



ARAKAN

ACTIVITY REPORT

2010 - 2019

NOVEMBER 2020

This report has been prepared to present together the projects and works carried out by IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation between January 2010 and December 2019 in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Indonesia, India, Nepal, Malaysia and Thailand, where Arakanese people live.

Since its establishment in 1992, IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation have continued to operate with the aim of delivering humanitarian aid needed by people in dire situations, who are faced with a disaster, victimized in a war, or a natural disaster, or who have experienced violence, and to prevent the violation of their fundamental rights and freedoms anywhere in the world.

While operating in the axis of humanitarian relief, human rights and humanitarian diplomacy, IHH also promotes the idea of helping others, solidarity and friendship in Turkey and across the world by developing many social and cultural projects as it continues its operations. IHH assumes the duty of a pioneer and role model in the development of NGOs that operate in regions experiencing hardship and victimization. In addition to emergency aid, IHH also constructs permanent works including schools, orphanages, mosques, water wells, cultural centers, health clinics and hospitals to serve the people in these regions and contribute to the development of the countries. IHH also acts as a mediator in solving issues using humanitarian diplomacy in all regions where people are victimized and international diplomacy is inadequate.

Honored with the Outstanding Service Award by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in 2007, IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation has been granted tax exemption and classified as a foundation working for public benefit as per Cabinet Decree 2011/1799 of 04.04.2011.

IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation is an advisory status member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC); a council member of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation Humanitarian Fund (OICHF) and a member of the Humanitarian Forum (THF); International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA); Turkish Volunteer Organizations Foundation (TGTV) and the Union of NGOs of the Islamic World (IDSB).

IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation 2010-2019 Arakan Activity Report

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1 January 2010 - 31 December 2019

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INTRODUCTION

Arakanese Muslims, who have lived under oppression and violence for nearly a hundred years, have been massacred many times on different periods of time. Approximately 900 thousand people who were forced to leave their country took shelter in Bangladesh, living in the makeshift barracks they have built.

In IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, we have been conducting humanitarian aid activities and implementing projects to improve the living conditions of Arakanese people since 1996. We're providing aid to the Arakanese people who had to migrate to Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia due to pressure. In the last 10 years, over five million people have benefited from our Arakan aid efforts.





A BRIEF OVERVIEW ON THE ARAKAN CRISIS

Arakan is one of the biggest problems that Britain left behind while withdrawing from South Asia in 1948. Many people living in the region at that time were forced to migrate to Burma (today's Myanmar) as workers by the colonial administration. Today, the Myanmar state does not accept citizenship of Arakan Muslims, claiming that these migrations were illegal because they were made during the colonial period. However, it is known that Arakanese Muslims have settled in the region since the 12th century.

With the citizenship law enacted in 1982, Arakanese Muslims were turned into foreigners in their own lands. They are not included in any ethnicity and are not included in the population census. Since 1991, they have been subjected to systematic pressure by the Myanmar government and fanatical Buddhist gangs.

Fanatical Buddhist gangs attacked the Arakanese people in June 2012, burning their homes and lands so that the displaced Muslims would not return. After these events, the Myanmar army conducted operations in the regions where the Arakanese people lived. Thousands of Arakanese people were forced to emigrate. In October 2016, 9 security officers were killed in attacks on security centers. Without knowing the perpetrators of these attacks, re-operations were carried out in the regions where Muslims lived. In these operations, thousands of people had to leave their place of residence.

According to the report of Human Rights Watch (HRW), 130,000 people have been arbitrarily and indefinitely detained in 24 camps established by the Myanmar government in Arakan. Those living in the camps cannot move freely due to checkpoints, barbed wires and travel restrictions. In addition, education and health services, food and housing facilities are limited. There are restrictions on humanitarian activities.

Since the last Myanmar attacks in 2017, the number of refugees that flocked Bangladesh has reached 860 thousand, thousands of Arakanese Muslims have been killed. Their lands were taken away, their houses and shops were burned. Living conditions of Arakanese people who had to leave their place of residence due to ethnic cleansing in Myanmar have reached ominous levels.

