



A Written Language for the Rohingya

This year are excited about the effort, again promoted by COTE, to develop a universally recognized script for the Rohingya language. The script is based on Arabic characters and was initially proposed by Rohingya scholar and Professor, Maulana Hanifi beginning in the 1970's. When successfully introduced and learning materials are translated the Hanifi Script will allow Rohingya children to study and learn in their mother tongue. It will offer them a way to assemble and record their history and experience, thereby helping them build their cultural identity beyond what is possible on the current stage. It will give these people agency and directly support their efforts to advocate for recognition and rights.



The script is being developed and used with Rohingya communities outside Bangladesh and a key part of the current effort is to get approval from the Bangladesh education officials to proceed with same efforts in the camps. Translation of Myanmar learning materials from Burmese into Hanifi proceeds apace so that we can have materials ready in the coming year pending approval.

Brackett Refugee Education Fund

Annual Brochure 2023



BREF's Scholarship Program

Our presence in Northern Thailand has shifted over the past decade. Over this time, the Thai government has greatly improved access to the public school system for children of displaced families. As a result, there has been less demand for primary school funding. In concert, our programs have shifted to primary schools operated inside Burma, for those internally displaced and repeatedly under threat; and, to post-secondary schools either focused on college prep or vocational training.



Our scholarship program has maintained presence, but the legacy model of attracting and evaluating clients with a small army of Trustee Representatives (TReps in our parlance) traveling annually for multiple weeks, needed to change. We are fortunate for the efforts of Josh Hawley and Jenny Jones to try new things and for the example of Melinda Jackson who runs our operation in India.

In the coming year, we expect to flesh out our newly deployed online application process adding a local coordinator working in northern Thailand. Our plan is that this person bridge between our network of people in Thailand and the board to help us identify the most deserving candidates.



Digital Curriculum

One enduring effect of the pandemic has been our moving learning activities online. A huge part the effort at COTE in Bangladesh has been to develop digital curriculum delivered to children in the camps, slums and enclave schools in and around Cox's Bazar. Mentioned last year, the Moja Kids program has gained significant traction. It provides an outlet for children and their families to produce videos of their living and learning experiences which are then shared with children in other camps building connection among those of similar circumstance. Video lessons and producing video projects has given a huge boost to the learning environment in the camps. But, it's not a complete solution.

