

# Mae La

## camp profile

### Population (October 2011)

Registered	27,890
Unregistered	29,507
Total	57,397
TBBC feeding figure	48,196

### Population profile\*

**Gender** 50 % female and male

**Age** 52% aged **above 18**; 33.5% aged **between 5 and 18**; 14% aged **newborn to 5 years old**

**Ethnicity** 84% **Karen**; 3% **Burmese**; 13% **other**, including Kachin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan, and Chin

**Religion** 51% **Buddhist**; 37% **Christian**; 12% **Muslim**

*\*TBBC figures, September 2011*

### Governance

The Ministry of Interior is responsible for administration in all camps. Mae La Camp Commander is the Deputy District Officer of Tha Son Yang District. A refugee - comprised Camp Committee is also heavily involved in camp governance, reporting to the central Karen Refugee Committee in Mae Sot.

A Thai Ranger Unit is stationed near the camp to monitor security. Territory Defence Volunteers, known as Or Sors, are employed and trained by the MOI to provide internal camp security.

### Background

Mae La is the largest refugee camp on the Thai-Myanmar border. Established in 1984, its population largely comprises refugees from South East Myanmar who fled following attacks on against KNU (Karen National Union) and its armed wing KNLA (Karen National Liberation Army) by the Government of Myanmar.

Mae La, known commonly amongst camp residents as *Beh Klaw*, has become a centre for political, educational and other community development activities, attracting refugees from other camps.

### Location

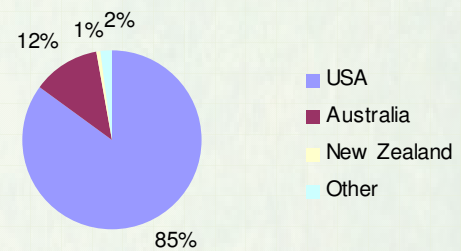


Mae La camp is in Tha Son Yang District, approximately **8 kilometres from the Thai-Myanmar border** and **57 kilometres from Mae Sot**. It has a surface area of 454 acres (1.84 sq. km.) and is divided into three zones, which are further separated into sections.

### Resettlement Statistics

	Submitted	Accepted	Departed
2005	130	111	103
2006	14,487	811	423
2007	10,949	11,741	9,135
2008	3,688	6,056	6,506
2009	2,798	2,432	3,224
2010	2,758	1,716	1,669
2011	1,667	2,283	1,710
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,477</b>	<b>25,150</b>	<b>22,770</b>

Departure by Country



### Access to Asylum

Thailand is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol and does not have legislation regulating the status of refugees. In accordance with MOI regulations, admission to the camps and access to asylum in Thailand is the responsibility of the Provincial Admission Boards (PAB). At the end of 2005, the Tak PAB, dormant for many years, resumed its function to assess the status of “persons fleeing fighting” and “persons fleeing political persecution” for thousands of asylum seekers in Mae La. Between 2005 and 2006 the PAB recognized virtually all of the unregistered population at that time (27, 316 persons for all three camps in Tak Province).

Since the end of 2006 however, the PAB has again *de facto* ceased its regular functioning with only a handful of exceptional cases considered during 2007 and 2008. In the meantime thousands of new arrivals have entered Mae La camp.

In 2009, following advocacy by UNHCR, the RTG developed new modalities for PAB consideration to be preceded by pre-screening at the district level were developed and a pilot process was undertaken in four camps in March including Nupo camp in Tak province. In 2011, the RTG has expressed a renewed commitment to re-activate the PAB, including a further review of the 2009 pre-screening results, which remain pending. UNHCR advocates for an effective admission procedures along the border.

**Implementing Partners:** **Premiere Urgence Aide Medicale Internationale** (health); **Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees** (child protection, assistance for vulnerable individuals, sanitation); **Handicap International** (prosthesis and mine risk education); **International Rescue Committee** (legal assistance, resettlement support centre, women’s protection and empowerment); **Ministry of Education** (Thai language); **Ministry of Interior** (camp administration and security, registration and status determination); **Right to Play** (life development skills for children); **Shanti Volunteer Association** (library and socio-cultural activities); **Zuid Oost Azie Refugee Care** (education and vocational training).

**Operational Partners:** **Solidarites** (water and sanitation); **Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Education Network** (drug and alcohol abuse prevention); **International Organisation for Migration** (post-approval resettlement services); **Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand** (reproductive health services); **Shoklo Malaria Research Unit** (HIV testing and counseling for pregnant women); **Thai Burma Border Consortium** (food, shelter and non-food items), **Taipei Overseas Peace Service** (early childhood education and care); **World Education / Consortium** (education, skills and



# Nupo

## camp profile

### Population (October 2011)

Registered	8,939
Unregistered	15,434
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,373</b>
TBBC feeding figure	15,846

### Population profile\*

**Gender** 49% female; 51% male

**Age** 51% aged **above 18**; 33% aged **between 5 and 18**; 15% aged **newborn to 5 years old**

**Ethnicity** 77% **Karen**; 10% **Burmese**; 2% **Mon**; 1.5% **Chin, Rakhine**; 8% **other**, including Kachin and Shan

**Religion** 47% **Christian**; 46% **Buddhist**; 8% **Muslim**

*\*TBBC Figures, September 2011*

### **Background**

Nupo camp was established in 1997, when offensive attacks by the Myanmar government army prompted thousands of ethnic Karen villagers to flee across the border into Thailand. It is the smallest and most remote of the camps in Tak province.

In March 2005, 800 refugees recognized under UNHCR's mandate in Mae Sot were transferred to Nupo camp, in line with the policy of the Royal Thai Government that all recognized refugees from Myanmar must reside in one of the nine temporary shelters along the Thai-Myanmar border.

### **Governance**

The Ministry of Interior is responsible for administration in all camps. Nupo Camp Commander is the Deputy District Officer of Umphang District. A refugee-comprised Camp Committee is also heavily involved in camp governance, reporting to the central Karen Refugee Committee in Mae Sot.

A Thai Ranger Unit is stationed near the camp to monitor security. Territory Defence Volunteers, known as Or Sors, are employed and trained by the MOI to provide internal camp security.

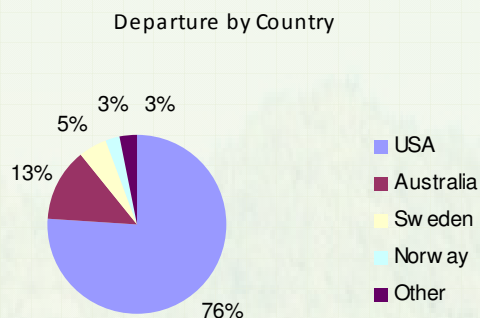
### **Location**



Nupo camp is in Umphang District, approximately **10 kilometres from the Thai-Myanmar border** and **228 kilometres from Mae Sot**. It has a surface area of 158 acres (0.64 sq. km.)

### Resettlement Statistics

	<i>Submitted</i>	<i>Accepted</i>	<i>Departed</i>
<b>2005</b>	294	219	169
<b>2006</b>	714	316	286
<b>2007</b>	6,160	338	331
<b>2008</b>	1,056	3,346	2,770
<b>2009</b>	168	436	1,427
<b>2010</b>	740	840	781
<b>2011</b>	462	187	496
<b>Total</b>	13,901	5,682	6,260



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Since the end of 2006 however, the PAB has again *de facto* ceased its regular functioning with only a handful of exceptional cases considered during 2007 and 2008. In the meantime thousands of new arrivals have entered the camp.

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**Implementing Partners:** **Premiere Urgence Aide Medicale Internationale** (health); **Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees** (child protection, assistance for vulnerable individuals, sanitation); **Handicap International** (prosthesis and mine risk education); **American Refugee Committee** (SGBV prevention and response, reproductive health), **International Rescue Committee** (legal assistance, resettlement support centre); **Ministry of Education** (Thai language); **Ministry of Interior** (camp administration and security, registration and status determination); **Right to Play** (life development skills for children); **Shanti Volunteer Association** (library and socio-cultural activities); **Zuid Oost Azie Refugee Care** (education and vocational training).

**Operational Partners:** **Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Education Network** (drug and alcohol abuse prevention); **International Organisation for Migration** (post-approval resettlement services); **Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand** (reproductive health services); **Shoklo Malaria Research Unit** (HIV testing and counseling for pregnant women); **Thai Burma Border Consortium** (food, shelter and non-food items), **Taipei Overseas Peace Service** (early childhood education and care); **World Education / Consortium** (education, skills and knowledge building).



# Umpium

## camp profile

### Population (September 2011)

Registered	11,111
Unregistered	14,919
Total	26,030
TBBC feeding figure	17,645

### Population profile\*

**Gender** 49% female; 51% male

**Age** 55% aged **above 18**; 32% aged **between 5 and 18**; 12% aged **newborn to 5 years old**

**Ethnicity** 75% Karen; 14% Burmese; 4% Mon; 1% Chin, Rakhine; 6% other, including Kachin and Shan

**Religion** 47% Buddhist; 33% Christian; 20% Muslim

*\*TBBC Figures, September 2011*

### **Background**

Umpium camp was established in 1999 to accommodate refugees relocated from Huay Kalok and Mawker camps. Due to the proximity of these camps to the border, they were subject to cross-border attacks, most recently in 1998, requiring the transfer of their residents to a new and safer location.

The population of Umpium largely comprises refugees from South East Myanmar who fled following attacks on against KNU (Karen National Union) and its armed wing KNLA (Karen National Liberation Army) by the Government of Myanmar.

### **Governance**

The Ministry of Interior is responsible for administration in all camps. Umpium Camp Commander is the Deputy District Officer of Phob Phra District. A refugee-comprised Camp Committee is also heavily involved in camp governance, reporting to the central Karen Refugee Committee in Mae Sot.

A Thai Ranger Unit is stationed near the camp to monitor security. Territory Defence Volunteers, known as Or Sors, are employed and trained by the MOI to provide internal camp security.

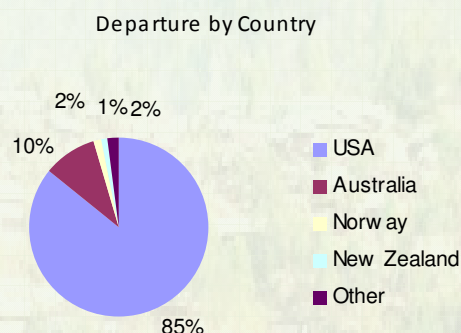
### **Location**



Umpium camp is in Phob Phra District, approximately **13 kilometres from the Thai-Myanmar border** and **86 kilometres from Mae Sot**. It has a surface area of 195 acres (0.8 sq. km.)

### Resettlement Statistics

	<i>Submitted</i>	<i>Accepted</i>	<i>Departed</i>
<b>2005</b>	76	58	29
<b>2006</b>	681	312	211
<b>2007</b>	9,580	553	497
<b>2008</b>	1,817	6,680	5,813
<b>2009</b>	242	1,413	1,845
<b>2010</b>	1,043	1,062	987
<b>2011</b>	638	443	808
<b>Total</b>	9,594	10,521	10,190



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**Implementing Partners:** **Premiere Urgence Aide Medicale Internationale** (health); **Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees** (child protection, assistance for vulnerable individuals, sanitation); **Handicap International** (prosthesis and mine risk education); **American Refugee Committee** (SGBV prevention and response, reproductive health, water and sanitation), **International Rescue Committee** (legal assistance, resettlement support centre); **Ministry of Education** (Thai language); **Ministry of Interior** (camp administration and security, registration and status determination); **Right to Play** (life development skills for children); **Shanti Volunteer Association** (library and socio-cultural activities); **Zuid Oost Azie Refugee Care** (education and vocational training).

**Operational Partners:** **Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Education Network** (drug and alcohol abuse prevention); **International Organisation for Migration** (post-approval resettlement services); **Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand** (reproductive health services); **Shoklo Malaria Research Unit** (HIV testing and counseling for pregnant women); **Thai Burma Border Consortium** (food, shelter and non-food items), **Taipei Overseas Peace Service** (early childhood education and care); **World Education / Consortium** (education, skills and knowledge building).



## CAMP PROFILE MAE LA OON



### BACKGROUND

MLO camp officially opened in March 2004 following a relocation exercise from other sites which started in December 2003. The majority of the inhabitants of MLO came from Mae Khong Kha camp which had been in existence since 1995. Mae Khong Kha had itself been swollen by the consolidation of other settlements in the vicinity.

The former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra gave two reasons for the move to the MLO site: the allegation that refugees were involved in illegal logging in the National Park around Mae Khong Kha and the threat of natural disasters on this exposed site. In September 2002, 26 refugees had been killed by flash floods in Mae

Khong Kha and many houses and camp buildings were destroyed.

### LOCATION

Mae Ra Ma Luang (MRML) and Mae La Oon camps are the most remote of all of the nine camps on the Thai- Myanmar border. Mae La Oon was chosen as the site for the relocation. NGOs and UNHCR expressed their security concerns regarding the initial proposed site for relocation: not only was it only 1km away from the border, but also it had hosted the temporary headquarters of the Karen National Union (KNU) after the fall of Manerplaw in 1995. In an effort to respond to the concerns, the government decided to shift the site slightly by bringing it 3km away from the border. The site is located

some 2.5km west of Mae Ra Ma Luang camp and 3.5km south of Mae Taw La village. It occupies an area of about 800 rais - or 128 hectares (1 rai = 0.16 hectare).

The steep topography, poor soils and deforestation has meant that MLO site still faces significant environmental dangers such as landslides and flooding. Each year during the wet season houses are washed away – although with no reported loss of life to date.

## POPULATION

MLO hosts 11,663 registered refugees and an estimated 4,831 asylum seekers from Myanmar. These are predominantly Karen of Buddhist and Christian faiths. There are also a small number of Muslim residents, who are of Karen and Burmese ethnic origin.

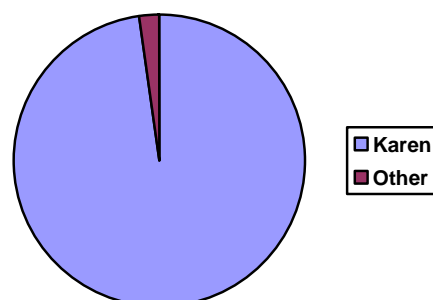
UNHCR assists the Ministry of Interior (MOI) of the Royal Thai Government with all registration activities in the camp including training, technical support, planning, data collection and updating.

Since 2005 registration in the camps has been based on UNHCR's *proGres* electronic registration database. The system incorporates comprehensive bio-data, individual digital photographs, links between related households, and other case and individual based information.

