

# AVOIDING A “LOST GENERATION” OF ROHINGYA CHILDREN

**Chakmarkul camp, Cox's Bazar: The stump where 13-year-old Mohamed Faisal's left arm once was will forever be a reminder of his terrifying escape from Myanmar – an experience that nearly cost him his life. As he and others from his village ran through a forest near the border, he was struck by a bullet which shattered his arm and left it hanging by a thread.**

A year on, the wound has healed and Mohamed rarely feels pain. He would like to get a prosthetic arm, but he says that can wait for now. Instead, he has a more pressing issue to raise.

“I see the schools here where the younger children go, but

there is nothing for boys like me,” says Mohamed. “I feel very unhappy that I am unable to study here.”

It's a frequent complaint among Rohingya adolescents around the camps – boys and girls alike. And with reason.

From the very beginning of the refugee crisis, the importance of getting around 381,000 newly-arrived children into school was a huge challenge for UNICEF and its education partners. Priority was given to providing learning for children under the age of 14. Hundreds of learning centres were rapidly set up – even if many were in less than ideal settings, given the restrictions on space.

By July 2018, almost 140,000 Rohingya children had been enrolled in non-formal education of some kind. Approximately 1,200 learning centres were operating, with plans to expand further. Well over 3,000 learning instructors (a mix of Bangladeshi and Myanmarese) had been trained.



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**12-year-old Rohingya refugee Rahmat Ullah and other children at a UNICEF-supported learning centre.**