Saudi Arabia support to Rohingya Muslims

THE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY
THE KING SALMAN CENTER FOR HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Rome
The Muslim Rohingya cause

The word "Rohingya" is taken from Rohang, the historical name of the region of Arakan, today Rakhine state. Arakan was once a free, independent Islamic state in Southeast Asia, and continued to exist for several centuries until it was conquered by Burma in 1784 and later became one of the 14 provinces and countries of the Burma Union, currently known as Myanmar.

Arakan province is located in the southwest of Myanmar, on the coast of the Bay of Bengal and along the border with Bangladesh. The territory is about 50,000 square kilometers (about the 10% of Myanmar total land area).

The humanitarian situation of Rohingya is severe, with more than 218,000 displaced people, 78% of whom are women and children in camps in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine – all displaced as a result of the sectarian conflict that resumed in 2011.

In mid-2017, the people of Rohingya experienced a major humanitarian crisis as a result of the sectarian conflict with Buddhists. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the number of the refugees crossing the border from Myanmar to Bangladesh was estimated to be more than 436,000, bringing the total number of refugees in Bangladesh to reach more than 600,000.
Reports indicate that refugees are fully dependent on humanitarian assistance for food and basic needs.

The basic services available in the region are under severe pressure due to the massive increase in the number of refugees; the difficulty of obtaining clean drinking water and access to proper sanitation, for example, increases the risk of disease outbreaks.

**NUMBERS**

Nearly 900,000 Rohingya refugees

Some 671,000 Rohingya refugees have arrived in Bangladesh since 25th August 2017

More than 150,000 Rohingya refugees are in places at risk of landslides and floods, in what could become a disaster on top of the current emergency

[UNCHR, March 2018]
Saudi Arabia Political support to Rohingya Muslim

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been supporting the cause of Rohingya for more than 40 years, upholding their rights in the international arena and in the UN Human Right Council. It has started to host them since 1948 and their number is currently around 300 thousand in Saudi territory. Saudi Arabia will continue its political and financial efforts to find a lasting solution to the plight of the Rohingya Muslims. Here, a short list of the recent stances taken by the Kingdom in favour of Rohingya Muslim.

On 24 June 2015, in the course of a UN Human Rights council meeting, the Kingdom expressed its concern for the outrageous conditions Rohingya people are forced to live in, which compel them to flee through the sea, risking their lives.

On 29 June, 2015, the Council of Ministers gathered in a meeting held by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, in which they discussed their stance against the ongoing violence that the Muslim population of Myanmar is facing.

On 6 July, 2016, the government of Myanmar was politically and economically pressed to let Rohingya people go back to their country and entitle them with all the rights they were deprived of, through the supervision of the Embassies of the Kingdom in Bangladesh, Malaysia and Indonesia. In addition, the International Organization has been asked to assist them, through the help of KSRelief, King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre.
On September 2017, acting upon KSA responsibility as the leader of the Islamic Ummah, Saudi Arabia has called for a resolution to condemn the atrocities and human rights violations committed against the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar. KSA has reached out to members of the UN Security Council to address the recent human rights violations against the Rohingya on its agenda. KSA has expressed its concern to Secretary General, which resulted in a condemnation from the United Nations.

On February 2018, Foreign Affairs Minister Adel Al Jubeir delivered a speech at the high-level segment of the thirty seventh session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The Minister affirmed that the Kingdom is witnessing a qualitative leap towards progress and prosperity through focusing on people and development and making the protection and promotion of human rights a consistent approach in all taken measures. The minister highlighted Saudi efforts in the longest-running conflict of the modern era and human rights violations against Myanmar’s Rohingya minority.

On April 2018, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman, hosted the 29th Arab League Summit in Dahran, at the end of which Arab leaders signed the Dahran declaration. The declaration condemns the acts of terrorism, violence and human rights violations against the Muslim minority of the Rohingya in Myanmar and calls upon the international community to assume its responsibilities and to move effectively, diplomatically, legally and humanely to stop these violations and to hold the Government of Myanmar fully responsible.
On May 2018, during the OIC meeting in Dhaka, the Foreign Ministry Al Jubeir in his speech highlighted the importance of supporting the Muslim minorities in the world, especially the Rohingya minority in Myanmar, underlying the great support and sacrifices that brotherly Bangladesh offers to host Rohingya refugees, on its territory. Saudi Arabia signed the Dhaka declaration in which is expressed "deep concern over the recent systematic brutal acts perpetrated by security forces against the Rohingya Muslim Community in Myanmar that has reached the level of ethnic cleansing, which constitute a serious and blatant violation of international law, and which has affected over 370,000 Rohingya who have been forcibly displaced to Bangladesh and other countries across the region, in addition to the burning of their houses and places of worship." Dhaka declaration also calls for International support to solve the crisis and full implementation of the recommendations put forward by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State (Annan Commission).
Humanitarian aid offered by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Rohingya Muslims

