



**ကမ္ဘာတဝှမ်း မင်္ဂလာအဖွဲ့
ရဲ့
ပရဟိတအဖွဲ့အစည်းရဲ့ လုပ်ငန်း**

MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

October 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 Wongsa Pala | - Chairman |
| 2. Nai Kasauh Mon | - Vice Chairman |
| 3. Nai Kem Kom Kao | - General Secretary |
| 4. Mi Weng ah Bloa | - Joint Secretary |
| 5. Nai Hong Janu | - Administrator |
| 6. Mi Seik Jyanda | - Member |
| 7. Nai Banyar Nwe | - Member |
| 8. Nai Ong Htaw Mon | - Member |
| 9. Nai Kon Tala Bloa | - Member |

Monthly Report of Mon Relief and Development Committee (October 2008)

MRDC's Plan to Set Up Agriculture Centers

After over 10 years of returning to Burmese territory under the ceasefire zone of New Mon State Party (NMSP), the Mon returned refugees in 3 Mon resettlement sites: Halockhani, Bee Ree and Tavoy, still do not feel they can create self-reliance on their owns. Since around 2000, MRDC has started helping the displaced communities to do the best for their survival and founded credit fund, provide agriculture training, support the infrastructure and form up community development committees.

In some communities where the situation posed safe and where the people can engage in the works well, the returnees can create some levels of self-reliance. They can grow some rice on their hilly area, plant cash crops trees, and produce the local products. Among three sites, Bee Ree is the best situation of creating self-reliance among the displaced communities.

However, the other two sites: Halockhani and Tavoy are not posing sufficient situation of self-reliance and the people found much difficult to produce sufficient crops and find enough income. Halockhani resettlement site has limited lands and the people are totally relying on trading from Thailand. Tavoy resettlement site is totally isolated from outside community and there has been no business relationship with other communities. The people in this site faced more difficulties if compared with Halockhani site.

In 2008, by collaborating with TBCC's CAN Project, MRDC can establish an Agriculture Center in Baleh-donophai section of Halockhani site. MRDC and CAN Project can also gave a training to the displaced persons in all sections of the site and encourage them to involve more in home garden program. MRDC also expected the displaced families in the area will try hard to support themselves in a way of agriculture as they now received a very limited amount of food assistance from donor agencies, just 33% of the total need of rice. But they did not get any non-rice food stuff from donor agencies.

MRDC expects this Agriculture Center can help the displaced families to prepare their home gardens while some families find some spaces near the river bank and can produce more vegetables. Besides this, in the future, MRDC will also try to provide cash crops in the center and provide the community people those want to grow cash crops trees in the nearer mountain slopes.

Additionally, MRDC plans to have the similar agriculture centers in Bee Ree and Tavoy resettlement sites. In the past, with the assistance from SwissAid, the Bee Ree resettlement site ever created an agriculture center and has provided a lot of assistance – training, seeds and micro-credits – to the farmers in Bee Ree site, a few number of farmers could totally grow many acres of cash crop trees and now they

could get some income from there. However, for the poor families and new arrivals, they are demanding such assistance from MRDC, but it could not provide them. In the situation when the direct food assistance is reduced, it is needed for the people in the area to extend their agriculture plans and farming. Therefore, in October 2008, MRDC's Coordinator for Development Program did an assessment for the possibility of creating Agriculture Center in Bee Ree site. MRDC selected a new site for the Center where the water source is close and available.

Similarly in early 2009, MRDC will also try to find a location in Tavoy resettlement site to set up an agriculture center. The villages in the site have separate in many locations and one village to another is too distant. MRDC also encourages the displaced families in this site, to involve in both home gardening and cash crops planting.

However, although MRDC is encouraging them to create self-reliance in the communities in different ways, however, these displaced families still require direct food assistance from donor agencies. On the other hand, they need increasing development assistance.

