



KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

&

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST, 2009

Karen Refugee Committee
Newsletter & Monthly Report
August, 2009

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In the month of August the people in Thailand celebrate their Queen's 77th birthday on the 12th of August 2009 and on the same day the Karen people commemorate their martyr's day. It is like the gladness, sadness on the same day. Hopefully American senator Jim Webb's visit to Burma meeting with the SPDC's top brass in an amicable fashion might bring some change to the Burmese political affairs. Coming to the Thai governments attitude are the Karen refugees as temporary shelter seekers, after 1995 with the permission of the Thai government our Karen war victims of over one hundred thousand were recognized by the UNHCR as refugee and the preparation for resettlement to Third country had begun. However as the Military is still in power and the political struggle and the ethnic armed movement is still going on there is no hope for the people who wish to return to their homeland .Moreover, over two months ago about 3,000 war victims had arrived along the border of Tak province. Though they could return to their homeland on their own free will they dare not go back because of uncertain situation. The Thai authorities did not force them to go but allow them to stay on humanitarian ground. But to arrange location site for them to settle down is not an easy task. Thai administrative authorities agreed for them to settle down temporarily in one place in Mae la Refugee camp. On the other hand Mae la camp is over crowded and except but there is no other place to choose.

In one way we are thankful for the resettlement program giving some of our people the opportunity to go abroad and start up a new life but at the same time it causes a brain drain problem for our seven camps as most of our educated people choose to leave. The administration of the camp is not manage by the host country, the UNHCR nor the NGOs but we have to manage it by ourselves and as most of our eligible people have left for third country we are left in a difficult state.

The KRC in order to fill up vacant position with qualified staff is giving capacity building training to the staff has organized. Though some of them are educationally not up to the standard, we got to make use of them the best we can. The NGOs are also have given the needed training to new health and education workers. To use the new trainees we have another problem which is language barrier, for most of the camp people are Karen and for them to communicate with people who do not speak Karen is a problem.

The KRC maintain the neutral policy regarding resettlement program. It does not object nor encourage those who wish to leave for third country and leave the choice to the individual concerned. The KRC was not invited to participate in making resettlement program to third country. For if the arrangement does not run smoothly or problems arising from the refugees arriving in third country the KRC could do nothing. Those are the problems of IOM+UNHCR+MOI and the host countries to solve.

The eyes and the ears of the whole world are tuned on the forth coming 2010 Myanmar general election. The people in the camps have no opportunity to vote and detained political prisoners are still under custody. Under the circumstance can this election be carried out in a free and fair way?. The people over the world are wondering what the American senator Jim Webb's meeting with the SPDC chief and his henchman will bring about. If the country is

governed by a true democratic government which will bring peace and prosperity to the country and give the people a secure life, the people will dare return to their homeland.

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

- 4/8/09 – The representative of Karen Refugee committee met with Mae La camp committee for updating the section population figure.
- 7/8/09 – The representative of KRC attended a collaborating meeting which participants involve LAC, Mae La camp committee, CBOs and discussed on custody rules and regulations in Mae La camp.
- 7/8/09 – KRC – EE Vocational Committee held a meeting at KRC's office in Mae Sod, review on activities in the past and discussed the future activities.
- 11-13/8/09 – Representative of the Karen Refugee Committee met with camp committee, section leaders in Htam Hin, Ban Don Yan Camps. The information shared were: -
 - (1) To improve and update population figure.
 - (2) Clarification of responsibilities and activities done.
 - (3) Difficulties in the past and approach that would be best use in future.
 - (4) More information on current situation, and
 - (5) The current TBBC support situation of Nursery schools in the 2 camps.
- 11-13/8/09 – KRC responsible person call on KRC- Ratchburi and Sangklaburi office staff, briefing on financial management, office work and monthly report.
- 18/8/09 – KRC, LAC and camp committee held a joint meeting for discussion on replenish of camp regulation in Mae La camp.
- 21/8/09 – KRC and TBBC held a meeting at TBBC office and discussed on building materials distribution for the future.
- 24/8/09 – KRC representative attended the detention centre training opening ceremony in Mae La camp.
- 25/8/09 – KRC and TBBC's volunteer held discussion on capacity building which would be done for sections in the camp, at KRC office in Mae Sod.
- 25/8/09 – KRC and LAC representative Mr. Shane held discussion on confirmation of rule and regulation in the camp, and continuation of further action required.

