



ကမ္ဘာတဝှမ်း မင်္ဂလာပြုအဖွဲ့  
ကို  
ပရဟိတအဖွဲ့အစည်းများအတွက်

MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**MONTHLY REPORT**

May

2008

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## **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 are homeless and helpless situation due to the oppression of Rangoon military regimes in Mon territory along Thailand-Burma border.

### **Objectives:**

1. To help the welfare of the refugees in border areas and IDPs who are displaced inside the country, with food, 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**

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>1. Nai Wongsala Pala</b> | <b>- Chairman</b>          |
| <b>2. Nai Kasau Mon</b>     | <b>- Vice Chairman</b>     |
| <b>3. Nai Kem Kom Kao</b>   | <b>- General Secretary</b> |
| <b>4. Mi Seik Jyanda</b>    | <b>- Administrator</b>     |
| <b>5. Mi Wing Ah Bloa</b>   | <b>- Member</b>            |
| <b>6. Nai Bayar Nwe</b>     | <b>- Member</b>            |
| <b>7. Nai Ong Htaw Mon</b>  | <b>- Member</b>            |

## **Monthly Report by Mon Relief and Development Committee**

### **(May, 2008)**

#### **The problems in Cyclone Nargsi Relief**

##### Aid Control by SPDC:

In the case of receiving aids from the international aid agencies and local aid groups from various State and Divisions in Burma, and then again in distribution of aids to the cyclone affected families, the SPDC authorities has firm control on all processes. The SPDC did not allow the aid agencies or experts to get access into the areas where the cyclone totally hit and where thousands of people have suffered from food-shortage and lack of drinking water and medicines.

Most aids of various food stuff, sheltering, and medicines and medical supplies have moved directly into the State controlled warehouses instead of going directly to the areas where the people suffered. Then, the SPDC selected the aid packages, put the Generals' names and transferred to their local authorities, armed force - members of Burmese Army and its supporting group - members of USDA (*Union Solidarity and Development Association*), in order to supervise the aids an in distribution to the people. SPDC insincerely diverted the international aids into political propaganda. Since the international aid agencies have insufficient experience in collaborating with military regime in Burma, it is hard for them to estimate how many percentages of aids will reach to the most needed victims and did not know the level of corruption among the authorizes.

Additionally to the media coverage, the cyclone victims are demanding for foods and the authorities who belong aids did not travel and provide foods, drinking water and medicines. Only the victims who are sheltering close to main roads and in Rangoon areas have received some amounts of aids while thousands of victims in Irrawaddy delta areas have been suffered for not receiving aids. There has been negative feeling among the victims as they believed that the good qualities of aids sent by the aid agencies were taken by the authorities and changed them with the bad quality aids especially rice which are kept in the State warehouses for years for members of Burmese Army. The victims in delta areas said, the foods are so bad even the pigs or dogs eat them.

Other rumors also came out that the authorities and the cronies also put out almost good quality aid from foreign aid agencies onto markets in Rangoon. Tents, blankets, cooking materials and other materials are sold out in the markets accordingly to eye-witnesses. The people in Burma also have been expected that this sort of corruption would happen if the international aids have no access to monitor aid deliveries and no proper distribution system.

##### Blockages of Aids from Other Parts of Burma:

Since May 5, two days after the cyclone hits, the SPDC set up **Emergency Relief Centers** in every State and Divisions under the supervision of SPDC's Prime Minister Thein Sein. But the

SPDC authorities in all States and Divisions have instructed to all people and groups those want to donate aids and assistances to the cyclone hit population, must provide through SPDC's Emergency Relief Centers.

However, the people in Burma understand about SPDC better than international aids agencies about the behavior of SPDC and its supporting groups – the Burmese Army and USDA. They understood, if they provided the aids for the victims – food stuffs and sheltering, all of these aids will go into the pockets of SPDC, and almost the aids will be diverted into Army's warehouses.

Therefore, the people who believed in Buddhism, even they want to donate foods and clothings for the victims, have refused to give aids and assistance to SPDC's set up Emergency Relief Centers. But some people have founded alternative ways to provide aids to the victims, by donating to the monks, by providing medicines and medicines to the local doctors and health care workers, providing foods via traders, etc. But the SPDC authorities and USDA members have tried to block all types of these aid packages those did not come via their set Emergency Relief Centers.

Since SPDC's Emergency Relief Centers in State and Divisions have not received the aids and assistance from the people as they expected, the regional commanders and the authorities concerned have pressured the local people including traders, shop owners, farmers, and government servants to donate foods and money for their centers.

#### No International Access:

If compared with 2004 Tsunami disasters in many countries like Thailand and Indonesia, the military regime in Burma does not care for the death of its own people. These countries during the emergency relief, they have allowed international aids agencies, international experts for health care, corpse collection, food and medical supplies, relief workers and others to get access all areas where the people were suffering from Tsunami flood.

But the military regime and their authorities have allowed a very limited number of aids groups to work in Burma. The numbers of relief and health workers belonged to SPDC are very limited and human resources are insufficient to work in all programs. On the other hand, many of them do not have any experience of relief and corpse collection activities in the past and they could not implement all programs effectively.

No allowing the international aid agencies and experts has made an enormous loss to the people in cyclone affected areas. They could not track their loss of family members, dying family members especially children lost their life due to the delay victims searching and relief program, and cool and unsafe sheltering created a lot of problems.

However, later although SPDC allowed to UNHCR and other aid groups to get into the areas, but the response is already late and the death tolls have increased. Most of corpses were thrown away into sea and the family members could not their family members.

