

Rohingya Refugee Crisis: The Question Of Human Security For Bangladesh

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Abstract:

The Rohingya refugee crisis has become one of the most difficult humanitarian and security issues in South and Southeast Asia. The massive influx of Rohingya migrants into Bangladesh since 2017 has had far-reaching social, economic, environmental, and political effects, stemming from decades of systematic persecution and statelessness in Myanmar. This study critically examines the crisis through the lens of human security, breaking away from traditional state-centric concepts of security and focusing on the multifaceted vulnerabilities of both refugees and hosts. It investigates how Bangladesh's humanitarian response, while widely acknowledged, strains its limited resources, undermines local livelihoods, and raises worries about national stability, identity politics, and regional security dynamics. The paper examines the balance of humanitarian commitments and sovereign interests using relevant theories and empirical data, emphasizing the importance of long-term international cooperation, policy reform, and rights-based methods. Finally, this critical analysis emphasizes that the Rohingya problem is more than just a refugee issue; it is a larger human security quandary that tests Bangladesh's resilience, governance, and development trajectory.

Keywords: *humanitarian, statelessness, vulnerabilities, refugees, regional Security, sovereign interests, policy reform, resilience.*

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I. Introduction:

The Rohingya refugee crisis is one of the 21st century's largest humanitarian tragedies caused by humans. Currently, Bangladesh is the greatest recipient of refugees. The Rohingya refugee crisis offers enormous human security issues for Bangladesh, including rising violence, resource constraints, and societal conflicts (Elahi & Mustafa, 2025). The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) reports that since the outbreak of unrest in Myanmar's Rakhine state on August 25, 2017, around 650,000 people have entered the country. The situation in Bangladesh is not new, nor are the security issues associated with the diaspora. Since Myanmar's military took power in 1962, the Rohingya have frequently fled to neighboring nations. The latest exodus of Rohingyas from Myanmar's Rakhine province to Bangladesh is the largest of its kind. Unlike the last refugee crises, the current situation has significant security consequences for Bangladesh. They're also diverse and multifaceted. The crisis occurred with a global shift towards new approaches to human security. A comprehensive strategy is required to guarantee adequate protection for both host populations and refugees due to these complex security consequences (Taufiq, 2021a). The rise of religion-based extremism, ethnic cleansing, cybercrime, biological, radiological, chemical, and medical crimes has expanded the scope of security in recent years. Effective protection now requires a multilateral approach to operational responsibility. The Rohingya refugee crisis is exacerbated by the Islamist insurgency, illicit drug use, HIV/AIDS/STI incidence, trafficking, and other causes. The chapter explores the security concerns posed by the Rohingya exodus in Bangladesh and its impact on the refugees. The chapter introduces key security frameworks to help comprehend the difficulties. The second section addresses the backdrop and political economy of Rohingya persecution in Rakhine state. Third, it examines the political and military dimensions of security. Fourth, it looks at the social and economic factors. Finally, it investigates the environmental consequences of the Rohingya situation in Bangladesh.

Safety and Securitization

In today's globalized society, security is a significant challenge for humanity. Every day, in the name of security, people are slaughtered, tortured, disfigured, raped, imprisoned, malnourished, destitute, relocated, or

denied basic needs worldwide. Security is a widely used term. After initially focusing on human security, Bangladesh's discourse on Rohingya refugees has changed to one that is more concerned with national security, placing limits on their ability to travel and earn a living (Taufiq-e-Faruque, 2020). It affects nearly every facet of modern cultures worldwide. It has the potential to disrupt political, economic, and social stability. Today, we are continuously bombarded with images of security and insecurity on TV and online. Newspapers and radio stations are covering it extensively. All of this makes security an intriguing, sometimes deadly, but always necessary topic. Even today, defining this term is challenging. According to some researchers, security is a subjective and fluid phrase that refers to exactly what the subject in question defines it to be. Scholars in political science and international relations typically define security as addressing threats to values. Johan Galtung, the father of modern peace studies, identified three types of violence that endanger human life: "direct violence," which directly threatens physical capacity, "structural violence," which represents systematic discrimination against specific groups, and "cultural violence," which refers to the prevalence of social norms that make direct and structural violence seem "normal." Barry Buzan, a security specialist, identified five major threats to human collectiveness: political, military, economic, sociological, and environmental. This chapter investigates the security risks and challenges faced by Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, both known and undocumented. The article examines the impact of the ongoing Rohingya issue on the local economy and society.

