

# Impact Analysis: The Rohingya Crisis and Its Socio-Economic Ramifications for Bangladesh

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**Abstract:** *The Rohingya crisis, triggered by violent persecution in Myanmar in August 2017, has profoundly impacted both the refugees and the host community in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. This study uses mixed methods, including qualitative and quantitative analyses, ethnographic research, and document analysis, to examine the Composite Social Impact Index (CSII) and Composite Economic Impact Index (CEII). The displacement of over 1.1 million Rohingya to Cox's Bazar has resulted in minimal interaction with the host community and fears of cultural erosion. Hygiene issues are significant, with compromised access to clean water and sanitation, groundwater degradation, and mismanaged waste disposal, leading to health risks. Education disparities are stark, as 76.92% of Rohingya children lack formal education, while the host community faces rising educational costs. Housing concerns affect both communities due to deforestation and hill-cutting for shelters, resulting in inadequate housing and safety issues. The economic impact includes challenges with foreign aid management, food security, and labor market disruptions, where Rohingya refugees accept lower wages, affecting local employment. Environmental degradation, water scarcity, and ineffective waste management necessitate sustainable resource practices. Tourism perspectives differ, with Rohingya viewing their presence as beneficial, while locals' express concerns about security and environmental impacts. This study highlights the socio-economic challenges of the Rohingya influx and emphasizes the need for urgent mitigation strategies. Recommendations include enhancing social integration, improving hygiene, ensuring inclusive education, providing sustainable housing, managing aid transparently, securing food, developing targeted employment strategies, and conserving natural resources. Collaborative efforts among government bodies, NGOs, and communities are crucial for a unified response, facilitating coexistence and sustainable development in Cox's Bazar.*

**Keywords:** Rohingya Crisis, Socio-Economic Impact, Cox's Bazar, Refugee Integration, Sustainable Development

## 1. Introduction

The Rohingya Crisis, a significant concern for Bangladesh, stems from persecution in Myanmar and has been exacerbated by international neglect. Over one million Rohingya refugees now reside in Bangladesh, a country already struggling with demographic and socio-economic challenges. This mass exodus, particularly intense since 2017, has led to severe social, environmental, legal, and economic repercussions for the host nation. The crisis did not emerge suddenly; Rohingya refugees have been arriving in Bangladesh in waves since the 1970s. The 2017 influx saw nearly 750,000 Rohingyas cross the border in a few months, leading to the world's largest refugee community in Cox's Bazar [2]. The strain on Bangladesh, a developing nation with a history of political unrest, is immense. The local population faces challenges like religious radicalization, prostitution, drug trafficking, environmental degradation, price hikes, and increased living costs [3]. The influx has severely impacted the labor market, with Rohingyas accepting lower wages and creating job competition for locals. Economic pressures drive camp residents to seek income through various means, including remittances, debt, selling rations, and engaging in risky activities. Both the Rohingya and host communities face food and water crises, with frequent conflicts over scarce resources. Efforts to repatriate Rohingyas have been largely unsuccessful. International attempts, such as Gambia's genocide charges against Myanmar, have not led to significant progress. The continued presence of Rohingyas in Bangladesh exacerbates local tensions and environmental degradation. As international attention and aid dwindle, Bangladesh faces

increasing difficulty in managing the crisis. This study investigates the failed attempts at repatriation and the socio-economic impacts of the Rohingya influx from 2017 to 2022 [4]. It seeks to identify the changes in Bangladesh's socio-economic landscape, factors affecting social cohesion and economic parity between Rohingyas and the host community, and potential government responses for fostering cooperation and development. The research highlights the urgent need for strategic management of the crisis. It underscores the importance of thorough assessment and innovative solutions to enhance socio-economic cooperation and development for both communities. As Bangladesh prepares to graduate from the Least Developed Countries (LDC) list by 2026, addressing the Rohingya crisis is crucial for maintaining its economic stability and social harmony [5]. The study's objectives are to analyze social and economic changes due to the Rohingya influx, assess factors affecting social cohesion and economic parity, and explore the future role of the Bangladesh government in fostering socio-economic cooperation and development. The significance of this study lies in its potential to guide effective policy-making and resource allocation to mitigate the crisis's impact.

