



ROHINGYA PRESS

COVERING THE ROHINGYA STORY – AS IT HAPPENS WWW.ROHINGYAPRESS.COM

EDUCATION AT ROHINGYA CAMPS IN DISARRAY

More than 400,000 Rohingya children now face uncertainty over schooling, as around 6,400 NGO-run informal schools at refugee camps in Cox's Bazar have either suspended classes or drastically reduced class hours due to a fund crunch.

UNICEF and Save the Children, which supervise the informal schools known as learning centres, on June 3 suspended classes for students from kindergarten to class-4. The decision came after hundreds of teachers protested the dismissal of 1,100 colleagues amid aid cuts affecting over a million refugees in Cox's Bazar.

Of the 8,000 teachers employed at the centres, 3,900 were Bangladeshi nationals and the rest Rohingyas.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, \$72 million is required to cover

educational expenses this year, but less than \$10 million has been received. The total budget requirement is \$934 million for around 1.5 million people -- 1.2 million Rohingyas and 300,000 members of the host community. Of the amount, \$303 million (32 percent) was secured as of July 12.

The funding shortfall stems largely from a drastic reduction in humanitarian aid by the US, which provided over half of the total funding for Rohingyas over the last few years.

Ehsan Ullah, a Rohingya teacher at Kutupalong refugee camp, said that though classes for kindergarten to class-4 remain suspended, students in class-5 to 7 receive lessons four days a month and those in class-8 to 10 five days a week.

He pointed out that the majority of children are enrolled in grades below class-6.

The teachers have called for the reinstatement of their dismissed colleagues, proposing that the authorities reduce lesson hours instead of suspending classes.

"UNICEF will decide on the teachers' proposal within a month. We will have to wait until August for the decision," Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Salahuddin said, referring to a stakeholders' meeting at his office on July 3.

Expressing frustration at the suspension of classes, Rohingya leaders said many of their children are being robbed of their dreams.

Saiful, a community leader who preferred to use only one name, said the community has endured decades of persecution in Myanmar that denied them citizenship, leaving many without hope.

Read full article on our website.
Source: thedailystar.net

More News:

Xenophobic persecution of Bengali migrant workers: The Indian government's actions are creating a new deportation and detention policy that will disproportionately impact its own citizens who speak Bengali.



SCAN THIS QR CODE
TO READ FULL NEWS
ARTICLES, REPORTS
ETC. IN DETAILS.

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY: ONE IN FIVE ADULT ROHINGYAS INFECTED WITH HEPATITIS C

Hasina, a Rohingya woman from Myanmar, fled to Bangladesh 10 months ago with her husband and four children. Diagnosed with Hepatitis C in 2020 during childbirth, she could not afford treatment back home.

Now living in Camp 8W in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, Hasina and two of her sons -- Rashidullah and Rahimullah -- recently tested positive during a large-scale screening by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

PCR tests confirmed active infections in Hasina and Rahimullah, while Rashidullah showed previous exposure. Hasina suspects the virus spread through unsafe medical practices in Myanmar, including untested blood transfusions and reused syringes.

Dr Sarwar Jahan, assistant medical coordinator at the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner's office, called the infection rate "alarming". "One in every five adult Rohingyas is Hepatitis C positive. Around 100,000 adults are currently infected," he said. Over 70 percent of the 5.5 lakh adult Rohingyas have been screened so far



World Hepatitis Day special report

Preliminary data show that 30 percent have the virus, with 20 percent confirmed to have active infections through PCR testing.

A project is underway to treat 100,000 infected individuals, with a goal to reach 50,000 by 2026. Treatment costs average Tk 90,000 per patient.

Dr Jahan also warned of rising infections among locals.

"We found a 2.3 percent infection rate among Bangladeshis in Ukhiya and Teknaf, against the national average of 1.1 percent," he said. He stressed the importance of awareness about safe medical practices -- proper blood screening, disposable syringes, and single-use razors. Shamsul Islam, a Camp 8W resident who arrived from Maungdaw in 2017, has been on Hepatitis

C medication for a month. His wife also tested positive. He blamed reused syringes and shared blades in Myanmar.

Outside the MSF hospital, Nabi Hossain expressed concern after his mother-in-law and brother-in-law both tested positive. "We're now worried for our three daughters and one son," said his wife, Tahera. "Hepatitis is being detected in every house -- it's frightening."

During a visit to the MSF treatment centre in Camp 8W, this correspondent saw volunteers conducting rapid diagnostic tests on all adults. Positive cases are sent for PCR testing, with results available the next day. Treatment starts immediately for confirmed infections.

Dr Wasim, deputy medical co-ordinator at MSF, said those with low infection levels undergo 12-week treatments, while those with higher levels require 24 weeks. Between 2020 and 2024, MSF tested 30,000 adults in the camps, identifying 17,000 RDT-positive cases, including over 10,000 confirmed by PCR.

Read full article on our website.
Source: thedailystar.net