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ပရောဂျက်အားဖြင့်ညှိုးသူ မိမိ

MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER

2006

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 REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE RESETTLEMENT SITES
(November, 2006)

No	Camp	Number of Family	Over 5 years		Under 5 years		Total
			M	F	M	F	
1	Bee Ree	720	1703	1680	215	217	3815
2	Tavoy	585	1429	1215	166	153	2963
3	Halockhani	810	2033	1831	157	157	4178
4	Che_dike	209	425	458	75	95	1053
	TOTAL	2324	5590	5184	613	622	12009

THE MATERIALS RECEIVED
BY THE MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
(November, 2006)

No	Organization	Rice (Bag/50 kg.)	Fish Paste (kg.)	Salt (kg.)	Bean (Kg.)	Remark
1	TBBC					
2	TBBC (for Halockhani)					
	TOTAL					

The Organization of Mon Relief and Development Committee

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Nai Wongsa Pala | - Chairman |
| 2. Nai Kasauh Mon | - Vice Chairman |
| 3. Mi Seikyanda | - Administrator |
| 4. Mi Wing Ah Bloa | - Member |
| 5. Nai Glae | - Member |

MONTHLY REPORT OF MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(NOVEMBER 2006)

I. SUMMARY OF NEED ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Like in the every in the previous years, with objectives to determine for the support for 2007 to the Mon returned refugees in Bee Ree and Tavoy resettlement site, members of MRDC have conducted a need assessment survey in late December 2006 in order to find out information and facts related to the needs.

In this survey, MRDC mainly focuses on the population/demography, agriculture and livelihood, new arrivals and refugees' perception, and political situation and security of resettlement sites. These situations directly affect for the survival of the refugees in the site.

Since the repatriation of 2006 after the NMSP-SLORC/SPDC, about 80% of the returnees still remained in the resettlement and some families moved to Thailand and other areas where they can create better livelihood. Later more displaced families added in these resettlement sites. Even though their return was not to their homes, MNRC/MRDC as a local humanitarian organization has responsibility to take care of them because they still could not attain normal life as they live in their villages. When the members of MRDC conducted the survey, they found that although the returned refugees in all sites, had tried hard to produce their own food rations as much as possible, however foods products are insufficient. Additionally, many families also involve in various types of livelihood besides in order to raise income. But as a conclusion, the displaced returned refugees are still in needs of foods.

The information in this report would provide to donor agencies to consider for humanitarian assistance to the returnees like many other Burma's ethnic displaced people who have fled from the systematic persecution committed by Burmese military regime.

The returned refugees are right on the other side of the border in Burma or in NMSP territory, most of their conditions is likely to the refugees in Thai camps except they could have some access to agriculture lands and freedom of movement near their campsites. Because of the security conditions and distance, the access to the agricultural lands is also limited for them, especially in Tavoy resettlement site. As the Mon people are traditionally lowland farmers, they could not much produce enough rice in their hilly farms or no available experience of 'slash and burnt' method of paddy cultivation.

During 2006, some new families also arrived to Bee Ree resettlement site as they believed it was the safest site. As the fighting was on-going situation in many parts of Ye and Yebyu Township area between Burmese Army and a Mon splinter group, some families still have to flee from their villages. Although Tavoy resettlement site is close to displaced persons in Yebyu Township, but many of them felt unsafe and they just fled and settled in Bee Ree resettlement sites. Similarly, some families also moved and resettled in the IDP villages set by MRDC in various areas. But in a raft estimation,

In 2006, the conflict has continued in Southern part of Burma especially in the surrounding ceasefire zones of New Mon State Party (NMSP) and the different ethnic people – Mons, Karens and Tavoy - in the area have been still suffered from gross human rights violations – conscription of forced labour, forced relocation, extra-judicial killing, arbitrary arrests and torture, unofficial taxation and extortion, etc. These people fled into NMSP area and some of them took refuge in Resettlement sites while some decided to stay in IDPs villages.