The scope of the research is focused on the socio-economic aspects of the crisis, acknowledging limitations such as the availability and accuracy of administrative data, and the evolving nature of the refugee situation. It excludes in-depth analysis of diplomatic efforts and the Myanmar government's stance, due to lack of reliable sources. In summary, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic impacts of the

Rohingya crisis on Bangladesh and propose actionable strategies for mitigation, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts between the government, international organizations, and local communities.

manages the Rohingyas on all socioeconomic fronts. As the Myanmar government no longer associates with an internal crisis within Bangladesh or is concerned with moderating the current Rohingya influx in Bangladesh, its participation in this study is negated.

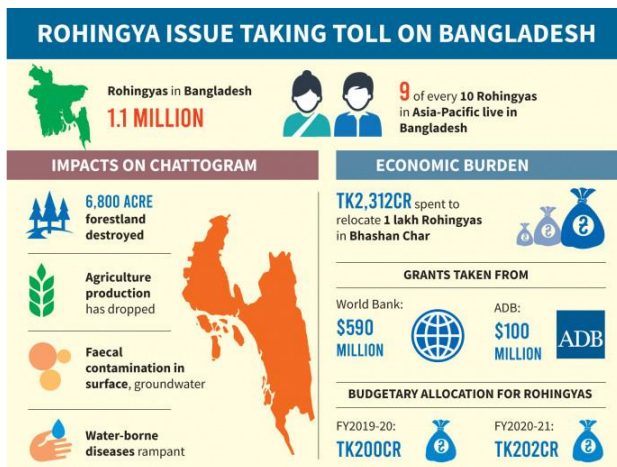


Figure 1: Toll of Rohingya Issue in Bangladesh [1]

2. Study Area

2.1 Review and Analysis Stage

The humanitarian crisis affecting the Rohingya refugees from Arakan, Myanmar, has been ongoing and intricate. The problem has not been resolved despite multiple international interventions and assistance attempts, and the chances of the Rohingyas going back to Myanmar are decreasing year by year. This ongoing problem calls for a careful analysis of the socioeconomic effects on Bangladesh, the host nation that has taken on the responsibility of housing a sizable number of refugees given its limited resources.

This field of study focuses on the socioeconomic difficulties and effects of the Rohingya crisis on Bangladesh, highlighting the necessity of taking calculated action to deal with these problems. In 2017, a violent military crackdown in Myanmar caused a major outflow of Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh, precipitating a severe escalation of the Rohingya crisis [10]. The world community initially reacted by providing significant humanitarian relief, and Bangladesh welcomed the refugees with its customary compassion. But the ongoing flood of refugees has put a strain on the host towns' patience and resources. Aid has significantly decreased as a result of a change in focus towards other global issues throughout time. In the first three years following 2017, for example, humanitarian aid varied from 72 to 75 percent of total needed, but by 2020, it had dropped to 65 percent [9]. This pattern suggests that international support is likely to continue declining.

3. Methodology

The dependent and independent variables are incorporated into the construction of the conceptual framework. The independent variables in this case are the number of Rohingya and how long they have been in Bangladesh. The government of Bangladesh and socioeconomic variables are dependent variables. The government of Bangladesh

