

Education Exodus: The Mitigation Effects of Education for Rohingya Children in Bangladesh

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The Rohingya have endured decades of oppression at the hands of the Myanmar Government, including limited access to education, health care and employment.

In August 2017 violence erupted in the Rohingya's home of Rakhine State. So far, 702,160 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh, adding to the population of over 200,000 Rohingya already sheltering in Cox's Bazar (figure 2). Figure 1 illustrates the scale of camps, with the UN observing that 55% of refugees are Children.

Education is internationally recognised as a basic human right and a protective, stabilising force for children in disasters. Having endured education restriction in Rakhine, and to arrive in camps with limited, informal education, the Rohingya face losing an entire generation to an education black hole.

Aims and Objectives

This project **aims** to bring an investigation into education access and its impact on vulnerability for Rohingya children in Cox's Bazar and Myanmar.

Hypotheses

1. The current displacement is hindering the development and future of Rohingya Children
2. However, education has the potential to reduce the target group's long-term vulnerability
3. Yet, educational needs for Rohingya children are not being fully met
4. Nevertheless, children have better access to education in Cox's Bazar than in Rakhine state

Primary objectives will be:

- To examine education practices and access in Bangladesh and Myanmar
- To analyse how available education can mitigate against hazards such as Child marriage, Child labour, Natural (Landslide, Monsoon, etc)

Methods

This project is in collaboration with the University of Dhaka, who will assist with data collection, translation and field trip coordination.

Primary data collection will utilise a mixed methods approach:

- 10 Key Informant interviews in the UK with concerned stakeholders
- 10 Key Informant interviews in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar with concerned stakeholders
- Questionnaires of 200-300 Rohingya households; Target group - Guardians of children aged 6-17
- Interviews with Teachers and Staff of Rohingya Children in Cox's Bazar

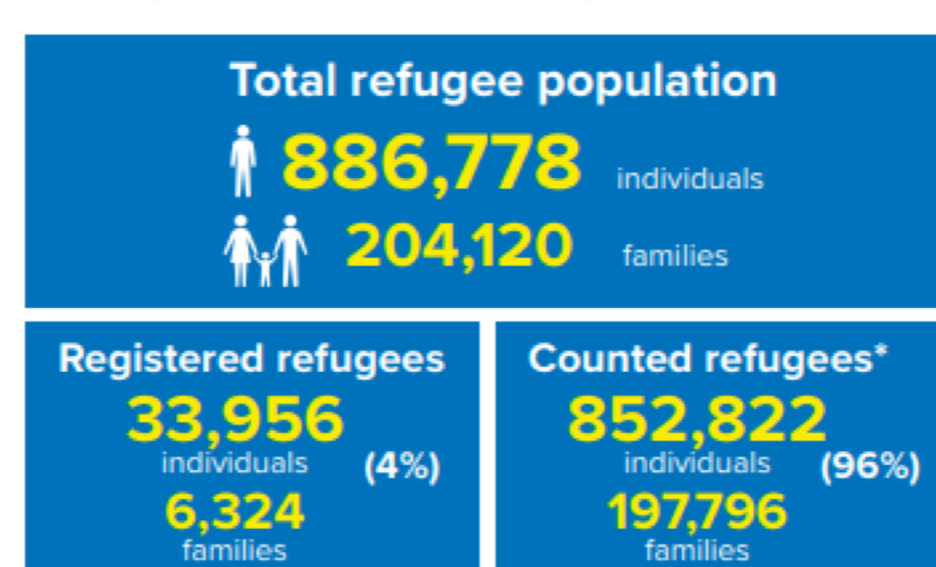
Key Informants are defined as local and international Non-Governmental Organisations, Community Leaders, Government Officials, United Nations Agencies, consultants & experts in the field of education in disasters. Key Informant interviews have already begun.

Time is allotted for a testing phase before the full survey is conducted. A workshop at the University of Dhaka and at Kutupalong site will also be carried out with colleagues at the University of Dhaka.



Figure 1 Scale of Kutupalong Camp, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Image Source: Rasmus Degnbol, Nov 2017