Brief information on the population/demography, agriculture and livelihood situation, new arrivals in 2006 are described as below:

Halockhani – Population: 4178 at five main sections or villages in the site (*of 810 families*): which consists of Baleh-hani; Kyaik-soi-mon; Baleh-donaphai; Htee-wa-doe; Kyone-kwee. **Htee-wa-doe** is a Karen section who took refuge since 1997. **Supply:** the refugees received 50% of the rice of their total need from MRDC/donor agencies until the end of 2006. **No. of farmers: 198 (23 % of the total families).** **Security situation:** Fighting in Three Pagoda Pass area is on going and Karen splinter armed group: DKBA; KPF creates problems to the civilians. **New arrivals: 11** Karen families arrived to Htee-wa-doe and while **8** Mon families arrived to the Mon returnees' sections.

Bee Ree – Population: 3815 (excluding around 140 members of MNEC, the hostel students of Mon National High School and MWO in Nyi Sar. Sometimes MNEC or MWO also arranged training and population in Nyi Sar can increase) at four main sections or villages in the site (*of 720 families*): which consists of Suwanaphoom, Jo-haprao, Naung-perng and Burk-surk. **Nyi Sar** is the base of MNEC, MWO and a Mon High School. **Supply:** the refugees received 50% of the rice of their total need from MRDC/donor agencies until the end of 2006. **No. of farmers: 235 (32.6 % of the total families).** **Security situation:** Burmese Army, the first time, visited in the area up to NMSP Headquarters and it is **serious threat** to the displaced people in the area. **New arrivals:** About **231 IDPs** increased from December 2005 and a new section 'Burk-surk' is fully established.

Tavoy – Population: 2973 at five sections or villages: they are Tor Lwi (*Agriculture*), Weng Naiké, Jao Done, Krone Baing and Meip Zeip (*of 586 families*). **No. of farmers: 130 (22% of the total families).** **Supply:** they received 50% of rice of the total requirement until the end of 2006. **Security situation:** the activities of the Burmese Army, a Mon splinter group and KNLA are close to the site and these armed groups sometimes have fighting outside of the area. **New arrivals: 16 families** arrived to the resettlement site while many of them moved to Bee Ree site.

II. RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSISTANCE IN 2007

The returned refugees and displaced persons in Halockhani, Bee Ree and Tavoy resettlement sites have faced movement restriction, limited access to agricultural lands, and limited situation of access to various livelihood and business activities, land disputes among the relevant authorities, security outside of resettlement still have some consequence that they could not survive with the help from MRDC and humanitarian aid agencies.

Although MRDC encourages the returned refugees to be 'self reliance' on their own farms and income from their various livelihood, however, the political and security situation and other limitations also prevented to not have self reliance. Among three resettlement sites, **Tavoy resettlement site** has more difficulties in supporting themselves because of lack of employment and communication with outside communities.

The returned refugees would remain in these resettlement sites until there is a political settlement in Burma and the Mon people retains their rights to self-determination. However it is hard for them to survive or have enough income and all necessary needs during in the resettlement sites. Therefore, they still need assistance from international aid agencies for survival.

At **Halockhani resettlement site, population: 4178** where the farmers can produce only (in estimation) **500 sacks of rice (in 100 Kilograms)**; At **Bee Ree resettlement site, population: 3815**, the farmers can produce (in estimation) **580 sacks of rice (of 100 Kilogram per sack) in total**. At **Tavoy resettlement site, population: 2973**, the farmers in the site can produce (in estimation) **450 sacks of rice (of 100 Kilogram per sack) in total**. Averagely, the non-farming can have **less than 3-months seasonal works and their daily income is just around 35 Baht in average**.

