

Photo: DRC Afghanistan



## About ADSP

### Introduction

*The Asia Displacement Solutions Platform is a joint initiative of the Danish Refugee Council, International Rescue Committee, and Norwegian Refugee Council, which works to contribute to the development of comprehensive solutions for displaced persons across the Afghan and Myanmar displacement axes.*

Welcome to the March 2022 newsletter from the Asia Displacement Solutions Platform. These newsletters are intended to shine a spotlight on some of the issues being tackled by our members, and the programmatic work done to improve outcomes for persons affected by displacement. In addition, the newsletter provides updates on global or regional processes which may otherwise go unexplored.

Each newsletter contains articles from members in ADSP focus countries, exploring interesting programme developments and regional migration trends. As we continue through 2022, we encourage you to share ideas that you'd like to see addressed.

The newsletter relies upon content created by member organisations, and everyone is welcome to contribute. If you have an idea for an article, on any subject, please feel free to contact us to discuss. We would love to publish overviews of your activities, interviews with staff, and photos which give an idea of the work being carried out in the field.

These newsletters are intended to improve information-sharing between ADSP member organisations, as well as to highlight the work of the platform more publicly.

## A message from the ADSP Manager

### Consolidating and re-envisioning ADSP's work in the region

By Evan Jones, Asia Displacement Solutions Platform Manager



Since our last newsletter in December 2021, ADSP's work has moved forward at full pace. We continue to progress our activities under the 'Protecting Rohingya Refugees in Asia' (PRRiA) project, as well as several other advocacy and internal strategy initiatives. Thank you to all members for your engagement in these endeavors, and for your continued investment of time and energy. Through mutual support, thinking, and analysis, ADSP looks forward to this ongoing dialogue and the further alignment of our work.

In Afghanistan, the humanitarian needs remain high, and the likelihood of durable solutions in any way shape or form in the short to medium term is quite low. Food security issues remain prominent, as do issues of liquidity and an economy in freefall. In response to this new reality in Afghanistan, ADSP has embarked on a process of developing an advocacy and research strategy for 2022-2023. It is envisioned that this strategy will bring clarity to ADSP's work in the sub-region and will bring it closer to the needs and existing strategies of our members. This strategy will be finalized in May 2022.

In Bangladesh, possibilities for durable solutions for Rohingya refugees remain elusive. As outlined in the recently released 2022 Joint Response Plan (JRP), there remains an ongoing need for concerted efforts related to disaster risk management and climate change mitigation, as well as funding that directly supports Rohingya and host populations to live in safety and dignity. With new crises emerging such as in the Ukraine, there remains a real risk that a focus on Rohingya will continue to diminish.

Similarly, in Myanmar, humanitarian needs remain with ongoing fighting and displacement of persons within the country. The economic and political fallout since February 2021 is expected to not only drive additional and ongoing displacement in the months ahead, but will further compound challenges of poverty, sexual and gender-based violence, and malnutrition.

Finally, I wish to conclude by flagging an ongoing piece of internal work that is being progressed by the ADSP leadership and the support of members. To pursue greater cohesion and efficiency in our work, the ADSP is in the process of an internal governance and impact evaluation. This body of work is designed to pinpoint ADSP's value add and assist in positioning us as we move through 2022 and beyond. We look forward to sharing the findings of this work in due course and using the outcomes to deliver a stronger platform that serves the needs and objectives of our members.

Wishing everyone a safe and prosperous month of Ramadan.



Evan Jones  
ADSP Manager  
Dhaka, Bangladesh



Photo: NRC

## Protecting Rohingya Refugees in Asia (PRRiA)

ADSP's two-year project in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council, the Geutanyoe Foundation, and the Mixed Migration Centre Asia entitled 'Protecting Rohingya Refugees in Asia (PRRiA) 2021-2023' – is in full swing. Throughout the first quarter of the year, project partners have worked together on a range of initiatives contributing to the overall project goal i.e., improving protection spaces for Rohingya refugees within Southeast Asia.

