

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

AUNG SAN SUU KYI VISITS MAE LA CAMP



Aung San Suu Kyi's visit to Mae La camp on June 2nd brought with it excitement, anticipation and an energy seldom seen in the camps. After meeting with the Royal Thai Government, UNHCR, some NGOs, the Karen Refugee Committee and the Mae La Camp leader, she was driven through crowds of people lining the pathway, chanting 'Ma Suu' and waving flags emblazoned with the fighting peacock, the flag of the National League for Democracy.

Aung San Suu Kyi acknowledged that now is the wrong time to decrease assistance in camps, but the right time to increase assistance in Burma. She expressed concern about three major challenges that the refugees are currently facing in Thailand: a lack of opportunities for youth, the lack of registration, and a reduction in services in the camps due to funding shortages. In the limited time, her message was clear, there is a lot to be done in Burma before the refugees can return, but their plight must not be forgotten: *'For our people to return, we have to provide peace and prosperity'*.

UMPIEM MAI FIRE

TBBC received an absolutely tremendous response to the funding appeal to support the rebuilding effort in Umpiem Mai camp, following the devastating fire in late February. Most of the destroyed houses have now been rebuilt and damaged houses are in the process of being repaired. The refugees have been responsible for rebuilding their own houses and the community spirit has been incredible as refugees have clubbed together to ensure they can all have a roof over their heads as soon as possible.



UPDATE ON PEACE BUILDING PROCESSES

Negotiations between the Government of the Union of Myanmar (GoUM) and Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) based adjacent to Thailand's border remain on track. However, communal violence in Rakhine State and the armed conflict in Kachin State are tragic reminders of how fragile the national peace and reconciliation process remains.

In April, the Karen National Union (KNU) and the government committed to the "progressive realisation of peace" and agreed that the next round of talks will focus on a code of conduct for armed personnel. In May, the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) reached a preliminary 12-point agreement with the GoUM, which covered a range of political human rights and humanitarian issues. Then in June, the government agreed to most of the 20 principles that the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) had proposed with the unresolved issues relating to the demarcation and withdrawal of troops, and the future of hydro-electric dams.

In general, the ceasefire agreements seem to be holding, with a significant decrease in armed conflict and roving troop patrols reported in Karen and Kayah states, although sporadic skirmishes continue in southern Shan State. There has not been any significant withdrawal of Tatmadaw troops from contested areas and rations and ammunition have been resupplied to frontline camps. In this context of relative stability but ongoing tension and insecurity, conditions are not yet conducive for the return or resettlement of internally displaced communities.

"SHARING THE LOAD"

Community Managed Targeting of Food Commodities in Refugee Camps.

Refugees in the camps along the border have developed a range of coping strategies and strive to be as self-sufficient as possible. However, the majority of refugees continue to require food assistance to meet their basic needs. To prioritise the most vulnerable in times of limited funding, TBBC is beginning to target supplemental food assistance to food insecure households.

Community Managed Targeting means that **the community decides over the allocation of assistance.** Beneficiary households are selected by the community itself. The identification process must be transparent, fair, and agreed on by the community.

TBBC's Nutrition Specialist explains that *"Community managed targeting stands out as the best option in the current refugee context, because it requires fewer resources, communities have the best knowledge of their situation making beneficiary identification quicker and easier, and it helps to empower and build community capacity through participation. These skills will be needed if and when refugees return to Myanmar."*

In Mae La camp, the Community Managed Targeting process is underway as a pilot project. The community (camp leaders, refugee committees, CBOs, etc.) have come together to develop a "Mae La Model" and have begun planning a system for implementation.



Mae La community developing the 'Mae La Model'

As rising food prices have significantly increased TBBC's costs and forced cuts to our programme in recent years, your commitment to TBBC's work is extremely valued and essential. You can support refugees and displaced people of Burma by [making a donation](#) to TBBC. Through your donation, TBBC will be able to continue its work to provide essential food rations, shelter materials and build capacities of camp management to support around 140,000 Burmese refugees in nine camps. In this exciting time of political change in Burma, your support and solidarity with refugees and displaced people is more important than ever.

Please make a donation today by visiting the TBBC website [here](#). Thank you for your generosity and commitment to refugees and displaced people from Burma.

