



THE BORDER CONSORTIUM

PROGRAMME REPORT

JANUARY - JUNE 2015





The Border Consortium

Working with displaced people

30 Years

www.theborderconsortium.org

THIS IS THE BORDER CONSORTIUM

MISSION

The Border Consortium (TBC), a non-profit, non-governmental organisation, is an alliance of partners working together with displaced and conflict-affected people of Burma/Myanmar to address humanitarian needs and to support community-driven solutions in pursuit of peace and development.

VISION

TBC envisions a peaceful Burma/Myanmar where there is full respect for human rights, diversity is embraced, and communities are able to prosper.

VALUES

Dignity and Respect

Partnership

Empowerment

Reliability

Justice and Equity

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Caritas Switzerland; Christian Aid, UK and Ireland; Church World Service, USA; Dan Church Aid, Denmark; Diakonia, Sweden; ICCO, Netherlands; International Rescue Committee, USA; NCCA-Act for Peace, Australia; Norwegian Church Aid, Norway; and ZOA Refugee Care, The Netherlands



ABOUT THE BORDER CONSORTIUM (TBC)

The Border Consortium (TBC) is a consortium of 10 International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) from eight countries. Membership is open to other NGOs with similar interests and objectives. TBC's head office is in Bangkok, with five field offices in Thailand. TBC also has an office in Yangon with two field offices in South East Burma/Myanmar.

TBC works in cooperation with the Royal Thai Government (RTG) in accordance with regulations of the Ministry of Interior (MOI). TBC is an executive committee member of the Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand (CCSDPT), committed to coordination of all humanitarian service and protection activities with 17 other NGO members of CCSDPT and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). TBC's programmes are consistent with the CCSDPT/UNHCR Strategic Framework for Durable Solutions and are implemented through partnerships with Refugee Committees and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs). TBC is in the process of registration in Burma/Myanmar.

TBC is a signatory to The Code of Conduct for The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief, and as such, aims to be impartial and independent from any political viewpoint. TBC and its member organisations are not affiliated with the political aspirations or foreign policies of any government, group or movement. TBC's advocacy work is based on the principles of International Humanitarian and Human Rights law, and is aimed at ensuring that the rights of all TBC's beneficiaries and stakeholders are fulfilled regardless of their race, creed, or political affiliation.

TBC strives to deliver timely, quality services to the refugees and conflict-affected communities in South East Burma/Myanmar and is committed to following international humanitarian best practice. The overriding working philosophy is to maximise beneficiary participation in programme design, implementation, monitoring and feedback.

TBC is a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. Company number 05255598. Charity Commission number 1109476. TBC's registered office is at 35 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL. The name change from Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) was registered in November 2012.

This report describes the programmes and key achievements of TBC during the period of January-June 2015. This six-month report analyses programme outputs and results as they pertain to TBC 2013-2017 Strategic Plan.

TBC's 2015 combined operating accounts for programmes in Thailand and Burma/Myanmar was THB 816M (approximately USD 24M).

Donations can be made through the TBC website at www.theborderconsortium.org.

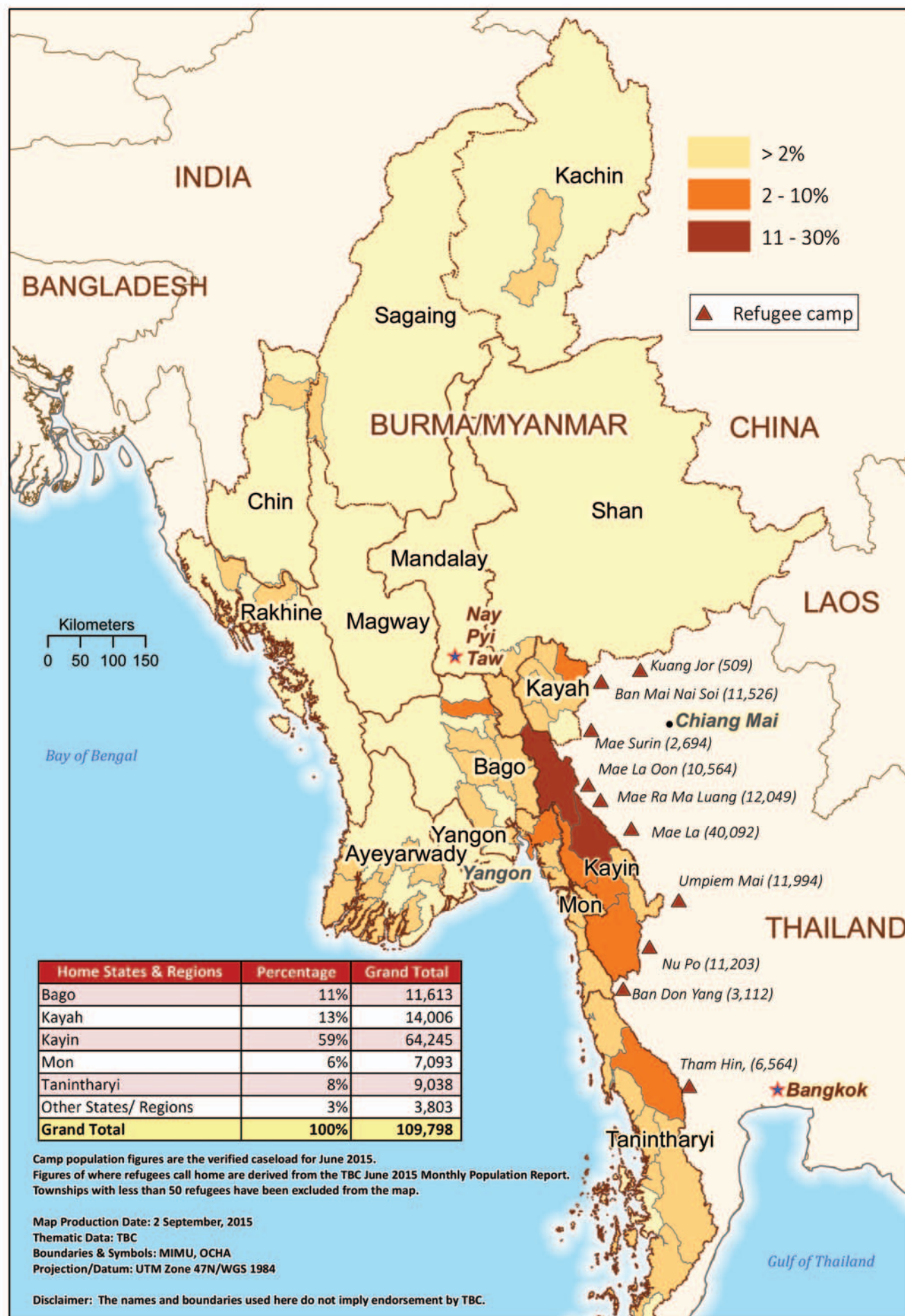
TBC can be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



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Where Refugees Call Home



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With the elections in Burma/Myanmar set for November 8, 2015, the political climate was focused on preparations leading up to the polls. The Union Election Commission tried to address some of the issues encountered in 2010 general elections, and competition between and within registered political parties intensified. However, the ongoing repression of rights to peaceful assembly, expression, and association undermines the potential for free and fair elections.

The peace process stalled and the period was characterised by an escalation of conflict in Kokang, Kachin and Shan areas. However, the Government's Union Peace-making Work Committee (UPWC) and Ethnic Armed Organisations Nationwide Coordinating Team (NCCT) negotiated a draft Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), to which 15 amendments were called for at a subsequent summit of Ethnic leaders. There is a possibility that the NCA will be formalised during this term of Parliament, but there is no agreed framework for political dialogue as yet.

While there has been significant reduction in fighting and restrictions on movement in the South East since the preliminary ceasefires were negotiated, there has been no respite from militarisation. This and the absence of interim arrangements for governance during the peace process, have contributed to tensions between armed groups and insecurity for civilians, in contested areas. The Tatmadaw reportedly launched air to ground missiles in a training exercise conducted into upland areas controlled by Karen National Union. There were skirmishes between armed groups over business concessions, and there was an outbreak of fighting between Tatmadaw and the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) over taxation on the Asia highway, resulting in internal displacement. Anecdotal evidence suggests that militarisation remains the most significant obstacle to return.

The political situation in Thailand was relatively quiet with the National Council for Peace and Order still holding power. At the end of June, the TBC verified caseload in the nine refugee camps was 109,798. Resettlement was ongoing with 2,987 people leaving for third countries, the rate of spontaneous returns remained insignificant, and only 250 new arrivals were accepted for ration distributions – the end result was a net decrease in the population of around 300 people. For the first time since 2005, the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees (UNHCR) and Royal Thai Ministry of Interior (MOI) conducted a Verification Exercise of all people residing in the camps border-wide, which was recorded at 109,035 at the end of June with some cases pending. The similarity between the figures reaffirmed the value of the continually updated records kept by the Camp Committees.

TBC programmes combined reached almost 220,000 people in Thailand and Burma/Myanmar. The focus throughout, remains on preparedness for return through reinforcing resilience of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDP), and supporting recovery of conflict-affected communities in South East (SE) Burma/Myanmar. TBC aligned its planning for return with the UNHCR Strategic Roadmap for Voluntary Repatriation. Community Managed Targeting of assistance to the most vulnerable was the *modus operandi* for delivery of all humanitarian assistance. Continuing integration across programmes to support households with increased livelihoods opportunities aimed at increasing their food security.

In SE Burma/Myanmar, TBC is working through a wide range of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), to deliver community-rehabilitation programmes in over 150 villages and cash transfers to assist people in recovering from livelihood shocks, aside from the continuation of food assistance to six IDP camps. TBC continues to facilitate and support platforms for information exchange on the peace process.

Costs for TBC during the period totalled THB 465 million against a budget of THB 466 million. The expected full year expenditure is THB 816 million, which would be a saving of THB 18 million against the original operating budget. TBC started the year with an operating budget of THB 834 million that resulted in a TBH 70 million shortfall. Cost cutting strategies were put in place affecting rations, programmes and staffing, to be phased in during the year. Fortunately, exchange rates and commodity prices have been favourable, but the combined result of the above is still a shortfall of THB 20 million. TBC will continue to seek funds and hopes to close this gap by year end, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract new funds to the refugee programme in Thailand.

TBC thanks all donors for their generous support and seeks ongoing commitment from all current donors, to stay with the programme through to a dignified conclusion.

Refugee and IDP Camp Population June 2015



Refugee Camp Figures	TBC Verified Caseload ¹			Feeding ² Figure	MOI/UNHCR Verified Population ³
Province/Camp	Female	Male	Total	Total	Total
CHIANG MAI					
Kuang Jor ⁴	260	249	509	509	
MAE HONG SON					
Ban Mai Nai Soi	5,616	5,910	11,526	11,324	10,976
Ban Mae Surin	1,345	1,349	2,694	2,590	2,564
Mae La Oon	5,314	5,250	10,564	10,452	10,693
Mae Ra Ma Luang	6,122	5,927	12,049	11,319	12,098
Subtotal:	18,397	18,436	36,833	35,685	36,331
TAK					
Mae La	20,344	19,748	40,092	38,870	39,049
Umpiem Mai	6,023	5,971	11,994	11,767	12,658
Nu Po	5,778	5,425	11,203	10,870	11,529
Subtotal:	32,145	31,144	63,289	61,507	63,236
KANCHANBURI					
Ban Don Yang	1,585	1,527	3,112	3,013	3,022
RATCHABURI					
Tham Hin	3,439	3,125	6,564	6,239	6,446
Total Refugees	55,826	54,481	110,307	106,953	109,035

IDP Camps ⁵	Female	Male	Total	Refugees by Ethnicity	
Loi Kaw Wan	1,332	1,382	2,714	Karen	79.2%
Loi Sam Sip	185	237	422	Karen	10.3%
Loi Lam	148	149	297	Burman	2.7%
Loi Tai Lang	1,120	1,308	2,428	Mon	0.8%
Ee Tu Hta	1,719	1,770	3,489	Other	7.0%
Halockhani	1,526	1,520	3,046		
Total:	6,030	6,366	12,396		

Notes:

1. The TBC verified caseload includes all persons, registered or not, confirmed living in camp and eligible for rations.
2. Rations are provided only to those who physically present themselves at distributions.
The Feeding Figure is the number of beneficiaries who collected rations at distribution the previous month.
3. According to MOI/UNHCR Verification Exercise conducted Jan-Apr 2015.
4. Ethnic Shan Camp.
5. IDP camp population figures are derived from camp committees on a monthly or quarterly basis.

CHAPTER I: SITUATION UPDATE



POLITICAL SITUATION IN BURMA/MYANMAR

The political climate in Burma/Myanmar during the first half of 2015 was shaped by contradictions. With elections looming at the end of the year, competition between and within registered political parties has intensified. However, compromise between parties to armed conflict has become increasingly important in achieving a NCA that may set the stage for broader political dialogue. These contrasting dynamics of competition and conciliation have arguably reduced potential for rapid development in either the democratisation or the peace process, but increased the possibility for sustainable change.

In preparation for the November 8 polls, the Union Election Commission has tried to address some of the problems encountered in the 2010 general elections. Party registration and candidate pre-selection processes

have been facilitated well in advance. Voter lists have been publicised in order to enable corrections. Technical assistance and advice has been welcomed, and invitations for international election observers issued. It has been anticipated that there will be 16,000 national observers of elections at polling stations spread across the country.

Yet the ongoing repression of rights to peaceful assembly, expression and association are undermining the potential for free and fair elections. The violent crackdown on students who were protesting for independent student unions, for example, is not conducive to political participation. The Association for Assistance to Political Prisoners (AAPP) has documented detention of at least 120 political prisoners with another 444 human rights defenders and journalists awaiting trial.

The Constitutional Tribunal's ruling in February that hundreds of thousands of temporary registration, or 'white card', holders would not be eligible to vote, is an indicator of disenfranchisement targeting Rohingya

communities in Rakhine State. While elections are once again, unlikely to be held in conflict-affected areas of Kachin, Shan and Karen States for security reasons, the exclusion of 'white card' holders reflects regression since the 2010 elections and potential for election violence hangs heavy with hate speech evident in early campaigning.

This is part of a broader challenge relating to the lack of legal status for the Rohingya community, which results in restrictions on movement and lack of access to protection, social services, and livelihood opportunities. The poor conditions in IDPs camps were highlighted during international media coverage of irregular migration in the region. At the same time, discrimination against women and Muslims has been legitimised by Parliament's passage of legislation that regulates interfaith marriages, and birth spacing in designated communities.

More generally, despite legislative reform, outdated laws that do not comply with human rights standards remain in force. Hopes for constitutional reform were dashed when military representatives vetoed Constitutional Amendment Bills that sought to change Article 436 (to unlock the process for further amendments) and Article 59(f) (which prevents Aung San Suu Kyi from running for President).

The peace process stalled over the New Year period, partly due to contentious points of negotiation. Another influential factor was a separate process of dispute management that was required, in response to the heavy artillery attack by the Tatmadaw against a Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) military training camp last November. In order to revive the momentum, a symbolic Deed of Commitment to National Reconciliation and Peace was signed on Union Day in

February by the President, both Parliamentary Speakers, senior Tatmadaw commanders, numerous legal political parties, and four of the ethnic armed groups.

However, this joint statement coincided with the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDA) resurfacing in the Kokang Special Administrative Region. The MNDA had previously been a government ally for 20 years until resistance to the formation of a Border Guard Force in 2009 led to a split in leadership. After the MNDA reformed and targeted government and Tatmadaw positions, the Tatmadaw responded with a massive land and air offensive. This continued even after the MNDA announced a unilateral ceasefire in June. At least 200 combatants have reportedly been killed and over 80,000 civilians displaced during the months that followed. This militarisation also led to an escalation of conflict in the nearby Kachin, Shan and Ta'ang areas.

Nonetheless, the UPWC and Ethnic Armed Organisations' NCCT managed to negotiate a Draft NCA on March 31. While widely misunderstood as a historic peace agreement, the draft common text still needed to be presented to leaders of the Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAO) for approval and did not include a framework for political dialogue to address causes of conflict.

At a subsequent Summit of Ethnic Armed Organisations in June, ethnic leaders called for 15 clauses to be amended and established a Senior Delegation to guide the NCCT during the next phase of talks. Negotiations in July continued with outstanding issues of contention being the inclusiveness of EAO signatories; the seniority of Government and Tatmadaw signatories; the composition of international observers; resource sharing during the interim arrangements; and sequencing of EAO disarmament and security sector reform.



KRSDO, Needs Assessment, Shadaw 2015

There remains a possibility that the NCA will be signed by at least some of the EAOs during the term of this Parliament, but there is not yet agreement about the framework for political dialogue, which is supposed to start within 90 days of signing the NCA. The President has hosted a series of inconclusive multi-party dialogue sessions to address the upcoming elections, and potential entry points for registered political parties to join the peace process during the political dialogue phase.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SOUTH EAST BURMA/MYANMAR

While there has been a significant reduction in fighting and restrictions on movement in the South East since the preliminary ceasefires were negotiated in 2012, there has been no respite from militarisation. TBC's survey of 'Protection and Security Concerns in SE Burma/Myanmar', documented perceptions that troop strength has either been maintained or strengthened in 70% of village tracts during this ceasefire period.

Militarisation and the absence of interim arrangements for governance during the peace process inevitably lead to tensions between armed groups and insecurity for civilians in contested areas. In April, the Tatmadaw reportedly deployed MiG-29 fighter jets for a training exercise, which included launching air-to-ground missiles into upland areas administered by the Karen National Union (KNU) near Bawgali Gyi in Thandaunggyi Township. Similarly, competition between the United Wa State Army (UWSA) and Tatmadaw related to logging concessions led to skirmishes in close proximity to Shan IDP camps in Mong Hsat Township during June. Unregulated commercial exploitation of teak and hard wood in Kayah State has depleted forest cover so much that the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) announced a total logging ban.

An outbreak of fighting during July between the Tatmadaw and DKBA ostensibly over taxation along the newly constructed Asia Highway in Kawkaik provides a snapshot of the instability that pervades the South East. A lack of consultation with local communities, multi-lateral finance for large-scale infrastructure, and economic opportunism by local commanders in the absence of interim arrangements for revenue sharing, all contributed to a skirmish that displaced 500 people. The tensions spread to Hlaing Bwe, where the deployment of Tatmadaw troops killed two civilians soon after.

Furthermore, the fighting between a Karen Border Guard Force allied with the Tatmadaw and the DKBA undermined months of trust-building between different Karen armed groups.

The United Nations and donor governments have dropped the South East from the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan for Myanmar, which is aiming to raise USD 190 million for over 500,000 vulnerable people in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan States. Instead, a framework for the South East is being developed to address the inter-related humanitarian, stabilisation, development and peace-building needs. However, this framework has yet to be operationalised, raising concerns about inadequate inter-agency coordination mechanisms and capacities to respond to contingencies such as sporadic skirmishes in the South East.

Nevertheless, official development assistance is starting to be scaled up in response to chronic poverty and protracted conflict. The multi-donor Livelihoods and Food Security Trust (LIFT) Fund has allocated USD 65 million for a three year Uplands programme in Burma/Myanmar, which specifically targets areas emerging from conflict in the South East. A multi-donor Joint Peace Fund is also scheduled to be fully operational by mid-2016 with indicative pledges of USD 30 million to support formal peace processes and community-level peace-building initiatives. After a three year delay, the World Bank is expanding its National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP) support into conflict-affected areas by working through the Department for Rural Development starting with villages in Kayah State. Oversight of foreign aid in contested areas is one of the amendments that the Senior Delegation is seeking for the Draft NCA, so that it is conflict-sensitive, and not only administered through government channels.

REFUGEES IN THAILAND

The political situation in Thailand has been relatively quiet. The National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) continued to hold power; martial law was lifted in April in most areas, but there were no indications of a transfer in power, with elections unlikely to take place before September 2016. The NCPO continued to pursue legitimacy through economic development, and a cabinet resolution was passed to develop Mae Sot as a special border economic zone. There were no changes to refugee policy, and while refugees continued to seek livelihoods opportunities in areas close to the camps, the threat of arrest was ever present. Small scale skirmishes in SE Burma/Myanmar resulted in limited

internal displacement, but there were no reports of people seeking protection in Thailand as a result of conflict.

At the end of June, the TBC verified caseload was 109,798 (excluding 509 in Kuang Jor), which was a net decrease of only 300 people (similar to the same period in 2014). Movement in and out of the nine border camps was relatively static. This was possibly due in part to the UNHCR/MOI Verification Exercise conducted border-wide between January and April, the first time since 2005 that the Royal Thai Government (RTG) and UNHCR has recorded details of all persons residing in the camps. MOI was clear that this was not a refugee status determination exercise, and the status of registered people and unregistered people in the camps would not change as a result, and neither would anyone be de-registered if they did not show up. TBC's database and ration books were used extensively to support the process, and there was good cooperation between local Thai authorities and Refugee Committees to resolve any discrepancies in documentation. The UNHCR/MOI verified caseload was recorded at 109,035 at end of June, with a few hundred cases still pending. The similarity with the TBC verified caseload is a credit to

the high quality work of Camp Committees over the last 10 years that has ensured their records of the camp population are continually updated.

All persons over 11 years of age (approximately 77,000), received an e-card that will be used to assist durable solutions for all refugees. While MOI has stated this is a one-off exercise, the UNHCR/MOI verified caseload will be updated for the registered population (births, deaths, departures). It is also hoped that new-born children regardless of parental status will receive birth registration under the revised Civil Registration Act (2008).

Resettlement

According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), 2,987 refugees left for third country resettlement, with the United States of America (USA), Australia, New Zealand and Canada taking the majority of cases. Estimates for the remainder of 2015 are around 7,200, with a spike in August and September expected. In the last two years, UNHCR made two submissions of Fast Track cases for consideration by the Thai Provincial Admissions board for registration in the

Figure 1.1: Refugee Departures

Location	Australia	Canada	Denmark	Finland	Netherlands	Ireland	Japan	Norway	NZ	Sweden	UK	USA	Others	Total
Former urban					1			1				21		23
Ban Mai Nai Soi	102	3							22			259		386
Ban Mae Surin	28											98		126
Mae La Oon	29	23			3				10			265		330
Mae Ra Ma Luang	72	3							17			340		432
Mae La	121	29			2				30			625		807
Umpium Mai	40	4							8			263		315
Nu Po	50	4							10			195		259
Ban Don Yang	11	5										117		133
Tham Hin										1		175		176
2015	453	71	0	0	6	0	0	1	97	1	0	2,358	0	2,987
2014	953	187	3	1	163	1	23	3	47	22	3	5,809	61	7,276
2013	919	81	9	137	75	0	18	27	104	1	1	7,553	89	9,014
2012	377	28	0	158	95	0	0	16	153	16	0	6,553	18	7,414
2011	794	82	4	179	108	2	18	13	171	21	0	8,137	14	9,543
2010	1,011	350	16	129	100	3	27	51	5	89	4	10,013	31	11,829
2009	2,332	874	11	240	27	0	0	297	116	134	5	13,033	10	17,079
2008	1,563	697	1	308	189	0	0	84	25	143	29	14,406	7	17,452
2007	1,520	1,611	9	383	96	97	0	460	158	212	111	10,436	9	15,102
2006	757	794	7	208	115	0	0	355	201	357	81	2,681	5	5,561
Grand Total:	10,679	4,775	60	1,743	974	103	86	1,307	1,077	996	234	80,979	244	103,257

Source: IOM, Assisted Departures from Thailand reports as of June 2015

camps. They will submit a third list in the second half of 2015 with more focus on Protection and Medical Cases for possible future resettlement.

Preparedness

The general consensus remained that the current situation in Burma/Myanmar is not conducive to promote repatriation, however preparedness activities were ongoing.

UNHCR updated the Strategic Roadmap for Voluntary Repatriation in March, which outlines the strategic directions for Voluntary Repatriation, supports planning processes, and underlines international standards for Voluntary Return in safety and dignity. The document has been shared with RTG and the Government of the Union of Myanmar (GoUM), as well as Non State Actors (NSAs). UNHCR continued to reiterate that it is the decision and the right of refugees themselves to decide about return, even if the humanitarian community is not yet convinced of the situation. A workshop was held with the Refugee Committees and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) to ensure that stakeholders understand the Roadmap document. There was an agreement to conduct operational planning, to gain better understanding of every actor's roles in the context of return, and Committee for Coordination Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand (CCSDPT) agencies developed sectoral working papers for further exploration with the Refugee Communities, to be included in the operational plan.

The Refugee Committees have adopted a set of principles for return and plan to develop their own strategy and implementation plan. UNHCR Myanmar has a return monitoring tool designed for spontaneous returns, which has verified 1,248 refugees and 6,379 IDPs who have returned since January 2012 with the intention of remaining permanently. This figure is likely an underestimation as some people do not wish to be identified, and some areas are inaccessible to UNHCR staff.

Some camps made "go and see" visits, to identify areas of potential return and discuss the situation and challenges they will face – particularly access to land and livelihood opportunities, as well as landmine risks with local ethnic authorities. Although return is a possibility, in reality there are no guarantees for security in the absence of a ceasefire agreement or protection mechanisms, and the unlawful association act is still in force.

UNHCR Myanmar convened a series of meetings on SE Burma/Myanmar, and while there has been exchange of information relating to situation and programmes,

no coordination mechanism has been established as of yet to link NGOs working in SE Burma/Myanmar with CCSDPT agencies in Thailand.

TBC return planning matrix was aligned with the five strategic pillars of the UNHCR Roadmap and a first draft was developed on operational plans for food assistance, shelter, and settlement in which issues of protection, people with special needs, decommissioning, and opportunities for recycling and livelihoods emerged.