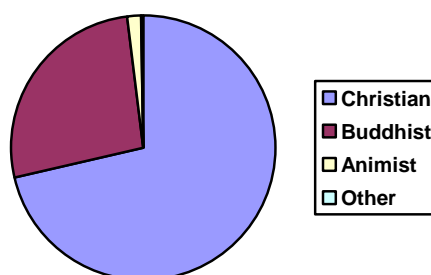
Registration by UNHCR is subject to official recognition by the Royal Thai Government (RTG) through the Mae Hong Son Provincial Admission Board (PAB). Since the beginning of 2007, the PAB suspended its regular functioning. This has resulted in a sizable population of unregistered asylum seekers now residing in the camp.

Data on the unregistered population residing in the camps is collected by the Refugee Camp Committee, Mae Sot office of the Thai National Security Council (NSC), the Camp Commander and the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) and varies depending on the source. No official registration has yet been conducted to confirm the varying figures.

Ethnic composition (registered population)



Religious composition (registered population)





## GOVERNANCE

### Thai Authorities

The Ministry of Interior (MOI) is responsible for governance of the camp in collaboration with the Refugee Camp Committee.

The District Chief of Sob Moei District bears responsibility for the camp. A Deputy District Officer (Palad) of Sob Moei District is designated as the Camp Commander and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the camp.

A twelve-strong platoon from Thai Ranger Department No. 36 is currently stationed next to the camp to monitor the camp and border security generally. This Ranger Unit is supported by a team of around 50 Territory Defence Volunteers employed by the MOI, known as Or Sors, employed and trained by Sob Moei District Office to provide internal camp security.

### Refugee Structures

Refugees are represented by the Camp Committee. The current Camp Committee members were elected in February 2010 for a three-year term. The Committee consists of 15 members. Sub-committees focus on sectors such as education, health, food distribution, justice and security.

Following Camp Committee appointments, Section Committees are elected for each section of the camp. It is usual for problems that arise to be dealt with at section level, and taken to Camp Committee only in relation to very serious matters or incidents with camp-wide implications.

Section 13, located in the area known as Pway Ba Loo, is unique in its composition and its administration. It is formed of some 480 refugees, which comprise many ethnic Burman families who have increasingly intermarried with ethnic Karen. Some residents are members of the All Burmese Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) and other political and/or military groups. The section has been granted autonomy within the camp, and it is at the section level that justice and administrative matters are dealt with.

The MLO judiciary committee was established in 2000 and is presently composed of seven

refugee members. The typical selection criteria is those refugees who can read and write, are familiar with Karen tradition and culture and are under the age of 60.

The committee functions on two levels: first instance and appeals, with members working at one of the two levels. One committee member works as Secretary to both levels. The KRC Camp Rules which were most recently revised on 19 September 2002 are in force and applied.

## RESETTLEMENT

As repatriation and local integration are not possible, resettlement is the only durable solution for refugees in Thailand. Initial resettlement referrals from MLO were made to Norway and Sweden in 2005-2006. Later eligible refugees were submitted to other countries such as Canada and Australia. Between 1 January 2006 and 11 March 2011, 8,970 persons were submitted for resettlement in MLO. Of those, 5,688 persons have been accepted, and of those 4,774 have already departed. Most of these refugees have resettled to the US, Canada and Australia with smaller numbers resettling to Norway and Sweden.

A large-scale resettlement operation to the United States commenced by UNHCR's registration of interest among camp residents in May 2009, and is likely to dominate the work of the FO Mae Sariang for the foreseeable future. As of March 2011, 6,687 persons were submitted from MLO for US resettlement. In early February 2010 IOM started transporting groups of applicants from MLO to the Registration and Processing Centre near Mae Sot, Tak province for the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) interviews and medical checks. Departure of refugees approved by DHS to the US is expected to start in mid-2010.

While resettlement offers a permanent solution to thousands of refugees from MLO, it also has had and will continue to have a significant impact on camp dynamics and services as the refugees employed in the education, health sectors, and those with the highest skill levels invariably seek opportunities elsewhere.

## PARTNERS

NGO activities are coordinated on the national level through the Coordinating Committee for Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand (CCSDPT). Although not all NGOs present in the camp are members of the CCSDPT, this body is the main forum for discussion, information-sharing, and advocacy with the Thai authorities. The CCSDPT and UNHCR have collaborated closely since 2004 to identify gaps in assistance and to present these to donors for consideration. The two organizations have also initiated dialogue with the Thai government to improve skills, living conditions, and prospects for camp residents.

A number of NGOs provide services in Mae La Oon camp; some of them are Implementing Partners funded by UNHCR.

### **Partners funded by UNHCR:**

**Malteser International:** provides health, water and sanitation services.

**American Refugee Committee:** implements sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response activities.

**Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR):** provides assistance to extremely vulnerable individuals, vocational training, and implements child protection programmes.

**Handicap International (HI):** operates a prosthesis program, provides rehabilitation services and promotes social inclusion of people with disabilities.

**Ministry of Education (MOE):** provides basic Thai language education to refugees.

**Ministry of Interior (MOI):** camp administration and security; provision of support to national authorities on registration and status determination.

**Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA):** provision of library and socio-cultural activities; operates six libraries in the camp.

**ZOA Refugee Care (ZOA):** implements vocational training programs for refugees and

supervises agricultural activities for income generation to increase refugee self-reliance.

### **Operational Partners:**

Operational Partners have direct and indirect involvement with UNHCR funded projects in terms of co-ordination and collaboration with the Implementing Partners.

**International Organization for Migration (IOM):** conducts resettlement related activities including post-approval processing, cultural orientation services, medical examinations, travel arrangements and exit clearances.

**Overseas Processing Entity (OPE):** US Government entity which conducts resettlement related activities including pre-screening applicants, creating and completing interview ready case files, and facilitating Department of Homeland Security (DHS) interviews.

**Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand (PPAT):** delivers reproductive health services and awareness-raising activities.

**Thai Burma Border Consortium (TBBC):** provides basic food basket, shelter materials and non-food items with distributions carried out by the Camp Committee. TBBC also provides support and assists in capacity building of camp management structures.

## COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANISATIONS

In addition to the organisations mentioned above, there are several community-based organisations present in the camp working with specific groups or issues including the Karen Youth Organisation, Karen Student Network Group, Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Education (DARE) Network, SGBV Committee and the Karen Women's Organisation.

## EDUCATION

There are seven nursery schools, two primary schools, two middle schools and four high schools in MLO. The nursery schools are run



with the support of KWO and Women's Education for Advancement and Employment (WEAVE).

ZOA seeks to support the education system in camp by providing teaching supplies and assisting with curriculum development. They have also established vocational training centers in the camp including an auto-mechanic workshop, sewing centre, stove making workshop, bakery and a restaurant serving food.

Basic Thai language education is available for refugees as part of an MOE project funded by UNHCR to enable refugees to communicate with Thai authorities as well as increase their chances of pursuing higher education in Thai institutions.

## WATER & SANITATION

Malteser International is in charge of water provision and sanitation infrastructure in the camp. MI trains refugees to monitor the quality of the water, and to make arrangements regarding sanitation as required.

Waste management remains a significant challenge in the camp in light of overcrowding and limited available space.

## HEALTH

Malteser International has been providing medical, water and sanitation services to MRML since January 2003.

MI runs medical clinics and diagnostic laboratories in sections 6A, 7, 11A and 13. They also provide maternal and child health care, including safe motherhood services and supplementary feeding for children and pregnant or lactating women.

Emergency cases are referred to Thai hospitals in Mae Sariang or Chiang Mai.

## VULNERABLE GROUPS

Handicap International runs a community-based rehabilitation program which targets the disabled population and is funded by UNHCR.

The Karen Women's Organization (KWO) is active in assisting vulnerable groups, including widows, orphans, elderly, SGBV survivors and mentally ill people. KWO also works with COERR to provide much-needed counselling services.

COERR is involved in a range of projects in monitoring and assisting Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVI), unaccompanied and separated children, as well as dealing with child protection, including case management.

Efforts to coordinate have been made between organisations working in the camp and there is both a Child Protection Referral system and SGBV Standard Operating Procedure in place to address such cases when they arise.

## LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Most legal cases arising in the camp are dealt with by refugee administered camp justice structures. However, where a refugee would like to access Thai justice systems, UNHCR assists and facilitates this process.

## CAMP PROFILE MAE RA MA LUANG



### BACKGROUND

Mae Ra Ma Luang camp was opened in February 1995 soon after the fall of Manerplaw, which was the stronghold of the Karen National Union (KNU) in Karen State, Myanmar. The camp received the influx of ethnic Karen refugees resulting from this event. The majority of the population of the camp is rural and agrarian from Pa-pun Township of Karen State.

### LOCATION

Mae Ra Ma Luang (MRML) and Mae La Oon camps are the most remote of all of the nine camps on the Thai- Myanmar border. MRML is situated in south Sob Moei District, Mae Hong Son Province and is 76km from Mae Sariang

town, where CBOs, NGOs and the UNHCR Mae Sariang Field Office are based. It is 10 kilometers away from the Myanmar border. It is reachable by two roads: one passing through Sob Moei District and the other through Mae Sam Laep. It takes a minimum of 2.5 hours to reach the camp from Mae Sariang and in the rainy season it can take over 6 hours. The camp is also reachable by boat between the months of June and January from Mae Sam Lap (about 1.5 hours). During the heaviest part of the rainy season the roads to the camp can be obstructed by fallen trees and landslides and the camp is then only accessible by boat.

MRML is the only camp in Thailand which is located on a provincial border (sections 1-5, 6B and 7B are in Mae Hong Son Province and sections 6A and 7A are in Tak Province).



However, the entire camp is under the supervision of the Mae Hong Son authorities.

## POPULATION

MRML hosts 11,589 registered refugees. In addition, 7,643 asylum seekers from Myanmar are estimated to reside here. These are predominantly Karen of Buddhist and Christian faiths. There are also a small number of Muslim residents, who are of Karen and Burmese ethnic origin.

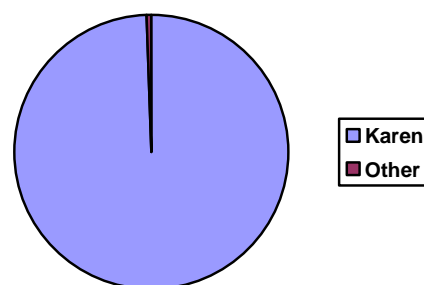
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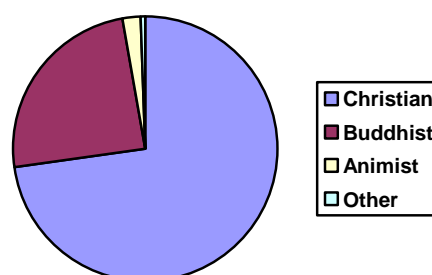
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No judicial committee functions in MRML camp. When needed, a panel of elders is convened by Camp Committee's social welfare officer to deal with offences committed in the camp. The KRC Camp Rules which were most recently revised on 19 September 2002 are in force and applied. The Camp Committee reports to the Karen Refugee Committee (KRC). The KRC is formed

of refugee leaders from various camps and has administrative oversight for the management of all seven Karen camps. The KRC office in Mae Sot is the headquarters for coordination of their activities, however there is a KRC sub-office based in Mae Sariang. KRC facilitates communication between the Thai authorities, donors, NGOs, and the camp committees.

## RESETTLEMENT

As repatriation and local integration are not possible, resettlement is the only durable solution for refugees in Thailand. Initial resettlement referrals from MRM were made to Norway and Sweden in 2005-2006. Later eligible refugees were submitted to other countries such as Canada and Australia. Between 1 January 2006 and 11 March 2011 8,299 persons were submitted for resettlement in MRM. Of those, 5,074 persons have been accepted, and of those 4,165 have already departed. Most of these refugees have resettled to the US, Canada and Australia with smaller numbers resettling to other countries such as Norway and Sweden.

A large-scale resettlement operation to the United States commenced by UNHCR's registration of interest among camp residents in May 2009, and is likely to dominate the work of the FO Mae Sariang for the foreseeable future. As of March 2011 5,805 persons were submitted from MRM for US resettlement. In early February 2010 IOM started transporting groups of applicants from MLO to the Registration and Processing Centre near Mae Sot, Tak province for the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) interviews and medical checks.

While resettlement offers a permanent solution to thousands of refugees from MRM, it also has had and will continue to have a significant impact on camp dynamics and services as the refugees employed in the education, health sectors, and those with the highest skill levels invariably seek opportunities elsewhere.



## PARTNERS

NGO activities are coordinated on the national level through the Coordinating Committee for Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand (CCSDPT). Although not all NGOs present in the camp are members of the CCSDPT, this body is the main forum for discussion, information-sharing, and advocacy with the Thai authorities. The CCSDPT and UNHCR have collaborated closely since 2004 to identify gaps in assistance and to present these to donors for consideration. The two organizations have also initiated dialogue with the Thai government to improve skills, living conditions, and prospects for camp residents.

A number of NGOs provide services in Mae Ra Ma Luang camp; some of them are Implementing Partners funded by UNHCR.

### **Partners funded by UNHCR:**

**Malteser International:** provides health, water and sanitation services.

**American Refugee Committee:** implements sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response activities.

**Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR):** provides assistance to extremely vulnerable individuals, vocational training, and implements child protection programmes.

**Handicap International (HI):** operates a prosthesis program, provides rehabilitation services and promotes social inclusion of people with disabilities.

**Ministry of Education (MOE):** provides basic Thai language education to refugees.

**Ministry of Interior (MOI):** camp administration and security; provision of support to national authorities on registration and status determination.

**Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA):** provision of library and socio-cultural activities; operates six libraries in the camp.

**ZOA Refugee Care (ZOA):** implements vocational training programs for refugees and supervises agricultural activities for income generation to increase refugee self-reliance.

### **Operational Partners:**

Operational Partners have direct and indirect involvement with UNHCR funded projects in terms of co-ordination and collaboration with the Implementing Partners.

**International Organization for Migration (IOM):** conducts resettlement related activities including post-approval processing, cultural orientation services, medical examinations, travel arrangements and exit clearances.

**Overseas Processing Entity (OPE):** US Government entity which conducts resettlement related activities including pre-screening applicants, creating and completing interview ready case files, and facilitating Department of Homeland Security (DHS) interviews.

**Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand (PPAT):** delivers reproductive health services and awareness-raising activities.

**Thai Burma Border Consortium (TBBC):** provides basic food basket, shelter materials and non-food items with distributions carried out by the Camp Committee. TBBC also provides support and assists in capacity building of camp management structures.

## COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANISATIONS

In addition to the organisations mentioned above, there are several community-based organisations present in the camp working with specific groups or issues including the Karen Youth Organisation, Karen Student Network Group, Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Education (DARE) Network, SGBV Committee and the Karen Women's Organisation.

## EDUCATION

There are six primary schools in MRML and three secondary schools. There are seven nursery schools which are run with the support of KWO and Women's Education for Advancement and Employment (WEAVE). ZOA seeks to support the education system in camp by providing teaching supplies and assisting with curriculum development. They have also

established vocational training centers in the camp including an auto-mechanic workshop, sewing centre, stove making workshop, bakery and a restaurant serving food.

Basic Thai language education is available for refugees as part of an MOE project funded by UNHCR to enable refugees to communicate with Thai authorities as well as increase their chances of pursuing higher education in Thai institutions.

## WATER & SANITATION

Malteser International is in charge of water provision and sanitation infrastructure in the camp. MI trains refugees to monitor the quality of the water, and to make arrangements regarding sanitation as required.

Waste management remains a significant challenge in the camp in light of overcrowding and limited available space.

## HEALTH

Malteser International has been providing medical, water and sanitation services to MRML since January 2003.

MI runs medical clinics and diagnostic laboratories in sections 4, 7A and 7B. They also provide maternal and child health care, including safe motherhood services and supplementary feeding for children and pregnant or lactating women.

Emergency cases are referred to Thai hospitals in Mae Sariang or Chiang Mai.

## VULNERABLE GROUPS

Handicap International runs a community-based rehabilitation program which targets the disabled population and is funded by UNHCR.

The Karen Women's Organization (KWO) is active in assisting vulnerable groups, including widows, orphans, elderly, SGBV survivors and mentally ill people. KWO also works with COERR to provide much-needed counselling services.

COERR is involved in a range of projects in monitoring and assisting Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVI), unaccompanied and separated children, as well as dealing with child protection, including case management.

Efforts to coordinate have been made between organisations working in the camp and there is both a Child Protection Referral system and SGBV Standard Operating Procedure in place to address such cases when they arise.

## LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Most legal cases arising in the camp are dealt with by refugee administered camp justice structures. However, where a refugee would like to access Thai justice systems, UNHCR assists and facilitates this process.



## CAMP PROFILE: BAN DON YANG

### LOCATION

- Kanchanaburi Province, Sangkhlaburi District
- Distance from Thai-Myanmar border: approximately 1 km.
- The camp is situated 20 km from Sangkhlaburi district and approximately 10 km from the nearest Thai village of Huaymalai. The camp size is approximately 28 hectares (70 acres). It is approximately a six hour drive from Bangkok and a five hour drive from the UNHCR Field Office in Kanchanaburi.

### CAMP ESTABLISHMENT

Ban Don Yang camp was established in June 1997 with individuals who had fled Myanmar and were temporarily residing in two small Thai Karen villages - Thu Kan and Hti Ta Baw.

### POPULATION

The Thai district office records births, deaths and departures for resettlement during a monthly registration exercise in the camp. UNHCR closely monitors and guides the process.

**Table 1: Recognized population as of 31 March 2011**

	Under 5 years old		5-17 years old		18-59 years old		60 years old and over		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
	225	257	453	460	742	621	65	63	<b>2,886</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>482</b>		<b>913</b>		<b>1,363</b>		<b>128</b>		

The total population is comprised of **528** households/**2,886** individuals.

Pre-screening population – 914 individuals.

Unregistered population – 524 individuals (Based on monthly camp committee report).

The POC section is a separate area of the camp which houses urban refugees from Myanmar (POCs) who were transferred to Ban Don Yang camp at the end of March 2005. As of December 2010, the registered population in the POC section is 45 persons.

### RELIGIOUS GROUPS

- Buddhism: 19.37%
- Christianity: 80.00%
- Muslim, Animism, Others: 0.63%

### ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

- Burmese: 2.8%
- Karen: 95.6%
- Others: 1.6%

### THAI AUTHORITIES

The district chief of Sangkhlaburi is in charge of the camp. A deputy district officer is designated as the camp commander and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the camp.

**ADMISSIONS PROCESS AND REGISTRATION UPDATE**

The UNHCR funded RTG District Registration Team is responsible for registration and monthly updates of the camp population. UNHCR registration staff join the RTG team during registration exercises. The initial registration of 3,341 refugees took place in 1999 and a re-registration took place in 2005. 420 individuals who joined the camp after the initial registration in 1999 were added to the camp population in November and December 2006. In March 2005, 395 persons of concern living in Bangkok (urban refugees from Myanmar) were transferred to Ban Don Yang camp and settled in the POC section.

In March 2009, UNHCR initiated and funded a pre-screening mechanism to make initial assessments of the status of un-registered new arrivals/entrants in the camps as an initial step toward a full PAB process. The pre-screening exercise was conducted by the RTG/MOI as a pilot project in four camps, including Ban Don Yang. The wrist banding of the new arrival population was followed by data collection and picture taking in March 2009. The total number of individuals who received wristbands on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009 was 988 persons. The interviewing of all documented new arrivals by the district office was completed in the first week of September 2009 (856 persons). The District Working Group of the RTG submitted its report on the pre-screening exercise to the Ministry of Interior (OCDP), which has produced a consolidated report that has been submitted to the National Security Council (NSC) for their consideration and advice.

**REFUGEE COMMITTEE**

The camp election in Ban Don Yang takes place every two years. The 15-member camp committee manages all camp affairs within the camp and facilitates and assists the work of NGOs and the RTG. UNHCR regularly interacts with the camp committee to better understand and address issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers.

**COORDINATION**

The Ministry of Interior (MOI) is in charge of coordinating assistance activities inside the camp. A monthly coordination meeting takes place at the camp level and is chaired by the Camp Commander, who represents the Sangklaburi District Office/ MOI.

A monthly Protection Working Group (PWG) meeting of NGOs and UNHCR is conducted at the Kanchanaburi provincial level.

NGOs have established the Committee for the Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand (CCSDPT) to coordinate the assistance program as well as to avoid overlaps or gaps in assistance provided.



## FOOD/DOMESTIC ITEMS

TBBC provides food and non-food/shelter items. TBBC also assists the Camp Committee by providing capacity building and incentives.

**Table 2: Details of TBBC's assistance to refugees**

<u>FOOD ITEMS</u>	<u>RICE</u>	<u>Chili</u>	<u>Cooking Oil</u>	<u>SALT</u>	<u>ASIA MIX</u>	<u>Mung Beans</u>	<u>Sugar</u>
ADULT	15 kg	0.40 kg	1.00 L	0.330 kg	0.25 kg	1.0 kg	0.125 kg
CHILD	7.5 kg	0.40 kg	0.50 L	0.330 kg	1 kg	0.5 kg	0.250 kg
<u>NON-FOOD ITEMS</u>	<u>CHARCOAL</u>	<u>Plastic sheet/ Bamboo</u>				<u>CLOTHES</u>	
	20 kg for HR1  5 kg for other family members	<b>Plastic sheet</b> 1 pc per household of 1-5 family members and 2 pc per household of more than 5 family members.  <b>Repairing</b> <i>Small house</i> <i>Big house</i> Bamboo: 26 pcc                      38 pcs  <b>New House</b> <i>Small house</i> <i>Big house</i> Bamboo: 200 pcs                      300 pcs				2 times a year  1 piece per adult;  1 pieces per child (12 years++)  <b>Start July 2010 data</b> Blanket 1 : 1 NA Mosquito net 1: 3 NA Mat 1 : 3 NA Pot 2 : 1 HH Plate 1: 1 NA Spoon 1 : 1 NA Stove 1: 1HH	

Remarks: The figures of ration was updated as of February 2011.

## HEALTH

ARC provides primary health and medical care for camp residents. Diseases such as dengue fever, diarrhea, respiratory and skin diseases are prevalent in the stable camp population. Health education, a disease prevention campaign, and follow-up of cases via home visits are conducted through the ARC Community Health Education (CHE) project. Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) provides family planning, maternal and child health care, immunizations, and supplementary feeding for pregnant and lactating women and malnourished children (0-5 years old). The community health workers' outreach program educates the community to help prevent the spread of the avian flu and other communicable diseases and improve camp residents' understanding of general hygiene. Serious medical cases are referred to a local Thai hospital, the Kwai River Christian Hospital, for more advanced treatment.

## WATER AND SANITATION

ARC maintains the water supply and purifying system to provide the standard quantity and quality of potable water (water consumption is more than 100 liters per person per day in camp). Camp residents have easy access to latrines (water seal toilets) which are regularly repaired, drained and managed by water and sanitation staff members in collaboration with refugee community.

Vector control, rabies vaccination, and contraception for dogs and cats are provided regularly.

## EDUCATION

The education program is implemented by ZOA through the Karen Education Committee (KED). ZOA programs follow the Karen education system in Myanmar and regular consultations are held with the education committee and camp residents. Formal education from kindergarten through grade 12, vocational training, and non-formal education (English and Thai language courses and computer training) are offered.

The camp has one kindergarten, one nursery, one primary school, one high school, one evening school, one special education school, and one school for People of Concern (POCs) in the POC Section.

**Table 3: School Enrolment as of December 2009<sup>1</sup>**

	2009-2010 academic year			
	1st semester/students	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester/students	1st semester/teachers	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester/teachers
Kindergarten	135	124	4	4
Nursery	225	223	12	12
Primary School	683	638	31	31
Secondary School	705	661	34	33
POC	158	118	5	5
Evening class	37	37	7	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,949</b>	<b>1,801</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>92</b>

Two camp libraries were established by SVA in 2003 and 2006 and partially funded by UNHCR. In January 2010, one of these libraries was closed due to a small number of users. The building materials were handed over to Karen Youth Organization (KYO).

Right To Play (RTP) promotes physical education, sports training, and sports activities for school-age children.

<sup>1</sup> Provided by ZOA as of February 2010



## **VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION**

The Belgian government supported the computer lab in Ban Don Yang camp from 2005 until the beginning of 2009. At present, computer vocational training is categorized as non-formal education and is funded by UNHCR and implemented by ZOA. The training provides basic skills on Microsoft Office software and is open to school students during school vacation, those who completed 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and refugee employees for NGOs.

The Thai Ministry of Education (MOE) began non-formal education in Thai Language in eight refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border in October 2006. By teaching the refugee population Thai, the project builds camp residents' capacity to work with local NGOs and increases opportunities for refugees in a protracted situation. UNHCR funds the program which, in accordance with regulations of MOE/ONFIE, targets camp residents 16-years-old and above. As of December 2009, approximately 1,500 camp residents had attended the course.<sup>2</sup>

Vocational training activities are presently implemented by ZOA with funding from UNHCR and are available in sewing, auto repair, cooking and baking, and fisheries.

COERR offers organic agricultural training to improve refugees' knowledge and self-sufficiency in an area that is closely related to their income generation activities in Myanmar. Vegetables produced in COERR's organic garden are consumed in the camp.

In addition to skills training, ARC offers a micro-enterprise development (MED) class in which refugees learn business skills to help them start businesses in the camp.

## **VULNERABLE GROUPS**

Handicap International (HI) runs a rehabilitation and physical therapy (RPT) project and mine risk education (MRE) and provides services to approximately 70 individuals<sup>3</sup> with physical and mental disabilities (PwDs). RPT consists of home visits and a physical rehabilitation center. In collaboration with the Christian Hospital at Sangklaburi District, prosthetic limbs and services for PwDs in Ban Don Yang camp are provided as needed.

The Karen Women's Organization (KWO) is a community-based organization (CBO) assisting women and orphans residing in camp.

The Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR) has an Extremely Vulnerable Individual (EVI) and Child Protection project with Community Social Workers assigned to the camp (financed by UNHCR). The largest groups of EVIs include elderly, separated children, and persons with physical disabilities.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

COERR works in environmental protection by training and raising awareness on environmental issues within the refugee community. COERR is also in charge of repair and maintenance of access roads to the camp and infrastructure within the camp.

## **SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)**

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<sup>2</sup> Provided by ONFEC Sangklaburi in December 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Provided by PT and DSI camp workers in September 2009

UNHCR regularly conducts trainings to raise the community's awareness of sexual and gender based violence. The target population includes section and zone leaders, camp committee members, community-based organizations, and the general refugee population.

In addition, UNHCR funds (through ARC) the SGBV committee created to prevent SGBV and to facilitate effective reporting mechanisms and case follow-up. UNHCR provides counseling to the Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) survivors, follows up with medical results and helps the survivors to take a legal action against the perpetrator (according to the wishes of the survivor).

The ARC GBV (Gender Based Violence) project provides capacity building activities to the SGBV committee in case management, administrative management, and counselling. The SGBV committee works toward the prevention of SGBV through various awareness raising activities.

### **RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT**

Refugees are not allowed to move out of the camps without first obtaining formal permission from the district authorities. According to Thai immigration law, refugees will face deportation if arrested outside the camps. In practice, many refugees move out in search of employment due to the lack of employment opportunities within the camp.

Refugees working outside provide much needed assistance to family members living inside the camp. Some work outside the camp for extended periods of time, while others leave the camp on short jobs in the area surrounding the camp. The limited economic opportunities within the camps are an issue that UNHCR and NGOs are attempting to address.

### **RESETTLEMENT**

Along with voluntary repatriation and local integration, resettlement is one of three durable solutions for refugees globally. In the Thai context, however, resettlement is currently the only realistic solution for the majority of the refugee community.

Resettlement has been an option for refugees in Ban Don Yang since the resettlement program began in Thailand in late 2005. Since then, Australia, Sweden, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Ireland, and United States have all accepted refugees from the camp.

More than 1,754 Ban Don Yang refugees have departed for resettlement since the end of 2005. The US group resettlement program, which opened in 2008, has accepted the largest number of individuals. Of that figure, 711 camp residents have resettled to the US, 410 individuals to Australia, 23 individuals to Czech Republic, 80 individuals to Finland, 87 individuals to Ireland, 83 individuals to the Netherlands, 72 individuals to Norway, 66 individuals to New Zealand, and 222 individuals to Sweden. Denmark and Canada accepted several individuals in 2005 and 2006 respectively.

UNHCR Kanchanaburi  
31 March 2011



## CAMP PROFILE: THAM HIN CAMP

### LOCATION

- Ratchaburi Province, Suanpheung District
- Distance from Thai-Myanmar border: approximately 12 km.
- The camp is situated 28 km from Suanpheung District, and 0.5 km from the nearest Thai village of Ban Huay Sud. It is approximately three hours' drive from Bangkok and about an hour and half drive from the UNHCR Field Office in Kanchanaburi. The camp is approximately 11 hectares (28 acres).

