



**ကမ္ဘာတိုက် မင်္ဂလာအဖွဲ့  
လှေ  
ပရောဂျက်အဖွဲ့အစည်း**

**MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**MONTHLY REPORT**

**DECEMBER**

**2003**

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# 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, 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**



- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>1. Nai Wongsala Pala</b> | <b>- Chairman</b>          |
| <b>2. Nai Kasau Mon</b>     | <b>- General Secretary</b> |
| <b>3. Nai Dung Htaw</b>     | <b>- Member</b>            |
| <b>4. Phra Htaw Son</b>     | <b>- Member</b>            |
| <b>5. Nai Glae</b>          | <b>- Member</b>            |
| <b>6. Nai Chit Nyunt</b>    | <b>- Member</b>            |
| <b>7. Nai Tay Jae</b>       | <b>- Member</b>            |
| <b>8. Nai Jon Dae</b>       | <b>- Member</b>            |
| <b>9. Nai Chan Done</b>     | <b>- Member</b>            |

## **MONTHLY REPORT OF MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (December 2003)**

### **NEED ASSESSMENTS IN MON RESETTLEMENT SITES AND THE REQUEST FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE IN 2004**

#### **I. SUMMARY**

As Mon Relief and Development Committee (MRDC) believes there is still the problems of food security in the Mon refugees resettlement sites, Halockhani, Bee Ree and Tavoy, it has conducted a survey to determine their food production and food scarcity in these sites. These information also supports MRDC to make a request to international aid agencies to provide necessary food for these internal refugees.

In this survey, MRDC mainly focus on the population/demography, agriculture and livelihood, food scarcity situation, political and security situation and internal refugees' perception in general.

The Mon refugees were first involuntarily repatriated from Loh Loe camp in Thailand to the current Mon resettlement site in 1994 in order to pressure the Mon political party, New Mon State Party (NMSP) to deal in for ceasefire with the regime. Later after 1995 ceasefire, the remaining Mon refugees were again spontaneously repatriated to Bee Ree and Tavoy resettlement sites in 1996. All of these resettlement sites are in the NMSP controlled ceasefire zones and they are under the protection of the party.

Soon after the (involuntarily or spontaneously) repatriation, NMSP and MNRC (the then name of MRDC) arranged for 'land distribution' to the refugees, in order to establish their stable lives and create 'self-help' conditions in their communities, even though they did not arrive back to their native places. MNRC/MRDC has constantly encouraged and managed along with them to produce sufficient foods in every resettlement site. In every year, MRDC's survey have found even though the returned refugees have tried hard to produce crops in their sites as much as possible, however, they still require food assistance from MRDC and donor agencies. Additionally they also could not make available income from other livelihoods.

The information in this report would provide to donor agencies to consider for humanitarian assistance to the returnees like many other Burma's ethnic displaced people who have fled from the systematic persecution committed by the Burma's military regime.

The returned refugees are right on the other side of the border, in NMSP territory (in Burma), most of their conditions are quite similarly to the refugees in Thailand's refugee camps, except they could get access to some agriculture lands and freedom of movement near their campsites. Because of the security conditions and distance, the access to agriculture lands are also limited for all families in the sites. As the Mon people are traditionally 'low-land' farmers, they could not produce sufficient foods in mountainous areas, where their sites are now situating.

During 2003, even though the security situation in the area near Halockhani became better, after many soldiers from Hongsawatoi Restoration Party (HRP) returned back to NMSP, there has been no more armed conflict near the area. However the other Mon splinter groups still operate their military activities close to Bee Ree and Tavoy resettlement sites. Tavoy resettlement site face worst security conditions in 2003 as the troops of the splinter groups tried to get into the site and the fighting happened in recent November.