II. Literature Review:

Migration is a reality in today's globalized world, and it is becoming an increasingly important part of economic and social development. Migration is the act of relocating across an international boundary or within a state. It is a population movement, embracing any form of movement of people, regardless of length, composition, and causes (Davies et al., 2009).

Globally, migration is defined as the movement of people across borders, influenced by a complex interplay of social, economic, and political factors. It comprises both intentional and involuntary movements shaped by globalization, which strengthens global linkages while also affecting varied states. In the United States, migration researchers who regard themselves as pro-immigrant increasingly embrace what I term 'born-again assimilationism' to show that migrants do actually become part of and contribute to the national fabric (Schiller, 2009a). Migrants' transnationality is widely reported and praised, while politicians and the mass media in Europe and the United States are primarily concerned with concerns of 'integration', portraying migrants' transnational relationships as risks to 'national security' (Schiller, 2009b). Millions of people have been displaced worldwide due to violent war, persecution, and human rights violations. Those who can cross international boundaries become refugees or asylum seekers, whereas others are 'internally displaced persons' within their home country (Castles, 2006).

Migration from an Asian viewpoint includes a wide range of experiences and academic frameworks that contradict typical Western-centric narratives. International migration has a long history in Asia, but in recent years it has acquired an unprecedented magnitude and diversity and is a substantial influence on the economic, social, and demographic growth of all Asian countries (Hugo, 2005). The number of Asian migrants increased country by country, with important functions varying according to economic and political conditions, as in the 1930s and 1940s. Long-distance migration increased significantly, but by the late twentieth century, urbanization in one's native country had accelerated and surpassed migration across national borders (Manning, 2015). South-north Asian migration, migration and development, the role of the diaspora, international labor migration, the feminization of migration, student migration, and the growing involvement of governments in influencing movement (Hugo, 2005). After adjusting for demographic, geographic, and socioeconomic factors, we discover that while large nations are significant migrants' senders, they are not significant migrants' recipients; distance has almost the same impact on migrations within Asia as it does on migrations to countries outside the region; and GDP per capita in the destination is significant for migrations within Asia (Abel et al., 2019).

One of the biggest ongoing refugee crises in the world is the Rohingya's protracted situation. The literature review emphasizes how the Rohingyas have been subjected to violence and prejudice in Myanmar for a long time, which has caused them to become stateless and migrate to Bangladesh (Elahi & Mustafa, 2024). Bangladesh is the primary recipient of these refugees. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), around 650,000 new arrivals have been registered since the new violence broke on August 25, 2017, in Myanmar's Rakhine state (Taufiq, 2021b). This charitable deed also brings up some concerning questions regarding Bangladesh's own precarious politics, economy, and society. A small number of commentators also assert that there is no practical possibility of the refugees going back to Myanmar anytime soon. Bangladesh's political, security, economic, environmental, and social spheres are suffering as a result of this additional refugee burden (Sarker, 2023). Regrettably, these vast numbers of displaced

individuals abuse their blessing by participating in a variety of terrorist activities, fraud, smuggling, including the trafficking of drugs, weapons, and people, among other things (Sakib, 2025). Everyone agrees that the refugee issue has serious environmental effects, including as deforestation and groundwater resource depletion (Alam, 2018). In conclusion the Rohingya refugee crisis presents Bangladesh with a complex problem that goes beyond humanitarian issues to include political, economic, security, and environmental aspects. Although Bangladesh's humanitarian principles are demonstrated by its compassion in hosting the migrants, the protracted duration of the crisis has resulted in significant social and ecological constraints. Bangladesh will continue to experience growing pressures that jeopardize the stability and development of its country unless an international solution is found that is both cooperative and sustainable, guaranteeing safe repatriation and accountability in Myanmar.

