

The Border Consortium (TBC) works in nine refugee camps along the Thailand-Burma/ Myanmar border. TBC pursues change leading to durable solutions while ensuring a protective environment for displaced people of Burma/Myanmar. Our work is centred on the provision of food, shelter, and capacity-building support for the camp residents. TBC also endeavours to increase self-reliance and reduce aid dependency by promoting and supporting livelihood opportunities.



Ration Changes Implemented TBC has implemented new needs-based ration levels in the camps along the Thailand/Myanmar border. These changes and the parallel border-wide implementation of our Community Managed Targeting (CMT) initiative was rolled out successfully at the end of November with the widespread cooperation and participation of camp residents and community leaders.

Necessitated by cuts to funding for humanitarian aid, TBC sought to avoid a blanket cut to rations by introducing 4 ration levels, including Most Vulnerable, Vulnerable, Standard, and Self-Reliant, while simultaneously ensuring that there were no cuts to children's rations and that the most vulnerable families receive extra assistance.

At the same time, CMT and ration changes recognize that some households have been successful in developing coping strategies and are able to provide for their families without additional assistance. The ration changes also reflect TBC's focus on Preparedness, encouraging refugees to develop alternative means to supplement their rations while developing skills and experiences that will help them prepare for a future outside the camps.

TBC engaged in an extensive camp-based communications and outreach campaign in advance of the introduction of ration changes. Campaign teams in the camps held public forums, consulted with community and faith leaders, and went door-to-door in the camps to make sure that refugees were aware of the changes and had time to prepare. As a result of this outreach, the changes were implemented smoothly, with community members frequently noting that while they were concerned about the implications of the ration reductions, they nonetheless appreciated TBC's efforts to inform them and give them an opportunity to prepare.

TBC is continuing to work with the camp communities to refine the CMT criteria, evaluate appeals, and respond to community feedback and concerns in the coming months.



The Campaign Manager for TBC's Ration Changes Communications Campaign in Mae La Ma Luang posts information about upcoming changes at the entrance to a bridge over the Mae Sariang River.



TBC Staff and Camp-based teams serve as ration counsellors during ration distribution in Mae La Camp.



Daw Seng Raw

TBC's Donor Meeting and AGM

TBC held its Annual General Meeting and donor meetings this month in Chiang Mai. Representatives from donors, consortium members, and community partners joined staff to discuss TBC programmes, our work on preparedness for refugee return, and current conditions in Myanmar.

The donor meeting commenced with a day-long seminar on the present environment in South East Myanmar, alongside considerations of future prospects for peace, development, and governance. Titled "Evolving Perspectives of South East Burma/Myanmar," the session began with a keynote address by **Daw Seng Raw**, recipient of the [2013 Ramon Magsaysay Award](#).

Sessions also included a "Programme Marketplace" walkabout with interactive displays on all of TBC's programmes along the border.

Photos from the meetings can be seen on TBC [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) feeds.



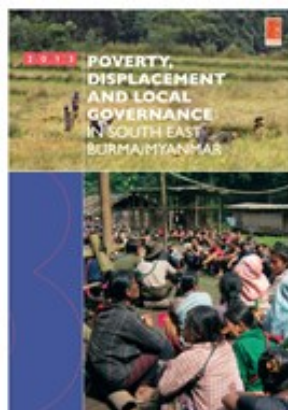
TBC releases 2013 Report on Conditions SE Burma/Myanmar



This month TBC released findings from its annual survey to describe the need to address chronic poverty, protracted displacement and concerns regarding governance in South East Myanmar as part of the conflict transformation process. Eleven civil society organisations collaborated with TBC to conduct the survey in 209 villages spread across 6 states and regions. Almost half of the villages surveyed are located in areas administered by ethnic armed groups.

Accompanying the report is a set of video documentaries which compile interviews conducted with local villagers in South East Myanmar about basic living conditions, protection concerns and the impact of ceasefire agreements. The videos can be viewed on TBC's website at theborderconsortium.org and on YouTube. The footage will also be shown and distributed in Thailand's refugee camps to enhance access to information in local languages about conditions in areas of potential return.

The report, "Poverty, Displacement and Local Governance in South East Burma/Myanmar" is available at theborderconsortium.org.



Donate online

TBC's ability to provide humanitarian aid, community-oriented programming, and respond to emergencies depends on support from institutional donors and from individual donors who help make up the TBC family.

Individual donations can be made online via our website at www.theborderconsortium.org/donate/donate.htm

Donations can also be made by cheque or bank transfer. TBC is a registered charity in the United Kingdom. We express our deep appreciation and gratitude to all our donors and supporters.