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

(October 2008)

No	Camp	No. of Family	Over 5 years		Under 5 years		Total
			M	F	M	F	
1	Halockhani	669	1588	1410	122	122	3242
2	Che-daik	134	235	246	41	38	560
3	Bee Ree	612	1436	1467	189	160	3252
4	Tavoy	435	1008	1035	165	142	2350
TOTAL		1850	4267	4158	517	462	9404

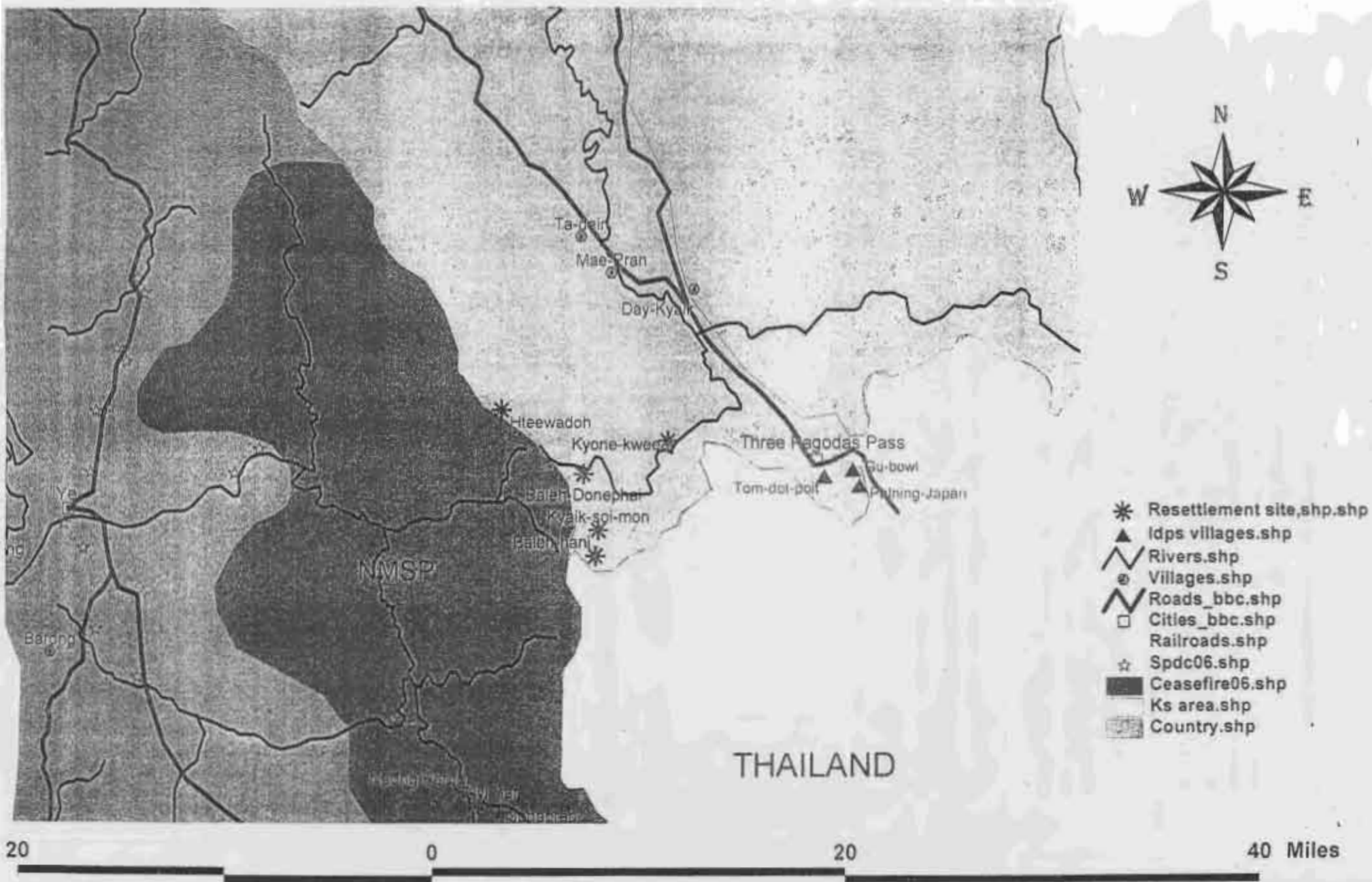
THE MATERIALS RECEIVED

BY THE MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(October 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)