### CAMP ESTABLISHMENT

Tham Hin camp was established in 1997. Prior to that time, the population had been living in three temporary holding areas - Ban Bowi, Ban Huay Sud, and Ban Pu Muang - on the border between Thailand and Myanmar. These three temporary holding areas were consolidated into Tham Hin.

### POPULATION

Prior to the start of the resettlement program in Tham Hin, the recorded registered refugee population was 9,554 persons.

The registered population as of 31 March, 2011 is as follows:

**Table 1. Population Figures**

Age
Gender • Female • Male • Female • Male • Female • Male • Female
Female
<b>Total: 857 households/4,277 persons</b>

Pre-screening population – 2,970 individuals.

Unregistered population – 1,234 individuals (Based on monthly camp committee report).

**Zone 4** is a separate area in the camp for the urban students (393 persons) transferred to the camp in December 2001 from Maneeloy Burmese Student Center (MBSC). The zone also houses urban refugees/persons of concern (POC) transferred from Bangkok (418 persons) at the end of March 2005. The durable solution of resettlement was pursued for these groups and, as a result, the vast majority of the population was resettled to third countries, primarily the USA. As of August 2010, the remaining registered POC population is 8 individuals.

Suanpheung District postponed the monthly registration update in Tham Hin between February and April 2010 due to the uncompleted BORA registration system. The exercise has since resumed and newborns and deaths are recorded monthly.

### RELIGIOUS GROUPS

- Buddhist: 17.72%; 3 Buddhist monasteries
- Christian: 82.2%; 34 Christian churches
- Muslim: 0.04%; 1 mosque

### ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

- Karen: 98.6%



- Burmese: 1.4%

## **THAI AUTHORITIES**

The District Chief of Suanpheung oversees the camp. The current District Chief, Mr. Nattawut Petchpromsorn, has been in his post since 2009. In mid-2010 a new camp commander, Mr. Amnart Rodjitra, was assigned to the camp, replacing the previous camp commander who had held his position since the camp's establishment. The camp commander is responsible for the day-to-day management of the camp. A security force of 60 staff (Or Sors) is deployed by the District Office to manage security issues within the camp.

The Military Task Force (Tap-Phraya-Suea) is responsible for general security in the area and reports to the 9<sup>th</sup> Division Army Command in Kanchanaburi. Border Police Patrol 137 also manages security issues along the border. The Suan Pueng District Police is in charge of security in towns within the district.

## **REGISTRATION/ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE**

The first joint registration exercise between MOI and UNHCR was conducted in May 1999. The total population at that time was 1,702 households/ 7,738 persons. A re-registration exercise was conducted in December 2004 using UNHCR's standard "proGres" software, including digital photographs and fingerprints. The exercise was completed with a total of 1,680 households/8,169 persons. Refugees included in the previous registration exercise, as well as children born from registered parents, were accounted for in the re-registration. 868 individuals were absent during the re-registration exercise and were subsequently deregistered.

Following the agreed admissions procedures, the first meeting of the Provincial Admissions Board (PAB) was held in Ratchaburi in October 2005 to fix the population of Tham Hin prior to the launch of the group resettlement program to the USA. The meeting approved the registration of 1,030 persons in Tham Hin. A "fast-track" PAB took place twice, at the end of August 2006 and in November 2006, for unregistered members of families already processed by Overseas Processing Entity (OPE). The exceptional PAB meetings approved families accepted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for resettlement in order to maintain family unity. The first group (45 persons) and second group (15 persons) were accepted by the fast-track PAB in 2006. These are the only two fast-track PAB sessions that have taken place in Ratchaburi province.

In February 2007, UNHCR conducted a survey of new entrants in Tham Hin camp which gave some valuable insight on the un-registered population. The results were shared with all concerned government authorities. In April, July, and September 2007 and again in April 2008 the District Office, UNHCR, and the military conducted joint head counting/verification exercises of the un-registered population. Over 1700 unregistered persons comprising 884 households were documented and photographed in September 2007. In March 2009, the Royal Thai government initiated and implemented a pilot project of pre-screening the new arrival population in Tham Hin to determine whether an individual claim merited a full PAB assessment. Wrist banding for the new arrival population (2,895 persons) was followed by data collection and picture-taking in March and April 2009. The interviews of documented new arrivals were completed in the first week of September 2009. The District Working Group of the RTG submitted its report on the pre-screening exercise to the Ministry of Interior (OCDP). A consolidated report was submitted by the MOI to the National Security Council (NSC) for their consideration and advice.

## **REFUGEE COMMITTEE**



Camp affairs are managed at the community level by 15 members of the refugee Camp Committee. Members of the Camp Committee are elected by representatives of sections within the camp. Following the introduction of the large-scale resettlement program, more than one-third of the members of the Camp Committee were unable to finish their term due to departure for resettlement in a third country. The most recent camp committee election took place on February 16-18, 2010, when 15 new camp committee members were elected.

## COORDINATION

Camp coordination meetings are held monthly in camp, with participants including the refugee community, CBOs, NGOs, and UNHCR. Protection Working Group (PWG) meetings of NGOs and UNHCR are also held monthly at the Kanchanaburi provincial level.

## FOOD/DOMESTIC ITEMS

TBBC provides food and non-food items to camp residents as follows:

**Table 1**

Food rations in the table are per person per month.

<b>FOOD ITEMES</b> • RICE RICE	<u>Chili</u>	<u>Cooking Oil</u>	<u>SALT</u>
	20 kg for HR1		2 times a year
	5 kg for other family members	<b>Plastic sheet</b> 1 pc per household of 1-5 family members and 2 pc per household of more than 5 family members.	1 piece per adult;  1 pieces per child (12 years++)
		<b>Repairing</b> <i>Small house</i> Bamboo: 26 pcc	Blanket 1 : 1 NA Mat 1 : 3 NA Pot 2 : 1 HH Plate 1: 1 NA Spoon 1 : 1 NA Stove 1: 1HH
		<i>Big house</i> 38 pcs	
		<b>New House</b> <i>Small house</i> Bamboo: 200 pcs	
		<i>Big house</i> 300 pcs	

Remarks: The figures of ration was updated as of February 2011.

## HEALTH

IRC has provided healthcare services since taking over from Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) in mid 2005. The health facilities in the camp include one in-patient department, one out-patient department (an average number of consultations is 80-150 per day), one isolation department for influenza screening, and an isolation ward for contagious diseases. The medical staff consists of two doctors and nearly fifty camp residents who work as nurses, midwives and medics.

The general health care services include primary health care, curative services, and emergency referral to Thai hospitals (Suan Pheung and Ratchaburi hospitals) cases involving serious complications.

Routine immunization services are provided for all children under five-years old. Safe delivery, antenatal, and postnatal care are also provided. A supplementary feeding program is offered to malnourished children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.



For preventive measures and community health services, outreach and educational programs on healthy behaviour including health education activities, community awareness-raising, and IEC material distribution are conducted through twenty community health workers and two national supervisors.

In conjunction with the Thai Ministry of Public Health in Ratchaburi, preventive measures against avian influenza are taken. IRC also provides counselling and anti-retroviral drugs to people living with HIV/AIDS.

## **WATER AND SANITATION**

IRC is also in charge of water and sanitation sectors in the camp. The services include safe water treatment and distribution, site rehabilitation, waste management, and vector control activities. Water shortage is experienced during the dry season almost every year. In order to minimize the impact of water shortage, the agency has augmented efforts to increase water supply to the camp residents during that time. The average amount of water provided per camp resident is 40 liters per day. The congested and limited space available for refugee houses has created a sanitation challenge as there is no more space available on which to dig new pit latrines. IRC is working to find a solution as the refugee community is seriously concerned about the poor sanitation situation created by the latrines.

Waste management has proven to be a constant challenge in the camp given the overcrowded conditions and limited space. IRC negotiated a piece of land for waste disposal and has funded a waste incinerator in order to replace the open garbage burning method in the camp.

## **EDUCATION**

The education program in camp is implemented by ZOA through the Karen Education Committee (KED). ZOA follows the Karen educational system in Myanmar and consults the education committee and camp residents to ensure that the program meets the present and future needs of refugees. Formal education from kindergarten through grade 12, vocational training, and non-formal education (English language and computer training) are offered.

131 teachers are employed for three nurseries, one kindergarten, one primary school, one high school, one post grade 12 school and evening school, providing education to 2,506 students for the first semester of the 2009-2010 academic year.

**Table 2: School Enrollment**

	<b>2009-2010 academic year</b>	
	1st semester/students	1st semester/teachers
Kindergarten	254	6
Nursery	298	13
Primary School	1,225	37
Secondary School	661	53
Post grade 12	50	14
Evening class	18	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,506</b>	<b>131</b>

Two libraries are operated by SVA and partially funded by UNHCR. Library activities were handed over to Karen Youth Organization (KYO) in January 2010, and have since been monitored by SVA staff who are based in Mae Sot. A Special Education School is available for children with physical and mental disabilities.

## **VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION**



The UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie donated USD100,000 for a vocational training center while visiting Tham Hin in May 2002. ZOA is implementing the program with partial funding from UNHCR. There are several vocational training courses provided for Tham Hin camp residents - sewing, cooking, child & elderly care, and hairdressing. Due to fact that ZOA is currently phasing out its activities in camp, it is planned that the VT program will be taken over by ADRA in 2010.

ZOA also provide two non-formal education courses in English and computer skills, funded by UNHCR. These projects provide opportunities for refugee adults to develop working skills in camp.

#### **NINEMILLION.ORG PROJECTS (Nurseries and Computer Center)**

UNHCR signed a sub-project agreement with ZOA with funding from ninemillion.org. The project helped to construct and equip a computer lab which provides training for students and teachers in secondary school. Nurseries in each zone create a more conducive learning environment for toddlers.

#### **VULNERABLE GROUPS**

Until handing over its activities to COERR in late 2009, Handicap International (HI) ran a rehabilitation and physical therapy (RPT) project consisting of home visits, physical rehabilitation center activities, and a mine risk education (MRE) project. COERR has maintained some, though not all, of these projects.

IRC has constructed a physical rehabilitation building next to the IRC clinic in order to provide basic physical rehabilitation services for people with disabilities (PwDs) in camp. According to the HI list, approximately 90 PwDs require regular medical treatment.

The Karen Women's Organization (KWO) is a community-based organization (CBO) assisting women and orphans residing in camp for reproductive health and to foster a more protective environment. Kits for newborn babies providing baby shampoo, soap, powder and diapers are given after the completion of child care training.

Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR) is a Thai NGO that assists refugees with vulnerabilities through its Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs) project. One social worker and several refugee community social workers are assigned to the camp. The largest groups of EVIs include elderly, separated children, and persons with physical disabilities. COERR's social workers regularly monitor the situation of the persons with special needs in the camp.

The child protection referral system was initiated in collaboration with COERR and UNICEF in 2006. It describes to all people living and working in the refugee camps what steps to take if/when they encounter a serious child protection case (in particular those involving sexual abuse, physical abuse, exploitation and neglect).

#### **SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)**

SGBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were jointly signed by representatives of the refugee community, NGOs, and UNHCR in April 2006 after a consultative process. The SOPs serve as a protection tool to prevent and respond to SGBV in the camp.

Domestic violence has been the most common form of SGBV in recent years. However, survivors of domestic violence often decide not to take legal action against the perpetrator(s) because of customary practices and dependant relationships. Legal counselling, medical treatment, and psycho-social support are provided to all survivors requesting it. The Field Office has been implementing various activities to prevent SGBV, including awareness-raising workshops for refugees and for community-based organizations.



**RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT**

Refugees are not allowed to move out of the camp without formal permission from the district authorities. According to Thai law, refugees face deportation if arrested outside the camp, though this rule is selectively applied. In practice, many refugees move out in search of employment to provide some income and supplement the assistance provided by NGOs.

In April 2007, the RTG began issuing identification cards for registered refugees over 12 years old to improve their protection in case of arrest by Thai police and protect against deportation.

**RESETTLEMENT**

Resettlement as a protection tool and a durable solution has only been an option for the Tham Hin refugee population since 2005. In late 2005, the US embassy in Bangkok announced that the refugees in Tham Hin would be considered for the US resettlement program and subsequently, UNHCR submitted the entire Tham Hin population as a group submission.

The U.S. selected IRC to facilitate its resettlement program through the Overseas Processing Entity (OPE) to conduct pre-screening interviews and the out-processing of cases. UNHCR maintains a coordinating role for the overall resettlement activities in the camp including:

- identifying individuals or families requiring resettlement for family reunification, either in the US or in other countries;
- monitoring protection and security concerns and alerting the Royal Thai Government (RTG) of any special needs that should be addressed or identifying vulnerable cases for OPE;
- conducting best interest determinations (BIDs) for unaccompanied or separated children; and
- coordinating with the RTG for exit clearance for their departure.

From close to 10,000 individuals who were eligible to apply for US resettlement, More than 5,000 persons have departed to the US and approximately 204 persons remain in the active resettlement process.

In addition, a smaller number of refugees from Tham Hin have been accepted to Australia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, and New Zealand. UNHCR's priority for resettlement focuses on the most vulnerable persons in the camp environment, such as victims of violence, single female heads of household, unaccompanied minors, the elderly, those with serious health or mental problems, and those with social or other problems.

From 2005 until March 2011, 6,231 individuals departed from Tham Hin for a resettlement country. Of that figure, 5,132 camp residents have resettled to the US, 355 individuals to Australia, and 327 individuals to Finland, 128 individuals to the Netherlands, 105 individuals to Norway, 4 individuals to New Zealand, and 180 individuals to Sweden.

Since the beginning of the resettlement program in 2005, More than 7,000 individuals have departed for various countries under the resettlement program.

UNHCR Kanchanaburi  
March 2011

## Ban Mai Nai Soi refugee camp (BMN)

### LOCATION

- Mae Hong Son Province, Muang District
- Distance from Thai-Myanmar border: approximately 2 km
- Distance from closest Thai village: 6 km from Ban Nai Soi village
- Distance from MHS town: 25 km (approximately 01 hr drive)

### CAMP BACKGROUND

The camp is located on two former sites known as Ban Pang Kwai, and Ban Pang Tractor. The camp occupies an area of 551 acres.

The camp was initially established in 1996 to accommodate some 1,800 refugees who were relocated from Pangyon (former Camp 1) and Huaybok (former Camp 2) camps which were situated right on the Thai-Myanmar border, north of the present camp. Thereafter, more and more asylum seekers arrived in the camp due to the ongoing fighting at the time on the other side of the border.