III. Methodology:

This research has been conducted based on mainly secondary data. It has been collected from several journals and academic sources. Both qualitative and quantitative analysis of the collected data has been made.

Context of Crisis:

Political and Militancy Dimension

Today, the Rohingya issue has become a growing security problem as well as a political deadlock. Despite Bangladesh housing more than 1.2 million refugees, Myanmar's military dictatorship still refuses to grant citizenship and recognition to the Rohingya, leaving little room for repatriation. While regional countries like China and India place a higher priority on strategic ties with Myanmar than humanitarian concerns, Bangladesh is under increasing socioeconomic and security strain. Although they haven't had much of an impact, international forums like the UN and ICJ have kept the problem alive. On the militant front, deteriorating conditions in the camps in Cox's Bazar have increased the possibility of radicalization, with organizations like the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) engaging in smuggling, murder, and extortion. Armed conflicts between the Arakan Army, ARSA, and the military further destabilize Rakhine State in Myanmar. These political impasses and an increase in militancy highlight the situation as a growing regional security concern as well as a humanitarian tragedy.

Insurgency and Islamist Militancy

The Rohingya issue has increased the likelihood of Islamist militancy in the area as well as insurgency. The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), the most well-known rebel group, first appeared in 2016–17. Its attacks on Myanmar security forces led to harsh military crackdowns and the enormous exodus of Rohingya into Bangladesh. ARSA is accused of executions, extortion, and intimidation in refugee camps, weakening stability even as it positions itself as a champion of Rohingya rights. Since international extremist organizations like Al-Qaeda and ISIS have used the Rohingya cause in propaganda to rally recruits, intelligence services outside of ARSA caution about potential infiltration by transnational jihadist networks. Overcrowding, unemployment, and discontent in Cox's Bazar camps increase the risk of radicalization, while drug trafficking and arms smuggling exacerbate security concerns. Thus, the conflict in Rakhine and Islamist militant dangers in camps exacerbate the problem, making it a greater security threat to Bangladesh and the region.

Drugs and Arms Smuggling

The Rohingya crisis has exacerbated drug and gun smuggling in the region, particularly along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border. Cox's Bazar, which houses over a million Rohingya refugees, has become a center for illegal operations due to weak borders, poverty, and the presence of organized criminal networks. The Yaba trade of methamphetamine tablets smuggled from Myanmar's Rakhine and Shan states has grown dramatically, with Rohingya camps frequently serving as transit sites. At the same time, small arms trafficking has increased, resulting in conflicts between competing organizations such as ARSA and local gangs within the camps and fueling insecurity in Bangladesh's southeast. These networks frequently intersect with violent groups, connecting the refugee issue to larger regional security problems. The mix of drug smuggling, weaponry proliferation, and lax law enforcement not only jeopardizes Bangladesh's internal stability, but also risks turning the problem into a long-term criminal and security threat for South Asia.

Employment Issues

Employment is one of the most pressing issues in the Rohingya situation, for both refugees and host populations. Over 1.2 million Rohingyas live in Bangladesh, largely in camps in Cox's Bazar, where they are constitutionally forbidden from formal employment in order to prevent permanent settlement. As a result, the majority rely on humanitarian aid or work in informal, low-wage, and frequently exploitative jobs like day labor, fishing, or small trade. This scarcity of opportunities has increased frustration, pessimism, and

vulnerability to criminal networks or militant recruitment. For host communities, the surge of low-wage informal labor has lowered local salaries and increased competition for few employments, escalating anger. Meanwhile, movement limitations hinder Rohingyas from developing skills and becoming self-sufficient, leaving them reliant on help for the foreseeable future. Without long-term remedies, such as rights-based repatriation to Myanmar or structured livelihood programs, the employment problem will continue to damage refugee dignity and local socioeconomic stability.