Some notable activities include:

### Panel Discussion: *What if...? What now...? Protection Rohingya Refugees in Southeast Asia in 2022 and Beyond*

This event was delivered by project partners to act as a platform and sounding board for greater regional thinking and action for Rohingya protection. Bringing together a range of regional experts including Honourable Ahmad Tarmizi bin Sulaiman, Malaysian Parliamentarian, Chair of All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugee Policy; Mr. Charlie Goodlake, External Relations Officer, UNHCR; Mr. Usman Hamid, Indonesia Director, Amnesty International; and, Ms. Hafsar Tameesuddin, Chair of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network, the event discussed the current state of play for Rohingya in the region, and what opportunities exist by which stakeholders should engage with. The event brought together attendees from civil society, donors, academia, government, and refugee communities themselves.

ONLINE PANEL DISCUSSION

**What if...? What now...? Protecting Rohingya Refugees in Southeast Asia in 2022 and Beyond**

**Speakers:**  
 Honourable Ahmad Tarmizi bin Sulaiman, Malaysian Parliamentarian, Chair of All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugee Policy  
 Mr. Jerald Joseph, Commissioner, Human Rights Commission of Malaysia [SUHAKAM]  
 Mr. Usman Hamid, Indonesia Director, Amnesty International  
 Ms. Hafsar Tameesuddin, Chair of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network  
 Mr. Charlie Goodlake, External Relations Officer, UNHCR

**Moderator:**  
 Ms. Lilianne Fan, International Director and Co-Founder of the Geutanyoe Foundation





**Thursday 10 February 2022**  
 14.30 Dhaka // 15.30 Bangkok via MS Teams

**PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE EVENT AT**  
<https://forms.gle/MD9N8QJ0JH0U5A7>

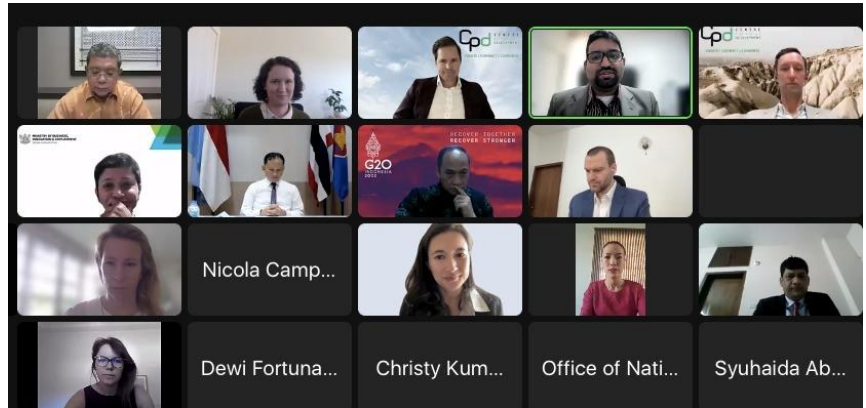






### Participation in the Asia Dialogue for Forced Migration

On 24 March 2022, the Centre for Policy Development (CPD) convened the 11<sup>th</sup> Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration (ADFM). Established in August 2015, the ADFM is a ‘second track’ process that pursues more effective, durable, and dignified approaches to forced migration in the Asia-Pacific. Bringing together government officials, international organisations, academia and civil society, the meeting discussed a range of pertinent issues – including the plight of the Rohingya. Participants in the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were fortunate to engage with Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin, as well as recorded comments from Indonesian Foreign Minister Ibu Retno Masurdi, on how Indo-Pacific nations can strengthen cooperation to address forced migration through multilateral regional forums amongst other means.



### Upcoming research: Refugee protection, human smuggling and trafficking in South and Southeast Asia

This research project – a deliverable under the PRRiA project – aims to support the advancement of holistic protection of Rohingya in the region, recognising their position, not only as refugees, but also as individuals who are highly vulnerable to smuggling and trafficking.

