MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

July 2009
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 Zaw Min Oo - 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 Kon Tala Bloa - Member
Effectiveness of Assistance and Infrastructure

Normally, in the rainy season, there is a total flooding situation in all Mon displaced persons communities areas, which are near Thailand-Burma border. In July in the middle of rainy season, the rain falls almost every day and the displaced villagers could not work because all of them could not get outside to work in farming and even they cannot do daily labour such as sending logs or sending bamboo rafts along the river.

Among assistance that donor agencies have provided to the displaced Mon communities, vegetables seeds are very useful for the villagers to create their home gardens in the rainy season. Almost the houses in the refugees in the resettlement sites have received seeds and they have grown vegetables. Almost vegetables are well grown and they could harvest in the rainy season.

In rainy season, the refugees could get rice vegetables not only from collecting in the forests but also they could get from their home gardens. There has been more spaces of home gardens in some villages but some villages have very limited space to create sufficient home gardens. In Halokhani resettlement site, Baleh-hani village has very limited land space and they could not grow many vegetables. But, Baleh-donphai in this village has sufficient land space to grow vegetables. Similarly, some village sections in Bee Re and Tavoy Resettlement Sites have limited to grow vegetables.

Besides the vegetable seeds that they received from donor agencies, the displaced villagers could gather vegetables from jungles or forests. They can get bamboo-shoots, and other vegetables outside of the villages. Many farmers also grow various types of vegetables in their farms or plantations.

During this rainy season, Halockhani and Bee Ree Sites’ displaced villagers received 3 months direct rice assistance while the displaced persons from Tavoy resettlement site received 4 months rice assistance. During rainy season, when the displaced villagers faced limited rice which they have to purchase from markets in high price, it is so effective that they could get direct. They do not have to purchase rice from markets, and they do not to worry for essential foods.

In dry season, when the displaced persons do not receive any assistance, they have to find works and money in order to purchase rice. Almost the families have to collect money earning from their works and then they buy rice from markets. In most villages, some villagers are traders and they buy rice from markets in towns or in the villages nearby and sell to the villagers with profit. Normally, the rice price for one tin of rice (16 Kilograms) is about 2000-3000 Kyat expensive than in the markets. Even in the dry season, many families could not seek sufficient money to buy enough foods for their families.
The families in Halockhani could find some income by cutting bamboo shoots and sell to traders from Thailand. But the displaced families in Bee Ree and Tavoy resettlement sites have a very little opportunity to seek sufficient income. Since they could not find sufficient income, they have no money to buy rice. It is very good for them when they have no rice, they could get from MRDC. Therefore, the rice distribution in rainy season is very effective when the displaced persons do not have sufficient rice.

MRDC, with the development fund, could build up many bridges across the rivers and streams in the resettlement sites and IDPs villages. These bridges are very useful and effective in the rainy season. For example, a bridge cross over a permanent flooded river in Baleh-donephai village can support for various purposes. Currently, the displaced villagers who cut bamboo-shoots also used the bridge by crossing the river and send their collected forest products to traders in the border points. The displaced villagers from Htee-wa-doh and Baleh-donephai village sections also have to cross this bridge when they took rice ration in Baleh-hani section. Baleh-donephai section is divided by this river, but the village has only one primary and a clinic. Students and patients are daily using this bridge. Similarly, the bridges in Bee Ree site, Tavoy site, Che-daik village are very useful.

Currently, since the displaced villagers could not find sufficient money to buy rice, they still need assistance from the donor agencies for some months of direct food assistance. As finds in above, the infrastructures constructed by MRDC and the village communities are very helpful for various purposes.
THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE RESETTLEMENT SITE
(July 2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Camp</th>
<th>No. of Family</th>
<th>Over 5 years</th>
<th>Under 5 years</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Halockhani</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>1372</td>
<td>1343</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Che-daik</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bee Ree</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>1440</td>
<td>1456</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tavoy</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>979</td>
<td>972</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1801</td>
<td>4024</td>
<td>4034</td>
<td>531</td>
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THE MATERIALS RECEIVED
BY THE MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
(July 2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Rice</th>
<th>Fish Paste (kg.)</th>
<th>Salt (kg.)</th>
<th>Bean (kg.)</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>TBBC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>TBBC (for Halockhani)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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Map of Tavoy District and Tavoy Resettlement Site (Feb, 2008)
Map of Ye River Resettlement Site (Feb, 2008)