Strengthening Regional Responses to the Rohingya situation

Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week in Bangkok
11-13 December 2023
Rohingya history and their persecution

The Muslim community is the Rohingya.
Who are the Rohingya?

- Arakan was independent and sovereign kingdom for centuries
- It was an independent kingdom between Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent
- Burmese intruded Arakan and occupied
- Arakan again become independent
- Again Occupied during the British era

Rohingyas are not Bangalese, they are from Arakan or Rakhaine state
Sufferings & slow genocide

Slow genocide started with

- Limiting access to Education
- Limiting Rights
- Restricting Movement
- Limiting Earning source
- Rape
- Arson, etc.

1948
MYANMAR BECAME INDEPENDENT FROM THE BRITISH EMPIRE.
THE COUNTRY’S MILITARY REGIME SUBDUED ETHNIC MINORITIES IN THE NEW BURMA.
SPECIALY TO THE ROHINGYA.

BLAMED AS MUSLIM MIGRANTS,
THEY STARTED SUFFERING A LONG SILENT GENOCIDE
DURING THE DICTATORSHIP AND NOW IN A DEMOCRACY,
BACKED BY A TERRIFYING FALSE BUDDHISM.

ESCAPING FROM DEATH, THE ROHINGYA LEFT ARAKAN.
Remove the Rohingya, especially the Muslims

Citizenship revoked and denied

After 1982

Ultra nationalist, Buddhism and Burmese
History of persecution

- 1785 (Arakan was over swept by the Bamar)
- 1799
- 1971
- 2012
- 2016
- 2017

80% of the Rohingya people are out of the country
Case in International Court of Justice- ICJ

- **International Court of Justice**
  - Time process e.g. Russia vs. Myanmar.
  - Financial crunch

- Also irony when international countries are investing in Myanmar!
For the first time, Bangladesh seeks foreign loans to support Rohingyas

Bangladesh has done an incredible thing but now in challenge

Funding shortfalls also forced WFP to cut its food vouchers from US$ 12 to US$ 8 per person per month in Cox’s Bazar camps.
Way forward

• Strengthen advocacy with ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights

• Advocacy with ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children.

• Linking them with the democratic movement, e.g. NUG, AA, PDF.

• Advocacy for Rohingya citizenship, Rights and dignified repatriation.
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Survey findings
Types of NGO participated in the survey...

- International NGO: 50%
- Local NGO: 26%
- National NGO: 13%
- Other: 11%
1. In your opinion, Rohingya response in Bangladesh should be like...

- Right-based response: 39%
- Service delivery response: 26%
- As usual, like UN, INGO & LNGO response: 21%
- Not sure: 13%
- Not sure: 13%
2. Funding shortfalls forced WFP to cut its food vouchers from US$ 12 to US$ 8 per person per month in Cox’s Bazar camps. In your opinion what could be the possible options to remain with food support that previously stood at US$ 12 (multiple choice).

- **UN agencies and INGOs also should retreat from their direct operations in Cox’s Bazar**: 45%
- **UN & INGOs could pull off their offices from Cox’s Bazar and could provide technical and monitoring support to local actors from headquarters in the...**: 47%
- **UN agencies including WFP and INGOs should reduce their management costs in Cox’s Bazar and expand aid support**: 82%
- **Not sure**: 18%
3. Do you think Rohingya community should also be trained to develop their skills with the aim of gaining necessary skills to- (multiple choice)

- Use that skills after their repatriation: 71%
- Reduce on aid dependency: 74%
- Not sure: 13%
4. Do you think Rohingya community and their CSOs, both at home and abroad should—(multiple choice)?

- Produce firm credentials and campaign that support their citizenship and equal participation in Myanmar: 71%
- Upscale their lobby and movement for their repatriation: 68%
- Advocacy for speeding up trial process at the International Criminal Court (ICJ): 45%
- Join the movement with the political parties in Myanmar that support their repatriation: 39%
- Other: 11%
5. Do you consider Rohingya people in Cox’s Bazar should have access to higher education until their safe repatriation?

- Yes: 68%
- No: 16%
- Not sure: 16%
Thank you