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Art Book

World Refugee Day 2022

Preface

In 2017, more than 750,000 Rohingya fled atrocities in Myanmar and sought refuge in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. According to UNHCR, this number has now increased to over one million. They are living in 33 camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas of Cox's Bazar.

Children make up half of the Rohingya population in the camps, which thereof means over half a million children face an uncertain future. Their learning, education and skills – all are fragile and vulnerable. Amidst all these uncertainties, gender-based violence is also present and rampant. Young people in the camps lack opportunities for growth and development, which impact their livelihood opportunities.

On World Refugee Day 2022, children from the Rohingya community took out paper and colours to create the images of their journey to Bangladesh from Myanmar. They also captured their lives in the camps in this book. When we look at this artbook, we can clearly see their aspirations for a life with dignity and self-respect in a stable and certain condition.

This is why we feel their repatriation to a safe and secure homeland needs to be ensured without any further delay. I feel privileged to share this e-book with you all.

Farah Kabir
Country Director
ActionAid Bangladesh

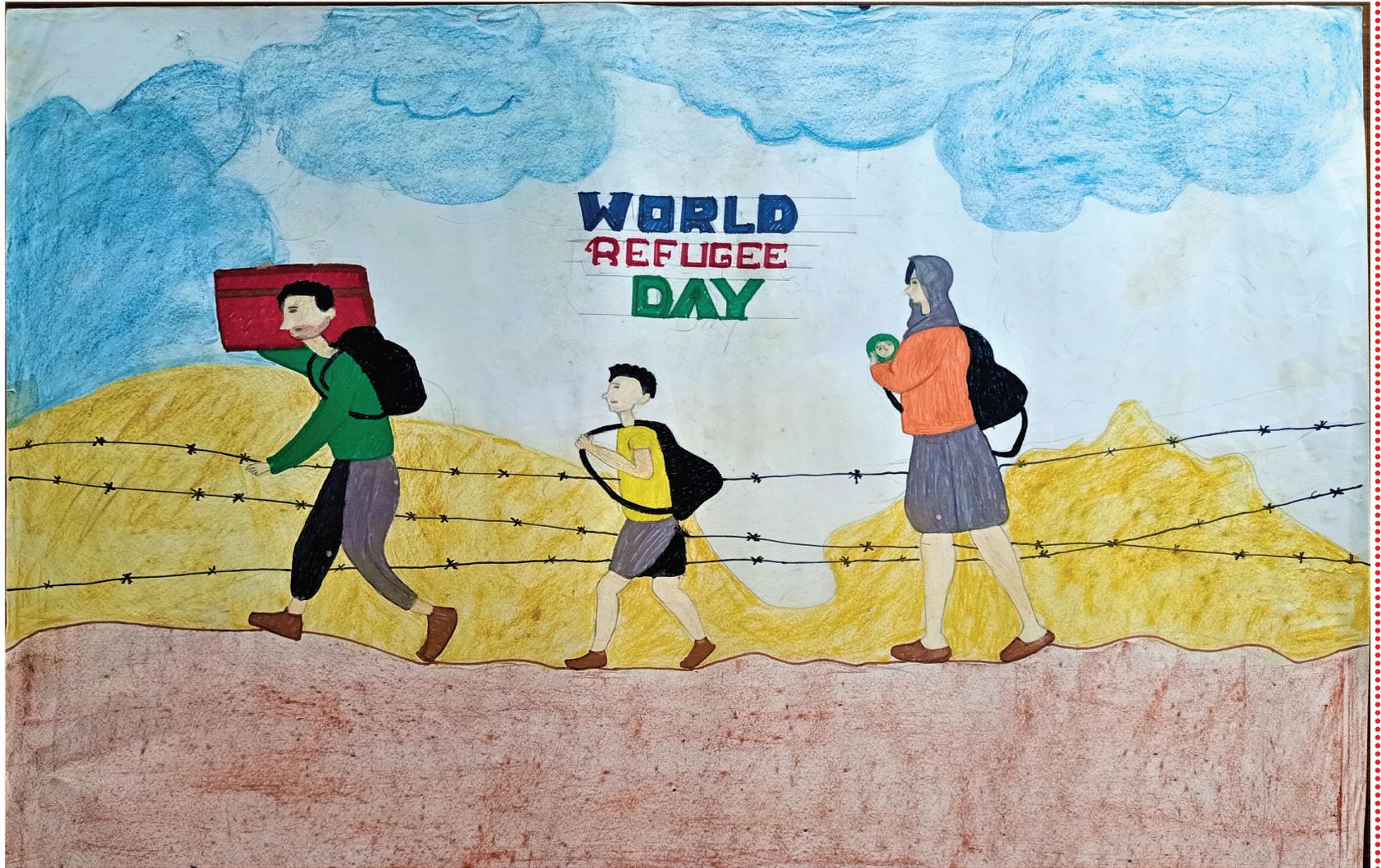


“

Violence forced us to flee and seek safety in Bangladesh. My artwork illustrates the journey we have had so far to survive. We had to leave all of our belongings and brought only the bare minimum.