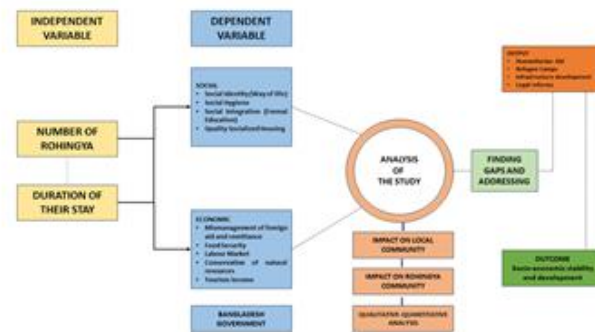


Figure 2: Conceptual Framework

It will be possible to identify the changes brought into the host communities as well as the gaps that are extending the situation by analyzing the socioeconomic status of the local host communities based on the dates of the Rohingyas' arrival (2017–22). The study will also be able to determine how the Rohingya population affects host communities. Determining the potential for socio-economic growth in the region will also be aided by an analysis of the current Rohingya management system. There will be a series of suggestions made that might aid the government of Bangladesh in making future decisions [11].

3.1 Research Design

This study used a "Mixed Method" research approach. Because this study was developed using qualitative descriptive investigations, it offers a comprehensive overview of the various economic and societal sectors that Rohingya people and groups, as well as the neighboring Bangladeshi communities, encounter. In order to develop this research study and highlight and prioritize comprehensive understandings as well as how people perceive, experience, and act within dynamic and socially structured milieus, qualitative techniques, ethnographic study through employed agencies, document analysis, and quantitative analysis will be combined [6]. Inductive research [7] will be employed in conjunction with the qualitative technique in this study to generate thematic assumptions based on field observations and data gathering. A detailed explanation in the participants' language can be provided by qualitative methods [8]. Additionally, qualitative study will provide light on the past and present influences on choices, assisting counselors in coming up with more sensible solutions [8]. A flexible questionnaire that provides underlying advice from the study questions will be used to conduct in-depth semi-structured interviews.

3.2 Sampling Design

The primary quantitative tool will be a micro survey of randomly selected families in the Cox's Bazar district. A stratified multi-stage sampling strategy will be used to select the homes. The study will concentrate on the Cox's Bazar district's Ramu, Sadar, and Ukhiya. Both the host and

refugee communities will be represented among the study's respondents.

**Table 1:** Key Informants Interview

Cohort	Respondents	Number of KII
Category -1 Bangladesh National Security Enforcement Officials	Senior Officers (both serving and retired) at Policy making level of Refugee areas. Mid-level officers serving in the field	4
Category 2 Households of Cox's Bazar	Local citizens of Teknaf & Ukhiya of the Host Community	6
Category 3 Households of Refugees in Cox's Bazar	Refugees living in Teknaf & Ukhiya	6
Category-4. General Officer Commanding of 10 Infantry Division, Refugee, Relief & Repatriation Commission, District Commissioners (DCs) and Superintendent	Active Military, Civil, and Police forces were appointed in different districts.	4
Category-5 Government & Non-government Humanitarian organizations	NGO Officials Ministry Officials Govt Funded Humanitarian organization officials Private Organization actors	5
Total =		25

The respondents from the refugee community will be selected solely from Ukhiya Upazila. The methods used in household surveys by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and other assessments carried out in similar circumstances abroad will be examined in order to develop the questionnaire. Following finalization and field testing, adjustments will be made based on user feedback. In order to have a thorough grasp of the Rohingya refugees' living circumstances after their arrival in Bangladesh, a survey employing a standardized questionnaire will be carried out. In order to fully assess their well-being and living conditions, this survey attempts to collect information on their current social and economic circumstances. Interviews with a few randomly selected Rohingya homes in the Kutupalong camp, in the Palong Khali union of the Ukhiya upazila, would be conducted for this purpose.

### 3.3 Research Instruments

A micro survey, aimed at a subset of Cox's Bazar district homes impacted by the inflow, will serve as the primary

quantitative tool. The sample size is constrained by time and financial resources. With 4,16,000 houses in Cox's Bazar overall, 95% of the minimum number of residences that needed to be surveyed turned out to be 385 based on a 5% confidence level in the sample that was selected. The host community's 434 households will be polled. A stratified multi-stage sampling technique is used to select the houses from which data will be gathered. In Cox's Bazar, the district is divided administratively into eight Upazilas.

