



កម្ពុជា ហែងប្រវត្តិ
ក្រៅ
មន្ទីរការងារសង្គមនិងប្រជាជន

MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

January

2008

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 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 | - Vice Chairman |
| 3. Nai Kem Kom Kao | - General Secretary |
| 4. Mi Seik Jyanda | - Administrator |
| 5. Mi Wing Ah Bloa | - Member |
| 6. Nai Bayar Nwe | - Member |
| 7. Nai Ong Htaw Mon | - Member |

Monthly Report of Mon Relief and Development Committee

(January 2008)

Situation Update in early 2008

Like previous years, the displaced Mon communities in three resettlement sites – Halockhani, Bee Ree and Tavoy – and other IDPs villages still have some difficult situation for food security because they still can not sufficiently produce rice and lack of income from various livelihoods in the entire areas. At the same time, security and human rights violations in surrounding areas of these resettlement sites and IDPs villages still poses threats to the local communities and displaced communities.

Conflict is still on-going situation in southern part of Ye Township and in Yebyu Township areas. When the troops of Burmese Army launched military offensives against a Mon splinter group in Ye Township, they have totally restricted the movement of local farmers and villagers. At the same time, the villagers in the area are also forced to work in the road construction project and works in military barracks. Some villagers are still arrested to be forced porters along with the Burmese Army's military offensives.

The local villagers said, they have to pay a lot to the local military battalions and village headmen (who are instructed by army to restrict the villagers), for their travel to their farms or plantations. They are allowed only to stay at their workplaces in day time. If they slept at night, they will be accused as rebel-supporters and can be shot on spot by the troops. These life threats against the local villagers made them much difficult to work and stay at their farms. More seriously, if the fighting happens in the area, the villagers in the nearest villages will be punished or the villages will be relocated.

In Yebyu Township, the local military battalions of Burmese Army still force the local villagers to attend 'militia training' and recruited them as militiamen in order to confront with the Mon splinter group and Karen rebel from KNLA. Many families want to stay in peaceful situation and do not want to join in militia force and avoid from recruitment. Hence, many of them fled from their villages in order to avoid the forced recruitment. This is a clever strategy of Burmese Army in creating confrontation between the villagers and rebel groups who share the same ethnic identity.

After forced recruitment of militia force, local Burmese Army's command especially tactical commands concerned put these village militia units under their commands and ordered them to fight against the rebel groups those approached close to their villages. These militia units are also instructed by BA commanders to take responsibility of their own villages – which means to not allow any rebel groups to get into their villages and to not allow them taking bases in the surrounding areas. But the villagers have to pay all salaries to all militiamen accordingly instruction made by BA commanders.

In Kya-inn-seiki Township, in order to launch military operations against KNLA's 6th Brigade, many battalions of Burmese Army marched into the area since November 2007. Although there is no big offensive has been launched by troops of Burmese

Army, the local villagers in the area faced much unsecured situation. Movements of the local villagers are restricted and they also collected heavy tax from passengers and cars those used Three Pagoda Pass – Thanbyuzayat motor road.

All of these situations created population displacement in entire area from Kya-inn-seiky Township down to Yebyu Township. These areas connect ceasefire zones of New Mon State Party (NMSP) where MRDC has taken care of displaced persons. Many families from these areas fled into NMSP ceasefire zones in order to get protection and sheltering. But many of them fled to Thailand as migrant workers.

MRDC's Development Program (July – December 2007)

Before the end of the 2006, MRDC also conducted development need assessments in there resettlement sites – Halockhain, Bee Ree and Tavoy, and other IDPs village; Palaing-Japan, Che-daik and Wae-zin. Most communities requested for infrastructure and water project in there respective location. So MRDC gave more priorities for infrastructure projects in the first six months 2007. So in the second six months MRDC give the remains of other requested like the water project, nursery school and repairing clinic in these communities because they requesting for it.

Project in Details are as below:

1. Halockhain Resettlement Site: They were many requests for development projects funded by MRDC in this Resettlement site. (See: Appendix for detail financial report for request) There were repairing clinic and supply a deficiency water pipe in Balh-donaphai also fund from MRDC development fund. And building agriculture training centre in Balh-donaphai was fund from CAN project.