”

Noor Begum, Camp 09, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar



“

This drawing is a reminder of our escape from Myanmar with only a few clothes, leaving behind homes, belongings, livelihoods, and loved ones. I aspire to become a humanitarian worker in the future and work for humanity.

”

Saifullah, Camp 09, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar

WORLD REFUGEE DAY



“

I cannot forget how we travelled from Myanmar to Bangladesh. I tried to portray the risky journey of ours, through the sea, leaving everything behind.

”

Mohammed Nabi, Camp 10, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar

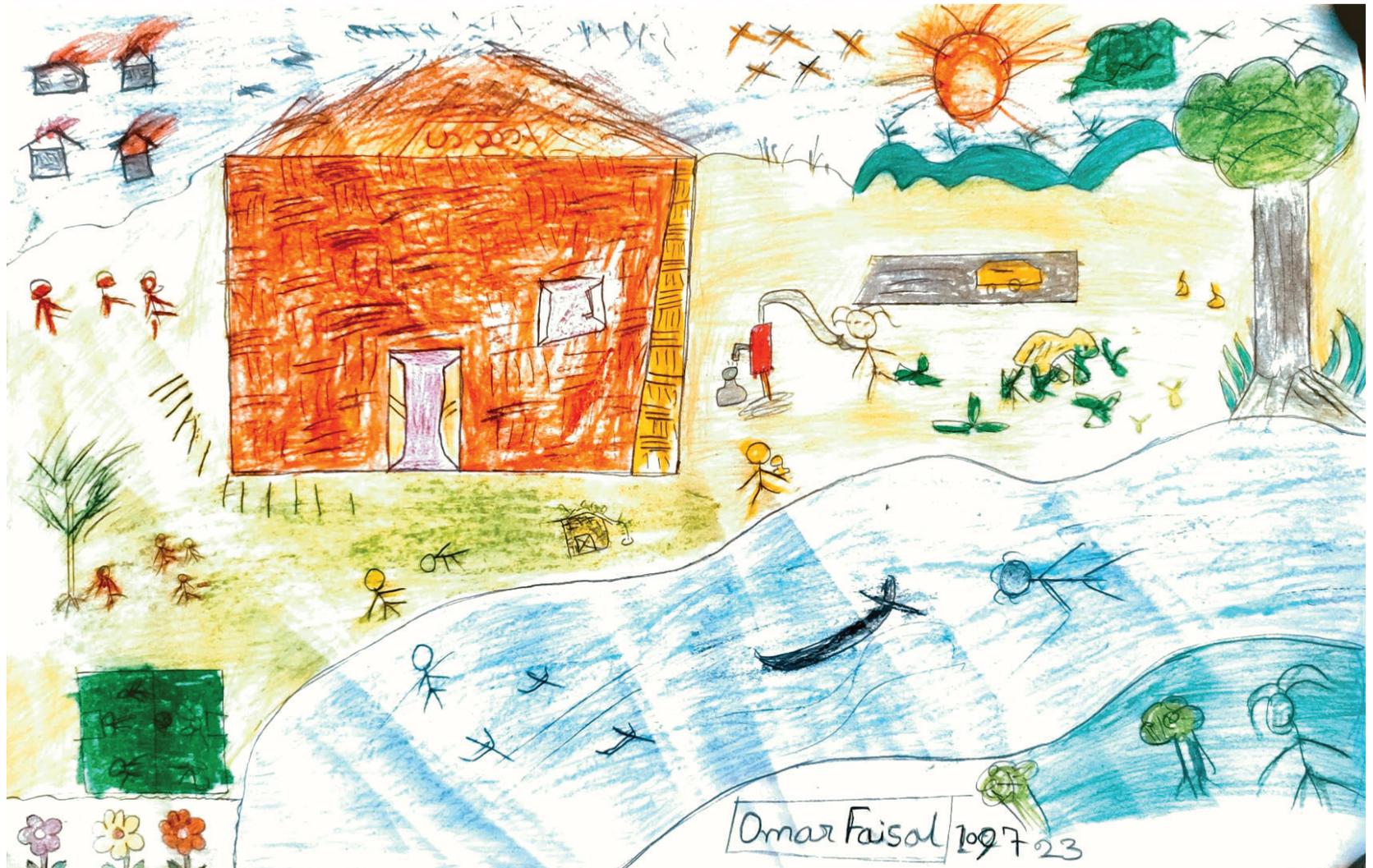


“

I express my feelings through my art. This drawing shows how I crossed the border with my parents and sister.