Some brief information of each resettlement site are as below:

**Halockhani – Population: 5, 283** (including **139** families of Karen internal refugees in Htee-wa-doe section) and the returned refugees live in five sections: Baleh-hani; Kyaik-soi-mon; Baleh-donephai; Htee-wa-doe; and Kyone-kwee, which are distance from each other bit. **Supply:** because of limited access to agriculture lands in 2002 due to armed fighting, the refugees received 66% of the rice supply of the total need from BBC. **No. of farmers: 273 (29%** of the total families in the site). **Security situation:** troops of Burmese Army sometimes passed near the site and at that time, the internal refugees felt they are not safe. **New arrivals: 33 families** from Ye Township of Mon State and Kya-inn-seikyi Township of Karen State arrived and settled in the site.

**Bee Ree – Population: 3378** (including 257 members of MNEC, the hostel students of Mon National High School and MWO) at four sections or villages in the site: which consists of Suwanaphoom, Ja Haprao, Naung Perng and Nyi Sar, while **Nyi Sar** is the base of MNEC, MWO and a Mon school. **Supply:** the refugees received about 33% of rice supply of their total need from BBC via MRDC. **No. of farmers: 249 (36%** if the total families in the site). **Security situation:** the most secured site, but sometimes, the troops of Mon splinter groups also crossed into the area. **New arrivals: 17** families fled from southern part of Ye Township of Mon State.

**Tavoy – Population: 3219** at six sections or villages: they are Krone Kanaing; Weng Naik; Tor Lwi (*Agriculture*), Jao Done; Krone Baing and Meip Zeip. **Supply:** they received about 33% of rice supply of their total need from BBC via MRDC. **No. of farmers: 37 (6%** of the total families). **Security situation:** troops of the Mon splinter groups often arrived close to the site and the fighting also happened with MNLA troops, and so that it becomes an unsecured site. **New arrivals: 9** families of 48 people arrived in 2003.

Some population also decreased and they moved into some IDPs villages because they needed agriculture lands. A few families of new arrivals have also arrived into these three resettlement sites. **The current population in all sites are – 11, 240.**

Among the families, 273 of Halockhani; 249 of Bee Ree and 37 of Tavoy resettlement sites have rice farms, while Halockhani farmers could produce 9500 tins of paddy; Bee Ree farmers could produce 6300 tins of paddy and Tavoy farmers could produce 1000 tins of paddy. About 122 farmers from Tavoy site abandoned their lands because of dangerous security conditions in April/May 2003. Some farmers in Tavoy site could not complete their harvest because of the security situation. The average seed grown by farmers is: 1.05 tin per farmer. Average crop production is about 35 tins per tin of seed. The total production of the paddy could provide available foods for all refugees only about one-month, while the refugees in Tavoy resettlement site have very small amount of foods.

**Security:** The general situation for 2003 is better if compared with the previous year 2002. The movement of the Mon splinter group has been close to Tavoy resettlement site, and the refugees in that area felt very unsafe. The Burmese Army also often launches the military activities against the splinter group and sometimes they arrived close to the site. It created the limited access to agriculture activities.

## **II. CONCLUSION**

### **RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSISTANCE IN 2004**

Limited access to agriculture lands, the security situation, reliance on outside traders and business, prevent the creation of self-reliance among the returned refugees.

Although MRDC encourages them to be 'self-reliance' on their own farms and income from their various livelihood, however, the political and security situation and other limitations also prevented to not have self-reliance situation. Like Tavoy resettlement site, it is too isolated from business communication with other communities and they could not find regular income.

The returned refugees would remain in these resettlement sites until there is a political settlement in Burma and the Mon people retains their rights to self-determination. However it is hard for them to survive or have enough income and all necessary needs during they are in the resettlement sites. Therefore, they still need assistance from international aid agencies for survival.

**At Halockhani resettlement site, population: 5283. 273 farmers in the site produce 700 sacks of rice (in estimation) in total.** This amount of rice could provide one-month supply. In 2004, if there is no much livelihood, the returned refugees would have difficult situation to have sufficient income to buy foods.

**At Bee Ree resettlement site, population: 3738. 249 farmers in the site produce 460 sacks of rice (in estimation) in total.** This amount of rice could provide one-month supply. The refugees in this site also found difficult livelihood to have regular income to buy supplement foods.

