



Nutrition training, Mae Ra Ma Luang

## Situation update

- Peace process:** The President, Speakers of Parliament, Commander in Chief and leaders from NLD and an ethnic opposition party held inconclusive talks about the upcoming elections. Potential entry points for registered political parties to join the peace process if it evolves to the political dialogue phase were also on the agenda. However, the proposed ethnic summit to review the draft Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement has been postponed. After a separate meeting in the Wa Special Region, representatives from 12 ethnic armed groups reiterated calls for the Tatmadaw to stop military assaults in Kachin and Northern Shan State.
- Militarisation and local responses:** In violation of the bilateral ceasefire agreement, Tatmadaw fighter jets launched air-to-ground missiles into populated upland forests administered by KNU near Bawgali Gyi in Thandaunggyi Township during the last week of April. The following week, approximately 350 farmers protested in Loikaw Township against the Tatmadaw's confiscation of customary lands and the subsequent conviction of 6 farmers for trespassing on their own land.
- Refugee Verification Exercise:** The UNHCR and MOI Verification Exercise was completed in the final camp of Tham Hin on May 1. After difficulties in the first camp of Ban Mai Nai Soi were sorted, the process proceeded without too many complications. However, the process was not necessarily homogenous across all camps. While no official information regarding the results have been released yet, indications are that the verified populations in each camp are broadly similar to the TBC database figures for Verified Caseload. Importantly, to date no refugee in the camp has been denied access to services or deported/informed that they have to leave the camp. TBC Field staff will continue to monitor this once official results are released.



Nutrition survey, Ban Don Yang

## Programme Update

- Emergency response to Ban Mai Nai Soi fire:** The humanitarian community in conjunction with the local Thai authorities responded quickly after the fire in Ban Mai Nai Soi on April 7 that destroyed or damaged almost 200 houses. TBC supported communal cooking facilities for the first week, as well as managing to distribute replacement rations to all affected families. TBC was able to assess the reconstruction needs and order the necessary building materials, such that the majority of supplies had already been delivered into the camp by the end of April. An emergency funding appeal was initiated, that has been generously supported, such that the majority of emergency response costs have been covered. Thank you to everybody that helped to ensure that the emergency response was as timely, supportive and effective as possible.
- Camp Management Border-wide Coordination:** A two day meeting in April brought together representatives from all of the camp committees except NuPo, where the MOI/ UNHCR verification exercise was being conducted. The highlight of the meeting was a presentation and discussion about land tenure which was led by the Karen Agriculture Department. The common problem of high staff turnover was also a key agenda topic and possibilities for recruiting post-ten students to assist camp committees were explored.
- Poverty surveillance in IDP camps:** A streamlined household poverty survey was conducted in IDP camps this year, consisting of just 6 key questions for a sample of all households in smaller camps and 150 households in the larger camps. Food security indicators suggest a slight deterioration compared to previous years with acute malnutrition amongst children increasing and access to daily wages decreasing (although food consumption scores are comparable).
- Community rehabilitation projects in Karen State:** TBC staff monitored 15 community-driven projects across 13 villages in Hpaan and Thandaunggyi Townships during April. These projects included the construction of gravity flow water supply systems, water collection points, water storage tanks, latrines and micro-hydro generators as well as the mobilisation of paddy banks, community forests, village agency workshops and awareness raising campaigns about maternal and child health. This monitoring trip identified some lessons to be learnt but overall found that community participation is being well facilitated and technical support is appropriate and accessible.



Reconstruction, Ban Mai Nai Soi



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