

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	479
Land:	Bangladesh
Kilde:	Nationalt ID Center
Titel:	Issuance of UNHCR identity cards to forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals persons
Udgivet:	11. marts 2024
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	1. maj 2024



11 March 2024

Danish National ID Centre

Birkerød Kongevej 2
DK-3460 Birkerød
Denmark

Phone +45 61 98 39 00
Email nidc@nidc.dk
Website www.nidc.dk

Bangladesh: UNHCR identity cards to forcibly displaced persons from Myanmar

Introduction

The following note describes the introduction of a smart identity card, issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals or Persons of Concern to the UNHCR in Bangladesh. It also provides an account of the information present on the card.

The note is based on information from international organisations in Dhaka and open sources.

Registration and introduction of the smart card

The terms Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals or Persons of Concern to the UNHCR refer to the ethnic Rohingya population currently residing in Bangladesh. According to an official source from an international organisation present in Dhaka, the Bangladeshi Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) has been collecting biometric information from ethnic Rohingya residing in Bangladesh since September 2017, and as of 21 June 2018, the UNHCR and the Bangladeshi authorities have engaged in collective data collection and registration of the Rohingya population in Bangladesh.¹

Since then, the UNHCR has issued a smart identity card to Rohingya individuals over the age of 12, who have been registered by the UNHCR and the Bangladeshi authorities. However, according to sources with separate international organisations present in Dhaka, ethnic Rohingya in Bangladesh have attempted to evade registration by the Bangladeshi authorities and the UNHCR, due to a bilateral agreement signed by the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar in January 2018 concerning repatriation of ethnic Rohingya to Myanmar from Bangladesh, and which the government of Bangladesh attempted to implement as of 15 November 2018.²

¹ International Organisation A, Dhaka, November 2018.

² Al Jazeera, 15 November 2018; Dhaka Tribune, 15 November 2018, International Organisation A, Dhaka, November 2018; International Organisation B, Dhaka, November 2018; Reuters, 18 November 2018; The Guardian, 30 October 2018.

UNHCR card content

The smart identity card issued by the UNHCR to the Rohingya population in Bangladesh as of June 2018 is manufactured from plastic and contains the emblems of the Bangladeshi government and UNHCR in the top left corner on the front side of the card. The UNHCR has previously issued a different identity card to ethnic Rohingya, who arrived in Bangladesh in 1991. However, not many of these cards were issued, and they do not contain the symbol of the Bangladeshi government.³

In addition to the emblems of UNHCR and the Bangladeshi government, the card contains a photograph and the personal information of the card holder, as well as the holder's individual registration ID number with the UNHCR. The individual registration number is found directly beneath the photograph of the cardholder on the front side of the card.⁴



Image 1: Sample of UNHCR identity card (front) provided by international organisation A. (NIDC reference material)

The card also contains the cardholder's family registration ID number with the UNHCR, which is located adjacent to the emblem of the UNHCR, as well as the holder's registration number with the MOHA, which can be found beneath the cardholder's family registration ID number with the UNHCR.⁵

A description of the ID card is found at the bottom on the front side of the card, and barcodes containing the cardholder's registration number with the UNHCR and the Bangladeshi authorities are placed vertically on either side of the front side of the card.⁶

³ International organisation A, Dhaka, November 2018.

⁴ International organisation A, December 2018.

⁵ International organisation A, December 2018.

⁶ International Organisation A, December 2018.

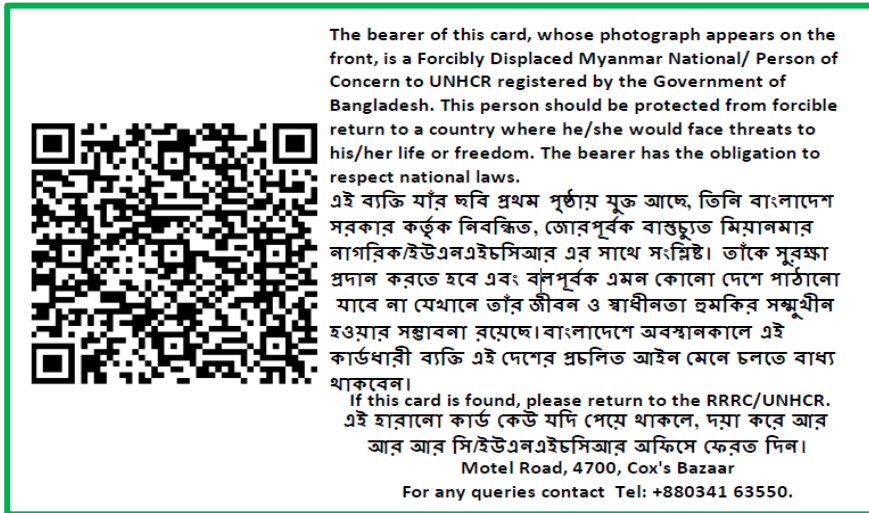


Image 2: Sample of UNHCR identity card (back) provided by international organisation A. (NIDC reference material)

The back of the card contains a QR code, as well as a description of the card and the cardholder. It also specifies a return contact if the card is found.

References

Oral sources

International Organisation A (November 2018): Interviewed in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

International Organisation B (November 2018): Interviewed in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Written sources

Al Jazeera (15 November 2018): Rohingya in Bangladesh will not be forced back to Myanmar, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/11/mounting-confusion-forced-rohingya-repatriation-myanmar-181115013128968.html>, retrieved 18 February 2019.

Dhaka Tribune (15 November 2018): Rohingya Repatriation called off for the day, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/rohingya-crisis/2018/11/15/bangladesh-prepares-to-repatriate-rohingyas>, retrieved 18 February 2019.

International Organisation A (December 2018): e-mail correspondence.

Reuters (18 November 2018): Exclusive: Rohingya repatriation, relocation plans set to be pushed back to 2019 – government official, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rohingya-bangladesh-exclusive-idUSKCN1NN0FC>, retrieved 18 February 2019.

The Guardian (30 October 2018): Rohingyas to be repatriated despite UN genocide warning <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/oct/30/bangladesh-and-myanmar-agree-to-start-rohingya-repatriation-in-mid-november>, retrieved 18 February 2019.