



## **ANALYSIS OF MIGRANT MOVEMENTS ACROSS CONFLICT – RIDDEN REGIONS**

**Shayan Basu Roy**  
University of Delhi

### ***Abstract***

Migration in conflict-ridden regions poses a critical humanitarian challenge, as highlighted by this comparative study of Palestinian migration from Gaza amid the Israel-Palestine conflict and Rohingya displacement from Myanmar to neighboring countries. By analyzing migration patterns, sociopolitical factors that influence this phenomenon, and refugee experiences through narratives, historical analysis, and quantitative data, this research paper seeks to uncover systemic failures in addressing the needs of displaced populations. It aims to raise awareness of the vulnerabilities faced by migrants, by shedding light on global action undertaken by International organisations, to make the reader understand the challenges and clear the road to be taken, for a better tomorrow.

***Index Terms-*** Conflict-ridden regions, displacement, humanitarian challenges, migration, refugees.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Migration in conflict-ridden regions poses one of the most pressing humanitarian crises of our time. Today, millions of people are forced to leave their homes due to wars, violence, and systemic failures, often with little hope of return or safety. Conflicts like those in Palestine and Myanmar illustrate how deeply rooted violence, discrimination, and the lack of global support force vulnerable populations into displacement, creating profound challenges for individuals and nations alike.

This paper delves into two significant migration crises: the prolonged displacement of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip amid the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict and the mass exodus of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar's Rakhine State to neighboring countries like Bangladesh and India. Both cases reveal the intersection of identity politics, systemic persecution, and international inaction, further exacerbating the suffering of displaced populations. These crises underscore how identity and politics play a central role in worsening their plight.

The goal of this paper is to analyze why migrants face immense vulnerabilities and systemic challenges while seeking refuge. By integrating first-hand narratives, historical analysis, and demographic data, the study highlights migration patterns, sociopolitical factors influencing displacement, and the lived experiences of refugees. Furthermore, it sheds light on the gaps in research, with regards to this topic, specifically in the

realm of comparative analyses and understanding the broader, long – term implications of this subject.

Through a comparative lens, this research seeks to unravel the complexities of these crises, emphasize the role of intersectional factors such as gender and socio-economic status, and propose actionable policy reforms. By addressing resource disparities and advocating for equitable solutions, the paper aims to contribute to a better understanding of the global response needed to protect the fundamental rights and dignity of displaced individuals.

## **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

The long history of conflict-induced migration has been manifested in many parts of the world, for example, in Palestine and Myanmar. The forced displacement of persons affects not only that population but also has lasting consequences on the geopolitical, economic, and humanitarian fronts.

Studies indicate that displacement in Palestine is deeply rooted in historical and ongoing conflicts. Adamson and Greenhill (2023) highlight that over 85% of Gaza's population has been displaced due to military operations and territorial disputes. While these studies provide valuable insights, they often lack comparative analyses that place Palestinian migration within broader global displacement trends.

### *Analysis Of Migrant Movements Across Conflict – Ridden Regions*

The forced displacement of the Rohingya from Myanmar has been widely documented. Sahana et al. (2023) provide a demographic analysis of the Rohingya's historical exclusion and statelessness. Humanitarian challenges, including inadequate refugee protection and restricted rights in host countries such as Bangladesh and India, are emphasized in the work of Upadhyay (2024).

Despite extensive documentation of abuses against human rights, the literature fails to assess the prospects for the long-term integration of the Rohingya people and the efficacy of international policies that more or less address statelessness. Similarly, there is also a lack of comparative studies evaluating the Palestinian crisis. While these studies provide valuable insights, they often lack comparative analyses that place Palestinian migration within broader global displacement trends.

Research on conflict-induced migration in Palestine and Myanmar provides critical insights into displacement trends and humanitarian challenges. However, addressing the identified gaps—through comparative studies, longitudinal impact assessments, and policy evaluations—can enhance understanding and inform more effective responses to forced migration crises.

### **III. RESEARCH ELABORATIONS**

This section of the paper expands onto the crises and how the aforementioned factors have impacted the movement of refugees in these regions. It first deals with the Israel Gaza Conflict and how the affected population has turned to displacement in order to save themselves. Succeeding that, is the Rohingya crisis. The unfortunate, yet defying feature of the Rohingya crisis is that the conflict continues to be perennial, with no substantial path to emancipation and rehabilitation of the refugees, owing to decades long statelessness and inability of international actors on the world stage.

### **The Palestine – Gaza Crisis**

The Palestine-Gaza crisis represents one of the most protracted and deeply rooted conflicts in modern history. This crisis has led to widespread forced migration, statelessness, and a persistent humanitarian catastrophe. For Palestinians, displacement is not just a physical reality but a historical and emotional burden that spans generations.

