



**ကမ္ဘာတိုက် ဟံင်ပြာဒဒိုက်
ကေဝံ
ပရေလီဖမာဒါဒြပ်ညးချူ ငမန်**

MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY

2003

The Five Points of the Aim of Mon Relief and Development Committee

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1. To provide temporary settlement to the refugees in Thailand-Burma border areas who become homeless and helpless situation due to the oppression of Rangoon military regimes.
2. To help the welfares of the refugees in border areas and IDPs who are displaced inside the country, with foods, shelter and possible protection.
3. To coordinate with local Mon people in developing the grassroots community in the fields of health, education, literacy, agriculture and other rural development projects.
4. 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

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- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Nai Wongsala Pala | - Chairman |
| 2. Nai Chann Ai | - Vice-Chairman |
| 3. Nai Kasauh Mon | - General Secretary |
| 4. Nai Dung Htaw | - Member |
| 5. Nai Aung Mon | - Member |
| 6. Nai Glae | - Member |
| 7. Nai Chit Nyunt | - Member |
| 8. Nai Tay Jae | - Member |
| 9. Nai Jon Dae | - Member |

Monthly Report of Mon Relief and Development Committee (February, 2003)

Transportation of supplies to Halockhani Resettlement Site And Updated Situation

In 2002, after over 5000 population in Halockhani resettlement site faces much difficulties, in middle of fighting and lack of security, many hundreds of them fled from the area. The most difficulty they face was about food-shortage problems. As a result, many children and women have suffered from malnutrition.

In late 2002, the number of malnutrition was too high accordingly to MSF survey. The number was the highest since these returned refugees resettled in this site. This problem is directly related to lack of security and work opportunity. Whenever there was worst security condition, there are also lack of work opportunity. As a result, the people in the resettlement site could not raise income to buy supplementary foods besides the rice provided by humanitarian NGOs.

Therefore, after the people in Halockhani resettlement site faced serious food-shortage problem, MRDC also requested to Burmese Border Consortium to provide the people in the site with more assistance, especially rice and other food-stuff. BBC also agreed to provide 66 percentage of rice of the total need.

Since December 2002, MRDC has arranged to send in food supplies that were provided by BBC. Then in late January and early February 2003, MRDC sent in supplies to the site. After District authorities in this border Thailand town, the MRDC manages in organizing the truck and transportation to send in supplies to reach into the site's rice store.

Normally, MRDC sent in all supplies before the rainy season started. During rainy season, the road from Sangkhlaburi Town to Halockhani is too worst and even the four-wheels trucks could not move easily.

Last year, as MRDC concerned for the security in the site, we did not send in all supplies but have delayed for the whole rainy season from June to September. The fighting in the area and the Burmese Army also sometimes moved into area.

This year MRDC believes the security become better and more and more families who temporarily moved to other areas also returned back and all sections in the site become normal.

However the business activities close to this border area have not much developed. In the recent years, the returned refugees could have some income for the business relationship from Thai traders and traders from Burma. There have been cattle business, wood and lumber business, and others in the past.

Now, as the last worst serious security conditions, the business activities in the area have been ceased and therefore the people in the resettlement site could not get income from them. Under this situation, the people could not make income from business related activities.

On the hand, many farmers still could not go to their farms because they are afraid of being step on land-mines. The farmers have to abandon some of their lands, but still could not find new lands.

However the people could get some income in small business of selling broom grasses to traders from Thailand. Most families involved in this business and they could get income to buy supplementary foods, salt, fish-paste, chili and other various types of food-stuff that required for one family. As they receive more rice and small income on a regular basis, their situation became better.

Rice price rocketed up in Mon State

Last rainy season, there were two times big flood and many farmers lost their paddy. Many hundreds acres of lands have been under flood for several days until the paddy plants died. Many farmers could not get full amount of paddy from their lands.

On the other hand even in the rainy season, when the farmers' paddy are under flood, the government authorities forced the local farmers to sell their paddy at low price to the government paddy-buying centers. In the case of forcing farmers, the authorities gave some small loans to farmers and then forced them to sign a contract that promising to sell their paddy.

Then, in November and December 2002, the government authorities set up many paddy-buying centers in all Townships in Mon State and forced the farmers to sell their paddy at low-price. The authorities set to sell 10-15 baskets of paddy per acre to them depending on the land quality. Even the farmers who had good lands could produce only 80 baskets of paddy but to sell to authorities 15 baskets per acre.

The government authorities bought only 350 Kyat per one basket of paddy. In the market price, one basket of paddy is about 3000 Kyat. Therefore, all farmers in the villages or cities do not want to sell any paddy to the government authorities if possible.

After the government bought 20-40 percentage of total amount of paddy from the farmers, less paddy have remained among the people. Therefore, the price of paddy have been gradually increased because there have been more demand to the rice supplies.

Currently one basket of rice (equal amount of rice to 2 palm oil tin in Thailand) is about 13500 Kyat. Every family demands at least about 2 baskets of rice to have enough rice for the family. But their income for one man is only 800-1000 Kyat per day and therefore, many families faced difficulty even to buy rice.