Considerably, all returned refugees are similarly as displaced persons and accordingly to 'Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement', they still need protection and assistance. Although the competent authorities, NMSP, could provide them some protection for their

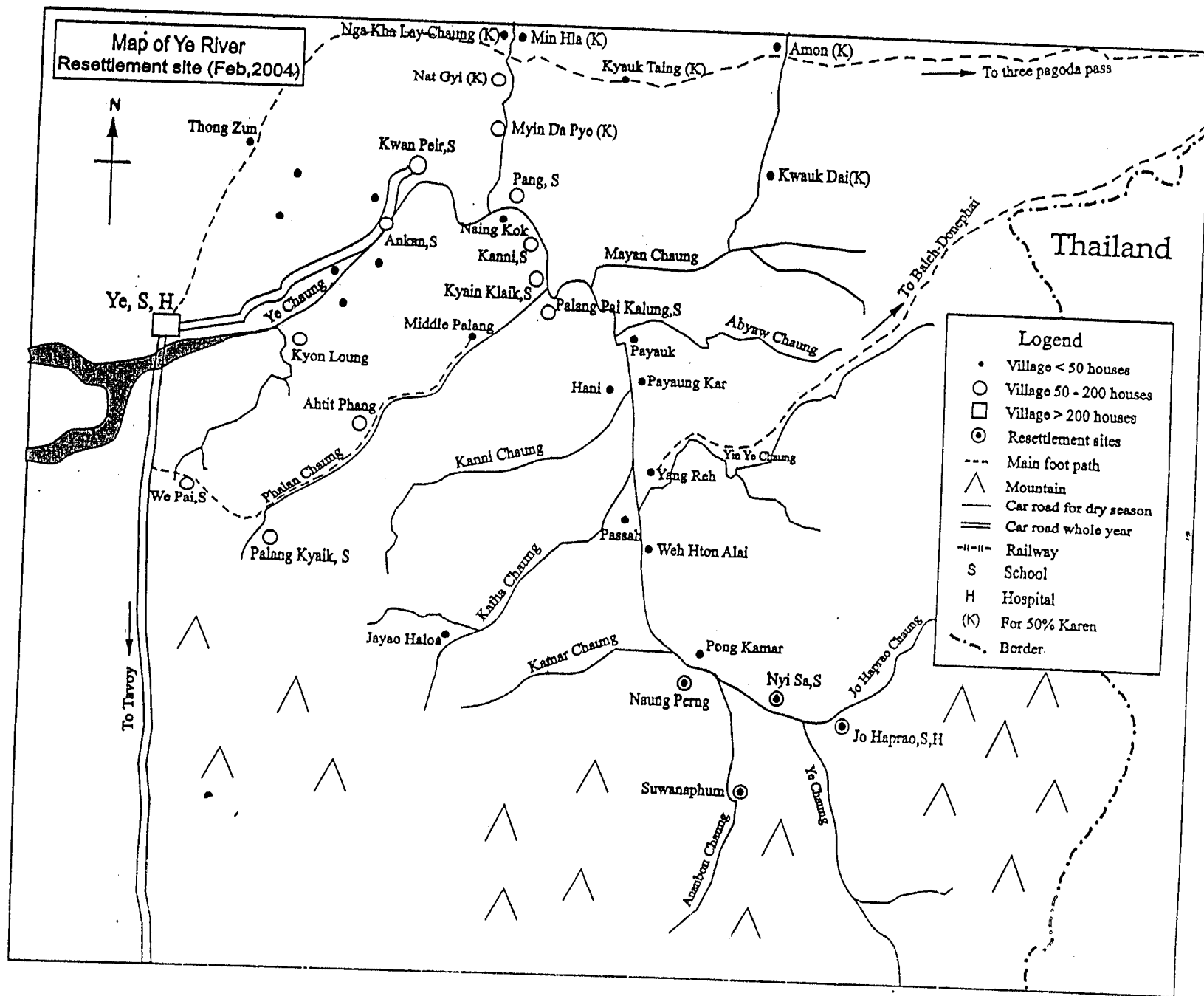
safety and settlement, however, they still request assistance such as foods, health care and education.

