

POVERTY AND NUTRITION IN IDP CAMPS (February, 2018)



Background

USAID and DfID have been TBC's primary sources of funding for food assistance to the Shan and Karen IDP camps since 2006. A 40% decrease in DfID humanitarian funding in 2017 led to TBC withdrawing this contribution to the IDP camps and prioritising support for the refugee camps in Thailand. The expiration of a multi-year funding commitment from USAID in August 2017 then induced the cessation of food aid to the IDP camps.

IDP populations (for last food distribution in September 2017)

Camps	State	Township	Female	Male	People	Households
Loi Kaw Wan	Shan	Mong Hsat	1,388	1,246	2,634	438
Loi Sam Sip	Shan	Mong Ton	148	208	356	53
Loi Lam	Shan	Mong Ton	147	148	295	64
Loi Tai Lang	Shan	Mong Pan	1,172	1,124	2,296	420
Ee Tu Hta	Karen	Papun	1,279	1,291	2,570	346
			4,134	4,017	8,151	1,321

In 2012, TBC documented the results of household poverty surveys conducted by civil society partners with over 4,000 households and estimates of internal displacement in south eastern Burma/Myanmar.¹ The survey suggested that 59% of households in communities affected by conflict were impoverished and that 400,000 people remained internally displaced.

This household poverty survey has subsequently been adapted to track the food security, vulnerability and nutritional status of IDP camp-based populations on an annual basis. In 2017, the survey was conducted during October and November which was when TBC food rations were being exhausted. Over 40% of households and almost 50% of children were surveyed with a questionnaire that included 17 indicators.

The following charts, tables and narrative provide a snapshot of findings from the latest survey and trends. These findings will inform TBC's ongoing efforts to sustain food security without the assistance of general food distributions in the IDP camps.

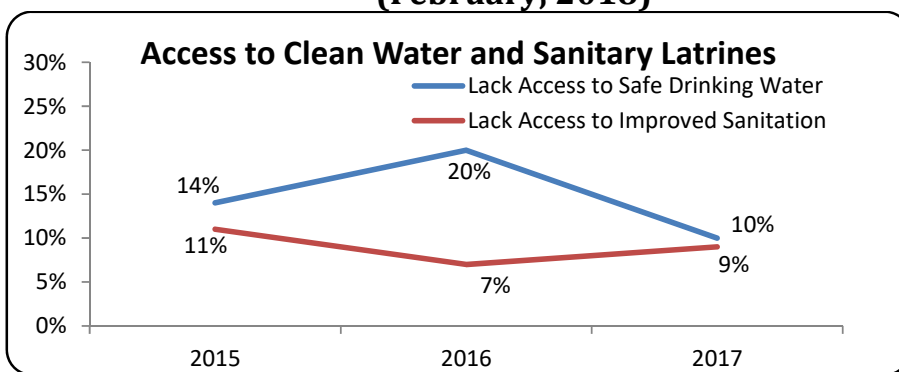
2017 IDP Camp Survey Sample Size

Camp	Total # Children (6m - 5yr)	Surveyed Children	Total # Households	Surveyed Households
Loi Kaw Wan	160	43	438	150
Loi Sam Sip	21	15	53	53
Loi Tai Leng	125	87	420	53
Loi Lam	13	18	64	190
Ee Thu Hta	377	179	346	117
Grand Total	696	342	1,321	563

Options for return to former villages, resettlement to other areas in Burma/Myanmar or onward migration into Thailand remain extremely limited. Even in the absence of food assistance, **almost all households (94%) plan to continue living in the IDP camps in 2018.**

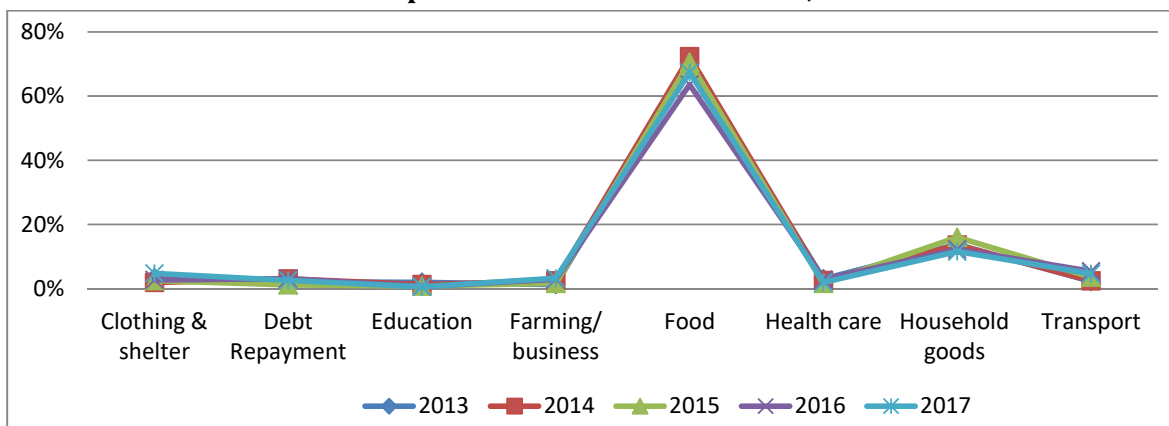
¹ The Border Consortium, 2012, Changing Realities, Poverty and Displacement in South East Burma/Myanmar, <http://www.theborderconsortium.org/media/10374/report-2012-idp-en-1-.pdf>

POVERTY AND NUTRITION IN IDP CAMPS (February, 2018)



