



DREAMING OF A FUTURE AMIDST CLIMATE CRISIS



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Overview

Dreaming A Future Amidst Climate Crisis explores the resilience, creativity, and perspectives of Rohingya youth as they navigate climate challenges within the refugee camps of Cox's Bazar. Developed by ActionAid Bangladesh under the Sustainable Solutions and Protection for Rohingya Community in Camps project, supported by UNHCR in Bangladesh, this book provides a unique lens into their lives.

Through personal stories and reflections, the Rohingya youth share their struggles within the environment, learn to utilise rare resources through personal stories, reflections, and insights. This book features their thoughts on the effects of climate change and aspirations for a sustainable future.

Readers are invited to observe the perspectives, strength, hope, and determination of Rohingya youth to create lasting change. We hope these stories inspire meaningful actions toward a more sustainable and inclusive world for all.

Dimming Hopes of a Bright Future



Fatima is a young girl who loves to study and go to school regularly. She dreams of becoming successful in the future, working for social welfare to serve her community. But each day is a struggle. Her mornings are spent attending the learning centre while during the rest of the day she helps her mother with chores and takes care of her younger siblings. By the time night falls, when Fatima finally sits to study, the solar-powered lights often stop working especially during the monsoon season. The scarcity of proper lights within the camps makes Fatima feel sad as she worries if she will ever be able to make her dreams come true.

A Child Who Dreams of Water



As a child, when Sadiya used to live in Myanmar, she could access clean and safe water anytime her family needed it. But when she became a refugee, the reality changed. She realised how difficult it can be to access safe water. In the refugee camp, Sadiya often has difficulty managing clean water for drinking and cooking. Overuse of groundwater, unpredictable rainfall patterns and catastrophic weather worsen the situation. It is unlikely to hear a child who dreams about having enough water to survive, but Sadiya is that child.

Breathing for Hope



Shoymul Hason lives with his parents and four siblings in a small shelter in the refugee camp. He spends some time at the community centre but most of his day goes into taking care of his younger siblings. Shoymul has become very concerned now since with each passing day, the air becomes unbreathable due to pollution. People often burn waste and plastics that create a thick smoke which makes his two youngest siblings cry and feel like they can't breathe. Air pollution and poor ventilation are big problems in the crowded shelters. Even with these struggles, he dreams of a world with clean air where he and his siblings can live happily and healthily.

Elephants at the Door



Mohammed Nur's shelter is near the edge of the camp, where elephants often leave the forest and enter the area in search of food. This is simultaneously scary and heartbreaking. Although he feels scared about how dangerous it might be to run into a wild elephant, Nur understands that the elephants are not trying to harm anyone. They come close to the camp only because their forest has been damaged by natural hazards and human activities, leaving them with little food or space. He feels sorry for them. Nur knows the elephants are also victims of losing their homes, just like him.

Advocating for Waste Management



Waste management is one of the most pressing challenges in the overcrowded refugee camps. The lack of awareness, limited space and insufficient resources make managing waste a daily struggle, leading to environmental pollution. Despite these challenges, Khaiser, a young Community Group member actively participates in cleaning campaigns and advocates for proper waste management, encouraging others to address the growing issue. His dedication to the cause inspires his community to take action towards controlling waste management.

Surviving Monsoon in the Refugee Camp



Foyazu Ullah has never experienced heavy and continuous rains or drought-like hot days during his days in Myanmar. Since settling in the refugee camps of Cox's Bazar, he has faced annual floods and landslides that cause waterlogging and flash floods, disrupting daily life. The challenges of refugee life are compounded by leaking roofs and stagnant water. Foyazu Ullah suspects that deforestation, hilly terrains and climate change are contributing to the problem. He dreams of an environment that is free from floods, landslides and all kinds of hazards that make life difficult.

The Need for Proper Sanitation



Munni lives in a crowded refugee camp where there are not enough toilets. The ones that do exist are dirty and often overflow. Climate change only makes the situation worse. Scattered heavy rain showers, several cyclones and flash floods are more common now. This makes the sanitation problem even more serious. The waste combined with rainwater creates a horrible pungent smell that spreads all over the camp, making simple actions like eating a meal or breathing difficult for Munni and her family.