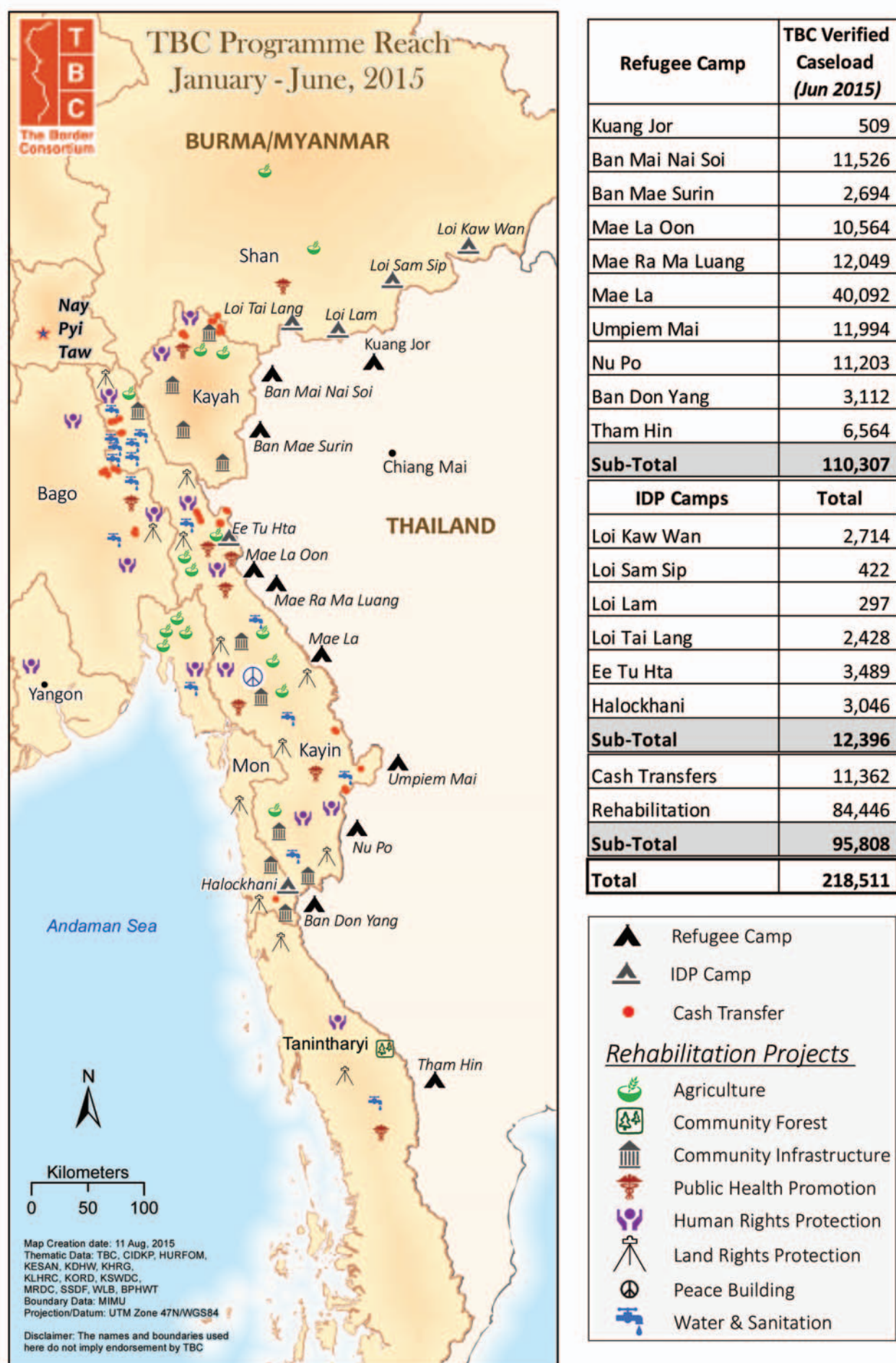
The RTG with the Thai army conducted a contingency planning exercise, to prepare for the possibility of an influx of new arrivals from Burma/Myanmar. However assurances were made that this was a regular annual exercise, and not an indication of any changes in SE Burma/Myanmar.

Migrants

The NCPO has established five special economic zones to promote investment and also increase employment. Migrant workers and their dependents who were holding stay/work permits that expired in May, were given until the end of June to come forward to renew at the One Stop Service Centres (cost THB 3,160). There are over 1.3 million migrant workers with some form of registration and/or work permits, but the majority remain undocumented. To meet high employment needs, a new border employment scheme will be established in coordination with the GoUM, which will allow its citizens to cross for work every day with a 90 day multiple entry border pass.

Separately, the discovery of mass graves and many broker camps along the Thai border with Malaysia, resulted in a crackdown on the migration flow and trafficking of people by sea. Making the perilous journey from Burma/Myanmar and Bangladesh to Malaysia by boat via Thailand, these people were left crammed in unseaworthy boats stranded at sea. While the routes have been temporarily shut down, the system is expected to resume once the monsoon rains are over. This is a complex issue: Rohingya continue to be denied citizenship in Burma/Myanmar and as some boats with migrants returned to Burma/Myanmar in April, those identified as Rohingya were taken into custody, while those from Bangladesh were held in border camps until the Bangladesh Embassy in Myanmar confirmed identification and people returned to Bangladesh. There were some preliminary discussions to consider whether Rohingyas should be accommodated in the refugee camps on the Thailand Burma/Myanmar border, but this was not pursued by the RTG.

Figure I.2: TBC Programme Reach



CHAPTER 2: PROGRAMME REPORT



Nutrition Survey, Ban Don Yang

Strengthening Preparedness, Supporting Recovery and Transition, and Upholding the Humanitarian Imperative

TBC believes that displaced men and women should cooperate to build and sustain a fair and inclusive society through equal participation, representation, opportunities, and access to resources. TBC's 2013-2017 Strategic Plan, which provides a framework for all of the organisation's programme activities, emphasises social inclusion and gender equity within each of its **five strategic directions**. TBC programmes in 2015 highlights preparedness, while still emphasising the humanitarian imperative both for refugees and for the internally displaced remains.

2013-2017 Strategic Directions

1. **Readiness:** Equitable access to information related to the Burma/Myanmar peace process, preparedness activities and resources, and opportunities to establish return. Highlighting on participation and interest of CBOs and most vulnerable groups in the course of developing preparedness and return plans.
2. **Economic and Social Development:** Strengthening refugee understanding of the diversity in their communities and the differences in vulnerabilities and capacities that exist in households. Supporting displaced and conflict-affected communities to adopt healthy and nutritious dietary practices – especially for infants and children. Developing their understanding of and capacities for greater self-reliance in household level food security and livelihoods, even in the context of camp restrictions through scale up of community leadership in agricultural production, small business development, and livelihoods management, giving more opportunities to reach women, youth and marginalised groups.
3. **Humanitarian Support:** Promoting the Community Managed Targeting system in food assistance and providing mechanisms for prioritisation of shelter assistance to vulnerable households to ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided to those who need it the most (i.e., households where heads are chronically ill or disabled, single parent households, elderly persons living alone, unaccompanied children, households headed by persons with low skill level and no education, and others).
4. **Participation and Governance:** Encouraging inclusive and accountable programmes, strengthening governance and reconciliation processes by building the capacity of community leadership, and promoting civil society/community engagement, while increasing participation of women and other under-represented groups in all TBC, and camp management activities.
5. **Organisational Development:** Continuously evolving TBC's organisational structure, resources, and programme direction in both Thailand and Burma/Myanmar, such that social inclusion, gender equity, child safeguarding, and protection are all taken into consideration in programme design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) processes. The formation of the Social Inclusion and Gender Equity working group that leads TBC's efforts to strengthen inclusion and gender equity dimensions in TBC programming.

TBC was a runner-up for the **Ockenden International prize for 'Building Preparedness for Return'**. The Executive Director was joined by representatives from the Karen Women's Organisation (KWO) and Karenni Refugee Committee (KnRC) to present the case at Oxford University in the United Kingdom (UK). The team used the opportunity for advocacy events hosted by Burma Campaign UK, including meetings with key Parliamentarians, UK Department for International Development (DFID), Amnesty International, and the media.



Naw Ta Mla Saw, Dr John Sentamu-Archbishop of York, Sally Thompson, Luiz Kaypoe
Photo credit www.RichardBudd.co.uk (C) 2015

ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

- **Total number of beneficiaries:** TBC provided support for almost a quarter of a million persons with 108,000 people residing in SE Burma/Myanmar, and around 110,000 residing in nine refugee camps in Thailand.
- **SE Burma/Myanmar:** Those who benefitted from a broad range of community-driven recovery and rehabilitation projects, with a focus on enhancing livelihoods, totalled 84,446 people. Cash transfers assisted 11,362 impoverished civilians. Food assistance was provided for 12,396 IDPs living in six camps adjacent to the Thailand border.

Humanitarian Assistance

Supply teams distributed 6,545 metric ton (MT) rice, 619 MT pulses; 280 MT fortified flour; 253 MT fish-paste; 345 ML cooking oil; 120 MT salt and 5,235 MT charcoal from 46 warehouses in nine camps supported by 6 TBC supply officers and 359 camp staff. IDP camps received support to purchase 868 MT of rice, and 9 MT of salt.

- **Camp Management:** Over 3,000 refugees (39% women) played a crucial role in various functions within the camp management structures to deliver programmes supported by TBC. Another 515 persons had oversight of Section Committees; 197 of these were in Camp Committees, and 152 persons were active in the implementation of Community Managed Targeting.
- **Preparedness Planning:** Peace building workshops and awareness campaigns about peace building were held for refugees, who sought to understand how they could participate in discussions of peace. Moreover, the Camp Management and Preparedness Programme team worked together with Refugee Committees in forming camp level governance and preparedness plans, where engagement in activities related to preparedness has been growing. Three Camp Committees carried out "go and see" visits, and Refugee Committees are in the process of organising visits for the other camps.
- **Child Protection:** The roll-out of the revised TBC Child Protection Policy, together with the updated Code of Conduct for TBC representatives was completed. The new policy has been translated to Karen and Burmese languages, and shared among refugee partner organisations, all staff, and TBC's supply chain network.
- **Community Managed Targeting:** This approach has been very successful in engaging refugee communities in understanding vulnerabilities, and in defining the criteria for food basket allocations based on those vulnerabilities for individual households. The past six months have seen people's enhanced understanding and acceptance of the intervention, as well as better collaboration within each community.
- **Nutrition:** Monthly averages of 4,090 eligible individuals, including pregnant and lactating women, and 60 children with wasting malnutrition, were enrolled in Supplementary Feeding Programmes to receive supplementary nutritious food. A monthly average of 1,640 children participated in the Infant and Young Children Feeding programme, "Healthy Babies, Bright Future", targeting children up to the age of 24 months. The nutrition programme provided lunch support for a monthly average of 7,800 children between the ages of 3-5 years in nursery schools.
- **Food Security and Livelihoods:** The Community Agriculture Programme and Entrepreneurship Development Programme activities supported over 9,000 (40%) refugee households. Youth participation in agricultural training increased, and regular work in kitchen and community gardens continued, including with out of school youth, youth in schools, and those residing in boarding houses. A total of 1,025 persons have received training and start up grants for different kinds of entrepreneurial activities. Support was also provided to 37 nursery schools, and 48 schools and boarding houses.
- **Shelter and Settlement:** A total of 114 section-based Shelter Working Groups received capacity building training. All 22,194 houses and 215 of the community buildings received assistance with repair materials. A total of 1,053 shelter special needs households were recorded, where 296 households subsequently received repair and re-building assistance, and 757 received full allocation of materials for self-repair works. A Post Distribution Monitoring assessment of 95% of the housing stock was carried out by camp-based staff, where 21,126 houses were assessed, out of which 561 houses were classified as unsafe (2.6% of the total housing stock) and 1,573 houses (7.4%) were classified as being located on un-safe plots, at high risk of flooding, tree fall and/or landslide. Training was also provided for bamboo treatment/furniture building, a range of concrete skill development, and GPS surveying.
- **Community-Driven Natural Resource Management:** These activities continue to be implemented in three camps (Nu Po, Mae La Oon, and Mae Ra Ma Luang), as well as surrounding villages, and development of management regulations has begun in Tham Hin, all through the community-driven mechanism.
- **Organisational Development:** The second phase of TBC's organisational restructuring was completed. Staffing reduced from 115-110 people, with a negligible change to the gender ratio, and online exit interviews have been introduced.

COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AND PREPAREDNESS

This has been a challenging period for refugee leaders and their communities as they strived to engage with the UNHCR/MOI Verification Exercise, the UNHCR launch of discussions on their Roadmap, and the stricter enforcement of policies limiting refugee mobility and external access to camps. Meanwhile, they had to work with TBC in finding ways to support the organisation in adjusting its programmes and services due to significant budget shortfalls. The process has resulted in agreements on reductions in the food basket, charcoal, camp staffing, and administrative support alongside staff downsizing within TBC.

Through the Community Management and Preparedness Programme (CMPP), TBC supports refugees and displaced persons in strengthening their self-governance capacity while staying in the camps, and assists them in making informed decisions about their future and potential return. The CMPP's goal is to promote more meaningful refugee community participation, strengthen refugee leadership in governance, and support preparedness for return. Developed in collaboration with the Refugee Committees, including the Karen Refugee Committee (KRC) and the Karenni Refugee Committee (KnRC), as well as leaders from all nine Camp Committees, the programme's framework has **six main components:**

I. Camp Management and Refugee Representation

Leadership of the Refugee Committees and participation of the community have observably progressed in spite of all challenges. KRC, KnRC, and Camp Committees, are all more consciously engaging CBOs in the management of camps, and are increasingly intent on consultations with their constituencies, as exhibited for example, by leaders of Ban Mai Nai Soi who decided to begin conducting their own survey on livelihoods, in efforts to develop relevant and effective programming in their area.

There has also been a shift in the way refugee leaders embrace their role in promoting self-reliance and livelihoods in their community. Greater attention has also been placed towards the importance of addressing inequalities, increasing participation, and developing preparedness plans. In both the context of return and self-governance, elder leaders have even begun to

provide space for the emergence of young community leaders.

Refugee leaders are more organised and confident in the way they collaborate with CCSDPT, TBC, and UNHCR, which was illustrated through their proposals to TBC on managing this year's funding gap, and leadership in Camp Management Working Group meetings, where they summarised camp issues and requested coordinated responses from CCSDPT sectors. Moreover, refugee leaders have actively discussed the proposed UNHCR Roadmap, and have found ways to assert the concerns and perspectives of their respective communities. The result of this growth has been that refugee leaders more actively assert plans that may address their needs. For example, a workshop was held at the request of refugee leaders to comprehensively discuss, as well consider feedback from communities on the proposed Roadmap.

Mixed messages during the UNHCR/MOI Verification Exercise created some challenges for Camp Committees. Many camps experienced a spike to previously recorded residents returning to be verified. This placed an additional strain on camp management structures as they worked to understand UNHCR/MOI objectives and procedures, to in turn be able to provide guidance to their community. Official references used in the process, included the UNHCR/MOI refugee registration and the TBC ration database. Although not directly engaged in the exercise, TBC supported Refugee Committees and Camp Committees in ensuring that solutions were found for camp residents whose documents were not in proper order. For example, in some ration books, families had photos pasted in, instead of print outs. TBC and Camp Committees discussed and sorted these cases out directly with UNHCR/MOI. The good cooperation with Thai authorities, in discussing documentation discrepancies and taking input from camp leaders as they completed the Verification Exercise, speaks to the reliable work of camp leaders in governing their communities.

Stipend Staff

Camp stipend staff receive periodic training to properly perform their jobs, and gain skills for future employment. KRC and KnRC make efforts to achieve equal gender representation not only in camp management but all stipend-staff positions. A child care programme for stipend staff enables mothers or caretakers to choose a suitable person who will be paid a monthly stipend to care for children or disabled persons. This has had a very positive impact in terms of enabling mothers and caretakers to become engaged in community activities.

COMMUNITY PROFILE:**Pla Paw**

A man that many in his community respect, Pla Paw believes in devoting his loyalty, commitment and energy towards his people. Sending a message that all resettled refugees should always remember where they came from, and support their communities even after they have started their new lives, he also encourages refugees in the camp who will not be resettled to prioritise livelihood activities and prepare themselves for return.

Pla Paw comes from Karen state, and started working for his community in 2002, initially in water sanitation, and then in security. A natural leader, his commitment to his people manifested itself as he was first elected in 2006 as a section leader in Umpiem Mai, and is

now a leader at the Camp Committee level in social affairs. In addition to his current role, Pla Paw supervises livelihood activities in the camp, is a school committee member, and a religious leader.

In a recent public forum held to inform refugees about the upcoming ration reductions, Pla Paw took inherent initiative – even though it was not his responsibility – to address the concerns of all participants, and help them understand every detail around the cuts. His colleagues all identify him as a person who lives up to what is expected of him in his leadership role, who cooperates and collaborates with others, including with the Mediation Arbitration team, and cares for his community however he can.



The leaders across all camps have expressed concern around their capability to absorb greater responsibilities, given experience of high staff turn-over, including those in elected positions (644 stipend staff resigned from January-June 2015). Nevertheless, Refugee Committees are committed to the camp management framework, and continue efforts towards self-led community preparedness initiatives. TBC has provided technical advice, capacity building to ensure these structures can effectively perform tasks, as well as financial, administrative and logistical support. Despite the challenge of a high resignation rate, there is still an

impressive 3,022 refugee stipend staff (3,036 staff end December 2014) at the camp level with the percentage of female staff stable at 30% (39% excluding the predominantly male security staff). Election guidelines ensure a greater gender balance in camp management, by requiring 30% of representatives be women at both the Refugee Committee and Camp Committee level. Approaching elections in 2016, plans are being made to extend this guideline to zone and section level representation. See the table below for a detailed breakdown:

Figure 2.1: Stipend Staff June 2015

Programme	Staff		Total	% Women
	M	F		
Main Camp Committee/Office staff	121	76	197	39
Zone Committee	21	6	27	22
Section Leader and Section Committee	379	136	515	26
Warehouse and Population Monitoring Officers (PMO) staff	220	139	359	39
Household Leaders	127	91	218	42
Advisor and MAT	40	13	53	25
Child Minders/Disability carers	51	162	213	76
Code of Conduct Committee/CPC	34	18	52	35
EDP Camp-based staff	24	29	53	55
Shelter staff	148	23	171	13
CAP Staff	75	34	109	31
Community Nutrition Programme Assistance	17	44	61	72
Community Managed Targeting staff	66	86	152	57
Shelter Bamboo Staff	4	4	8	50
Care Villa (Disability) Care Taker	1	1	2	50
Total (Excluding Security Staff):	1328	862	2190	39%
Security	781	51	832	6
Total (Including Security Staff):	2109	913	3022	30.2%
Persons with a Disability (PWD) working as stipend workers as of Dec 2014 ¹	40 people or 1.32% as of June 2015 (33 people or 1.09% in December 2014)			

Efforts began to streamline CMPP camp management and programme staff, as well as its operations, in order to reduce costs and also to raise efficiency in camp staffing and overall effectiveness. Planned changes will be finalised by August.

2. Protection and Accountability

The CMPP completed a series of workshops with the leaders and staff to develop skills that can equip them to effectively fulfil their role, and to implement ethical standards in humanitarian programming. Trainings conducted during the period included peacebuilding, Code of Conduct, Training of Trainers (ToT) on child protection, and supervision training on how to delegate and conduct performance evaluations. TBC also supported KRC and KnRC in promoting good governance principles among community leaders and CBOs in five camps. The core characteristics and principles of good governance were discussed to help these leaders evaluate their individual camp governance situation, find ways for improvement, and develop and complete work plans for 2015.

One of the most critical functions of camp management is maintaining security in the camps. While the legal

responsibility over safety and security in camps lies with the MOI, day to day management of the refugees' safety and peace and order within the camps lay with the Camp Committees supported by the Refugee Committees. Each Camp Committee has a Security In-Charge who reports directly to the General Secretary. TBC is supporting 832 security stipend staff. Discussions are ongoing for the International Rescue Committee Legal Assistance Centre (IRC-LAC), in partnership with TBC, to support KRC in providing training for security teams in the KRC camps where IRC-LAC is not present (Ban Don Yang, Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang, Tham Hin). IRC-LAC has also worked with TBC in supporting KRC and Camp Committees in setting up and training Mediation and Arbitration teams in five target camps, to strengthen refugee leaders' capacity to handle justice and dispute issues in the communities. TBC agreed to cooperate with IRC-LAC and KRC in conducting a participatory assessment of the job description and roles of current positions and structures in camps that are responsible for justice issues; specifically for the security staff, Mediation and Arbitration Teams, Code of Conduct Committees, Social Affairs Secretaries, and camp leaders. The survey was prepared in May, and training for interviewers and implementation was held in June.

¹ In line with Thai employment policy, in 2011 TBC fixed an inclusion benchmark of 2% of all staff to be PWD.

Beneficiary Communication and Complaints Mechanism

In line with promoting accountable leadership, the CMPP supports Camp Committees in strengthening their own beneficiary communications and complaints mechanisms, and supports TBC field offices to implement its own mechanisms as an organisation. This includes conducting periodic public forums to discuss issues and share information, while gaining a sense of the community.

The beneficiary communications and complaints mechanisms also include complaints boxes, as well as lines of communications available for direct reports of events in community.

Child Protection

TBC worked with KRC to finalise their Child Protection Policy and Code of Conduct. KnRC decided to adopt TBC's recently revised Child Protection policy, and TBC supported them in developing their own trainers on the policy and Code of Conduct. Workshops for all TBC supported stipend staff throughout all nine camps were carried out, ensuring that all actors have a firm understanding of child protection related to their work. Boarding House committees participated in KRC and KnRC workshops on the Child Protection Policy and Code of Conduct.

3. Coordination of Delivery of Humanitarian Assistance and Basic Services

Camp stipend staff take on a variety of functions, including responsibility for the storage and distribution of supplies to all families and for camp-related logistics; they work in TBC's entrepreneurship development and agriculture programmes to build livelihood skills in the community; conduct shelter repair needs assessments and organise distribution of shelter materials to special needs households; carry out child nutrition education campaigns; implement Community Managed Targeting

to determine which households are most vulnerable and require special assistance; provide security in the camps; and mediate conflict in the community by addressing justice matters.

New Arrivals

The Camp Committees through their Social Support Committee (SSC), with support from TBC, continued to screen new arrivals to determine whether they are entitled to food rations and other services. The criteria seeks to identify the most vulnerable among new arrivals, and thus determine their food ration category. During the reporting period 231 persons (96 male, 135 female) were identified by the SSCs as being eligible for food assistance. During the UNHCR/MOI Verification Exercise, the SSCs were reluctant to officially endorse more new arrivals or re-entry, and only focused on those who are vulnerable.

4. Community-Led Preparedness Strategies

For TBC, preparedness refers to the overall efforts to establish groundwork for safe, dignified, and voluntary return, as well as sustainable reintegration of displaced people in SE Burma/Myanmar. TBC's preparedness initiatives are framed by **three dimensions**: reinforcing resilience in the refugee camps in Thailand and the internally displaced in Burma/Myanmar; supporting recovery and transition of conflict-affected communities; and advocacy and networking activities that seeks to influence policy that directly affects conditions of return and reintegration, as well as the ongoing humanitarian situation.

Preparedness Planning with Refugees in Camps

Preparedness activities of Refugee Committees, Camp Committees and CBOs include:

- "Go and See" visits of locations identified for potential group return to physically see and be familiar with the conditions of these places;

Figure 2.2: Summary of Code of Conduct (CoC) Complaints January-June 2015

Date	Issue	Action taken
Nov. 2014	Section Committees Dereliction of Duty under Ration Distribution Registration (RDR) and providing false information for Section members not to show up for RDR and promoting discrimination sentiment in the Section.	Oral warning with one month stipend cut
Feb. 2015	Selling extra need supply case.	Written warning
Feb. 2015	Detained male and excessive use of force by security in-charge- I.	Dismissed

- Meetings with local authorities (Burma/Myanmar state governments, political parties, NSAs etc.), UNHCR, (I)NGOs, and CBOs operating in potential return areas, and people in communities living there to explore possibilities and risks, weigh security and protection issues, know about access to land, explore available services on health, education, livelihood support, technical assistance, and understand the perspectives of authorities and the receiving communities;
- Dialogue with refugees in camps to understand their perspectives and engage them in the process of gathering and assessing information, exploring options for the future, and making decisions and plans;
- Organising “Repatriation Committees” at Refugee Committee and Camp Committee levels, to lead efforts on preparedness and return planning; and,
- Public forums in Nu Po and Umpiem Mai camps, to share what they had learned about the peace process with their communities.

Peace building workshops were held for refugees who sought to understand how they could participate in discussions of the peace process in their country of origin, and even interpersonal peace inside the camp community.

Awareness campaigns about peace building were also held, particularly targeting women and youth. For instance, an event was held with the KnRC for camps in Mae Hong Son, in efforts to attract and enable all refugees to voice their views. Topics discussed to date, include reflections on what ‘peace’ really means, the present situation of various states in Burma/Myanmar, and cease-fire agreements. An outcome document outlining the refugees’ views, concerns and recommendations was shared with relevant stakeholders such as KNPP, and referred to by KNPP during discussions with Burma/Myanmar authorities as part of peace building efforts.

These events aim to provide equitable access to credible information, and encourage all refugees to engage in discussions around peace building. In gaining this knowledge, they may build confidence to involve themselves in peace building efforts after repatriation. Given the significant and unique perspective that women and youth can contribute to a peace process, it is TBC’s priority to encourage the participation of all members of civil society, to ensure that relevant interests are represented and questions are raised.

The CMPP team worked together with KRC and KnRC in forming camp level **governance and preparedness plans**. Having initially resisted preparedness ideas in 2014, the growing engagement of refugees in activities related to preparedness, illustrates progress. A Repatriation Committee with 17 members was established by Tham Hin and Ban Don Yang Camp Committees.

As camp conditions are particularly challenging in Tham Hin, they were the first camp to mobilise an active preparedness plan. Their Camp Committee surveyed potential areas for return with support from TBC, including Specialists from the Shelter and Settlement and Food Security and Livelihoods Programmes. Locations identified by KNU for Tham Hin camp residents, hold potential for livelihoods activities such as agriculture, animal raising, etc., with a good source of water and available flat land, however the majority of fertile land is already occupied by other settlers. There are also very serious challenges for return, including concerns of landmines (where safety has not been and cannot be completely guaranteed), and little access to transportation, schools and medical care, all factors that require extensive planning before the refugees can safely return.

The KnRC and Camp Committee from Ban Mae Surin camp, in cooperation with local authorities from Kayah state, arranged a “go and see” visit. Ban Don Yang Camp Committee also visited a potential area for return, and KRC is in the process of organising individual “go and see” visits for the other camps.

Preparedness planning is as important as ever, where camp leaders must carefully balance support for their community in planning for the future, while being sensitive to concerns caused by miscommunication, which could confuse encouraged preparedness with expedited return. Committed to leading preparedness efforts, KRC and KnRC requested that Camp Committees report to their respective Refugee Committees prior to, and after their individual “go and see” visits, so that the information and/or lessons learned can be disseminated to other camps. The above demonstrates interest from refugees in different camps to pursue plans for return, where many camps are now preparing concrete next steps.

5. Refugee-Led Advocacy

Border-wide Refugee Coordination and Advocacy

TBC supports the refugees in their efforts to build consensus among themselves, synchronise policies in camp management, and coordinate engagement and dialogues with CCSDPT agencies (including with TBC), UNHCR, RTG, GoUM, the donor community, and other relevant authorities and support groups. In order to ensure the effective use of time for all actors involved, beginning in 2015 these meetings began to be planned for three times per year, as opposed to four.

Camp Management Border-wide Coordination Meetings (BWCM) are now scheduled only twice a year, as opposed to quarterly meetings that had been held in previous years, due to budget constraints and efforts to reduce the time leaders are away from camps. These are internal meetings among KRC, KnRC, and Camp Committees, which aim to build trust, enhance mutual understanding, and ensure improved coordination in addressing urgent issues. Since this event is primarily supported by TBC, this also becomes the only platform for refugee leaders to have bilateral discussions with TBC on all aspects of TBC programming. It also provides a key opportunity for leadership capacity building, enabling refugee representatives to practice their presentation and negotiation skills. In the first meeting this year, camp leaders presented an update on

their experiences during the UNHCR/MOI Verification Exercise, talked about the development of livelihoods projects under their new Livelihoods Committees, and explained issues of the youth in the camps, as well as approaches they are exploring to develop capacities of and engage youth, both in camp management and CBOs. They also discussed preparedness for return, expressing concerns of land access in SE Burma/Myanmar.

The CMPP supported KRC and KnRC in leading the **Camp Management Working Group (CMWG) and Stakeholders Meeting** in March. Key issues that arose during the reporting period included their remaining concerns of the Verification Exercise, mental health concerns in the camps, youth drug use and gangs, and preparedness. Refugee Committees, Camp Committees, CBOs, donors, UNHCR and (I)NGOs also discussed the latest developments in Burma/Myanmar, and the risks that they need to consider when making decisions about their future. UNHCR presented the main content of the draft Roadmap.