As such, the research will improve the understanding of the intersection between refugee protection, smuggling and trafficking frameworks and policies, and develop targeted recommendations and advocacy points for project partners and the wider community of actors working on improving protection for Rohingya. Specific objectives of the research include:

- Clarifying the intersection of refugee protection and the smuggling and trafficking of Rohingya refugees in Southeast Asia and Bangladesh;
- Analysing the application of national and regional anti-smuggling and anti-trafficking laws and policy protections to Rohingya refugees in the region;
- Assessing gaps and disconnections in knowledge, law, policy, and responses regarding Rohingya protection through existing frameworks in order to identify and capitalize on potential overlaps; and,
- Providing targeted recommendations for legal, policy, and program responses for key actors, including host governments, regional bodies, civil society, and international actors to better advance fundamental protection for Rohingya refugees.

### Upcoming Capacity Building: Research and Advocacy Training for Malaysian Civil Society

In June 2022, project partners will convene in Malaysia for the delivery of a workshop to support selected local civil society organisations through knowledge and skill-building in the areas of research and advocacy. Using a co-design process, ADSP, MMC and the Geutanyoe Foundation - with local partners - will develop a training that speaks to existing community gaps in research and advocacy. It is envisioned that this training, in collaboration with ongoing mentorship support, will create additional opportunities for local civil society engagement and change.

Further details of this activity will be available in due course.

## The world needs to step up support for Afghan refugee education in Pakistan

By Evan Jones, Manager at the Asia Displacement Solutions Platform



***Strengthening access to refugee education has an untapped potential to create a generation of youth that can contribute to the development of both Pakistan and their homeland Afghanistan, when the situation improves.***

Pakistan is home to 1.44 million registered Afghan refugees, and a further 600,000 unregistered Afghan refugees, many of whom have been in the country since the 1970s, having left Afghanistan in search of safety and security.

The UN estimates that almost 80 percent of school-age Afghan refugees are currently not enrolled in or accessing formal primary education. Given the Taliban takeover and recent developments in Afghanistan, education for Afghan youth in host countries like Pakistan is more important than ever, especially for young girls and others with special needs.

Whilst Pakistan does not have any formal legal framework protecting refugees, there has been a general historical willingness by Pakistani authorities to allow Afghans to remain in the country until conditions at home improve.

For registered Afghan refugees – known officially as Proof of Registration (PoR) cardholders – this status has importantly extended to them being able to access basic services, including primary education. As is the case anywhere in the world, education is a core human right that provides the foundation for individuals to live sustainable and fulfilling lives.

Access to primary-level education for refugees in Pakistan is actually enshrined in law and policy. In practice, however, the ability for Afghan youth to access schooling is far from straightforward.

Due to a multitude of barriers — which poor Pakistani children also face but is compounded for refugees — such as tuition costs, transportation expenses, the distance of schools from refugee housing, and outdated teaching practises amongst others, large numbers of Afghan refugee children remain without an education.

Challenges to education access and quality were compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic. During March 2020 to February 2021, schools in Pakistan were closed for 137 days, per government directives. With limited access to online learning platforms, many refugees not only missed out on significant amounts of education, but also dropped out completely.

### **Access to education for girls lagging behind**

Within the broader population of Afghan refugee children in Pakistan – particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province – girls face additional obstacles in obtaining an education. As of June 2021, it was estimated that out of the current 31,266 students studying at schools in the so-called ‘refugee villages’, only 35 percent were girls.

In many locations, girls’ schools do not exist, or they are located too far from refugee housing, which leaves co-educational schools as the only available option – one that most conservative households choose not to avail.

With the commencement of the Covid-19 pandemic, many children were also forced to forgo education to support their families in domestic labour. Loss of livelihoods within families also resulted in negative coping mechanisms such as an uptick in early marriages, particularly amongst girls.

## Education as a cornerstone for long-term solutions

For refugees, access to education plays a crucial role in generating resilience, strengthening community support networks, providing the skills needed to access future livelihoods, and to live independent and rewarding lives. Schools also act as spaces where educators can identify risks faced by children – whether that be healthcare needs, potential abuse, learning difficulties, or other support services.

In a child's formative years, classrooms have the potential to be transformational. If quality and inclusive education is available, and children and their parents are committed to the education on offer, children can develop the foundations needed for them to escape poverty and lead independent and resilient lives. Education and training also provide the bedrock needed for all individuals – refugees or otherwise – to seek and secure gainful employment when they reach adulthood.

