

Voices OF HOPE

Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh

Just a few days after Junayet Ahammed watched his family's house burn down in the Mond district of Myanmar, his parents and siblings loaded themselves into a boat and fled for the Bangladesh border, leaving everything behind. The Myanmar military attacked his village in what the United Nations deemed to be disproportionate violence to a Rohingya uprising.

At first, Junayet and his family stayed in the shelter of a relative who arrived in Bangladesh before them. But soon they moved to a makeshift home in the Kutupalong refugee camp in Cox's Bazar.

In Myanmar, Junayet's father was a doctor, and the family owned nearly seven acres of land. Junayet taught chemistry at a local high school and worked at his family's medicine business part time. Now, they are dependent on the kindness of others. Part of the support they've received is through a joint food distribution effort of Canadian Foodgrains Bank members, including PWRDF. Through the project, Junayet's family received oil, lentils, sugar and salt.

"Life is so hard, but I am thankful for the different kind of support and help we are receiving," says Junayet, hopeful that his family will one day return home.



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