6. Capacity Development

In addition to the partnership with KRC, KnRC, and the Camp Committee structures, **CBOs are also supported** to develop and strengthen their programme and organisational capacities. The Capacity Development component of CMPP offers training and mentoring support on leadership, planning, strategy development, finance management, organisational



Group work at settlement workshop (KnRC), Ban Mai Nai Soi

policies, and human resource management. There has been focus on increasingly engaging female refugees in economic and social development activities. TBC has long standing relationships with the Karen Women's Organisation (KWO) and the Karenni National Womens Organisation (KNWO), providing financial and capacity building support in their work to advocate women's rights, with particular attention to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines for Gender Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings. TBC has strived to diversify its partnerships, now engaging the Muslim Women Association-Umpiem, Muslim Women Organisation-Mae La (MWO), the women's arm of the Coordinating Committee of Ethnic Group-Mae La (CCEWG), and Sexual and Gender Based Violence Committee (SGBVC). Beginning in early 2015, TBC sought to help these marginalised groups to represent, empower, protect and promote women's rights and interests. At the same time, TBC is working with them on management and leadership skills training and coaching as they implement their own initiatives, and providing small grants or commodities to these groups. In conjunction with IRC Women's Protection and Empowerment (WPE), TBC has assisted the development of KWO, MWO and SGBVC safehouses, supported weaving, sewing and baking projects, as well as entrepreneurial, savings and loans, and small business management (SBM) trainings.

The CBO Support Center (in Umpiem Mai camp), Community Capacity Building Course (school in Nu Po camp), and Coordination Committee for Ethnic Groups (Mae La camp), are among the CBOs who collaborate with TBC and camp management to serve their communities. Youth organisations are also actively involved, including the Karen Student Network Group (KSNG) community radio program, and Karen Youth Organisation (KYO), who for example support TBC's Post Distribution Monitoring activities (see M&E section). Activities such as these have helped in building the confidence of refugees, particularly the younger population, where KYO members for example have become comfortable in approaching community members through an interviewing process, and thus more self-secure and engaged when discussing issues within a community.

Administration Support

TBC monitors camp administration costs, staff stipends and supplies in all nine camps. Financial support and monitoring of funded expenses continued to be provided to all partners receiving TBC funding. A large part of the

financial support for the camp management was used for camp staff stipends including camp management staff, supply chain workers and livelihoods, shelter and agriculture programme staff. TBC also provides a fixed amount of "Extra Needs" rice and other commodities to enable a range of camp activities, which also involve the participation of Thai authorities and surrounding villages. There was a reduction in the "Extra Needs" budget this year by THB 2 million, applied to all camps. See Chapter 3 Finance and Appendix A for an overview of the administrative expenses, as well as distribution of extra needs allocations.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- TBC's organisational restructuring initiated at the end of 2014 has necessitated that remaining staff adopt new and revised ways of covering the work and meeting programme goals and objectives. This has led to more emphasis on community led initiatives. However, the refugee community demonstrated increased anxiety and concern for their future from the discussions around return. It is therefore essential that both TBC staff and the refugee communities work much more collaboratively on all aspects of programming, and that the revised methods of working provide sufficient time and space for the communities to gain confidence, and effectively take lead of day-to-day management of activities.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Restrictions on refugee movement remain and limited mobility means refugees have struggled to access other sources of income from day-labour available outside of the camps, or sale of fruit and vegetable surplus from kitchen or community farms. Refugee dependence on food assistance therefore continues, as limited economic opportunities, reductions in services and upcoming ration cuts, all create a great deal of pressure on their daily lives.

Supply chain operations continued to meet the needs of various TBC programmes for humanitarian support and preparedness. Timing of the tendering and contract award process varied according to the source and price volatility of the commodity. Currently, rice is tendered every two months, pulses (yellow split peas) quarterly, fortified flour (AsiaREMIX and Baby Bright) every four months, and other commodities twice a year. All

COMMUNITY PROFILE:**Saw Da Wi**

Working as a Warehouse Security Guard, Saw Da Wi used to live in Karen state, and now resides in Mae La camp. He had to move a few times before he arrived in Mae La, where he began working as section security. Once a warehouse staff position became available, Saw Da Wi successfully applied. He was responsible for taking stock and maintaining the warehouse during the night shift, which he keeps impeccably clean. He was eventually promoted, and has worked to ensure security in the warehouse every night for almost eighteen years, and there have been no incidents in all of the years since. Saw Da Wi explains that managing

this warehouse for as long as his son's life span, has given him pride through contributing to his community.

Saw Da Wi does not intend to apply for third country resettlement. He fears that the travel needed would be too strenuous for his wife, who can't even ride a motorcycle without feeling sick. Instead, if there is no longer any fighting in Burma/Myanmar, and it becomes a secure and peaceful place to return to, he is eager to settle in his former village with his wife and son. He wants to know how long he will have to wait for this opportunity.



contract bidders now have the option to submit by sealed email bid, which can only be accessed after the bid period closes. Charcoal is distributed according to a "distribution curve", which adjusts rations based on household size, and weighted in support of the smaller family units. As a result of changing demographics due to reasons including resettlement and new arrivals, household sizes are continually monitored and the overall multiplier for each camp used to calculate charcoal requirements adjusted every six months. TBC consistently ensures the quality of all provided rations, conducting both internal and independent inspections with every distribution, and employing a range of penalties on suppliers depending upon the level of contract non-compliance.

Having completed the design of the Supply Chain Online Module (SCOM) database, which links into the web-based Population Database (see M&E section), in early 2015 a series of roll-out trainings were conducted with Operations Support Teams in each TBC field office. The aim was to further field-test the SCOM by running it in parallel with existing Supply Chain management tools, so that any technical glitches would be exposed to the full range of operating environments, which differ significantly between the different field offices. At the time of writing, these technical glitches are still being addressed, but it is expected that each Field Operations Support Team will gradually gain confidence in making the SCOM their primary means of Supply Chain data-entry and management in the second half of the year.



Community Managed Targeting (CMT) is an approach that seeks to reduce aid dependency, while ensuring appropriate support for the most vulnerable. It involves constant communications that target refugee leaders, CBOs and the community at large, on the need to become as self-reliant as possible in spite of the limited opportunities and rights of refugees in current camp conditions. CMT categorises households according to a community developed criteria that can identify households as Self-Reliant, Standard, Vulnerable or Most Vulnerable. The quantity of monthly rice rations provided to each household is adjusted according to

these categories. Those who are able to complement this assistance (e.g., by engaging in income generating activities) receive a smaller amount of rice, and those unable to (e.g., having a large number of children, or the elderly, ill, or PwD who require extra care) receive more rice. From the monthly food basket, **only rice is adjusted to ensure adequate nutrition from other commodities for the refugees.**

The monthly rice allocations, according to household (HH) classification were as follows:

Figure 2.3: Monthly Ration Allocations kg/per person/per month (pp/pm)						
	Most Vulnerable HH	Vulnerable HH	Standard HH			Self-Reliant HH
			ML, NP, UM	BMNS, MRML, MLO, TH	BDY, BMS	
Adults	13.5	12	9	10	12	0
Children 5-17 yrs	13.5	12	12	12	12	12
Children 6-59 months	7	6	6	6	6	6

An **appeal mechanism** is available for families to use because circumstances often change, and if they believe they are eligible for extra assistance, they may apply for a review of their household's vulnerability classification from their camp's CMT team. Changes in the number of households in the CMT categories are a result of a variety of factors, including: households that leave camp for resettlement, spontaneous return, or in search of work; successful appeal that raised a household to a higher vulnerability category; and periodic review of CMT criteria or reassessment of CMT households, which resulted in some change to a household's vulnerability category – either higher or lower. CMT Appeals Committees in all camps aim to process appeals within two weeks from the time they receive them, to inform Camp Committees, TBC, and the supply chain teams on any change for these families.

The appeal process is an important process within the CMT mechanism in the camps. Along with Camp Committees, CMT teams have encouraged refugees to step forward and request re-assessments of their households when they feel that they are unable to cope given their current CMT classification. From January-June 2015, over 200 households have appealed and in consultations with their immediate community, 50% of them received new household CMT categories, mostly resulting in the households' reclassification from Standard to Vulnerable or Standard to Most Vulnerable category. These households who passed the appeals process were those have experienced changes in their household circumstances such as a decrease in income, loss of a job, sickness and/or death in the family.

TBC's food basket does not provide the full Sphere Minimum standard of 2,100 kcal per person/per day. Food basket packages for households classified as "Vulnerable" and "Most Vulnerable" provides an average 1,631 and 1,908 kcal per person/per day respectively, which is between 78%-91% of the Sphere Minimum Standard. TBC's Food Security and Livelihoods Programme, as well as those of other agencies, therefore play a vital role in augmenting food assistance to the refugees by helping households produce and harvest their own foods from kitchen and community gardens or livestock raising activities, or by helping them gain incomes that they can use to buy food to diversity their diets. Over 30 varieties of vegetables, fruit, roots and tubers planted in kitchen gardens and community gardens contribute to refugee's dietary intake.

Challenges faced through the CMT process include the reluctance of some households to be transparent about their situation due to fear of having their rations reduced, while some persons try to influence the vulnerability criteria in order to increase their rations. Close interactions with section leaders, strict adherence to the criteria agreed by the community, periodic reviews of the criteria and the households' classification, and an appeals process, have helped to minimise conflict. While it can be a complex and challenging process, CMT has been very successful in engaging refugee communities in understanding vulnerabilities and in defining the criteria for food basket allocations based on those vulnerabilities for individual households. The past six months have seen people's enhanced understanding and acceptance of the intervention, as well as better collaboration within each community.

Figure 2.4: TBC Verified Caseload Number of Households (HH) and Persons Under Different CMT Categories for Ration Distributions June 2015

CMT Category		MNS	MS	MLO	MRML	ML	UM	NP	DY	TH	Total	%
Most Vulnerable	HH	186	111	125	132	348	67	171	187	131	1,458	6.9
	Persons	998	2,700	626	799	774	859	508	505	398	8,167	7.4
Vulnerable	HH	189	0	235	311	736	276	412	0	177	2,336	11.0
	Persons	825	0	1,100	1,567	3,635	1,377	1,883	0	1,097	11,484	10.5
Standard	HH	2,071	436	1,561	1,716	5,983	2,253	1,788	412	958	17,178	81.1
	Persons	9,795	2,186	8,809	9,606	33,125	10,042	8,485	2,114	4,940	89,102	81.2
Self-reliant	HH	7	0	8	19	125	44	18	0	5	226	1.1
	Persons	47	0	29	77	632	177	61	0	22	1,045	1.0
Total:	HH	2,453	547	1,929	2,178	7,192	2,640	2,389	599	1,271	21,198	100
	Persons	11,665	4,886	10,564	12,049	38,166	12,455	10,937	2,619	6,457	109,798	100

Figure 2.5: Rice Ration Allocations and Average Kcal Provided Per Person Per Household (HH)				
RICE Kgs (As of Nov 2013)	Most Vulnerable HH	Vulnerable HH	Standard HH	Self-Reliant HH
Adults	13.5 kg	12kg	10kg	0
5yrs-17yrs	13.5 kg	12kg	12kg	12kg
< 5yrs	7 kg	6kg	6kg	6kg
Average/per person	1,908 kcal	1,631 kcal	1,505 kcal	743 kcal
Boarding Houses	13.5kg 2,111 kcal	-	-	-

Community education promoting the concept of self-reliance is an essential element of providing assistance according to need, which is at the core of the CMT approach. With efforts from Camp Committees and the CMT teams, households who have the capacity to take care of themselves have increasingly agreed to be classified as Self-Reliant. Community appreciation for the concept of self-reliance is visibly growing, while TBC's efforts to expand livelihoods and food security programming develop. Communications and referrals of vulnerable refugees between programmes (supplementary feeding, agriculture, shelter) and the CMT are progressing.

Refugee CMT teams work with Camp Committees to facilitate community workshops to assist semi-annual revisions of CMT criteria. TBC provides ongoing support to enable families to be directly informed on CMT, as well as to gather comprehensive information that may be presented to camp CMT Advisory Boards for their consideration and recommendations to any changes to criteria.

CMT has reinforced refugee's understanding that certain vulnerable groups require special attention in the community and assistance from their leaders, if leaders are to facilitate greater social equity and inclusion within their communities. This can have far reaching impact, including in their preparedness for future return, as leaders become better prepared to support the most vulnerable in their communities.

LOOKING AHEAD:

The Supply Chain Unit has been restructured to better reflect the changing needs of the organisation, and to provide more direct support to the recently formed Field Operations Support Teams in each field office.

Ration Reductions:

Although fundraising efforts have been ongoing, TBC's 2015 financial shortfall demanded consideration of another ration change. In consultation with KRC, KnRC, camp leaders, and CMT, a costs saving package was defined, in order to adjust to the continuing decline in funding for the Thailand refugee programme. Among other changes, it was decided that **rice and charcoal ration** reductions would take place in all camps, by standardising packages across all camps in the approaching August 2015 distribution for September consumption.

Previous experience in the Tak Province camps had strongly indicated that 9kg pp/pm is the minimum threshold of rice rations that families feel they can still cope with, when combined with their own efforts to augment food availability. The Standard ration for adults will therefore be reduced to 9kg pp/pm border-wide in all camps. The change also includes a rice reduction in the Vulnerable category package from 12kg pp/pm to

Figure 2.6: August 2015 Distribution Ration Reduction				
RICE – Kgs	Most Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Standard	Self-Reliant
Adults	13.5	11	9	0
5-17yrs	13.5	11	11	11
6-59 mths	7	6	6	6
Boarding Houses	13.5	-	-	-
	No change			

COMMUNITY PROFILE:**Tee Eh Wah**

Having lived in the Ban Tham Hin camp for years, Tee Eh Wah described that things were very difficult his earlier years taking refuge. He started a betel nut (or Ko Ya) shop with his wife, where they worked extensively to sell as much as possible, in hopes of earning more income. In time, they expanded their business, and now run a large and successful shop. When asked about the secret to their accomplishment, their response is that there is no secret – that at the end of every working day, they simply collected

and saved all of their profits (minus 10% which they donated to their community church). Tee Eh Wah is now also working as Camp Affairs Coordinator. He relishes serving his community, and is planning to construct and run a shelter for the elderly, who lack daily care takers. Moreover, Tee Eh Wah and his family are confidently Self-Reliant, and hope to be a role model for other camp residents, who may have it within their power to support themselves.



11kg. This will affect adults in Vulnerable households and children from 5-17 years old in Standard, Self-reliant, and Vulnerable category households. There will be no change for adults and children in the Most Vulnerable households who are now receiving 13.5kg pp/pm. Children from 6 months-5 years old in households classified as Self-reliant, Standard, or Vulnerable, will continue to receive 6kg, and those in Most Vulnerable households will continue to receive 7kg. The charcoal ration will change for the head of a household, who will receive 15kg pm instead of 20kg, however the subsequent ration for all other members of the family will remain at 5kg of charcoal each.

While all camps will now receive the same rations, the proportion of most vulnerable and vulnerable

households is likely to be different in each camp according to their livelihood coping strategies.

Camp leaders will emphasise the importance of the appeals process in all camps, and with this in place, TBC can ensure that the organisation is able to support families who will not be able to cope with the new package. Currently in Ban Don Yang and Ban Mae Surin, families are classified only as Standard, Self-reliant and Most Vulnerable. However, the CMT, Camp Committees, and communities have begun defining the criteria for a Vulnerable classification, to prepare for appeals expected after the ration change.

TBC initiated a campaign to ensure refugees are informed and that staff will have consistent and

comprehensive messaging, while also encouraging that refugees respond with self-reliance. Meanwhile food security and livelihoods opportunities are also being strengthened. Since the first round of reductions in 2013, some Camp Committees (Mae Ra Ma Luang and Mae La Oon) highlighted the need for affordable rice to be available in the market, in response to ration cuts. To this end, small rice retail groups have formed, separate from the TBC supply chain, which connect with local Thai suppliers and sell a variety of rice packages within the purchasing power of refugees.

Food Aid – Post Distribution Monitoring

TBC developed a revised Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) methodology and research tool that can be used by CBO's. The primary aim is to monitor how refugee households use the rations they receive at distribution, how they supplement those rations, and generally the food and cooking fuel situation the household is experiencing in the camps. Some objectives of this new process include gathering information from refugees about:

- Their experience of the distribution process;
- The quality of rations;
- How they use rations;
- If and how much they supplement their rations with other commodities;
- Other non-ration foods they consume;
- The overall food situation they have experienced according to the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) Household Hunger Scale; and,
- Their engagement in livelihood activities that either produce additional food, or cash income with which more food can be bought, as well as other activities that directly produce food.

PDM household interviews will be completed in each camp by CBOs, including KYO and KNWO, independent of TBC and camp management structures.

A ToT was held with KYO and KNWO and TBC field office staff. They prepared for Phase I of the new process, where camp-based trainings will follow. Implementation of Phase I will be from July to September, initially tested in the four most vulnerable camps; KYO will conduct interviews in Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang, and Ban Don Yang, and KNWO in Mae Surin. Each PDM cycle will be for three months, during which a quota of 180 randomly selected households will be interviewed. This sample is sufficient to provide reliable results for the four camps overall for each cycle. However, the sample not large enough to give more detailed results for each individual camp, or population sub-groups within camps, for each cycle. Over a number of reporting cycles, results for individual camps and sub-groups can be amalgamated and analysed.

A Food Aid Monitoring Phase 2 is also being developed, which consists of food basket monitoring by CBOs during the ration distribution process in camp warehouses.

NUTRITION

TBC's Nutrition Programme complements the provision of food assistance through monitoring the nutritional status of refugees together with partner agencies; providing supplementary feeding; and improving community feeding practices through educational campaigns targeting families, caregivers of children, schools, refugee leaders, etc. Particularly, vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant, and lactating mothers receive special nutrition support.

A number of joint activities with other programmes took place during this reporting period, where Nutrition staff worked with Food Security and Livelihoods and Shelter and Settlement teams. There was an increased focus on integrating TBC programmes. For example, on a monthly basis the Nutrition Programme provided the list of households with malnourished children to both Food Security and Livelihoods and Shelter and Settlement Programmes, so that all are aware and can offer their services to those families.

Figure 2.7: Nutrition Programme Participation June 2015

Nutrition Programme	No. of Participants Av/Month
Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP)	4,090
Children with wasting malnutrition enrolled in SFP/TFP	60
Children participating in the IYCF Healthy Babies Bright Futures Programme	1,640
Nursery school lunch support	7,800

Supplementary and Therapeutic Feeding Programmes (SFP/TFP)

TBC supports the Supplementary and Therapeutic Feeding Programmes (SFP/TFP) for vulnerable groups in the community by providing food items, guidance and technical support to health agencies. The implementation of SFP and TFP continues to improve with more monitoring support by the Community Nutrition Programme Assistants (CNPAs, refugee nutrition stipend staff). They visit nursery schools and families in their homes to follow up on progress, issues arising, and provide advice or referrals as necessary. The CNPAs also liaise with other programmes, such as Food Security and Livelihoods, to identify households that may benefit from TBC programmes that may increase family resources, such as participating in kitchen gardening or entrepreneurial skills development.

The Nutrition Field Officers (NFO) and CNPAs monitor malnourished children in the camps, and conduct regular meetings with their parents or caregivers to discuss feeding practices and the benefits of consuming AsiaREMIX (fortified flour child supplement developed and provided by TBC). Malnourished children are referred to SFP/TFP for admission. NFOs also monitor malnourished pregnant and lactating women to discuss appropriate maternal nutrition and benefits of consuming AsiaREMIX regularly, to prevent anaemia and malnutrition. The NFOs, with the assistance of the CNPAs, have also held cooking demonstrations and nutrition education on the three basic food groups – Energy, Body Building and Protective. In addition, the Nutrition teams have conducted SFP trainings and refresher trainings for health agencies' staff in the camps.

Figure 2.8: Total Case Load for Each SFP Target Group January-June 2015

NGO	Camp	Preg	Lact	Mal Preg	Mal Lact	Mod Mal <5	Mod Mal >5	Sev Mal <5	Sev Mal >5	GAM <5	Chronic/HIV/TB	IPD	Patient House	Formula Fed Infant
IRC	S1	807	769	94	37	11	17	1	2	12	229	NA	4,439	18
	S2	169	264	17	2	34	6	0	0	34	90	NA		12
MI	MRML	807	623	239	242	25	0	2	0	27	179	2,132	2,703	27
	MLO	739	651	292	269	19	0	0	0	19	150	3,542		80
AMI	ML	6,621	2,470	1,148	0	129	0	15	31	144	935	1,252	NA	190
	UM	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	7	267	1,147	2,431	0
	NP	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	243	1,127		0
ARC	UM	952	795	194	15	11	4	0	0	11	0	0	229	34
	NP	730	796	97	77	45	5	0	0	45	58	0		21
	DY	285	242	27	2	12	0	0	0	12	277	83	42	7
IRC	TH	556	486	3	3	43	0	0	0	43	116	0	0	30
TOTAL		11,666	7,096	2,111	647	329	32	29	33	358	2,544	9,283	9,844	419

Figure 2.9: Children < 5 years Identified as Malnourished Enrolled in SFP and TFP January-June 2015

NGO	Camp	January		February		March		April		May		June	
		Mod	Sev	Mod	Sev	Mod	Sev	Mod	Sev	Mod	Sev	Mod	Sev
IRC	S1	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	2	1
	S2	4	0	5	0	5	0	6	0	7	0	7	0
MI	MRML	4	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	6	1	12	1
	MLO	1	0	2	0	3	0	3	0	5	0	5	0
AMI	ML	23	3	22	3	19	3	19	2	22	1	24	3
AMI/ARC	UM	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	1	2	1
	NP	6	1	7	0	9	1	8	1	7	1	8	0
ARC	DY	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	3	0	3	0
IRC	TH	4	0	5	0	5	0	7	0	11	0	11	0
Total:		47	5	45	4	47	5	49	5	67	4	74	6

Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Initiative

TBC's community-based Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) initiative called "Healthy Babies, Bright Futures", targets pregnant women and children aged 6-24 months. IYCF has been successfully rolled out in all nine camps. An additional incentive of BabyBRIGHT complementary baby food product is provided for campaign attendance in the four camps that have the highest rates of stunting; Ban Don Yang, Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang, and Umpiem Mai. The core concepts of IYCF are maternal nutrition, exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months of age with continued breastfeeding until 24 months, and appropriate complementary feeding between the ages of 6 – 24 months. A monthly average of 1,641 children (48.2% female) between the ages of 6-24 months attends IYCF activities.

While many feeding protocols and nutrition campaigns target pregnant and lactating women, TBC's CNPAs also ensure they reach extended family members, particularly grandmothers, who exert strong influence on infant feeding practices in families. In the coming months, TBC will finalise – and with health agency partners – begin using counselling cards for grandmothers on IYCF topics.

TBC is also improving and standardising its community nutrition education curriculum with 12 modules developed thus far. TBC has facilitated ToT workshops for the staff of partner health agencies working in camps, as well as CBOs working on the border and in Burma/Myanmar. These training packages can be used both in the camps, as well as across the border as they are culturally sensitive and translated in both Karen and Burmese languages.

Nursery School Lunch Programme

The TBC nursery school Lunch Programme, in partnership with KWO, the Taipei Overseas Peace Service (TOPS), KNWO and the Karen Refugee Committee Education Entity (KRCEE), supports the preparation of nutritious lunches and snacks to children between 3-5 years of age throughout all nine camps, ensuring they consume nutritious foods at least once per day. NFOs and CNPAs support the nursery schools by providing valuable input regarding the quality of meals, hygiene practices, and over-all conditions. In response to comments from the partner agencies that parents were having difficulty supporting their children with rice due to the ration reductions, TBC began providing additional rice and charcoal support to all nursery schools in the latter half of 2014 to reduce pressure on the families. This additional support will be re-evaluated for 2016 to assess the need to continue. Between January-June 2015, a total of 35,090 lunches were provided to children attending 78 nursery schools.

Nutrition Surveillance

TBC collaborates with health agencies and the CCSDPT Health Information System (HIS) to survey and report on nutritional indicators in the camps. This includes monitoring mortality and morbidity rates by age group, biennial anthropometric nutrition surveys of children 6-59 months of age with Household Hunger Scale and IYCF practices questionnaire, monthly growth monitoring and promotion, and enrolment of target groups into the SFP/TFP Programmes.



Complementary Feeding Campaign for grandmothers, Nu Po.

2015 Biennial Nutrition Survey

TBC and CCSDPT Health Agencies initiated the 2015 Nutrition Survey in the camps in May of 2015. These surveys are conducted biennially to estimate the prevalence and examine trends in acute (wasting) and chronic (stunting) malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, Household Hunger, IYCF practices, and SFP/TFP and Vitamin A supplementation coverage in the refugee population residing in all nine camps. Below is a summary of surveys conducted thus far between January-June 2015. Note that targets for the survey were selected using a simple random sample in all camps except for Ban Don Yang, where a census was used due to the small number of children in the target age group. For all camps surveyed, between 2%-5% of the number of children targeted in each camp were reported as returned back to Burma/Myanmar, with 3% in each camp reported as resettled. Survey results are expected in early 2016, pending the completion in the remaining camps by late 2015.



Nutrition Survey, Ban Don Yang

Date	Camp	Staff	No. Targeted	Attendance
4-8 May	MLO	TBC & MI	742	90%
11-15 May	MRML	TBC & MI	744	89%
25-29 May	BDY	TBC & ARC	366	93%
8-12 June	TH	TBC & ARC	701	87%

LOOKING AHEAD:

- Continue to work on preparedness by building capacity and developing stronger linkages with Camp Committees/leadership/CSOs/CBOs etc., to increase their involvement in leading and prioritising nutrition programming, on both sides of the border.
- Develop community awareness and capacity on public health nutrition so that refugee families are equipped with knowledge and practices to ensure return with healthy families and maintenance of healthy nutritional status.
- Strengthen CNPAs effectiveness as a recognised and valued nutrition resource in their refugee communities, by building their knowledge base with training, particularly with mastery of the standardised nutrition curriculum developed for community nutrition education.
- Continue to maximise the outreach efficiency of the Nutrition team by leveraging programme intersections with CMPP, Food Security and Livelihoods and Shelter and Settlement teams.
- Assess opportunities to capitalise on use of available data for future programming with potentially reduced resources.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

TBC continues to expand its work on food security and livelihoods to strengthen refugees' capacity for self-reliance and community development even within the limited opportunities and rights of refugees in the camp settings. Through the Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Programme, refugees participate in a wide range of activities to develop sustainable, organic agricultural practices, livestock rearing techniques and other livelihoods skills that allow them to engage in food production for their own household consumption, and for small scale marketing whenever possible. Participants are trained and assisted in setting up individual and group businesses, organising savings and loans groups, and developing capacity for managing community livelihoods programmes. TBC supports refugees in developing skills that meet their immediate needs and improve their current circumstances, as well as skills that maybe adapted to the Burma/Myanmar context in the future.