- 26/8/09 – KRC chair person attended monthly information sharing meeting organized by MOI which participants involve NGOs, CBOs, camp committee and section representatives, in Mae La camp.
- 28/8/09 – The secretary, and social welfare coordinator Saw Bwe Say of KRC attended the graduation ceremony of Vocational Training in Mae La camp. The training incorporate of welding, Knitting, Auto Mechanic, Child and elderly care, Cooking and Bakery. Sixty trainees graduated and certificates were offered at the occasion. Camp commander Mr. Chalermchai Aranlunalot preside as guest of honor.

KRC-EE -Activities- Report. August 2009

- 1/8/09 – Review and update the statistic and the support of teachers in Mae La, Nu Poe and Umphiem camp for the month of August 2009.
- 1/8/09 – RTT- provide training on subject matter and lesson planning to fourteen teachers in the camp, simultaneously visited No, 1,2,3,4,5 primary, No, 1,2 middle schools and No, 2,3 high school and gave necessary advise for activities and subject materials.
- 4/8/09 – KRC- Edn-coordinator attended Education Committee meeting in Umphiem camp. The essential of both school and NFE qualified teachers, more active and closer collaboration between school committee, teachers and inter schools were discussed.
- 6/8/09 – Organized a meeting in Mae La camp, which participants were Tops, COOER, ZOA, Solidarity and TBBC, for discussion on repairing of a nursery school damaged by land erosion. The total amount of cash donated were twenty-three thousand (23,000) baths of which 5000 bahts were donated by Tops, 5000 bahts by MTC, 7000 bahts by KRC-EE individual, 4000 bahts by schools in the camp and 2000 bahts by school parents.
- 6-7/8/09 – Preparation (paper work) for support of teachers.
- 10/8/09 – Prepare cash for delivery to teachers at ZOA office.
- 11/8/09 – Delivered teacher's support to camps.
- 17/8/09 – Visit schools in Mae La.
- 19/8/09 – KRC- Edn-coordinator attended a meeting at ZOA office in Mae Sot. The required of school, and education situation of new arrivals at Noe Bo village were discussed.

- 25/8/09 – Attended CDCB training conducted by ZOA.
- 24-26/8/09 – Provide 25 teachers with subject Methodology training.
- 28/8/09 – Provide subject matter and questioning skills to fifteen teachers in the camp.
- 28/8/09 – KRC- Edn-coordinator attended educational meeting, and simultaneously visited No 3. Primary school, and Middle school No (4) (Muslim schools) in Mae La camp. Suggestions of enough food for new teachers, school-visit by education committee, teaching of the Thai language, and having teacher training were stipulated.
- 3-31/8/09 – Provide Pre-service training in the camp. (Note RTT, in addition to providing training, are as well responsible for regular visit the schools and give any necessary suggestion in related to teaching, learning and educational activities.)

**KRC-EE- Department of Basic Education
Activities in August 2009**

- (1) - Provide social study (2) training, of who seven teachers in Ban Don Yan and six teachers in Htam Hin received the training respectively.
- (2) – Develop Mathematic student text for use in Model School.
- (3) – Organised a meeting with ZOA, Tops and COOEER for reconstruction of No, 4 Nursery school which was destroyed by land erosion.
 - Held a collaborative and information sharing meetings with ZOA’s Materials Development Team and Training Unit.
 - Held discussion with NGOs, in related to the educational situation in Noe Bo (Tak Song Yan area)
- (4) - Attended Teaching Aids Development Training in Mae La.
- (5) – Attended workshop for the development of in-service teacher training curriculum.

The general population in camp

CAMP	No. of Families	Over – 12 Yrs		6 – 12 Yrs		Under 5 Yrs		Total
		M	F	M	F	M	F	
Mae La	12,472	17,735	16,548	4,980	4,644	2,967	2,731	49,605
Umphiem	7,120	10,259	9,290	2,513	2,160	1,614	1,416	27,252
Nu Poe	5,088	6,157	5,683	1,402	1,426	1,218	1,223	17,109
Htam Him	1,776	2,573	2,521	728	636	651	593	7,702
Ban Don Yang	817	1,557	1,608	382	348	365	368	4,628
Mae Rama Luang	2,963	5,999	6,060	1,962	1,744	1,218	1,218	18,201
Mae La Oon	2,872	5,766	5,471	1,610	1,503	1,176	1,102	16,628
Total	33,108	50,046	47,181	13,577	12,461	9,209	8,651	141,125

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.

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