According to the United Nations (UN), today 861,000 Arakanese refugees live in inhumane conditions in 34 camps in three cities of Bangladesh. Since 70% of those living in the camps cannot access clean water, infectious diseases and deaths occur frequently. The living conditions of children, who make up more than 40 percent of the refugees, are the gravest problem. The rate of children who cannot receive education reaches 15%.

Arakanese people, who had to migrate, took refuge in neighboring country Bangladesh. Hosting nearly 900 thousand refugees, Bangladesh meets the basic needs of Arakanese refugees with the contributions of different countries.

Having saved their lives by taking shelter in Bangladesh does not mean that everything is getting better for Arakan. The Myanmar government is placing others in the lands left behind by the Rohingya. Arakanians cannot establish a permanent life for themselves in Bangladesh, where they have to come. This makes their condition much more vulnerable and makes them dependent on outside help.

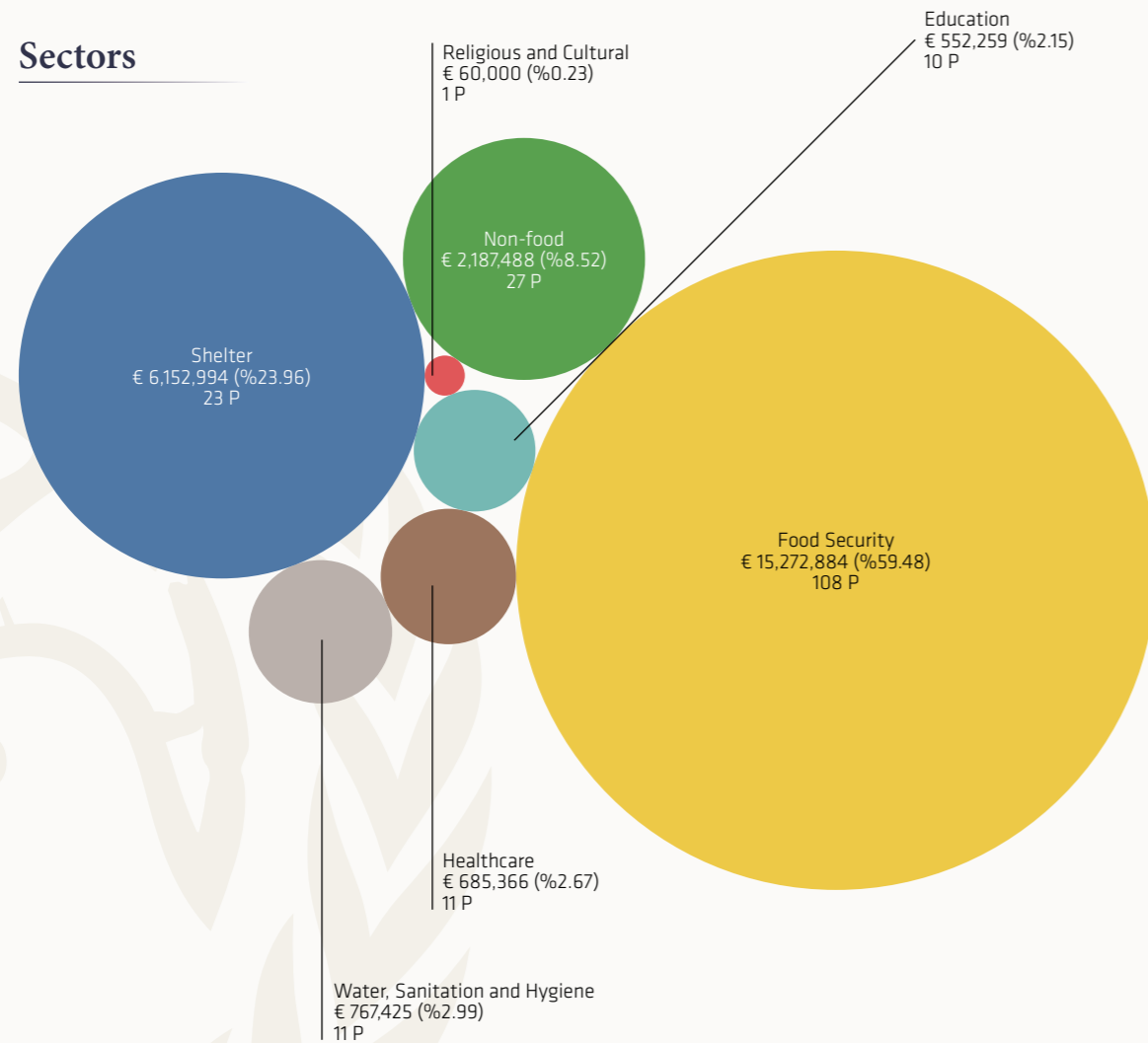


In IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, we have been working since 1996 to improve the living conditions of Arakanese people. In the last 10 years, we have delivered € 25,678,416 to over five million needy people affected by the Arakan crisis.

