

# Majority Rohingya Want to Return: A Field Research Report

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## Introduction

This research report has been prepared based on the fieldwork I carried out from October 30 to November 3, 2022, as part of my Ph.D. research project “Envisioning Solution(s) to the “Refugee Crisis”: A Postcolonial Analysis of Rohingya Perspectives.” I visited Kutupalong RC on October 30, FDMN Camp 12 on October 31, FDMN Camp 10 on November 1, and FDMN Camp 1E on November 2-3, 2022. During these visits, I interviewed 16 individuals and conducted four Group Discussions (GD). The field visit took place after the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (ORRRC) granted permission (letter no: **51.04.2200.009.16.021.22.4936**) on October 27, 2022.

## Fieldwork Findings

Rohingya’s attitude towards Bangladesh and its people: The Rohingya refugees, both the “old” [registered refugees] and “new” [FDMN], expressed their gratitude to get shelter in Bangladesh. They are thankful to the people and the government of Bangladesh for saving their lives by giving them shelter.

**Rohingya’s Preference of Solution:** Most refugees want to return to their homeland Arakan. However, there is a divergence between the registered refugees/”old refugees” and FDMN/ “new refugees. The older generation of the registered refugees want to repatriate, while young registered refugees, those who were born in the camp, either want to be resettled in third countries or integrated into Bangladesh. Among the option of resettlement and integration, the younger generation tends to prefer the former.

**Rohingya’s Demands to be Met Prior Repatriation:** The Rohingya refugees want some demands to be met prior to the repatriation. They want recognition of their ethnic identity and reinstatement of citizenship. Some want the return of their properties occupied by the government or the Rakhine people, which they have left during their flight. Some only care for the first two demands. A section of the Rohingya also want justice for the atrocities they have faced.

**Rohingya’s Urge to International Community:** They urge the international community to help them return to their homeland with full citizenship rights and recognition of their ethnic identity. They urge the international community to support Bangladesh in bearing the burden of hosting nearly a million Rohingya.

**Demands to Bangladesh Government:** Rohingya people want access to quality education for their children in the camps, although the Bangladesh government granted access to education in Burmese and English Curriculum up to grade nine. They want security inside the camps.

**Sources of Becoming Aware of Solutions and Their Rights:** Rohingya inform that several sources or actors contribute to making them aware of their situation and thinking for solution(s). These actors or sources are educated community members, social media and Rohingya-run media, the diaspora community, and external actors such as humanitarian professionals, journalists, and researchers/academicians.

#### Acknowledgment

I am grateful to the ORRRC for granting permission to conduct the fieldwork and to the camp administration (CiCs and the pertinent staff at the CiC offices) for their cooperation during the fieldwork.