**At Tavoy resettlement site, population: 3219. 37 farmers in the site produce 75 sacks of rice (in estimation) in total.** This amount of rice could provide less than half-month supply. There are less and less business communication with villages along Ye-Tavoy motor road and so the refugees could not get much income.

MRDC's recommendation for assistance in 2003 to internal refugees in all Mon refugee resettlement sites are:

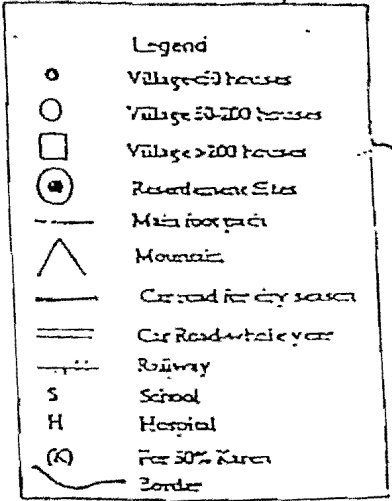
1. There are a lot of needs for food to refugees in 2003 and it is still in need more food in 2004, and **we would like to request 66% of rice assistance for Halockhani and Bee Ree resettlement sites, and 75% for Tavoy resettlement site**, if possible. When there is food-shortage problem, women and children would be seriously suffered from malnutrition and other diseases.
2. Although MRDC provides them with development program by borrowing money, they could only start growing fruit and rubber trees for their long-term income. But it is just a start, they could not rely on that income and therefore, they still need direct food assistance.
3. Considerably, all returned refugees are similarly as displaced persons and accordingly to 'Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement', they still need protection and assistance. Although the competent authorities, NMSP, could provide them some protection for their safety and settlement, however, they still request assistance such as foods, health care and education.

While these refugees are unable to return their homes in Mon area peacefully and dignity, it is necessary to receive assistance from the international community in term of humanitarian aid for their survival. MRDC also expresses thankfulness to aid agencies for their assistance to Mon and other ethnic people while they are facing the most difficult situation.

**THE POPULATION NUMBER IN THE RESETTLEMENT SITES  
IN EACH SECTION (OR) VILLAGES IN THE RESETTLEMENT SITES  
JANUARY, 2004**

No.	Name of Camp And Sections	Number Of Families	POPUL ATION						TOTAL
			Over 5 years		Between 5-12Years		Under 5 years		
			Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
A. BEE REE									
1.	Suwana Phoom	73	91	97	47	48	23	26	332
2.	Johaprao	248	432	459	128	113	76	82	1290
3.	Naung Perng	356	645	679	187	189	73	86	1859
4.	Nyi Sar	10	42	82	53	71	4	5	257
	Total In BEE REE	687	1210	1317	415	421	176	199	3738
B. TAVOY									
1.	Meip Zeip	45	67	54	32	29	15	17	214
2.	Krong Baing	232	377	371	162	146	84	87	1227
3.	Jao Done	124	221	219	57	66	39	33	635
4.	Weng Naike	43	65	67	34	37	12	12	227
5.	Krone Kanaing	38	72	82	30	20	6	7	217
6.	Tor Lawi	129	237	242	74	86	29	31	699
	Total in TAVOY	611	1039	1035	389	384	185	187	3219
C. HALOCKHANI									
1.	Balaeh-hani	241	462	430	184	178	80	94	1428
2.	Kyaik-soi-mon	217	377	360	169	141	67	66	1180
3.	Baleh-Donephai	285	467	469	331	231	83	104	1685
4.	Htee-wa-doe	139	211	198	89	75	34	56	663
5.	Kyone-kwee	61	114	123	25	33	11	21	327
	Total In HALOCKHANI	943	1631	1580	798	658	275	341	5283
	Total in 3 camps	2243	3880	3932	1602	1460	636	727	12240

Map of Tavoy District  
Resettlement site (Nov. 1995)

