



**KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE**

**NEWSLETTER**

**&**

**MONTHLY REPORT**

**MARCH, 2009**

**Karen Refugee Committee**  
**Newsletter & Monthly Report**  
**March, 2009**

We could say that this month is an eventful month with much development occurring in the camps along the border. Over the period of 20 years the monthly CCSDPT meeting was held for the first time ever at the Mae La camp of the Burma Thailand border. Being the meeting for the first time of its kind arrangements had not gone as smoothly as expected but we ended the meeting satisfactorily with prestige. We are hopeful to have such kind of meeting again in the future.

The new arrivals behind the year 2005 had to under go prescreening process as directed by the Thai Government was good for the new arrivals which would bring them first hand knowledge of their fate in the camp. Out of the seven camps under the care of KRC, only Tham Hin and No Po camps had been undertaken so far.

We CBO which include KRC, KWO was invited to participate in EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) The meeting was arranged by TBBC and donors of the TBBC. At this meeting the KRC had the opportunity to put up the challenges it had to face.

Three challenges were submitted:

Continuous influx of ethnic nationalities other than the Karens into the camps had caused much complicated problems.

Though we have the opportunity to manage our own camps, we do not have enough capable staff. Perhaps resettlement programme is one of the causes but we have nothing against resettlement programme. Still it is rather difficult for us to find suitable replacements.

Inadequacy of food and non-food items for new arrivals is one of the big challenges for the KRC. Most of the poor new arrivals are looking up to KRC for assistant because they think KRC has the resource to feed them.

At the meeting of the EGM, donors of the TBBC raised question regarding the situation of the camps especially camp people going outside of the camps to work resulting in causing damage to the forest and relationship with the government and people of the country.

Concerning the question:

There are two categories of people in this case, category (1) to get extra money, category (2) new arrivals who do not receive ration have to go out and find work to buy food for themselves. They know that if they leave the camp they violate the rule of the camp. Since they have no option they have to take a risk.

Usually those who went to work outside were engaged in the job of deforestation. They were hired by Thai timber merchants who were involved in illegal logging and when they

were caught they were the ones who took the blame. Since the camps are not closed camps it is not possible to restrict them, the only thing we can do is to caution them.

The relationship with Thai authorities and the surrounding Thai villagers has no problem. We have understanding with each other well. The Thai authorities understand the predicament of our camp leaders well and are quite sympathetic. If we have any extra out what we receive, we barter with the neighboring villagers to improve relationship and sometimes our camp people join the villagers in clearing the streams (as our people live in the upper part or the stream) for making a healthy environment.

Now we are not able to foretell what change will take place in the political situation of Burma, though there are all kinds of rumour going around causing much anxiety to the people in the camps. Nevertheless we the KRC will stand firm in our dedication to care for the people in the (7) camps to the best of our ability working hand in hand with state governments, agencies and organizations around the world and with NGOs as we are doing now.

## **K.R.C – Activities – Report. March– 2009**

- 3/3/2009 - KRC went to Umphiem camp for meeting with health workers and encouraged them to give the best of themselves in their work and informed them of the current situation of the camps.
- 4/03/2009 – KRC, TBBC with camp committee, camp zone committee and camp section leaders had a meeting at Mae La camp and discussed the regulation concerning new arrivals how to distinguish those to issue and those not to issue ration.
- 6/03/2009 – KRC, KED and ZOA had a meeting and discussed the improvement of the new education system in the camps.
- 9/03/2009 – KRC, CMSP+ TBBC went to Mae La Oo and Mae Ra Moe for having a meeting with camp committee of both camps and had a discussion about implementation of code of conduct and job description.
- 9/03/2009 – KRC, TBBC had a meeting with Umphiem camp committee and section committee and discussed the regulation concerning new arrivals how to distinguish those to issue and those not to issue ration.