### 3.4 Data Collection

On-site Survey, KII, and FGD Conduction: Following the correction of all errors, a survey, FGD, and KII will be held.

To guarantee data quality during the data collection stage, the author will organize and manage the field team.

**Spot Check:** To make sure the data is coming from a reliable source, the enumerator team supervisor will spot-check the information being gathered in the field. Additionally, the field coordinator will verify the data collection activity by visiting the field at random.

**Field observation and ethnographic research Sharing in the EOD:** The researcher will provide daily field observations about the study area's general environment as well as the subject at hand.

**Back Check:** The author will make sporadic phone calls to verify the data collected during the data-collecting period. To confirm the information gathered that day, 10% of the respondents will be contacted.

**Refine/Re-adjust the data collection plan accordingly:** The study team will modify the data collection plan if it discovers any problems or difficulties that the enumerators are facing.

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Data Analysis

This part presents the findings from face-to-face interviews conducted with respondents from both the host and Rohingya communities in Cox's Bazar. The study identifies several indicators to measure the impact of the Rohingya influx, divided into two major parts: social impact and economic impact.

#### 4.1.1 Social Impact

##### 1. Demographic Shift and Social Identity

- The influx caused a significant demographic shift, challenging the host community's social fabric.
- The study explores the integration of the Rohingya population and its impact on local culture and traditions, highlighting changes in the social identity of the host community.

##### 2. Sanitation and Public Health

- Increased population density has impacted sanitation and public health.



- The host community faced difficulties maintaining sanitary standards, affecting overall well-being.

**3. Education**

- The study assesses the accessibility and quality of education for both communities.
- Barriers and opportunities in the education sector emerged, affecting social integration.

**4. Housing and Infrastructure**

- The study examines housing conditions and infrastructure for both communities.
- Overcrowding poses challenges, necessitating improved housing facilities to ensure well-being.

**4.1.2 Economic Impact**

**1. Foreign Aid and Remittance**

- The study reveals mismanagement of foreign aid and remittance intended to support both communities.
- It evaluates the effectiveness of these resources in local economic development.

**2. Food Security**

- Changes in agricultural practices, food availability, and access to nutrition are examined.
- The findings highlight challenges in food security and suggest potential strategies for improvement.

**3. Labor Market Dynamics**

- The study provides insights into employment opportunities and wage levels for both communities.
- It offers a deeper understanding of the economic changes and their implications for local livelihoods.

**4. Natural Resources Conservation**

- The impact on land, water, and forests is assessed.
- The findings highlight the environmental consequences and sustainability issues resulting from the crisis.

**5. Tourism Income**

- The influence of the Rohingya influx on the tourism industry is examined.
- The study identifies potential opportunities for economic growth through tourism.

The insights gained can inform policy-making, community development strategies, and interventions to promote integration, resilience, and sustainable growth in the affected areas.

**4.2 Social Impact of the Influx**

The collective sense of identification and belonging within a certain group is referred to as social identity. It includes the same traits, principles, worldviews, and cultural affinities that bind people together and influence how they view themselves and interact with others. Exploring social identity in the context of this research gives light on how members of both of the communities see themselves and how they fit into a larger social structure, giving insights into their experiences and difficulties.

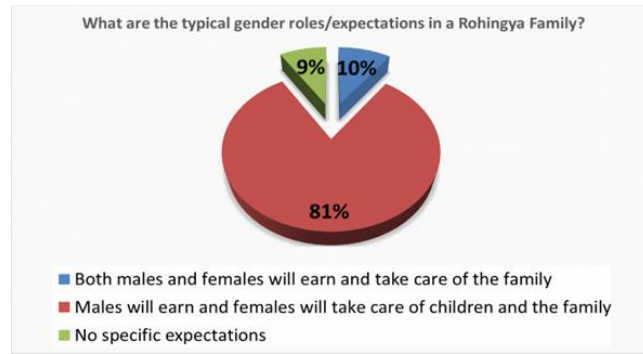


Figure 3: Gender roles and expectations

**4.3 Sense of Social Identity**

Respondents were asked about their views on the importance of preserving the language and customs for future generations. Upon examining the Rohingya responses, it can be concluded that they have a strong sense of their culture. Almost 58% of the respondents (i.e., FDMN) believe that it is very important to preserve their identity. 6% of the people think that it is somewhat important. And the rest of the 35% of respondents feel it is important to preserve Rohingya culture. In another chart, about 67% of the people feel a strong sense of culture, while 33% do not feel it to the same extent.

