



AN UNSEEN CRISIS

**DESPITE THE PEACE PROCESS, MILITARY EXPANSION, ATTACK
AND ABUSES CAUSE INCREASED DISPLACEMENT IN PALAUNG AREAS**



The background image is a photograph of a rural village in a hilly area. In the foreground, several people are visible, including a woman in a purple headscarf and a white shirt, and a child in a green shirt. They are standing on a dirt path. In the middle ground, there are several small houses with blue roofs and walls made of bamboo or wood. The houses are built on a hillside. In the background, there are more hills and a cloudy sky. The overall scene is a rural village in a hilly area.

Acknowledgements

Ta'ang Women's Organization (TWO) acknowledges the Palaung IDPs that have a desire to talk with TWO, to speak out despite the continual risks and challenges in the community. Without the voices of these people, TWO would not have been able to publish this report. TWO believes that their desire and courage in speaking out is the first step in seeking truth and justice in Burma. TWO is very appreciative of the support from local community leaders who helped us, along with other local people including HRV victims, fieldworkers and health workers in Palaung areas.

TWO would like to thank Burma Relief Center (BRC) for its ongoing support with funding without which we would not have been about to publish this report. We would also like thank TSYU members for helping us to accurately map Palaung areas and to Zin Myo Aung for assisting with in report design.

Finally we would like to thank all TWO staff that helped and supported in the documentation of the information in this report and the photographs provided under the Information Documentation and Research Department –IDRD.

Content

Summary	5
Introduction	7
Background	7
Findings:	10
Ongoing attacks and abuses causing increased displacement in Palaung areas	10
Summary of current populations in Palaung areas	11
Detailed situation of IDPs in camps visited by PWO in September 2013	12
Kutkhai township	12
Kar Leng camp	12
Mai Yu camp	14
Namkham township	15
Nay Win Nee camp	15
Manton township	16
Thoe Hone camp	16
Lisu camp	17
Tangyan camp	18
Overall humanitarian situation	19
Health situation	20
Education situation	22
Conclusion and recommendations	23



IDPs in camp

Summary

Increased troop deployment, attacks and abuses by the Burma Army in northern Shan State during the past year have caused large-scale new displacement of Palaung villagers, calling into question the Burmese government's claims to be seeking a peaceful settlement to the ethnic conflict.

The number of Burmese government troops in Palaung areas of northern Shan State has doubled from 16 to over 30 battalions during 2013. Attacks and abuses by these troops have caused the fresh displacement of over 3,000 mostly Palaung villagers in the past year, who are now sheltering in four new camps in Namtu, Tangyan and Kutkhai townships. This is a fourfold increase since late 2012, when PWO documented about 1,000 IDPs sheltering in three camps in Namkham and Manton townships.

The military build-up is clearly linked to the government's attempts to secure its large-scale investment projects in the area, including the Shwe oil and gas pipelines, which started sending gas to China in June 2013. Offensives have been ongoing against local ethnic resistance groups, including the Shan State Army North (SSA-N), the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA). Burma Army shelling of villages, burning of homes and property, forced portering, torture and sexual violence have caused new displacement of over 20 villages during the past year.

The offensives have continued despite ongoing ceasefire negotiations between the Burmese government and the ethnic armed groups. The TNLA met with the Myanmar Peace Center, led by U Aung Min on July 31, 2013, in Muse, northern Shan State, but the Burma Army launched new attacks against TNLA in Kutkhai and Kyaukmae only eleven days afterwards.

There is insufficient humanitarian aid reaching the IDP camps. Aid agencies provided basic assistance to IDPs in Kutkhai and Tangyan when they first fled, but since then there has been no regular support of rice or other food. The IDPs are forced to find work as daily labourers to feed their families, but there is little work available. Shortages of food have exacerbated health problems in the camps, but there has been almost no medical aid.

The camp of Thoe Hone, north of Manton, has received no assistance at all from aid agencies during the past year, despite the fact that PWO published a report on the dire conditions at the camp in October 2012. As a result, over half of the original over 500 IDPs at the camp tried to return to their villages in 2013, even though the conditions were not yet safe. IDPs from Pan Khar village found their homes had been entirely destroyed, either burned down or dismantled by Burmese troops to use as firewood. Landmines had also been laid around the village. An 18-year-old boy

who had returned to the village with his family from the IDP camp stepped on a land mine and was killed in August 2013.

The demand for land for agricultural investment is also putting pressure on IDPs. The over 2,000 IDPs in Mai Yu camp, near Kutkhai, have been told they must find a new location, as the land owner wants to turn the site into a corn plantation. Over 800 IDPs in Kar Leng camp, near Kutkhai, are surrounded by the government cro- nies owned corn, pine and eucalyptus plantations, where they are forbidden from entering and even gathering firewood. Over 300 IDPs in Namkham have been forced to set up camp in a graveyard, as there is no other land available.

Lack of education support to the Palaung IDPs has meant that many children are unable to attend school. In some locations, children are able to attend the local gov- ernment primary schools in nearby villages, but it is difficult for IDP parents to af- ford the cost; some schools are also refusing to register the IDP children as they did not get formal school transfer permission from their former schools.

Unless there is Burmese troop withdrawal, an end to attacks and abuses, and guaran- tees of safety, IDPs will not voluntarily return to their homes.

TWO therefore urges the Burmese government to prove that it is sincere about the peace process by immediately stopping its military offensives and abuses, and begin- ning withdrawal of troops from northern Shan State.

TWO also urges international donors to ensure that aid agencies are able to access all IDP populations in northern Shan State and to provide assistance to meet their basic humanitarian needs.



