

My Picture Dictionary: Rohingya Community Overview

Everyone likes cartoons, especially the ones that look like them. Our mission is to provide education through cartoonization - creating representation for the world's most vulnerable populations.

The Picture Dictionary was our original product and has since been improved and re-made into Version 2.0. We also added in the Latin-based Rohingya script in an attempt to reach Rohingya communities around the world.

This book touches upon basic topics for early literate learners through culturally sensitive cartoons. Considering the COVID-19 restrictions on learning centers, we designed this book for at-home learning to reach refugees who are deprived of traditional learning opportunities.

We created it to meet the following objectives:

- **Vocabulary Development:** Learning a relevant language through the essential vocabulary provided in the Picture Dictionary.
- **Problem Solving:** Reinforcing critical thinking skills through illustrations of relevant problems within the community.
- **Creativity:** Providing a platform for art-based activities.



Using our Picture Dictionary in Kutupalong, Bangladesh.

Vocabulary Development

Since Rohingya is an unwritten language, this project has become highly complex as we carefully study the Rohingya diaspora. We work with linguists to develop a written form of the language to promote mother-tongue literacy. We use this book to analyze the fluidity of Rohingya language with Rohingya communities around the world.

Teacher Training

We equip Rohingya teachers with innovative activities they can use when implementing our Picture Dictionary. The activities encourage creativity, group participation, and movement. Teachers participate in each activity during the teacher trainings and provide us with feedback so we can continue to improve and add new activities as needed.

Supplementary Learning Material

Some teachers use this book as their primary learning tool. Others use this as a supplementary learning tool to complement their standard curriculum provided by other NGOs. Our book can be used both in the classroom with a formal teacher and at home. The picture-based approach makes the book relevant for both literate and illiterate users.



Project Update | October 2021



We launched our pilot project of the latest Version 2.0 in April 2021 to test the **content** of our Student Book & Teacher Guide.

With each session, we collect the following:

- Feedback on the cultural efficacy of our cartoons.
- Feedback on the written language.
- Feedback on the activity implementation.
- Review and implementation of discussion questions, drawing, partner, and group activities for each page.

Every cartoon created in this book was modeled after real Rohingya individuals we have met in Kutupalong, Bangladesh. This increases engagement with our books after they see cartoons that fully represent them.

The initial piloting was completed by our Rohingya manager and 15 Rohingya educators.

We completed 15 sessions with each session lasting 2 hours over the span of 6 weeks. The teachers provided feedback on the content and language. These teachers also completed a pilot program of our Teacher Training. During the development process of this book, our Rohingya manager went door-to-door to gather direct feedback from the Rohingya community in Kutupalong.

After completing the feedback process, we made adjustments and printed 400 picture dictionaries for the teachers' students.

We are currently implementing 2 Teacher Training programs with 30 teachers in total. After completion of our program, teachers will receive picture dictionaries, notebooks, and pens for their students in Kutupalong. We continue to check in with teachers who are currently implementing our book in the classroom to see how best we can support them.



Practicing an activity from the Teacher Guide.

Teacher Training: Comments from participants

"The Picture Dictionary is one of the best books that I have ever seen. This is one of the most useful trainings for me and it will help me to support students creatively."

Rohingya teacher, Kutupalong

"Picture dictionary is one of the most useful tool for students."

Rohingya teacher, Kutupalong

"The Picture dictionary is one of the best educational material for students. Beautiful cartoons which are connected with our traditions. Students will love it so much. The [teacher] training is effective. I'm enjoying very much."

Rohingya teacher, Kutupalong

"This picture dictionary will make the students more confident. This [teacher] training is also good. There is so many activities during training. I like it so much."

Rohingya teacher, Kutupalong

"This is my first training and this one is great. I'm enjoying very much."

Rohingya teacher, Kutupalong

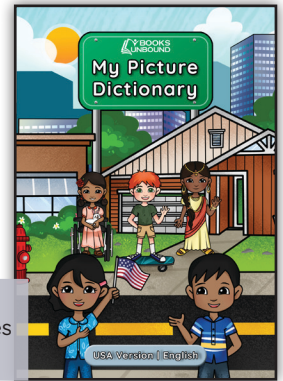
Scaling to Other Communities

We have since expanded our picture dictionary project to reach refugee communities in the United States. To promote mother-tongue literacy and language preservation, we created a USA version contextualized for Rohingya refugees in the Rohingya language. We also created an English version for other incoming refugees who are in need of culturally sensitive English learning materials.

We work with small businesses who employ refugees, such as Vickery Trading Company in Dallas, TX. We equip NGOs and refugee resettlement agencies with our resources to support the resettlement process. We have partnered with ILAD (International Literacy and Development) to distribute these books in refugee communities around the US.



[English & Rohingya]
Contextualized for Rohingya refugees coming to the US.



[English]
Contextualized for refugees coming to the US.



Working with Rohingya employees of Vickery Trading Company, TX.



Rohingya Version based in Bangladesh.



Rohingya Version based in USA.



Distributing Rohingya Picture Dictionaries in Bangladesh.

Recent Update:

We are currently contextualizing our USA Version for incoming **Afghan refugees**. Some of the characters will be modified to represent Afghan culture. The book will be available in Dari, Pashto, and English.

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Questions?

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