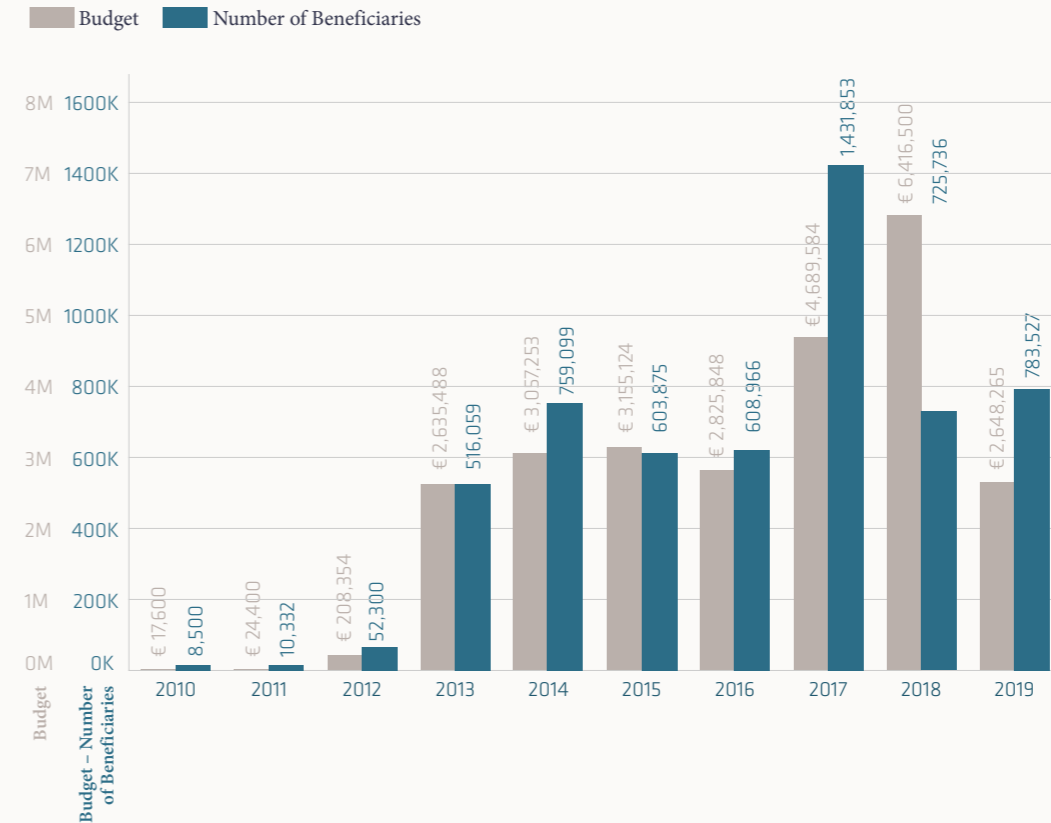


Project (P) 191
 Sectors 7
 Countries 7
 Budget € 25,678,416

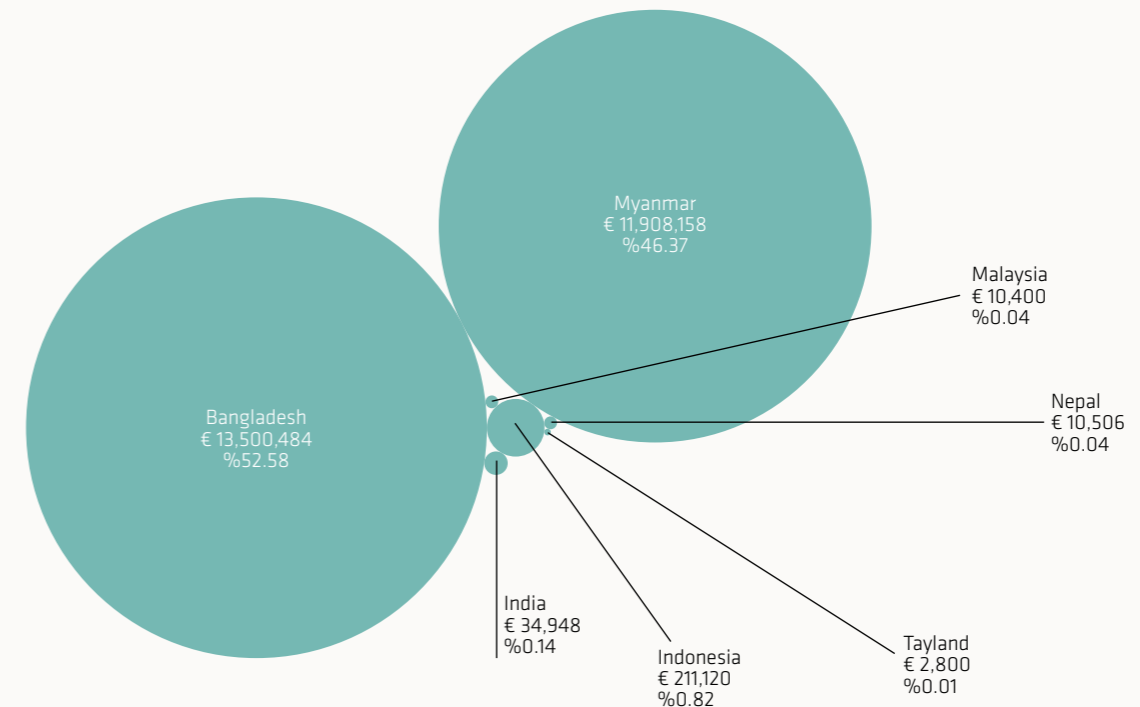
Sectors



Budget and Number of Beneficiaries



Countries of Operation

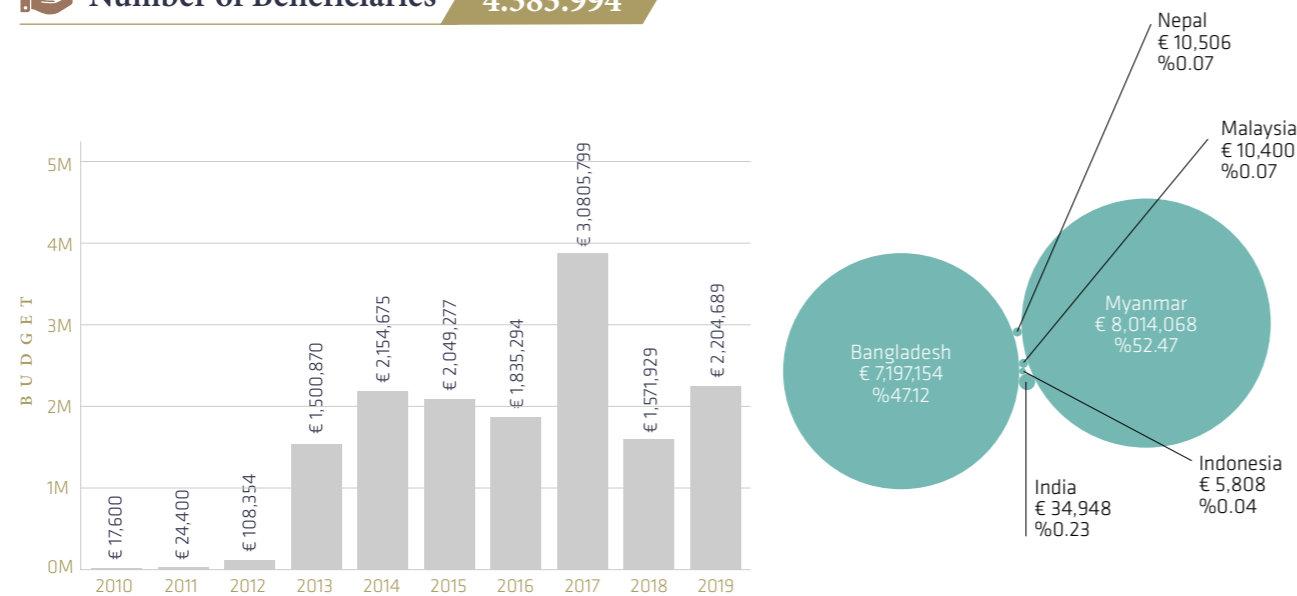


🍲 Food Security