As of end of June 2015, TBC estimates that through only the two components of FSL, Community Agriculture Programme (CAP) and the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP), at least 9,000 (40%) refugee households are supported in efforts to improve their family level food security and livelihoods. Refugees have no access to the financial systems of the country, however TBC has also supported KRC and KnRC in

setting up Camp Livelihoods Committees in all nine camps, who are implementing small grants programmes with at least 25 refugee initiated livelihoods projects launched in the first half of the year, carrying out a range of projects including retail shops, weaving projects, livestock food stores, water distillation and retail, and charcoal production.

Despite the risk of arrest, camp residents in efforts to help themselves still find ways to work and gain some income outside of the camps. Although illegal, outside work provides higher wages as compared to existing camp stipend rates, consequently, Camp Committees and NGOs are finding it challenging to generate and maintain participation of refugees.

Agriculture Training and Production

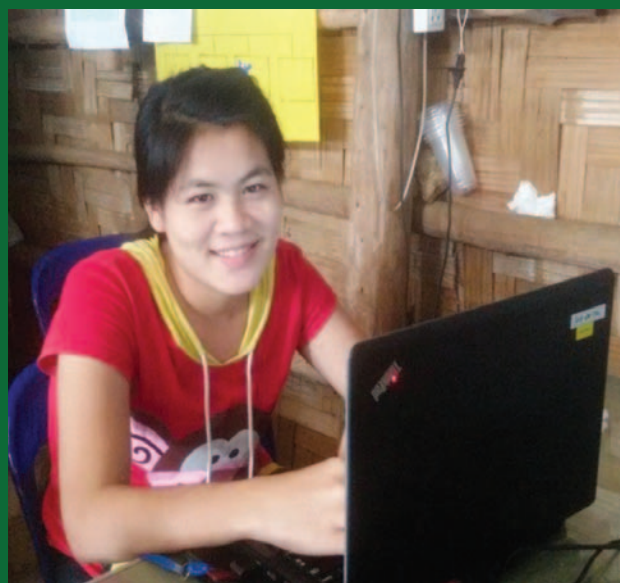
CAP pursued further expansion of kitchen and community gardens in all camps. With better water systems set up by the end of 2014 and with farmers' own efforts to find alternative sources of water or work on crops not needing much water, farming continued in most areas even through the annual dry season, which was longer than usual. Training continued for agricultural techniques such as compost making, biological pest control, liquid fertiliser, and seed production. In some camps where the use of water for agriculture competes with the need for water for household use, gardening activities were reduced but did not completely stop as some farmers tried their best to dig or fetch water, even from more distant areas. As soon as rain started to fall in May, farmers were working at full capacity preparing farm soil.



Students participate in rice farming training, Mae La

COMMUNITY PROFILE:**Naw Rose Say**

Naw Rose Say is 23 years old, living in Nu Po camp since 2010. She arrived from Ayeyawadee District in Burma/ Myanmar, and began working with camp management as a Book Keeper and Population Officer in 2012. Joining EDP in late 2013, she expressed appreciation for the support received in the camps, explaining that she has gained knowledge and skills that help her take care of herself. "Before, I never believed I had any skills or knowledge to contribute and that I was too young. Now I am proud that I can support myself, and serve the community by working through EDP, which builds confidence and maturity in me." Naw Rose Say says she plans to continue working with the programme, while awaiting third country resettlement with her sister. She hopes they will ultimately reunite with her only other family member, an aunt who was resettled in Canada six years ago.



In several camps, the livestock rearing programmes have linked with crop production, supplying community and household gardens with manure to increase nutrients and organic matter in the soil. Due to concerns regarding the potential negative environmental effects of raising pigs inside the camps, FSL organised pig farmers to collectively agree and commit to a set of best practices and developed a handout for distribution.

Since 2014, aiming to expand possibilities for farming among refugees, TBC explored renting of land near the camps. Refugees now have access to a total of 123 rai of farm land for community gardens and rice farming training, in addition to demonstration gardens and kitchen gardens located within the perimeters of the camp. The refugees' continuing access to farm lands outside the camp remains dependent on local authorities.

Youth and Social Cohesion

An achievement of the FSL programme has been the increased engagement of youth in agriculture. CAP staff particularly exerted efforts to promote youth participation in agricultural training (e.g., protected cultivation, food processing training, rice farming etc.), and regular work in kitchen and community gardens, including the out of school youth, youth in schools, and those residing in boarding houses. Youth engagement in FSL notably increased self-reliance and self-confidence and enhanced their hopes for better future livelihoods opportunities. Participating in CAP activities engages the refugee youth in constructive work, deters them from illegal activities and potentially builds a group of advocates for sustainable and environmentally sensitive agriculture activities.

In Mae La, several groups of youth from boarding houses have their own garden plots in the community garden. These boys and girls work on their gardens after school and during weekends. The boys proudly said that working on the gardens is a great physical work out for them. They plant vegetables, root crops and flowers. They said their food harvests are often more than they need so they sell some around the camps, and give vegetables for free to elderly individuals who live alone in their neighbourhood. Selling vegetables and selling flowers fetch them significant earnings, which they use to buy other food like meat for their group, or buy other needs such as mats for their boarding houses. They also have extra money for themselves and some send money to their relatives back home.

At Ban Mai Nai Soi camp, training on catfish-raising and entrepreneurship was given to a youth group of 10 members. An initial grant of THB 20,000 was provided for setting up a fish pond, which has cultivated a population of healthy, thriving fish.

Camp members, including youth, have been particularly responsive to the rice growing programme provided by TBC. TBC rents rice fields in Ban Don Yang, Mae La Oon, Mae La, Mae Ra Ma Luang, and Nu Po camps. After so many years of only ever seeing rice being provided in a sack, participating in rice production has been important for the camp communities. The re-learning of this culturally important activity has met with great enthusiasm as many community members participate in various elements of its production. All camps with rice fields now also have rice mills for processing.

Building Entrepreneurship Capacity

EDP aims to help residents develop skills for enterprise creation and management, generate income, inculcate savings behaviour, and thus improve their food and livelihoods security while reducing dependence on humanitarian aid. In 2015 so far, 1,025 persons have received training and start up grants for different

kinds of entrepreneurial activities such as small trade, manufacturing, animal raising, poultry raising, and farming. Future work will further strengthen this preparedness approach and equip refugees with valuable livelihoods skills that will build their self-reliance, while they continue to live in the camps, as well as upon their return to Burma/Myanmar.

TBC's entrepreneurial training, mentoring, and start-up grants provide support to refugees to establish and run micro-businesses. These include grocery shops, marketing farm produce, baking, snack making, noodle making, weaving, sewing, shop keeping (e.g., tea shops, restaurants), animal raising or service delivery (e.g., barber/hairdressing services, and shoe making). Evidence from repatriations in other parts of the world indicates that refugees who have established sustainable livelihoods or a viable business that can be transferred to or developed in their return community, have a socio-economic advantage and are more likely to reintegrate

COMMUNITY PROFILE: Rice Retailing Group

Six members from a community savings group that received EDG and savings and loans training, were interested in starting a rice retail cooperative shop in Mae Ra Ma Luang camp. With support from EDP and their Camp Livelihood Committee, the group set up shop using 15,000 baht that accumulated in their group savings, and an additional loan from TBC. Collectively sharing the workload for a little over a year now, the group divides all profits equally, and has even expanded

the commodities that they sell. Providing easier access for camp residents to purchase affordably priced products. In the majority of situations, camp residents wish to pursue a business on their own, because the belief is that it will be easier to run, and there will be more profit to be gained. This group's endeavor therefore required that trust be built, where they have succeeded in sharing business responsibilities and benefits.





CAP staff working in community garden, Mae La Oon

successfully. With the prospect of return, it is imperative that initiatives advancing refugees' skills are appropriate to resources, markets and the environment in the home country.

Integration with Nutrition

In growing numbers of camps, CAP is working to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to the nursery schools in order to ensure that young children receive adequate nutrition to grow. In some camps, this is through the provision of fruits and vegetables to the nursery schools. However, where space permits, nursery schools are building small gardens on their premises. This ensures that the children have an uninterrupted supply of fresh, organic produce to supplement their meals provided by the school. CAP support to in-camp institutions includes providing support to 37 nursery schools, and 48 schools and boarding houses, and ensures that almost 2,500 children and young people have access to fresh fruits and vegetables. CAP also collaborates with NGOs and in-camp CBOs, providing resources to assist them in initiatives to support their constituencies.

Increasingly interlinked programme activities are highlighted in the referral process of households by the Nutrition Programme to FSL for livelihoods support. These teams work together to develop an increased

understanding among the most vulnerable households of the nutritional importance of growing one's own food and the potential economic benefits of growing surplus produce. During the reporting period, joint trainings were conducted in Umphang area by FSL and the Nutrition Programme, and other collaborative activities, including cooking demonstrations, information sharing, and food processing businesses. Additional efforts, include regular donations of fresh vegetables made by the agriculture cluster groups to hospitals in the Mae Sariang camps. Moreover, the Nutrition Programme is ensuring that families with children identified as malnourished are reported to CAP. These households are then visited by the CAP team members who are able to encourage the family to participate in gardening, through small container or kitchen gardens to enhance their meals with fruits and vegetables grown by them to increase the quality and quantity of food available to the household.

In Mae La, there have been several success stories of social inclusion, with vulnerable refugees participating in FSL activities and gaining both fresh food for household consumption, and when a surplus of vegetables are harvested, provide a commodity for sale and thus extra income. This is certainly not the case for everyone, as FSL activities may require strenuous physical activity, available time and basic literacy.

COMMUNITY PROFILE:

Naw Ri

At 40 years old, Naw Ri is a mother of four who relies on a kitchen garden to help supplement her family's rations. Originally from Karen State, she has lived in Mae La Oon camp for eight years. She and her husband manage a kitchen garden next to her house, which is about 20 square meters. Living in one of the more crowded camps, refugees utilise any even plot of land they can find for planting and harvesting vegetables and fruits to provide additional daily nutrients, or to sell so they can purchase other items to supplement their dietary needs.

Naw Ri joined the CAP program about three years ago. Before joining, she taught in a nursery school for about two years, where her monthly stipend was insufficient to support her family. That's why she

decided to start growing her own food, believing that a kitchen garden is the best way to care for her loved ones.

Presently, she harvests around 500-1,000 Baht of vegetables per month. Half is used for family consumption, and to share with neighbours and hospital patients. When she can sell her surplus produce, the income from that, pays for other kinds of food, and her children's school uniforms and education.

Growing up in a farming family was how Naw Ri was raised. She enjoys caring for her garden, and says that she will do it for as long as she is living in the camp. When asked about the potential for return, Nae Ri is adamant that she will use the skillset she earned with CAP when she returns to Burma/Myanmar, and share her knowledge with others in her homeland.



Building Preparedness

In early 2015, the FSL team conducted capacity assessments of CBOs, camp-level Livelihood Committees, and FSL stipend staff in each of the nine camps, in order to analyse the identification of training needs, determine limitations to their capacity and the input required for the community to be able to take over some activities. The assessments worked to define specific approaches to developing refugee leadership in livelihoods, both at governance and technical levels. According to the findings, the camps will require additional local capacity development before implementation of the activities can be led at a local level. FSL has been working with the Refugee

Committees, both in central and camp levels, on strengthening their Livelihood Committee management structure and its functions, in order for FSL to carry out handover of the programme in segments.

A key aspect of TBC's preparedness for return strategy is to strengthen the management capacity of camp and refugee leaders, so that they can effectively play a role when the time for return comes, for instance by advocating for and contributing to return, and community development plans in Burma/Myanmar. The camp-level Livelihood Committees are expected to lead the development of opportunities in their areas in coordination with various CCSDPT agencies operating in the camps and other relevant entities.

Protected Cultivation

During the latter half of 2014 and early 2015, TBC received support from UNHCR to introduce the concept of protected cultivation, particularly greenhouses, in four camps (Ban Mae Surin, Mae La, Tham Hin, and Umpiem Mai), complemented by training and support for food processing of products grown in the 20 greenhouse structures that were set up in the target camps. The project trained a total of 253 refugees (59% women), including youth on the process of growing cash vegetable crops (tomatoes, lettuce, and others) in protective enclosures to keep them from severe weather elements and pests, and therefore ensure quality products. As the solar dryers installed for food processing were faulty and also due to staff turn-over, the implementation of the food processing component of the project was very limited. Only 39 participants (31 female, 9 male – 14 < 25yrs) were trained in Nu Po. Refugee feedback to TBC showed that most farmers think that there is no need for expansion of greenhouses given the existing climate in the area, the fact that they are not engaged in high end cash crop production, and because of restricted spaces in camps. However, the existing greenhouses continue to be operational, providing an example of different technology and are used by interested cluster groups.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- Ensure that the household food security efforts through agricultural production and through the EDP reach at least 50% of households per camp.
- Within those 50%, ensure that families of children with wasting malnutrition are reached and supported through kitchen gardens or spaces in community gardens, or are involved in other livelihoods programmes in camps.
- Support rice retailing business to be initiated by EDP clients in the four (Ban Don Yang, Ban Mae Surin, Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang) remote camps to ensure availability of affordable rice, to augment the reduced rice support provided by TBC food baskets.
- Strengthen capacities of refugee-managed Livelihoods Committees such that they are able to provide oversight on livelihoods and food security in their camps, including coordination of the various livelihoods programmes, and facilitate development of refugee led livelihoods projects.



Snack vendor, Ban Don Yang

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENT

TBC's Shelter and Settlement Programme activities involve a holistic approach to housing management and spatial planning issues. Support includes ensuring safe, healthy and adequate housing conditions for refugees, providing specific housing assistance to vulnerable households, and mobilising large scale community environmentalism through natural resource management and spatial planning to mitigate potential danger from natural hazards, such as flooding, fire, and landslides. The programme focused on building the refugees' own capacity and effective planning to provide safe and adequate housing for all camp residents within the constraints of a 20% budget, while at the same time enhancing livelihoods opportunities through roof leaf production and technical construction training.

Shelter Working Groups

A total of 114 Shelter Working Groups (SWGs) in individual sections throughout all nine camps, were established in late 2014, and received capacity building

training during the reporting period. Training aimed at increasing section leadership and shelter staff capacity to work together in managing all housing issues in their respective sections. Activities focused on establishing roles and responsibilities, building understanding of how to manage one's housing stock, how to conduct assessments of shelter special needs households and house movements through hands-on practices and individual house visits, and teaching shelter guidelines and procedures.

The assistance to shelter vulnerable households, also known as shelter special needs households, is for refugees who on their own, even when provided with materials are unable to repair or maintain the safety or adequacy of their shelter, to respond to their personal needs. The special support to these families varies from household to household. It may include delivery/construction assistance, and/or full allocation of material support for self-repair works. SWGs priorities and identification of special needs households, in many cases overlap with CMT classified Most Vulnerable household, due to physical and/or mental disabilities. Vulnerable households and households with specific

COMMUNITY PROFILE: Shar Ma Lay

Shar Ma Lay is a Senior Shelter and Settlement team member. At 25 years old, she has been living in Ban Mai Nai Soi for five years. She came to the camp from Shar Daw township, and has a young daughter. She studied at the Women Study Program for one year, before applying for an available shelter staff position.

Working as a Senior staff member is a very challenging position. Shar described that she faces many obstacles, particularly when communicating with camp residents, as some people don't understand shelter guidelines. This requires a great deal of time be spent explaining the Shelter team's activities, before residents understand and are willing to collaborate with Shelter staff. For instance, with respect to special needs household assistance, those that consist of elderly who don't have any relatives or children to take care of them with household repairs, are prioritised. Meanwhile, elderly who have family to care for them, do not understand why they do not get the same level of assistance, and are therefore disgruntled.

Learning many new things in her current role, Shar has been trained to understand how to design houses and allocate building materials, based on the size of a house and/or a family.



A **Thai community architecture group called OPENSOURCE** held a workshop in all nine camps with a total of 126 participants (110 male, 16 female). The purpose was to assist SWGs and Shelter teams in strengthening their understanding and skills for responding to spatial vulnerabilities within the camps in a holistic manner. This training focused on how vulnerability is palpable in housing conditions. Practicing methods of vulnerability mapping, SWGs performed problem solving activities, which encouraged them to find case by case solutions for different shelter special needs households. For example, the training explored methods to assist people with a physical disability that required adjustments to the stairs and toilet in their house, or single female headed households with children who required their house to be lockable, to gain a sense of safety.

protection needs are increasingly coordinated with other agencies such as Handicap International, Solidarities, and UNHCR. It is here where TBC is able to facilitate concrete actions that can immediately improve the lives of people with disabilities or vulnerabilities in the camps.

While the capacity of SWGs have improved, the time for a complete handover of responsibilities and management of the existing housing and community stock has not reached a point that can ensure the safety of refugee shelters. The Shelter and Settlement team will therefore continue to work together with KRC and KnRC, Camp Committees, and SWGs to gradually delegate responsibilities and retain a monitoring and mentoring role.

KRC Housing Policy

During the reporting period a KRC Housing Policy initiative was approved by KRC for implementation, beginning in Mae La camp. Following intensive consultation with KRC and the Camp Committee, the Mae La SWGs were asked to design detailed implementation procedures tailored for their camp. The policy requires that a house record be issued to each inhabited household, that the application procedure for moving houses within Mae La and detailed records be kept, and that monitoring mechanisms update the monthly Population Database with accurate household addresses. In effect, the policy is the primary mechanism for SWGs to effectively and transparently manage their housing stock, communal facilities, and communal spaces within their section.

The first house records were printed and issued at the end of the reporting period, and the process to cover all 7,256 shelters in Mae La is ongoing. Public forums in each section will be held to explain the KRC Housing Policy, application procedures for moving houses, the benefits of having a house record, as well as to address any outstanding questions from the community.

Housing Repair – Material Delivery

For the first time, and aligned with TBC's overall aim to transfer housing management responsibilities to SWGs, SWGs worked hand in hand with the Shelter stipend team to organise and manage delivery and distribution of all repair materials. The amount of repair materials has steadily declined in the recent years. In light of the minimal amount of repair materials available, some camps completely stopped allocating eucalyptus poles for repair projects because of its high cost. Eucalyptus poles are predominantly used for the foundation of a house, and essential for its structural safety, where TBC will monitor its overall effects in the coming year. In light of reductions, capacity to mitigate the negative impacts on housing conditions has its limits, even with efforts for effective targeting and allocation, it cannot compensate for actual repair works.

An earlier delivery period was successfully executed by the Shelter team this year, to allow for an extended repair period prior to rainy season. The quality of materials improved this year through stricter control procedures, greater communication, rejection of substandard materials, as well as consistent liaising with suppliers by the TBC field offices. Additionally, distribution of materials in the camps was effectively conducted through active engagement of each section-based SWG, who resolved allocation disagreements quickly and safeguarded fair and transparent distribution.

All 22,194¹ houses and 215² of the community buildings received assistance with repair materials during the reporting period. Community buildings, include camp management buildings, community halls, CBO facilities and offices, boarding houses³, and nurseries⁴.

Figure 2.10: Total Amount of Repair Materials 2015

	Bamboo poles	Eucalyptus	Roof leaf	Grass thatch	Plastic sheeting (TH)
All camps	307,620	15,300	3,213,915	255,380	1510

¹ Total number of houses assessed in August 2014 – needs assessment.

² This is the number assisted in 2015, not total number of community buildings.

³ Assessed under housing

⁴ Depending on camp and other NGO support

COMMUNITY PROFILE:

Ku Ray

Ku Ray's husband, Pyeh Say, passed away one month ago. The two were married in 2007 but have no children. The closest living relative Ku Ray has, is her younger brother in law, who finds work outside of Mae La camp where they live, and returns only once a month for a few hours during ration distributions. She left her village in Karen state when the Burma army came into KNU controlled area, and then she was forced to move to Mae La after the first refugee camp she resided in was burned down in 1998. Now 46 years old, Ku Ray describes that she has been suffering from paralysis for years. With her husband's passing, she neither has relatives nor neighbors that she relies on for support. She does however receive assistance from the Shelter Working Group (SWG) that works in her section. The SWG and the Shelter team, Ku Ray explains, provided her with shelter materials and constructed her stable shelter to live in, where she is already more comfortable. The SWG also recently repaired a leak in her roof, and has made plans to secure a small bridge path leading up to her front door, with a hand rail that will extend along several shelter special needs households.



Shelter Repairs Assistance for Shelter Special Needs Households

A total of 1,053 shelter special needs households were recorded and verified by the SWGs. All shelter special needs households were subsequently assisted by their respective SWG for 2015, as verified by the Post Distribution Monitoring conducted in June.

A total of 296 households received repair and rebuilding assistance by SWGs and stipend Shelter team, and 757 received the full allocation⁵ of materials for self-repair works. The table below states the individual camp number of shelter special needs households and assistance received.

Shelter Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM)

In order to monitor the safety of the houses and evaluate the effectiveness of the distributed repair materials a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) assessment of the housing stock was carried out by SWGs and camp-based shelter staff. A total of 21,126⁶ houses were assessed, out of which 561 houses were classified as unsafe –

Figure 2.11: Shelter Repairs Assistance for Special Needs Households by camp January-June 2015

Camp	Total	Construction assistance	Self-repaired
UMP	180	26	154
NP	141	19	122
ML	230	52	178
Site1	188	57	131
Site2	30	27	3
MRML	102	27	75
MLO	83	41	42
TH	64	40	24
DY	35	7	28
Total	1053	296	757

2.6% of the total housing stock – where Tham Hin and Nu Po have the highest number of unsafe houses.

These small percentages of households do not take the responsibility of maintaining their houses seriously. The materials allocated were not used, were sold,

⁵ Full allocation refers to the August 2014 repair assessment. SSN households receive all materials that the house requires to be safe and adequate, whereas standard households only receive priority needs that are mainly bamboo and roof leaf for wall, floor and roof repair works.

⁶ There has been a reduction of 1068 shelters since August 2014 needs assessment. 784 houses have been recorded as dismantled during PDM. The remaining 284 are unaccounted for, a 1.3% reduction.

or were given to neighbouring houses for extended repair works. In efforts to transfer responsibilities of housing management to SWGs, TBC, KRC and the Camp Committees will evaluate the PDM results in the second half of 2015 and are discussing changes to the 2016 repair allocation mechanism, which will require that all standard households apply for repair material support in order to address issues such as the non-use of allocated materials.

While only a very small percentage of housing is unsafe, 1,573 houses have been classified as being located on unsafe plots, which is 7.4% of the housing stock that is at high risk of flooding, tree fall and/or landslide. The high risk of fire is also a real risk for all houses throughout all nine camps, due to camp density and flammability of each house's roof leaf.

These risks cannot be easily addressed, as land availability is very restricted and the many camps are consequentially dense. However, the KRC Housing Policy is working to circumvent these issues through a community monitoring mechanism to record household moves within a camp, and providing guidance for dismantling and reassigning empty houses.

Fire Risk and Disaster Risk Reduction

At the end of 2014, CCSIPT had invited Operation Florian – a UK registered fire and rescue service humanitarian aid charity – to conduct a fire risk assessment of the refugee camps. The assessment team visited four camps, and provided a series of short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations to assist in preventing, mitigating, and preparing for the risk of fire.

In response to Operation Florian recommendations, and the cross-cutting nature of disaster risk reduction, TBC together with other CCSIPT members, began holding a bi-monthly disaster risk reduction meeting to improve coordination amongst all actors, and find ways to implement the recommendations. One recommendation, which will be enacted by the TBC Shelter and Settlement team in the second half of 2015, requires design improvements that should be made to cooking areas in camp houses (a conduit for fire) and improved understanding of fire breaks and spatial site planning by SWGs. Improved fire breaks were planned and executed in reconstruction efforts following the fire that spread across Ban Mai Nai Soi in April.



Refugees help improve fire breaks around Mae La Oon camp

Ban Mai Nai Soi Fire Emergency Response

The high-risk hot and tinder-dry season was once again the catalyst for a wide spread fire, which broke out on the morning of April 7 in Ban Mai Nai Soi, and damaged or completely destroyed almost 200 structures. Fortunately there were no casualties, however 151 houses completely burned down, 43 were either partially burnt or dismantled to act as a fire-break, and five community buildings were destroyed.

The emergency response mechanisms of the humanitarian community, including TBC, UNHCR, and other INGOs, in conjunction with the local Thai authorities, KnRC and camp management, were quick to react to this incident, and immediate needs were addressed within the first 48 hours in a cohesive and participatory way. Those affected temporarily resided with relatives, friends, or in community buildings in the camp.

In cooperation with the KnRC, the Camp Committee and CBOs, there were daily fresh-food deliveries to the camp for the first five days. Communal cooking facilities were put in place for the first week, and replacement rations were distributed to all affected families before the start of Songkran (Thai New Year) on April 13. New Ration Books were issued in time for the next scheduled distribution in the last week of the month. Due to this holiday period, there were slight delays in the forensics investigation and initial site planning. However, with the support of the Shelter team and colleagues from other TBC field offices, needs were assessed and the necessary building materials for reconstruction were ordered, such that the majority of supplies were delivered into the camp by the end of April. All houses, community buildings, a primary school, and other structures affected by the fire were completely rebuilt by the end of May. The reconstruction was solely implemented by the households themselves under the support of the Camp Committee and TBC, where only the special needs households received additional construction assistance from the Shelter Working Group.

As part of the camp restoration, TBC worked to develop a new site plan in cooperation with the land planning department in Mae Hong Son province, which created additional fire break areas, from three to six meters, while maximising the camp space to help prevent or mitigate the risk of future fires. Disaster Risk Reduction measures were encouraged during rebuilding, including: raising roofs in the kitchen area and lining the inside of the roof with old oil tins; avoiding placing candles on the shrine platform close to the roof; repositioning traditional seed/vegetable storage shelves above the stove or cooking area; and installing an insulation layer on the leaf-thatch roofs.

An emergency funding appeal was initiated the day after the fire, which was generously supported by institutional donors and private individuals who ensured that the affected families received essential support. Many of these families had been involved in livelihoods activities such as small businesses, gardening and animal raising, and TBC looked at ways to support them in re-establishing their livelihoods.



Trainings

Following trainings received by the TBC Shelter team in Boron Salt **bamboo treatment** in December 2014, discussion began with camp communities on how to set-up treatment in the camps. The Shelter team finalised development of bamboo treatment facilities in five camps (Mae La, Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang Nu Po, and Tham Hin). Each includes a leaching pond, a construction material warehouse and preparation area, as well as training workshops for the Shelter teams.

Soaking bamboo in Boron Salts for approximately five days significantly increases its durability from 1-2 years, up to 7-10 years. In light of the environmental advantage of increasing the life span of bamboo, as well as reducing funds available for repair materials, this initiative is a key component to retaining the safety of the housing stock. It also allows an emergency stock of bamboo poles to be stored in camp warehouses, which can be used for repairs necessary for shelter special needs households or emergency responses without delay. Batches of treated bamboo were allocated to households affected by the fire in Ban Mai Nai Soi.

Although these facilities are not large enough to treat all delivered bamboo, residents are strongly encouraged to bring their new or old woven wall panels, and their floor boards, for treatment at any time of the year. Many refugees see the benefits of treatment, however a predominant challenge has been encouraging every

person to delay their repair works for two weeks prior to rainy season, in order to treat bamboo. This was particularly difficult in some camps, as bamboo delivery was delayed (Nu Po and Tham Hin) and therefore did not allow much time. Another obstacle was caused by an acute water shortage in some camps, which prevented leaching facilities from running at full capacity.