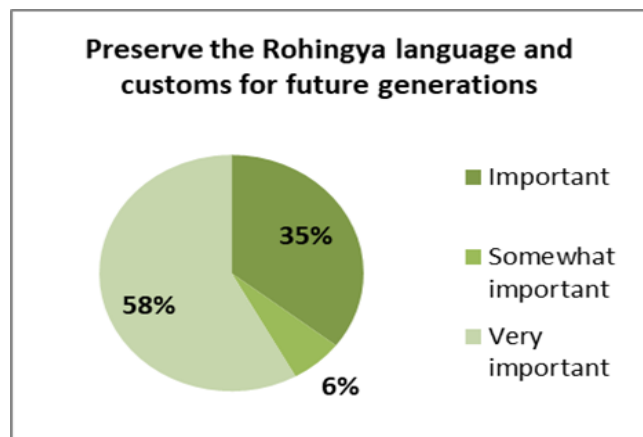


Figure 4: Future generation languages

FGD data has provided valuable insight into Rohingya refugees' perception of the similarities of culture, as one of the participants of the FGD indicated that he did not notice any difference between the culture or customs of the host community and the Rohingya community, which helps them to mend with the locals easily.

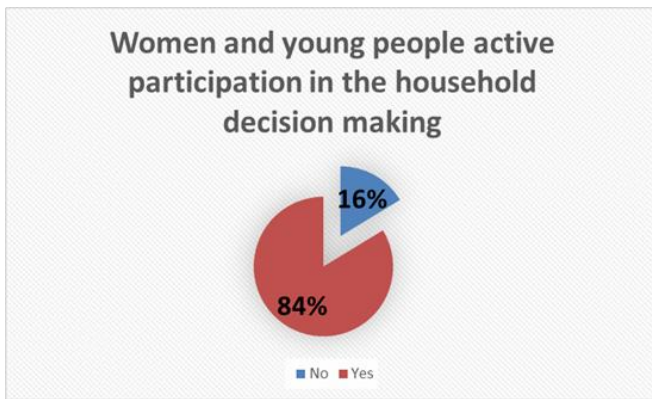


Figure 5: Participation of women and young people

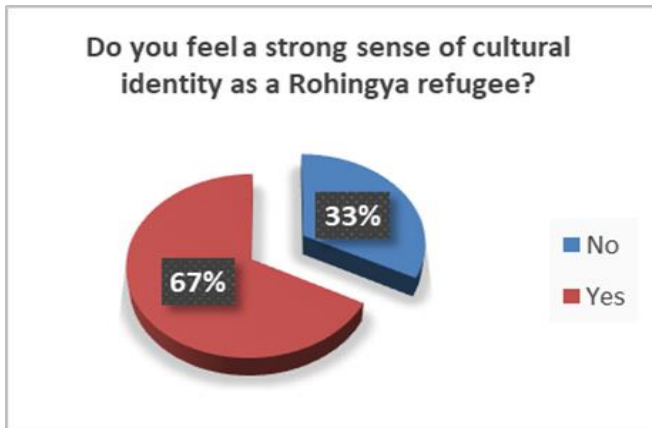


Figure 6: Sense of Cultural Identity

#### 4.4 Social Impact of the Influx

Hygiene encompasses practices and behaviors aimed at promoting health and preventing disease. Personal habits like cleaning, sanitation, and proper waste disposal are included. Examining hygiene in the context of this research on the Rohingya crisis provides insights into how host and refugee populations prioritize and preserve their physical well-being, showing their adaptation and resilience in difficult situations.

