

# COMMUNITY-LED DISMANTLING, RECYCLING AND REUSE OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Thai-Myanmar Border, The Border Consortium

June 2016

**openspace**

June 2016

**openspace**

[openspacebkk@gmail.com](mailto:openspacebkk@gmail.com)

# TABLE OF CONTENT

---

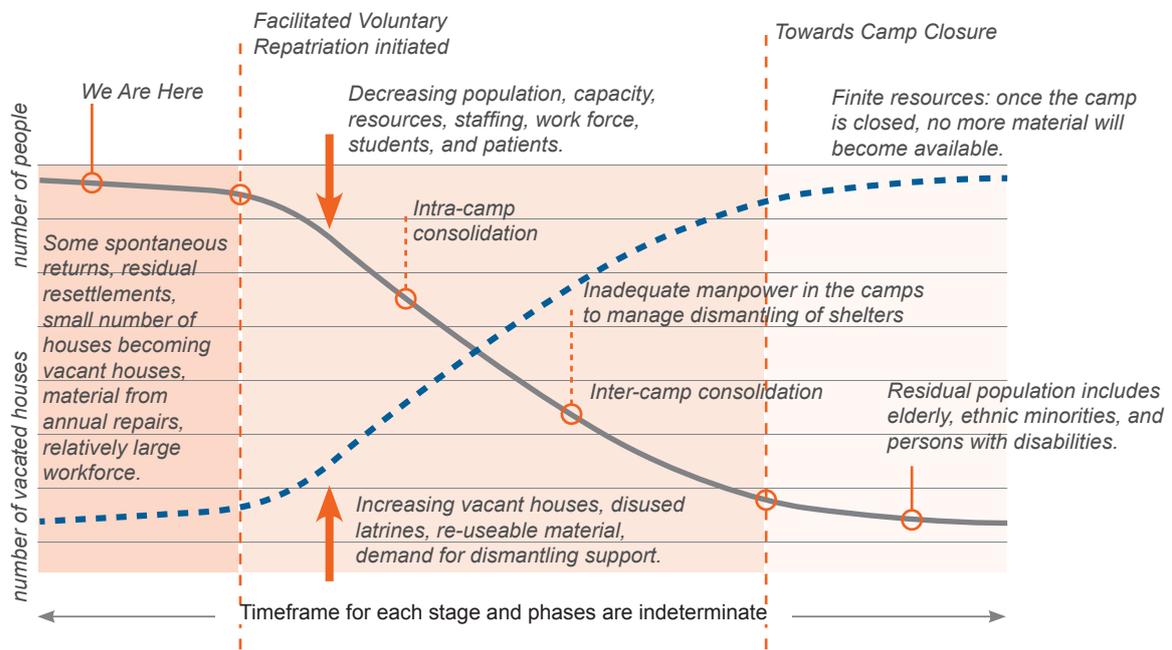
Executive Summary	4
1. INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 The changing context	
1.2 Objectives	
1.3 Methodologies	11
2. CURRENT TRENDS AND PRACTICES	
2.1 KRC and KnRC Housing Policy	
2.2 Policy In Practice	
2.3 Construction Waste Management	
2.4 Public Structures and Infrastructures	
3. SCENARIOS	17
3.1 At present	
3.2 Facilitated Voluntary Repatriation	
3.3 Towards Camp Closure	
4. MATERIAL	21
4.1 Material in Camps	
4.2 Material Management	
5. CONSTRUCTION WASTE MANAGEMENT	27
5.1 Alternatives to landfill	
5.2 Recycling Possibilities	
6. RECOMMENDATIONS	35
6.1 Overview	
Coordination and Planning Mechanism	
Camp Closure Planning (infrastructure)	
Dismantling and Construction Waste Management	
Settlement Planning	
Rehabilitation	
REFERENCE	43
ANNEX A: Meeting Notes	

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The nine camps along Thailand-Myanmar border currently hosts over 103,000 people, living in 20,112 self-built houses<sup>1</sup> across four provinces of Ratchaburi, Kanchanaburi, Tak and Mae Hong Son. The camps are also composed of hundreds of community buildings such as offices, schools health facilities as well as infrastructures such as roads, water pipes, and washing areas.

At present, most of the shelter waste material comes from annual repairs, with small number of houses being dismantled which are being managed by Section's Committees and Shelter Working Groups. As UNCHR's Facilitated Voluntary Repatriation process is initiated and gains momentum, however, population will decrease at a faster pace, as will resources and capacity. The number of vacant houses and disused latrines will increase as will the waste shelter material and demand for manpower for dismantling.

At present, there is no formal plan from the Thai government as to camp closure preparation and procedures or rehabilitation. In principle, MOI will ensure that the land is rehabilitated before it is handed over to the other government departments, local authority or landowners.



