



BORDER CROSSINGS

A Newsletter of the Brackett Refugee Education Fund (BREF)



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A Written Future for the Rohingya

One of the most exciting developments in BREF's partnership with Children on the Edge (COTE) is the growing momentum behind the Hanifi script project for the Rohingya people in Bangladesh.

The Hanifi program, which teaches a written form of the Rohingya language, has regained strong momentum after earlier political delays. In, August, 2025, COTE was able to officially launch the program and it has since been accepted with gratitude and met with inspiring support.

This spring, the initiative is being implemented in the Kutupalong refugee camp in Cox's Bazar and on Bhasan Char island, where thousands of Rohingya refugee children currently receive educational support. Teachers are now being trained to deliver Hanifi lessons, while digital learning teams are beginning to integrate Hanifi content into educational videos, textbooks, and classroom materials.



Community response has been overwhelmingly positive. Interviews with children, parents, teachers, and local leaders found widespread excitement about what the Hanifi script could mean for the future of Rohingya identity, education, history, and culture.

The broader education programme currently serves more than 6,400 refugee and marginalized children across 130 classrooms. Attendance remains high despite challenges such as flooding, extreme heat, overcrowding, and limited infrastructure.

For BREF, this partnership represents more than literacy alone — it is an investment in cultural preservation, dignity, and long-term educational opportunity for the Rohingya.

Project Update



The schools, scholarships, and projects that BREF funds are operating smoothly. The annual trip to Thailand this spring reported strong growth in some schools, improved technology, connectivity and facilities in other schools, and high success rates on the GED in still others. BREF continues to be very active in the west of Thailand,

supporting a variety of educational institutions along the Thai border with Myanmar. These schools focus on many areas; from GED prep programs, pre-K and elementary schools, Language and communication centers, all the way up to our scholarship programs that include opportunities for university and vocational studies. With continued support from Iris, we were thrilled to award 25 new, higher-education scholarships this spring bringing the total number of Thai scholarships up over 90.

Maw Kwee



Maw Kwee, a K-10 school, located just half a mile from the Myanmar–Thailand border, has experienced significant growth in recent years as more families seek educational opportunities for their children. Reached by a winding dirt road that follows a mountain stream into the hills, the school serves students from a wide area, many of whom travel long distances each day or live in dormitories during the school year.

This year, Maw Kwee will welcome approximately 300 students. With more than 10 classrooms, multiple assembly and work spaces, a library, and a computer room, the school provides a vital educational resource

in a region where migrant learning opportunities are limited. For many children in surrounding communities, Maw Kwee offers one of the best pathways to a quality education and a brighter future. Without you, BREF's donors, this school would face extreme challenges to keep the doors open.



The Brackett Refugee Education Fund is proud to continue on with our mission of improving education standards for refugees, displaced people, and families most in need. We are incredibly grateful for all of the teachers, administrators, staff, and our donors, who make all of this possible. Ongoing conflict in Myanmar remains at a high level, continuing to push families into Thailand, Bangladesh and China, forever changing the landscape, history and need for migrant education. In the end, it's the people we meet, the relationships we build, and the opportunity to change young lives through education that keeps us dedicated to what we do.

The Brackett Refugee Education Fund

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The Brackett Refugee Education Fund, established in April 1997, is a not-for-profit foundation organized to help educate refugees. Currently the Fund is concentrating its efforts on refugees from Burma in India, Thailand and Bangladesh. Our trustees are Russell Brackett (Interim Chair of the Board and Executive Director), Brian Brackett, Penelope Brackett, Paulo Flor, Melinda Jackson, Jenny Jones, John Littleton, and Kathy Sabino. The Fund has 501(c)(3) tax- exempt status, EIN 16-1523586. It seeks support from friends, family and foundations. In order to make most efficient use of the money it receives, BREF has adopted the following policies:

- All administrative development and program support costs will be supported by the trustees and founders.
- Living and travel expenses of trustees and volunteers, will be donated by themselves.
- The Fund will not sell or give away the names and addresses of any of its contacts or contributors.
- Although the Fund is happy to receive contributions at any time, only one fundraising campaign will be made each year.
- Every dollar you donate will go directly towards helping people receive an education.