- 10/03/2009 – KRC, TBBC with camp committee, section committee of Noe Po camp had a meeting and discussed the heading of specification of ration for new arrivals.
- 13/03/2009 – KRC, LAC and CC had a meeting and discussed law reform and code of conduct at Mae La camp.
- 20/03/2009 – KRC, TBBC and representatives of Mae Tao clinic had a meeting at Mae Tao clinic office and discussed food for boarding students.
- 20/03/2009 – KRC went for touring to Mae La camp and together with camp committee, zone committee and CBOs for checking registered of camp people and ration books..
- 25/03/2008 – Pophra township officer summoned KRC, Umphiem camp committee and had discussion on:-
  - (1). Umphiem camp people leaving the camp for cutting bamboos and trees.
  - (2). Camp people must leave the camp with permission from camp commander.
  - (3). Setting up of security (camp personnel + Or sor) for checking people leaving and entering the camp.
  - (4). Those who are found outside the camp shall be interrogated according to the camp regulation of leaving and entering the camp; Those who are found guilty, shall have to face penalty and after which they shall be removed from the camp.

## NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS March, 2009.

MAE SOT AREA	CAMP	No. of Families	Over – 12 Yrs		6 – 12 Yrs		Under 5 Yrs		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
	Mae La	7,821	12,055	12,451	3,639	3,419	2,340	2,196	36,100
	UmPhiem Mai	4,328	6,134	5,959	1,533	1,397	1,685	1,552	18,260
		<b>12,149</b>	<b>18,189</b>	<b>18,410</b>	<b>5,172</b>	<b>4,816</b>	<b>4,025</b>	<b>3,748</b>	<b>54,360</b>
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2,912	5,746	5,599	1,827	1,638	1,219	1,285	17,314
	Mae La Oo	2,846	5,517	5,422	1,600	1,543	1,069	1,005	16,156
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,758</b>	<b>11,263</b>	<b>11,021</b>	<b>3,427</b>	<b>3,181</b>	<b>2,288</b>	<b>2,290</b>	<b>33,470</b>
SOUTH	Noh Poe	4,657	6,137	5,465	1,424	1,533	1,225	1,176	16,960
	Ban Dong Yang	837	1,516	1,569	361	346	334	331	4,457
	Htam Him	409	720	551	151	141	95	117	1,775
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,903</b>	<b>8,373</b>	<b>7,585</b>	<b>1,936</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>1,654</b>	<b>1,624</b>	<b>23,192</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>23,810</b>	<b>37,825</b>	<b>37,016</b>	<b>10,535</b>	<b>10,017</b>	<b>7,967</b>	<b>7,662</b>	<b>111,022</b>

We shall always be grateful to the Thai people and Government for their sympathy and understanding in allowing us safe refuge. We are also indebted to the NGOs for their Supports and Services.

**TBBC** – Support in Food and Shelter Material. TBBC is also supporting with warm clothing for all the camps. TBBC is Supporting with Camps Management program to help with Administration, Management Stability improvements in all (7) Camps.

**TBBC** - Has been providing **KRC** with administrative & organizational Support. It has also supported with remuneration for **KRC** members and workers.

**MSF** – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

**AMI** – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

**ARC** – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

**M.I (Malteser International) formerly MHD** – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

**ZOA (ABW aid)** – Support in Educational facilities Teachers' Training.

**World Education / Consortium** – Support in Educational facilities, Teachers' Training and Education for Deaf / Mute / Blinds.

**TOPS** – Support in Educational facilities Nurseries.

**ICS – Asia** – Support in Educational facilities, Teaching, Learning Aid.

**COERR** – Rice and Educational support. **EVI** – To be involved with Extremely Vulnerable people, care and support.

**H.I** – Support for Refugee Handicaps with Prosthesis and rehabilitation and also year – end sporting events for Handicaps.

**UNHCR** – For Registration Process Protection and Ultimate Safe Repatriation. Now helping with Resettlement.

**SMRU** – Support with Malaria Control, Prevention and Treatment.


**SVA** – To support with Libraries in the camps.

**PPAT** – Parenthood Planning Association Thailand – Supporting with Family Planning and Preventive/ Education in Refugee Camps.

**SOLIDARITES** – Support the Burmese refugees in the camp addressing sanitation issues.

**Address:** P.O Box- 5, Mae Sot, Tak-63110, Thailand.

**E- Mail:** krc.academic@gmail.com.

 (055) Intl: +66 55 532 947.

**Fax:** (055) Intl: +66 55 546 869

**Mobile:** +66 878 498250