The chart showing projection on a possible pathway following successful Facilitated Voluntary Repatriation. As the population decreases, so do the resources and capacity; the number of vacant houses will increase as will the used shelter material and demand for manpower for dismantling.

## Dismantling and Construction Waste Management

On-going construction waste management is a major contribution towards fire risk reduction in the camps, management of used material have long been providing additional resources to households. Options for material management will range from re-use to full demolition and will likely be implemented in combinations, and should be included in camp closure plans.

Interests around recycling in the camp were not as high as might have been expected

- Common practices are for reusing rather than processing of waste material for further use.
- More interests were shown for trainings and learning about these recycling techniques and technologies with the view towards income generation post repatriation.
- The finite nature of these raw materials for recycling also means that investment will likely loses its return as soon as the camps close.
- Transport of material outside the camps for processing will render it too expensive
- Quality of recycle products will likely be poor and will not provide adequate returns commercially or compete with other income generating opportunities.
- Little value is placed in material like bamboo and thatches outside of the camps.

Recycling should be introduced for capacity building purposes as preparation to returns, even though interests for implementation in the camp were low both in and outside of camps.

It is also apparent that consideration for dismantling, re-use and re-cycling of shelters must be done within the framework of camp closure preparedness and planning. The following set of recommendations draws out a process that approaches the question of dismantling and recycling of shelter material from a much broader perspective of **Natural Resource Management, Return Preparedness and Camp Closure Preparedness**.

These recommendations should be seen to feed into Camp Consolidation, Decommissioning and Environmental Rehabilitation plan as part of UNHCR's Operational Procedures for the Facilitated Voluntary Repatriation of Myanmar Refugees in Thailand.

### **Coordination and Planning Mechanism for Camp Closure**

In order to establish common vision, strategy and plans within the camps, it is vital that there is a

- Dedicated multi-Sector and multi-agency platform for discussions on policies and directions on resource management, returns and camp closure.
- Engagement with Thai Authorities and Thai villages are key in ensuring sustainable integration towards camp closure and rehabilitation
- Engagement with NGOs and CBOs, taking on responsibilities regarding community structures, as well as engaging more in multi-agencies initiatives within the camps.

This can be based on the CDNRM Collaborative Management Committee or set up as standing agendas for existing camps' general coordination meeting, making sure Thai villagers are also invited when the agenda is due for discussion.

### **Information Management**

Accurate and timely information is vital for all areas of planning and implementation. Overall information management should remain hosted by camp committees and working groups. It is important to strengthen and increase capacity for information management in preparation for increase demand and workload.

Information Management activities can include, but not limited to:

- Housing Management System
- Mapping
- Inventory of assets for community structure and infrastructure.

### **Camp Closure Planning (Infrastructure)**

Each camp will need to formulate its own camp closure plan and identify key relevant stakeholders, within the framework of UNHCR's Operational Procedure for the Facilitated Voluntary Repatriation of Myanmar refugees in Thailand. This recommendation focuses on the infrastructure component and should feed into the Operational Procedures for facilitated voluntary repatriation.

The planning process should:

- Be participatory and collaborative as per the camps' practices
- Ensure common understanding on roles and responsibilities amongst all stakeholders.
- Established upon clear indicators and trigger points for activation of each stage
- Include plans for the following recommendations: dismantling, settlement planning and rehabilitation

Challenges:

- Clarity on rehabilitation plans from Thai government may not be available until the camps are closed.

## **Settlement Planning**

As the population decrease in the camps, settlement planning will be vital in ensuring that:

- Camps residents continue to have access to key services
- Improve quality of life for those still living inside by
- Maximising available resources and
- Ensuring that vulnerable families are part of the decision making process.
- Consolidation process contributes towards rehabilitation, initiates setting up of zoning such as green zones and recreational areas.

Participatory settlement planning process will also help build capacity for their eventual returns.

Most of the discussion around consolidation currently focuses around consolidation of common services and facilities. As camp population decrease further, population consolidation to cluster around common facilities may also be needed in order to afford the same level of care and services.

Challenges:

- Lack of resources to carry out consolidation plans
- After a certain period of facilitated returns, there will not be enough manpower in the camps to carry out and support consolidation.

## **Rehabilitation**

For many of the camps, this will be a natural progression from Community-Driven Natural Resource Management, rather than setting up of a new committee. It is important to recognise that rehabilitation process can start at any time.

A holistic, full-circle approach to parts of rehabilitation can:

- Offer opportunities for camp residents to participate in rehabilitation process of their own camps can be beneficial in learning about natural resource management in preparation for returns.
- Improve relationship with Forestry Departments, local authorities and local villages

Unless otherwise stated, planning assumption should be that MOI's will return the land to its original condition prior to handing over back to its owner.

Challenges:

- Getting engagement and traction from local Thai villages in camps where CDNRM Collaborative management committee is not already active. Villages that do not share watershed with the camps will be less likely to participate.