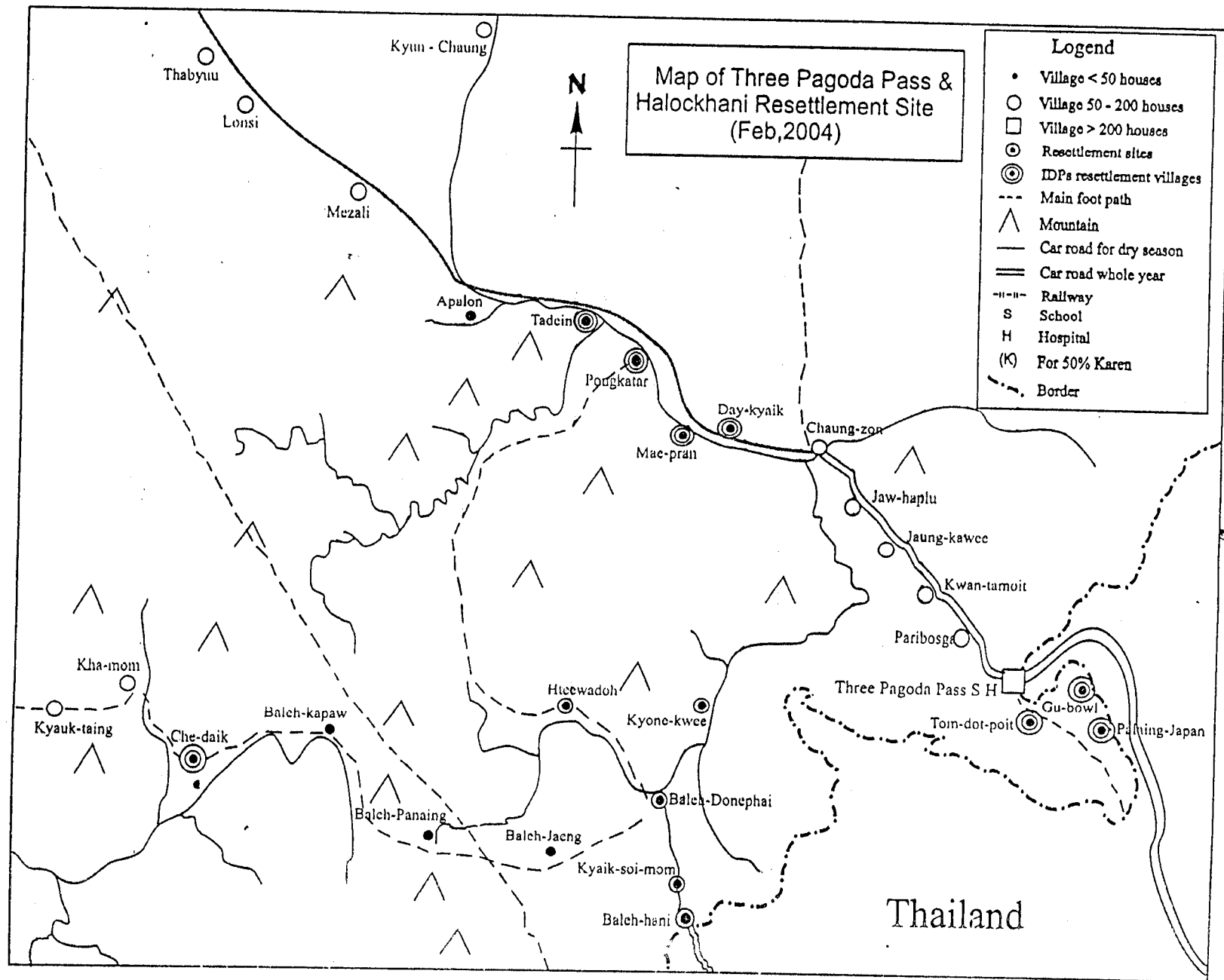
While these displaced persons are unable to return their homes in Mon area peacefully and dignity, it is necessary to receive assistance from the international community in term of humanitarian aid for their survival.

On behalf of returned refugees and IDPs, MRDC would like to request about 50% of rice supplies for them of the total need.

MRDC also expresses thankfulness to aid agencies for their assistance to Mon and other ethnic people while they are facing the most difficult situation.

Map of Ye River
Resettlement site (Feb, 2004)





Map of Tavoy District & Tavoy Resettlement site (Feb, 2004)