”

Saifullah, Camp 09, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar



“

I want to be an artist; I tried to show how my life and surroundings were in Myanmar. We fled to Bangladesh for safety after the Myanmar army burned down our houses. The bright sun is reflecting our new beginning here. I wish to share my thought through my art by becoming an artist. When I draw, I forget about all my sorry and sufferings.

”

Omar Faisal, Camp 12, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar

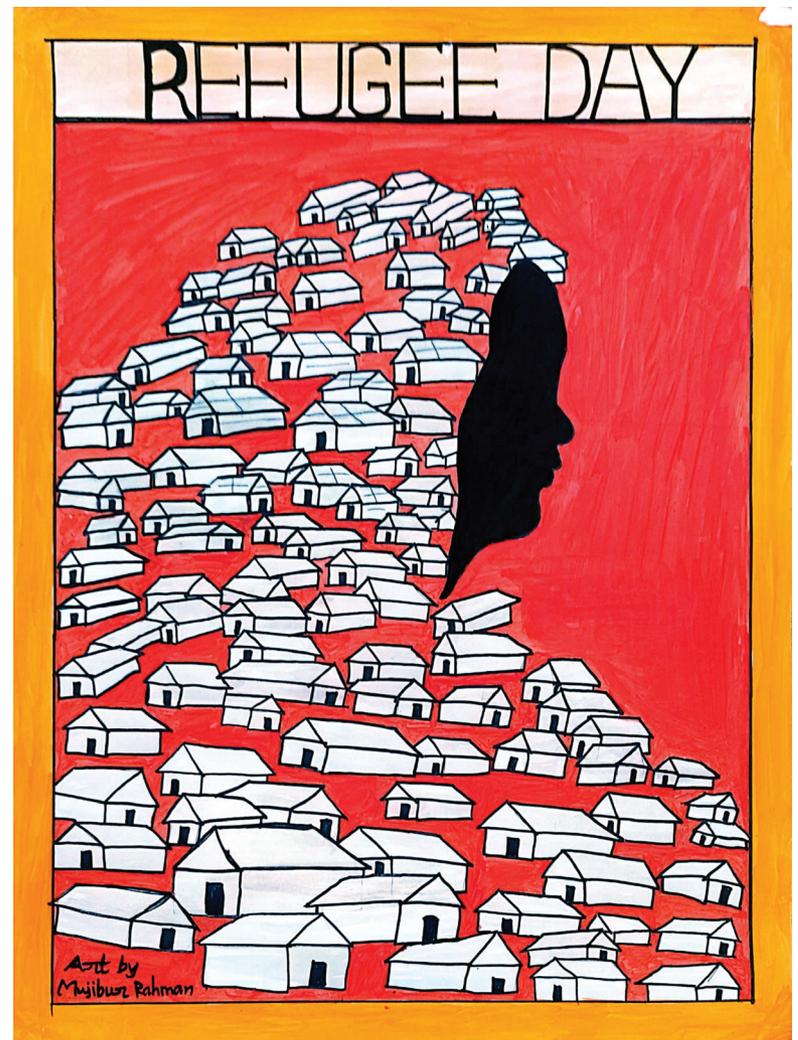


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I have tried to show how I want to see my village after returning to my country and regularly work with dignity and independence.

”

Md. Aiyas, Camp 11, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar



“

Painting is my passion. It relieves my pain. This painting shows refugees' sufferings, housing problems, and other challenges that we face in camps. I hope the world will advocate for us so that we can return to Myanmar with dignity and rights.

