



កម្ពុជា អំណាចនីតិ
ក្រុម
បន្ថែមនូវការអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ និងសុខុមាលភាព

MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER

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

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- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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 (November 2003)

MRDC's Plan for Needs Assessment Survey

Like every year, MRDC plans to conduct the Needs Assessment Survey in all resettlement sites to do a proposal for the request of next year 2004 food assistance for the Mon internal refugees in the resettlement sites: Halockhani, Bee Ree and Tavoy.

There are over 11, 000 populations in these resettlement areas and about 80% of the population are the refugees who were repatriated back to New Mon State Party areas after NMSP-the regime SLORC/SPDC ceasefire. Those returned refugees could not return to their native homes in Mon State, Karen State and Tenasserim Division, southern part of Burma, because they have no more lands and houses there. On the other hand, the returnees felt it is not safe for them to return to the native areas because they are well-informed about the human rights violations and abuses at their home villages.

Therefore, most returned refugees, except some who have to take care their old parents, decided to stay on in the resettlement sites until there is genuine peace in Burma. While they are displacing in the resettlement sites, they face various difficulties for the survival. Geographically, in the mountainous areas, the refugees could not have sufficient agriculture lands to grow the main food, paddy (rice). Economically, most of these resettlement sites are in isolated areas and the refugees could not easily get access doing business.

These displaced returned refugees still require assistance from the donor agencies. If not, they still could face the food-shortage problems, because they could not produce sufficient foods from their farms or could not get income from any type of livelihoods. Generally, the refugees are facing food-shortage during the rainy season due to the transportation and communication cut from one place to another in mountainous areas.

While these returned refugees are residing in the resettlement sites, thousands of rural civilians who live in conflict areas are displacing and some of them also tried to come into these resettlement sites.

In MRDC's survey: it plans to collect demographic information; the situation of agriculture and livelihoods; the situation of new arrivals and the refugees' perception; and the security situation. MRDC staff collect information from all resettlement sites and all information compiled in one Need Assessment report. MRDC will present the report to the donor agencies for consideration for assistance to the refugees in 2004.

In demographic information, the numbers of adults and children will be divided in ages and, male and female. Information of the women and elderly people headed families will be collected and their percentages in the communities will be calculated. These families are very vulnerable to face food-shortage problems, because they could not available income as the normal men headed families.

The agriculture situation must be discussed in the assessment. How many families in each resettlement have agriculture lands and how many baskets of paddy they could produce. In mentioning this situation, MRDC staff talk with farmers and listened their explanation. Some crop reduction would be informed by the farmers, they would inform why the crops are

destroyed. Probably, the paddy crops are destroyed because of insect-attacks, wild animal and bird attacks and other reasons. MRDC staff and the farmers together estimate the amount of paddy that they could produce in each resettlement.

Livelihood are different from one resettlement site to another. The refugees in Halockhani resettlement site have totally relied on the traders from Thailand to have employment and to have income. Traders from Thailand buy bamboo shoots and broom grasses from this Halockhani resettlement site. The refugees could get some income during dry season in selling broom grasses in dry season for two months (February and March) and selling bamboo shoots for two months (July and August) in rainy season. They have no other livelihoods. In the last rainy season, the Thai traders did not buy bamboo shoots and the refugees face a much difficult situation. There is a very less livelihood in Tavoy resettlement site and the refugees have to do 'self-reliance' for their survival. In Bee Ree resettlement site, the refugees could get some works especially in fruit plantations from the local villagers nearby. Some of them are still creating plantations, but they could not produce fruit yet.

MRDC staff interviewed the new arrival families and asked them why they displaced from their homes and why they tried to resettled in the resettlement site. Information about the human rights violations and population displacement includes in the report and the donor agencies could consider the situation of the people in the rural areas.

Refugees' perception will be asked when MRDC staff gets around many houses in the resettlement sites. Normally, the question of 'what is your future plan?' is always confused to the refugees and it is quite hard for them to answer perfectly. The returned refugees have a very unclear future.

Security is too important for the stability of the resettlement site. Last year, because of worst security condition in area where Halockhani camp situated, nearly half of the population fled to other areas and they returned back again in early 2003. This year, the security condition in Tavoy area is worst because the fighting often occur in areas nearby.

The report of Need Assessment report will be presented before the end of 2003 for the consideration for assistance in 2004.