Camps related Security Issues

The Rohingya refugee camps, notably in Cox's Bazar, suffer serious security threats that endanger both the refugees and the host communities. Overcrowding, poverty, and a lack of institutional administration have facilitated the growth of criminal networks and armed groups, most notably the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and competing gangs that engage in extortion, drug smuggling, and targeted killings. Frequent confrontations inside the camps have created fear and instability, and women and children are particularly vulnerable to trafficking, sexual abuse, and exploitation. The proliferation of illegal firearms has exacerbated instability, and fires or arson assaults are frequently tied to gang rivalries. At the same time, tensions among local people, fueled by rivalry for resources and jobs, exacerbate unrest. The lack of policing capacity and reliance on international assistance organizations for administration create gaps in law enforcement, leaving the camps vulnerable to militancy, organized crime, and humanitarian problems.

Crime and Violence

Crime and violence have become serious concerns in Rohingya refugee camps and adjacent areas, exacerbated by overpopulation, poverty, and ineffective law enforcement. Armed organizations, including ARSA and competing factions, engage in killings, kidnappings, and intimidation, frequently targeting people who oppose their influence. Extortion, robbery, and territorial disputes between gangs are prevalent, instilling anxiety among camp residents. Drug trafficking, particularly the Yaba trade, has linked criminal operations in the camps to regional networks, while small arms smuggling has exacerbated conflict and compromised security. Gender-based violence, including human trafficking and exploitation of women and children, is also common. Spillover crimes, pay deflation, and resource competition have all contributed to increased insecurity in host communities. Overall, the ongoing cycle of crime and violence endangers both refugees and locals, and it risks turning the Rohingya catastrophe into a long-term regional security and governance concern.

Social and Economic Dimension of Security

The social and economic dimensions of security in the Rohingya issue are inextricably intertwined with refugee well-being and host community stability. Socially, the camps suffer from overcrowding, a lack of education, inadequate healthcare, and escalating gender-based violence, all of which destroy community cohesion and increase vulnerability to radicalization or criminal exploitation. Tensions between Rohingyas and host communities are rising, with locals viewing them as a drain on land, resources, and public services. Economically, limits on official employment led immigrants to rely on handouts or exploitative informal jobs, while the surge of cheap labor drives down local wages, stoking anger. Drug and gun trafficking networks profit from poverty and unemployment, resulting in an underground economy that destabilizes the region. Together, these social pressures and economic concerns undermine both humanitarian protection and national stability, changing the crisis from a refugee management problem to a broader social and economic security risk for Bangladesh and South Asia.

Supply of Aid and Illegal Trade

The Rohingya issue has created a twofold challenge humanitarian aid management and criminal trade. On the one hand, international organizations give relief, primarily food, shelter, and healthcare, to more than a million Bangladeshi refugees. However, the need on aid has resulted in a parallel economy within camps, where relief commodities are sometimes diverted and unlawfully sold, compromising accountability. On the other hand, the camps have become hotspots for illegal trade, including as drug smuggling, human trafficking, and the distribution of small guns. Networks frequently use lax surveillance and permeable borders to connect local black markets with regional criminal routes, like the Yaba drug trade from Myanmar. Such unlawful operations jeopardize camp security while also destabilizing nearby communities by distorting markets, fostering corruption, and funding terrorist organizations. Thus, while aid is necessary for survival, its misuse, combined with the expansion of illegal trade, poses long-term governance and security threats.

Inflation and Rising Price Levels

The Rohingya crisis has fueled inflation and rising prices in host communities, particularly in Cox's Bazar. The rapid surge of over a million refugees boosted demand for food, gasoline, shelter materials, and daily

necessities, raising local costs and straining supply networks. Humanitarian help, while vital, can distort local markets when relief commodities are resold, threatening fair competition for local entrepreneurs. The availability of inexpensive refugee labor has reduced salaries for locals, but increasing living costs have exacerbated poverty in host communities. At the same time, the government's need to spend large resources to refugee management diverts cash from domestic development, putting indirect pressure on the economy. The Rohingya presence, combined with existing national inflation tendencies, has exacerbated local pricing volatility, fueling anger among host populations and fostering the image that refugees are to blame for economic hardship, which in turn heightens social tensions and security concerns.