Migration has been shaped by decades of conflict, beginning with the Nakba ("catastrophe") of 1948, when over 700,000 Palestinians were forcibly displaced following the establishment of Israel (Bawalsa, 2023). Many sought refuges in neighboring Arab states such as Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria, while others remained within Gaza and the West Bank under precarious conditions. Periodic wars and military operations, including the 1967 Six-Day War and more recent conflicts, have caused forced

### *Analysis Of Migrant Movements Across Conflict – Ridden Regions*

migration (Adamson & Greenhill, 2023). The Palestinian diaspora, stretching across the Middle East, Europe, and the Americas, remains a testament to the enduring struggle for homeland and identity.

For many Palestinians, the lack of recognised statehood means perpetual marginalisation. Statelessness has denied them fundamental rights, including freedom of movement, employment opportunities, and legal protection (Pal-Think for Strategic Studies, 2024). Restrictions on mobility within Gaza and between the West Bank further entrench socio-political isolation. Those who fled to neighbouring countries often face legal discrimination, as seen in Lebanon and Jordan, where many Palestinian refugees lack citizenship and basic rights. Within Gaza, economic deprivation, coupled with strict border controls, leaves Palestinians trapped in a cycle of poverty and dependence on international aid.

Gaza, one of the most densely populated areas in the world, faces dire humanitarian conditions. UNRWA-managed refugee camps struggle with overcrowding, limited resources, and deteriorating infrastructure. Access to healthcare remains inadequate due to frequent attacks on medical facilities and border restrictions that prevent the entry of essential supplies (Upadhyay, 2024).

Education is similarly compromised, with schools operating in shifts due to space constraints and a shortage of qualified teachers. Employment

opportunities are scarce, with over 50% of Gaza's population living below the poverty line (Journal of Humanitarian Action, 2023). The psychological toll of recurring violence manifests in widespread trauma, particularly among children, who grow up amid airstrikes and military incursions. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) plays a crucial role in providing humanitarian aid, education, and healthcare services. However, funding shortages and political controversies surrounding its operations threaten its ability to function effectively (Pal-Think for Strategic Studies, 2024).



The above-mentioned poignant photograph captures a three-year-old Palestinian girl named Julia Abu Warda amidst a group of detained Gazan men during an Israeli military operation. Julia and her family had been displaced multiple times due to ongoing airstrikes and shelling in Gaza. On the day the photograph was taken, they were evacuating the Al-Khalufa district when they encountered Israeli soldiers who ordered the

### *Analysis Of Migrant Movements Across Conflict – Ridden Regions*

men to strip to their underwear for security checks. Separated from her mother in the chaos, Julia stayed with her father, Mohammed, witnessing destruction and bodies along their path. After being held at a checkpoint for several hours, during which Julia remained calm, she later expressed distress, crying for her mother. The family was eventually reunited, but Julia had already endured significant trauma, including the loss of her seven-year-old cousin, Yahya, in a drone strike two weeks prior. These experiences have deeply affected Julia, leaving her fearful and acutely aware of the dangers surrounding her.

A sustainable resolution to the Gaza crisis requires a comprehensive political settlement. Any long-term stability depends on recognizing Palestinian self-determination and ensuring security for both Palestinians and Israelis. (Adamson & Greenhill, 2023).

According to the recent ceasefire deal issued for Hamas Israel, it shall be taking place in 3 stages:

The 2025 Gaza war ceasefire agreement is structured into three 42-day phases.

In the initial phase, Hamas is to release 33 Israeli captives, including all living children, civilian women, the elderly, and female soldiers; in return, Israel will free up to 1,904 Palestinian prisoners, including 737 serving life sentences, and permit substantial humanitarian aid into Gaza.



The second phase involves Hamas releasing all remaining living male Israeli captives, both civilians and soldiers, contingent upon Israel agreeing to a "sustainable calm" and withdrawing its remaining troops from Gaza, accompanied by a further prisoner exchange.

In the final phase, both parties will exchange the remains of deceased captives, with Israel committing to lift the blockade on the Gaza Strip, while Hamas agrees not to rebuild its military capabilities. The implementation of these stages is to be supervised by Egypt, Qatar, and the United Nations, with guarantees from these entities and the United States.

The Palestine-Gaza crisis is a painful testament to the enduring consequences of conflict, forced migration, and statelessness. From historical displacement to modern-day humanitarian struggles, Palestinians continue to fight for their rights and dignity. While international efforts have provided temporary relief, sustainable solutions remain elusive. Only through genuine political will, economic revitalization, and humanitarian solidarity can the cycle of displacement and suffering be broken. Until then, the stories of Palestinian refugees will continue to shape the collective memory of a people who refuse to be erased.

