help manage and observe the situation in Myanmar will lead to positive changes. South Asian countries should work together to share the responsibility of helping people in need. They should fairly distribute resources and set up refugee limits, while also finding good ways to settle and help refugees live in the region.

Improving Education Opportunities: Working together with international organizations would create formal education programs for Rohingya children, helping them get a good education and support for their future. Also, creating job training programs for refugees can help them prepare for future jobs, allowing them to positively help their community grow and improve.

Addressing Gender Issues: There is a need to make rules that consider the needs of women and children in order to keep them safe in refugee camps. Also, programs to help women should emphasize education and teaching them to be leaders. Stakeholders also need to focus on these programs and make them easy to reach.

Making the Environment Better: The use of eco-friendly methods like planting trees again, building green places, and managing waste better in refugee camps is needed as well.

Expanding Health Services: Increasing health facilities and helping with ongoing health problems faced by refugees, like mental health support due to crises, will be very beneficial.

Community Relations with Host States: The use of cultural exchanges, joint projects, and problem-solving workshops to help the Rohingya people and the local communities understand each other better and reduce conflicts, should be encouraged.

These plans aim to give a sustainable solution that honours the rights and dreams of the Rohingya people. These would consider both returning them to their home country and helping them settle in another place.

Justification for all Proposed Strategies for Sustainable Solutions for the Rohingya Crisis:

Human Rights and Support: All the plans made are focused on protecting the rights of the Rohingya people and ensuring they are treated with dignity and respect, whether they go back to Myanmar or stay in Bangladesh.

Continuing Accord and Resolve: This plan will look at both the immediate help people need and the lasting peace in the area, which will help prevent problems in the future.

International Duty: The global community has a responsibility to help solve a crisis like this, especially when people's rights are being harmed.

Conclusion

The Rohingya refugee crisis shows the urgent need to support each other globally and take

human rights seriously. In short, without these important steps mentioned above, the current efforts of the international community will not be enough to solve the ongoing Rohingya crisis. My suggestions aim to give quick help and lasting solutions that honour the rights and dignity of the Rohingya people, while also tackling the real problems in Myanmar and Bangladesh. This thorough method can create lasting peace and understanding by looking at both the current problems and the history behind them. The world needs to act strongly to change this humanitarian crisis into a chance for healing and fairness.

References

- Ansar, A. & Khaled, A.F. (2021). From Solidarity to Resistance: Host Communities' Evolving Response to the Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh. *Journal of International Humanitarian Action* 6(16). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41018-021-00104-9>
- Banerjee, S. (2023). From Cox's Bazar to Bhasan Char: An Assessment of Bangladesh's Relocation Plan for Rohingya Refugees. Observer Research Foundation. <https://www.orfonline.org/research/from-coxs-bazar-to-bhasan-char-an-assessment-of-bangladeshs-relocation-plan-for-rohingga-refugees-65784>
- Bondhon, R.U. (2024). Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh and How to Solve It. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science (IJRISS)*, VIII(X), 910-920. <https://dx.doi.org/10.47772/IJRISS.2024.8100074>
- Brett, P., & Hlaing, K. Y. (2020, November 9). Peggy Brett and Kyaw Yin Hlaing, "Myanmar's 1982 Citizenship Law in Context", Policy Brief Series No. 122 (2020). ICC Legal Tools. <https://www.legal-tools.org/doc/b4jtch>
- Ghose, A., Bharadwaj, S., & Ali, S. M. (2023). Políticas de Masacre: Una Revisión Crítica del fracaso constitucional en Myanmar e

