

Rohingya Refugees



LOCATION: Southeast Asia

POPULATION: 90,000

PROGRESS: 0.00% Christian

BIBLE TRANSLATION: Portions

PEOPLE GROUP

In historical perspective Rakhine, the home of the Rohingya people, is more a frontier province of eastern India than a province of Burma (now called Myanmar).

From the very early days till the arrival of the Mongolians and Tibeto-Burmans in the 10th century, Rakhine was an Indian land with a population similar to Bengal. The spread of Islam in Rakhine during those early times and the impact of Islamic civilization on Rakhine particularly after Bengal became Muslim in 1203 A.D is well known.

According to history, Islam reached Rakhine in the late 8th century AD and attracted the local people to come to Islam en masse. Since then Islam played an important role towards the advancement of civilization in Rakhine. Muslims ruled Rakhine between 1430 to 1638. The system of government (Muslim sultanates) was common in those days. It was an independent Muslim kingdom in the 14th and 15th centuries.

The Rohingya people have been violently persecuted by the Myanmar government, which calls them “non-natives” because they are not Buddhists like the Burmese majority. Thousands had to flee for their lives. Some of them have gone to other countries in Southeast Asia.



WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

Rohingya refugees flee the violent oppression of the government in Myanmar. Some of them wind up in deadly jungle camps, where women are commonly raped, and all Rohingyas risk being killed, even the children. Others are trafficked and wind up as virtual slaves on fishing boats.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Most of the Rohingyas are hoping to relocate to a Muslim majority nation in Southeast Asia where they expect better treatment. But they must go through southern Thailand on the way, leaving them vulnerable to human traffickers, and Thai government officials who suspect them of aiding Muslim insurgents in their southern border.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Rohingyas are staunch followers of Islam. In Myanmar, there are mosques and Madrassahs (religious schools) in every quarter and village. The men pray in congregation, whereas the female pray at home



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MINISTRY DESCRIPTION & PLATFORM

We currently have a Global Teams Field Partners working in a Muslim country in Southeast Asia and one is working among the Rohingya. You would begin your ministry with learning language and culture while looking for open doors and bridges for the Gospel in this people group. As a teacher, you will build interpersonal relationships among the Rohingya and look for a person of peace. Discovery Bible Studies can be launched and discipleship can begin even before they have come to follow Christ. Since this is a very communal society, you will encourage them to share their questions and what they are learning with family and close friends. You will look for resources, networks and opportunities for partnerships with other organizations and individuals as you develop strategies for multiplying movements among the Rohingya.

If you are a follower of Christ, have a heart for those who have not yet been reached, are ready and willing to relocate and learn a second language, are excited to build a team in the field with people from other cultures and if you are ready to respond to God's call to go, we are ready to send you.

Email Jenny at mobilization@global-teams.org or visit <https://www.global-teams.org/letsgo>