Training in basic **concrete pole production** restarted in all camps after the UNHCR/MOI Verification Exercise was completed. The concrete posts produced were allocated to community buildings, special needs households and houses in particular need of repair to their house foundation. A total of 279 participants (239 male, 40 female) attended training provided in all camps from January-June 2015. In some camps, such as Mae La, concrete training started to include brick and concrete block making, to offer a wide range of concrete skill development. It is envisaged to hand over the management and training in concrete works to the Shelter team, concrete trainers and SWGs, who have built sufficient capacity in the last two years to independently run the training facility.

GPS training was also provided by the TBC Shelter and Settlement team to KRC, as well as Ban Don Yang and Tham Hin Camp Committees, to support surveying that was conducted in early 2015 of their potential return settlement area in the Tanintharyi region of SE Burma/Myanmar.



Concrete pole production, Ban Don Yang

During the reporting period, a **pilot bamboo furniture training** was initiated in Ma La Oon with 11 refugees who participated. A bamboo carpenter trained the group during a five-day workshop, in making high quality chairs, tables and benches. The participants have taken the initiative to start up a small entrepreneurial business, making chairs for the camp church and NGO staff. They have developed a seed-grant application to their Camp Livelihoods Committee, in aims of expanding.

Bamboo furniture training, Mae La Oon



LESSONS LEARNED AND LOOKING AHEAD:

- Housing management for shelter special needs continues to be a priority for SWGs. Additional training and practice is scheduled, to further build capacity within SWGs, enhance their understanding of the multifaceted concept of vulnerability, and how its obstacles can manifest in a built environment, and demonstrate how SWGs should assist these households.
- Focus will be placed on providing support to SWGs in holding regular monthly meetings that will discuss issues and housing concerns, help monitor shelter special needs families, and provide an opportunity to plan a budget for the 2016 housing repair material allocation, together with TBC Shelter team. Large scale maps of each section will be used to commence spatial housing stock, form understanding about dismantling unsafe houses, and potential relocation of households to safer sites – if possible within camps that are densely populated. While Ma La camp recently began this process with regular meetings scheduled as part of the implementation of the KRC Housing Policy, efforts to establish this platform for all camps is ongoing.
- After being piloted in Mae La for several months, KRC and TBC will review progress of the KRC Housing Policy, and begin discussions with refugee communities, field offices and Thai authorities to establish the parameters for effective implementation in other camps.
- To address obstacles to bamboo treatment, bamboo poles will be purchased in October 2015 to treat and store for 2016 repairs, emergency response and shelter special needs household support.
- Training in concrete block moulds, concrete block, and brick making will be expanded to other camps.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Environmental protection is a cross-cutting issue and is incorporated throughout all TBC programmes. The Community-Driven Natural Resource Management (CDNRM) Programme is in its fourth year, operating in four camps (Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang, Tham Hin, and Nu Po). Environmental management groups – jointly run by Thai villagers and refugees — address environmental issues, conflict over natural resources and organise joint activities for environmental protection, education, and reforestation.

Mitigating the environmental impact of the refugee camps is a key objective of CDNRM, as well as in TBC's community agriculture activities and food assistance. Community agriculture activities applied a Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture system, where refugees were encouraged to apply sound environmental practices to sustain productive, organic gardens. Examples include the use of natural pesticides, effective utilisation of limited water via the selection of appropriate plants and by applying water saving techniques, saving seeds, the growing of leguminous green manure to improve soil fertility, etc.

Food assistance is generally delivered to the camps in reusable containers. The cooking fuel supplied by TBC is made of waste from sawmills, bamboo and coconut by-products. Plastic drums used for fish paste are reused by the supplier. Refugee Committees are also involved in zoning to reduce environmental impact from livestock rearing and other activities, technical training is focused on environmental issues as they relate to animal husbandry, and basic animal raising management is provided; the latest held in May 2015.

Community-Driven Natural Resource Management (CDNRM)

The Community-Driven Natural Resource Management (CDNRM) initiative is a key component of preparedness planning, in so far as it has already significantly contributed to reducing conflict over the use of resources between Thai villagers and refugees. This has been done by establishing a community led management structure for the sustainable use of natural resources, such as forest timber, bamboo, non-timber forest products, and water. Conflict over natural resources is a major challenge in SE Burma/Myanmar, and the skill and knowledge of sustainable use of natural resources is an asset for the future of refugees who decide to return.

Energy Service and Resource Needs Research

A researcher from the University of Queensland's Energy Initiative and School of Chemical Engineering, in collaboration with TBC, began a five month examination of the role of energy services in refugee camps, readiness preparations for return, and community rehabilitation and development projects in SE Burma/Myanmar. It aims to identify sustainable energy opportunities with the potential to support displaced people, TBC operations, and the 2013-2017 Strategic Plan.

Three camps, including Nu Po, Mae La and Tham Hin were selected for research, in an attempt to account for the situational and environmental differences spanning across all camps. Overall, the objective is to expand understanding of the energy sector in the camps, to learn ways to improve provision of energy for the community, and potentially how the community can be better prepared for their energy needs once they are no longer in a confined camp environment.

Research comes alongside the development of the World Bank and the GoUM National Electrification Plan aiming for universal access to electricity in Burma/Myanmar by 2030 from a current level of less than a third of the rural population; continued investment opportunities in the planned dams located in districts refugees previously called home; increasing requests from TBC's civil society and community-based partners for community rehabilitation projects involving energy services; and, a 2015 funding shortfall that demanded TBC to review its cooking fuel ration, which comprises the second largest commodity expenditure cost after rice. Research will continue throughout July, and a report will be completed in the second half of the year.⁷

7 Support for TBC hosted energy research was provided through the competitive award of an Endeavour Research Fellowship from the Australian Government.

Three camps have established natural resource management mechanisms for CDNRM (Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang, and Nu Po). They are embodied by, and operational through, what are referred to as “collaborative management committees”. These environmental groups are formed of approximately 35 members from the refugee community, as well as surrounding host Thai villagers. The group’s capacity has matured after three years of collaboration and joint project implementation, such that during the reporting period they formulated their own six-month work plan, established their own management rules and regulations for natural resources, requested financial and technical training support from TBC and partners when needed, and organised large environmental campaigns. One of these events was an awareness campaign for World Environment Day, where the Environmental Collaborative Groups from each of the four camps partnered with nearby Thai villages to launch a series of activities. In Nu Po, they planted over 2,450 bamboo, coconut, and other hardwood and fruit tree seedlings with the forestry department, and MOI volunteers at the Umphang wildlife sanctuary.

Many strides have been made, as tensions with Thai villages have decreased, and the conservation of natural resources in and surrounding the camps has been improving. For instance, Nu Po camp has cultivated bamboo plantations, where cutting is not permitted; in Mae Ra Ma Luang and Nu Po, sanctuaries have farmed an abundance of fish, and water check dams have been built.

For the first time, the collaborative management committees received training on how to set up a fund management mechanism by the Collaborative Forest Management Committee (CFSG) – a Thai network of environmental experts. The training aimed to provide reporting and monitoring structures, along with seed funding, so that the community can become increasingly self-reliant. A total of 23 people were trained (18 male, 5 female). Afterwards, fund management structures were established within the collaborative management committees in Nu Po area, in order to trigger self-initiated livelihoods activities, and seed funding was allocated by TBC. The collaborative management



Fish sanctuary annual ceremony at Mae Ra Ma Luang

committees in Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang, and Nu Po, have already started small self-initiated livelihoods activities, such as selling sugar cane juice, and betel nut seedling production and marketing.

Semi-annual stakeholder meetings were held with district authorities and all stakeholders, as well as stakeholders meetings in local villages with regular participation from the local Forestry department, local administration, local community leaders, NGOs and members of the camp collaborative management committees. The Thai authorities continue to be supportive of CDNRM initiatives, including mapping protected forest zones, Disaster Risk Reduction activities, and water shed management plans. They encouraged greater information-sharing around CDNRM activities, which are implemented in the wildlife sanctuary area.

The wildlife sanctuary now contribute tools and ideas on improving CDNRM activities, where the sanctuary's chief expressed that he was pleased with TBC and refugee efforts, as well as with CDNRM implementation of forest management and protection activities. There were exposure trips to Umphang wildlife area, to gain a practical understanding of forest rules, regulations, management, and how to collaborate in other community activities to expand their network. Other efforts to engage, include fish sanctuary and awareness events held in Mae Ra Ma Luang and Nu Po for camp residents, MOI volunteers, local authorities, and Thai villages.

Tham Hin camp began to form CDNRM structures through a three part workshop by CFSG for interested community members. The workshop introduced key concepts of forest management, initial training in forest assessment and inventory techniques, and bamboo and eucalyptus plantation practices, which have been cared for by the Shelter stipend team for four years now. The outcomes have been very encouraging, as the refugee community has created their own environmental "Forest Group" with approximately 15 members and a five member steering group, which includes representation from KRC and the Camp Committee. The Forest Group is currently working on setting up rules and regulations for the use of bamboo and eucalyptus trees in the plantation area, and a six-month work plan for environmental activities.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- The collaborative management committees in Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang, and Nu Po are now moving towards becoming increasingly self-reliant, with a funding mechanism in place to finance their self-defined work plan activities.
- The Forest Group in Tham Hin will develop their management regulations and work plans as stated above.
- A border-wide CDNRM meeting is planned for the end of 2015, to bring all environmental groups together for the first time, to exchange knowledge and experience, as well as create linkages with CBOs from SE Burma/Myanmar and Thailand to expand their networks.

MYANMAR PROGRAMME

The **overall objective** of the Myanmar Programme is to support the recovery of conflict-affected communities in SE Burma/Myanmar and build preparedness for potential return and reintegration of displaced communities.

Information Exchange

TBC is working closely with refugee groups, IDPs and conflict-affected communities in SE Burma/Myanmar about the peace process and the potential return of refugees and IDPs. TBC supported a meeting between EeTuHta IDP Camp Committee, KNU leaders from three districts, and Karen CSOs to consider options for facilitated return/resettlement. Logistical support was also provided for KRC and Tham Hin Camp Committee to conduct surveys and consultations in areas of potential return in Tanintharyi Region.

TBC also facilitated an exposure visit for three civil society representatives based in Loikaw to Ban Mai Nai Soi refugee camp in Mae Hong Son. The main objective was to strengthen networks and build trust between CSOs based on either side of the border. This is a prerequisite for facilitating information flows and community participation in preparing for potential refugee return. Education opportunities, land registration, freedom of association and information sharing were the key issues addressed during the exchange.

Policy-level engagement with EAOs is considered essential for the promotion and protection of human rights in areas emerging from conflict. TBC moderated a two-day consultation, which aimed to draft guiding principles that support the development of a humanitarian aid policy by the EAOs aligned with the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC). In June, TBC provided documentation support for the Ethnic Summit in Lawkheelar, which brought together 190 senior leaders from the ethnic armed groups and civil society representatives for one week to review the draft NCA.

A summary of protection and security concerns in the South East was presented by TBC to UNHCR's South East Consultation in Yangon. This is the main coordination mechanism for humanitarian and development agencies in the region, with participants including representatives from the Ministry of Immigration, donor governments, UN agencies and NGOs.

TBC provided support for 19 CSOs and social service providers affiliated with EAOs to contribute to Myanmar Information Management Unit's (MIMU) March 2015 update of "Who is doing What and Where" (3Ws). In total, TBC documented 392 interventions across the food, agriculture, health, protection, governance, peace-building, WASH and non-agricultural livelihoods and infrastructure sectors. This data reflecting programme reach was compiled together with other contributors and by MIMU by the end of April.⁸

Community-Driven Rehabilitation

A wide range of CSOs were supported covering almost 150 villages with a target population of 84,500.

The Karen Office of Relief and Development (KORD) was supported to improve the water supply for domestic and agricultural use for 5,390 civilians across 11 villages in Hpapun, Bilin, Thandaunggyi and Hlaingbwe. These townships contain many areas that were abandoned during the protracted armed conflict, and during this time the irrigation canals have been damaged or destroyed. As the villagers return, they require appropriate access to water and sanitation. It is expected that 248 acres of lowland paddy fields will be able to resume cultivation due to the clearance of water flow channels and reinforcements for water collection points. A total of 31 water storage tanks will be built to supply clean water for domestic use and at least 226 sanitary latrines will be constructed.

The Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN) are being supported to enhance local agricultural production and enhance livelihoods and food security across 19 villages in Papun, Kyain Seikgyi, and Kyaikhto townships in Karen and Mon States with 1,421 targeted beneficiaries. The clearance of water flow channels will support the restoration of 337 acres of paddy fields. The development of a rice bank will enhance food security while the production of cooking stoves will enhance fuel efficiency and mitigate against deforestation.

TBC also supported the extension of KESAN's land and forest survey. Technical support will enable KNU's Agriculture Department to demarcate and register an additional 7,000 land titles. A public information campaign will raise awareness about KNU's revised land and forest policies and understanding about community forestry amongst 3,000 people. Advanced GIS training will be facilitated for 17 staff of Karen Agriculture Department (KAD) and Karen Forestry Department (KFD) to build on the GPS and survey techniques that have already been developed to demarcate the land and forests.

The Human Rights Foundation of Mon Land (HURFOM) has also received support to facilitate workshops with local farmers regarding land rights and the land registration process in order to ensure that any unregistered lands remain owned by the local population. They also seek to mobilise farmers associations in each village tract to protect customary land from confiscation by armed groups or companies. Through the development and deployment of tract-level Land Registration Committees, they plan to register farmer's lands on their behalf at government offices. They also hope to create and train land survey groups to produce village level maps identifying paddy farms, plantations and community forests using GPS.

TBC extended support for the Tanintharyi River Indigenous People's Network's (TRIP-NET's) community-driven natural resource management initiative in Dawei Township. The target population for this project includes 10,000 people from 12 villages along the Tanintharyi River. Strengthening capacities for community forest and watershed management networks is envisioned as enhancing agro-forestry, fisheries and income generation opportunities for local villagers while simultaneously protecting the natural resources from exploitation by commercial interests. Regular multi-stakeholder meetings are enabling villagers to engage with KNU, local government and CSOs, to promote a common vision of sustainable natural resource management and utilisation.

⁸ It is available for download from <http://www.themimu.info/3w-maps-and-reports>.

The Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People (CIDKP) was supported to improve agricultural and household water supply for 1,293 villagers within 8 villages in Kyain Seikgyi and Myawaddy townships, Karen state. The area was largely abandoned due to protracted armed conflict in the area, however, IDPs have been returning but need to rehabilitate the water channels to enable the resumption of cultivation. Under the management of experienced water supply engineers and a construction supervisor, existing water collection points will be reinforced with wood barriers, except for the areas prone to erosion which will be fortified with concrete. In addition, gravity flow water supply and storage systems will enhance access to household water across three villages.

The Karen Baptist Convention (KBC) received support to establish water supply and solar power systems for displaced and resettled communities in Thanduanggyi Township in northern Karen state. This intervention will reach 2,870 people from 13 villages. Gravity flows water supply systems will be installed in nine villages and two water tanks will be constructed. This will reduce the burden of fetching water in target villages and increase water availability for personal hygiene, including enabling latrine use in 60% of households in target villages. Additionally, solar powered lighting systems

will be installed in four villages to enhance learning opportunities for children. A Chemical Engineering expert on fellowship with TBC from the University of Queensland's Energy Initiative has provided technical support (see Environmental Protection section).

TBC approved the request of the Back Pack Health Worker Team to work with 32 villages throughout Karen, Mon, Karenni, Shan States and East Bago and Tanintharyi regions to improve household water and sanitation systems. The project will target 16,217 people with the aim of providing one gravity flow water supply systems for every 300 people, one shallow well for every 50 people, and one community latrine for every five to 10 people. Improved sanitation is positively correlated with enhanced nutrition and food security.

The Karen Department of Health and Welfare (KDHW) and the Back Pack Health Worker Team (BPHWT) were provided supplementary support for the training of 290 community health workers over a nine month course and 60 auxiliary health workers over a five month course. This initiative is part of the health convergence strategy to enhance collaboration between government and ethnic health service providers. While other donors contribute technical advice and the majority of funding, TBC contributes food assistance so that participants from marginalised communities can participate.



KORD supported water supply and storage system, Thandaung

Support for the Karen Human Rights Group's (KHRG's) core documentation capacities, village agency promotion workshops and policy-level engagement with Government and EAOs alike was expanded. Highlights during the first half of 2015, include the launch of a new report on land confiscation and local response in SE Burma/Myanmar during May. A series of 10 workshops for Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) soldiers about their human rights and humanitarian obligations have also been supported for the first time.

The Shan State Development Foundation (SSDF) expanded their programme reach from the Shan IDP camps deeper into conflict-affected areas of Laikha and Mong Pan Townships. Support was provided to work with three communities to repair a water collection point and reinforcing water flow channels for agricultural purposes. Another village in Mong Pan was supported to construct shallow wells and water storage tanks for domestic consumption.

In the Mon resettlement sites, the Mon Relief and Development Committee (MRDC) continue to facilitate small-scale community-driven infrastructure and livelihoods initiatives. In 2015 this focused on nine villages spread across Kyain Seikkyi, Ye and Yebyu townships in the New Mon State Party (NMSP) ceasefire areas. Income generation opportunities for women are being enhanced by sewing training workshops, while pig raising and water supply projects are the key poverty alleviation initiatives.

Kainayar Rural Social Development Organization (KRSDO) was provided support to implement projects across seven villages in Shadaw Township to enhance local basic infrastructure and micro-economic groups with the goal of enhancing future capacity to integrate IDPs and returnees from Thailand. The projects target 1,961 beneficiaries (1,009 females, 952 males). KRSDO will facilitate the establishment of three Women's Savings and Loans groups, and create paddy, corn and sesame banks. Additionally, desks and chairs will be constructed for two schools and also community halls will be built.

The Karenni Social Welfare and Development Center (KSWDC) are shifting their focus from the delivery of cash transfers in response to livelihood shocks to facilitating community-driven development projects in conflict-affected areas. Five villages spread across MeSe, Hpasawng and Hpruso Townships are currently being supported with a range of community infrastructure projects. This includes the construction of a nursery school and teacher's accommodation to enhance

educational opportunities; repair of motorbike paths to improve access to markets and water supply, and sanitation systems to promote public health.

The KBC's Social Service and Development Department (Hpa-an) received their first instalment for community mobilisation activities targeting 980 beneficiaries (505 females, 475 males) from five villages in remote areas of Hpapun Township. Having identified needs in collaboration with the communities, the organisation is asking to establish and manage revolving rice banks established in two villages, establish and maintain solar energy systems in two villages and construct school buildings in two villages.

KBC's Social Service and Development Department (Kyaukkyi) is assisting 1,034 beneficiaries (486 females, 548 males) from four villages in Kyaukkyi area. Following training in relevant topics such as social accountability, community mobilisation and improved project cycle management capacities; project management committees were established and participatory needs assessments were conducted. As a result of these assessments, three water supply systems and water management committees and one energy systems are being established.

Khu Pho Ka Paw is working with 2,609 beneficiaries (1,355 females, 1,254 males) from seven villages in Kyar Inn Seik Gyi Township. Water supply systems and water management committees will be established in three villages, revolving seed banks will be managed in two villages, solar energy systems constructed in one village and school buildings constructed in one village.

Hsar Mu Htaw Social Support Group aims to improve socio-economic situation and livelihoods opportunities in five villages, so that they are prepared and ready to welcome IDPs from relocation places and returnees from Thailand. After establishing project management communities in each village, several projects have been identified, including water supply and electrical systems, the building of a preschool, and the upgrading of a local road.

Women Organization Network – Kayin State (WON-Kayin) is targeting 5,540 beneficiaries (3,095 females, 2,445 males) from five villages in conflict areas in the north of Hlaing Bwe Township. The projects that have been identified through collaborative work with the communities include water supply and storage systems and water management committees in three villages, and infrastructure projects, including the repair of a road and construction of a bridge.



CSO staff developing seasonal calendar as a Participatory Rural Appraisal tool, Mawlamyine

Myanmar Programme: Cash Transfers

TBC disbursed funds for cash transfers to assist 11,362 people (5,639 males, 5,623 female) recover from livelihoods shocks, which affected 40 villages spread across seven townships during the first half of 2015. This assistance was equivalent to three months rice supply at local prices and averaged at just under K 30,000 (USD 25) per beneficiary.

CIDKP facilitated three cash transfer distribution trips during this period. A total of 798 people from five villages in Hpapun Township, Karen state, were assisted after their food security was undermined by pest and insect attacks, which destroyed over 65% of the expected yield. From five villages in Kyaukgyi Township, Bago region, 977 people were also targeted for assistance after 30%-50% of their betel nut, betel leaf, durian and paddy fields were partly or completely destroyed due to the unseasonal rains and subsequent drought. In Myawaddy Township, Karen state, 1,647 people from six villages received support due to low rice harvest yield in 2014 and a forest fire which destroyed crops.

KORD responded to four separate shocks which exacerbated food insecurity. Cash transfers were distributed to 1,652 people from three villages in Shwegyin Township, Bago Region who were victims of a forest fire, with household goods, electronics, money and food supplies destroyed. Additional transfers were provided to 3,000 people from five villages in

Thandaung Township, Karen state who had suffered damage and loss of orchards due to road construction and/or indiscriminate heavy artillery attacks. KORD also responded to drought, forest fire and militarisation, which undermined the food security of 1,073 people in six villages of Hpapun Township, Karen state.

KSWDC supported 1,181 people from four villages in Loikaw Township who have been victims of government land confiscation and subsequent loss of farmland and crops. This was followed by cash transfers in Northern Shadaw Township, where 1,034 people from six villages have been given support to ameliorate the personal debts that have incurred in their efforts to reclaim and rehabilitate over 350 acres of paddy farms. These villagers have recently returned to the area from southern Shan State and are likely to host returning refugees in the coming dry season.

Myanmar Programme: Food Assistance

The net population supported by TBC in IDP camps decreased by 126 people (1%) during the first half of 2015. This was primarily due to the removal of 24 households from the Loi Tai Leng camp population list in May, as they were identified as Self-Reliant. There were no significant reports of return or resettlement inside Burma/Myanmar.

The IDP camp food aid beneficiaries as of June 2015 were as follows:

Figure 2.12: IDP Camp Population

Name of Camp	Pop'n < 5		Pop'n > 5		Assisted population
	M	F	M	F	
Loi Kaw Wan	166	178	1216	1154	2,714
Loi Tai Lang	212	234	1096	886	2,428
Loi Sam Sip	19	11	218	174	422
Loi Lam	14	15	135	133	297
Ee Tu Hta	276	221	1494	1498	3,489
Halockhani	147	114	1373	1412	3,046
Total (IDP camps)	834	773	5532	5257	12,396

A streamlined household poverty survey was conducted in IDP camps during March, consisting of just six 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). This is attributed to the reduction in food assistance provided during 2014, as well as the increase in restrictions on movement across the border after the military assumed power in Thailand in May last year.

Stockpiles of rice for the wet season were delivered on time before the roads became impassable to the three remote IDP camp of Halockhani, Loi Tai Leng and Loi Lam. There were no significant supply chain obstacles reported during the period, although restrictions on access to Loi Kaw Wan increased after fighting erupted between the Tatmadaw and the UWSA in close proximity to the IDP camp during June.

Discussions between EeTuHta camp leaders and KNU district leaders about possible resettlement are progressing slowly, however ongoing militarisation and the onset of the wet season will prevent any significant movement in the coming months. There are fewer possibilities for IDPs in the Shan camps however, and even access to agricultural fields is being curtailed by nearby UWSA troops who have relocated with their families into villages previously inhabited by Shan, Lahu and Akha communities. Given the current situation food assistance to the IDPs will be needed beyond 2015.

Civil Society Development

TBC facilitated a planning meeting with 23 representatives (18 male, 5 female) from 13 CSOs, in which a steering committee was established to draft a framework for a community-based protection monitoring mechanism, while it was also agreed that the annual publication on

trends in SE Burma/Myanmar would focus on a qualitative survey of civil society perspectives about working in conflict-affected communities. On the programme front, TBC led discussions about strategic challenges and operational plans for the coming year and discussion groups explored options for technical exchange.

TBC convened a "Good Governance and Social Accountability" training for 25 participants from 11 CSOs in Loikaw. This training included topics on: the development of an organisational vision, mission and goals; management of finances, assets and human resources; and the equitable, inclusive and transparent implementation of projects.

TBC also facilitated a Protection Mainstreaming workshop with 23 participants including nine TBC staff and 14 civil society representatives. The curriculum was adapted from a series of workshops facilitated in 2014, and was based upon the SPHERE Protection principles. This included discussion about non-discrimination, Do No Harm, conflict-sensitivity and protection-oriented programming to ensure that CSOs have the capacity to appropriately identify and mitigate sources of tension.

Support was also offered to various civil society networks and capacity building initiatives. In February, logistical support was provided for the Karen Peace Support Network (KPSN) to facilitate a strategy planning session with 30 CSOs. TBC also supported the Women's League of Burma's (WLB's) Congress and strategic planning for 2015-2017, which was informed by participation from 55 women's organisation leaders. A separate one-day workshop on "Proposal and Report Writing" was facilitated for WLB's Emerging Leaders School. In April, TBC supported KESAN's customary land research and environmental awareness raising workshop with youth in Hpapun.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In recent times, the constant for TBC has been change. As TBC continues to operate within a climate of uncertainty, so too the international community is revising development priorities and the aid sector is becoming more diverse and increasingly complex.

Organisational development continues to be the primary focus for TBC, when planning and implementing any approach to enable sustained organisational performance. Internal challenges impacting the organisation's culture, effectiveness and efficiency, persist in times of programme restructuring. Nevertheless, efforts to evolve TBC's coping and problem-solving mechanisms are ongoing. The greatest challenge during this period of restructuring has been executing a system-wide process of data collection, diagnosis, action planning, intervention, and evaluation aimed at enhancing congruence among an ever-changing organisational structure, process, strategy, personnel and culture, while developing new and creative organisational solutions.

The second phase of TBC's organisational restructuring was completed during the reporting period. Staffing reduced from 115-110 people, with a negligible change to the gender ratio. A challenge for some has been adjusting to the uncertainty and unknown timeframes, in an environment of continuous change that has been unlike anything TBC has encountered. For the next six months, TBC does not envisage any further cuts in staff, however the organisation will continue to take stock of working practices, and how that affects beneficiaries.

As part of TBC's Human Resource initiatives, online exit interviews have been introduced, which have already collated some useful information that equips management to gauge staff morale, as well as understand staff perception of different work related issues. The results of these exit interviews will be used to better engage staff, and fine tune management practices, policies and structures.

Restructuring of the Thailand Programme began with a merge of the Camp Management and Community Mobilisation teams to become the CMPP. The role of a Specialist leading the team was thereby phased out. Meanwhile, the Field Office Support Teams were rationalised. Also, the integration of the CAP and EDP into one FSL Programme, with an emphasis on building on local knowledge has also phased out the position of a Specialist.

Feedback from 10 TBC staff:

100% – Enjoyed working for TBC.

90% – Felt their role in TBC was helpful in stimulating their professional growth, clear in terms of expectations, and it was easy to obtain resources to do their jobs.

80% – Felt they were well paid for the job that they were doing and confirmed that their skills were effectively put into use in their jobs. They affirmed that TBC was a collaborative workplace but stated that they had some degree of difficulty in maintaining a work life balance.