In the last 10 years, most of the projects we have realized have been in the field of food security, thus we delivered food aid in the amount of € 15,272,884 to the people in need. Currently, 410 thousand Arakanese can survive with food aid.

🔦 **Total Number of Projects** 108 📄 **Budget** 15.272.884 €

👤 **Number of Beneficiaries** 4.383.994

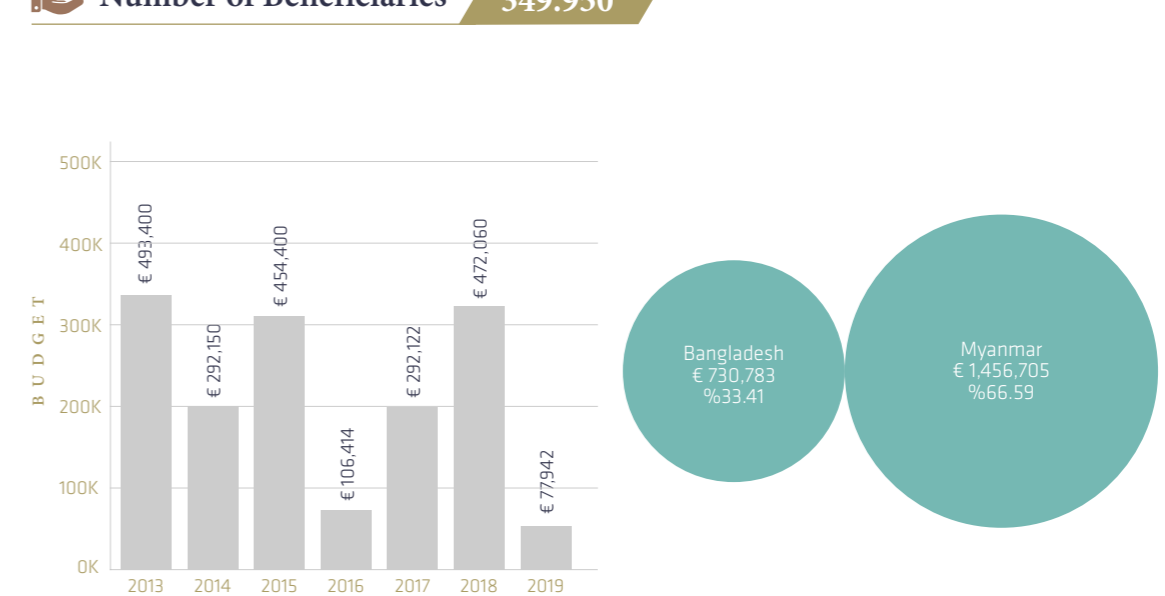


👕 Non-food Aid

Nearly 91 million Arakanese people cannot meet their basic needs. Since 2013, we have carried out 27 projects for non-food aid such as clothing, household goods and fuel, and delivered aid of € 2,187,488.