The Loss of Biodiversity



Mohammed Kaiser misses his days in Myanmar, where he used to be surrounded by nature, animals and their beloved pets. Climate change created a negative impact on biodiversity in both Myanmar and Bangladesh with the situation worsening now because of extreme weather patterns. The crowded shelters and lack of green spaces in the camp make him yearn for the forests and wildlife he once cherished. Kaiser's heart aches to reconnect with nature and wildlife once more.

Save the Water Bodies



Mohammed Arfat, a Rohingya youth who came to Bangladesh as a refugee, saw many ponds around the camp. These ponds made him happy because he used to swim and play in them with his friends. But over time, he noticed that people began throwing garbage into the ponds. Plastic bags, food wrappers and other waste filled the water making the ponds dirty and polluted. This made him very sad. The polluted water not only ruined their fun but also became a health hazard for everyone in the camp. Now, they have to depend entirely on the reserve water from the tanks. Arfat hopes that one day he and his friends will be able to access clean and safe natural water again.

Scarcity of Playgrounds



Mohammed Khan, a refugee youth, spent his days in open playgrounds in Myanmar. Life in the camp is very different, with limited space and opportunities to play outdoors. During a non-centre-based activity, a volunteer from the Community Centre discovered that Mohammed loves playing volleyball. Sadly, there are no open fields near the camp, as the area is filled with shelters, shops, salt fields, and brickfields. This makes it difficult for him to play with his friends or do the much-needed physical exercise. Mohammed believes that not having places to play affects the community and makes it harder for people to live together peacefully.

Dreaming of a Greener Tomorrow



Mohammad Ayas has been living in the camp for seven years. During this time, he has seen many changes in the environment. There are now more vehicles, tea stalls and smoke around the camp. What worries him most is that people are gradually cutting down trees. He often discusses these problems with his friends, wondering how they will be able to live in such a place and what the future holds for their families. Despite these challenges, he dreams of a greener world where he and his family can live happily and peacefully alongside nature.

The Impact of Poor Drainage Systems



Sayed Alom is a Rohingya refugee living in the camps of Cox's Bazar. When he was in Myanmar, he had never seen drainage systems. But after coming to the camp, he noticed drains. At first, they seemed useful, but over time, Alom began to see many problems. The drains became blocked and overflowed, causing bad smells, dirty water, and health risks. These issues make life uncomfortable for Sayed. Still, he dreams of living in a clean and healthy place with well-maintained drainage systems.

The Problems Caused by Deforestation



Imran, a Rohingya youth living in Cox's Bazar refugee camp, feels sad when he remembers the first vision of Teknaf that he saw. Beautiful green forests with healthy trees swaying in the wind, blossoming flowers dancing among the feathery leaves with animals playing in the forest. Imran, along with other children, often played in the forest and rested under the shades of the canopy. Over time, everything faded, and trees were gradually cut down to make way for shelters. Imran deeply misses how things were and he longs to get back to those green forests where he and his friends can play to their heart's content.

A Hidden Contributor to Climate Change



Abubokor Siddique, a Rohingya youth, is one of over one million Rohingya refugees. He expressed that catastrophic fires break out in the camps every year, filling the air with smoke and raising carbon dioxide levels. Over time, these fires contribute to the growing issue of climate change, impacting them all. Abubokor hopes that more fire safety measures and awareness initiatives will be taken to protect the community and reduce the environmental impact.