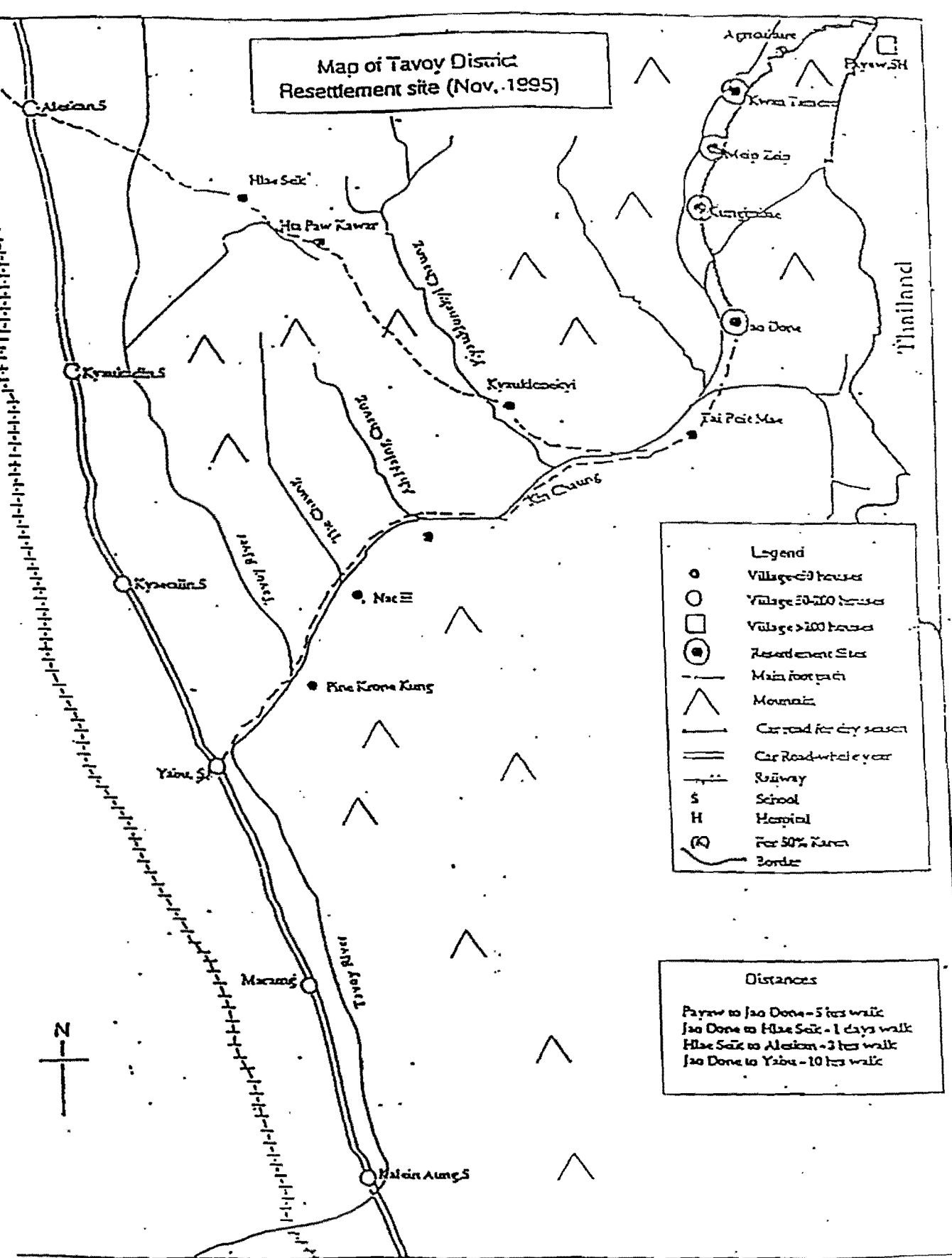
THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE RESETTLEMENT SITES
(November, 2003)

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	1509	1457	920	781	275	341	5283
	TOTAL	2233	3750	3799	1727	1592	632	729	11821

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

No	Organization	Rice (Sack/ 50 kg.)	Fish Paste (kg.)	Salt (kg.)	Bean (Kg.)	Remark
		-	-	-		
	TOTAL	-	-	-		

Map of Tavoy District Resettlement site (Nov. 1995)