In the case of Pakistan, strengthening access to refugee education has an untapped potential to create a generation of youth that can contribute to the development of both Pakistan and their homeland Afghanistan when the situation improves.

### What should be done to change the status quo?

To address the cultural, structural, and policy-level gaps related to education for Afghan refugee children in Pakistan, civil society has identified numerous tangible steps that can be taken by the Government of Pakistan, the UN refugee agency, and donors.

Remedies include the construction of additional girls' schools, eliminating physical infrastructure barriers for disabled children and girls, reducing the distances that refugees must travel to school, investing in teacher training, and, developing reintegration programmes for students that may have been compelled to drop out of school. These steps won't solve all existing challenges, but they will contribute to greater future enrollment and student retention.

Importantly, it is also incumbent upon all actors supporting education for Afghan refugee children to ensure that Afghan refugees themselves are front and centre in decision making. This can be done through inclusion of Afghan refugees in critical decision-making, improving the effectiveness of Parent-Teacher Committees, as well as ongoing engagement with parents. Only with the direct inputs of affected persons themselves, can parents make informed decisions of their child's specific needs.

Having generously hosted Afghan refugees for decades, Pakistan cannot and should not be expected to remedy the current situation alone. Only with the support of the international community, donors, and civil society will Afghan refugee children be able to fully realise their right to access high-quality education.

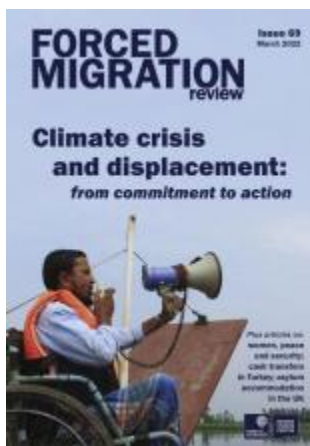
With technical support, capacity building of government staff, investment in physical infrastructure, and a long-term commitment by donors and international actors, can the government deliver much-needed education reforms for refugees.

This article originally appeared in TRT World [here](#).

## Lessons from drought response in Afghanistan

By Evan Jones, Manager at the Asia Displacement Solutions Platform, and Shahrzad Amoli, former Advocacy Specialist at the Danish Refugee Council, Afghanistan

**Failure to anticipate drought and to coordinate an effective, recovery-focused response contributed to the protracted displacement of hundreds of thousands of people in Afghanistan. In the face of climate crisis impacts, ensuring preparedness and early action will be key.**



In 2018 Afghanistan experienced a severe drought that had a direct impact on more than two-thirds of the country's population of 38 million. The drought resulted in failed harvests, empty groundwater reserves, and a spike in food insecurity in 22 out of 34 provinces.<sup>1</sup> Subsequently, it led to mass internal displacement with approximately 371,000 Afghans forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in other parts of the country. In Afghanistan's western region alone, the drought triggered the displacement of more than 170,000 people.<sup>2</sup> Four years later, and in the midst of a second drought, many of these internally displaced persons (IDPs) have still not been able to access 'durable solutions', unable to return to their places of origin or to integrate within local communities.

In locations such as Shahrak-e-Sabz, an informal settlement on the outskirts of Herat City, more than 12,000 families remain displaced, with many still in dire need of basic assistance because they cannot access sustainable livelihoods, and therefore are unable to build their resilience.<sup>3</sup> Forced to flee their homes as a result of the drought (and other threats such as conflict and limited access to medical facilities), they have few prospects of being able to return home in the near future. Issues such as access to livelihoods and water, the availability of safe and arable farmland, and insecurity continue to present challenges and result in tens of thousands of IDPs living indefinitely in a state of limbo. In some cases they are turning to negative coping mechanisms including selling personal possessions and even selling their children, usually girls. Herat's informal settlements are a stark reminder of the need for development and humanitarian stakeholders to work hand-in-hand through all stages of climate-induced displacement if long-term solutions to displacement are to be achieved.