Refugees Unite for a Greener Tomorrow

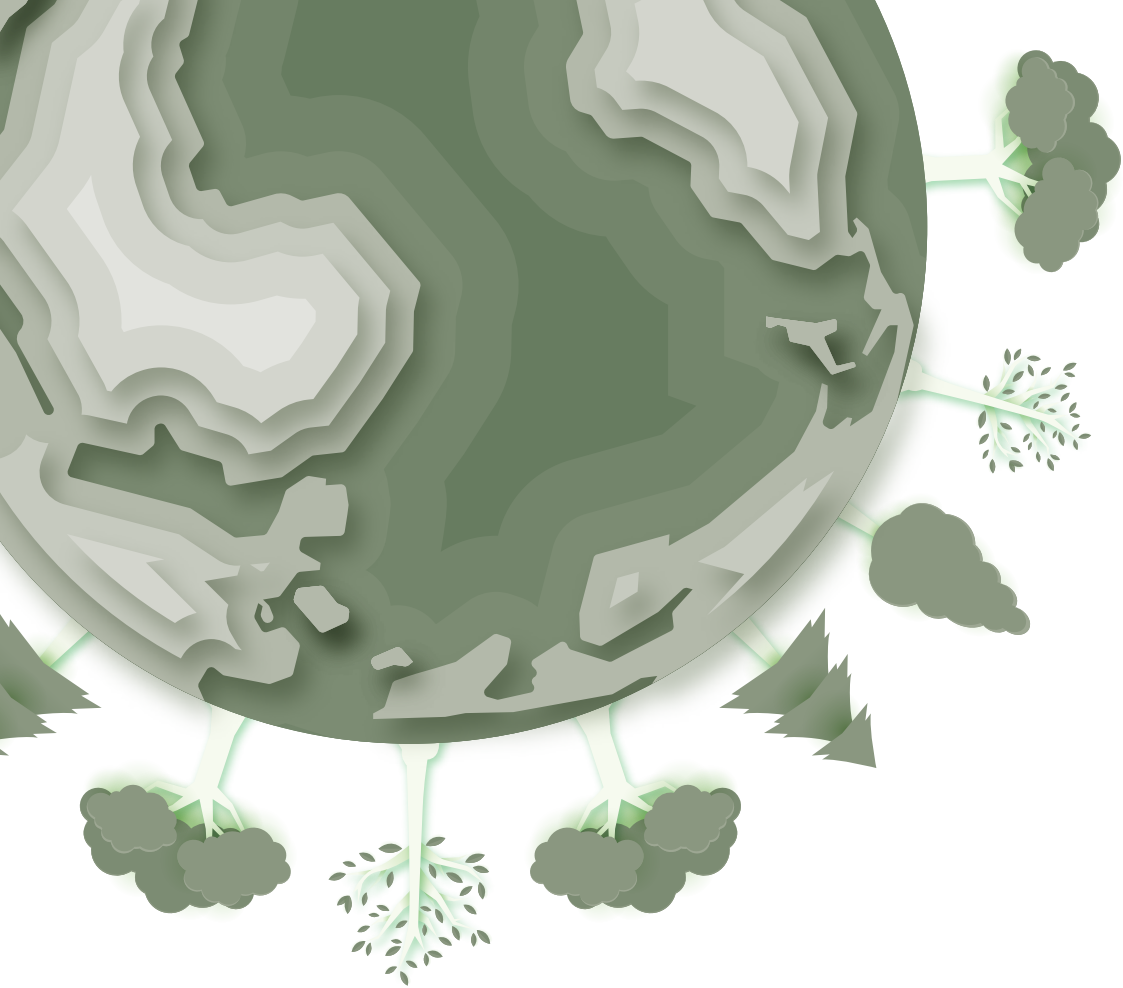


Hafiza Khatun, a refugee woman living in a Rohingya camp in Bangladesh, passionately emphasises the power of collective action in planting trees. She believes that when people come together to plant trees, they not only protect the land from landslides but also create a healthier and more vibrant environment for everyone. For Hafiza, planting trees is more than an environmental effort. It's about securing a better future for the next generation and aiding nature in its healing process.

Imagining a Life Beyond the Camp



Sumaiya lives in the world's largest refugee camp, where millions of people are packed in small shelters made from bamboo and tarpaulin. During the monsoon, the area floods regularly and creates hazards that increase with each passing day. With the constant fear of heavy rainfall and landslides damaging their homes, Sumaiya often thinks about finding a way out of the camp. She dreams of a future where she can study and freely work to help support her family. The harsh conditions of the camp have made her resilient and determined to overcome the obstacles that stand in her way of building a better future.



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