In July 2002, following complaints from neighbouring Thai villagers against refugees, the Thai authorities decided to relocate the former Ban Mai Nai Soi – BMN camp (former camp # 3 next to the Ban Nai Soi Thai village) and incorporated it into the current Ban Mai Nai Soi camp. The relocation operation was completed on 1 January 2003, except for Section 6 (the “Longneck” section, with a population of 197 persons). The current camp registered population stands at 11,263 persons and un-registered population of 3,328 persons. The majority of the population is Kayah, mainly from Shadau township of Kayah State, and they are mostly farmers.

### SECURITY

In last one year, there were number of fire incidents but two of those incidents were major incidents. Both major incidents took place due to negligence on the part of refugee. The first major fire incident that took place at mid-night of March 22, 2010 burnt down 57 houses and some 260 refugees were affected. NGOs and UNHCR assisted the affected refugees with the help of the camp committee and District Office through OrSors. The affected refugees have now re-constructed their new houses, and the services were restored by the concerned NGOs.

The second major fire incident took place on 13 March 2011 in the early morning. As a result, 19 households were burnt down to the ground and 24 others had to take down roofs to prevent them from catching the fire which impacted some 100 persons. UNHCR and NGOs as well as the camp commander had provided necessary assistance to the fire-affected refugees accordingly.

### CAMP POPULATION (REGISTERED POPULATION)

In co-operation with Muang District Office, UNHCR undertakes updates of registration in the camp on a monthly basis in an effort to maintain accurate statistics of registered refugees, by registering newborns, deaths and marriages.



### Ban Mai Nai Soi Camp population as of 22 April 2011:

0-5 years		6-11 years		12+		Total persons	Total families
F	M	F	M	F	M	Persons	Families
1008	1064	884	920	3692	3695	11263	2971

### RELIGIOUS GROUPS

- Animist: 51%
- Christian (Catholic): 33%
- Christian (Christian): 9%
- Buddhist: 7%

### ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

The camp population can be divided by ethnicity as follows:

- Kayah/Karen: 80.5%
- Karen: 10%
- Shan: 5%
- Others (Burman and Pa-o): 4.5%

### THAI AUTHORITIES

The chief of Muang District (Ministry of Interior) is in charge of the camp. A deputy district officer is designated as the camp commander who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the camp. The *Or-Sor*, Thai local voluntary forces (all male) deployed by the MOI, looks after the security of the refugee camp with the assistance of camp refugee guards. The army is responsible for the external security of the camp.

### ADMISSION PROCEDURE

The Provincial Admission Board (PAB) was revived border wide in 2005. Unlike other border provinces, Mae Hong Son province developed a large backlog of PAB cases due to stricter application of eligibility criteria. Refugees awaiting PAB decision became increasingly anxious as resettlement activities intensified, because only those who have been cleared by PAB are eligible to apply for resettlement. The back log was finally cleared by the PAB in 2009.

In March 2009, a Pre-screening Project was introduced by the RTG for the un-registered population which was residing in the camps at the time of the exercise and BMN camp became one of the four pilot camps to implement the project. As a result, some 1,032 persons were processed and recommendations were made by the District Working Group through the provincial office to the Ministry of Interior (MOI) which has forwarded it to the National Security Council (NSC) for their views on the exercise conducted. All concerned are waiting for the official and final outcome of the pre-screening pilot project.

Trickle of new arrivals/entrants are still coming in almost every month since the 04 March 2009 wrist banding exercise, some 2,300 persons have arrived in the camp. These 2,300 or so new entrants are not yet documented by the District Office. At present there are total of 3,328 persons (1,032 who went through the 2009 pre-screening exercise and some 2,300 who arrived in the last two years) whose status is not yet regularized by the government authorities.

### CO-ORDINATION MECHANISM

- Regular consultative meetings are held among the District Office of the Ministry of Interior (MOI), provincial authorities, the refugee community leadership, NGOs, CBOs and UNHCR.
- Monthly Protection Working Group (PWG)/Coordination meetings are held among NGOs and UNHCR at the provincial level.
- The PWG meets monthly at the camp also and is attended by NGOs, CBOs and UNHCR.

- The District Office, Muang/Camp Commander of BMN conducts monthly meetings with UNHCR, NGOs, CBOs and Camp Committee, KnRC at the BMN camp in which the Military Task Force and the District Police also participates to discuss issues related to refugees.
- UNHCR also have case management meetings with COERR, IRC/WPE and IRC/LAC to discuss and follow cases related to child protection, GBV and legal cases which needs to be addressed and resolved. There are number of other meetings that place at camp level in which refugee leadership/CBOs/NGOs and UNHCR participate and coordinate activities/ issues related to those thematic issues such as Child Protection forum (CPF), Gender Based Violence (GBV), Child Protection Referral System (CPRS) etc.

## REFUGEE STRUCTURES

### Karenni Refugee Committee (KnRC)

The Karenni Refugee Committee (KnRC) was formed in March 1997 to be the central coordinating body for both internal and external relations in support of refugee assistance. The current KnRC committee has been elected on 18 December 2010 under the Karenni's new election law to a three-year term. The present committee has been functioning since January 2011. The following are the three main members of the committee:

Chairman:	Mr. Mann Saw
Secretary 1:	Naw Htoo Lweh
Secretary 2:	Mr. Hsaw Reh

### Camp Committee

The camp administrative structure is composed of the Camp Committee and 20 Section Leaders who are elected by the camp population for a three-year term. The current camp committee was elected under the new election law on 18 December 2010 to a three-year term. The committee took up its assignment in January 2011. The composition of the committee is:

Camp Committee:	Chairman:	Mr. Ei Reh
	Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. Saw Aung Moun
	Secretary 1:	Ms. Moe Bu
	Secretary 2:	Ms. Ple Meh
	Secretary 3:	Mr. Hel Reh

## AGENCIES WORKING IN THE CAMP

The following organizations and NGOs provide services in the camp:

- *Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC)*: basic food basket, shelter, and household items
- *International Rescue Committee (IRC)*: medical assistance, water and sanitation, gender-based violence programme, legal assistance (co-funded by UNHCR), psychosocial programme, reproductive health for the youth  
IRC/RSC: works on processing of the refugee cases/individuals that opt for resettlement to the USA.
- *Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)*: education assistance, vocational training, teachers' training, construction and maintenance of school buildings and teacher stipends.
- *Non-Formal Education* (Thai language learning programme) run by the NFEC of the Ministry of Education of the RTG and funded by UNHCR.
- *Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR)*: assistance to extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs), vocational training, peace and reconciliation programme, UNICEF/COERR/UNHCR child protection programme including UASC.
- *Women's Education for Advancement and Employment (WEAVE)*: nursery schools and parents' education (financially supported by UNHCR) in partnership with the Karenni Women Organisation (KnWO); early childhood development-inclusive education and women study program, development of educational materials
- *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*: play an active coordination role with all concerned agencies of the Royal Thai Government, NGOs and other stakeholders to assist refugees, asylum seekers and Persons of Concern to UNHCR and to ensure international protection, work on the gaps in protection assistance activities, resettlement to

third countries which is used as a protection tool and a durable solution, co-ordination of various stakeholders. UNHCR also assist the RTG with the registration of asylum seekers and refugees and to keep on working on sustainable durable solutions for the refugee situation in Thailand. UNHCR also intervenes with the concerned government agencies to stop Refoulment of refugees/ POCs when such cases are observed or reported.

- *International Organization for Migration (IOM)*: medical screening, cultural orientation and logistics/departure formalities for those refugees who opt for resettlement to third countries
- *The Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand (PPAT)*: promotes reproductive health and family planning

### **PROTECTION COUNSELLING**

UNHCR's Protection team holds regular, weekly protection counselling sessions in both camps, BMN and BMS. The sessions are held in BMN every Wednesday. The main objective of this initiative is to enable the community to understand the issues with which they can seek assistance from the UNHCR's Protection team. The preparation and awareness raising included meetings with NGOs, CBOs, Camp Committees and individuals in each section as well as putting up the posters in relevant languages and the loudspeakers announcements.

Small numbers approaching UNHCR for protection counselling on the drop-in basis, but appointments are given to vulnerable individuals according to their Progress status. For those cases both the interim advice and linkage with relevant services in the camp as well as long term solutions advice is given. Beside, the fixed days refugees and POC also meet UNHCR staff on regular basis during their regular visits to the camps

### **FOOD AND DOMESTIC ITEMS**

TBBC provides shelter material and monthly food rations and other household supplies through KnRC and the Camp Committee. The detailed breakdown of food supplies is included in Table 1 at the end of this camp profile. TBBC also assists the camp committee by providing capacity building trainings in governance/leadership etc. related to camp management.

### **HEALTH**

IRC provides a comprehensive primary health care programme, covering both preventive and curative care in two main clinics and two satellite health centres. Routine immunisation services are provided to all children under age five and all pregnant women receive regular check-ups. Reproductive health services cover antenatal and post-natal services as well as family planning. A supplementary feeding programme is offered to malnourished children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

The Karenni Health Department (KnHD) staff provides health services in the camp, including in-patient and out-patient departments, reproductive and child healthcare, a pharmacy and a laboratory. A Health Information System (HIS) for the nine camps has been developed. IRC provides technical and material support to the KnHD, using a capacity building approach. Emergency cases are referred to the government provincial hospital in Mae Hong Son.

### **WATER AND SANITATION**

IRC is in charge of water and sanitation in the camp. More than 60 litres of water are provided per person/day (Sphere guidelines suggest 40-60 litres/person/day). Camp water outlets are located very close to the refugee houses and are easily accessible. Water is supplied by a surface gravity flow system and some wells. Sometimes, water shortage problems are faced during the summer months for short period of time when the water table goes down.

Sanitation workers are trained to assess needs to build latrines, make arrangements for waste disposal and develop water sources. 96% of pour-flush style latrines are provided using cement moulds made in camp by the camp community. Waste management, however, remains a challenge in the camp given the overcrowding and limited space available.

### **Family Planning**

With its presence in the camp in April 2009, PPAT implements a project to promote reproductive health and family planning, to educate and raise awareness on reproductive health and family planning issues among the target population. Family planning services include: hormonal (oral pill, injection, implants), intrauterine devices, male and female condoms, natural family planning and voluntary surgical sterilization (cases require surgical sterilization refer to IRC).

## **EDUCATION**

JRS implements an education program with an objective to support the Karenni Education Department (KnED) at all levels of management to ensure that their educational system is effective, sustainable and inclusive. JRS partners with the KnED in the following sectors:

- Primary and Secondary Education – support is provided with curriculum development, parental involvement (PTAs), school and teacher monitoring, life skills education (vocational and adolescent education) and extra curricula activities.
- Special Education - programming is provided both within the schools and at special education centres for students where inclusive education is not yet possible. Parents and children come to the centres for educational activities, information and support, including classes for blind and deaf. Special education assistants also make regular visits to home-bound children.
- Home School Liaison Program - helps connect school and family, prevent student drop-out and monitor vulnerable student populations. The HSLP also conducts parent education workshops and research on educational issues.
- Teacher Training - the Karenni Teacher Training Center provides needed training in teaching methodology and technique. Once graduates complete the year long course (which included practice teaching) they return to camp schools to apply what has been learned.
- Management – JRS supports KnED in capacity development, policy development, upkeep of school buildings, teacher stipends as well as distribution of teaching aids and other education resources.

Support is available for students who completed grade 10 with a two-year post-10 school.

The teaching of Thai language in the refugee camps along the border was introduced by the Royal Thai government under the Ministry of Education in 2006. The initiative, implemented under the supervision of Office of Non-Formal Education Commission (NFEC) with UNHCR's financial support provides opportunities for refugees to learn Thai language. Currently, five teachers are employed in BMN.

WEAVE supports development efforts of women's organizations as women become socially, economically and politically empowered and self-reliant, enabling them to participate fully in their communities and political life. WEAVE partners with KnWO in two projects: Early Childhood Development-Inclusive Education (ECD-IE) and the Women Study Program (WSP).

With the ECD-IE Project, WEAVE supports 14 nursery schools, a nursery school coordinator, teacher trainers, parents' educators, teachers, cooks and baby sitters. WEAVE and KNWO work with parents in promoting positive development of children.

The Women Study Program supports women's capacity development through the establishment of a women study center. The program is aimed at providing a safe and secure place in the community that offers relevant and essential knowledge and skills training, peace and vocational courses, as well as the possibility of sharing experiences on women's development, community development. WSP offers

- A 10-month extensive training/workshop in school
- 3 weeks input either lectures, structured games, role play, symposium by teachers and speakers
- 1 week experiential activities and cell formation in the community



## **LEGAL ASSISTANCE**

Co-Funded by UNHCR, IRC implements the Legal Assistance Centre (LAC) Project with an aim to promote the rule of law and access to justice services for Myanmar refugees in the camp. It became operational in August 2007. The Centre's activities include a) building the capacity of the existing justice systems in the camp; b) building legal awareness among camp residents, leaders and community-based organisations (CBOs); c) acting as a resource for refugees seeking legal counsel and d) establishing a referral system for refugees with serious protection concerns including prosecuting serious cases.

Camp Justice, one of many thematic sub-committees under the Camp Committee, is an important counterpart in implementing this project. Established in 2002, it also covers Ban Mae Surin camp. It consists of nine judges, one advisor and one office staff. Two of them are female. They have been administering consensus-based, traditional justice in the camp.

Lack of awareness and resentment of "external interference" among refugees remain a challenge. Nevertheless, since LAC established its regular presence in the camp. Gradually, a positive change has been observed among refugees (e.g., increased number of reporting of incidents, increased awareness of their rights). Cases that are of sensitive nature especially that concerns or link with the RTG authorities are referred by IRC to UNHCR for its follow up and assisting the refugee with the case outside the camp with the Thai Judicial System.

## **SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)**

SGBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were jointly signed by representatives of the refugee community, NGOs and UNHCR in 2005 after a consultative process. The SOPs serve as a protection tool to prevent and respond to SGBV in the camp in a coherent and co-ordinated manner. According to the effective co-ordination on the SGBV issue among relevant agencies, which are IRC/Women Protection and Empowerment Program (WPE), LAC, and UNHCR, it makes the refugee community to be more confident to confront with the SGBV.

Domestic violence has been the most common form of SGBV in the camp. In general, the refugee community regards domestic violence as family affairs.

IRC, through its WPE Programme, is the lead organization on SGBV-related work in the camp. Its activities focus on providing technical support and capacity building of camp staff on GBV response and prevention, developing referral connections for survivors with the regional hospital and establishing a women's shelter for GBV survivors in the camp. IRC also provided training on SGBV to Or-Sors (Thai volunteer forces responsible for security of the camp). In collaboration with IRC's LAC project, the WPE programme has established a confidential process for providing timely legal representation to survivors and for meeting their other protection needs. In co-operation with IRC's WPE programme and other relevant actors, UNHCR carries out a variety of activities in an effort to prevent SGBV and to provide various services (legal counselling, medical help, psycho-social support).