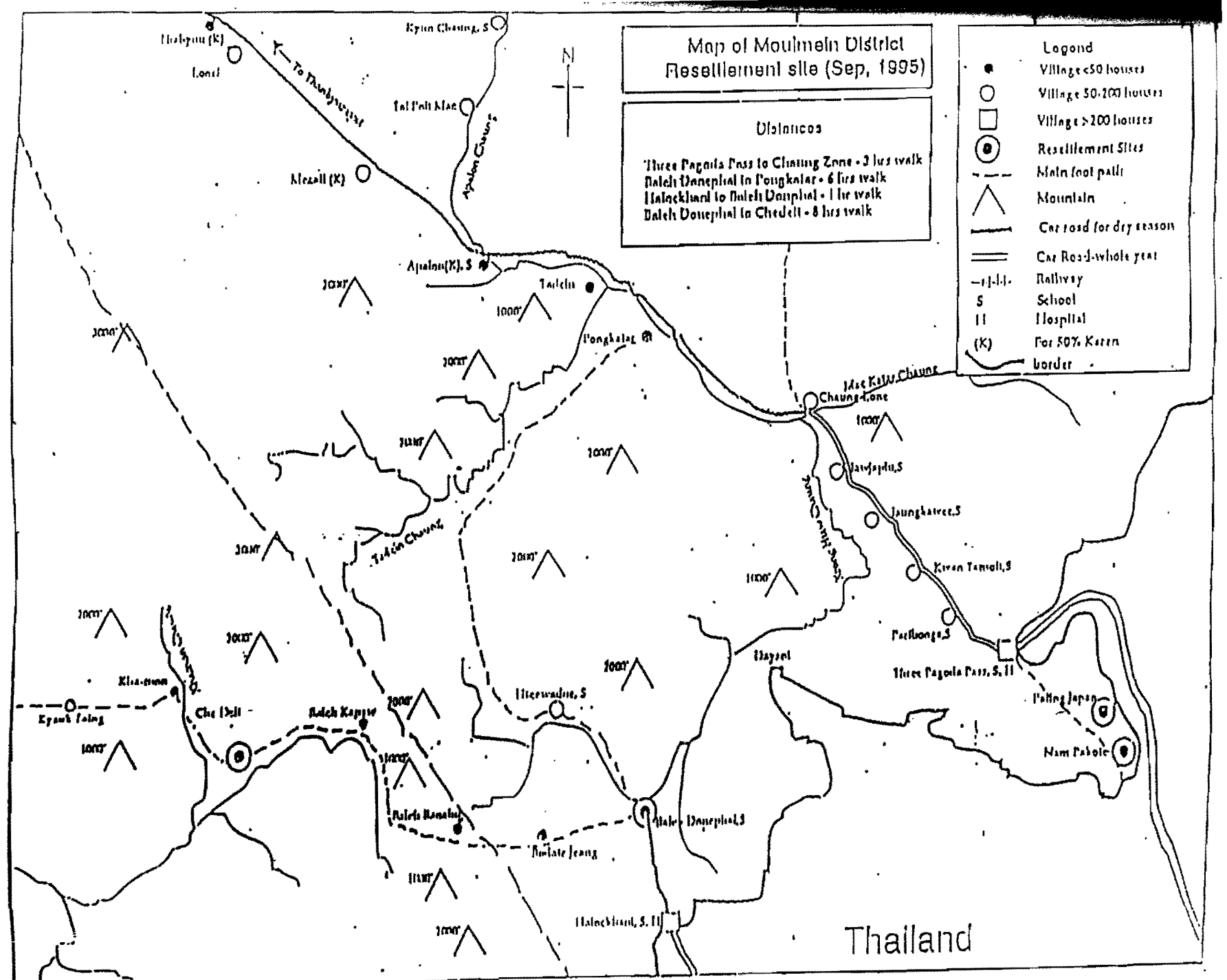
Map of Moulmein District Resettlement site (Sep, 1995)

Distances

Three Pagoda Pass to Chining Zone - 3 hrs walk
Naleh Danyephal to Pongkalar - 6 hrs walk
Haleckland to Naleh Danyephal - 1 hr walk
Naleh Danyephal to Chedelt - 8 hrs walk

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
- H Hospital
- (K) For 50% Karen border



Map of Yo Silar
Resettlement site (Nov, 1995)

