



**កម្ពុជា អភិវឌ្ឍន៍
ក្រុម
បណ្តុះបណ្តាល និង អភិវឌ្ឍន៍**

MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

JULY

2003

Aim and Objectives of Mon Relief and Development Committee

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Aim:

Provide temporary shelters, basic needs and development assistance to refugees and the displaced persons who become 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, agricuture 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 | - General Secretary |
| 3. Nai Dung Htaw | - Member |
| 4. Phra Htaw Son | - Member |
| 5. Nai Glae | - Member |
| 6. Nai Chit Nyunt | - Member |
| 7. Nai Tay Jae | - Member |
| 8. Nai Jon Dae | - Member |
| 9. Nai Chan Done | - Member |

Monthly Report of Mon Relief and Development Committee (July 2003)

Lack of Livelihood in Halockhani Camp

The returned refugees in Halockhani resettlement site have normally found various types of works to receive extra income for their survival. This year they received 66% of rice assistance (8 months amount of food for the whole year) and so that they have to find for extra income to buy for another four month rice and other basic food stuff for the whole year.

In the resettlement site, the refugees have two main types of works for their income except their agriculture activities. They are: (a) finding broom-making grasses in dry season from January to February and (b) find bamboo shoots from July to August. Only 25% of the total families in Halockhani site have involved in their agriculture and many other families cannot get lands. In the surrounding area of Halockhani, there are a very limited agriculture lands outside of resettlement site and all families could not get available lands to grow paddy and other vegetables.

Many remaining families have totally relied on the above-mentioned two types of works and they could get some sufficient income in these months to buy another types of food stuff for their living.

In dry season, most families in the site including the families who have farms find broom-making grasses in the forest and then sell to traders who come from the border town of Thailand. The receives about 1 – 1.5 Baht for one Kilogram of rough (unclean grass). One person can find about 30-50 Kilograms of unclean grass each day and they could get income about 50 Baht per day.

If they made these grasses clean (pushing until all dirt to top of grass get out), they also get 11-15 Baht per Kilogram. To clean these rough grasses it would take time and therefore, it is a good livelihood for refugees.

However, this year Thai forestry department does not allow for the import of the bamboo shoots and no trader from Thailand is allowed to go into the site to buy bamboo shoots. Therefore, the refugees also lost their major income during this rainy season. In the previous years, the refugees could raise some sufficient money from selling bamboo shoots to Thai traders.

Thai traders buy thousands kilograms of bamboo shoots in the previous years from Halockhani refugees and they paid 1 to 1.5 Baht for one kilogram of bamboo shoots. The refugees just went into forest in the surrounding of their camp and cut these bamboo shoots, carried them and then sell to the traders in the border point.

One man can cut about 50 to 70 Kilograms of bamboo shoot within one day when it grew in enormous amount. The bamboo shoots grow for just two months, July and August and then it

gets ripe. During these two months, all refugees tried hard to cut bamboo shoots as much as possible. Each family could raise money from 2000 to 3000 Baht per month in this duration.

A few women in the site also got works in slitting the bamboo shoots for the traders. Some traders wanted ready-cooked bamboo shoots and they let the women in the site slit them after they bought large amount of bamboo shoots. Depending on the weight of bamboo shoots, they could slit, women also get income. Some women who worked for everyday in this work received about 2000 Kyat per month. Even some busy women in the site received about 1000 to 1500 Baht per month. But less than 30 women in the whole site get this type of works because only some traders did this bamboo shoots slitting.

However, in this rainy season, the villagers could not have any work and they could not have any income to buy the required extra rice and other food stuff such as salt, fish-paste, cooking seasoning, chili, meat, salt, cooking oil, onion. For the daily use, they also have suger, milk, charcoal and many others. As they could not get sufficient income from cutting bamboo shoots, the refugees face great difficulties in this year. Almost of them unemployed in the rainy season.

Trading route from Halockhani to Ye is totally closed in this rainy season and the refugees did not work trading related works. Most traders used Zami river, a river that connects Three Pagoda Pass border area to Kyainnseikyi Township of Karen State. However because of fighting along this river, the traders even could not trade smoothly.

THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE RESETTLEMENT SITES
(July, 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	945	1603	1672	492	507	280	321	4875
	TOTAL	2210	3844	4014	1299	1318	637	709	11821














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

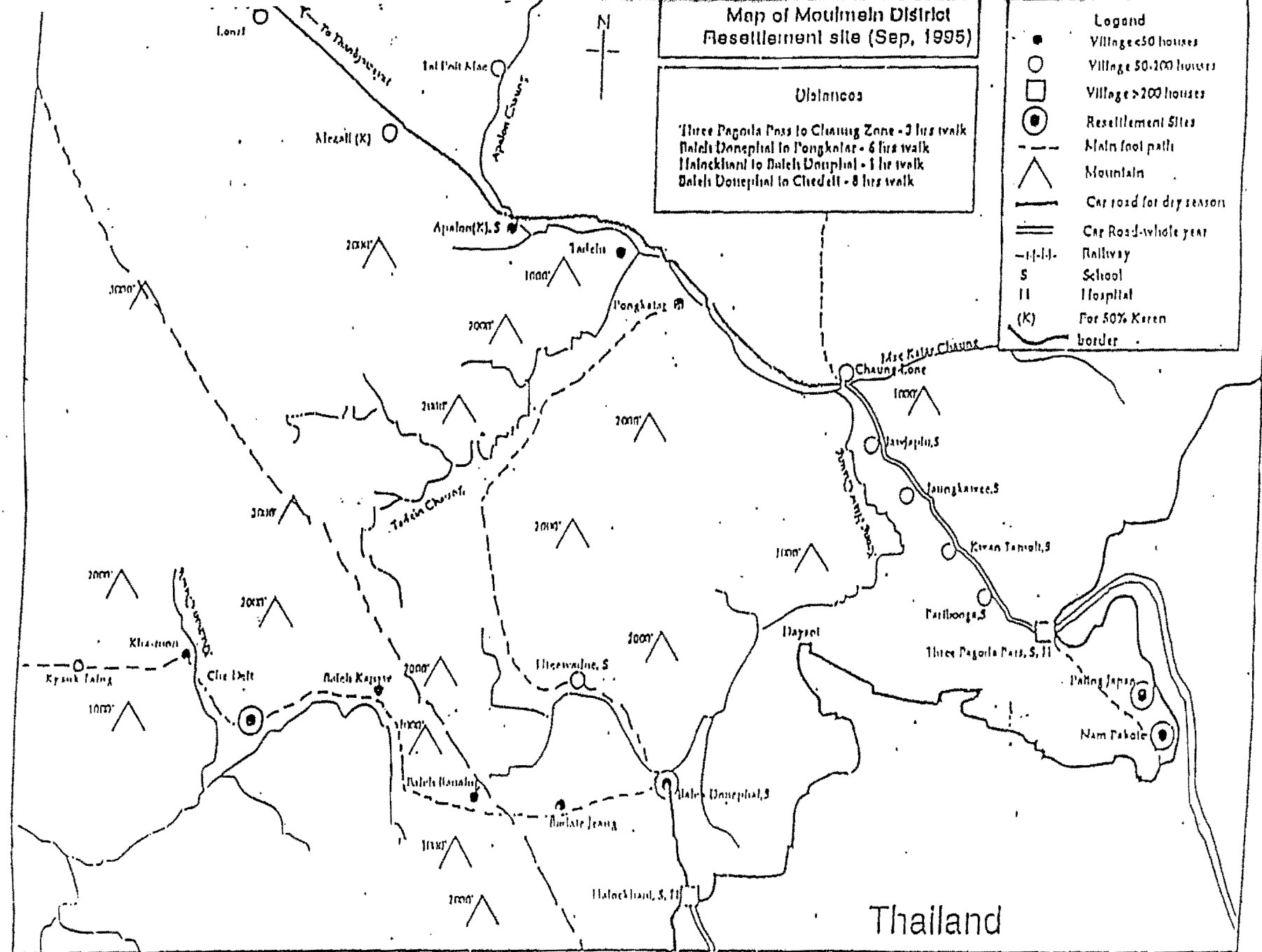
No	Organization	Rice (Sack/ 100kg.)	Fish Paste (kg.)	Salt (kg.)	Bean (Kg.)	Remark
			-	-		
	TOTAL		-	-		