60% – Felt that TBC benefits package was much better than previous organisations they had worked in, or that they know about, but also felt TBC was not able to meet their training needs.

50% – Stated that the workplace culture supported team-working in relation to decision-making, and felt their contributions were recognised.

To build a better workplace, it was suggested that TBC should:

- Listen and consult all staff.
- Implement 360 reviews at all levels of the organisation.
- Develop staff capacity to deal with challenges that will impact TBC.
- Build more top-down and bottom-up trust.
- Communicate, using different communication methods.

The addition of a regular forum for TBC Field Coordinators, Programme Managers and Specialists has generated improved opportunities for broader understanding of the different technical programmes, and how they link into the increased efforts for programme integration as part of the preparedness elements of TBC's objectives.

In the Bangkok office there has also been streamlining of the programme development team, the procurement and logistics team and administration teams.

While the Thailand programme is reducing staff, TBC is expanding the Myanmar Programme. There are now eight staff based in TBC's Yangon, Loikaw and Mawlamyaing offices. One major change to staffing was the resignation of the Myanmar Programme Director, but recruitment of a Burmese national for the position has been unsuccessful. The responsibilities have been combined with the Partnerships Director and the role of Myanmar Programme Director now has oversight of all programmes in SE Burma/Myanmar.

After staff was consulted, TBC decided on some changes to staff remuneration and benefits, which will take effect on July 1 2015. The changes were meant to align the Myanmar Programme with Thailand operation standards. These included open-ended contracts, as well as revised job descriptions and a revamped grading and salary structure and benefits for Burma/Myanmar, to ensure it was fit for purpose, open, and transparent. Moreover, TBC has continued its participation in the Birches Group NGO local pay and NGO global pay.

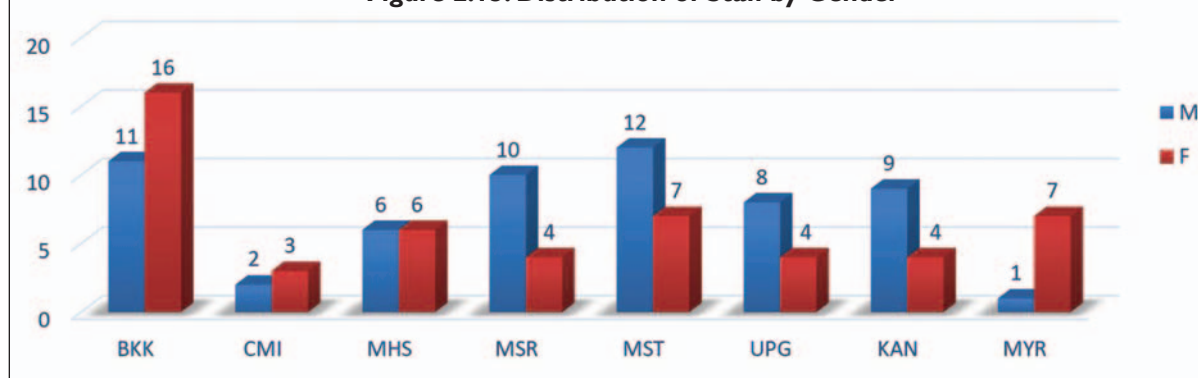
Staff turnover from January-June 2015 was 9%, with a Stability Index of approximately 98. This measure indicates that TBC was generally stable and doing well to retain staff, as the majority of staff had worked for a year or more. This is in contrast to the same period in 2014, when turnover was lower at 2% indicating that few staff were leaving TBC but the organisation

had recruited a number of specialists, support and field-based staff who had been in post for less than a year and hence a lower Stability Index of 88. Reduction of staffing numbers was across all levels.

TBC continues to learn and develop its systems and structures to help the organisation make appropriate adjustments in the way it works. It focuses on enabling staff to feel that they are part of the wider organisation and that their contribution is valued. Ultimately, through the above mentioned activities, TBC is working to facilitate shared objectives among teams, so that staff may a) feel ownership of, and b) clearly show how their contribution relates to the achievement of overall organisational objectives.

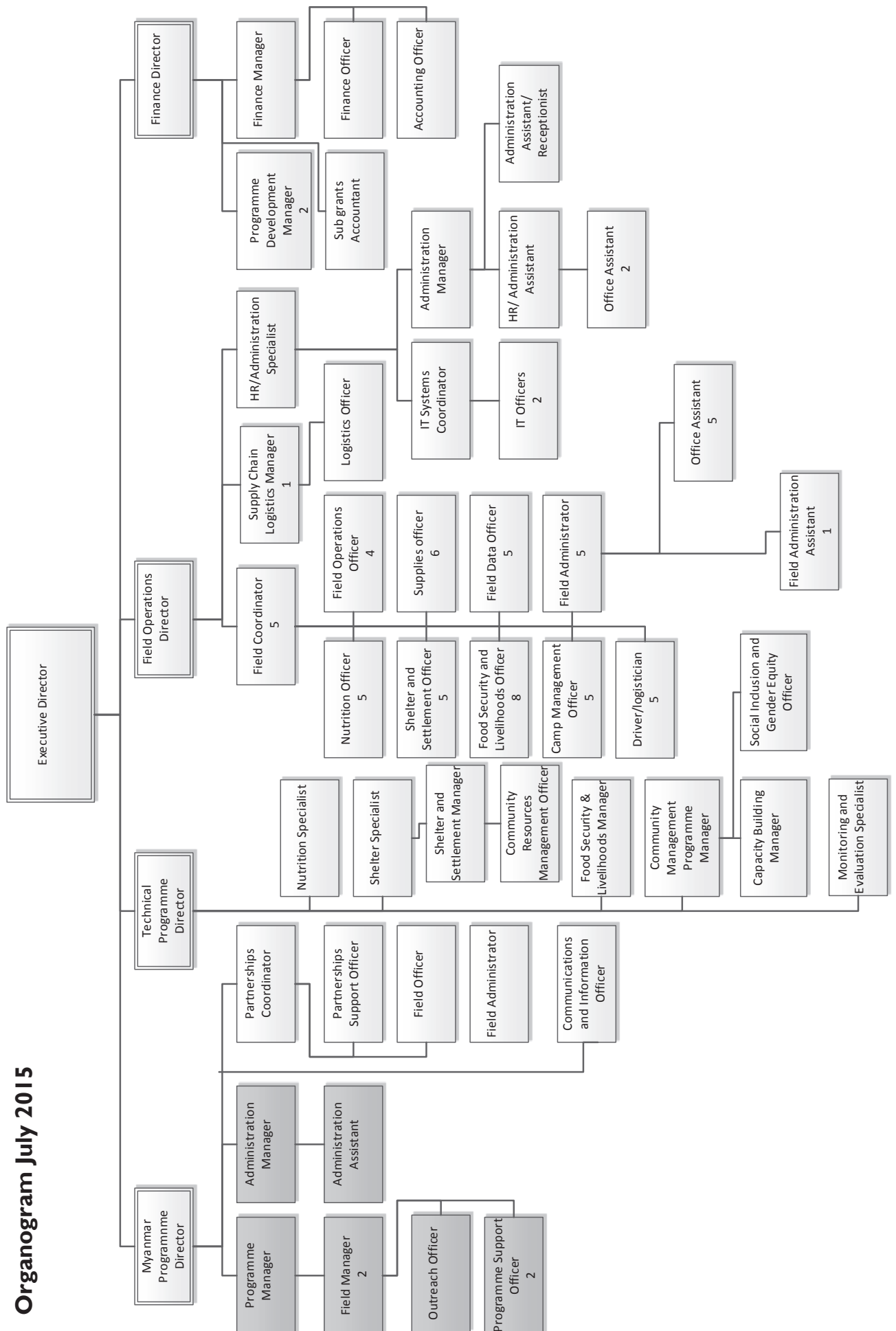
Respecting the dignity and worth of every individual, TBC staff must treat all persons without distinction on the basis of sex, age, race, disability etc., which is promoted throughout TBC staff policy and is integral to its Code of Conduct. Nevertheless, TBC is always seeking to advance. Two evaluations conducted in late 2014 provided recommendations on how TBC can increasingly mainstream gender into programme activities and how all groups – according to gender, age, ethnicity, religion, disability, and special needs – can be included more in camp activities.⁹ In response to these studies, TBC formed an internal Working Group on Gender and Inclusion comprised of staff from across TBC, to ensure that social inclusion and gender is developed with all levels of staff in mind. Ensued by their activities, and aligned with the Strategic Plan, TBC is currently implementing a **Social Inclusion and Gender Equity (SIGE)** strategy, action plan, and training package. The action plan has worked to contextualise and incorporate recommendations from both evaluations, is working to establish definitions, comprehensively develop concepts, pinpoint stakeholders and focal points, and facilitate stakeholder workshops. SIGE intends gender/social inclusion to be an integral component of TBC policy, programmes, and staff training.

Figure 2.13: Distribution of Staff by Gender



⁹ One evaluation was commissioned by DFAT and the other by Dan Church Aid, both discussed in TBC Programme Report July-December 2014. Both may be found on TBC's website.

Organogram July 2015



Thus far, a number of recommendations have been carried out, including: establishing the Working Group that is revising TBC's Gender Policy; appointing a Social Inclusion and Gender Equity Officer; and creating a plan to mainstream gender and social inclusion into TBC's work for the future, as well as broader implementation across all camps. The conceptual orientation of SIGE is being designed as a single policy framework that can be adapted by TBC, Refugee Committees, and individual Camp Committees, to ensure that gender equity and social inclusion standards are achieved across the board. The main challenge has been the lack of awareness. It is vital that camp leaders first understand the key concepts, in order to be able to meaningfully participate in and promote principles of equity and inclusion. This greater understanding will also help reduce misunderstandings from within each community, and thus reduce marginalisation of any of its members.

The roll-out of the revised TBC **Child Protection Policy**, together with the updated Code of Conduct for TBC Staff and Code of Conduct for TBC representatives were completed. Training was provided for all TBC field offices and Bangkok Office on the policy as it applies to suppliers and contractors.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monthly population updates and the TBC Annual Population Verification (APV) results are processed using a Centralised Web Database system, and Ration Books are automatically generated by this system border-wide each year. Gender disaggregated data is collected for the whole refugee population, including headed-households, camp management stipend workers, and participation in all TBC programmes. Progress in gender participation can now be effectively monitored and reported on.

Between February and June 2015 the web database Supply Chain Module, linking supply chain and warehouse functions directly to population data, was rolled out to the relevant programme support staff in all five field offices. The system is currently being used in parallel to existing Supply Chain systems, and the older systems should be phased out.

Design of five TBC Programme Modules for the database have been completed, and are now being integrated. These Modules are:

- The Food Security and Livelihoods Programme Module;
- The Nutrition Programme Module;
- The Shelter and Settlement Programme Module;
- The CMPP Stipend Worker Module; and,
- The CMPP Training Module.

They provide relevant information on the camp population. For example, the CMPP Stipend Worker Module has the potential to directly link every individual refugee, and their demographic characteristics (e.g., sex, age group, CMT vulnerability group, and/or ethnicity) to their participation in programme activities. These are innovations that are necessary to monitor inclusion and gender equity in TBC programmes.

Progress has also been achieved in the monitoring of individual TBC programmes. The 2015 Shelter and Settlement Post Distribution Monitoring process of over 20,000 houses and community structures, has been further developed, and now directly engages the new camp section level SWGs. The FSL team has been working to complete livelihoods capacity assessments in all camps, to better plan the technical assistance required for livelihoods groups and to support handover of leadership and technical training roles to the refugees. Improved monitoring tools for seed and tool distribution to resident camp households, and for monitoring EDP programme participation have been developed. The 2015 Nutrition Survey, launched during the reporting period, has been developed to include more questions on IYCF and related indicators.

People with Special Needs

Apart from enumerating identity/demographic information for all individual refugees, existing TBC monitoring systems can identify population subgroups that present some specific vulnerability, requiring particular attention in terms of access to livelihoods programmes and governance. These subgroups include women and girls, youth, elderly, and Muslim religious minorities. Household level information includes the CMT vulnerability categories including Vulnerable and Most Vulnerable households.

However, there is currently no systematic information on the disability status of all individuals in the refugee population. Presently, only informal identification of PwD (as well as other vulnerable groups) takes place in the camp management systems, and targeted support is offered in the following KRC and KnRC camp management and TBC supported activities:

- New Arrivals policy (included in vulnerability criteria);
- CMT (included in vulnerability criteria);
- Population verification and food distribution (exemption to come in person);
- Nutrition programme (SFP/ TFP programme);
- Shelter programme (technical/construction assistance, and relocation support);
- Community Agriculture Programme (target group); and,
- Income Generation programme (target group).

Access of PwD to TBC programme-related information in camp has been strengthened through the use of non-literacy-dependent information media such as public forums, audio public service announcements and community radio broadcasts, thus promoting inclusion of persons with poor sight and those with mobility challenges. However TBC's communications with beneficiaries still lack full access by PwD, and steps are being taken to address such gaps, especially in relation to repatriation and reintegration. For example, CCSDPT and Refugee Committee information sharing mechanisms are being redesigned to ensure that information is made available to all camp members irrespective of sex, age, ethnicity, religion or ability.

Figure 2.14: TBC Verified Caseload Population June 2015

Camp:		MNS	MS	MLO	MRML	ML	UM	NP	DY	TH	Jun-2015
Verified Caseload (VC) ¹		11,526	2,694	10,564	12,049	40,092	11,994	11,203	3,112	6,564	109,798
Status	Registered	7,897	832	5,952	5,642	17,522	5,273	5,394	1,806	3,128	53,446
	Unregistered	3,629	1,862	4,612	6,407	22,570	6,721	5,809	1,306	3,436	56,352
	% Registered	68.5%	30.9%	56.3%	46.8%	43.7%	44.0%	48.1%	58.0%	47.7%	48.7%
Gender	Female	5,616	1,345	5,314	6,122	20,344	6,023	5,778	1,585	3,439	55,566
	Male	5,910	1,349	5,250	5,927	19,748	5,971	5,425	1,527	3,125	54,232
	% Female	48.7%	49.9%	50.3%	50.8%	50.7%	50.2%	51.6%	50.9%	52.4%	50.6%
Age	New Born- 6 mths	90	37	127	125	241	113	90	26	54	903
	% of VC	0.8%	1.4%	1.2%	1.0%	0.6%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
	6 mths- < 5 yrs	1,167	335	1,553	1,635	4,549	1,478	1,271	378	937	13,303
	% of VC	10.1%	12.4%	14.7%	13.6%	11.3%	12.3%	11.3%	12.1%	14.3%	12.1%
	5 yrs- < 18 yrs	3,740	946	3,641	4,312	13,890	3,824	3,747	1,088	2,200	37,388
	% of VC	32.4%	35.1%	34.5%	35.8%	34.6%	31.9%	33.4%	35.0%	33.5%	34.1%
	18 Yrs & over	6,529	1,376	5,243	5,977	21,412	6,579	6,095	1,620	3,373	58,204
	% of VC	56.6%	51.1%	49.6%	49.6%	53.4%	54.9%	54.4%	52.1%	51.4%	53.0%
Boarding House Residents	Registered	64	3	4	11	71	13	11	0	1	178
	Unregistered	289	67	201	296	1,020	162	145	40	24	2,244
	% registered	18.1%	4.3%	2.0%	3.6%	6.5%	7.4%	7.1%	0.0%	4.0%	7.3%
Ethnicity	Burman	33	1	41	9	1,049	980	790	60	47	3,010
	% of VC	0.3%	0.0%	0.4%	0.1%	2.6%	8.2%	7.1%	1.9%	0.7%	2.7%
	Karen	41	2,376	10,503	11,975	33,762	9,773	9,121	2,955	6,488	86,994
	% of VC	0.4%	88.2%	99.4%	99.4%	84.2%	81.5%	81.4%	95.0%	98.8%	79.2%
	Karenni	11,002	312	1	2	38	0	4	0	2	11,361
	% of VC	95.5%	11.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.3%
	Mon	10	0	0	0	313	248	145	85	25	826
	% of VC	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	2.1%	1.3%	2.7%	0.4%	0.8%
	Other ²	440	5	19	63	4,930	993	1,143	12	2	7,607
	% of VC	3.8%	0.2%	0.2%	0.5%	12.3%	8.3%	10.2%	0.4%	0.0%	6.9%

Figure 2.15: Targeted Food Assistance: Households June 2015

	MNS	MS	MLO	MRML	ML	UM	NP	DY	TH	Totals	%
Total HHs (including BHs)	2,449	547	1,919	2,168	7,192	2,640	2,388	599	1,271	21,173	100
Most Vulnerable households	186	111	125	132	348	67	171	187	131	1,458	6.9
Vulnerable households	189	0	235	311	736	276	412	0	177	2,336	11
Standard households	2,071	436	1,561	1,716	5,983	2,253	1,788	412	958	17,178	81
Self-reliant households	7	0	8	19	125	44	18	0	5	226	1.1

The table excludes a caseload of 509 ethnic Shan at Kuang Jor.

Figure 2.16: Targeted Food Assistance: Individual Caseload June 2015

	MNS	MS	MLO	MRML	ML	UM	NP	DY	TH	Totals	%
Verified Caseload	11,526	2,694	10,564	12,049	40,092	11,994	11,203	3,112	6,564	109,798	100
Most Vulnerable persons	998	2700	626	799	774	859	508	505	398	8,167	7.4
Vulnerable persons	825	0	1,100	1,567	3,635	1,377	1,883	0	1,097	11,484	10.5
Standard persons	9,795	2,186	8,809	9,606	33,125	10,042	8,485	2,114	4,940	89,102	81.2
Self-Reliant persons	47	0	29	77	632	177	61	0	22	1,045	1.0

The table excludes a caseload of 509 ethnic Shan at Kuang Jor.

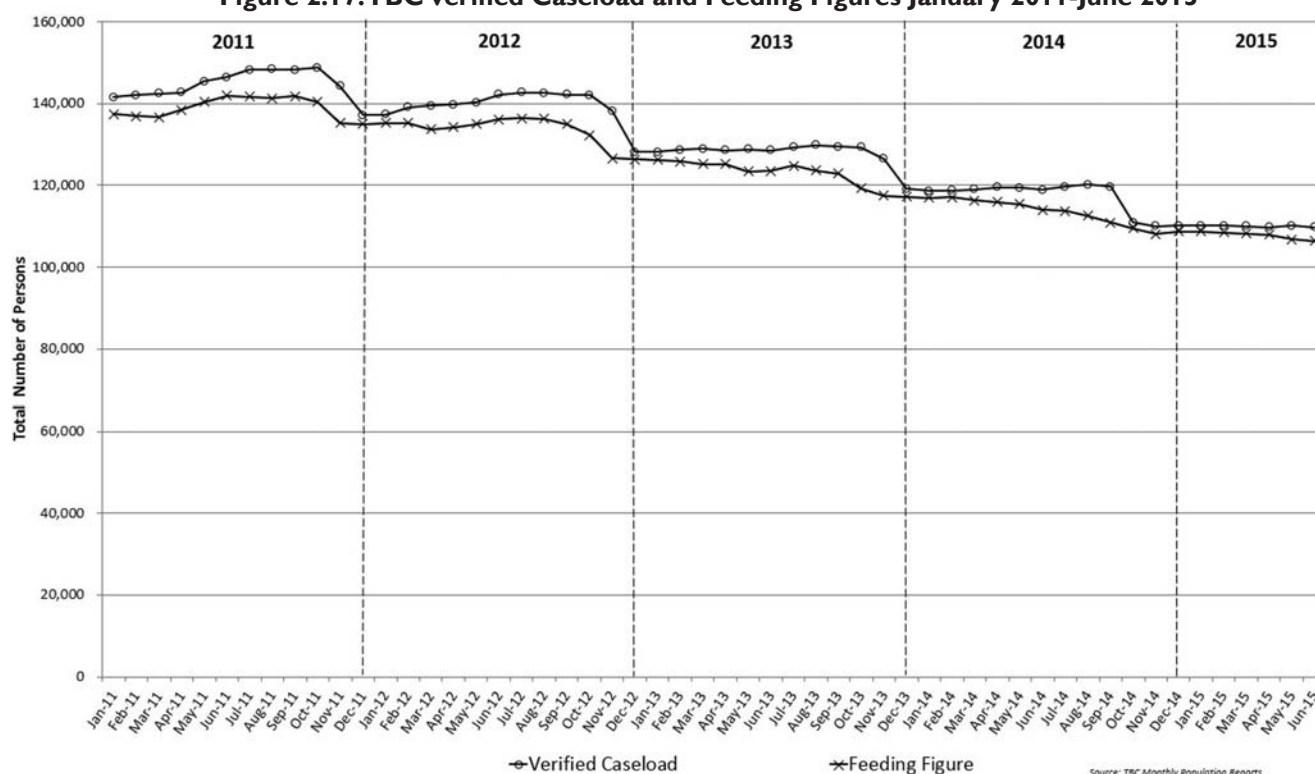
Figure 2.17: TBC Verified Caseload and Feeding Figures January 2011-June 2015

Figure 2.18: Programme Objectives and Summary of Quantifiable Performance Indicators 2015

	Target Groups	Target	2014 Jan-Dec	2015 Jan-Jun
1: Displaced persons and local communities are supported to advocate and prepare for return and reintegration				
1.0.1: UNHCR/government voluntary return frameworks incorporate views of displaced people.	Persons	n/a	see narrative	see narrative
1.0.2: Number of civil society organisations supported by TBC to participate in return planning processes in Thailand.*	Orgs.	25	12	8
1.0.4: No. of TBC supported initiatives in which civ. society orgs. engage in policy dialogue in Burma/Myanmar on protection issues.*	Orgs.	5	9	3
2: Displaced and conflict-affected are supported to re-establish sustainable livelihoods, strengthen capacities and create economic opportunities				
2.0.1: Number of townships in South East Burma/Myanmar where TBC-facilitated community rehabilitation projects are implemented.	Townships	20	24	22
2.0.2: Number of stipend work jobs created (temporary, part-time, and full-time).*	Jobs	n/a	3,036	3,022
	Female	50%	30%	30%
	Vulnerable	n/a	n/a	see narrative
2.0.3: Number of refugees establishing and maintaining viable entrepreneurial activities.	Refugees	n/a	744	1,025
	Female	50%	82%	n/a
	Vulnerable	n/a	see narrative	see narrative
2.0.4: Number of refugees adopting improved gardening, animal husbandry and shelter techniques.	Refugees	n/a	3,468	2,118
	Female	50%	45%	35%
	Vulnerable	n/a	see narrative	see narrative
3: Humanitarian assistance is targeted to the most vulnerable, supporting household capacities and strategies that contribute to food security and shelter				
Health				
3.0.1: Crude mortality rate (CMR) remains under 7/1,000 per year in Thai refugee camps.*	Refugees	<7/1,000	3.58	1.91
	Female	<7/1,000	1.70	0.83
	Male	<7/1,000	1.90	1.08
3.0.2: Under-5 mortality rate (U5MR) remains under 8/1,000 per year in Thai refugee camps.*	Children <5	<8/1,000	3.65	1.32
	Female	<8/1,000	1.60	0.72
	Male	<8/1,000	2.10	0.59
Nutrition				
3.0.3: Rate of children (m/f) under five years old with wasting malnutrition remains under 5% in Thai refugee camps.*	Children <5	<5%	2.1%	2.1%
	Female	<5%	1.9%	1.9%
	Male	<5%	2.2%	2.2%
3.0.4: Prevalence of stunting malnutrition among children aged 6 to 59 months*	Children <5	<20%	40.8%	40.8%
	Female	<20%	39.0%	39.0%
	Male	<20%	42.6%	42.6%
3.0.5: CMT approach implemented in 9 camps and households categorized according to vulnerability.	Camps	9 camps	9 camps	9 camps
3.0.6: Shelter provide sufficient covered space for all refugees in Thai refugee camps (m ² /person).	Camps	3.5–4.5	6.0	4.3
3.0.7: % of beneficiary households with inadequate food consumption scores in IDP camps in South East Burma/Myanmar.	Households	<33%	31%	28%
3.0.8: Number of civilians in South East Burma/Myanmar suffering from shocks to livelihoods or chronic poverty assisted with cash transfers.	Persons	34,000	33,725	11,362
4: Accountable & inclusive programme, governance & reconciliation processes are strengthened by increasing community leadership, civil engagement & community participation				
Governance/Camp management				
4.0.1: Community based camp management model functioning in all camps.	Camps	9 camps	9 camps	9 camps
4.0.2: Electoral procedures in place and adhered to in all camps enabling transparent and fair elections.	Camps	9 camps	9 camps	9 camps
4.0.3: Percentage of elected community representatives that are women.	Female	50%	28%	30%
	Vulnerable	n/a	n/a	n/a
Vulnerable: Persons from households of the CMT category "Most Vulnerable". Results reported and targets discussed in narrative form only. See Chapter 2.				
n/a: Quantitative data not available during this reporting period				
Indicator result is below target minimum value.				
*1.0.2 Meeting, 1x IDP CC, 3x KNU Districts Leaders, 1x Karen CSO; ; Return Survey 1xKRC & 1xTham Hin CC; Site 1 camp visit 1xLoikaw CSO.				
*1.0.4 2 day consultation on guiding principles for humanitarian aid; Ethnic Summit Lawkheelar; Protection-security issues TBC UNHCR.				
*2.0.2 This includes 832 security stipend staff, 94% male. The 2,190 non-security stipend staff are 39% female.				
*3.0.1-2 Mortality rates are calculated using Health Information System (HIS) data, using the average of March and April population data to calculate mid-point population values for denominators.				
*3.0.3-4 Results from 2013 Nutrition Survey conducted biennially. The 2015 Nutrition Survey is underway results expected early 2016.				

GOVERNANCE

The TBC Board met in Bangkok and held two teleconferences during the period. Moreover, the UK DFID convened a roundtable with the donors, the TBC Board, as well as senior management to discuss scenarios, planning, TBC strategy in Burma/Myanmar, and programme directions. The Governance and Elections Committee was convened twice and will be seeking new candidates for election to the Board at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November 2015. TBC recruited a consultant to help revise and harmonise all TBC governance documentation, including the TBC Governance Guide 2015, with the UK Charity Commission and UK Companies Act, which will be reviewed to ensure legal compliance.

With expanding operations in Burma/Myanmar, the relevance of the consortium model continued to be discussed, given that it was established to pool funds to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees. It was agreed that the commitment to assist TBC in obtaining necessary funds to meet the programme needs in Thailand still remains. However, given that most members are operational in Burma/Myanmar, funding for activities and the relationship between TBC and the consortium members in the field will depend on the opportunities and the actual context. This recognises possibilities for joint programming, establishing a project consortium based on either geographical or sectoral contexts, or operating independently.

LOOKING AHEAD:

This year the AGM will be held in Mae Sot the first week of November 2015, and will include visits to Mae La and Umpiem Mai camps.



Bamboo leaching, Tham Hin

CHAPTER 3: FINANCE



Rice inspection, Mae La Oon

GENERAL

TBC is registered in the United Kingdom (UK) and conforms to the UK Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP 2005), with both income and expenses reported on an accruals basis, and separation of restricted and general funding. The Trustees report and financial statements for 2014 were audited by KPMG UK LLP and will be filed with the UK Charity Commission and Companies House. The TBC accounting records are maintained in Thai Baht (THB), and the financial statements are presented and filed in THB.