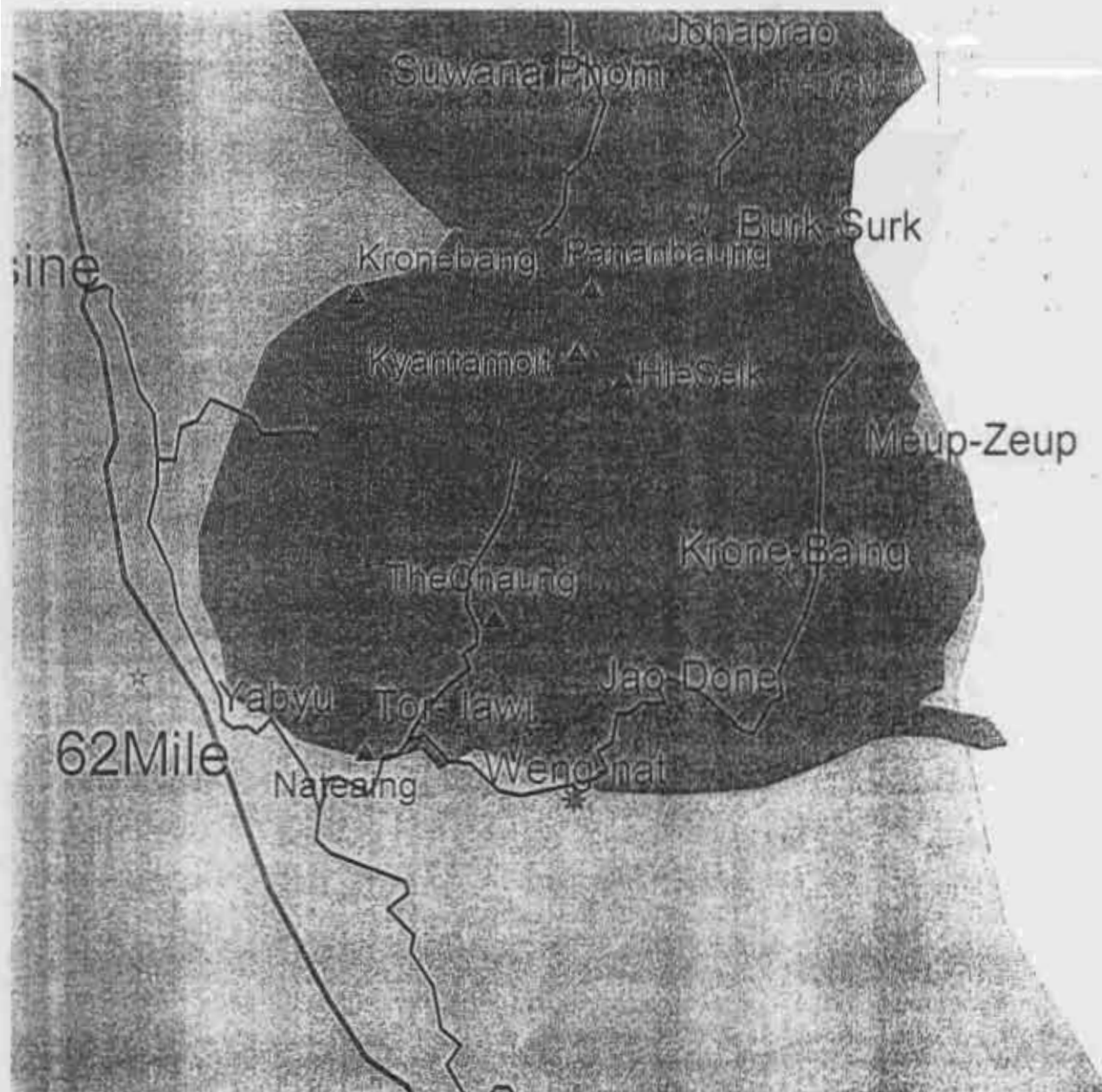
- * Resettlement site,shp.shp
- ▲ Idps villages.shp
- ~ Rivers.shp
- ⊙ Villages.shp
- ~ Roads_bbc.shp
- Cities_bbc.shp
- Railroads.shp
- ☆ Spdc06.shp
- Ceasefire06.shp
- ▨ Ks area.shp
- ▤ Country.shp

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
- ~ Railroads.shp
- ☆ Spdc06.shp
- Ceasefire06.shp
- Ks area.shp
- Country.shp

8 0 8 16 Miles