



“My mother used to separate threshed rice to prepare Sainna Fira (a traditional Rohingya rice cake) using freshly ground rice flour. Visiting RCMC and seeing Sainna Fira today brought back those cherished memories of her. Though my mother is no longer with us, I missed her deeply as I recalled how she carefully prepared this special treat for us.” – Sabekun Nahar, RCMC Volunteer.

ABOUT RCMC Rohingya Cultural Memory Centre (RCMC) was conceived to address the refugees’ mental health and psychosocial needs, specifically, the identity crises that were reported by 50 per cent of refugee respondents in the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs assessment conducted in 2018 by International Organization for Migration (IOM). The assessment revealed that Rohingya people view their culture as under threat, hence need to preserve the rich culture and connect the community with their culture while using it as a healing pathway. In 2019, IOM started engaging skilled Rohingya artisans, craftspeople, and researchers to document and produce objects, artwork, stories, songs, and cultural rituals representing Rohingya identity, using Rohingya cultural narratives.

RCMC collection can be accessed online at www.rohingyaculturalmemorycentre.iom.int and through [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) channels.

2024 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Integrate Rohingya cultural experiences, materials, and education into health facilities, community safe spaces, education facilities, and recreational activities.

Rohingya refugees engage in creative arts, sports and socio-relational activities.

Rohingya voices and RCMC offline and online platforms to conduct self-advocacy and sustainable outreach.

Capacities of Rohingya refugees strengthened to connect with their identities and amplify their cultural perspectives.

Rohingya refugees are provided with focused non-specialized, and community-based MHPSS support.

ACHIEVEMENTS (JAN-DEC 2024)

RCMC overview: In the year 2024, a total of 1,730 community-led activities were conducted, engaging 21,280 participants, including 7,546 females and 13,718 males, along with 16 GDP participants in the RCMC. Additionally, 1,375 community-led interactive guided tours were conducted, engaging 9,340 participants, including 3,435 females and 5,905 males.

Online presence: Maintained an Instagram page with 1,682 followers, sharing 62 posts, and reaching 5,950 accounts. Managed a YouTube channel with 6.7K+ new subscribers, featuring 162 videos on Rohingya traditional songs, food recipes, dramas, proverbs, and folktales, accumulating 827K+ views. RCMC launched the updated website in December 2024.

Masterclasses and Cultural Events: Through different masterclasses on gardening, calligraphy, music, and photography, RCMC engaged 95 participants, and organized 33 cultural events that attracted a total audience of 3,120.

Recreational and educational initiatives: Engaged 1,374 participants through 131 recreational activities, such as traditional games, sallun, paper crafting, storytelling, and drawing sessions.

Awareness Drama: The RCMC theatre team successfully performed 4 Risk Communication and Community Engagement dramas captivating an audience of 95 attendees.

Women and girls participation activities:

Facilitated participatory 14 activities for girls and women, engaging 94 beneficiaries in meaningful and empowering experiences.

Project milestones: RCMC's initiatives to preserve and promote Rohingya oral traditions and expressions were recognized in the 61st volume of ICH Courier, published by ICHCAP (under the auspices of UNESCO). The title of the publication is "Preserving the Oral Traditions and Expressions of the Rohingya Community: The Role of the Rohingya Cultural Memory Centre in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh".

RCMC Outreach Programme: Community volunteers conducted Cultural Identity Education activities as part of outreach efforts in the camps using the Rohingya Cultural Box and Mobile RCMC. With the Rohingya Cultural Box, a total of 101 activities were recorded, engaging 1,439 participants and with Mobile RCMC, we successfully conducted 56 activities at 10 different camps, covering an audience of 5,484.

RCMC World Tour: RCMC participated in five international exhibitions at Bangkok, Tokyo, Jeonbuk, and Dhaka showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the Rohingya people as well as raising awareness about their plight worldwide.

International engagements: Hosted 123 visits by international delegations, humanitarian organizations, donors, and government officials, including dignitaries such as Director General of IOM, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, Central Director for Asia and Oceania at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ambassador of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka, the SDC Regional Advisor for Migration and Protection, the Ambassador of the European Union in Bangladesh, the Ambassador of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Bangladesh, the Ambassador of the Embassy of Sweden in Bangladesh, and the Ambassador of the Embassy of Japan to Bangladesh, among others.





"In Arakan, we Rohingya used to enjoy a variety of Fira (traditional Rohingya cakes). Today, as we bring some of these cherished food items to the Traditional Fira Festival, we feel immense joy. We are also deeply grateful to the RCMC because, among the Rohingya, there are some who no longer recognize these Fira [as a consequence of the forced displacement], and there are others who still remember them. Those who are familiar with these traditional items have prepared them, while those who are not can now see and experience the unique taste of Rohingya Fira through this event. This is especially meaningful for children growing up in the camp, as they often have no knowledge of these cakes. Through this festival, they can witness how different traditional Rohingya Fira are made and reconnect with their cultural roots."

- Mohammed Shibili, RCMC Volunteer.



In every stitch, in every brushstroke, and every shared narrative, RCMC painted a vibrant picture of cultural revival, transcending borders and leaving an indelible mark on the collective memory of a resilient community.

To know more about RCMC scan the following barcode:



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