



KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

&

MONTHLY REPORT

JULY, 2009

Karen Refugee Committee
Newsletter & Monthly Report
July, 2009

For some people the month of July brings joy and celebration but for some other a month of sadness and mourning. The Americans celebrate the American Independence Day on the 4th of July with joy and gladness whereas the people of Burma commemorate the Martyr's day the death of General Aung San who was assassinated on the 19th of July 1946. On top of that General Aung San daughter's Aung San Su Kyi at the moment is a political prisoner and standing trial under false allegation. And this is life for the people living in a country under the rule of military dictatorship. So now what about the future of the over one hundred thousand refugee living in the Thailand-Burma border.

At this moment under extreme weather of wind and rain, over one hundred thousand refugee have gone through half of the year 2009. Outside of the 7 recognized camps over 3000 war victims are moving in under the bad weather of wind and rain to find refuge in Thailand. Currently they are denied proper secure shelter as the Thai authorities specified them as temporary shelter seekers. They could leave anytime they wish to do so without any objection. With the permission of Thai authorities the NGO could extend help for them. It seems that the victims dare not return to their land because of a large number of land mines are laid there.

Heavy rain in July caused much illness in the camps. Flue, malaria, cough and cold making the camp dispensary crowded with sick people. The number of doctors and nurses are not proportionate to the number of sick people. In spite of all this we are lucky not to have H1 N1 case.

In this month of July we would like to highlight to a certain extent our camp administration role. In our living system we cannot do without administration. If we look at the administration in the Karen refugee camps it seem we have the privilege of self administration. Every refugee camps in Thailand is under the Thai interior ministry and each camp is under the authority of Assistant township officer as camp commander. But almost all of the administration work is carried out by the 15 camp administration committee. The 15 camp administration committee are representation elected by vote of the people in the camp .After careful study and assessment by the TBBC and KRC for 2 years regarding the budget for camp administration work and from the year 2004 through the arrangement of CMSP funding was received .Allocation of the funding is (1) camp administration expenses (2) Stipend for all workers involved in the administration work.(3) Extra Need and all three categories are included in one year budget. The KRC funding was formerly supported by NCA. But from 2007 the TBBC took over the support regarding camp administration. The KRC take responsible in supervising camp committee, setting up camp rule and regulation and make a guideline for camp committee election. For the implementation of the camp administration the KRC has to work closely with Thai authorities concerned(civil, security and military officials) the international social organizations(UNHCR,IRC,ICRC)and non political organization .In fact we need administration scholars in administration work, qualified persons, people with experience and those who have training but in the camps it is difficult to come by

such people. Under the KRC management we have some who are able and some with camp committee with commitment have been organized and elected and carried out administration work through numerous obstacles for over 30 years.

For the moment we are facing a problem that is weakening our administration potential. The majority of our able and educated young people are swept away by the Third country program. This affect our education, health administration and camp administration to some extent .This is not intended to blame resettlement program.

On the other hand though we are privileged to carry out administration duty but we are not able to bring about freely the right to lay down ultimate camp rule and regulation. To conduct the administration task between international law, Thai law and traditional law is not an easy job. If you look at the situation of the camps it is not like the international refugee camp but more like a temporary dwelling site. So to implement a clear cut administration work is not possible. In the year 2005 the Thai government has laid down the policy that no more new arrivals will be accepted in the recognized refugee camps and now in 2009 new arrivals number exceeds over ten thousand so how are we to manage this effectively. To censor for acceptance the new arrivals with numerous background history is not an easy matter and hope people outside will understand our predicament. Nevertheless we need to applaud the Thai government for not forcing the over thousand of refugee back.

Going through many difficulties since 1975,KRC and the camp committee working together with the authority concerned and International organizations has performed administration duty up to this day and as the future is opposite of the past the KRC and the camp committee can only wait and see what the future will bring.

K.R.C – Activities – Report. July– 2009

- 2/7/09 – KRC with the collaboration of TBBC delivered needed materials for the people who fled Burma and newly arrived at Mae Oo Su, Tak Song Yang area.
- 2/7/09 – KRC and TBBC jointly call on 200 villagers who fled their home and have arrived at Ma Oo Su Tak Song Yang area.
- 6/7/09 – Mae La Camp Commander organized a meeting which participants invited involve KRC, camp committee, Zone leaders, and section leaders and the issues discussed were: -
 - (1) Mobile phone used in the camp,
 - (2) Registration of Motor cycle used in camp,
 - (3) Human Trafficking,
 - (4) Drug and
 - (5) Avoiding Deforestation.

- 7/7/09 – International Rotary representatives from 10 countries call on KRC and camp committee in Mae La camp. The topic discussed during the meeting was “Peace and conflict study” it was their Third trip to the camp.
- 10/7/09 – KRC and CMSP held a quarterly meeting which involved representatives from Mae La Oon, Mae La Mat Luang, Mae La, Umphiem and Nu Po, camps at KRC’s office and the Topic cover during this meeting were:- Camp committee structure, Job description, stipend and future activities.
- 17/7/09 – KRC dispatch Two representatives to Nu Po camp to reconcile better understanding between laboratory staff and AMI.
- 22/7/09 – KRC representative attended MOI and NGO collaborating meeting in Mae La.
- 21-24/7/09 – KRC’s social welfare coordinator, TBBC-Mae Sariang, camp committee and CMSP staff in camp interview 55- new staff who are applying for the “Section Monitoring and Distribution officer” positions in Mae La Mat Luang and Mae La Oon camp.
- 24/7/09 – KRC, camp committee and LAC had a meeting in Mae la camp and discussed on the construction of a custody in the camp.
- 27/7/09 – KRC, LAC and camp responsible person had a meeting and renew the rules and regulation applying in the camps.
- 28/7/09 – KRC and ZOA had a cooperative meeting at KRC’s office in Mae Sot and ZOA shared the informations that:
 - The “Facing over of ZOA in term of education will not take place over night, but gradually and slowly.
 - Vocational Training (VT) in the camps will be a joint afford with Thai Vocational Training, that may have a definite record, and twenty persons will be selected among camp resident to be trained by Thai VT for Trainers in the camps.
 - ADRA is interesting in Taking over of the VT programme.
- 29/7/09 – KRC and Nu Po camp committee had a second time, the meeting to resolve the complication between AMI and health staff, existing in Nu Po camp.
- 31/7/09 – KRC representatives attended a meeting organized by MOI and representative of the US government in related to resettlement programme.
- 31/7/09 – KRC and CMSP responsible person interview new staff who are applying for CMSP vacant positions at central level, Mae Sot.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS July, 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	9,069	14,134	13,718	4,391	4,104	2,670	2,445	41,462
	UmPhiem Mai	3,857	4,782	4,551	1,412	1,364	933	992	14,034
Total		12,926	18,916	18,269	5,803	5,468	3,603	3,437	55,496
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2,973	6005	6,010	1,964	1,756	1,216	1,202	18,153
	Mae La Oo	2,884	5,624	5,347	1,618	1,513	1,166	1,089	16,357
Total		5,857	11,629	11,357	3,582	3,269	2,382	2,291	34,510
SOUTH	Noh Poe	4,649	6,209	5,707	1,423	1,398	1,258	1,234	17,229
	Ban Dong Yang	816	1,547	1,592	373	348	342	356	4,558
	Htam Him	1,807	2,585	2,551	727	657	631	581	7,732
Total		7,272	10,341	9,850	2,523	2,403	2,231	2,171	29,519
Grand Total		26,055	40,886	39,476	11,908	11,140	8,216	7,899	119,525

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 and 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 – Support in Educational facilities and 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 – 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.

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