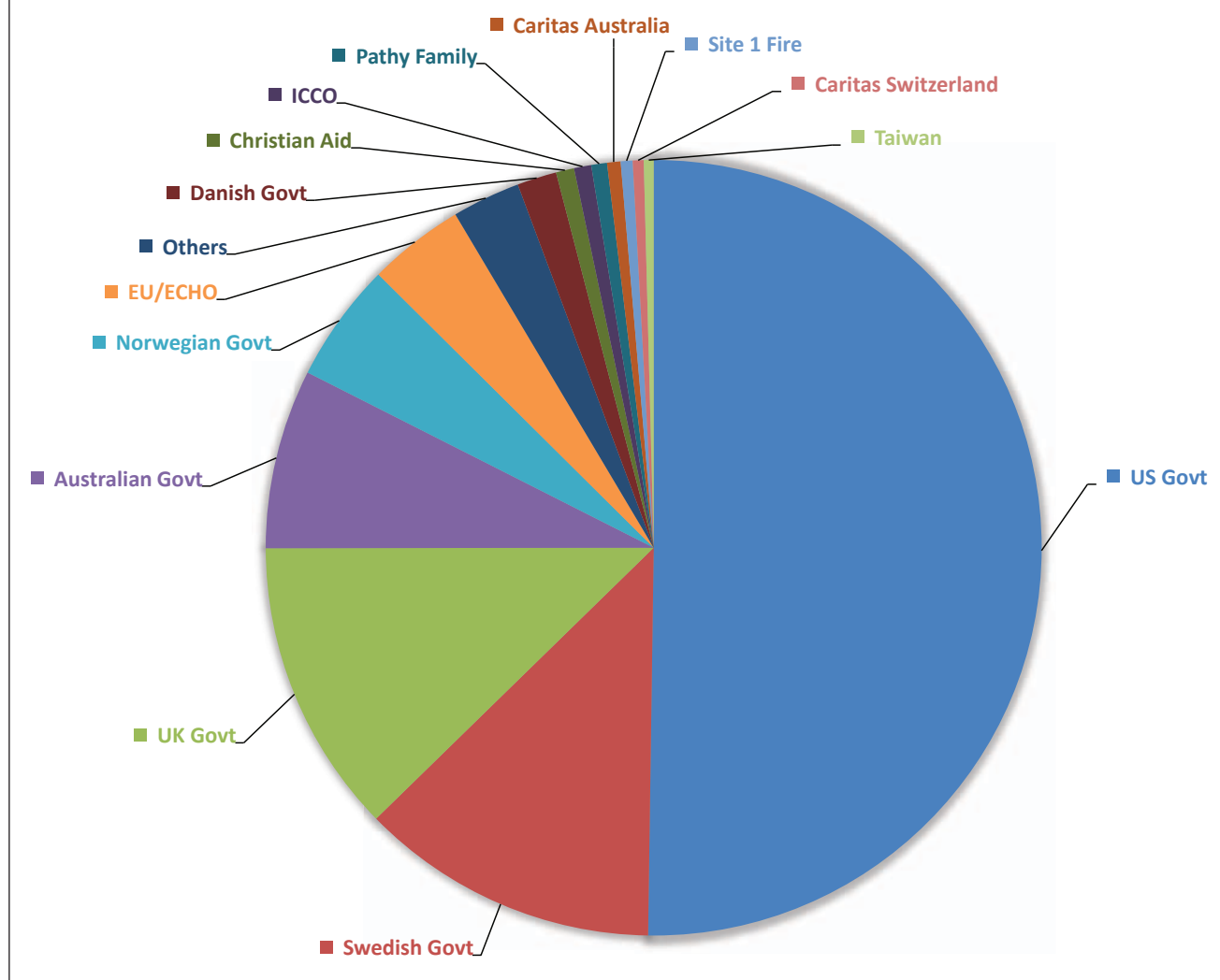
The detailed statement of financial activities and the balance sheet for January-June 2015, extracted from the accounting software, are shown in Appendix A.

This chapter outlines TBC's financial performance for January-June 2015 against the operating budget for 2015. All figures and analysis are denominated in THB.

2015 OVERVIEW

Figure 3.1: Financial Summary 2015

Thai Baht Millions	Budget 2015	Jan-June Actual	Projection 2015
Income	764	559	796
Expenses	834	465	816
Net Movement in Funds	(70)	94	(20)
Opening Fund Balance	438	438	438
Closing Fund Balance	368	532	418
Balance Sheet:			
Net Fixed Assets	10	8	8
Receivable from Donors	183	258	230
(Payable) to Suppliers	(50)	(37)	(50)
Bank Balance	225	304	230
Net Assets	368	532	418
Restricted funds	175	240	185
Designated funds	30	35	36
General fund – Net Fixed Assets	10	8	8
General fund – Freely available reserves	153	250	189
Total Fund Balance	368	532	418
Liquidity (Bank Balance – Payables)	175	266	180

Figure 3.2: 2015 Projected Funding Sources

A total of 95% of TBC's income comes from government-backed grants. The implementation period varies by grant, and grants are often not agreed until well after the start of the implementation period. Thus when the operating budget for 2015 was set in December, assumptions had to be made about the level of income for the year. Unless confirmed otherwise, it was assumed that all major donors would provide a similar level of funding in donor currency, as per 2014 levels. It was also assumed (for budgeting purposes) that exchange rates would remain at January 2015 levels throughout the year.

The board approved an operating budget for the year that resulted in a THB 70 million shortfall, on the basis that additional funding would be sought to cover this shortfall. Failing that, it was understood that the organisation would take the necessary steps to cut costs to bridge part of the funding gap. It was further recognised that part of the funding shortfall could

also be absorbed from the surplus of THB 31 million generated in 2014. General (unrestricted) reserves totalled THB 202 million at the beginning of 2015. The emphasis of the programme in 2015 was the continuing shift from humanitarian support to a more integrated development approach, thus enabling beneficiaries to acquire relevant skills, which could be utilised in the future. At the same time, it is clearly recognised that the ongoing humanitarian support will need to continue as long as the camps are still operational.

TBC's presence in Burma/Myanmar is now established, and at the end of June 2015, two main funding streams were being utilised. The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) initiative for peace building activities has been granted a no cost extension to the end of 2015, and funding has also been received from European Union (EU)/Aid to Uprooted People (AUP) for three years, through a consortium led by Mercy Corps – focusing on supporting local partners in

their rehabilitation effort. Additionally, a 12 month grant from USAID (via Office of Transition Initiative – OTI) is now being finalised, and will become operational in the second half of 2015. TBC will continue to explore new funding opportunities for programming in SE Burma/ Myanmar, whilst being mindful of both the available capacity and resources within the organisation, to fulfil new donor funding requirements.

The three main drivers of TBC's Thailand operation are: the price of food commodities (specifically rice), the camp population, and the fluctuations in foreign exchange rates against the THB.

The price of the staple of the Thai economy – rice – remains low. The average price paid across all camps for the first half of 2015 was THB 13.48/kg (compared to a budget rate of THB 13.93/kg), thus generating a saving of 3%. Rice is the single biggest expense for TBC (representing 22% of all expenditure). It is anticipated that the full year average rice price will be THB 13.72/kg, which would result in a saving of approximately THB 8 million in 2015. The assumption is that the rice price will increase by 5% in 2016, as the Thai economy slows down and the currency becomes weaker.

The camp populations have not changed significantly since the end of 2014. It is expected that there will be a decrease during the final quarter of 2015 (traditionally this is the case). TBC estimates a camp population of approximately 100,000 by the end of 2015. This represents a reduction of 9% year on year. The budget was based on a camp population of 90,000, however the movement from the camps has been at a slower pace than originally anticipated.

The THB traded in a fairly narrow band between 32.50 – 33.00 against USD, during the first four months of the year. However, it started to depreciate in May/June and further weakened in July. This weakening coincided with major donor receipts from the USA and Swedish governments, resulting in significant FX gains (THB 18M) being realised in the six month accounts. The THB has also weakened against all other major currencies that are relevant to TBC. Given that TBC has received approximately 65% of all expected cash in the first half of the year (and recognised 70% of all income), then the exposure for the remainder of the year is significantly lessened. No additional gains/losses have been included in the revised forecast to the year end.

The ultimate constraint for TBC as a going concern, is that it must not completely erode the freely available reserves. However, cash flow difficulties can occur even with a sizeable reserve if committed funding is not

received on a timely basis. Thus, for a number of years a key planning premise of TBC has been that its measure of “liquidity” should remain positive, which means there is sufficient cash in the bank to pay the amount owed to suppliers. However, TBC now has a greater proportion of restricted funding, which due to the payment terms of much of the restricted funding, has resulted in it being possible to retain positive liquidity even at a very low level of freely available reserve.

At the start of this year, approximately 20% of the annual budget for 2015 was covered by freely available reserves. This provides a contingency for future unexpected variations in the main financial drivers; the number of refugees, commodity prices, and exchange rates. At the end of June 2015, this position is more favourable as income exceeds expenses by THB 94 million giving rise to higher levels of reserves and liquidity. However, this is a normal situation for TBC in the middle of the year, due to timing differences between income recognition and expenditure patterns.



Greenhouse, Ban Don Yang

INCOME 2015

Figure 3.3: Income 2015 (THB 000)

Figure 3.3: Income 2015 (THB 000)									
Funding Source	Currency	Budget 2015		Jan-June 15 Actual		Jul-Dec 15 Estimate		Full Year Estimate 2015	
		Foreign Currency	Thai Baht 000	Foreign Currency	Thai Baht 000	Foreign Currency	Thai Baht 000	Foreign Currency	Thai Baht 000
GOVERNMENT BACKED FUNDING									
AUP - Myanmar	EUR	240,000	8,887	240,704	8,404			240,704	8,404
Australia ANCP (Act for Peace - NCCA)	AUD	275,000	6,993	519	14	229,275	5,867	229,794	5,881
Australia DFAT Thailand	AUD	2,100,000	53,403	2,100,000	53,512			2,100,000	53,512
Denmark DANIDA (DanChurchAid)	DKK	2,800,000	13,916	2,800,000	13,065			2,800,000	13,065
ECHO (ICCO)	EUR	651,000	24,107	648,000	23,464			648,000	23,464
Norway MOFA (Norwegian Church Aid)	NOK	9,425,000	39,868			9,304,340	39,730	9,304,340	39,730
Republic of China (Taiwan)	USD	100,000	3,273	100,000	3,251			100,000	3,251
Sweden SIDA (Diakonia)	SEK	25,234,000	99,927	25,234,000	98,887			25,234,000	98,887
UK DFID (IRC)	GBP	1,800,000	88,848			1,800,000	97,956	1,800,000	97,956
US Gov - OTI - Myanmar	USD					170,000	5,926	170,000	5,926
USA PRM (IRC)	USD	10,088,000	330,180	10,088,000	326,926			10,088,000	326,926
USA USAID IDP (IRC)	USD	1,800,000	58,914	(55,000)	(1,805)	1,950,000	67,977	1,895,000	66,172
TOTAL GOVERNMENT BACKED:			728,316		525,718		217,456		743,174
OTHER									
Act for Peace - NCCA	AUD	30,000	763			30,000	768	30,000	768
American Baptist Churches	USD				65		35	-	100
Australian Church of Christ	THB				77			-	77
CAFOD	GBP	20,000	987					-	-
Caritas Australia	AUD	175,000	4,450	175,000	4,462			175,000	4,462
Caritas Switzerland	CHF					100,000	3,630	100,000	3,630
Christian Aid	GBP	125,000	6,170	120,000	6,005			120,000	6,005
Church World Service	USD	10,000	327					-	-
Diakonia Private	SEK			104,000	411			104,000	411
ICCO	EUR	200,000	7,406			150,000	5,793	150,000	5,793
Ockenden	GBP				511			-	511
Stichting Vluchteling (SV)	EUR	75,000	2,777					-	-
Open Society Institute	USD	25,000	818			25,000	872	25,000	872
Pathy Family Foundation	USD	150,000	4,910			150,000	5,229	150,000	5,229
Site 1 Fire Appeal	THB				3,925			-	3,925
Uniting Church in Sweden	SEK	100,000	450					-	-
UNHCR	THB	648,000	648		(1,192)			-	(1,192)
Other Donations	THB		2,000		222		199	-	421
Income from Marketing	THB		25		5		5	-	10
Gifts in Kind (Wakachiai)	THB		3,000				2,700	-	2,700
Interest	THB		1,376		365		400	-	765
Other Income (Gains on Exchange & Asset Disposal)	THB				18,129			-	18,129
TOTAL OTHER:			36,108		32,985		19,630		52,615
TOTAL INCOME			764,423		558,703		237,086		795,789
Expenses			834,424		464,636		351,153		815,790
Net Movement Current Year			-70,000		94,067		-114,066		-20,000
Funds Brought Forward			438,251		438,251		532,318		438,251
Total Funds carried Forward			368,250		532,318		418,251		418,250
Less: Restricted Funds			190,072		239,669		185,300		185,300
Designated Funds			36,674		34,641		36,000		36,000
Net Fixed Assets			8,097		7,542		7,500		7,500
Freely available General Funds			133,408		250,466		189,450		189,450

Figure 3.3 shows the actual income in 2015 recognised by individual Donor.

To follow the UK accounting standard, income is recognised when the rights to a grant are acquired, it is virtually certain that it will be received and the monetary value can be sufficiently reliably measured. This means that in most cases, income is recognised before cash is received – usually when a contract is signed – in which case it is accrued as a receivable until payment is made.

Income for January–June 2015 is THB 559 million, which represents 67% of the annual operating budget. The full year income projection is estimated at THB 796 million (above operating budget of THB 764 million). This is due to the inclusion of USAID (OTI) funding for SE Burma/Myanmar of THB 6 million (not included in original budget) and FX gains of THB 18 million. In addition, expected income from DFID and USAID (Project for Local Empowerment – PLE), which will be recognised towards the end of the year and relates to 2016 operations is expected to be accrued at a higher THB rate, due to the weakening of the local currency.

Extensions to multiyear funding programmes have been confirmed for an additional year in respect of both DFID and DFAT. Also USAID (PLE) contract has been extended for a further two years and will now run until September 2017.

Anticipated Income for 2015 of THB 796 million (outlined above) is significantly less than the previous year of THB 925 million, and represents a reduction of 14%.

Expenses for 2015

Figure 3.4 presents both direct costs and resource costs by major activities for the period January-June 2015, compared with the operating budget. A revised year-end estimate is also tabulated. Resource costs consist of salaries, benefits and other operating costs. Some resource costs are directly attributable to an activity; others are apportioned according to a management estimate of the amount of time staff spends on different activities. General administration costs are not allocated to activities.

The actual expenses for January-June 2015 totalled THB 465 million. This is exactly on budget for the first half of the year. However, there were variances within cost categories.

Major savings were made in the food supply sector due largely to lower than budget prices for most commodities. Offsetting this was an increase in costs for the Myanmar Programme, as a result of sub grant distribution to local partners in SE Burma/Myanmar under the DFAT funded grant. The bulk of these grants were issued in the first half of the year, whereas the budget had assumed an equal distribution of grants. Detailed explanations of these variances are outlined later in Chapter 3.

Figure 3.5 presents a detailed breakdown of the direct costs, with the resource costs and general administration expenses combined as “organisation costs”. Explanations of key differences between actual and budget costs by detailed budget line are provided at the end of Chapter 3.

Projected Expenses 2015

Total expenses for the full year are projected to be THB 816 million. This is some THB 18 million lower than the original operating budget. This is largely as a result of cost cutting measures that have been (or will be) implemented to address the funding shortfall. Areas that TBC expects to be significantly different from the original budget include: Development activities (THB 6 million lower), Food Supplies (THB 20 million lower) and the Myanmar Programme (THB 12 million higher).

The major components of the food commodity savings are lower food prices in general, and also rice and charcoal ration reductions that will be effective from September 2015. These ration reductions were considered in conjunction with the camp leadership, and were a direct consequence of reduced funding for 2015.

The increase in expenditures pertaining to the Myanmar Programme (and here both the IDP camp support and the Rehabilitation programme are included), is to be expected as the focus shifts towards preparatory work for potential returnees.

TBC has continued with its downsizing exercise in 2015, and will try to ensure that the percentage of organisational resource costs is reduced, in line with continued funding decreases. This is in line with TBC's view of providing value for money, with a more streamlined efficient organisation structure. Full year expenditure for resource costs is estimated at 17% of the total operation, and this is line with original budget calculations. It is noted however, that reducing core costs can only be effective up to a certain point, beyond which the operation would be unable to function on a day to day basis.

Figure 3.4: Expenses by Strategic Objectives and Activities 2014-2015 (THB 000)

Strategic Objective	Actual 2014				Operating Budget 2015				Jan-June Actual 2015				Revised Estimate 2015			
	Direct costs	Resource costs	Total	% Total	Direct costs	Resource costs	Total	% Total	Direct costs	Resource costs	Total	% Total	Direct costs	Resource costs	Total	% Total
1. Readiness	4,779	8,718	13,497	1.5%	4,837	6,287	11,123	3.4%	1,476	2,418	3,894	0.8%	4,325	5,237	9,562	1.2%
2. Development	61,430	17,784	79,214	8.9%	66,546	13,457	80,003	8.8%	28,706	7,981	36,688	7.9%	60,886	14,745	75,631	9.3%
Food supplies	305,684	29,749	335,433	37.6%	295,096	30,557	325,653	34.8%	158,514	15,231	173,745	37.4%	273,647	29,424	303,071	37.2%
Charcoal supplies	121,825	9,916	131,742	14.7%	114,968	10,186	125,153	14.1%	68,324	5,077	73,401	15.8%	112,519	9,808	122,327	15.0%
Shelter supplies	43,066	6,446	49,512	5.5%	36,550	6,621	43,171	5.2%	34,140	3,300	37,440	8.1%	36,000	6,375	42,375	5.2%
Nutrition	22,757	1,983	24,740	2.8%	20,518	2,037	22,555	4.1%	13,147	1,015	14,162	3.0%	21,171	1,962	23,133	2.8%
Other Support	27,996	1,487	29,483	3.3%	25,826	1,528	27,354	3.7%	13,057	762	13,818	3.0%	25,120	1,471	26,591	3.3%
3. Humanitarian support	521,328	49,582	570,910	63.9%	492,958	50,928	543,886	62.0%	287,183	25,384	312,567	67.3%	468,457	49,040	517,498	63.4%
4. Governance & Participation	38,252	19,455	57,707	6.5%	34,406	12,069	46,475	5.8%	19,490	6,870	26,360	5.7%	35,500	12,301	47,801	5.9%
Thailand Programme	625,789	95,539	721,328	80.7%	598,747	82,740	681,487	79.9%	336,855	42,654	379,509	81.7%	569,169	81,324	650,493	79.7%
S. E. Myanmar Programme	89,980	15,441	105,421	11.8%	91,824	10,032	101,856	11.2%	53,565	7,060	60,625	13.0%	103,559	14,098	117,657	14.4%
Charitable Activities	715,769	110,980	826,749	92.6%	690,571	92,772	783,343	91.1%	390,419	49,715	440,134	94.7%	672,727	95,422	768,149	94.2%
Central Costs			54,832	6.1%			47,781	8.4%			22,660	4.9%			43,483	5.3%
Governance costs			2,188	0.2%			2,450	0.2%			1,468	0.3%			2,932	0.4%
Costs of Generating funds			865	0.1%			850	0.2%			375	0.1%			1,225	0.2%
5. Develop Organisation resources			57,885	6.5%			51,081	8.9%			24,502	5.3%			47,640	5.8%
Other Expenses			8,659	1.0%				0.0%			0	0.0%				0.0%
Total Costs			893,293	100.0%			834,424	100.0%			464,636	100.0%			815,790	100.0%

Balance Sheet

When income is recognised before cash is received, it is accrued as a receivable until payment is made. Some funding is remitted in instalments, and some only on receipt of a report and certification of expenditure receipts. The level of funds receivable can vary enormously during the year depending on when agreements are signed, and remittances made. The receivables at the end of June 2015 represented THB 258 million and included USA (Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration – PRM) THB 189 million, USAID (PLE) THB 30 million, DFID THB 13 million, and the European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) THB 12 million. TBC claims from the two USA funders on a monthly basis, and from DFID on a quarterly basis.

TBC's normal term of payment to suppliers for deliveries to camp is 30 days from completion of delivery. Accounts payable, represents the value of expenses incurred, where the supplier has not yet been paid and amount to THB 44 million at the end of June 2015.

Cash and bank balances at the half year amount to THB 304 million, largely due to major receipts in May and June from the Swedish International Development Authority Cooperation Agency (SIDA – THB 100 million), USA (PRM – THB 150 million), and DFAT (THB 55 million).

The Fund Balance is split into four categories:

- Restricted funds are those where the donor stipulates that the funds are for a particular purpose or activities. This value is THB 240 million.
- Designated funds have been set aside for a specific future purpose by the Board of Directors. TBC currently has a designated fund that follows both Thai and Burma/Myanmar law to cover the severance pay liability to all staff. This amounts to THB 35 million at the end of June 2015, and does not form part of unrestricted general reserves.
- The amount of general funding needed to cover the investment in the net value of fixed assets – valued at THB 7 million.
- The balance of general funding, which is the freely available reserve. At the end of June this balance represents THB 250 million.
- Total of funding reserves at the end of June 2015 is thus calculated at THB 532 million.

Cash Flow

Liquidity is a concern throughout the year, not just at the year end. In addition to the normal problems of getting funding released as quickly as possible, the problem is exacerbated because expenses are unequal through the year. Due to the annual supply of building materials, and the stockpiling of food in some camps prior to the rainy season, almost 57% of TBC's expenses are budgeted to be incurred in the first half of the year.

Since TBC has no facility to borrow money, if there is a cash shortage then payments to suppliers have to be delayed. Such occurrences can severely strain relationships with suppliers, putting future deliveries at risk and making it more difficult to enforce quality standards and timeliness of delivery.

Figure A3 in the Appendix presents the actual and projected monthly cash flows and liquidity surplus/ (shortfall) for 2015.

The net cash flow for the period was positive THB 32 million, although for the full year this is expected to be a net outflow of THB 42 million.

Grant Allocations January-June 2015

Figure A4 in the Appendix presents the allocation of individual Donor contributions to the main expense categories for the half year to the end of June 2015.

Restricted Funds are separated from designated and general funds. Income and expense transactions of restricted funds are specifically allocated within the accounting records. Where donors do not require such detailed allocations the funds have been classified as general, even though there may be agreements with some that the allocation by expense group will be done in a certain way. The general fund allocations to expense categories follow such agreements, or in the absence of any allocation agreements donors are assumed to carry a proportionate share of the remaining expenses incurred in each category. Balances carried forward represent income recognised for which expenses have not yet been incurred.

Figure 3.5: Detailed Expenses 2014-2015

Strategic Objective	Category	Actual 2014	Operating Budget 2015	% 2014	Actual Jan - June 2015	Revised Estimate 2015	% to original budget
	Peacebuilding	224,073	236,600	106%	400,116	1,625,000	687%
	Exposure visits	704,969	1,600,000	227%	286,661	600,000	38%
	Information	3,618,031	2,500,000	69%	789,290	2,000,000	80%
	Assessments, Feasibility Studies	172,000	500,000	291%	0	100,000	20%
1	READINESS	4,719,073	4,836,600	102%	1,476,067	4,325,000	89%
	Job Creation	39,060,702	44,020,300	113%	20,391,711	42,046,000	96%
	Food Security/Livelihoods	18,606,559	16,496,000	89%	5,839,262	13,840,095	84%
	Construction	1,758,347	3,250,000	185%	1,928,068	4,000,000	123%
	Natural Resource Management	2,052,579	2,780,000	135%	547,079	1,000,000	36%
2	DEVELOPMENT	61,478,186	66,546,300	108%	28,706,120	60,886,095	91%
	Rice	192,863,877	179,001,591	93%	102,497,038	170,956,590	96%
	Fishpaste	16,064,120	13,750,217	86%	9,537,890	15,159,080	110%
	Salt	1,834,609	1,748,835	95%	1,196,201	2,093,419	120%
	Pulses	33,292,843	27,597,304	83%	13,602,189	24,386,579	88%
	Cooking oil	35,505,434	31,649,361	89%	18,008,064	29,734,346	94%
	Fortified flour	26,122,110	23,349,179	89%	13,673,100	22,317,050	96%
	Returnees - Cash Transfer		18,000,000			9,000,000	
	Food supplies	305,682,992	295,096,487	97%	158,514,482	273,647,064	93%
	Charcoal	121,825,197	114,967,607	94%	68,324,334	112,519,057	98%
	Shelter supplies	43,066,230	36,550,000	85%	34,140,496	36,000,000	98%
	Supplementary feeding	8,533,941	8,105,856	95%	4,553,182	7,808,857	96%
	IPD/Patient house	2,182,675	1,800,000	82%	1,261,692	1,800,000	100%
	Nursery school lunches	9,340,867	5,887,500	63%	3,530,657	5,887,500	100%
	Infant and young child feeding	2,174,673	3,600,000	166%	3,565,560	4,900,000	136%
	Nutrition support	524,628	1,125,000	214%	235,792	775,000	69%
	Nutrition	22,756,785	20,518,356	90%	13,146,882	21,171,357	103%
	UN Sanitary Kits Distribution	0	200,000		59,167	200,000	100%
	Donated clothing	4,261,279	4,400,000	103%	11,400	1,700,000	39%
	Quality control	4,753,103	4,000,000	84%	1,806,526	3,500,000	88%
	Supply Chain	0	0		64,548	200,000	
	Visibility items	12,880	50,000	388%	5,987	20,000	40%
	Sangklaburi Safehouse/KRCH	2,292,000	0	0%	0	0	
	Emergencies	3,781,529	5,000,000	132%	4,728,401	8,000,000	160%
	Miscellaneous	5,246,059	5,000,000	95%	2,137,210	4,000,000	80%
	Thai support	7,649,060	7,175,678	94%	4,243,357	7,500,000	105%
	Other support	27,995,910	25,825,678	92%	13,056,596	25,120,000	97%
3	HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT	521,327,113	492,958,128	95%	287,182,790	468,457,477	95%
	CMSP Supplies	13,502,989	11,401,133	84%	6,434,597	12,000,000	105%
	Camp Administration	11,368,106	8,772,600	77%	5,687,825	10,000,000	114%
	Refugee Committee	5,745,027	4,907,980	85%	3,207,737	6,000,000	122%
	CBO Management	5,017,448	7,753,250	155%	2,592,849	4,500,000	58%
	CBO Capacity building	893,937	500,000	56%	1,075,015	2,000,000	400%
	Community Mobilisation	1,724,613	1,071,000	62%	491,652	1,000,000	93%
4	GOVERNANCE & PARTICIPATION	38,252,120	34,405,963	90%	19,489,674	35,500,000	103%
	THAILAND PROGRAMME	625,776,493	598,746,991	96%	336,854,651	569,168,572	95%
3	IDP Camp food	25,710,984	27,500,000	107%	12,765,884	24,765,884	90%
3	IDP camp support	1,309,765	1,500,000	115%	1,641,400	3,141,400	209%
3	Emergency rice	17,854,408	19,398,000	109%	14,382,065	26,382,065	136%
3	Poverty Relief	20,089,200	0	0%	0	0	
1	Rehabilitation	18,958,794	37,425,866	197%	22,423,617	44,917,634	120%
4	CBO Management	6,057,049	6,000,000	99%	2,351,707	4,351,707	73%
	S. E. MYANMAR PROGRAMME	89,980,200	91,823,866	102%	53,564,673	103,558,690	113%
	Resource costs	165,811,506	140,553,463	85%	72,374,244	138,905,282	99%
	Governance	2,188,041	2,450,000	112%	1,468,062	2,932,000	120%
	Costs of generating funds	864,889	850,000	98%	374,715	1,225,000	144%
	Other expenses	8,659,449	0	0%			
	TOTAL	893,280,577	834,424,319	93%	464,636,346	815,789,545	98%

Quantity						
Rice (MT)	14,820	12,851	87%	7,604	12,465	97%
Fishpaste (MT)	538	441	82%	310	505	115%
Salt (MT)	286	200	70%	154	247	124%
Pulses (MT)	1,616	1,217	75%	724	1,202	99%
Cooking Oil (000 litres)	734	649	88%	408	666	103%
Fortified flour (MT)	679	579	85%	413	638	110%
Charcoal (MT)	10,981	9,825	89%	6,088	9,812	100%
Unit cost						
Rice (MT)	13,014	13,929	107%	13,479	13,715	98%
Fishpaste (MT)	29,855	31,214	105%	30,767	30,017	96%
Salt (MT)	6,425	8,756	136%	7,768	8,464	97%
Pulses (MT)	20,598	22,682	110%	18,788	20,291	89%
Cooking Oil (000 litres)	48,353	48,777	101%	44,137	44,631	91%
Fortified flour (MT)	38,496	40,326	105%	33,107	34,961	87%
Charcoal (MT)	11,094	11,702	105%	11,223	11,468	98%

Key Differences by Budget Category for Actual Expenses January-June 2015

Noting the key differences between actual and operating budget expenses and also looking ahead to the full year projections by strategic category (Figure 3.5):

Readiness

Overall 39% lower than budget. Peacebuilding category is higher than budget. However, this was offset by a reduced number of exposure visits and less support for IT in the camps. TBC anticipates that Readiness expenses will total THB 4.3 million for the full year (90% of original budget).