### **The Rohingya Crisis**

### *Analysis Of Migrant Movements Across Conflict – Ridden Regions*

The Rohingya people have faced decades of ethnic and religious persecution in Myanmar, culminating in the 2017 military crackdown, which led to a mass exodus of over 700,000 Rohingya to Bangladesh (Upadhyay, 2024). The Myanmar military's brutal campaign, which included mass killings, sexual violence, and village burnings, forced thousands to flee through dangerous migration routes. Many sought refuges in neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Indonesia, though most remain in refugee camps. Myanmar's discriminatory policies, including restrictions on movement and denial of citizenship, continue to push the Rohingya into statelessness and forced migration (Pal-Think for Strategic Studies, 2024).

The 1982 Citizenship Law in Myanmar effectively stripped the Rohingya of legal nationality, leaving them stateless (Sahana et al., 2023). Without recognized citizenship, they lack access to fundamental rights such as education, healthcare, and employment. Even in host countries, their legal status remains uncertain, with many living without formal recognition or long-term settlement options. Cultural and social marginalization extends beyond Myanmar, as Rohingya refugees frequently experience discrimination and exclusion in asylum countries (UNHCR, 2023).

Cox's Bazar, the world's largest refugee settlement, houses nearly one million Rohingya refugees. The camps suffer from severe overcrowding, limited sanitation, and disease outbreaks, making daily life extremely challenging (Journal of Humanitarian Action, 2023). Access to clean

water and healthcare remains inadequate, and refugees are vulnerable to human trafficking and exploitation. Education opportunities are scarce, leaving an entire generation without formal schooling. The lack of economic prospects further exacerbates the crisis, leading to growing frustration and instability within the camps (Save the Children, 2023).

International organizations such as UNHCR, ASEAN, and humanitarian NGOs play a crucial role in managing the Rohingya crisis. UNHCR has provided shelter, food, and medical aid, but resource shortages persist due to donor fatigue and Bangladesh's limited capacity to support such a large displaced population (Pal-Think for Strategic Studies, 2024). Myanmar's refusal to cooperate with repatriation efforts complicates the situation, as safe and voluntary return remains unattainable without legal and political reforms (Upadhyay, 2024).

Personal experiences and anecdotes allow us to see what life looks like for these refugees, scraping by through every day, as it goes, showcasing strength and resilience every single day. Here is a personal anecdote from Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh.

In the remote areas of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, single mother Minuara earned a meager 4,000 Bangladeshi Taka (approximately \$40) monthly as a housemaid. She struggled to provide for her six-year-old daughter, Akhimoni. Unable to afford both food and education, she reluctantly placed Akhimoni in an orphanage attached to an Islamic religious school,

### *Analysis Of Migrant Movements Across Conflict – Ridden Regions*

which offered meals, lodging, and schooling. His separation was heart-wrenching; during weekly visits, Minuara often hid behind the entrance gates, watching her daughter from afar, as both endured profound sadness. In March 2022, a new opportunity emerged. Elected to participate in a UNICEF project funded by the European Union, Minuara received training in poultry rearing and support to start a small business. He was provided with a chicken pen and ten Sonali chickens and learned essential skills such as preparing feed and disease prevention with additional cash support, she opened a small shop in her community, selling eggs and popular snacks. His newfound income enabled her to reunite with Akhimoni, bringing her back home from the orphanage reflecting on the moment, Minuara shared, "When I brought her home, she was very thin and had scabies, with improved means, she can comfortably feed her family and meet their basic needs, breaking the cycle of poverty that once seemed insurmountable.

A sustainable resolution to the Rohingya crisis requires Myanmar's commitment to repatriation and the restoration of citizenship (Upadhyay, 2024). Regional cooperation, particularly within ASEAN, is essential for negotiating a solution that ensures the Rohingya's safe return or permanent resettlement. In the meantime, improving living conditions in refugee camps, expanding access to education, and providing legal recognition in host countries are necessary steps. A long-term strategy must include diplomatic pressure on Myanmar to address the root causes of persecution

and ensure that Rohingya communities can live with dignity and security (Journal of Humanitarian Action, 2023).