”

Mujibur Rahman, Camp 26, Teknaf, Cox's Bazar

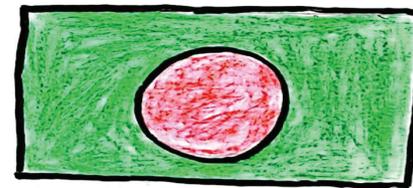
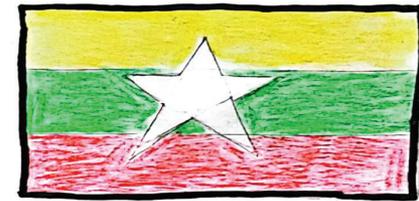
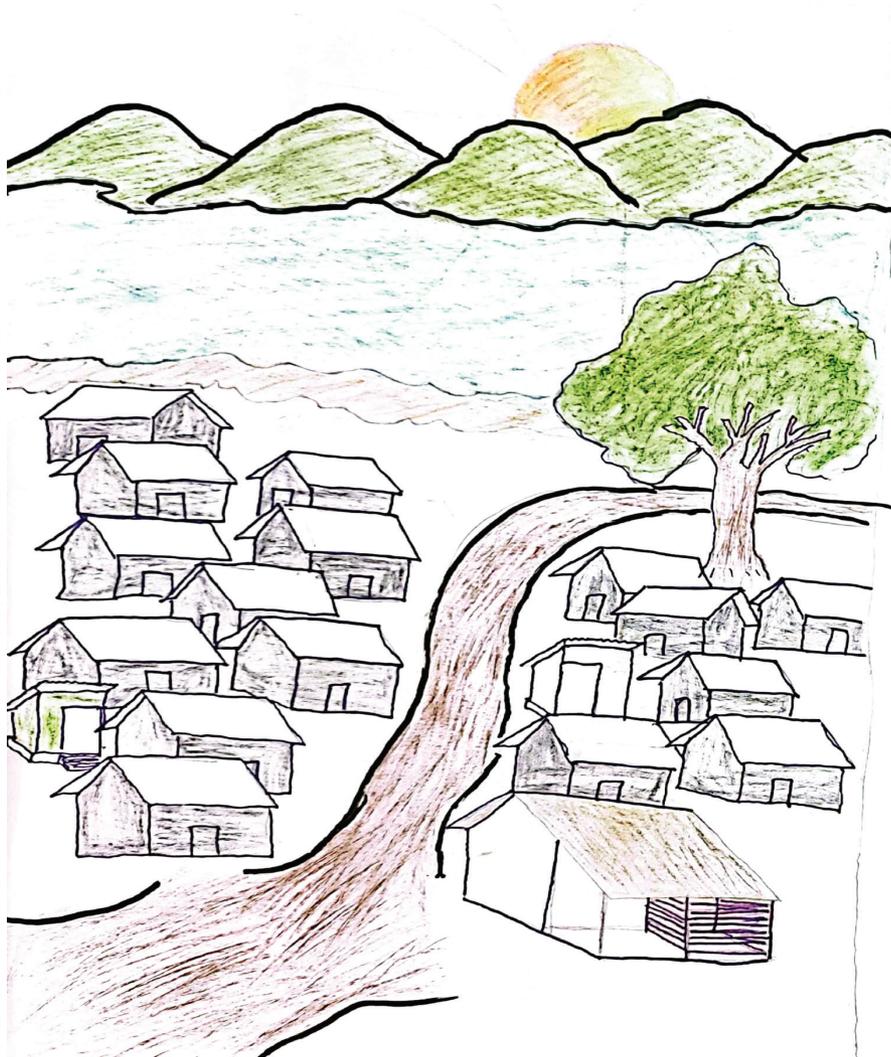


“

I always strive to make my life colourful. In the drawing, I have depicted our Camp 9 Community Centre, which is a safe and friendly place. I love to come here.

”