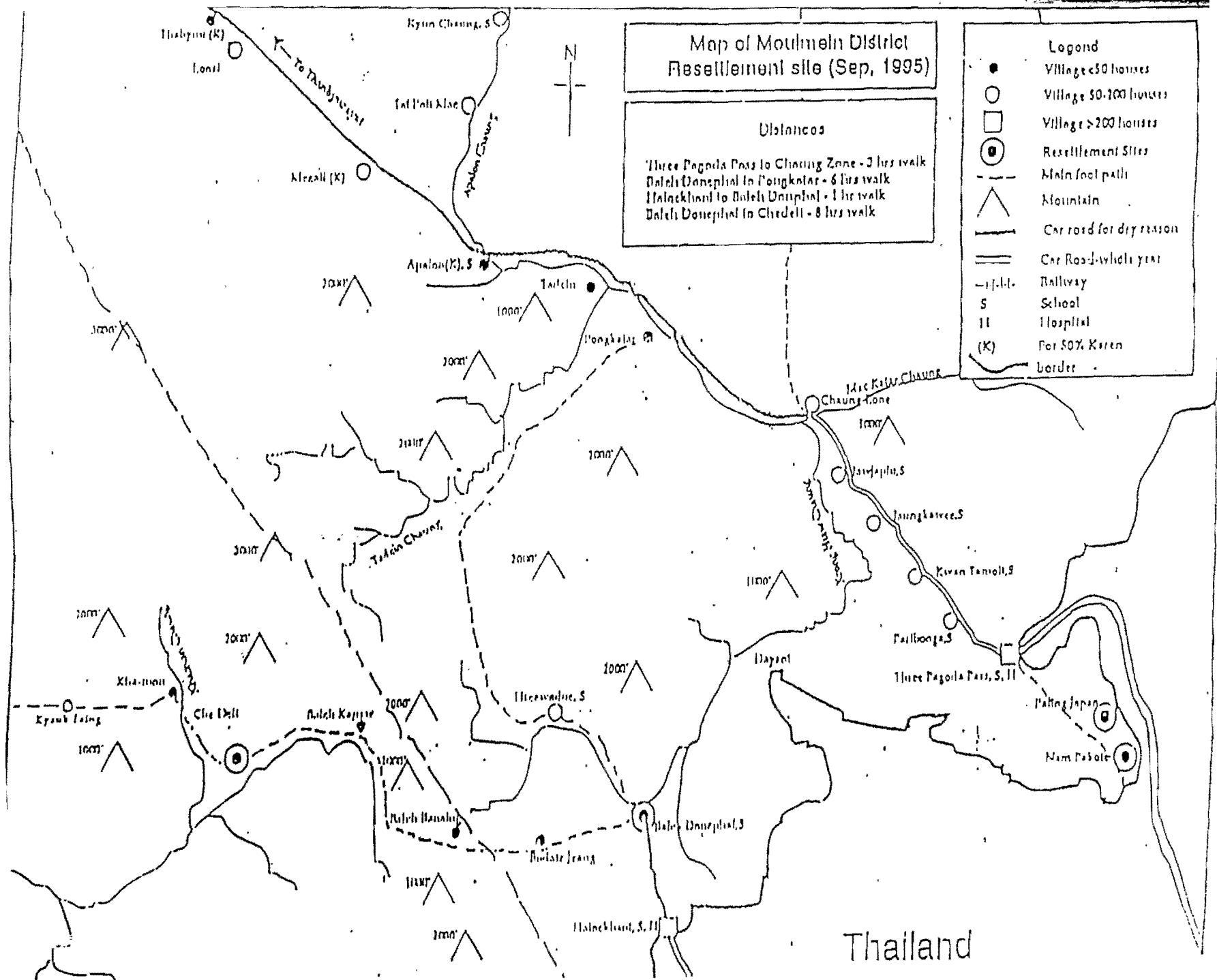


Distances

Payaw to Jao Done - 5 hrs walk  
Jao Done to Hlae Seik - 1 days walk  
Hlae Seik to Alaeion - 3 hrs walk  
Jao Done to Yaou - 10 hrs walk

Payaw to Jao Dome - 5 hrs walk  
Jao Dome to Hlae Soic - 1 days walk  
Hlae Soic to Alexicon - 3 hrs walk  
Jao Dome to Yazou - 10 hrs walk





Map of Yo River  
Resettlement site (Nov. 1995)