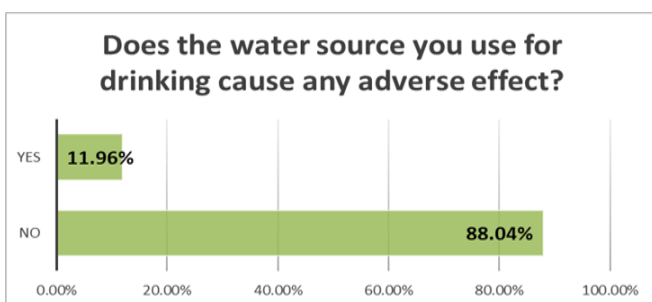


Figure 7: Water quality and Adverse effects

#### 4.5 Disposal of household waste

The above chart depicts data on where the respondents dispose of their household waste. 95% of the respondents pointed out that they dispose of their household waste in a designated area, while 5% of the respondents dispose of their household waste beside their residing area. The rest of them dispose of their waste in water bodies. An underlying issue of hygiene and solid waste management is the disposal of waste. Currently, only 45% of the waste is properly processed, while the remaining waste remains open. (Humanitarian)



Figure 8: Sense of Cultural Identity

#### 4.6 Activities during particular seasons of disease outbreak

As Rohingya camps are congested areas, chances of getting affected by contagious or virus diseases are highly likely. These areas are at risk of outbreaks due to a lack of vaccination process, overcrowded areas, malnutrition, and poor water and sanitation. It's hard to contain any contagious diseases in these congested areas. The above data shows what precautionary activities are practiced by the Rohingya refugees to avoid any disease outbreak. About 69.57% of the respondents indicated that they use coil or mosquito nets as precautionary activity. 19.57% said to keep their surroundings dirt free while the rest 10.87% said they clean stagnant water found in enclosed spaces.

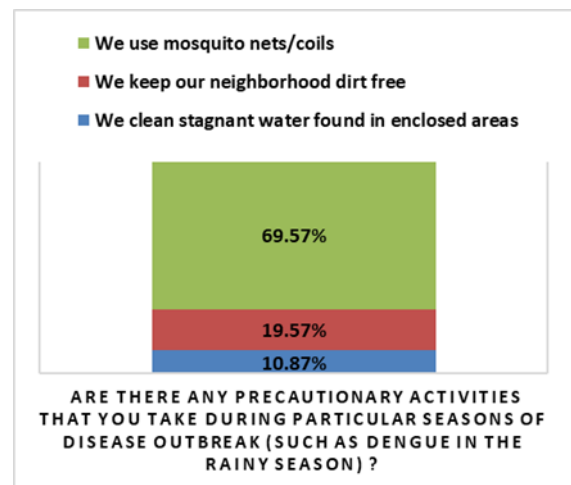


Figure 9: Precautionary Activities during Disease

#### 4.7 Data Analysis Economic Impact of the Influx

Foreign aid and remittance Management is the improper processing or ineffective distribution of financial help and finances obtained from outside sources. Exploring this issue in the context of this research on the Rohingya crisis highlights potential difficulties in ensuring that aid and remittance intended for the development and well-being of both host and refugee communities are used effectively, highlighting the need for open and accountable systems to maximize the beneficial effects of outside financial support.

