

Primary Care Pop-Up Health Screenings at The Burmese Rohingya Community of Wisconsin

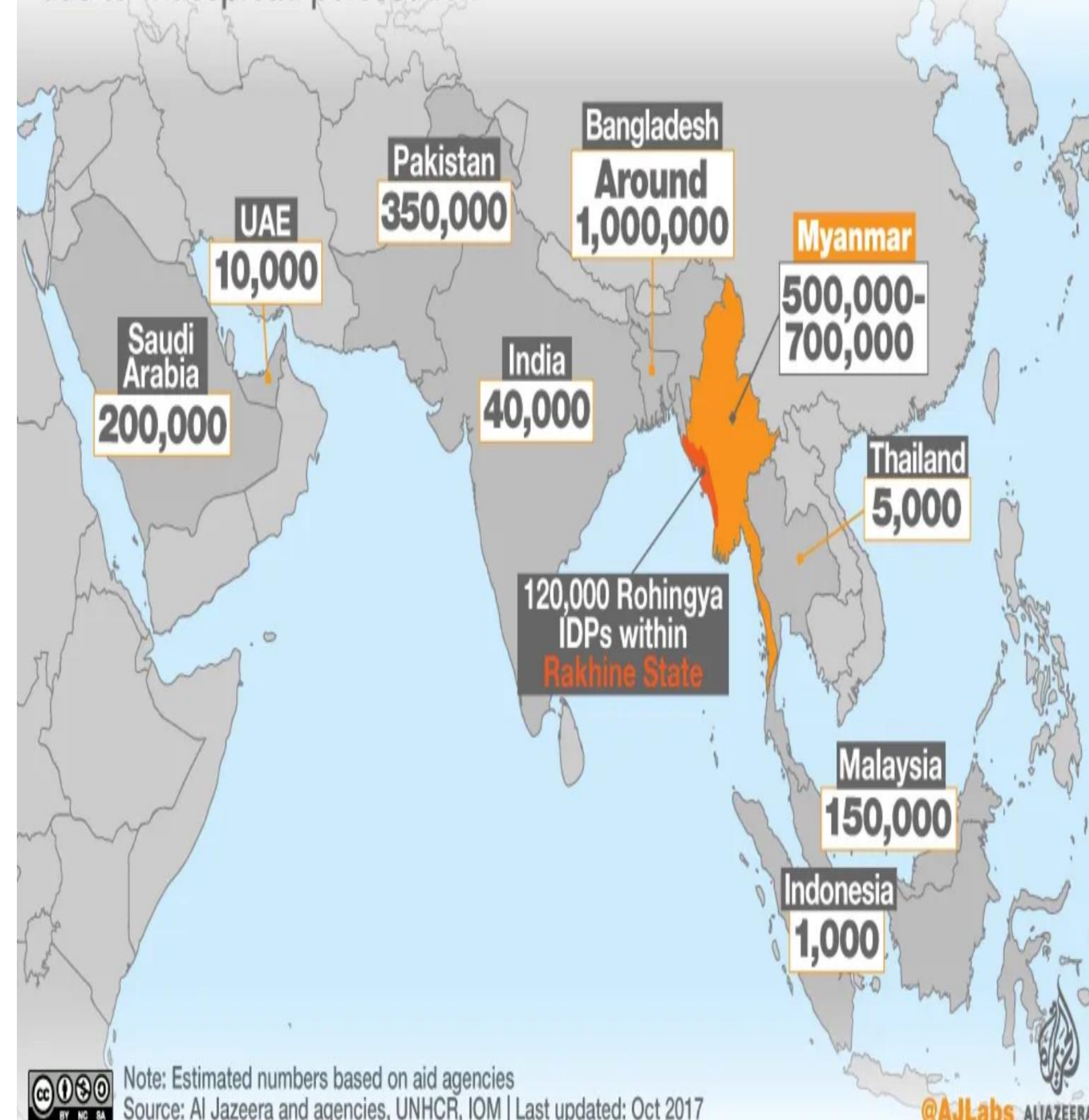
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Introduction

The Rohingya are from the North-Eastern part of Myanmar and belong to an ethnic Muslim minority in a country where Buddhism is the predominant religion^{6,7}. For decades, the Rohingya people have endured a history of systemic oppression, including the deprivation of fertile lands, imposed restrictions on childbirth, and other inhumane methods aimed at suppressing their population⁷. Myanmar does not recognize the Rohingya as Burmese citizens. The Rohingya fled to nearby Bangladesh and created the world's largest refugee camp, with over 700,000 people. Milwaukee, WI is the primary site for refugee reset in the US with 1000+ Rohingya Families settled locally.

Following Myanmar's fleeing Rohingya

Since the late 1970s, more than one million Rohingya have fled Myanmar due to widespread persecution.



Project Site

Established in 2016, the Burmese Rohingya Community of Wisconsin (BRCW) has served resettled Rohingya refugees in the Milwaukee Area. The BRCW provides a wide array of services to the Rohingya community including ESL and citizenship education, workforce development, and interpretation services.



Purpose

- Create a working pop-up health screening model within the Burmese Rohingya Community of Wisconsin.
- Conduct a baseline health assessment of Rohingya refugee community in Milwaukee
- Provide health education on various common health topics such as diabetes, hypertension and culturally relevant nutrition advice.
- Provide community members with the tools and resources to receive routine health care here in Milwaukee.

Methods

- Four health screening events in 2023
- Review Blood pressure, blood glucose levels, height, weight, BMI and pertinent medical history
- Target health education to health needs
- Provide a tablet with QR codes linked to health education videos translated in Rohingya, and Burmese.
- Provide space for community members to watch translated health videos at screening events.



Results

- 126 community members screened at the BRCW throughout 2023
- Age Range 9-61
- Participants with elevated blood pressures (140/90+) = 9
- Participants with a random blood glucose of >200 = 4

Discussion

In the future we hope to increase the frequency of health screenings and homogenize the screening process to collect strong data on the health needs within the Rohingya population. Our initial four health screenings served as a good starting point to see what worked well and what questions were both helpful and efficient to ask during the health screenings. Our initial data set has slightly different data collected at each event due to the different teams running the events. Therefore our dataset is currently limited due to missing data on the following parameters for certain participants: Age and past known history of diabetes or hypertension. Moving forward we will use a standardized questionnaire for each community member when we perform a screening.

Future Priorities

- Increase frequency of screening events
- Collaborate screening events with ongoing programming at the BRCW such as Friday prayer, Ramadan events, and ESL/citizenship courses.
- Remain flexible to the BRCW's needs and schedule
- Connect community members to primary care providers