🔦 **Total Number of Projects** 27 📄 **Budget** 2.187.488 €

👤 **Number of Beneficiaries** 349.950

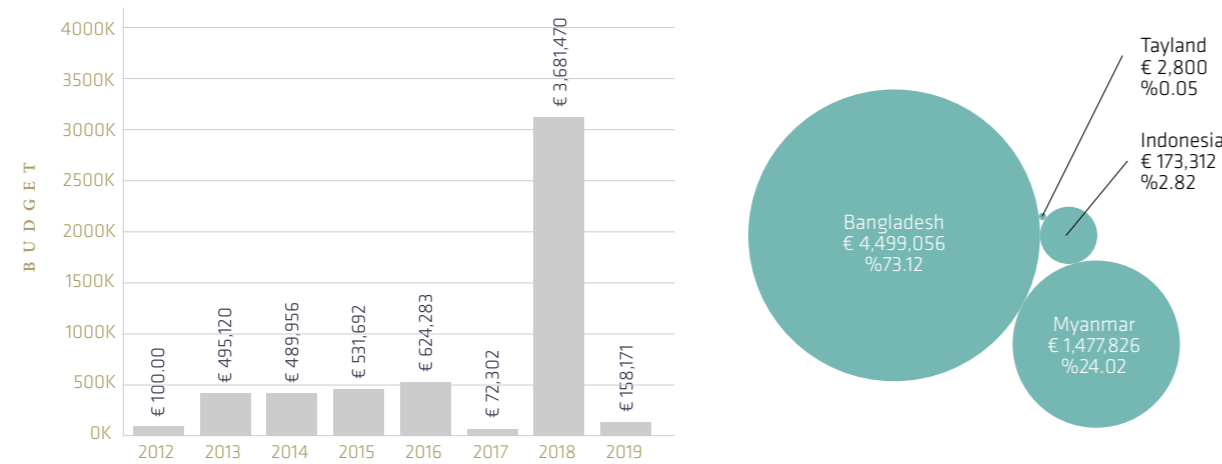


Shelter

One of the biggest problems caused by the crisis in Arakan is the shelter need of the immigrants. According to UN data, 275 thousand Arakanians had to migrate in 2019 alone. We have provided tents and canvases and built bamboo houses to solve the shelter problem of refugees. We have carried out 23 projects in the last 8 years in the field of shelter.

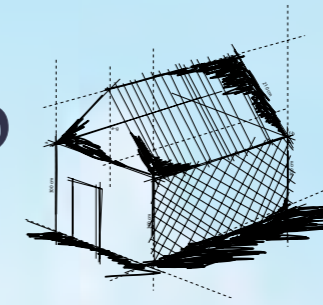
Total Number of Projects 23 **Budget** 6.152.994 €

Number of Beneficiaries 288.369



PROJECT

Bamboo Houses

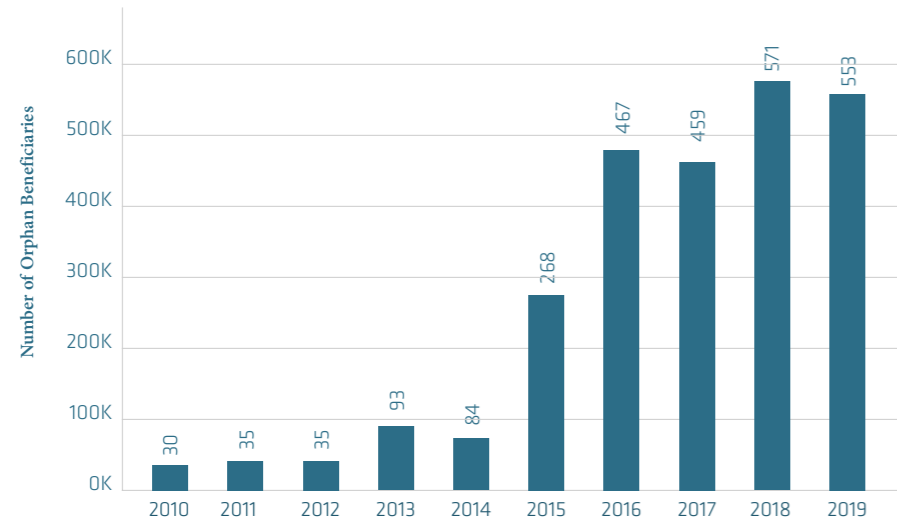


Our bamboo houses project, which we started with the aim to meet the shelter needs of refugees, consists of houses ranging from 16-19 m² with two rooms and a kitchen. By the end of 2019, we completed the construction of 9,236 bamboo houses and handed them over to the refugees. In addition, we also work on walkways, stairs, greening and garbage collection in the areas where the houses are located.



Protection and Orphans

The group who are affected the most by the crisis are the orphans who lost their families and are thus left unprotected. With the Orphan Sponsorship System, we regularly support the education, healthcare, food and shelter needs of 553 Arakanese orphans every month.