Learning the lessons from climate emergencies in countries like Afghanistan is essential to strengthening responses both in Afghanistan and elsewhere. By 2040, it is estimated that 700 million people worldwide will experience drought for six months or longer, resulting in harsh conditions that will undoubtedly contribute to the forced movement of people – either internally or across national boundaries. Without understanding what has (and has not) worked in different contexts, climate-displaced communities will largely remain unable to access durable solutions.

### The need for comprehensive early action

Prior to Afghanistan's official declaration of drought in April 2018, the country had already been experiencing an 18-month dry spell. However, early warning signals were not communicated in a timely manner by the relevant actors (the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, ANDMA, in particular), despite strong indicators that this dry spell would evolve into a drought. With no clear strategy in place for how to mitigate slow-onset drought conditions, ANDMA's response failed to catalyse early action either by the government or by other key humanitarian actors.

In contrast, the Famine Early Warning System Network and the NGO iMMAP did produce a series of detailed reports during the initial drought onset period. However, dissemination was limited, and the reports were not translated into Dari or Pashto. As such, the impending drought and the potential humanitarian impacts – including large-scale displacement – were not fully understood across the wider humanitarian community, and hence the need for preparedness measures was not foreseen.<sup>4</sup> This resulted in a failure by decision-makers and humanitarian actors to implement collaborative and cohesive development and resiliency interventions during the initial drought onset. In essence, the humanitarian community missed a unique opportunity to provide crucial support in drought-affected areas, leading to people eventually being forced to leave.

A further failure was the slow speed with which the country's revised Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) was published. This document is critical when it comes to addressing humanitarian needs, especially in the areas of information sharing, NGO planning, and resource mobilisation. Despite there having been a dry spell for over a year, it was only in May 2018 – one month after the drought had officially been declared – that Afghanistan's HRP was revised to reflect the humanitarian needs. By this stage, however, it was too late to adequately address these urgent needs and to seek the necessary financial support; this led to gaps in humanitarian service provision and further exacerbated displacement push factors.

The HRP was indeed able to address a raft of basic humanitarian needs for hundreds of thousands of drought-affected people. However, as budgets had already been established and donors were not able to exercise much flexibility, the HRP could not be used successfully as a tool to build the recovery and resilience measures needed to reduce dependency on humanitarian aid, nor was it able to reach all at-risk communities. As a result, community resilience was undermined, humanitarian support was broadly insufficient, and large numbers of people were left in a position where they had no choice but to leave their homes.

It is evident that Afghanistan's drought response in 2018 could have been more effective. During the drought onset period in 2018, regardless of the absence of the government's official drought declaration, the humanitarian community could have better assessed and articulated the needs, and could have pushed for greater engagement through the donor community. For example, earlier, resilience-related interventions such as the distribution of fodder and drought-resistant seedlings or support for alternative livelihoods could have yielded significant results.

### **The humanitarian- development-peace nexus**

In the context of Afghanistan, there is a multitude of international organisations and national and international NGOs implementing a range of humanitarian and development programmes. However, despite the fact that the humanitarian- development-peace 'nexus' – an approach that champions coherence among development, humanitarian and peace-related actors – has been a core operating principle for donors, NGOs and crisis-affected States since the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, stakeholders engaged in the Afghanistan drought response did not capitalise on the advantages offered by a strategic nexus response.

The 2018 drought response is credited with saving more than 3.5 million lives through the provision of immediate life-saving support.<sup>5</sup> But the same humanitarian response also failed to create durable solutions for displaced communities, thereby perpetuating dependency on humanitarian services. Furthermore, the response also fell short in its integration of peacebuilding initiatives, including those related to issues such as management of water resources, and other resource-related conflicts. This reflects the overall lack of coherence and connectivity between humanitarian, development and peace actors in Afghanistan during the initial stages of the crisis.