- india durante la crisis de los rohingya. *Novum Jus*, 17(2), 251–277.
<https://doi.org/10.14718/novumjus.2023.17.2.10>
- International Crisis Group (2023). Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh: Limiting the Damage of a Protracted Crisis.
<https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia/south-east-asia/myanmar-bangladesh/rohingya-refugees-bangladesh-limiting-damage-protracted>
- Islam, R. (2022). The Gambia v. Myanmar: An Analysis of the ICJ's Decision on Jurisdiction under the Genocide Convention. *American Society of International Law*, 26(9).
<https://www.asil.org/insights/volume/26/issue/9>
- Kumar, A. (2024). The UN Security Council's Astonishing Silence on Myanmar Atrocities. Human Rights Watch.
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/09/05/un-security-councils-astonishing-silence-myanmar-atrocities>
- Lee, M.J. (2021). Media Influence on Humanitarian Interventions: Analysis of the Rohingya Refugee Crisis and International Media Coverage. *Journal of International Humanitarian Action* volume 6 (20).
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s41018-021-00108-5>
- Mannan, A. (2024). Decreasing Funds while Repatriation is a Distant Destiny: can Localisation be an Answer to the Protracted Rohingya Crisis? Humanitarian Practice Network.
<https://odihpn.org/publication/decreasing-funds-while-repatriation-is-a-distant-destiny-can-localisation-be-an-answer-to-the-protracted-rohingya-crisis/>
- MSF. (2024). A Timeline of the Rohingya Crisis.
<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/timeline-rohingya-crisis#:~:text=Between%20August%202017%20and%20February,thousands%20of%20patients%20a%20month.>
- Norris, J. (2019). Given UN failings in Myanmar, where is Human Rights up Front? Universal Rights Group. Retrieved from
<https://www.universal-rights.org/given-un-failings-in-myanmar-where-is-human-rights-up-front/>
- Payandeh, M. (2024). Addressing Racial Discrimination Through International Law: The Neglected Potential of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. *Verfassungsblog*. Retrieved from
<https://verfassungsblog.de/addressing-racial-discrimination-through-international-law/>,
<https://doi.org/10.59704/5ba735d330396817>.
- Rahman, M. (2024). Statelessness – the Root Cause of the Rohingya Crisis – Needs to Be Addressed. New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy, USA.
<https://newlinesinstitute.org/state-resilience-fragility/statelessness-the-root-cause-of-the-rohingya-crisis-needs-to-be-addressed>
- Reza, A.S.M. (2024). Six Years of Rohingya Refugee Crisis in Bangladesh: From Here to Where? Asia Peacebuilding Initiatives. Retrieved from
https://www.spf.org/apbi/news_en/b_240627.html
- Shahabuddin, M. (2019). Post-colonial Boundaries, International Law, and the Making of the Rohingya Crisis in Myanmar. *Asian Journal of International Law* 9(2), 334–358.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S2044251319000055>.
- Thapar, M. & Shivamurthy, A.G. (2025). The Rohingya Crisis: Bangladesh's Political Challenges and its Humanitarian Implications. Observer Research Foundation. Retrieved from
<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/t>

he-rohingya-crisis-bangladesh-s-political-challenges-and-its-humanitarian-implications

UK Home Office. (2023). Country Policy and Information note: Rohingya, including Rohingya in Bangladesh, Burma (June 2023). Retrieved from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/burma-country-policy-and-information-notes/country-policy-and-information-note-rohingya-including-rohingya-in-bangladesh-burma-june-2023-accessible>

UNHCR (2023). UNHCR Statement on Bangladesh, Myanmar Bilateral Pilot Project on Rohingya Returns. Press Releases. <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press-releases/unhcr-statement-bangladesh-myanmar-bilateral-pilot-project-rohingya-returns>

mar-bilateral-pilot-project-rohingya-returns

UNHCR (2024). Rohingya Refugee Crisis Explained. USA for UNHCR: The UN Refugee Agency. Retrieved from <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/rohingya-refugee-crisis-explained/>

UNICEF (2023). UNICEF Annual Report 2023, For Every Child. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/reports/unicef-annual-report-2023>

World Food Programme (2025). 2024-WFP's Support to Strengthening Social Protection Systems Around the Globe. Retrieved from <https://www.wfp.org/publications/2024-wfps-support-strengthening-social-protection-systems-around-globe>