Distances

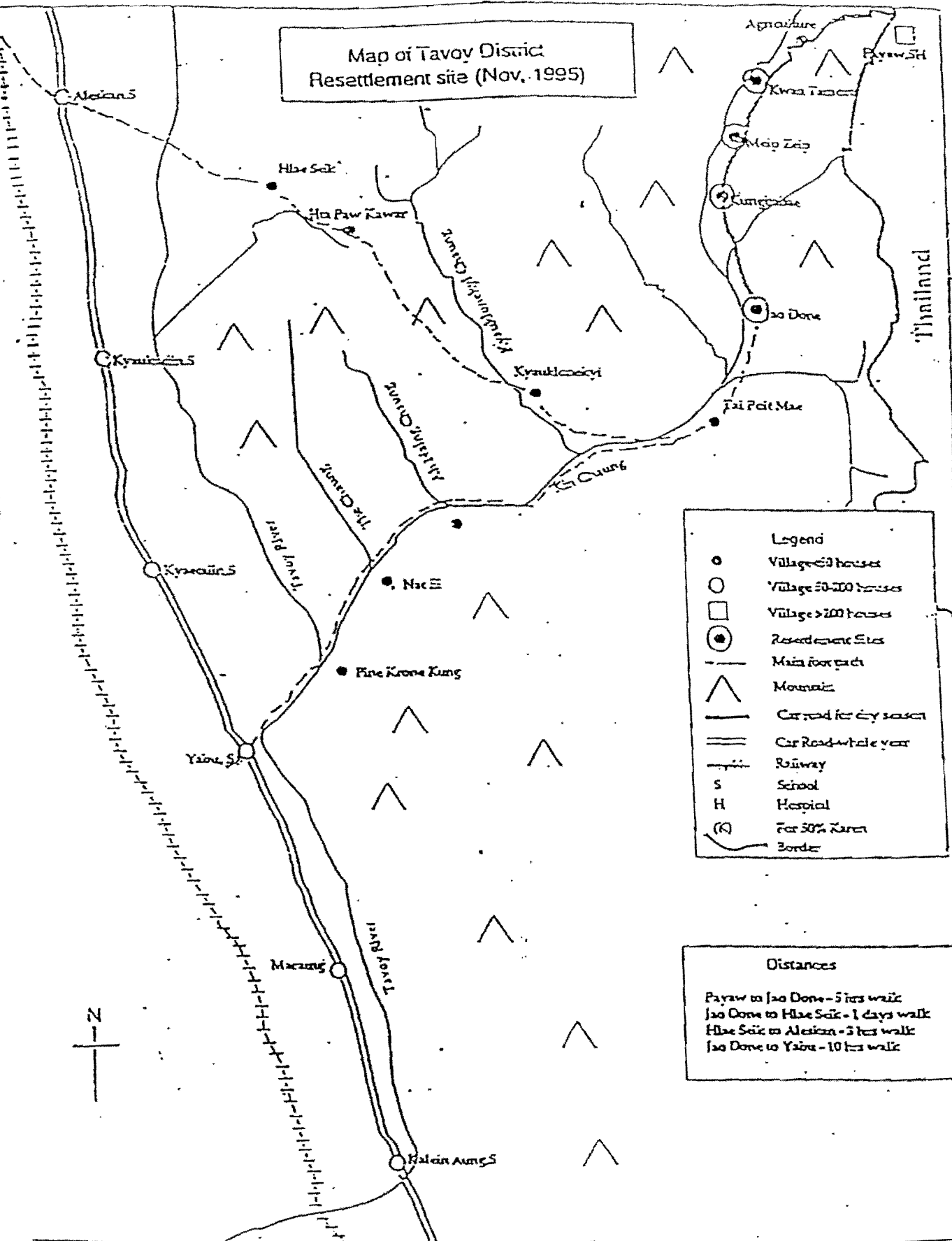
Three Pagoda Pass to Chaining Zone - 3 hrs walk
Daleh Dongephial to Pongkalar - 6 hrs walk
Malackkand to Daleh Dongephial - 1 hr walk
Daleh Dongephial to Chedelt - 8 hrs walk

Three Pagoda Pass to Chasing Zone - 3 hrs walk
Naleh Dongphial to Pongkalar - 6 hrs walk
Hainckland to Naleh Dongphial - 1 hr walk
Naleh Dongphial to Chedell - 8 hrs walk

- | Legend | |
|---|--------------------------|
|  | Village < 50 houses |
|  | Village 50-200 houses |
|  | Village > 200 houses |
|  | Resettlement Sites |
|  | Main foot path |
|  | Mountain |
|  | Car road for dry seasons |
|  | Car Road-whole year |
|  | Railway |
|  | School |
|  | Hospital |
|  | For 50% Keren |
|  | border |



Map of Tavoy District
Resettlement site (Nov. 1995)



Map of Ye River
Dissemination site (Nov, 1995)