Prostitution and STI Risk

Prostitution and the risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) have become major social and health concerns in Rohingya refugee camps. Overcrowding, acute poverty, and a lack of employment options have forced some refugees, particularly women and adolescent girls, to engage in transactional sex to get food, money, or other necessities. This susceptibility is exacerbated by inadequate access to reproductive healthcare, contraception, and sexual health education, which raises the incidence of STIs, including HIV/AIDS, in the camps. Exploitative practices, trafficking, and compulsion worsen the situation, while cultural shame and fear of reporting discourage victims from obtaining assistance. The spread of STIs endangers not just the health of refugees, but also the host populations through informal labor relations and social contacts. Stricter monitoring to stop exploitation and integrated interventions, such as safe livelihood initiatives, awareness campaigns, and easily available healthcare services, are needed to address this problem.

Environmental Dimension of Security

Cox's Bazar and the neighboring districts are becoming increasingly concerned about the environmental aspect of security in the Rohingya crisis. Land, woods, water, and sanitation systems are under tremendous strain due to the quick arrival of more than a million refugees. The risk of landslides during the monsoon season has increased due to soil erosion and biodiversity loss brought on by deforestation for firewood and shelter construction. Large volumes of solid waste and untreated sewage are produced by overcrowded camps, contaminating rivers and groundwater and endangering local ecosystems as well as human health. Fuel and clean water shortages have increased competition between host communities and refugees, which can occasionally result in social unrest and war. In addition to decreasing the long-term resilience of nearby populations, environmental degradation increases the dangers to public health, such as waterborne illnesses. All things considered, ecological stress brought on by the refugee crisis has turned environmental vulnerabilities into serious security issues that connect resource management, human safety, and regional stability.

Deforestation Environmental Population and Loss of Habitat

The Rohingya crisis has produced significant environmental stress in Cox's Bazar, mainly due to deforestation, population pressure, and habitat loss. More than a million migrants demand shelter, firewood, and fuel, resulting in significant forest removal on hillsides and nearby areas. This deforestation has led to soil erosion, raised the risk of landslides, and altered local water cycles. The unexpected population explosion has also increased demand on land and natural resources, resulting in agricultural land degradation and water scarcity. Wildlife habitats have been devastated, leading to biodiversity loss and native species relocation. These elements combine to form an environmentally vulnerable zone in which ecological deterioration endangers both human security and long-term sustainability. The rivalry for limited resources between refugees and host communities exacerbates social tensions, directly tying environmental harm to broader security and humanitarian issues.

IV. Result And Discussion:

The Rohingya refugee crisis has grown into a multifaceted human security dilemma for Bangladesh, with far-reaching consequences that go beyond humanitarian aid and refugee administration. The crisis has had a significant impact on the country's political, economic, social, environmental, and security structures, making it one of the most important and complicated policy concerns in South Asia.

Politically

Bangladesh's handling of the crisis exemplifies both compassion and effective diplomacy, but it faces growing problems at the national and international levels. The ongoing influx of refugees since 2017 has strained Dhaka's diplomatic relations with Myanmar, while bilateral repatriation efforts have made little headway. The absence of accountability for atrocities against the Rohingyas, combined with the international community's limited participation, has harmed expectations for a long-term settlement. The situation has become a politically contentious issue in Bangladesh, raising questions over national sovereignty, internal security, and

the long-term viability of humanitarian efforts. It has also tested Bangladesh's regional diplomacy, particularly with China and India, both of whom have vital connections with Myanmar.

Economically

The refugee crisis has placed a significant strain on Bangladesh's already limited resources. Although global humanitarian aid helps refugees, Bangladesh faces considerable indirect expenses, such as the upkeep of infrastructure, law enforcement, and public services in host countries. Local markets in Cox's Bazar have been severely distorted—prices for basic items have risen, local employment prospects have reduced, and wages have fallen due to the influx of low-cost refugee labor. Furthermore, illegal trade and assistance mishandling have undermined local economic stability. The tourism business in Cox's Bazar, which was formerly a major source of revenue, has also suffered as a result of security concerns and overpopulation.