There are two safe houses run by IRC in the camp, providing a temporary safe environment for survivors of SGBV while possible solutions are explored. One of the safe houses was built in 2007 with UNHCR's financial support.

## **VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

JRS offers different courses of vocational training (mechanic workshop, agricultural project, textile making), benefiting both men and women. This programme used to be linked up with the IRC's income-generation programme which allowed refugees to start up their own small business. Due to severe cuts in funding, IRC discontinued the income-generation programme at the end of 2007, further limiting refugees' self-reliance capacity. Vocational training is nevertheless useful for refugees when they start a new life in a third country, or the country of origin if conditions improve to allow their voluntary repatriation.

## **CHILD PROTECTION**

The regular follow up activities on both unaccompanied and separated children as well as vulnerable children living with their relatives are taking place in both camps. UNHCR's Protection team prioritizes cases from both Progress and UASC Tracking System database by conducting home visits and assessing the needs as well as the assistance children and their families/caregivers receive. The assessments are fed back to COERR during monthly case management meeting in order to identify gaps and seek solutions to the situation.

Regular meetings are being held with COERR's Program and Community (camp based) social workers in order to identify the assistance that might be needed as well as knowledge gaps. Also number of joint (UNHCR-COERR) home visits to the most vulnerable of COERR's beneficiaries are conducted each month.

In the first quarter of 2011 joint COERR and UNHCR Child Protection training was held in both camps, BMN and BMS. Target groups were camp based Child Protection Referral System (CPRS) Focal Points from BMN and BMS. The training is a starting point for the revision of CPRS as number of gaps has been identified in the way the system is working. COERR is planning to hold the CPRS review workshop with involvement from NGOs and CBOs in the second quarter of 2011.

For the past 3 months UNHCR has been hosting an intern, whose main task was to evaluate the joint UNHCR and COERR's Unaccompanied and Separated Children Tracking System database. The report will be available in the first week of May.

UNHCR has also been involved in discussion to revise the Boarding Houses' Standards of Care document drafted by KnRC - "Standards of Care for the Boarding Houses in Karenni Camps". The document contains numerous shortcomings that have the potential to jeopardize children's welfare and wellbeing. The discussion was held amongst all the NGOs working in the camp and common response to Karenni Refugee Committee was agreed. It will be presented and discussed with KnRC in the near future.

## **VULNERABLE GROUPS**

- COERR has an Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs) project with a social worker and several refugee Community Services Workers assigned to the camp. The elderly and people with disabilities or special needs are under the scope of this programme. COERR offers various community-based self-help initiatives such as organic agriculture, candle and soap making, traditional weaving and sewing centre to develop potential livelihood skills. Under a separate programme funded by UNHCR, COERR's social workers monitor the situation of separated children in the boarding houses and under foster care.
- The child protection referral system was initiated in collaboration with COERR and UNICEF in 2006. It describes to all people living and working in the refugee camps what steps to take when they encounter a serious child protection case (in particular those involving sexual abuse, physical abuse, exploitation and neglect).

## **Refugee Population Registration**

- In co-operation with the Muang Mae Hong Son District Office, UNHCR undertakes updates of registration in the camp on a monthly basis in an effort to maintain accurate statistics of registered refugees (by registering newborns, death and marriage, for example). The new software for registration and population updated was initiated by BORA/MOI through concerned district offices for all 09 camps in 2010. The new population data base is not fully functional as it is still facing some technical problems but BORA and district offices are working on it.
- Under the new registration act of August 2008 every child born in Thailand is entitle to Birth Certificate regardless of their legal status. After regular follow up by UNHCR with the MOI the BORA/MOI issued instructions to the Governors of all refugee hosting provinces

to start issuing birth certificates to the refugee children born in Thailand. The Muang Mae Hong Son District Office began to issue Birth Certificate for new refugee babies born of at least one registered parents, registered father or mother, since September 2010.

### **Other Activities**

- UNHCR visits the prison and the child observation centre in Mae Hong Son to monitor detention conditions when refugees are detained.
- Once a year, UNHCR distributes sanitary napkins and underwear to all registered refugee women and a limited number of extremely vulnerable unregistered women in reproductive age (13-49) with technical assistance of the KnWO. In 2010, 4,528 sanitary kits were distributed in the camp.

### **RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT**

Refugees do not have freedom of movement to go out of the camp without prior permission from the district authorities. According to Thai regulations, refugees face deportation if found outside the camp without a permit, though this rule is selectively applied. In practice, many refugees move out in search of employment to gain income to supplement the food ration that they are provided.

In April 2007, the Royal Thai Government began issuing identification cards to all registered refugees over age 12, free of charge, with the financial support of UNHCR. It is supposed to improve their protection by having official identification documentation from the government and that have a proper status to stay in Thailand. It is hoped that the ID card will further improve and expand their rights in Thailand. The refugee ID cards got expired as of 31 December 2009 but UNHCR is following up with the Ministry of Interior to renew the old cards and issue the new ones to those whose status was regularized in the past few years and also to those who already turned over the age of 12 years. There is a delay in the issuance/processing of ID cards as the BORA/MOI is working on new database for refugees, which is funded by UNHCR. UNHCR believes that once the new data base starts working it will make it possible for the MOI to issue the new and renew the old ones.

### **RESETTLEMENT**

Resettlement as a protection tool and a durable solution became attainable for refugees in Thailand in 2005. As repatriation and local integration are not possible, resettlement is the only workable durable solution for refugees in Thailand. A large-scale group resettlement programme to the United States started in BMN camp in 2008 and is still ongoing.

Since 2005 up until now, a total of 2,380 cases/10,098 refugees have departed for resettlement to third countries from Ban Mai Nai Soi camp.

The breakdown of departures according to countries is as below:

The largest share departed to the USA was 2,078 cases/9,001 individuals (out of some 13,000 refugees who showed interest for resettlement to the USA), to Finland 199 cases /708 individuals, to Australia 50 cases/186 individuals, to New Zealand 31 cases/126 individuals, to Sweden 11 cases/49 individuals, to Norway 8 cases/20 individuals, to Canada 2 cases/5 individuals, to Ireland 1 cases /3 individuals.

### **Present situation**

During 2011 first quarter, 125 cases/306 individuals were submitted for resettlement from BMN camp, 135 cases/502 individuals departed to third countries, 144 cases/406 individuals received their acceptance decisions and are in the pipeline for departure and only 2 cases/8 persons were denied by a resettlement country.

The US Group Resettlement Programme (P2 submissions) is ongoing and active in the camp. Besides, FO MHS is submitting a number of P1 submissions to the US mainly under Family reunification and Protection criteria. USA has the largest share of submissions and departures from BMN camp. A number of 122 cases/ 303 individuals were submitted to the US and 88 cases/333 individuals have already departed.

BMN camp has received an Australian mission in 2010. In 2011, FO MHS is receiving the decisions from the embassy for those cases who were interviewed in 2010. So far 28 cases/107 individuals were accepted and 25 cases /100 individuals have already departed.

As for Finland 2010 mission, its decisions were released in 2011 as follows: 35 cases/131 individuals received their acceptance decision and 2 cases/8 persons were denied. During 2011 first quarter, 20 cases/65 individuals have already departed to Finland.

The last mission from New Zealand came to BMN camp in 2007 and most of the cases that were interviewed have already departed. However, decision was pending for a few cases and it was released in 2011. All the pending 6 cases/21 persons were accepted and 1 case /1 individual has already departed.

In June 2011, FO MHS is expecting to receive another New Zealand mission. The planned number to be submitted during this mission is 15-20 cases / 40-50 persons that falls under family reunification criteria, Protection needs, and re-assessed denied cases. Currently, the resettlement unit is preparing for this incoming mission.

There was one case of 3 persons have departed to Canada during 2011 first quarter.

### **Challenges**

Lately, the high withdrawal and no-show rate from BMN camp has been noticed. Accordingly, during April 2011 monthly meeting in Bangkok, the Resettlement officer discussed with RSC and USRAP this issue. RSC/IRC agreed to further discuss the matter with ROTH and FO MHS.

FO MHS has started counselling a number of those refugees who withdrew their cases from US in order to know their opinions and to assess the situation in the camp. Further, a meeting will be held with RSC to share the information and to set a course of action through which we can address this issue. Campaigns will be taking place in the camp to address the resettlement queries among the refugee population. Also, successful experiences and stories of those refugees who travelled to third countries will be disseminated in the camp in their own languages.

The cases accepted by New Zealand in 2011 were planned to travel in March 2011, however because of the fact that the major resettlement locations in New Zealand has been devastated by a second earthquake, New Zealand took the decision to postpone the planned in March intake due to lack of housing availability. The embassy was unable to say when they would be able to bring the refugees to New Zealand but they are hoping to receive some of them by mid-year - probably in smaller intakes than previously planned.

### **Best Interest Determination**

Best Interest Determination for Children is fundamental part of protection and as such in the resettlement process also in BMN camp. During 2011 first quarter, 26 cases were submitted to the Best Interest Determination panel, 25 cases were approved by the panel, 09 cases were deferred for further clarification and counselling. There are 34 cases (from both camps) in the pipeline for the Best Interest Determination process.

**UNHCR FO Mae Hong Son  
29 April 2011**



**Table 1: Details of TBBC's food assistance to refugees per month**

FOOD ITEMS	RICE	SUGAR	BEANS	DRIED CHILLI	COOKING OIL	IODISED SALT	ASIA MIX
ADULT	13.5kg	125 gm	1.2kg	125gm	1.0 liter	500gm	0.5kg
CHILD < 5 years	7kg	250 gm	0.6kg	125gm	500ml	500gm	1kg

**Table 2: Unaccompanied and Separated Children Statistics Overview**

Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR) is UNHCR's implementing partner providing assistance to Unaccompanied and Separated Children in both camps. The below table provides statistics of numbers of cases assisted by COERR in the first quarter of 2011.

	January		February		March	
	BMN	BMS	BMN	BMS	BMN	BMN
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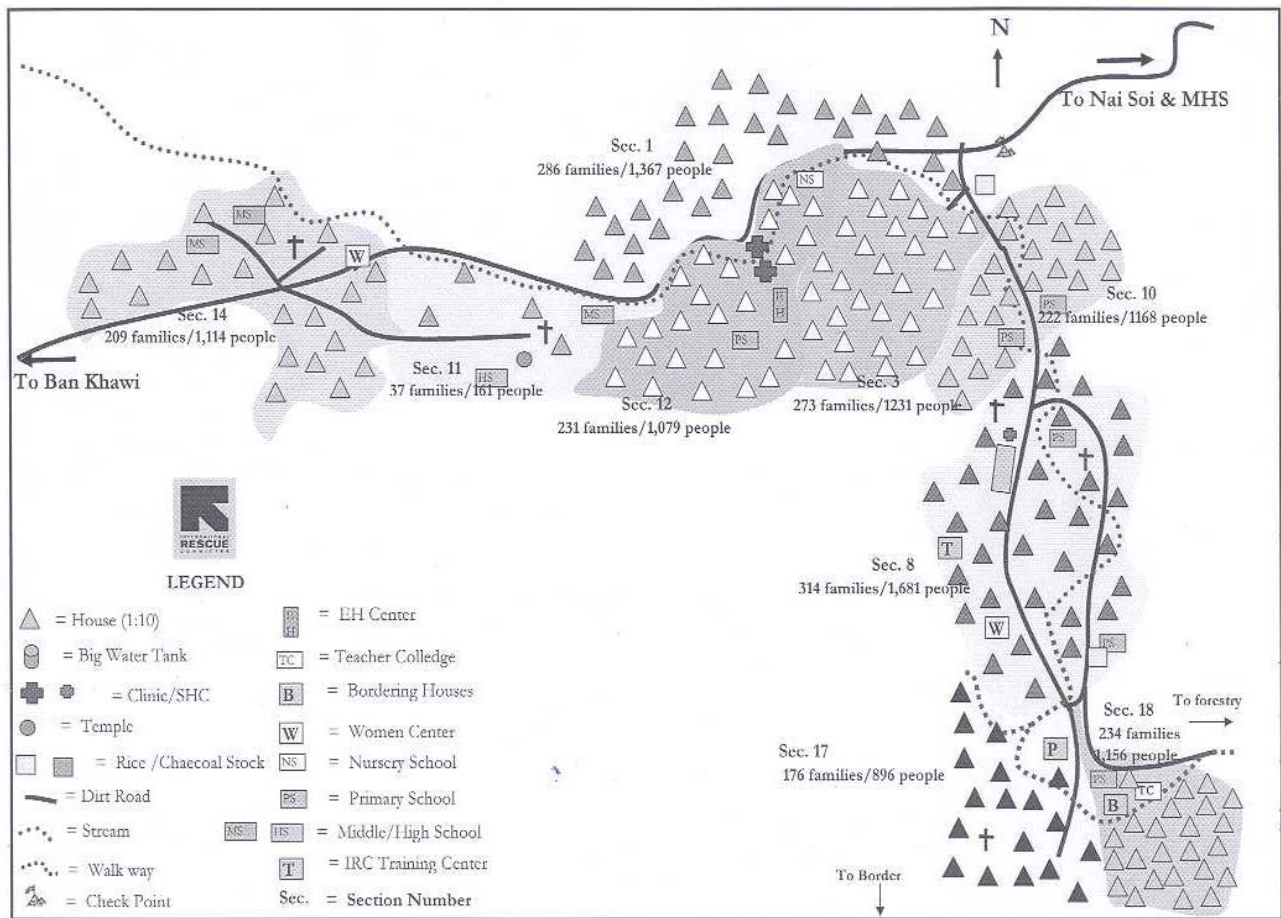
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**Table 3: Numbers of cases in the first quarter of 2011**