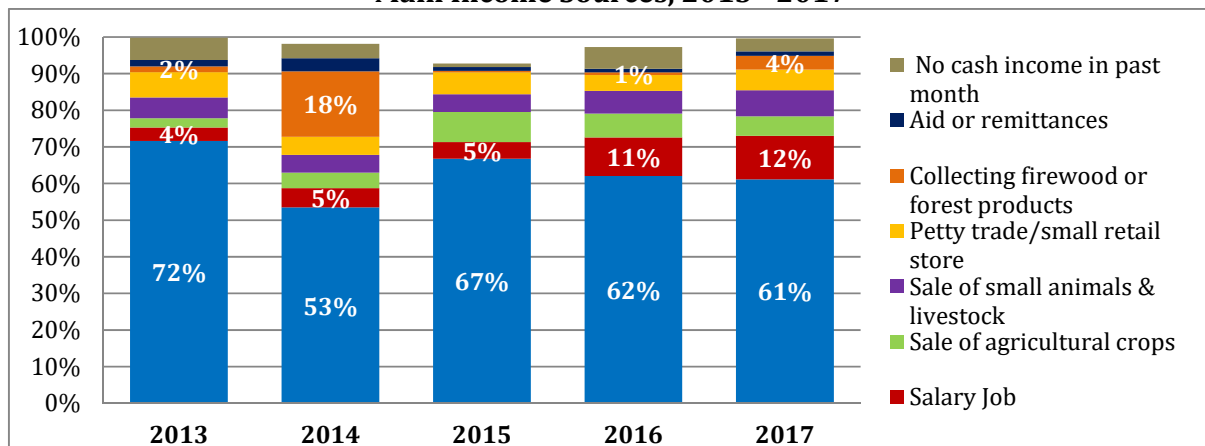
Public health awareness and infrastructure in the camps is relatively good which is an important factor in mitigating against the spread of water-borne disease. There is relatively good access to clean drinking water from protected sources such as deep tube wells and fenced natural springs rather than surface water for rivers, ponds or unlined wells. Similarly, the camps offer improved sanitation with good household access to wet latrines or dry latrines with covered pits.

Household Expenditures in the Past Month, 2013-2017



The lack of income generation opportunities in IDP camps is illustrated by the consistently high proportion of household expenditures that are allocated to buy food. Even with the provision of rice, food still accounts for two thirds of the average households' expenditure which leaves very little for other basic needs.

Main Income Sources, 2013 - 2017

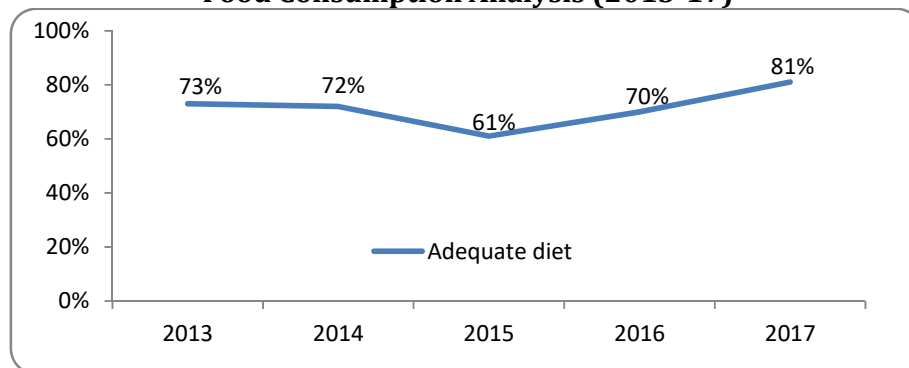


POVERTY AND NUTRITION IN IDP CAMPS (February, 2018)



Analysis of sources for income generation demonstrates a high dependence on casual and seasonal labour for daily wages. Opportunities for seasonal labour were greatest in Loi Kaw Wan and Loi Tai Leng due to nearby coffee and tea plantations and most limited in Ee Tu Hta camp.

Food Consumption Analysis (2013-17)



Food consumption analysis was conducted to assess the diversity, frequency and nutritional value of food consumed during the previous week, based on standard World Food Programme (WFP) guidelines. Findings suggest that food consumption patterns improved during the last two years and that a relatively high proportion of households had an adequate diet around the time TBC rations were exhausted. While protein and vitamin A was consumed daily in at least 80% of households, significant deficiencies were found in the consumption of iron.

Acute malnutrition amongst children aged 6-59 months (2017 sample=324 children)

	2016 IDP camps	2017 IDP camps	2017 refugee camps
Global Acute Malnutrition	5.4%	7.5%	2.1%
Severe Acute Malnutrition	0.7%	2.4%	0.2%

Acute malnutrition (or wasting) amongst children was assessed utilising weight-for-height assessments and standard World Health Organisation (WHO) classifications. While global acute malnutrition rates in the refugee camps have consistently been at an acceptable level for the past decade, rates in the IDP camps have increased by 2.1% since 2016 and are categorised as poor. This is particularly concerning as acute malnutrition is an indicator of recent nutritional deficiency.

Chronic malnutrition amongst children aged 6-59 months (2017 sample=324 children)

	2016 IDP camps	2017 IDP camps	2017 refugee camps
Global Chronic Malnutrition	35.5%	37.6%	31.8%
Severe Chronic Malnutrition	12.7%	10.7%	6.7%

Chronic malnutrition (or stunting) amongst children was assessed utilizing standard height-for-age assessments and WHO categories. Global chronic malnutrition in the IDP camps remains high, having increased by 2.1% since 2016, which raises concerns about long term impacts to children's cognitive and physical development.