Socially

The crisis has presented significant obstacles to sustaining social cohesion and public order. The Rohingya population, which lacks citizenship and official employment, has few possibilities for education and livelihood, contributing to discontent and social unrest in the camps. These conditions have resulted to an increase in crime rates, including drug trafficking (especially yaba smuggling from Myanmar), arms trade, human trafficking, and prostitution. The presence of armed groups and militant elements in some refugee camps raises concerns about both local and national security. Furthermore, conflicts between refugees and host communities have risen as a result of rivalry for land, firewood, and jobs, resulting to increased animosity and societal division.

From a security perspective

The Rohingya issue has become inextricably linked with global dangers. The porous border between Bangladesh and Myanmar promotes illegal drug and weapon trafficking, while extremist groups take advantage of refugees' vulnerabilities to recruit members or spread radical ideology. These trends pose severe threats to Bangladesh's internal stability and regional peacekeeping. Law enforcement has increasing challenges in monitoring densely populated refugee settlements, where criminal and militant networks frequently operate under the pretense of humanitarian aid.

Environmentally

The repercussions are as alarming. In Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya-Teknaf region, the quick and unplanned settlement of over a million refugees has resulted in enormous deforestation, damage of wildlife habitat, and soil erosion. Thousands of acres of woodland have been cut for shelters, firewood harvesting, and road development. The consequent ecological degradation has made the region more vulnerable to landslides, flooding, and biodiversity loss. Groundwater extraction for everyday consumption, along with poor waste management, has contaminated local water sources, jeopardizing both refugee and host communities. These environmental challenges intensify Bangladesh's ongoing struggle with climate change and ecological sustainability.

From a human security standpoint

The Rohingya crisis jeopardizes the fundamental principles of safety, livelihood, dignity, and rights for both refugees and host populations. Health services are overburdened, resulting in frequent disease outbreaks in the camps due to overpopulation and poor sanitation. Education possibilities for refugee children are restricted, resulting in a generation with unclear futures. For host communities, the extended crisis has limited access to public services, raised living costs, and damaged social resilience.

Recommendation:

The Rohingya refugee issue, as a human security concern for Bangladesh, necessitates a comprehensive, coordinated, and long-term plan that combines humanitarian compassion with national security and development objectives. The measures below can help strengthen Bangladesh's reaction and maintain long-term stability.

1. Diplomatic and Political Measures

- ❖ Strengthen international diplomacy to put pressure on Myanmar for the Rohingyas' safe, voluntary, and dignified repatriation, complete with citizenship and rights guarantees.
- ❖ Strengthen regional participation, particularly from ASEAN, SAARC, the OIC, and neighboring powers such as India and China, to ensure common responsibility and prevent Myanmar's isolation from accountability.

- ❖ Use the United Nations system and international legal instruments (such as the ICJ and the ICC) to hold Myanmar accountable for human rights breaches and keep global focus on the problem.
- ❖ Create a national coordination cell within the Prime Minister's Office to coordinate efforts among ministries, NGOs, and foreign organizations, ensuring policy coherence and accountability.

2. Economic and Developmental Measures

- ❖ Integrate host community development projects into the refugee management framework to ensure that local Bangladeshis benefit from international help by creating jobs, infrastructure, and education opportunities.
- ❖ Increase livelihood options for both refugees and locals through skill development, small-scale firms, and vocational training programs, reducing reliance on aid.
- ❖ Encourage long-term aid management by providing transparency, eliminating duplicative activities, and fostering locally driven projects.
- ❖ Diversify financing sources by soliciting international investment for regional development in Cox's Bazar and Teknaf that goes beyond humanitarian help.