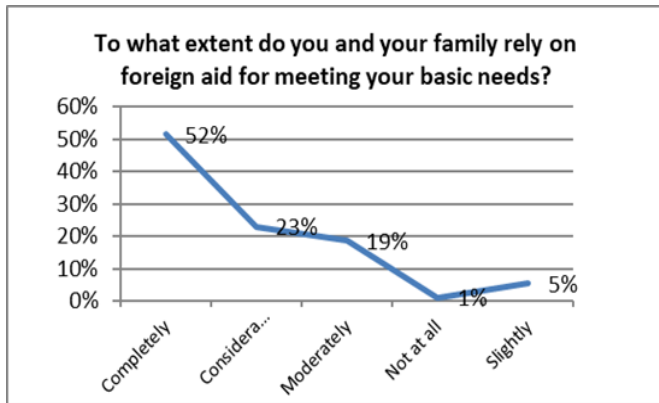


Figure 10: Reliance on Foreign Aid

#### 4.8 Management issues in the host community

The host country has been managing foreign aid distribution throughout the camps since the influx. In the chart, a noticeable number comprises 84% of respondents who think there lies no mismanagement in distributing foreign aid. While 16% of the respondents think differently, as they have experienced mismanagement in distribution.

However, one of the FGD participants has stated that inconsistency in resource distribution between the host community and the Rohingya community can be observed as Rohingyas are given a variety of support that is not provided in the host community.

#### MISMANAGEMENT ISSUES IN THE HOST COMMUNITY IN TERMS OF DISTRIBUTING THE FINANCIAL AID

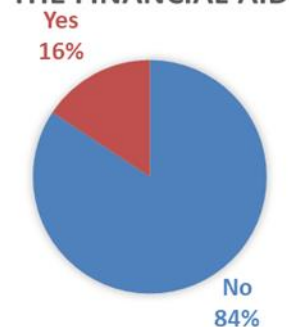


Figure 11: Mismanagement Issues

### 5. Conclusions and Recommendations

The paper emphasizes the major effects of the Rohingya inflow in Bangladesh's Chattogram division, which is located in the eastern and southern regions. The host country of Cox's Bazar is confronted with social, economic, and environmental issues due to the presence of nearly a million registered and unregistered migrants seeking sanctuary there. Due to refugee settlements, the local community loses land and resources, which causes deforestation and a decline in biodiversity. The problem is made more complex by their increasing concern of being outnumbered in their own nation. Cox's Bazar's tourism attractiveness is undermined by mismanagement and refugee involvement in illicit activities. To solve this worldwide issue and promote enduring

harmony in the face of the underlying difficulties, immediate action is required. To effectively address the complex challenges posed by the Rohingya crisis and its socio-economic impacts on Bangladesh, the following recommendations are essential:

- Foster Intercultural Dialogue and Understanding: Promote a sense of shared identity and respect for cultural differences by encouraging intercultural dialogue and understanding between the host community and the Rohingya population.
- Improve Access to Clean Water and Sanitation: Enhance access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and waste management systems in the host community to promote healthier living conditions for both the host and Rohingya communities.
- Ensure Equal Access to Education: Guarantee equal access to education for both the host community and Rohingya children, including language support and cultural sensitivity training for teachers.
- Address Housing Needs: Construct safe, sustainable, and affordable housing to meet the needs of both the host community and the Rohingya population.
- Establish Transparent Aid Management: Create transparent mechanisms for the effective management and equitable distribution of foreign aid and remittances among the host community and the Rohingya population.
- Enhance Food Security: Support initiatives that provide training, resources, and financial assistance to promote self-sufficiency in food production for both communities, reducing dependency on external aid and enhancing food security within the host community.
- Promote Employment and Fair Labor Practices: Improve the skills and employability of both the host community and the Rohingya population. Promote fair labor practices to ensure equal pay and non-discriminatory hiring processes, creating a level playing field in the local job market.
- Preserve Natural Resources: Encourage community-led conservation efforts by supporting initiatives that promote environmental awareness, reforestation, and the responsible use of land and water resources.
- Develop Responsible Tourism: Formulate tourism strategies that leverage the cultural diversity and heritage of both the host community and the Rohingya population, promoting responsible tourism practices and showcasing the richness of local culture.
- Implementing these recommendations will help mitigate the negative impacts of the Rohingya crisis on Bangladesh, fostering socio-economic development and harmonious coexistence between the host and Rohingya communities.

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## Author Profile



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