Saudi Arabia is one of the first countries in the world to provide urgent relief and humanitarian assistance both regionally and globally and has demonstrated a profound commitment to support those most in need around the world. The Kingdom offered a significant amount of humanitarian aid to Rohingya people to alleviate their suffering. Among these measures:

In 2007 the Kingdom sent humanitarian aid to Myanmar, after the Cyclonic Storm Nargis hit the south of the country and the city of Yangon, causing the destruction of many houses and the death of 300,000 people. On September 2011, the Kingdom donated 50 million dollars to help Rohingya people in Myanmar. In 2012, a program was adopted and approved in order to improve the condition of the Burmese community living in the Kingdom. Furthermore, a permanent committee was set up to make them benefit from health and education services. Saudi Fund for Development allocated 30 million Saudi riyal to finance a project in order to better the irrigation system for which the equipment needed was handed over. On November the 2nd, 2016, KSRelief and the International Organization for Migrations signed in the Republic of Myanmar a joint implementation plan to foster the agricultural development and to reduce the irregular migration in Myanmar. 35 villages in the Rakhine State have benefitted from this plan. KSRelief implemented 7 projects to help the ethnic minority of Rohingya people that amount to 11,243,255 dollars. Two out of seven projects were destined to the food sector and to help the state of Rakine recover from its condition, with an amount of 2,000,540 dollars. The last 5 projects were destined to Rohingya refugees in the Republic of Bangladesh, regarding food, health, environmental and housing sectors, with an amount of 9,242,685 dollars.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Total Cost (SAR)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Security</td>
<td>2,700,540</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Recovery</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi cluster sector</td>
<td>1,567,698</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water, Sanitation and hygiene</td>
<td>2,230,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shelter and NFI</td>
<td>6,444,987</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>361,196</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,804,421</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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**Total Partners:** 5  
**Total Projects:** 12

**KSrelief Projects Statistic - Rohingya**

May 2018
Funds offered by the Kingdom to the countries that receive Rohingya Refugees

The Kingdom stood with the needy around the world and assisted the victims in 38 countries by offering 232 relief and humanitarian programs under diverse schemes, in addition to hosting 561,911 Yemenis, 262,573 Syrian refugees and more than 300,000 Burmese who have been provided with all facilities and services to enjoy a decent living like the Saudi citizens. Saudi Arabia is providing most of its assistance to Refugees through the King Salman Center for Humanitarian Relief (KSrelief). Since its establishment in 2015, KSrelief has continued Saudi Arabia’s long history of providing humanitarian assistance, and has closely cooperated with the UNHCR by contributing $45 million to date in response to a number of major displacement situations. In 2018, following the issuance of royal directives to allocate $20 million in response to the most recent Rohingya crisis, KSrelief has initiated a number of key projects, and has worked closely in coordination with the UNHCR and the government of Bangladesh, to attend to the most urgent humanitarian needs of the Rohingya refugees. The organization has constructive partnerships with all humanitarian and international organizations, especially UNHCR. Here few example of Saudi Arabia’s efforts to help Muslim Rohingya.

- On June 2015, KSrelief featuring the ASEAN Fund and Malaysia government offered 5,000,000 dollars to help Rohingya refugees.
- On 13 October 2015, 2,000,000 dollars were offered to help Rohingya people in Andaman sea and the Strait of Malacca, Gambia.
- On 16 January 2017, 50,000,000 dollars were offered to the government of Indonesia in order to support Rohingya people in the region.
- On 14 January 2016, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) signed two
memorandum of understanding, so that the Kingdom would provide more than 1 million dollar to assist Thai refugees, other than 634 thousand dollars to provide temporary accommodation.

- On 16 February 2017, KSRelief agreed on providing (1,000,000) dollars to support Rohingya refugees in Malaysia. The Kingdom signed agreements with many international organizations such as UNHCR and WFP.

In September 2017, a team from the King Salman Relief Centre visited the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, where humanitarian needs were assessed. These efforts were followed by the distribution of emergency relief and shelter assistance, in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The aid included 8 tons of food items, 5,100 blankets, 1,700 rugs and 850 tens. The total amount committed to and paid for by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre for the displaced people in the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar and refugees in Bangladesh during 2017 amounted to SR 20,880,893 (US$ 5,568,238).

- On April 2018, the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) signed a deal with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to donate $3 million for emergency assistance to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.