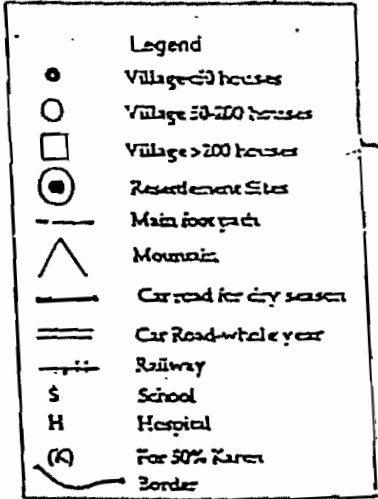
THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE RESETTLEMENT SITES
(January, 2003)

No.	Camp	Number of Family	Over 12 years		5-12 years		Under 5 years		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
1	Bee Ree	668	1196	1300	409	415	168	197	3685
2	Tavoy	620	1045	1042	398	396	189	191	3261
3	Halockhani	821	1453	1511	379	389	248	276	4256
	TOTAL	2189	3694	3853	1186	1200	605	664	11202

THE MATERIALS RECEIVED
BY THE MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
(January, 2003)

No	Organization	Rice (Bag/ 50 kg.)	Fish Paste (kg.)	Salt (kg.)	Bean (Kg.)	Remark
1.	BBC	4000	-	-	-	
	TOTAL	4000	-	-	-	

Map of Tavoy District
Resettlement site (Nov. 1995)

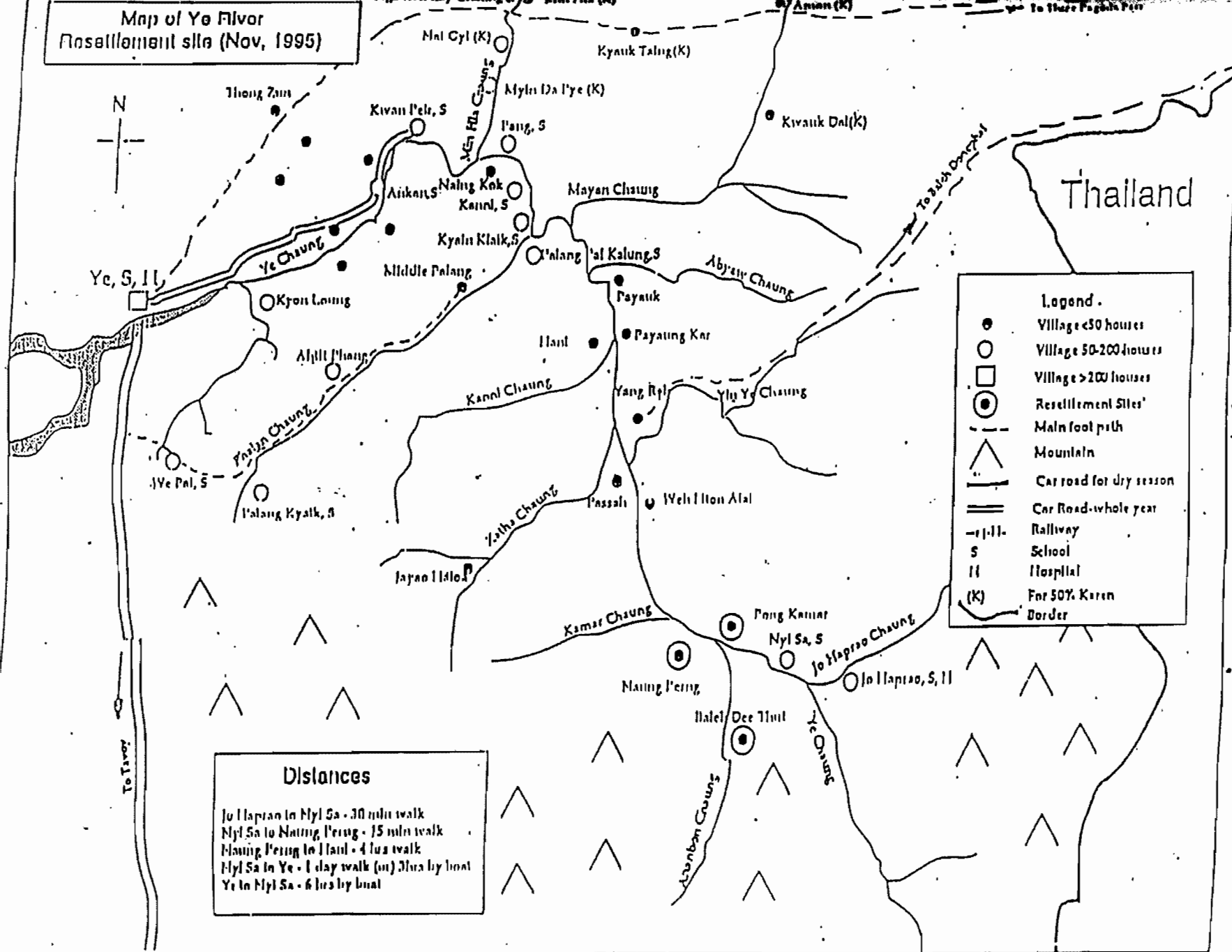


Distances

Payaw to Jao Done - 5 hrs walk
Jao Done to Hlae Seik - 1 days walk
Hlae Seik to Aleision - 3 hrs walk
Jao Done to Yabu - 10 hrs walk

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Map of Ye River
Resettlement sites (Nov, 1995)



Thailand

Legend.

- Village <50 houses
- Village 50-200 houses
- Village >200 houses
- ⊙ Resettlement Sites
- - - Main foot path
- △ Mountain
- Car road for dry season
- == Car Road-whole year
- +|-|- Railway
- S School
- II Hospital
- (K) For 50% Karen Border

Distances

In Haprao to Nyl Sa - 30 min walk
 Nyl Sa to Nang P'eng - 15 min walk
 Nang P'eng to Hant - 4 hrs walk
 Nyl Sa to Ye - 1 day walk (or) 3 hrs by boat
 Ye to Nyl Sa - 6 hrs by boat