2. Tavoy site: In this site, about 5 requests are funded by development fund. In some request, MRDC Development Coordinator found that there is no strong "community development committees" in order to implement the project. Projects are mostly join water pipe for Meip_Zeip, Krone_baing and Weng_nike village

3. IDPs Village : MRDC provided a request for new building nursery school in Palaing_Japan (IDPs village) was funded from development fund. From July to December period, it is totally rainy season and traveling from one resettlement site to another is so difficult. In the project implementation process, MRDC Development Coordinator directly has worked with Community Development Committees, which were formed since many years and still in operation. Some community development committees were reformed in August because MRDC wanted the communities to take responsibility on their development projects.

First, MRDC received all requests from development committees and then hold the meeting with them. In the meetings that include some village headmen also discussed for the priorities of the community's development needs in their communities. MRDC Coordinator and development staff noted down all priorities and proposed in MRDC meeting. Then MRDC coordinator and staff went to sites again and bought for all need things and materials. After providing available funding and materials, the village development committees have to implement activities they proposed.

In Monitoring Activities, in order to monitor the water pipe connections in sections of resettlement sites, MRDC has offered the duties to Tavoy Site's MRDC Camp Committee and one of MRDC committee from main office has monitored on the works of Section leaders and their appointed development workers. Additionally,

MRDC staffs who appointed for community development program often traveled to monitor all these activities. The community development committees have been busy to collect all join water pipe and organizing the villagers (by the help of village headmen) to contribute labour, set the time to complete the works.

Some Problems facing during the implement of this development program are:

- The community people are so busy due to their struggle in living activities and they have very limited time to contribute in the project this season.
- Inflation creates some problems. Inflation makes the increase costs of materials and transportation cost. Therefore, MRDC Coordinator and Camp Coordinator have to busy with price calculation and re-calculation of expenses for each project

Planned future activities are:

- In April 2008, TBBC's CAN Project will give agriculture training and then MRDC will give duplicated training all resettlement site.
- MRDC will create a model agriculture garden and give training for home gardens all resettlement sites and support the farmers' agriculture activities.
- MRDC will support some infrastructure projects – construction of bridges, clinic and school repairs.

THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE RESETTLEMENT SITE

(January, 2008)

No	Camp	Number of Family	Over 5 years		Under 5 years		Total
			M	F	M	F	
1	Halockhani	729	1704	1722	146	158	3730
2	Che-daik	134	235	246	41	38	560
3	Bee Ree	658	1533	1503	220	196	3452
4	Tavoy	451	1055	997	148	122	2272
TATOL		1972	4527	4468	555	514	10014

THE MATERIALS RECEIVED

BY THE MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

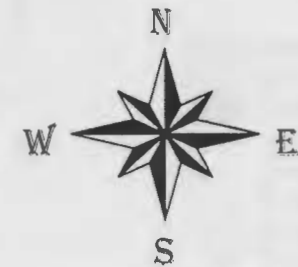
(January, 2008)

No	Organization	Rice	Fish Paste (kg.)	Salt (kg.)	Bean (kg.)	Remark
1	TBBC	-	-	-	-	
2	TBBC (for Halockhani)					
TOTAL		-	-	-	-	

Map of Three Pagoda Pass and Halockhani Resettlement Site (Feb,2008)



Map of Ye River Resettlement Site (Feb,2008)



- * Resettlement site,shp.shp
- ▲ Idps villages.shp
- ~ Rivers.shp
- Villages.shp
- == Roads_bbc.shp
- Cities_bbc.shp
- Railroads.shp
- ☆ Spdc06.shp
- Ceasefire06.shp
- Ks area.shp
- Country.shp

5 0 5 10 Miles

Map of Tavoy District and Tavoy Resettlement Site (Feb, 2008)



- * Resettlement site,shp.shp
- ▲ Idps villages.shp
- ~ Rivers.shp
- Villages.shp
- ~ Roads_bbc.shp
- Cities_bbc.shp
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