

An Appeal for Humanitarian Assistance for Rescued Rohingya in Sri Lanka



Rohingya Asylum Seekers in Mullaitivu		
Age group	Male	Female
Under 1 year	2 (born in Sri Lanka)	0
1-5	8	7
6-10	7	9
11-18	13	12
19-60	34	22
Over 60	1	2
Total	65	52

It's been almost one year since the last boatload of Rohingya were rescued by the Sri Lankan Navy. These refugees have been housed in an Air Force camp in northern Sri Lanka since December 2024. As you can see in the table, two babies have been born since their arrival! Of course the entire group is in need of assistance!



Background: The Rohingya are a Muslim minority in Arakan State, Myanmar (Burma), who have long been discriminated against and persecuted. Although the Rohingya have lived in Arakan State for centuries and were at one time granted citizenship, successive regimes have claimed that they are recent migrants from Bengal, and have refused to recognize them as just another ethnic group within the nation. 2017 saw the beginning of an organized genocide, and desperate Rohingya families fled for their lives. Whole villages were destroyed and burned, and thousands of Rohingya were killed. Many escaped across the Naf River to neighboring Bangladesh, where there are now more than one million Rohingya in Kutupalong, the world's largest refugee camp, in Cox's Bazar.

Other Rohingya have escaped by boat, hoping to reach safety in Aceh, Sumatra, Indonesia. Often, however, these boats experience engine failure or run out of fuel and drift at sea. In this case, if the boat is not quickly rescued, occupants may die of exhaustion or hunger, or the vessel may capsize, and all drown. The Sri Lankan Navy has rescued several such boats, and the occupants were brought to Sri Lanka. Although the Sri Lankan government has not signed the UN Convention on Refugees, some asylum seekers have been allowed to stay in Panadura, without official recognition. Those on the boat, rescued in December 2024, are still being kept in the Air Force Camp in Mullaitivu. As far as we know, no outside agency has been permitted to visit the camp for many months, so it is difficult to know their situation exactly, but we are sure that they are in need of many things, including toys, clothing (used or new), diapers, laundry soap, sanitary items, baby formula, and basic medicine. From our first appeal, several months ago, we received some funds, but more are needed. Our team, including members of The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, is planning to apply for permission and hopes to enter the camp in the near future. Buddhist Relief Mission would like to help sponsor and take part in this visit. From our Sri Lankan donors, we request children's clothes, coloring books, and toys, used or new. From all of our donors, we request funds to purchase needed items and to cover the cost of transportation to the camp. Thank you very much for your concern, compassion, and support.



https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=X2Z7984XKFEQU

Monetary donations may also be made

in Sri Lanka via:
Commercial Bank,
Anniwatte Branch
A/C 8254001210
Kenneth Kawasaki

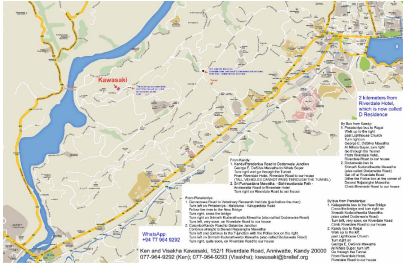
in the U.S. via:
River Bank & Trust
Buddhist Relief Mission
A/C 262527856
ABA Code: 062206567

In case of a bank deposit, please send donor's name and the amount of the donation by SMS or WhatsApp to +94-77-964-9292 or by email to <buddhist@brelief.org>

For international bank transfer, please send a request to <buddhist@brelief.org> for instructions.

Donations of supplies may be delivered or sent to:

Ken and Visakha Kawasaki
152/1 Riverdale Road,
Anniwatte, Kandy 20000



Click the map to download it as a jpg image.



Buddhist Relief Mission

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