



**October 2023**

### **The Summer of Yes, Part V**

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Today we are ending a five-part series of stories highlighting how the people of God showed up in bold and beautiful ways to care for refugees and displaced people this summer... so much so that I'm calling this the Summer of Yes! I encourage you to go back and read the first four parts here:

Part I (<https://www.rca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/TenClay-August-2023-PDF.docx.pdf>)

Part II (<https://www.rca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/TenClay-September-23-PDF.pdf>)

Part III (<https://www.rca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/TenClay-September-2023-part-3-PDF.pdf>)

Part IV (<https://www.rca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/TenClay-September-2023-part-4-PDF.pdf>)

On May 14, 2023, Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Mocha directly hit Sittwe, Myanmar, which is home to more than 100,000 Rohingya—a group of people the United Nations has called “the most persecuted minority group in the world.” More than 100 Rohingya died in Sittwe. The cyclone also caused massive destruction in the Cox’s Bazar area of Bangladesh, home of the largest refugee camp in the world, where almost 1 million Rohingya refugees live in forced displacement.

This was—yet again—another example of how the majority of refugees and displaced people are not safe after fleeing their homes, and continue to live in areas of the world affected by repeated natural disasters, violent conflict, political or economic instability, and other factors that threaten their lives and liberties.

With the generous partnership of so many of you, RCA Global Mission raised \$65,000 to support eight schools for Rohingya children (2 in Myanmar and 6 in Bangladesh). By May 15, RCA Global Mission had received word from our mission partners who run the schools—Partners Relief & Development—that all eight schools had experienced some damage from Cyclone Mocha, and four of them were severely damaged. Partners immediately shifted their work to emergency relief care, including distributing food and water to the cyclone survivors, but by July, Partners had fully assessed the situation, as well as took account of their funds, and reached out to RCA Global Mission with a proposal.

Partners still had just over \$9,000 from the RCA Global Mission fund remaining and asked if we would approve the use of those funds to repair two of the severely damaged schools—one in Sittwe, Myanmar, and one near Cox’s Bazar.

*Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at [kgilmore@rca.org](mailto:kgilmore@rca.org) to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.*

Our answer was an immediate and resounding “Yes!”

And by September, Partners sent me these amazing photos.



Not only had they used the RCA Global Mission money to rebuild the two schools as promised, but they also used some of the funds to purchase umbrellas to safely transport the children to and from school during the ongoing rainy season!

This is love in action, and I am deeply grateful to work with trusted, compassionate mission partners like Partners Relief & Development who have committed to sharing the love of God with some of the most vulnerable people groups in the world (including the Rohingya), developing long-term relationships with a focus on empowering these communities, pivoting as needed when new crises arise, and doing so with a commitment to faithful stewardship of the funds entrusted to them.

And I am so grateful for every one of you who played a part in the Summer of Yes!

In Deep Gratitude,

JJ TenClay

*RCA Global Mission does not receive denominational assessments or covenant shares. We depend on the faithful generosity of churches and individuals.*