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PAKISTAN ONLY ISSUING PASSPORTS TO ROHINGYA, NOT GIVING THEM CITIZENSHIP: INTERIOR MINISTER



Pakistan on Wednesday said it is “only issuing” passports to displaced members of the Rohingya community, not granting them citizenship, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said. “We are not giving them citizenship. But we are giving them passports with a different code or serial number so that they can be identified as Rohingya,” Naqvi said following a meeting with his Bangladeshi counterpart Jahangir Alam Chowdhury in Dhaka, according to a Bangladeshi Home Ministry statement.

Pakistan’s metropolis of Karachi is home to more than 400,000 Rohingya Muslims — the largest number after Myanmar and Bangladesh, which hosts more than a million members of the persecuted Muslim community, according to unofficial estimates.

Pakistan issues passports to Rohingya for settlement in third countries. Naqvi’s trip to Bangladesh is the first official visit since Pakistan’s then-Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani visited in 2012.

Seeking Pakistan’s cooperation in the repatriation of the Rohingya, Chowdhury said Bangladesh has given shelter to 1.3 million Rohingya refugees “for the sake of humanity, which is a burden for a developing country like Bangladesh.”

Since 2017, over 1 million Rohingya have fled persecution and violence in Myanmar. On the bilateral front, Chowdhury said Dhaka and Islamabad are in the final stages of signing a memorandum of understanding for the issuance of visa-on-arrival for diplomatic and official passport holders of the two countries — a practice that was suspended after the 1971 war, which resulted in the liberation of Bangladesh.

The construction of a new Bangladeshi Embassy building in Pakistan “is underway,” he added.

Source: aa.com.tr

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BOOSTING HEALTH WORKER SKILLS TO SAFEGUARD WATER, AND PREVENT INFECTIONS IN ROHINGYA CAMPS

In the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, home to over one million refugees living in densely populated, resource-limited conditions, access to safe water, adequate sanitation, and robust Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures are essential to safeguard the health of both patients and healthcare workers. Since 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO), through its WaSH-FIT initiative and in collaboration with RedR Australia and the Health Sector, has trained a total of 514 professionals.

These include health facility managers, doctors, nurses, and focal persons for WaSH, IPC, and healthcare waste management (HCWM) across 198 healthcare facilities in the camps. Additionally, during the COVID-19 response, WHO trained 43 IPC Master Trainers, who subsequently supported the capacity building of more than 3,600 frontline healthcare workers, including IPC focal staff, medical assistants, cleaners, nurses, and supervised health volunteers, across various camp-based facilities. Building on these efforts, WHO, in collaboration with the

Health Sector and the Civil Surgeon's Office, conducted a training from 14–16 July 2025 to further strengthen IPC and WASH practices. More than 100 participants, including medical staff and IPC/WaSH focal points, were trained on key topics such as water chlorination, healthcare waste management, disinfection, sterilization, and IPC service delivery. The training utilized a combination of interactive lectures, hands-on demonstrations, and group exercises to enhance practical understanding and application.

Recent assessments conducted by the WHO-led Health sector have identified significant gaps in WASH services across health facilities in the Rohingya camps. According to the 2024 WaSH-FIT assessment, the majority of health facilities were classified as having “No Service” status, primarily due to reliance on distant or unimproved water sources and inadequate chlorination of drinking water. Additionally, 45% of facilities reported limited healthcare waste management and sanitation services, 41% lacked basic decontamination capabilities,

and 73% did not provide essential health and safety protections for staff. Field visit reports further revealed widespread confusion and limited technical knowledge regarding the appropriate use of various chlorine-based disinfectants.

“This training directly addresses critical gaps identified in WaSH, IPC, and waste management within health facilities across the camps. Your active engagement is essential to improving service delivery and preventing the spread of diseases such as cholera,” said Dr Orwa Abdulla, Health Sector Coordinator to all the training participants.

To assess the effectiveness of the training, WHO conducted pre- and post-training assessments. The results demonstrated a significant improvement in participants' understanding of IPC and WaSH practices. Assessment scores increased by 27 percentage points, rising from an average of 55.5% before the training to 82.9% afterward.

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■ Source: who.int