



Situation update

- A draft Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was jointly proposed by negotiators representing the government and ethnic armed groups on March 31. This draft text still needs to be validated by the leaders of all sides, with a summit of leaders from the ethnic armed groups scheduled for May to review the content and process to date. The framework for political dialogue also needs to be finalized and a dignified entry point found for registered political parties to officially join the next phase of negotiations. The most optimistic scenario is that the political dialogue process could be launched before election campaigning begins in September. However substantive negotiations are not expected until the second quarter of 2016 at the earliest.
- UNHCR revised the Strategic Road Map for Voluntary Return in March which has incorporated feedback from various stakeholders. UNHCR Thailand aims 'to be ready when people need us'. UN Myanmar is developing a broad strategy for durable solutions in the South East which incorporates strengthening livelihoods, peacebuilding and human rights promotion. TBC's return planning has been aligned with UNHCR's Road Map, with facilitated return into areas administered by ethnic authorities identified as the pillar for which TBC offers significant added value. Standard Operating Procedures for food assistance, camp management and shelter support during return processes will be developed in the coming months.
- The Verification Exercise conducted by UNHCR and the Ministry of Interior was completed in all camps. To support this process, TBC shared data with UNHCR from the population verification process conducted in November 2014 prior to the distribution of ration books. After delays were experienced during UNHCR's verification exercise in the Mae Hong Son camps, TBC agreed to share photographs associated with each ration book for Mae La and the remaining camps.
- A fire in Ban Mai Nai Soi refugee camp on April 7 destroyed 185 houses and 2 community buildings although fortunately there were no deaths. TBC has been responding in coordination with the Royal Thai Government, UNHCR, non-government organisations, the camp committee and civil society organisations. TBC's emergency funding appeal to ensure adequate food and shelter for families affected by the fire can be found [here](#).

Programme Update

- **Nutrition:** Highlights during March included the facilitation of trainings for Community Nutrition Programme Assistants and health partner staff related to infant and young child feeding (IYCF), community nutrition education and therapeutic feeding. With the intention of finding partners who could continue nutrition services for returning refugees and respond to nutrition issues of children in Southeast Myanmar, the Nutrition Specialist met with the Backpack Health Worker Team (BPHWT) to discuss opportunities for collaboration. As a result, we were invited to do a briefing on the TBC nutrition programme and the 2013 nutrition survey results to around 50 BPHWT medics. Most medics recommended assistance in strengthening Growth Monitoring across the border and proposed a training.
- **Community Management and Preparedness Programme:** The KRC and KnRC were supported to convene a Camp Management Working Group (CMWG) and a Stakeholders' Meeting during March. Key issues arising from the CMWG meeting included concerns about mental health issues after a series of suicides in the camps; youth drug use, gangs, and dropping out from school; preparedness. Tham Hin and Don Yang camp leaders shared their perspectives after recent land surveys and consultations with villagers near areas of potential return in Tanintharyi Region. UNHCR gave an overview of the Road Map for Voluntary Return with the refugees and agreed for a more in-depth workshop to get contributions from refugees in May.
- **Consultations about Assistance:** A meeting between the TBC's Senior Management Team, KRC and KnRC leaders on March 25 was convened to discuss the funding shortfall that TBC is currently facing for 2015. While TBC will continue fundraising to fill the gap, this consultation focused on the options that are available to save funds if necessary. These options range from changing the food and charcoal assistance package, to reducing the reach of TBC programmes, to reducing TBC organisational resources. This type of information dissemination and consultation is planned to continue with refugee leaders in April and May.
- **Child Protection:** TBC and the Refugee Committees have been raising awareness of TBC's Child Protection Policy in the refugee camps. Nine workshops were conducted with a total of 460 camp-based stipend and CBO workers during March in Umpiem Mai, Nupo, Maela, Mae Ra Ma Luang and Ban Mai Nai Soi.
- **Myanmar programme:** TBC is part of an EU funded consortium led by Mercy Corps which started a 3 year programme in Kayah State during March. The "Promoting Sustainable Peace and Resilience in Kayah (PROSPER)" initiative is based around three pillars relating to local governance, community-driven development and peacebuilding. TBC's role is primarily in relation to community-driven development.



Harvesting vegetables, Mae La



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 <http://www.theborderconsortium.org/donate/>

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.