## **The Needs of Community to Community Direct Assistance**

In the situation, when the ruling regime SPDC could not effectively response to cyclone affected population, the communities who have less effects in the area have helped those faced greater effects. The community people are sharing their foods, sharing their sheltering and others. It is a custom of Buddhism and the people tried to donate if they have extra foods and clothes to those who left nothing.

Especially, the Buddhist monks and monasteries have involved in greater role in providing assistance to the effected population by sharing foods and providing shelters. The people in Burma, with their decades long experience, never trust to the authorities, soldiers and USDA members and they believed that these people are always creating problems and never provided helping hands to them.

When the SPDC authorities did not much interested in helping the people while International aid agencies have limited access to cyclone affected area, the direct assistance helping by other non-affected communities to the affected communities has been remained an effective way. Although the assistance can be restricted, however, the community people can find the way how to avoid the restriction by authorities.

In the communities, there are many sympathetic and reliable human resources those can effectively helped the victims with foods, shelters and health cares. In the communities, the people have more trusts to the Buddhist monks, local doctors, former students and activists, lawyers and elderly people. These community people have known the ways how to help their own communities and other cyclone affected communities.

**THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE  
RESETTLEMENT SITE**

**(May,2008)**

No	Camp	Numpr of Family	Over 5 years		Under 5 years		Total
			M	F	M	F	
1	Halockhai	656	1461	1400	132	162	3155
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	2322
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1899</b>	<b>4284</b>	<b>4146</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>9489</b>

**THE MATERIALS RECEIVED**

**BY THE MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**(May,2008)**

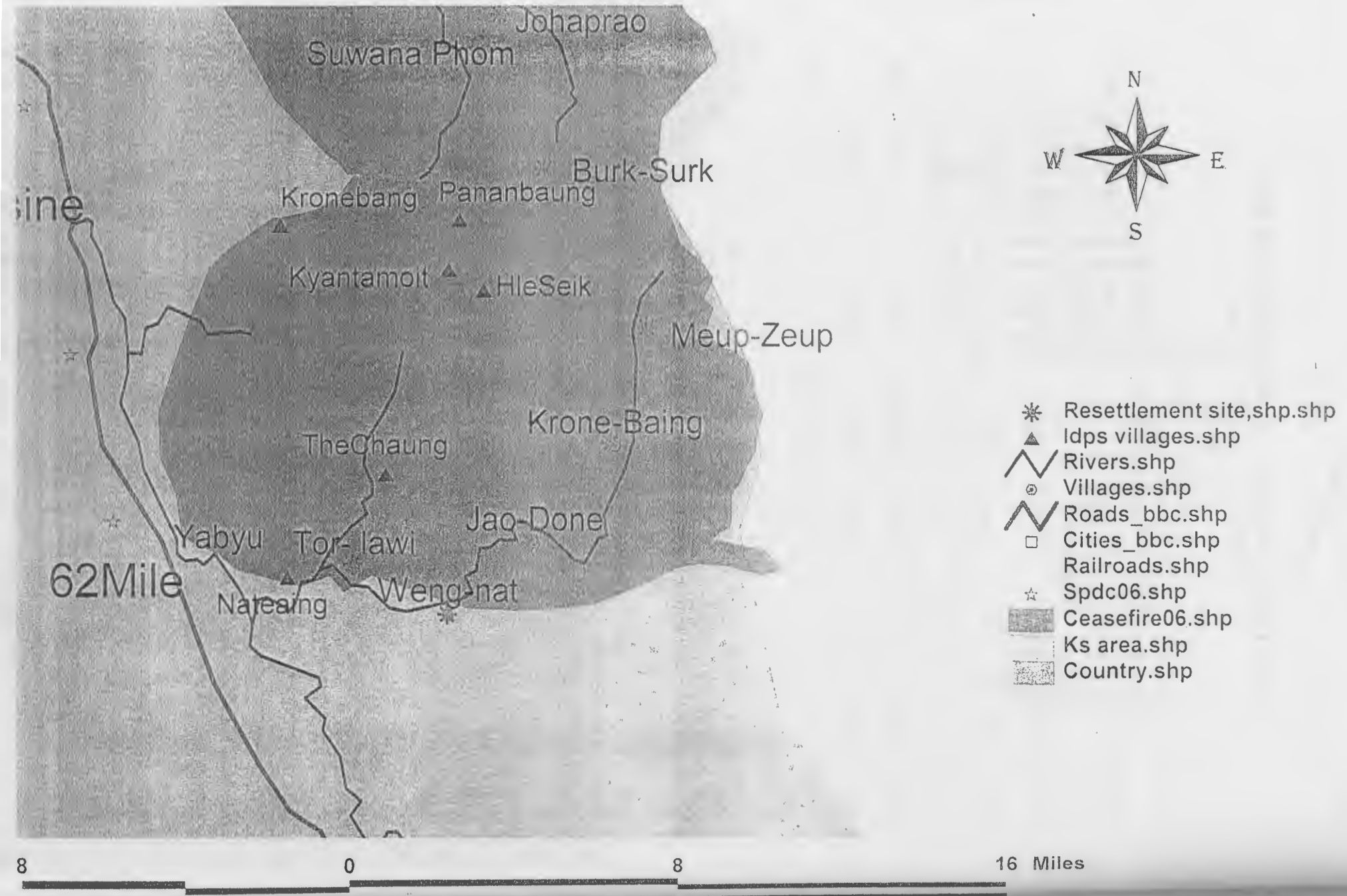
No	Organization	Rice	Fish Paste (kg.)	Salt (kg.)	Bean (kg.)	Remark
1	TBBC	-	-	-	-	
2	TBBC (for Halockhani)					
<b>TOTAL</b>		-	-	-	-	



- \* 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



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



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