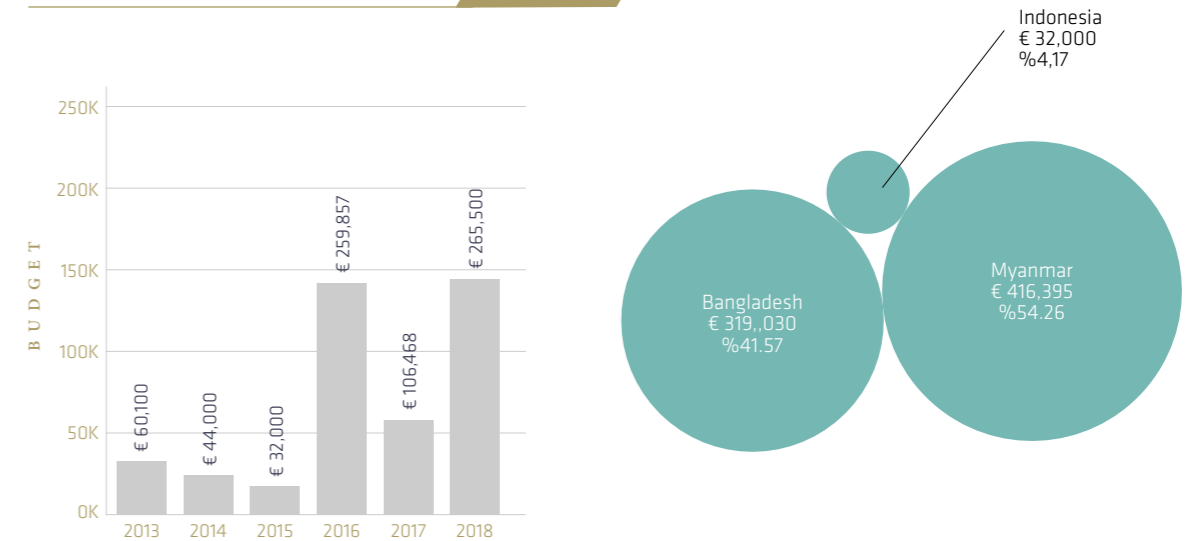


Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

In the camps in Bangladesh, where 861 thousand people live, polluted water causes epidemics and deaths. Those who cannot find clean water are forced to use unhygienic water for food and cleaning. In order to find a solution to this problem, we drilled 123 water wells in the regions where Arakan refugees live.

Total Number of Projects 11 **Budget** 767.425 €

Number of Beneficiaries 250.545

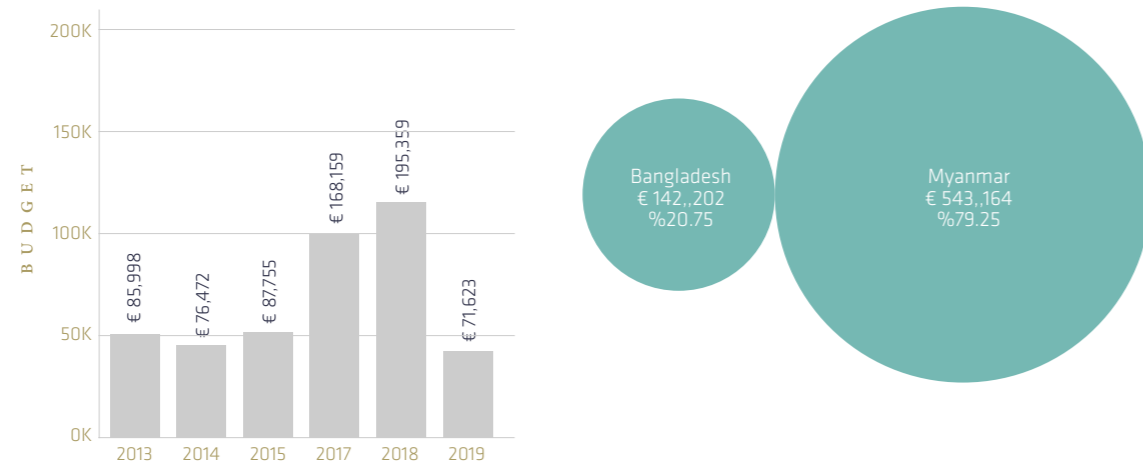


Healthcare

Arakanese people cannot access healthcare due to the crisis. Insufficient health care causes epidemics and deaths. We provide healthcare to Arakanese refugees with the health centers we have established. In the last 6 years, we have realized 11 projects including health screening, medical examination and treatment.