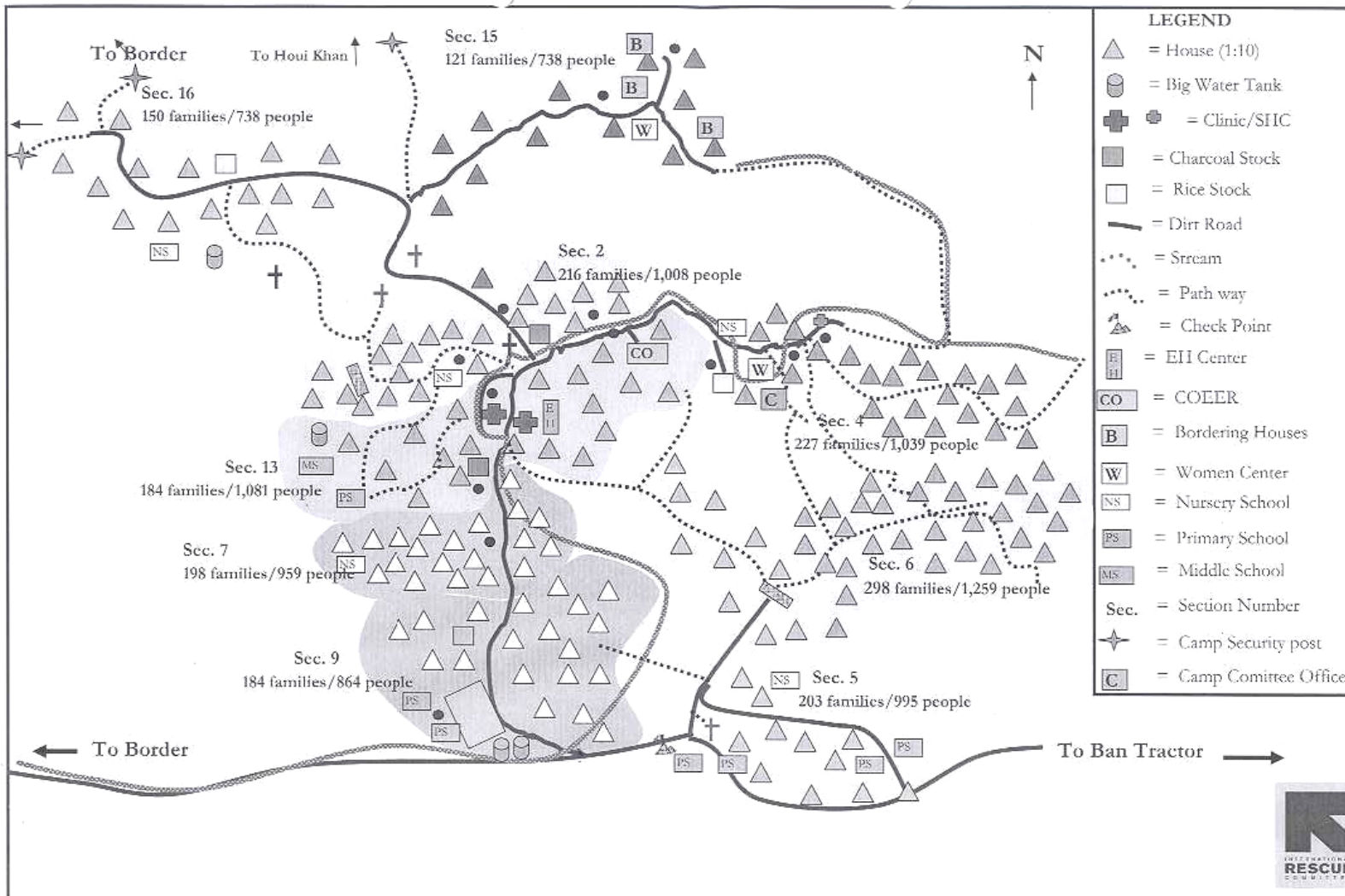
	January		February		March		Total (2011)	
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Special Protection Concern cases	15		15		43		73	

Serious Protection Cases category covers the following: physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse and exploitation. Special Protection Concern category covers: newly arrived children without the MOI registration number, children, who left the camp, sick/ill children, former child soldiers, children exposed to alcohol/drug use at the place of residence, children in whom visible changes in mood are detected. COERR has not provided us with the breakdown by camp for those categories, but they have been alerted on it and amendments in reporting will be made from April 2011.

Map Of Karenni Camp 1 BT



Institutional Capacity Building Program  
IRC Mae Hong Son: Sep 2006



## Ban Mae Surin camp (BMS)

### LOCATION

- Mae Hong Son Province, Khun Yuam District
- Distance from Myanmar border: 8 km
- Distance from closest Thai village: 4 km from Ban Huayfarn Thai Village
- Distance from MHS town: 90 km (approximately 2.5 hrs drive)

### CAMP BACKGROUND

Ban Mae Surin Camp was established in 1992 to accommodate some 150 refugee families who fled fighting from Myanmar. Following the camp consolidation policy of the Royal Thai Government, numbers of Karenni were relocated from former Camp 6 and former Camp 4 to Ban Mae Surin in 1996. The camp population has been increasing due to births and new arrivals. The number of new arrivals is small because the camp is naturally fenced off by a rugged mountainous border, which is difficult for the new arrivals to cross. Currently, the registered camp population stands at 2,122 persons / 604 families and an un-registered population of 1,645 persons / 436 families. Most of the population is from Pasaung and Mawchi townships in Kayah State, and they are mostly farmers.

### SECURITY

The last major security incident reported for the area was in March 2007, when a Thai ranger was killed in the vicinity of this Camp due to a cross-border attack by unidentified armed elements. No other security incidents have been reported since then.

### CAMP POPULATION (REGISTERED POPULATION) as of 22 April 2011

0-5 yrs		6-11 yrs		12+		Total	
F	M	F	M	F	M	persons	families
176	170	126	153	735	762	2122	604

### RELIGIOUS GROUPS

- Baptist: 67%
- Catholic: 18%
- Buddhist: 10%
- Animist: 5%

-

### ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

Karenni sub-groups

- Paku: 54%
- Kayah: 20%
- Manaw: 7%

- Kayan: 5%

- Gay Bah: 5%

- Kayaw: 4%

Non-Karenni groups:



- Pa-O: >1%
- Shan: 2 %
- Mon: >1 %
- Burman: >1 %
- Chin: >1 %

## **THAI AUTHORITIES**

The district chief of Khun Yuam (Ministry of Interior) is in charge of the camp. A deputy district officer is designated as the camp commander who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the camp. The *Or-Sor*, Thai local voluntary forces (all male) are deployed by MOI and look after the law and order in the refugee camp with the assistance of refugee security guards. The army is responsible for security outside the camp.

## **ADMISSION PROCEDURE**

The Provincial Admission Board (PAB) was revived border wide in 2005. Between May 2006 and March 2009, the PAB in Mae Hong Son Province, covering four camps met sixteen times to decide on approximately 14,225 individuals. Through this mechanism, 11,504 persons had their status regularised, and out of which 1,111 were from BMS Camp. The RTG introduced a new admission mechanism as PAB Pre-screening Project commenced on 4 March 2009 to process the un-registered population of new arrivals till that date. However, the PAB pre-screening project has not been implemented in this camp yet as it is waiting for the result of the pre-screening pilot exercise from the four camps namely No Po, Tam Hin, Ban Ton Yang Nupo and Ban Mai Nai Soi in the four refugee hosting provinces.

Trickle of new arrivals/entrants are pouring in the camp on regular basis and according to the camp committee at present there are 1,645 un-registered persons in the camp. So far, the Thai government authorities has not undertaken any registration exercise or processing of these un-registered population for PAB processing as the MOI is waiting for the feedback from the NSC on the result of the Pre-Screening Pilot project that was implemented in only four camps in the four provinces where the refugee camps are located. Please note that all un-registered population receives food rations and other services that are available in the camp through the NGOs but they are without legal status and as such makes them vulnerable and at risk of deportation by the government authorities. UNHCR is closely following up with the MOI and NSC for the screening of all un-registered camp population in the 09 camps under the PAB process mechanism.

## **CO-ORDINATION MECHANISM**

- Regular consultative meetings are held among the District Office of the Ministry of Interior (MOI), local provincial authorities, the refugee community leadership, NGOs, CBOs and UNHCR to discuss and address the issues related to refugees/ POCs.
- Monthly Coordination/Protection Working Group (PWG) meetings are held among NGOs and UNHCR at the provincial level in Mae Hong Son
- A Protection Working Group (PWG), was established in 2008 at the camp level, and its meeting are held on monthly basis. Since April 2010 UNHCR has taken the lead role to head all PWG meetings
- UNHCR also have case management meetings with COERR, IRC/LAC, and IRC/WPE to discuss and follow cases related to child protection, legal and GBV cases which needs to be addressed and resolved. There are number of other meetings that place at camp level in which refugee leadership/CBOs/NGOs and UNHCR participate and coordinate activities/ issues related to those thematic

issues such as Child Protection forum (CPF), Gender Based Violence (GBV), Child Protection Referral System (CPRS) etc.

## REFUGEE STRUCTURES

### Karenni Refugee Committee (KnRC)

KnRC was formed in March 1997 to be the central coordinating body for both internal and external relations in support of refugee assistance and is based near Ban Mai Noi Soi village close to Mae Hong Son town and look after the matters of refugees in the two Karenni camps. The current KnRC has been elected under the Karenni's new election law on 18 December 2010 to a three-year term. The committee took up its assignment in January 2011.

Chairman: Mr. Mann Saw  
Secretary 1: Ms. Naw Htoo Lweh  
Secretary 2: Hsaw Reh

### Camp Committee

The camp is composed of a Camp Committee and four Section Leaders who are elected by the camp population for a three-year term. Sub-committees, which are to handle specific matters such as education and health, are active under the overall supervision of Camp Committee. The current Camp Committee has been elected on 18 December 2010 to a three-year term under Karenni's new election law. The committee took up its assignment in January 2011. Members of the committee are:

Camp Committee: Chairman: Chelly Than  
Secretary 1: Naw Shinning Htoo  
Secretary 2: Hser Nay Moo

## NGOs AND ORGANISATIONS

The following organizations and NGOs provide services in the camp:

- *Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC)*: basic food basket, shelter, and household items
- *International Rescue Committee (IRC)*: medical assistance, health, water and sanitation, income generation, gender-based violence programme, Psycho-social programme and legal assistance centers (co-funded by UNHCR)
- *Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)*: education assistance, vocational training, teachers' training, construction and maintenance of school buildings and teacher stipends
- *Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR)*: environmental management project (financially supported by UNHCR), assistance to extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs), vocational training, peace and reconciliation programme, UNICEF/COERR/UNHCR child protection programme and agriculture project (funded by CARITAS)
- *Women's Education for Advancement and Employment (WEAVE)*: nursery schools and parents' education in partnership with the Karenni Women Organization (KnWO); early childhood development-inclusive education and women study program, women's shelter
- *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*: play an active coordination role with all concerned agencies of the Royal Thai Government, NGOs and other stakeholders to assist refugees, asylum seekers and Persons of Concern to UNHCR and to ensure international protection, work on the gaps in protection assistance activities, work towards durable solutions among which resettlement to third countries is presently used as a protection tool and as a durable solution, co-ordination of various stakeholders. UNHCR also assist the RTG with the registration of asylum seekers and

refugees and to keep working with all stakeholders on other sustainable durable solutions for the refugee situation in Thailand beside the resettlement which is being pursued for last few years. Also intervenes with government relevant agencies to stop Refoulment of refugees/ POCs when it is observed by UNHCR or reported to UNHCR.

- *International Organisation for Migration (IOM)*: medical screening, cultural orientation and departure formalities for resettlement.

## **PROTECTION COUNSELLING**

UNHCR's Protection team holds regular, weekly protection counselling sessions in both camps, BMN and BMS. The sessions are held in BMS every Monday. The main objective of this activity is to enable the community to understand the issues with which they can seek assistance from the UNHCR's Protection team. The preparation and awareness raising included meetings with NGOs, CBOs, Camp Committees and individuals in each section as well as putting up the posters in relevant languages and the loudspeakers announcements.

Relatively small numbers approaching UNHCR for protection counselling on the drop-in basis, but appointments are given to vulnerable individuals according to their Progress status. For those cases both the interim advice and linkage with relevant services in the camp as well as long term solutions advice is given. It does not mean that refugees/ POCs can not approach UNHCR staff on other days, they do approach and can contact UNHCR staff on any other day of the week when they are visiting the camp for monitoring of other activities.

## **FOOD AND DOMESTIC ITEMS**

TBBC provides food items and other household supplies through KnRC and the Camp Committee. The detailed breakdown of food supplies is reflected in Table 1 at the end of this camp profile. TBBC also assist the camp committee by providing capacity building trainings in governance/leadership etc related to camp management.

## **HEALTH**

IRC provides a comprehensive primary health care programme, covering both preventive and curative care in two main clinics and two satellite health centres. Routine immunisation services are provided to all children under age five and all pregnant women receive regular check-ups. Reproductive health services cover antenatal and post-natal services as well as family planning. A supplementary feeding programme is offered to malnourished children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Karenni Health Department (KnHD) refugee staff provides health services in the camp, including in-patient and out-patient departments, Reproductive and Child Health (RCH), Community Health (ComH), Health Information System (HIS), Pharmacy and Lab. IRC provides technical and material support to the KnHD, using a capacity building approach. Emergency cases are referred to a Thai hospital in Mae Hong Son.

## **WATER AND SANITATION**

IRC is in charge of water and sanitation in the camp. More than 60 litres of water are provided per person/day. (Sphere guidelines suggest 40-60 litres/person/day). Camp water outlets are located very close to the refugee houses and are easily accessible. Water is supplied through a surface gravity flow system as well as some wells.

Sanitation workers are trained to assess needs to build latrines, make arrangements for waste disposal and develop water sources. 96% of pour-flush style latrines are

provided using cement moulds made in camp by the camp community. Waste management however remains a challenge in the camp given the overcrowding and limited space available.

## **EDUCATION**

JRS implements an education program with an objective to support the Karenni Education Department (KnED) at all levels of management to ensure that their educational system is effective, sustainable and inclusive. JRS partners with the KnED in the following sectors:

- Primary and Secondary Education – support is provided with curriculum development, parental involvement (PTAs), school and teacher monitoring, life skills education (vocational and adolescent education) and extra curricula activities.
- Special Education - programming is provided both within the schools and at special education centres for students where inclusive education is not yet possible. Parents and children come to the centres for educational activities, information and support, including classes for blind and deaf. Special education assistants also make regular visits to home-bound children.
- Home School Liaison Program - helps connect school and family, prevent student drop-out and monitor vulnerable student populations. The HSLP also conducts parent education workshops and research on educational issues.
- Teacher Training - the Karenni Teacher Training Center provides much needed training in teaching methodology and technique. Once graduates complete the year long course (which included practice teaching) they return to camp schools to apply what has been learned.
- Management – JRS supports KnED in capacity development, policy development, upkeep of school buildings, teacher stipends as well as distribution of teaching aids and other education resources.

WEAVE supports development efforts of women's organizations as women become socially, economically and politically empowered and self-reliant, enabling them to participate fully in their communities and political life. WEAVE and KNWO partner in two projects: Early Childhood Development-Inclusive Education (ECD-IE) and the Safe House as part of the Community Outreach of the Women Study Program.

