



**ကမ္ဘာတိုက် မင်္ဂလာဒုံအဖွဲ့
ကို
ပရဟိတအဖွဲ့အစည်းများအတွက်**

MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST

2005

Aim and Objectives of Mon Relief and Development Committee

Aim:

Provide temporary shelters, basic needs and development assistance to refugees and the displaced persons who become homeless and helpless situation due to the oppression of Rangoon military regimes in Mon territory along Thailand-Burma border.

Objectives:

1. To help the welfares of the refugees in border areas and IDPs who are displaced inside the country, with foods, shelter and possible protection.
2. To coordinate with local Mon people in developing the grassroots community in the fields of health, education, literacy, agriculture and other rural development projects.
3. To empower the local community for the participation of decision making processes for their own lives and communities.
4. To struggle for the human rights.

The Organization of Mon Relief and Development Committee

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Nai Wongsala Pala | - Chairman |
| 2. Nai Kasau Mon | - General Secretary |
| 3. Nai Win Tint | - Joint Secretary |
| 4. Nai Dung Htaw | - Member |
| 5. Nai Glae | - Member |
| 6. Nai Chit Nyunt | - Member |
| 7. Nai Tay Jae | - Member |
| 8. Nai Jon Dae | - Member |

Monthly Report of Mon Relief and Development Committee (August 2005)

Flood in Mon State and Crop Damages in Mon State

After a continuous rain for over one-month in Mon State, many farmers in Mon State especially in the rice produced Townships such as Chaung-zone, Moulmein, Paung, Mudon and Thanbyuzayat lost the paddy crops and many farmers have to re-plant their paddy plants at their lands.

The majority of the Mon people in Mon State and minority in Karen State and Tenasserim Division are the low land paddy growing farmers and they are the main producers of rice in southern Burma in order to export rice to various parts of Burma. Most low area farmlands are close to Andaman Sea along the seacoast. As seasonal cultivation, the farmers just grow one-time in rainy season of each year.

At the beginning of rainy season, in May and June, although there was less rain in southern Burma, but the rain water were sufficient to grow paddy plants in the farmlands. Many farmers who are cultivating in an old tradition ploughed their lands with oxes or buffaloes, and then grew the paddy plants.

When the paddy plants are so young, the heavy and non-stop rain has fallen since the middle of July until the end of August. As farmlands are in low land areas, the water level increased suddenly and it has been full up in the paddy-fields rapidly. Huge amount of water could not enter into the sea and it is filled up and separate into the fields.

Normally the Mon people live in the village where the group of houses are settling and their paddy farms are outside of the villages. Although they could travel from their homes to their farms by rowing boats, but they could do nothing when they saw all of their small plants are underneath water.

If the small plants are underneath water for 10-15 days, all of them must die. Now, the small paddy plants are over one-month and most of them except some paddy in higher lands died up. For the farmers they could not do any thing beside just waiting and looking their dead crops.

The similar situation also happened for the Mon farmers whose farms are along Zami river, Salween river and Gyaing river in Karen State. When there was too much rain water flew into these river and they are in flood condition and so that the rice fields along the river were under flood. Rain water increased up over the river banks and then flew into the rice-fields. Both Karen and Mon farmers belongs pieces of farmlands along these river has suffered seriously.

Another serious problem is salt water from the sea also poured into the farmlands and killed the crops. Especially in Thanbyuzayat Township, where the area has a very salty water, the farmers founded that the salt water entered into their farms and it has not only killed their crops but also destroyed the soil in the paddy farms. Many farmers concerned that the soil become too much salty and then they could grow paddy again.

Many farmers expected that they will re-grow the paddy plants again when the rain lessens down and water levels decreased. Some farmers in Paung and Mudon Township already re-grow the new paddy plants. It makes them too busy. The farmers have to hire day-laborers again and have to spend more money.

Some farmers who are disappointed with the price of paddy in the market, which is too low if compared in the previous years, do not happy to re-grow the paddy plants and they just abandoned.

Although the military regime in Burma has stopped forcible paddy buying from the farmers at low price than the markets, but the regime still does not allow traders to export rice to other countries. That situation creates the rice price to drop down and the farmers could not get much benefits for growing paddy.

Anyhow, if some amounts of rice crops are destroyed by flood, the rice production in this harvest season in November and December will be decreased.

THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE RESETTLEMENT SITES
(August, 2005)

No.	Camp	Number of Family	Over 12 years		5-12 years		Under 5 years		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
1	Bee Ree	719	1317	1424	446	448	174	202	4011
2	Tavoy	558	987	998	320	•339	150	157	2951
3	Halockhani	1032	1635	1594	718	743	312	325	5327
	TOTAL	2309	3939	4016	1484	1530	636	684	12289

THE MATERIALS RECEIVED
BY THE MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
(August, 2005)

No	Organization	Rice (Sack/100 kg.)	Fish Paste (kg.)	Salt (kg.)	Bean (Kg.)	Remark
	TBBC	-	-			
	TOTAL	-	-			