Noor Begum, Camp 09, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar



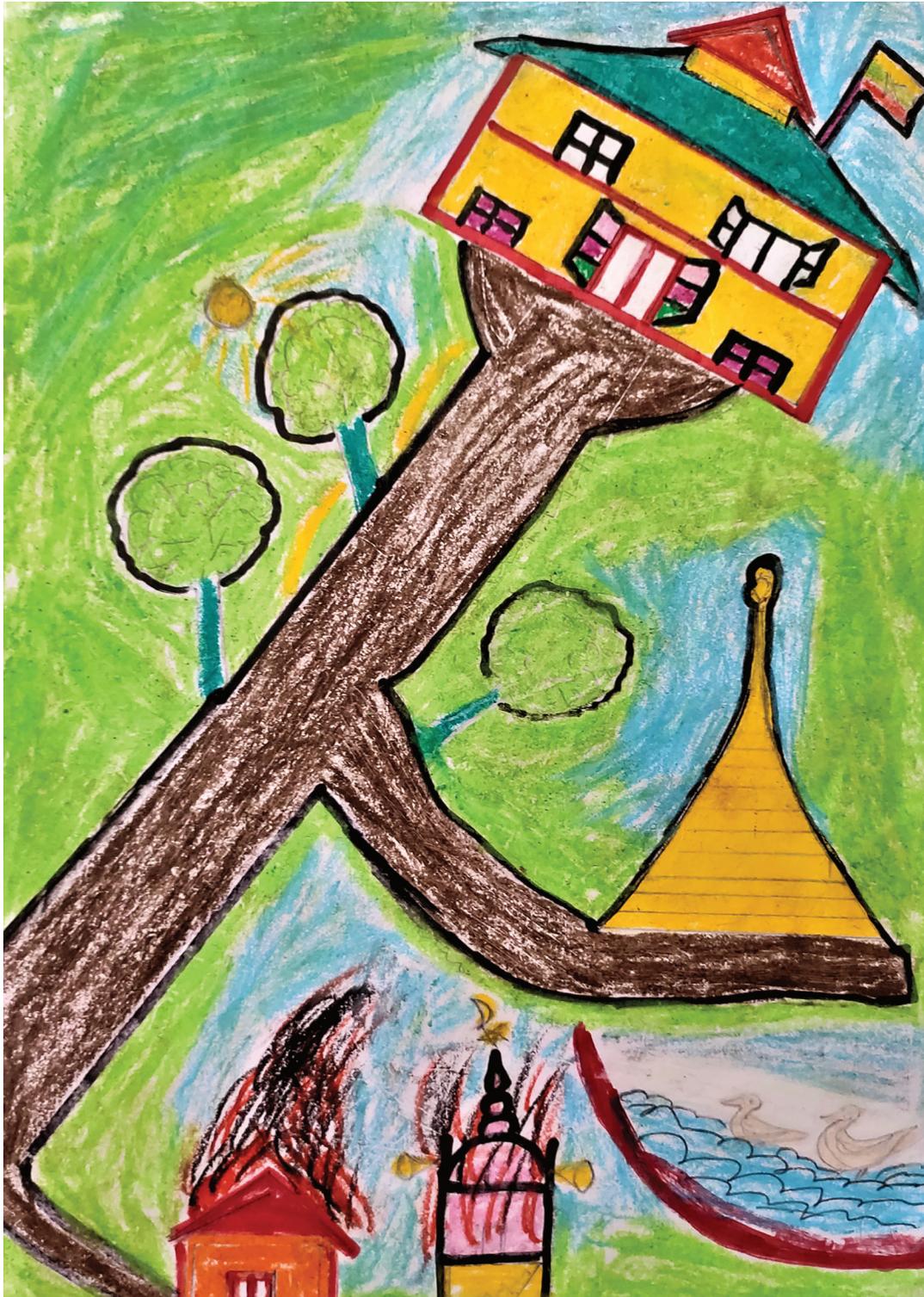
Art by Fairus Khan

“

I drew the camp settings where we stay, with hills, shelters, trees, and the community centre. I am now doing good, but I cannot forget my country. I want to return there.

”

Fairus Khan, Camp 26, Teknaf, Cox's Bazar



“

The sketch is of my village and school in Myanmar, where we lived earlier. I love the natural beauty of my village. To me, there is no other place in the world like my own country. I want to return to Myanmar and study there again

”

**Md. Ismail, Camp 12, Ukhia,
Cox's Bazar**

About the ArtBook

To celebrate the World Refugee Day 2022, ActionAid Bangladesh organised different activities in the camps, in Cox's Bazar Bangladesh. Rohingya from different age groups participated in these activities, which included art competition, recitation of the Holy Quran, poster making, tree plantation, singing performance of Myanmar's National Anthem, Rohingya folk songs and poems.

This artbook especially highlights the collection from the art competition as the idea of the competition came from the community itself, during a consultation meeting. They shared many children at the camps are passionate about art. They said, *"Our Rohingya children will show the beauty of nature, the cost of persecution, our right to seek safety, and how we live in camps through their artwork. Through these arts, we will urge the entire world to take immediate steps for our successful and dignified repatriation."*

To support their interest, ActionAid Bangladesh, through its Community Based Protection project, organised the art competition as a part of the day observance. All the paintings have been collected and compiled in this artbook to highlight their voices and aspirations of life. We believe, this will not only support the advocacy efforts for their rights, but will also motivate young artists in the Rohingya community, help them nurture their creative skills, strengthen bonds among the children and boost their confidence as a whole.



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