

way multiple agencies were working earlier on addressing the issues related to gender-based violence, child protection, safe places, awareness creation, engaging youths, hygiene and other aspects of development are now impacted due to decreasing funds.

A lot of young people in Rohingya camps are now literally idle without having any productive engagement. The opportunities for productive engagement of such people had some positive impacts within the community in terms of having perspectives about living life peacefully. Besides, the number of agencies that would employ them as volunteers has drastically reduced now.

As a result, the rate of criminal activities, substance abuse and level of violence have increased, making Rohingya camps more and more insecure. This trend will only grow because the support system that has been created through that additional funding will get

compromised in a new scenario.

TD: *The Rohingya refugee issue is a long-term crisis. What should be done to solve this?*

AD: This is an international issue. When two countries are unable to resolve it, then it has to go to the international platform. The international community also has equal responsibility towards this 1 million plus population.

It is an issue that cannot be resolved in an immediate timeframe of six months or one year. So, we have to make sure that the minimum funding requirement for Rohingya refugees must be met. Even the government needs to have assured support from the international community for a particular timeframe, and that timeframe needs to be negotiated collectively. Unless and until that clarity is there, it becomes very difficult to manage the humanitarian response.

The interview was taken by Saadia Afrin



Children at the Balakhal Camp.
PHOTO: BANABO VILLIUM