3. Security and Law Enforcement Measures

- ❖ Improve border administration and monitoring to reduce transnational crimes like drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and human trafficking.
- ❖ Increase intelligence collaboration between national and regional agencies to track extremist infiltration or militant recruitment in camps.
- ❖ Improve the rule of law in and around the camps by implementing community policing, better camp administration, and fair justice systems.
- ❖ Regulate camp access and mobility, and make sure that identification mechanisms (such as biometric registration) are tightly enforced to prevent illegal immigration and criminal activities.

4. Social and Humanitarian Measures

- ❖ Improving education and healthcare facilities for refugees and host communities will improve long-term human development and lessen social conflicts.
- ❖ Improve social cohesion programs that promote peaceful cooperation and collaborative community projects among residents and refugees.
- ❖ Promote awareness campaigns against misinformation, radicalization, and gender-based violence among refugee groups.
- ❖ Encourage women's empowerment by implementing specific programs that incorporate female refugees in leadership, education, and income-generating activities.

5. Environmental and Infrastructural Measures

- ❖ Implement environmentally responsible camp management techniques, such as reforestation, renewable energy utilization, and proper waste management systems.
- ❖ Promote environmental restoration programs that will repair degraded land, conserve water resources, and restore local biodiversity.
- ❖ Create long-term spatial and disaster management plans to reduce refugee settlements' ecological imprint and mitigate environmental risks.

6. International Cooperation and Responsibility Sharing

- ❖ Advocate for global burden-sharing, pressing rich nations to make greater financial and political contributions to crisis management.
- ❖ Instead of providing short-term aid, engage international humanitarian organizations in capacity-building, research, and long-term sustainability projects.
- ❖ Investigate third-country resettlement alternatives for vulnerable refugees (including orphans, women, and people with disabilities) under UNHCR supervision.

7. Research, Policy, and Institutional Strengthening

- ❖ Create a national research center for refugee and migration studies to make data-driven policy recommendations and track changing dynamics.
- ❖ Create a national refugee policy or legislative framework to guide future responses and ensure consistency with international humanitarian standards.
- ❖ Encourage academic and policy collaboration among governments, institutions, and international think tanks to develop innovative solutions for refugee integration and repatriation.

V. Conclusion:

The Rohingya refugee crisis is one of Bangladesh's most serious and long-lasting challenges to human security, with political, economic, social, environmental, and security implications. What began as an emergency humanitarian reaction has grown into a complex, long-term issue that continues to influence the country's internal stability and regional diplomacy. Politically, the issue has strained Bangladesh's bilateral relations with Myanmar, putting its diplomatic involvement to the test at both the regional and global levels. Despite persistent negotiations, the lack of accountability for Myanmar's actions, as well as the absence of international enforcement mechanisms, have made repatriation increasingly uncertain, leaving Bangladesh with a disproportionate humanitarian burden. Economically, the arrival of over a million refugees has put enormous strain on local resources and infrastructure, inflated prices, and created an oversupply of cheap labor, lowering wages and straining livelihoods in host communities. Socially, the prolonged nature of the crisis has caused friction between refugees and locals, contributing to social unrest, resentment, and the breakdown of community cohesion. The camps have also become hubs for criminality, including as drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and people trafficking, posing significant challenges to law and order. From a security standpoint, the issue has generated regional concerns, since extremist groups may use the refugees' vulnerability and statelessness for recruiting or political manipulation, jeopardizing peace and stability in the Bay of Bengal region.

Environmentally, the rapid establishment of refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and Teknaf has resulted in widespread deforestation, habitat destruction, soil erosion, and groundwater depletion, exacerbating the region's susceptibility to climate change and natural disaster. In terms of overall human security, both refugees and host populations face increasing insecurity in health, education, employment, and social welfare. Bangladesh's extraordinary generosity and humanitarian leadership, while widely recognized, cannot sustain the crisis indefinitely without shared responsibility and international cooperation. As a result, resolving the Rohingya problem will require a multifaceted approach based on diplomacy, sustainable development, environmental restoration, and regional collaboration to secure long-term peace, stability, and human dignity for both the Rohingyas and the Bangladeshi people.

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