Looking back, it is clear that in the early stages of the drought response, the humanitarian community focused their efforts on immediate assistance to drought-affected populations who had been displaced. The need for long-term recovery interventions was recognised but was not an immediate priority for key stakeholders, nor was the funding available to support any long-term recovery interventions. This fundamental gap was the result of unclear decision-making and communication between UN bodies and international NGOs during initial meetings,



as well as lack of clarity at meetings of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT) and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) as to how best to coordinate across sectors and mandates. Furthermore, the response also highlighted a more general lack of integration of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and climate change-related provisions within the humanitarian system itself. In future, both the ICCT and HCT would benefit from ensuring the inclusion of resilience-related thinking and action at the cluster level and in their respective strategies. This would not only formally recognise the significance of longer-term interventions but would also support the embedding of development- specific key performance indicators that reflect and support resilience programming.



Photo: DRC Afghanistan

In July 2018, after a significant spike in the number of displaced persons in Afghanistan's western region, eight international NGOs issued a joint press release outlining the need for early recovery and resilience building in places of origin.<sup>6</sup> Whilst laudable, the move came several months too late as large-scale displacement had already commenced and at that stage could not be halted. Perhaps the lateness of this approach was why donor governments also failed to support the much-needed funding needed to transition from humanitarian to development interventions.

The drought response in Afghanistan provides numerous lessons for other States. Importantly, it is worth noting that, irrespective of the country's political context or the existing humanitarian architecture in place, humanitarian assistance cannot be delivered in a vacuum. Instead, the government, private sector and civil society must employ responses that straddle the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. Only by delivering urgent life- saving support in tandem with long-term development programmes (that include preventive measures) will countries enable changes that can help people find their way out of poverty and a long- term solution to their displacement.

Given Afghanistan's topography, its primarily agrarian-based society, and its susceptibility to ongoing climate shocks such as drought and flooding, it is essential that climate change remains firmly lodged on the agenda of governments, civil society and international actors. In the context of the acute and deteriorating humanitarian situation inside the country and with the current governing capacity and infrastructure being unpredictable and fragile, climate events such as drought will only serve to compound existing challenges and vulnerabilities. All actors need to collaborate to ensure strengthened humanitarian and development responses in the face of emergency or slow-onset disasters. This is especially important given the current political situation in Afghanistan, where donor engagement in Afghanistan is at a crossroads regarding the allocation of resources. Without the necessary financial and technical support, there is a very real risk that tens of millions of Afghans will suffer even further, and will be unable to access any hope of long-term solutions.

This article was originally published in the Forced Migration Review and can be viewed in its original form [here](#).

1. World Bank Hunger before the drought: food insecurity in Afghanistan [bit.ly/WorldBank-Hunger-before-drought](https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2018/07/18/hunger-before-drought)
2. Asia Displacement Solutions Platform (2020) Re-imagining the drought response, p1 <https://adsp.ngo/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/LessonsLearned.pdf>
3. Danish Refugee Council (2021) 'Natural disasters and decades of conflict have left internally displaced in Afghanistan impoverished and vulnerable' [bit.ly/DRC-naturaldisasters-Afghanistan-May2021](https://www.drc.org/en/news/2021/05/natural-disasters-and-decades-of-conflict-have-left-internally-displaced-in-afghanistan-impoverished-and-vulnerable)
4. See endnote 2, p31.
5. See endnote 2, p2.
6. Multi-agency statement 'REACHING OUT - Implementing a Comprehensive Response to Drought in Afghanistan', 18 July 2018 [bit.ly/Afghanistan-drought-statement-18072018](https://www.drc.org/en/news/2018/07/multi-agency-statement-reaching-out)

# REGIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

## 4Mi snapshot: Protection risks for Rohingya women and children: from departure country to arrival in Malaysia

By Mixed Migration Centre Asia

Despite high risks en route and upon arrival, Rohingya movement to Malaysia continues. This snapshot focuses on the specific risks facing Rohingya women and children<sup>1</sup> before leaving Myanmar or Bangladesh, during their journey, and upon arrival in Malaysia. MMC Asia has been conducting survey with Rohingya in Malaysia since January 2019 in order to better understand their migration experiences. This snapshot contributes to building a solid evidence base to inform targeted responses that improve protection for Rohingya refugees and inform advocacy efforts related to movements to Malaysia.



