

Funding Requests

UNICEF Hurricane Melissa Emergency Appeal for children

How to help children impacted by Hurricane Melissa

In coordination with local governments and partners, we have launched an emergency response. We are acting swiftly to deliver vital supplies and support.

To help families and children affected by Hurricane Melissa, you can donate to help UNICEF and our partners deliver:

- Clean water
- Personal hygiene kits
- Nutrition supplies
- Psychosocial support
- Access to education for displaced children

How your donation helps

For the first 3 months, monthly donations made to this appeal will go towards funding our work to support children affected by Hurricane Melissa. After that, donations will go to support our work around the world. Any Gift Aid claimed on donations made to this appeal will support UNICEF's work around the world. In the unlikely event that funds raised exceed what is needed, or if funds cannot be viably directed to this appeal, we will direct funds to support our work to help keep children safe and healthy around the world.

'Victims of genocide, but also survivors'

The NEU is supporting the education of Rohingya children living as refugees in Bangladesh. **Sarah Thompson** reports.

THE NEU has donated £20,000 to the Rohingya Centre of the United Kingdom (RCUK) to support its project, Educate Rohingya: meaningful education for Rohingya children in refugee camps.

In August 2017, more than 700,000 Rohingya people in Myanmar's Rakhine state fled to Bangladesh to escape attacks by the military. It followed years of systematic discrimination and violence – what some have called “a slow-burning genocide”. They joined other Rohingya people, who had previously escaped, in the sprawling, congested camps of Cox's Bazar.

Home to 1.5 million people, conditions in Cox's Bazar are very difficult. The camps have limited access to clean water and healthcare, and are vulnerable to flooding and cyclones. Many thousands of children are missing out on education.

Education to empower refugees

Co-founder and chief executive of RCUK, Mohammed Amin, who grew up in the camps, tells *Educate* that it is only through education that Rohingya children can be empowered to rebuild their lives. Without it, they will lose the opportunity to improve their lives or speak up for themselves, he says.

Despite attempts by charities and some government organisations, provision is limited and rife with problems – a lack of trained teaching staff and resources, language barriers and little accountability.

The REB will provide a centralised curriculum, learning resources and teacher training under an internationally accredited system to ensure children are receiving a high-quality education. Four pilot centres have already been established across refugee camps in Bangladesh for children aged four to 12, providing 250 children with an education.

“We want, with the NEU's support, to advocate for this community,” says Amin. “Rohingya children and young people want to have a meaningful education so they can be changemakers and support themselves.”

As a refugee growing up in Bangladesh, Amin says he had little access to education:



Protesters in Bradford on 24 August calling for an end to the atrocities against the Rohingya people in Myanmar

“I was given the basic alphabet and numbers. I didn't know what education should look like until I came to the UK – that I had the right for a teacher to treat me well, for lessons to be meaningful.” He arrived in the UK in 2012 and settled in Bradford, which has the largest Rohingya population outside Asia.

In 2022, Amin set up RCUK to promote the rights of Rohingya refugees and has been working closely with the local NEU branch. The need for engagement and for the NEU's support is more urgent than ever. Tens of thousands of new refugees continue to arrive in Cox's Bazar to escape outbreaks of violence that have broken out between the Myanmar army and Buddhist Arakan separatists – both are fighting for control of Rakhine, and both are hostile to the remaining Rohingya population.

Young people are at risk of being conscripted by the Myanmar army in their fight against the Arakan army.

The announcement by prime minister Keir Starmer that the UK's aid budget will be reduced from 0.5 per cent to 0.3 per cent by 2027 – an estimated £6 billion a year – will have devastating consequences. It follows a huge cut in British aid to Rohingya refugees from £112.36 million in 2019–20 to just

£20.26m in 2022–23. RCUK is calling on the UK government to reverse these cuts and ensure the Rohingya community's future.

Devastating earthquake in Myanmar

On 28 March, central Myanmar was hit by a devastating earthquake. The death toll had passed 3,000, and many more people were thought to be trapped under rubble. Buildings as far as 150 miles away have been destroyed. And yet, almost immediately after the earthquake, there were reports of airstrikes in Rakhine state by the Myanmar military.

But there are also some hopeful signs. On 8 August 2024 an interim government was formed in Bangladesh, which Amin says is engaging with the Rohingya people: “It is compassionate and wants to ensure the Rohingya have a right to education and can return safely to their home country.”

Amin believes that by setting up the REB, and working closely with NEU allies, we can bring about meaningful change. “Rohingya are eager to bring changes that are not only sustainable, but that help the community thrive. We are persecuted, discriminated against. We are victims of genocide, but also survivors.”

■ Visit rcuk.org.uk

Dear Kirklees NEU

I write on behalf of Huddersfield TUC for your support in the creation of a memorial to local young men from the Huddersfield and Kirklees area who fought and died in the Spanish civil war.

In 1936 a Popular Front government was elected in Spain dedicated to reforms for working class people. The army under General Franco organised a rebellion to defend the rich and crush the democratically elected government. As a result, not just the Spanish people but trade unionists and workers from all over the world went to Spain to defend the Republic. Despite the war ending over 80 years ago numerous plaques, sculptures and other monuments are scattered throughout the UK and Ireland, and now is the time that those from the town of Huddersfield and Kirklees area were also honoured.

In the ensuing war at least locals went to fight fascism in Spain and three were to die there. The TUC wants to put up a plaque to commemorate these people and are in the process of raising funds to cover costs.

The people of Huddersfield generously supported Basque children who stayed in the town fleeing bombing in their homeland. A plaque in Almondbury on the Old Clergy House designed by Edgar Wood commemorates the stay of these refugees. This was placed in partnership with the Basque Children of '37 Association and the Huddersfield Local History Society.

Local newspapers carried articles about the war and the work of volunteers. If you want further information or a speaker to come to a meeting of your organisation to give information on the civil war and the young men involved, please contact me.

We envisage that a simple plaque, headed Spanish Civil War, could be dedicated to these men indicating who was killed and who returned, with the dates 1936-1939 and the name of the sponsors of the commemoration, Huddersfield Trades Union Congress. The plaque could be placed in a prominent part of town such as outside the library. We aim to raise about £1000 for the plaque and a commemorative booklet. As a former teacher, active member of the NEU and delegate to Huddersfield TUC, I have been doing research and aim to have the plaque in place next year, the 90th anniversary of the start of the war. Your contribution, no matter how small will help us achieve our aim.

CJKelly

Huddersfield TUC