

# 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.



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

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