MMC Asia 4Mi Snapshot – March 2022

### Protection risks for Rohingya women and children: from departure country to arrival in Malaysia

Despite high risks en route and upon arrival, Rohingya movement to Malaysia continues. This snapshot focuses on the specific risks facing Rohingya women and children<sup>1</sup> before leaving Myanmar or Bangladesh, during their journey, and upon arrival in Malaysia. MMC Asia has been conducting survey with Rohingya in Malaysia since January 2019 in order to better understand their migration experiences. This snapshot contributes to building a solid evidence base to inform targeted responses that improve protection for Rohingya refugees and inform advocacy efforts related to movements to Malaysia.

#### Key findings

- A majority of Rohingya women surveyed left Myanmar or Bangladesh due to **violence, insecurity, and conflict** (83%) and a **lack of rights and freedom** (80%).
- **Detention and physical violence** were the two primary risks reported for women en route. Younger Rohingya women more often reported risks of **sexual violence, death, and kidnapping**.
- Almost all Rohingya women surveyed **were not making any money** before departure and upon arrival in Malaysia. Meanwhile, 57% report having **accumulated new debts** in Malaysia, mostly relating to living expenses (53%), medical costs (42%), immigration-related fees (7%) and school fees (7%).
- Rohingya women face greater marginalization in Malaysia, as many fear leaving their houses or moving around freely due to risks of arrest and detention (27%).
- **Police (86%) and immigration officials (64%) are cited as the main perpetrators** of abuses in Malaysia and were considered among the top three likely perpetrators of abuse en route, underscoring that female Rohingya refugees face threats from state authorities at departure, in transit and upon arrival in Malaysia.

<sup>1</sup> MMC Asia does not survey children under 18 years old. However, there are questions in the survey that address children and child protection issues.

#### Profiles

Data presented in this snapshot was collected between 4 March 2021 and 25 January 2022 in Johor Bahru, Kelantan, Kuala Lumpur, Malacca, Pahang, Pulau Pinang and Selangor in Malaysia. 445 surveys with Rohingya women were conducted over the phone and 38 surveys were conducted in person. In addition, from 8 August 2021, MMC Asia added a question on disability and implemented an additional module looking at protection risks facing Rohingya refugees living in Malaysia, making up a subsample of 331 surveys with Rohingya women.

The average age of Rohingya women surveyed is 22 years old. 16% self-identify as having a disability, the majority of which relate to difficulties hearing, seeing, and/or moving. Nearly half of the respondents (48%) are seeking asylum in Malaysia, 23% are registered as refugees with UNHCR, 29% have not yet sought asylum nor hold any legal documents in Malaysia.

Due to restricted access to education in Myanmar and Bangladesh, where more than 920,000 Rohingya refugees are currently living,<sup>2</sup> the majority of women surveyed (74%) report that primary school was the highest level of education they had completed, see Figure 1. 15% report having completed secondary or high school, and 2% had attained a university degree.

<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.online.org/research/children-left-behind-challenges-in-providing-education-to-the-rohingya-children-in-bangladesh/>

The production of this snapshot forms part of the work under the 'Protecting Rohingya Refugees in Asia (PRRiA) 2021-2023' project. The full contents of the snapshot can be found on the Mixed Migration Centre's website [here](#) or at [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/218\\_Protection\\_risks\\_for\\_Rohingya\\_women\\_and\\_children\\_from\\_departure\\_country\\_to\\_arrival\\_in\\_Malaysia.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/218_Protection_risks_for_Rohingya_women_and_children_from_departure_country_to_arrival_in_Malaysia.pdf)

### About MMC:

The Mixed Migration Centre is leading source of independent and high-quality data, research an analysis on mixed migration. The MMC aims to increase understandings of mixed migration, to positively impact global and regional migration policies, to inform evidence-based protection responses for people on the move and stimulate forward thinking in public and policy debates on mixed migration.

In Asia MMC's 4Mi survey is currently conducted in Malaysia, Indonesia, Turkey and Afghanistan, with plans to expand to Thailand in the coming year. For more information and access to our data please see 4Mi interactive or reach out to [Themba.Lewis@mixedmigration.org](mailto:Themba.Lewis@mixedmigration.org)