#### **IV. COMPARITIVE ANALYSIS AND FURTHER IMPLICATIONS**

The Palestine-Gaza crisis and the Rohingya conflict, while distinct in their origins, share several fundamental challenges, including statelessness, systemic persecution, and prolonged displacement (UNHCR, 2023). Both crises have resulted in millions of displaced individuals, many of whom continue to live in overcrowded refugee camps with limited access to essential resources such as healthcare, education, and employment (Save the Children, 2023). In both cases, international organizations like the United Nations and regional bodies have struggled to provide long-term solutions due to geopolitical interests and political deadlocks (Pal-Think for Strategic Studies, 2024). Despite extensive humanitarian efforts, many refugees remain in a state of legal limbo, unable to return home or integrate into host societies.

While the two crises share commonalities, they also differ in significant ways. Table 4.1 elaborates on this further.

*Analysis Of Migrant Movements Across Conflcit – Ridden Regions*

Comparison of the Gaza and Rohingya Crises			
Factor	Palestine-Gaza Crisis	Rohingya Crisis	Citations
Root Causes of Displacement	Territorial conflict and political disputes, exacerbated by military operations and occupation.	Ethnic and religious persecution, driven by Myanmar's discriminatory policies.	(Upadhyay, 2024)
Geographic Constraints	Blockade and geographic restrictions prevent large-scale migration, confining the population within Gaza.	Cross-border migration to Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Indonesia.	(UNHCR, 2023)
Legal and Political Recognition	Palestinians have international recognition as stateless people with refugee status.	Rohingya remain largely unrecognized, even in host countries, making their statelessness more absolute.	(Sahana et al., 2023)

Both crises offer critical lessons for global migration policy. Addressing forced migration requires a multi-faceted approach, incorporating conflict resolution, sustainable humanitarian aid, and long-term integration policies (Journal of Humanitarian Action, 2023). The Palestine-Gaza crisis highlights the importance of political solutions, as long-term peace and stability are prerequisites for any sustainable migration strategy. The Rohingya crisis underscores the dangers of statelessness and the need for legal recognition and protections for displaced populations. Moving forward, global actors must prioritize diplomatic interventions, enhance refugee protections, and promote regional cooperation to create durable solutions that go beyond temporary humanitarian relief (UNHCR, 2023).

**V.CONCLUSION**

The Palestine-Gaza and Rohingya crises highlight the devastating impact of statelessness, systemic persecution, and forced displacement, leaving

millions in prolonged uncertainty and hardship (UNHCR, 2023). Both crises share overcrowded refugee camps, scarce resources, and the psychological toll of violence, especially on children, yet global responses remain fragmented and influenced by geopolitical interests.

International organizations, despite decades of intervention, have struggled to provide sustainable solutions, leaving refugees in a cycle of dependence and vulnerability (Pal-Think for Strategic Studies, 2024).

While both crises involve mass displacement, they differ significantly in their causes and geographical implications. The Palestine-Gaza crisis is rooted in territorial conflict and political disputes, where occupation and blockades restrict mobility, forcing people to live under severe humanitarian conditions (Upadhyay, 2024). In contrast, the Rohingya crisis is driven by ethnic and religious persecution, compelling refugees to flee across borders, often without legal recognition or citizenship, exacerbating their statelessness and social exclusion (Sahana et al., 2023). These differences call for careful policy responses that address the unique political, legal, and humanitarian aspects of each crisis.

The global community must draw urgent lessons from these crises to develop comprehensive migration policies. Solutions must extend beyond temporary aid, focusing on conflict resolution, legal protections, and sustainable integration strategies (Journal of Humanitarian Action, 2023). Political dialogue and regional cooperation are essential for long-term

### ***Analysis Of Migrant Movements Across Conflict – Ridden Regions***

peace and stability, preventing future generations from inheriting the same struggles.

Despite the grim realities, there remains hope. The resilience of displaced communities, the growing awareness of refugee rights, and international advocacy efforts signal a potential shift towards justice and stability. Through collective action, diplomacy, and humanitarian commitment, a future can be envisioned where the Palestinian and Rohingya people find security, dignity, and a place to call home (UNHCR, 2023).

### **REFERENCES**

Journal of Humanitarian Action. (2023). *Humanitarian challenges in the Rohingya crisis: Refugee rights and international response*. Springer Open.

Pal-Think for Strategic Studies. (2024). *Irregular migration from Myanmar and the Rohingya crisis*.

Save the Children. (2023). *The psychological destruction of Rohingya children in refugee camps*.

UNHCR. (2023). *Rohingya crisis: The challenges of statelessness and forced migration*.

UNICEF. (2023). *My pen is full: How single mothers are breaking the cycle of poverty in Cox's Bazar*.

Adamson, F. B., & Greenhill, K. M. (2023). *Organized forced migration, past and present: Gaza, Israel-Palestine and beyond*. Project on Middle East Political Science.

Bawalsa, N. (2023). *Transnational Palestine: Migration and the right of return before 1948*. Institute for Palestine Studies.