

# PILOT PROJECT REVIEW

Art-based informal learning for  
marginalized communities

April - June 2019



Sophie Danielson  
Founder and Managing  
Director

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## THE ROHINGYA PROJECT



Books Unbound was developed to honor and preserve marginalized cultures through picture-based informal learning and storytelling. Our first project is dedicated to the Rohingya people of Rakhine State, Myanmar.

We have spent the past 5 years researching and tracing Rohingya family trees across the States and Asia to understand their culture and history. We crowd sourced artists to develop a Rohingya-specific picture dictionary.

From April to June 2019, we have been piloting the Rohingya picture dictionary in Kutupalong, Bangladesh. In partnership with OBAT Helpers, we distributed the books in Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs) and with various Rohingya families throughout the camps.

## OUR APPROACH

**The Rohingya Picture Dictionary is a tool that can be used for various purposes:**

- 1) Vocabulary Development:** Learning English in the camps with relevant vocabulary and illustrations.
- 2) Problem Solving:** Identifying common problems in the camps through relevant illustrations. Using critical thinking skills to find solutions.
- 3) Platform for Storytelling:** To serve as inspiration for individuals to create their own art and storytelling to aid in the trauma healing process.



# THE TEAM

## SOPHIE DANIELSON

Founder & Managing Director  
Colorado, USA

Educator working with the Rohingya for the past 5 years throughout Asia and US.

## NIHAB RAHMAN

Marketing Director  
Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh  
Specializes in photography, videography, and storytelling.

## RAMJAN ALI

Project Coordinator  
Kutupalong, Bangladesh  
Rohingya translator; manages and coordinates in-field operations.

## ARTIST TEAM

Our team of 30+ artists create content specifically tailored to our programs.

We recruit artists from various backgrounds to collect diverse artwork.



## STORYTELLING TEAM

Sophie Danielson, Nihab Rahman, Hailey Sadler

Our storytelling team traces Rohingya family trees across the globe to learn their stories and reunite families.



### Client

Received Books Unbound Picture Dictionary as content for the Ideas Box project.



### Implementing Partner

Working with OBAT Helpers local teachers to distribute picture dictionaries, gather feedback, and develop Teacher Platform.

# UPDATE

01

## DISTRIBUTION

220 Picture Dictionaries distributed in OBAT Helpers' TLCs. Each book is used in 3 shifts per day, reaching over 660 students per day.



02

## TEACHER TRAINING

Hosted 2 Teacher Training Sessions to introduce the project. Developed the first Teacher Training video to provide lesson plan demonstrations by Rohingya instructor.

03

## TEACHER PLATFORM

Developed Teacher Platform for local teachers to post photos/videos/lesson plan ideas using the Picture Dictionary.



04

## STORYTELLING

Reunited with over 11 families, met over 65 individuals (excluding children) in the Rohingya camps. All of these families have connections with US-based Rohingya refugees, all of whom Books Unbound is connected.



05

## CONTENT DEVELOPMENT

Collected in-field data to gather more content for further development.

# IMPACT

## BOOKS FOR THE FIRST TIME

Before Books Unbound, there were no books available for these Rohingya kids. The teachers had no guidance or structure for their lesson plans.

We provide an aid for teaching and a resource for learning. Students often come early to class so they can read through the Picture Dictionary on their own.

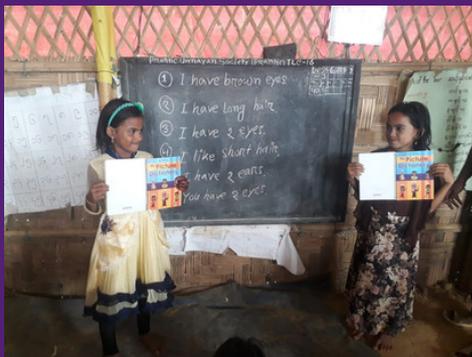
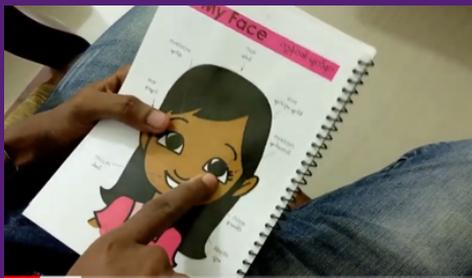


Photo submission by Rohingya Teacher to Books Unbound Team

## INNOVATIVE TEACHING

The teachers were happy to receive formal Teacher Training through Books Unbound. We also offer access to additional training through our Teacher Training videos. These videos offer step-by-step teaching ideas for each page in the Picture Dictionary.

We created an online community where teachers using our Picture Dictionary can share their lesson plans with each other.



Teacher Training | Topic: Myself | Page: My Face

Teacher Training Video

## PRESERVING CULTURE

Refugees flee their homes and are forced to integrate with other cultures, inevitably losing their own sense of identity. Culturally relevant images offer something familiar to these refugees who are forced into an unfamiliar environment. This aids in the trauma healing process.

Our Artist Team researches the Rohingya people to develop culturally sensitive content. Each illustration is created to honor and preserve the Rohingya culture, making a lasting impact through art.



## YOUR SUPPORT

Your support allows us to continue our operations in Bangladesh to serve the Rohingya people.

### Distribution

There is a huge need for books in the camps. Very few learning facilities have books. These Picture Dictionaries are extremely valuable for the Rohingya. We need to distribute more books as soon as possible to reach a larger population.

### Teacher Training

Very few teachers have received formal training in the camps. We received positive feedback from our pilot Teacher Training video. We will develop 40 Teacher Training videos to serve as a guide for teachers.

### Content Development

We are constantly gathering new content and sending it to our Artist Team to develop new topics, improved versions, and extra teaching products.

### Storytelling: Family Tree Project

Our Storytelling Team takes portrait photos of each family member and delivers it to their family members across the world. Our team continues to trace family trees and reunite with Rohingya friends who share their stories. Books Unbound is used to break down barriers so that the true stories of the Rohingya are told.

## FUTURE PLANS



Develop a Picture Dictionary for the host community of Bangladesh.

Develop Picture Dictionary into an application. Extension to a digital learning platform will reach a broader audience.



**Your continued support is what makes this all possible.  
Thank you!**

**Featured Photographers:**  
Nihab Rahman  
Hailey Sadler

**Access Books Unbound  
Promo Video  
Here**