Through the ECD-IE Project, WEAVE supports 4 nursery schools with about 360 children, 1 nursery school coordinator, 2 teacher trainers, 4 parents' educators, 18 teachers, 4 cooks and 4 baby sitters. WEAVE and KnWO work with parents in promoting the positive development of children.

The objective of the Safe House Project is to protect abused women and children and provide education and vocational training while they are in the care of the temporary shelter. KnWO staff manages the project. The Safe House provides the following services under strict confidentiality guidelines:

- A safe place to stay.
- Basic necessities such as candles, food, blanket, soap, etc.
- Support to the victim or abused person/s by accompanying them and giving guidance when there is settlement or court case and or whenever it is necessary.
- Counselling to victims
- Education on non-formal activities such as sewing, hairdressing, and alternative livelihoods. Link with vocational schools, conducting training and education on gender, health, VAWC (Violence Against Women and Children).
- A programme on prevention, educating parents and the community through Gender Sensitivity Trainings / VAWC, family dialogue.



- The safe house staff and capacity building trainers give special attention to young women with particular concerns, e.g. forced marriages, and to other community members.

## **LEGAL ASSISTANCE**

With the financial support of UNHCR, IRC implements a project aimed at promoting the rule of law and access to justice for refugees in the camp. LAC has established its center in this camp and is regularly present there. The project was formally allowed to operate in August 2007. LAC's activities include a) building the capacity of existing traditional justice systems in the camp; b) building legal awareness among camp residents, leaders and community-based organisations (CBOs); c) acting as a resource for refugees seeking legal counsel and d) establishing a referral system for refugees with serious protection concerns including prosecuting serious cases.

Having no standing Camp Justice, this camp has traditionally addressed legal and social matters arising from the community through an ad-hoc panel consisting of the chairperson and the deputy chairperson of the Camp Committee, the head of Camp Refugee Security, and some other camp elders. When the problem cannot be resolved, it is referred to the Camp Justice in Ban Mai Nai Soi camp.

Lack of awareness and resentment of "external interference" among refugees remain a challenge. Nevertheless, since LAC established its regular presence in the camp, though gradually, a positive change has been observed among refugees (e.g., increased number of reporting of incidents, increased awareness of their legal rights).

## **SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)**

This camp is the only camp in Mae Hong Son province where SGBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are yet to be signed by representatives of the refugee community, NGOs and UNHCR after a consultative process. The SOPs serve as a protection tool to prevent and respond to SGBV in the camp in a coherent and co-ordinated manner. On a positive note, the Co-ordination Working Group (CWG) on SGBV SOPs was resumed by IRC after a long suspension. Seven meetings were organised to develop SOPs since the end of 2006.

IRC's Woman and Empowerment Programme (WPE) take the lead in SGBV-related work in the camp. Its activities focus on providing technical support and capacity building training to camp staff on GBV response and prevention, developing referral connections for survivors with the regional hospital and establishing a women's safe shelter for GBV survivors in the camps. In collaboration with IRC's LAC project, the WPE project has established confidential processes for providing timely legal representation to survivors and for meeting their other protection needs.

In co-operation with IRC's GBV programme and other relevant actors, variety of activities are carried out in an effort to prevent SGBV and to provide various services (legal counselling, medical help, psycho-social support).

KnWO opened a safe house with the support of WEAVE in March 2007, providing a temporary safe environment for survivors of SGBV while solutions are explored.

## **VULNERABLE GROUPS**

- COERR has an Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs) project with a social worker and several refugee Community Services Workers assigned to the camp. The

elderly and people with disabilities or special needs are under the scope of this programme. COERR offers various community-based self-help initiatives such as organic agriculture, candle and soap making, traditional weaving and a sewing centre to develop their potential livelihood skills. Under a separate programme funded by UNHCR, COERR's social workers regularly monitor the situation of separated children in the boarding houses and under foster care. COERR also implements a agriculture project that is funded by CARITAS and assist a number of families.

- The child protection referral system was initiated in collaboration with COERR and UNICEF in 2006. It describes to all people living and working in the refugee camps what steps to take when they encounter a serious child protection case (in particular those involving sexual abuse, physical abuse, exploitation and neglect).
- UNHCR visits the prison in Mae Hong Son or the child observation centre in Mae Hong Son to monitor detention conditions when refugees are detained.
- In co-operation with the Khun Yuam District Office, UNHCR undertakes updates of registration in the camp on a monthly basis in an effort to maintain accurate statistics of registered refugees (by registering newborns, death and marriage, for example). The Khun Yuam District Office began to issue Birth Certificate for refugee babies born by registered parents, registered father or mother since November 2010.
- Once a year, UNHCR distributes sanitary napkins and underwear to all registered refugee women and a limited number of extremely vulnerable unregistered women in reproductive age (13-49), with the assistance of the Karenni Women Organisation (KnWO). In 2010, 969 sets of sanitary kits were distributed in the camp.

## **RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT**

Refugees do not have freedom of movement to go out of the camp without prior permission from the district authorities. According to Thai regulations, refugees face deportation if found outside the camp without a permit, though this rule is selectively applied. In practice, many refugees move out in search of employment to gain income to supplement assistance provided in the camp.

In April 2007, the Royal Thai Government began issuing identification cards to all registered refugees over age 12, free of charge, with financial support of UNHCR. It is supposed to improve their protection against possible deportation if found outside the camp. UNHCR believes that the ID card is a significant step in the on-going efforts to expand rights of refugees. The refugee ID cards got expired as of 31 December 2009 but UNHCR is following up with the Ministry of Interior to renew the old cards and issue the new ones to those whose status was regularized in the past few years and also to those who already turned over the age of 12 years. There is delay in the issuance/processing of ID cards as the BORA/MOI is working on new data base for refugees, which is funded by UNHCR. UNHCR believes that once the new data base starts working it will make it possible for the MOI to issue the new and renew the old ones.

## **RESETTLEMENT**

Resettlement as a protection tool and a durable solution became attainable for refugees in Thailand in 2005. As repatriation and local integration are not possible, resettlement is the only workable durable solution for refugees in Thailand.

Since 2005 up until now, a total of 295 cases/ 899 refugees have departed for resettlement to third countries from Ban Mae Surin camp. The breakdown of departures according to countries is as below:

To Australia 274 cases /862 individuals, to US 6 cases /13 individuals, to Canada 6 cases /10 individuals, to Finland 4 cases /6 individuals, to Norway 4 cases /4 individuals and to Sweden 1 case /4 individuals.

### **Present situation**

During 2011 first quarter, 11 cases/17 individuals were submitted for resettlement from Ban Mae Surin camp, 15 cases/45 individuals have departed to third countries, and 20 cases/78 individuals received their acceptance decisions and are in the pipeline for departure.

The US Group Resettlement Programme at Ban Mae Surin Camp is ongoing in the camp since November 2009. Also, FO MHS is submitting a number of P1 submissions to the US mainly under Family reunification and Protection criteria. US share from the camp resettlement submissions is 9 cases /15 individuals. No departures to US directly from the camp yet but it is planned that starting from May 2011 BMS cases for the USA will be processed by DHS at KY District Office premises where RPC has established its place for such processing and eventually the cases will depart directly from BMS camp instead of the previous practice of moving all such families to BMN camp for DHS interviews and before their departure for the USA.

The camp has received a mission from Australian in 2010. In 2011, FO Mae Hong Son is receiving the decisions from the embassy for those cases who were interviewed earlier. So far 20 cases/78 individuals received their acceptance decisions and 14 cases /44 individuals have already departed.

As for Finland 2010 mission, its decisions were released in 2011 as follows: 35 cases/131 individuals were accepted and 2 cases/8 persons were denied. So far 20 cases/65 individuals have already departed to Finland.

There was one case of 1 person who has departed to Canada during 2011 first quarter.

### **Challenges**

The US Group Resettlement Programme at the camp has started in November 2009. Since 2009 until recently the process was that refugees from Ban Mae Surin camp were transferred to Ban Mai Nai Soi Camp to be processed for US resettlement (RCS pre-screening and DHS interviews) and stay there until they depart to US.

In February 2011, a meeting was held with US Embassy / UNHCR/ IOM/ IRC/ RCS (formerly OPE) and it was agreed among all parties that the movement of refugees from Ban Mae Surin camp to Ban Mai Nai Soi camp for resettlement process to the US program will not be in practice anymore. The process has changed that that RCS/IRC would pre-screen the applicants inside the camp and then the refugees would be transferred to the District Office, Khun Yuam for the DHS interviews. This would not only facilitate the processing but would also increase the interest of refugees to opt for resettlement to the US. Last month, RCS/IRC already conducted the pre-screening interviews in the camp and DHS are expected to interview the pre-screened families as planned.

Although the anticipation was that the interest would increase for US group submission among the refugee population in Ban Mae Surin Camp after the change in process, the submission numbers did not increase. In order to address this issue, the Resettlement officer in Bangkok has raised it during April monthly meeting with USRAP and RSC/IRC. They explained that they are not eager to see an increase in expressions of interest from Ban Mae Surin camp until they have worked out the logistics of processing. They are content to let word spread naturally rather than publicly inform the refugees that they no longer have to be moved to Ban Mai Nai Soi camp. The Regional Security Officer will assess the interview site on May 2nd to determine whether it is safe for DHS. Accordingly, FO MHS will follow up with the Resettlement officer and RCS/IRC the result of the security assessment and the progress of the DHS preparations in order to determine the future course of action.

### **Best Interest Determination**

Best Interest Determination for Children is fundamental part of protection activities and as such in the resettlement process also in Ban Mae Surin camp. During 2011 first quarter, 5 cases were submitted to the Best Interest Determination panel, 10 cases were approved for the panel, one case was not approved and another case was deferred. There are 34 cases (from both camps) are in the pipeline for the Best Interest Determination process.

**UNHCR Mae Hong Son  
29 April 2011**

**Table 1: Details of TBBC's food assistance to refugees (per month)**

FOOD ITEMS	RICE	SUGAR	BEANS	FISH PASTE	DRIED CHILLI	COOKING OIL	IODISED SALT	ASIA MIX
---------------	------	-------	-------	---------------	-----------------	----------------	-----------------	-------------



ADULT	15kg	125g	1kg	750gm	40gm	1 liter	330gm	0.5kg
CHILD < 5 years	7.5kg	250g	0.5kg	750gm	40gm	500ml	330gm	1kg

**Table 2: Unaccompanied and Separated Children Statistics Overview**

Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR) is UNHCR's implementing partner providing assistance to Unaccompanied and Separated Children in both camps. The below table provides statistics of numbers of cases assisted by COERR in the first quarter of 2011.

	January		February		March	
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<b>Existing Cases</b>	415	257	411	259	409	260
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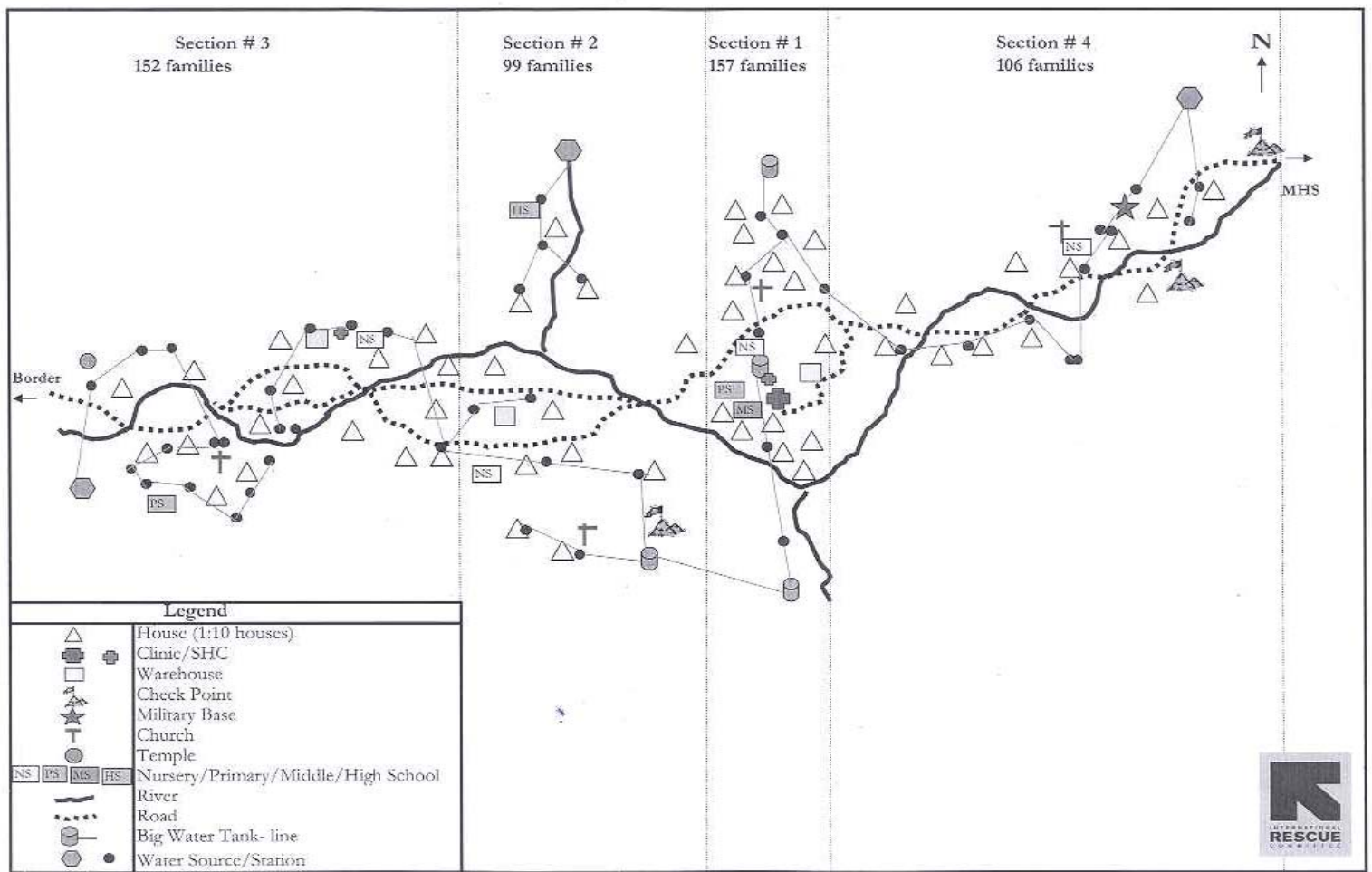
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Map of Karenni Camp #2



Institutional Capacity Building Program  
IRC-Mae Hong Son : Sep 2006