HLT & Language Documentation

What is the program?

High levels of monolingualism and non-literacy leads to barriers from accessing information and communicating with those speaking other languages. Human Language Technology (HLT) is a tool for breaking down those barriers. This program allows Rohingya to communicate and access information without needing another language or literacy and also helps to preserve the Rohingya language and culture for future generations.

How does it work?

HLT staff meet with speakers for recording sessions in their homes. The recordings are organized and analyzed. In collaboration with the HLT tech team in ILAD, resources are created based on needs. HLT staff also collect, analyze, transcribe, and translate Rohingya data from the community members. The language and culture documentation specialists primarily focus on language analysis and preservation while the automated speech recognition specialists utilize the data to train computer programs.

How are community members involved?

Rohingya community members volunteer as language experts to provide their voice and cultural knowledge for recording and interpret to help transcribe and translate data.

What are the impacts of the program?

The program preserves Rohingya language and culture, provides translation services for Rohingya refugees, creates resources that honor the Rohingya language, facilitates communication, and helps the Rohingya community members to access important information. The recordings will be used to create an oral translation app by using the automatic speech recognition system, create other resources, and document the grammar of the Rohingya language.