Total Number of Projects 11 **Budget** 685.366 €

Number of Beneficiaries 224.269



PROJECT

Health Center (Cox's Bazar / Bangladesh)

In 2017, when there was intense immigration, we served in four temporary health centers, two in camps in Bangladesh and two in Arakan. We continue to serve approximately 200 people a day in our health center in Cox's Bazar. While providing health services to the injured and those affected by epidemic diseases, we also carry out routine health screenings. 109,750 people have been health screened in the center so far.

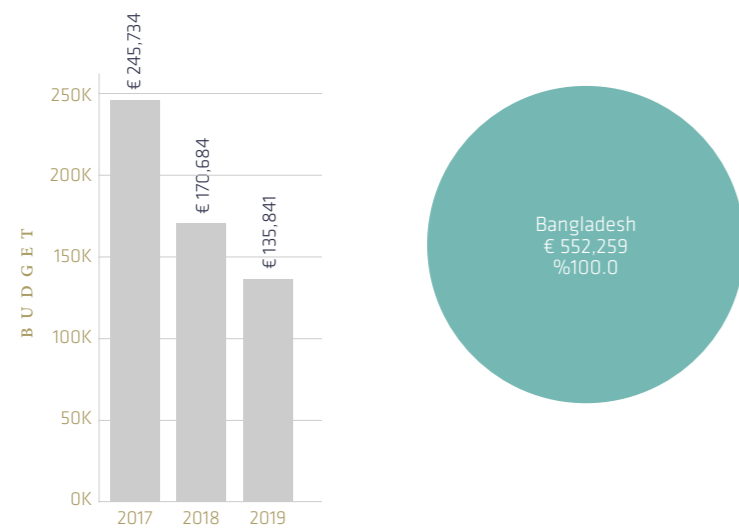


Education

Wars and crises make it difficult for children to receive education. We established five education and rehabilitation centers for Arakanese children who do not have permanent education areas and regular education opportunities. 1,820 children benefited from these centers in three years.

Total Number of Projects 10 **Budget** 552.259 €

Number of Beneficiaries 1.820



PROJECT

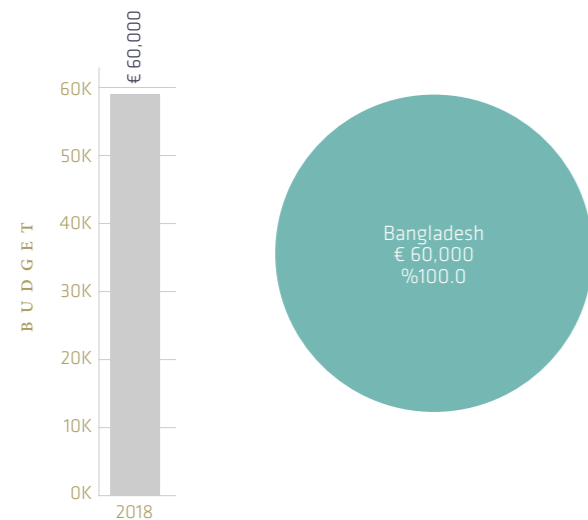
Education and Rehabilitation Center

We established education and rehabilitation centers so that Arakanese children receive education and to have them forget the effects of the crisis. In five centers in Cox's Bazar, children receive education, play games and receive treatment for traumas caused by the crisis.



Culture

We are producing permanent projects so that Arakanese refugees can continue their culture and practice their religion freely. Until the end of 2019, we built 13 worship and cultural centers in refugee camps where Arakanese people live.



Publications



Books

1. *Dünden Bugüne Arakan*, Dr. Muhammed Yunus, trans. Hatice Uğur, September 2012 (2nd edition)



Reports

2. *IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation Arakan Annual Report*, August 2012
3. *IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation Arakan Report*, September 2012
4. *Myanmar's Rohingya Impasse, The Chabi of the Order*, April 2017
5. *Arakan Report*, Emrin Çebi, September 2017
6. *The Role of Public Schools and Madrasahs in Education in Bangladesh*, Emrin Çebi, September 2018



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