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ROHINGYA WOMEN, CHILDREN FACE INCREASED THREAT OF TRAFFICKING



Women and children of thirty-three Rohingya camps at Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas of the Cox's Bazar are under serious threat of human trafficking. Well-organized trafficking networks operate in and around the camps. They often include members from both the host community and the refugee population itself.

According to data the Rohingya crisis has further intensified these vulnerabilities, with reports showing over 60 percent of Rohingya women and children in refugee camps face heightened risks of trafficking

and exploitation. This sharpens the central concern: Cox's Bazar camps are particularly susceptible to becoming hotspot for human trafficking.

In fact, the Rohingyas, a stateless Muslim minority from Myanmar's Rakhine State, constitute a majority, the second-largest ethnic group in the state. Over the last two decades, specifically since 2012, they have been facing heightened discrimination and exploitation, with very restricted access to education, healthcare, and jobs in Myanmar, along with

severe limitations on their movement. Thus, they were forced to flee their homes, cross into Bangladesh, and settle in refugee camps, and approximately 1.3 million Rohingya refugees are residing mainly in Cox's Bazar, with women constituting around 51 percent of the population.

Children make up approximately 55 percent to 60 percent.

Hence, poverty, lack of education and constrained social protection, these women and children residing in refugee camps particularly vulnerable to trafficking.

In addition, up to 11.6 million refugees globally are in danger of losing access to humanitarian assistance due to cuts in foreign aid by donor nations, which have driven the Rohingya to flee from the camps.

■ Source: observerbd.com

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■ A Myanmar junta airstrike on a private boarding school in Thayat Tabin Village in Rakhine State's Kyauktaw Township on Friday killed 22 people, mostly schoolchildren.



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LIFE INSIDE THE KUTUPALONG ROHINGYA REFUGEE CAMP IN BANGLADESH

PHOTOGRAPHER DANIEL BAINBRIDGE HIGHLIGHTED THE NEED FOR AID AND SOLIDARITY

After his college graduation in the United States, 23-year-old photographer Daniel Bainbridge went to the Kutupalong refugee camp in Bangladesh and documented the situation of around 18,000 Rohingya people.

The Rohingya are an ethnic minority group that has faced decades of discrimination and persecution in Myanmar. After a brutal crackdown in 2017, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people were forced to escape Myanmar and sought temporary shelter in neighboring countries, particularly in Bangladesh. Aid organizations estimate there are at least one million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh's refugee camps.

In Myanmar, the junta, which grabbed power in 2021 through a coup, has refused to recognize the Rohingya as an ethnic group, which makes it almost impossible to bring the refugees back to Myanmar.

Meanwhile, the situation in various refugee camps in Bangladesh continues to deteriorate despite the constant appeal for international aid and



humanitarian intervention. In an email interview with Global Voices, Bainbridge shared what he aimed to achieve by narrating and documenting what he witnessed in Kutupalong.

Daniel Bainbridge (DB): After learning about the situation in Kutupalong, I decided to travel there to document daily life by observing how people lived and photographing them to share with the rest of the world. I aimed to show them in a more humanistic way, rather than defining them solely by their status as refugees, so as to avoid reducing them to a single story of suffering. I hoped that by doing this, and by offering a first-person

account of the issues I witnessed, I could draw attention to an urgent humanitarian crisis. The situation is bad. There were entire streets filled with garbage and alleyways that were extremely cramped. The first thing I noticed was the congestion, and the amount of people compared to the space to fit them. It seemed that there were small markets where people could buy things and some people would grow crops as well, but from what I saw there wasn't much space for anyone to really do anything, and not nearly enough food for the amount of people (from my understanding, the people in this camp rely almost entirely on aid rations).

Source: globalvoices.org