

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE & DIGNIFIED SOLUTIONS FOR ROHINGYA

Since August 2017, Bangladesh is experiencing world's largest humanitarian crisis when Myanmar military led 'cleansing operation' and that triggered massive Rohingya Influx to Cox's Bazar. The government of Bangladesh with the help of National & International Humanitarian Community led strong response to the crisis by providing food, water, shelter, healthcare & WASH facilities and other life-saving assistance to these unfortunate but resilient Rohingya people. After passing more than one and a half year of the crisis, Rohingya refugee camps are transitioning from an emergency situation to a more stable state. It is high time to synthesize and share all knowledge and lessons learned from the crisis before all the responders and actors to move on with the new phase of the response. BRAC, being the largest responder to the crisis, aims to ensure quality service delivery, and to keep empathy alive for Rohingya concern until a sustainable dignified solutions is made. BRAC, therefore, organized two events recently in order to gather knowledge and lessons learned from the crisis, and to design future initiatives of the response.

On April 30, 2019 BRAC organized a workshop named "Reflection on Rohingya Crisis: Since and Beyond" at Hotel Six Seasons in Gulshan-2, Dhaka. This workshop involved relevant humanitarian workers and researchers in key thematic areas with distinguished panelists and guests from different organizations to discuss and reflect on lessons learned based on the researches for defining effective response and priorities for the future. Moderated by BRAC HCMP Director Sajedul Hasan, this interactive workshop was adorned by Bangladesh NHRC Chairperson Kazi Reazul Hoque as Chief Guest and NGO Bureau DG K M Abdus Salam, RRRC Commissioner Mohammad Abul kalam ndc and UNHCR Country Representative Steven Corliss were also present as special guests. All guests appreciated Bangladesh's strong humanitarian response to Rohingya crisis and emphasize on a plan for safe and dignified repatriation through diplomatic efforts.

DG NGO Affairs Bureau K M Abdus Salam said "Repatriation is the first priority. I request all the NGOs to focus on humanitarian support and also to raise voice in favor of repatriation. Let us work together for safe repatriation." RRRC Commissioner expressed his concerns over the possibilities of repatriation saying "Rohingya women and girls are opposed to repatriation without guaranteed safety. Men are willing to go back Myanmar only if their conditions regarding citizenship and human rights are met." UNHCR Country Representative Steven Corliss said "the problem began in Myanmar and I think that the solutions can be found in Myanmar as well."



Bangladesh NHRC Chairperson Kazi Reazul Hoque thanked Bangladesh government and humanitarian agencies for their tremendous support to the helpless Rohingya people.

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The solution is repatriation with their dignity and rights. We should create extreme pressure on Myanmar from the international community. What the agencies are doing is great but we need a national plan, which can be short term or long term - Bangladesh NHRC Chairperson Kazi Reazul Hoque.

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This workshop also facilitated four panel discussions on promoting host and refugee's voice, protecting the vulnerable, ecological impact of the Rohingya influx and media response regarding the Rohingya crisis.



NGO Bureau Director General K M Abdus Salam reiterated the safe and dignified repatriation of Rohingya and emphasize basic needs and protection of this people while staying in Bangladesh

On May 29, 2019 BRAC organized Practitioners' Meet titled 'Framing the Future: Safeguarding Rohingya Children' at Best Western Heritage Hotel, Cox's Bazar. This event focused on the most vulnerable among the Rohingyas – Children, many of whom have lost their families and experienced horrific violence, arrived being severely traumatized and losing all their hopes. The purpose of this workshop was to bring humanitarian practitioners, policymakers, and other stakeholders involved in crisis response to engage in group discussions and define key challenges and effective initiatives for safeguarding Rohingya children and creating hope for them. Moderated by KAM Morshed, Director of BRAC Advocacy, Technology & Partnership, this event has been graced by NGO Bureau DG K M Abdus Salam as Guest of Honor and Additional RRRRC Commissioner Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, and Additional DC (General) of Cox's Bazar Mohammed Masudur Rahman Mollah as Special Guest.

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I am not advocating for informal education but for quality education for Rohingya Children. If they are not given education, they will be burden for us, they will be exploited, and they will be radicalized - Additional RRRRC Commissioner Mohammad Mizanur Rahman

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Additional DC (General) of Cox's Bazar Mohammed Masudur Rahman Mollah said “Education, health and protection are the rights of children both for Rohingya and host community.” KAM Morshed, Director of BRAC Advocacy, Technology & Partnership emphasized on quality service delivery to the Rohingya people for ensuring their safety, security and for keeping their hopes alive until they can leave the country voluntarily with dignity.

To document all knowledge and lessons regarding Rohingya crisis response shared by humanitarian workers, policymakers and other participants, BRAC Advocacy is going to publish a workshop proceedings and share it with key stakeholders so that effective response strategy can be designed for a safe, dignified and sustainable solutions to the crisis.

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