Refugee population figure



Demography

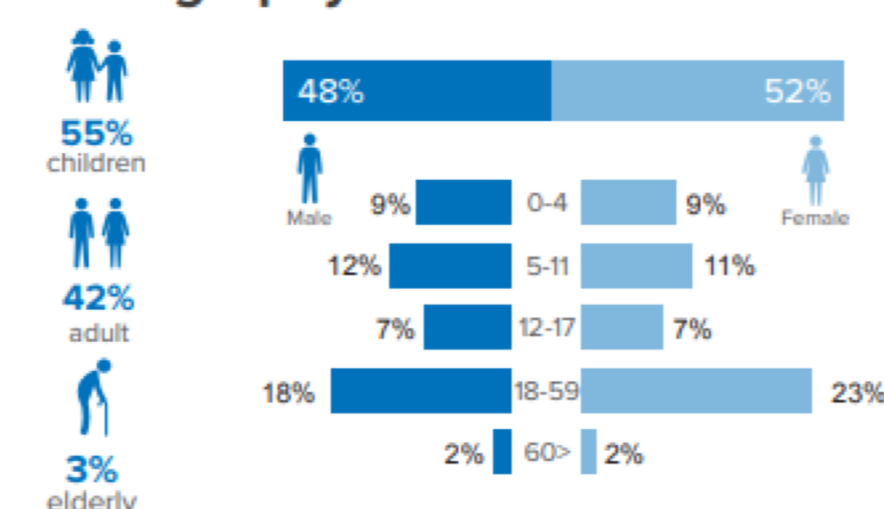
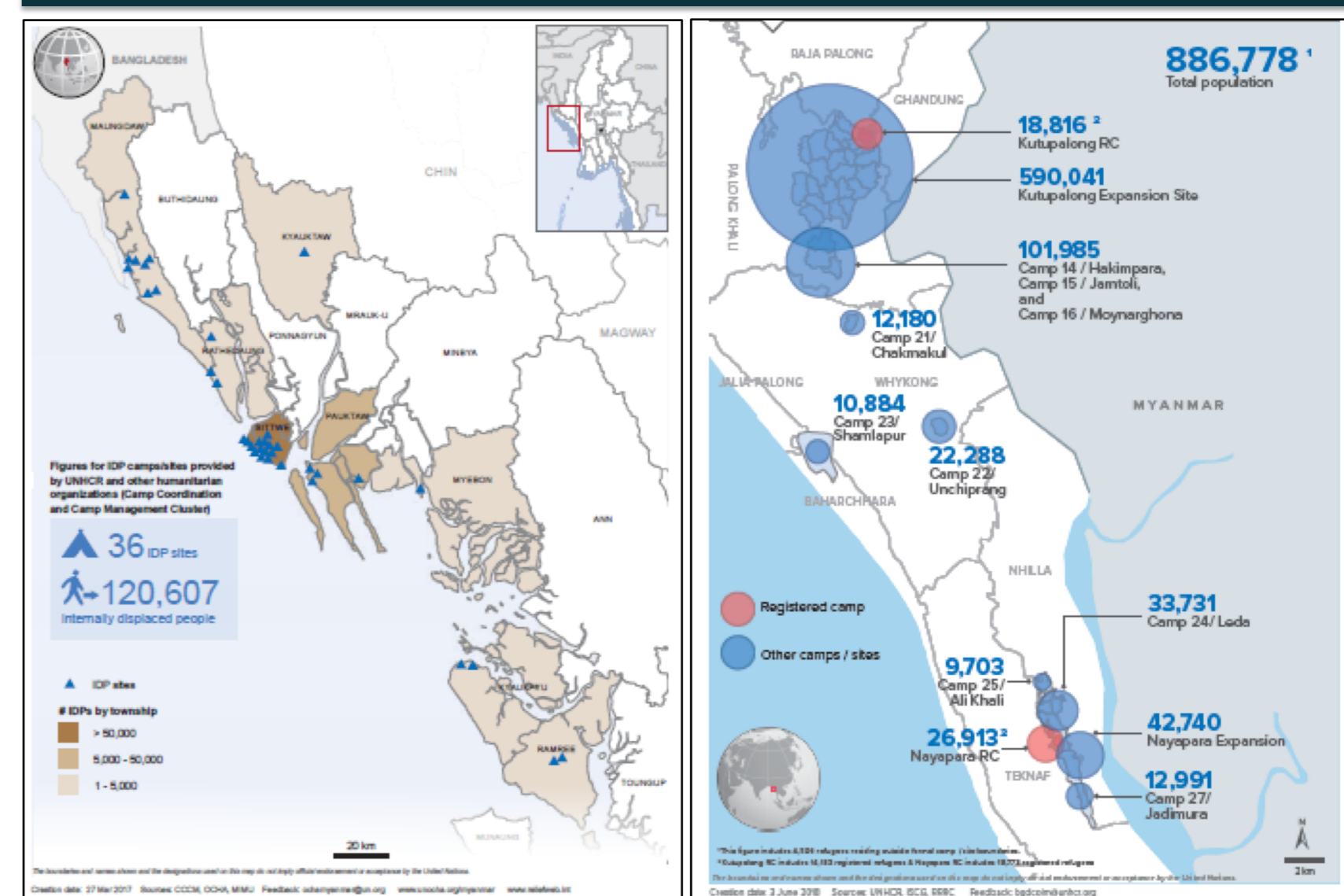


Figure 2: demographic of Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar, 31 May 2018



Figure 3 JRP Report from UNOCHA summarising education needs

Map of Study Area



These maps display camp areas and population dispersion of Rohingya refugees in Rakhine State, Myanmar (Left) and Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh (Right).

Both areas are heavily susceptible to flooding and hydrometeorological events.

Preliminary Results

Cox's Bazar: Current surveys indicate that 55% of the Rohingya refugee population are children.

UNHCR states that there are 168 number of classrooms /Temporary Learning Sites (TLS) 21 March 2018.

Myanmar: Initial Key Informant interviews highlight that data is almost non-existent on Rohingya children's education, and that INGOs that are authorised to operate run the few TLSs in camps inside Rakhine state.

The JRP Report (figure 3) estimates 5,000 equipped classrooms, with skilled teachers, are needed to provide 614,000 children and youth with education.

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