Development

For the period January-June 2015 total development projects were at 95% of budget levels. FSL programme costs were lower than expected, and the overall spent in this category has been reduced in the year forecast to THB 14 million (a reduction of 15%). By the end of the year, it is forecast that these programmes will utilise 90% of total operating budget – the underspent will be in the region of THB 6 million largely due to cuts made to the programmes as a result of reduced funding. The expenditure on job creation (stipend workers) will also be reduced by approximately THB 2 million, as the number of workers has been reduced in conjunction with the Camp Committees.

Natural Resource Management programmes are underspent to date, although this is expected to reach budget levels when Shelter assessments and special needs assistance activities are undertaken in the second half of the year.

Humanitarian Support

Overall underspent by THB 6 million (2%) against budget.

- **TBC Verified Caseload** (excluding Kuang Jor) was 110,194 at the beginning of the year, and 109,798 at the end of June – so no material change.
- **Food and Charcoal Supplies:** Overall THB 8 million under budget (8%). This is almost entirely due to the lower prices of food commodities. As mentioned previously, the budget for rice was estimated at just under THB 14/kg, whereas actual price is THB 13.5/kg. Cooking oil was also significantly cheaper by 8% resulting in THB 1 million savings.

It is expected that food commodity (and charcoal) prices will rise before December, and a 3% increase in the price of rice has been built into the forecast. Costs for other food items have also been increased ahead of this expected increase. The net result of these actions (and also of the reduced rations), is that TBC believes food and charcoal supplies will be underspent by THB 20 million (or 5% of operating budget) for the full year.

- **Shelter supplies:** On budget for 2015.
- **Nutrition:** Over budget for the first six months by THB 2.9 million (28%). Partly due to an under budgeting of the Infant and Young Child Feeding programme, which has now been rectified in the full year forecast. TBC is anticipating full utilisation of the nutrition budget (THB 21 million) in this year.
- **Other Support:** Overall 20% over budget – however this is almost all due to the Ban Mai Nai Soi fire emergency that occurred in April. Total costs for the response to this totalled THB 4.5 million. Other support will be on budget for the full year with savings made in the areas of support to Thai authorities (will be reduced in line with commodity reductions), and also miscellaneous expenses.

Governance and Participation

On budget for the first six months with no major variances recorded.

Expected full year expenditure to be in line with budget.

Myanmar Programme

This covers both the IDP programme and the Yangon-based programme.

Overall THB 7.7 million over budget (15%). Primarily due to Rehabilitation grants issued and provision of Emergency Rice. The original budget assumed an equal distribution over the year, whereas actual spending has been weighted in favour of the first half of the year.

In addition with the AUP funding gearing up in the second half of 2015, and an anticipated grant from USAID (OTI), it is envisaged that spending on the Myanmar Programme in total will be in excess of the original budget by approximately THB 12 million by the year end. This will have the effect of increasing the Myanmar Programme to 13% of TBC's total operation from its existing 11%. This strategy is in line with the

overall objective of slowly moving the focus away from the camp-based operation, and towards the areas of return.

Resource Costs

Overall 3% over budget (THB 2 million) for the first six months. It is anticipated this will be corrected by the year end, as a number of staff left the organisation at the end of June, and the financial effect of that will manifest in the second half of the year. Total forecast for organisational costs for the full year is THB 139 million (slightly lower than budget).

Staff headcount into July is 110 (both Thailand and Myanmar), and it has been decided that another five or six positions will be shed before the end of December.

Governance Costs

Overall 20% higher than budget.

Primarily due to fundraising trips undertaken to the USA, Canada, UK and Australia, all in the first half of the year.

Audit costs are also anticipated to be higher in 2015, with the expanded scope of work to include the Burma/Myanmar-based operation. Expected to be THB 1 million over budget at the year end.

Summary of Financial Position

Total overall costs for TBC in the period January-June 2015 totalled THB 465 million against a budget of THB 466 million. The expected full year expenditure is THB 816 million (based on the reasons/strategy outlined above), which would be a saving of THB 18 million against the original operating budget.

From the original funding shortfall of THB 70 million for this year, TBC is now estimating a shortfall for the year of only THB 20 million. This has been brought about by a combination of an effective savings plan, foreign exchange gains, and additional income generated. TBC has not included any potential new income for 2015, although there are possibilities that still exist, and the organisation will be trying its best to secure those funds.

This would maintain reserves for the organisation of approximately THB 418 million, of which THB 189 million are classified as freely available. It provides TBC the ability to react quickly to emergency situations (whether natural or political in nature) should the need arise. However, it can be anticipated that donor humanitarian funding for 2016 will be further reduced (due to competing worldwide crises), and that the ability of TBC to tailor its organisation to meet these new funding challenges will be critical in the months to come.



Harvesting long bean in community garden, Mae La

OUTLOOK FOR 2016

As a broad budgeting parameter, TBC believes that 2016 will show a 15% reduction from 2015 in terms of the supply chain operation. This is based on the assumption that camp populations will continue to fall both as a result of resettlement and spontaneous return. It is also unclear at this stage what effect the outcome of the election in Burma/Myanmar (scheduled for early November 2015) will have on the camp populations. At this stage TBC anticipates a camp population at the end of 2016 to be around 85,000.

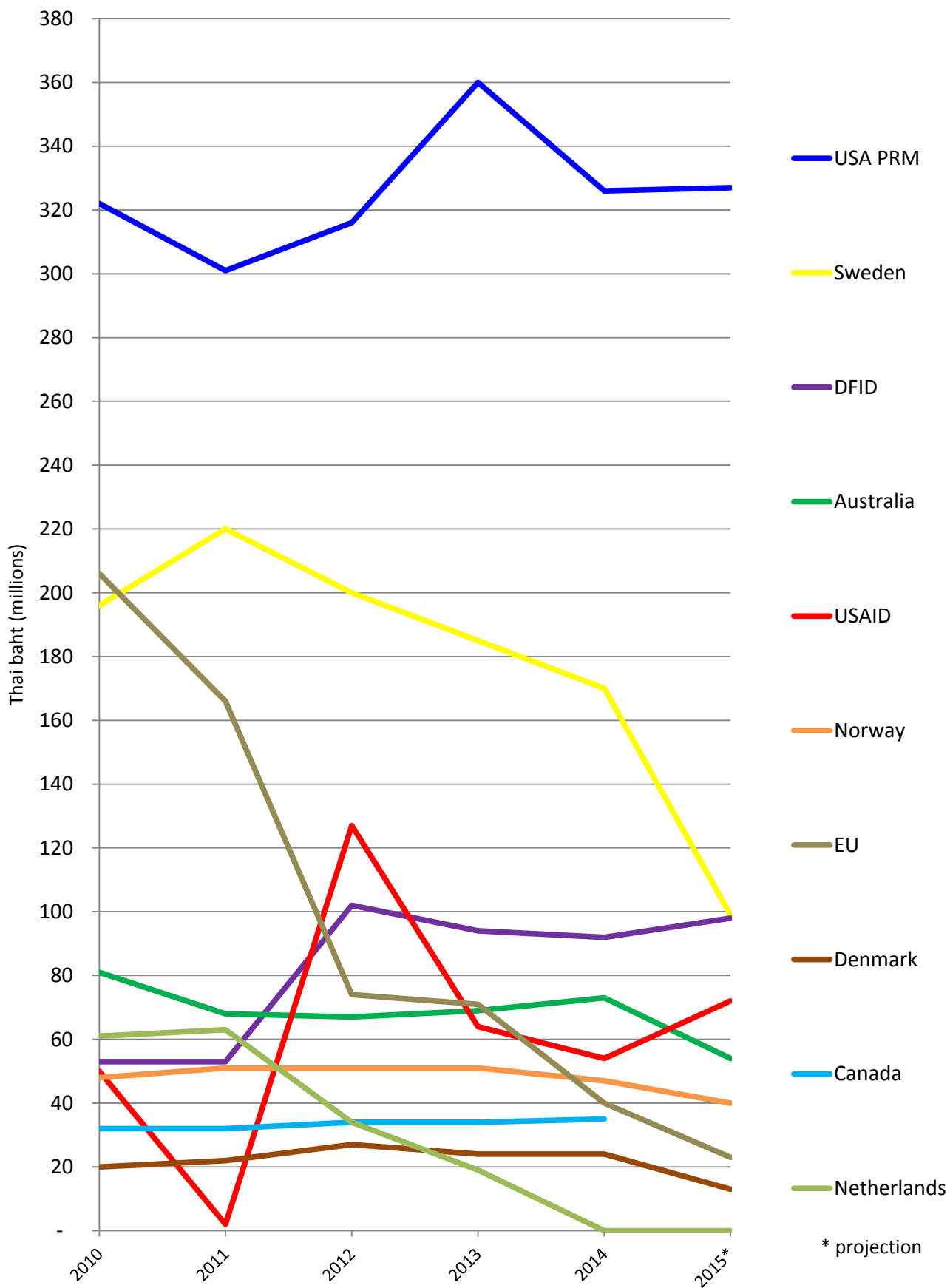
The Myanmar Programme is likely to maintain higher spending levels again in 2016 as both the AUP and OTI fund streams will be operational. In addition PLE and DFID have both pledged support for 2016 in relation to the Myanmar Programme. TBC expects the combined value of the Myanmar Programme operation to total in excess of THB 100 million in 2016. Further reductions in organisational resource costs will be achieved through

a review and restructure of the support functions, as long as the ability of the operation to function is not impaired. The full planning and budgeting exercise will take place in October 2015, and that will provide a more detailed picture of the 2016 planned operation.

Assuming there is a continued decline in camp population in line with trends seen over the past two years, TBC would expect to have a full year expenditure budget for next year of approximately THB 770 million. This would represent a further reduction of 6% from anticipated 2015 year end expenditures. The challenge for the organisation would be to match this anticipated operating expenditure budget with sufficient donor funds. At this stage, TBC has some multiyear donor funding pledged for 2016, however TBC would still anticipate a significant funding shortfall. Ongoing donor support is therefore critical in addressing this funding gap, and ensuring services and support to the camp populations are at an acceptable level.



Figure 3.6: TBC Income from Major Donors (2010-2015*)



APPENDIX

APPENDIX A

Figure A1: Statement of Financial Activities January-June 2015

INCOME	Thai Baht
	Jan - Jun 2015
40 Voluntary income	
410 Government backed Grants	
4104 Act for Peace (ANCP-Australia)	13,702
4120 DCA (DANIDA-Denmark)	13,064,800
4123 DFAT-Australia Govt (Thailand)	53,512,410
4125 Diakonia (SIDA-Sweden)	98,886,999
4126 AUP-Mercy Corps (Myanmar)	8,404,060
4130 ICCO (ECHO)	23,463,576
4137 IRC (BPRM-USA)	326,925,851
4138 IRC (USAID-USA)	(1,804,704)
4182 Republic of China (Taiwan)	3,251,000
Total 410 Government backed Grants	525,717,694
420 Non Government Grants	
4202 American Baptist Churches	65,370
4203 Australian Churches of Christ	77,500
4208 Caritas Australia	4,462,220
4212 Christian Aid	6,005,400
42252 Diakonia	410,971
4261 Ockenden	511,250
4280 UNHCR	(1,192,393)
Total 420 Non Government Grants	10,340,318
430 Donations	
4341 Les Dunford	12,443
4344 Meg Dunford	59,729
4345 Sally Dunford	997
4372 Website donations	75,434
4390 Other Miscellaneous Income	4,951
4391 Site 1 Fire	3,925,245
4395 Income from Office	68,415
Total 430 Donations	4,147,214
440 Income from Marketing	
4401 Income from 25 year Scrapbook	1,500
4403 Burma Plea book	3,750
Total 440 Income from Marketing	5,250
Total 40 Voluntary Income	540,210,476
47 Investment Income	
4710 Bank Interest	363,516
Total 47 Investment Income	363,516
48 Other Income	
4820 Gains on disposal of assets	1,293,939
4830 Gains on Exchange	16,835,038
Total 48 Other Income	18,128,977
Total Income:	558,702,969

EXPENSE	Thai Baht
	Jan - Jun 2015
51 READINESS	
511 Peacebuilding	400,116
514 Exposure visits	286,661
515 SE Burma/Myanmar linkages	33,450
517 Information	755,840
Total 51 READINESS	1,476,067
52 DEVELOPMENT	
521 Job Creation (Stipends)	20,391,711
523 Food Security & Livelihood (FSL)	5,839,262
524 Construction	1,928,068
525 Natural Resource Management	547,079
Total 52 DEVELOPMENT	28,706,120
531 FOOD	
5311 Rice	102,497,038
5312 Fish Paste	9,537,890
5313 Salt	1,196,201
5314 Pulses	13,602,189
5316 Cooking Oil	18,008,064
5317 Fortified Flour	13,673,100
Total 531 FOOD	158,514,482
532 Cooking Fuel	68,324,334
533 Shelter	34,140,496
535 NUTRITION	
5351 Supplementary Feeding	4,553,182
5352 IPD/Patient House	1,261,692
5353 School lunch support	3,530,657
5354 Infant & Young Child feeding IYCF	3,565,560
5355 Nutrition support	235,792
Total 535 NUTRITION	13,146,883
536 OTHER SUPPORT	
53603 Donated clothing	11,400
53604 UN Sanitary Kits	59,167
5362 Supply Chain	64,548
53621 Quality Control	1,806,526
53622 Visibility items	5,987
5367 Emergency	4,728,401
5368 Miscellaneous	2,137,210
5369 THAI SUPPORT	
53692 Community	697,553
53693 Authority (Food)	2,735,889
53695 Authority (Building Mat's)	809,915
Total 5369 THAI SUPPORT	4,243,357
Total 536 OTHER SUPPORT	13,056,596
54 PARTICIPATION	19,489,674
61 IDP CAMPS	
611 IDP Camp Food	12,765,884
612 IDP Camp Support	1,641,400
Total 61 IDP CAMPS	14,407,284
62 ERA	
6210 Emergency Rice	13,001,315
6230 Mon Relief	1,380,750
6240 Rehabilitation (ERA)	22,423,617
625 CBO Support	2,351,707
Total 62 ERA	39,157,389

EXPENSE (Cont.)	Thai Baht Jan - Jun 2015
7 ORGANISATION	
70 SALARIES & BENEFITS	
710 Payroll	52,868,378
720 Medical Benefits	1,000,600
730 Other Benefits	3,181,250
Total 70 SALARIES & BENEFITS	57,050,228
74 VEHICLE	
7400 Fuel	1,292,199
7410 Maintenance	1,118,057
7420 Ins / Reg / Tax	392,990
7430 Car Wash	76,060
Total 74 VEHICLE	2,879,306
75 ADMINISTRATION	
750 Office	828,955
751 Rent & Utilities	2,419,300
753 Computer/ IT	1,909,005
755 Travel & Entertainment	3,361,003
756 Miscellaneous	1,678,403
757 HR and Staff Training	446,382
Total 75 ADMINISTRATION	10,643,048
76 DEPRECIATION	
7610 Vehicles	1,635,058
7620 Equipment	6,987
7630 Computers/IT	159,617
Total 76 DEPRECIATION	1,801,662
Total 7 ORGANISATION	72,374,244
77 GOVERNANCE	
7710 Audit fees	1,000,000
7740 Member meetings	35,842
7745 Trustee Expenses	80,185
7750 Consultants fee (Governance)	352,035
Total 77 GOVERNANCE	1,468,062
78 COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS	
7810 Fundraising expenses	374,715
Total 78 COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS	374,715
Total Expense:	464,636,346
Net movement funds:	94,066,623

Figure A2: Balance Sheet - As at 31 December 2014 and 30 June 2015

	Thai Baht	
	31 Dec 2014	30 Jun 2015
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank and Cash		
Bank	271,166,144	302,764,918
Petty Cash	583,587	770,084
Total bank and Cash	271,749,731	303,535,002
Accounts Receivable	199,237,237	258,333,541
Other Current Assets		
Sundry Receivable	86,495	1,521,839
Advance for Expenses	961,500	921,500
Accrued Income & Deferred Expense	1,191,920	2,971,887
Deposits	1,217,000	1,248,862
Total Other Current Assets	3,456,915	6,664,088
Total Current Assets	474,443,883	568,532,631
Fixed Assets		
Gross Fixed Assets	31,264,225	28,109,225
Acc. Depreciation	(21,920,719)	(20,567,382)
Total Fixed Assets	9,343,506	7,541,843
Total Assets:	483,787,389	576,074,474
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	40,120,865	38,070,006
Payable Business Development	562,071	567,354
Accrued Expenses	2,856,455	1,451,045
Payroll Suspense Account	1,994,780	3,666,227
Total Liabilities:	45,534,171	43,754,632
Assets Less Liabilities:	438,253,218	532,319,842
FUND		
Opening Balance Equity	91,755,882	91,755,882
Retained Earnings	315,117,549	346,497,337
Net Income	31,379,787	94,066,623
Fund Balance:	438,253,218	532,319,842
FUND ANALYSIS		
Restricted Fund	190,071,745	239,669,039
Designated Fund	36,674,000	34,641,000
General Fund	211,507,473	258,009,803
Total Fund:	438,253,218	532,319,842

Figure A4: Fund Allocations and Balances January-June 2015 (THB)

Funding Source	31-Dec-14 Fund	Income	Readiness	Economic Development	Food & Charcoal	Shelter Supplies	Other Supply Chain	Governance & Participation	S E Myanmar Programme	Resource Costs	Total Expenses	30-Jun-15 Fund
Restricted												
AUP (Mercy Corps) Myanmar		8,404,060								381,858	381,858	8,022,202
Australia ANCP (Act for Peace-NCCA) 2014/15	3,942,760	13,702		2,166,900				1,618,562		171,000	3,956,462	(0)
Christian Aid		6,005,400									3,540,466	2,464,934
DFAT Myanmar	14,056,744		233,876							1,107,780	6,750,059	7,306,685
ECHO (ICCO) 2015		23,463,576			23,463,576						23,463,576	-
Pathy Family Foundation 2014/2015	2,917,434			2,655,630							2,655,630	261,804
Republic of China (Taiwan)		3,251,000					1,529,724				1,529,724	1,721,276
Site 1 Fire Response		3,925,245					3,925,245				3,925,245	-
UK DFID (IRC) 2014/2015	83,724,697		200,000	70,000	27,960,776	14,246,547	4,287,186	5,243,647	10,623,683	6,431,040	69,062,879	14,661,818
UNHCR	1,603,365	(1,192,393)		410,972							410,972	0
USA PRM (IRC) 2014	23,682,150	326,925,851			23,471,101					211,049	23,682,150	0
USA PRM (IRC) 2015					145,595,611					844,196	146,439,807	180,486,044
USA USAID (IRC) IDP 2013/2014	6,659,475										6,659,475	-
USA USAID (IRC) IDP 2014/2015	53,485,120	(1,804,704)									26,936,140	24,744,276
Total Restricted:	190,071,745	368,991,737	433,876	5,303,502	220,491,064	14,246,547	9,742,155	6,862,209	53,168,166	9,146,923	319,394,443	239,669,039
General												
American Baptist Churches		65,370								65,370	65,370	-
Australia AusAID (DFAT) 2014/15	41,656,205		833,124	10,414,051	6,248,431	7,498,117	6,248,431	6,248,431		4,165,621	41,656,205	-
Australia AusAID (DFAT) 2015/16		53,512,410										53,512,410
Australian Churches of Christ		77,500								77,500	77,500	-
Caritas Australia		4,462,220	-	257,456	-	278,459	209,377	121,287	396,507	964,720	2,227,806	2,234,414
Denmark DANIDA (DanChurchAid)		13,064,800	65,324	2,221,016	99,321	749,891	1,045,184	1,306,480	-	1,045,184	6,532,400	6,532,400
Diakonia (Private)		410,971					410,971				410,971	-
Ockenden Foundation		511,250								511,250	511,250	-
Sweden SIDA (Diakonia)	-	98,886,999	143,743	10,510,095	0	11,367,482	8,547,360	4,951,267	0	14,520,742	50,040,689	48,846,310
Other Donations	-	221,968								221,968	221,968	-
Income from Marketing	-	5,250								5,250	5,250	-
Interest received	-	363,516								363,516	363,516	-
Other Income (FX Gains)	-	16,835,038								16,835,038	16,835,038	-
Other Income (Disposal of Assets)	-	1,293,939								1,293,939	1,293,939	-
Transfer to Designated fund	-									(2,033,000)	(2,033,000)	-
General Reserve	169,851,269	-								25,000,000	25,000,000	146,884,269
Total General:	211,507,474	189,711,232	1,042,191	23,402,619	6,347,752	19,893,949	16,461,323	12,627,465	396,507	65,070,098	145,241,903	259,009,803
Designated (Severance Fund):	36,674,000									2,033,000	2,033,000	34,641,000
Total:	438,253,219	558,702,969	1,476,067	28,706,120	226,838,816	34,140,496	26,203,478	19,489,674	53,564,673	74,217,022	464,636,346	532,319,842

APPENDIX B

Figure B1: TBC Offices and Staff June 2015

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List of Acronyms

(I)NGO	(International) Non-Governmental Organisation	KNPP	Karenni National Progressive Party
AUP	Aid to Uprooted People	KNWO	Karenni National Womens Organisation
ARC	American Refugee Committee	KnRC	Karenni Refugee Committee
AGM	Annual General Meeting	KSWDC	Karenni Social Welfare and Development Center
APV	Annual Population Verification	LIFT	Livelihoods and Food Security Trust
AAPP	Association for Assistance to Political Prisoners	ML	Mae La camp
DFAT	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	MLO	Mae La Oon camp
BPHWT	Back Pack Health Worker Team	MRML	Mae Ra Ma Luang camp
BDY	Ban Don Yang camp	MI	Malteser International
MS	Ban Mae Surin camp	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MNS	Ban Mai Nai Soi camp	MT	Metric Ton
BWCM	Border-wide Coordination Meetings	MOI	Ministry of Interior
CMWG	Camp Management Working Group	MRDC	Mon Relief and Development Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
CoC	Code of Conduct	MWO	Muslim Women Organisation
CFSG	Collaborative Forest Management Committee	MIMU	Myanmar Information Management Unit
CCSDPT	Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand	MNDAA	Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army
CIDKP	Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People	NCCT	National Ceasefire Coordinating Team
CAP	Community Agriculture Programme	NCDDP	National Community Driven Development Project
CMPP	Community Management and Preparedness Programme	NCPO	National Council for Peace and Order
CNPA	Community Nutrition Programme Assistants	NCA	Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement
CBNRM	Community-based natural resource management	NMSP	New Mon State Party
CBO	Community-Based Organisation	NSA	Non State Actors
CDNRM	Community-Driven Natural Resource Management	NP	Nu Po camp
CMT	Community-Managed Targeting	NFO	Nutrition Field Officers
CCEWG	Coordinating Committee of Ethnic Women Group	OTI	Office of Transition Initiative
DKBA	Democratic Karen Benevolent Army	PwD	Persons with a Disability
EDP	Entrepreneurship Development Programme	PMO	Population Monitoring Officers
EO	Ethnic Armed Organisations	PDM	Post Distribution Monitoring
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian aid Office	AMI	Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale
EU	European Union	RDR	Ration Distribution Registration
FANTA	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Household Hunger Scale	RTG	Royal Thai Government
FSL	Food Security and Livelihoods	SGBVC	Sexual and Gender Based Violence Committee
GoUM	Government of the Union of Myanmar	SSDF	Shan State Development Foundation
UPWC	Government's Union Peace-making Work Committee	SWG	Shelter Working Group
HIS	Health Information System	SBM	Small Business Management
HH	Household	SIGE	Social Inclusion and Gender Equity
M	Human Rights Foundation of Mon Land	SSC	Social Support Committee
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding	SE	South East Burma/Myanmar
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee	SFP	Supplementary Feeding Programme
IDP	Internally Displaced Person	SCOM	Supply Chain Online Module
IOM	International Organisation for Migration	SIDA	Swedish International Development Authority
IRC	International Rescue Committee	TOPS	Taipei Overseas Peace Service
IRC-LAC	International Rescue Committee Legal Rescue Committee	TRIP-NET	Tanintharyi River Indigenous People's Network
KIO	Kachin Independence Organisation	THB	Thai Baht
KRSDO	Kainayar Rural Social Development Organization	TH	Tham Hin camp
KAD	Karen Agriculture Department	TBC	The Border Consortium
KBC	Karen Baptist Convention	TFP	Therapeutic Feeding Programme
KDHW	Karen Department of Health and Welfare	ToT	Training of Trainers
KESAN	Karen Environment and Social Action Network	DFID	UK Department for International Development
KFD	Karen Forestry Department	UM	Umpiem Mai camp
KHRG	Karen Human Rights Group	UK	United Kingdom
KNLA	Karen National Liberation Army	UNFC	United Nationalities Federal Council
KNU	Karen National Union	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
KORD	Karen Office of Relief and Development	USA	United States of America
KPSN	Karen Peace Support Network	UWSA	United Wa State Army
KRC	Karen Refugee Committee	USAID	US Agency for International Development
KRCEE	Karen Refugee Committee Education Entity	PRM	US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration
KSNG	Karen Student Network Group	PLE	USAID Project for Local Empowerment
KWO	Karen Womens Organisation	Kayin	Women Organization Network - Kayin State
KYO	Karen Youth Organisation	WLB	Women's League of Burma



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