Introduction

In October 2012, PWO issued a report “The Burden of War” documenting displacement in Palaung areas of northern Shan State since the renewal of fighting in March 2011, particularly the impacts on women. Since then, continued offensives by the Burma Army have caused increased displacement, and conditions for the displaced have deteriorated. After that TWO has documented the cases of IDPs that are spreading in Palaung areas and TWO has therefore issue this new report, providing updated information about the displaced populations and their humanitarian needs. The data in this report was collected during October 2013.

Background

Ongoing Burma Army expansion and attacks despite “peace process”



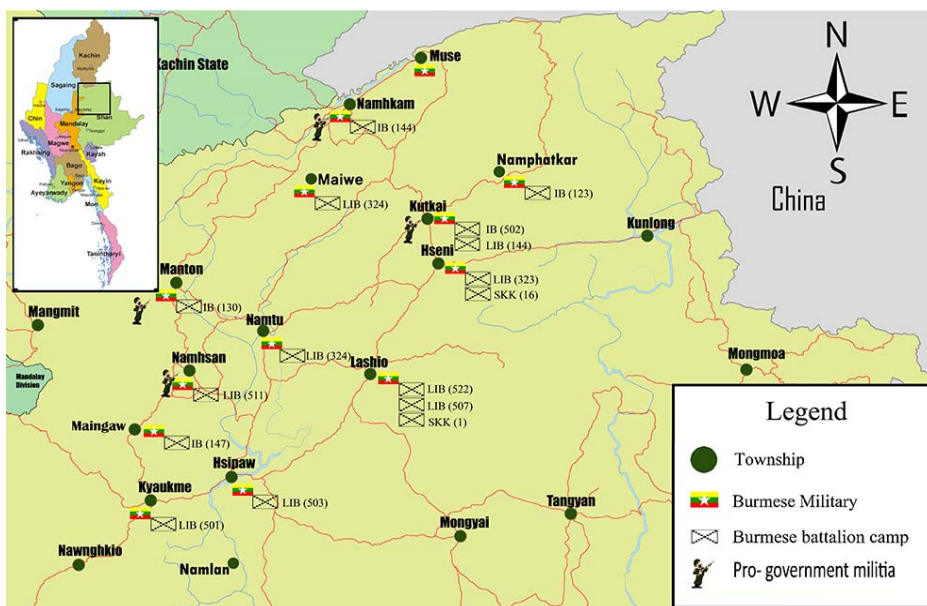
The Burmese soldiers deployed in the village at Palaung areas.

In 2011, after over two decades of ceasefire in northern Shan State, the Burma Army began large-scale military operations against ethnic ceasefire groups in the area to bring them under the control of the new Thein Sein government. In March 2011, attacks were launched against the Shan State Army-North (SSA-N), and in June 2011, against the Kachin Independence Army (KIA).

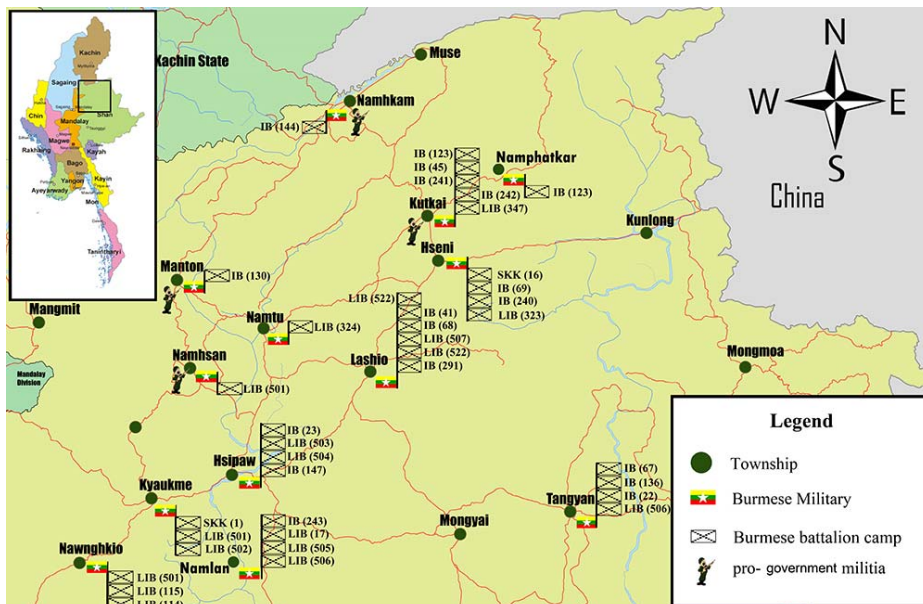
Fighting has continued during 2013 with these groups, as well as with the Ta-ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Shan State Army-South (SSA-S) in northern Shan State. The Burma Army has been deploying increased numbers of troops in these offensives: the number of Burmese battalions in Palaung areas of northern Shan State doubled from 16 to 30 battalions during 2013 (see map). This does not count the large number of local pro-government militia assisting the Burma Army to fight against the ethnic resistance groups.

The military build-up and attacks have continued despite new ceasefires signed by the government with the SSA-S (in December 2011) and the SSA-N (in January 2012), under the current “peace process.”

On July 31, 2013, the TNLA met with the Myanmar Peace Center, led by U Aung Min, in Muse, northern Shan State, but the Burma Army launched new attacks against TNLA in Kyaukme and Kutkhai only eleven days afterwards.



The number of Burma military battalion camp based in Palaung areas in 2012.



The number of Burma military battalion camp based in Palaung areas in 2013.

Pushing ahead with large-scale investments amid war

The Thein Sein government and foreign investors have been pushing ahead with large-scale investment projects in northern Shan State despite the ongoing conflict. These include the Burma-China oil and gas pipelines, and dams on the Shweli and Salween rivers, which will export power to China. These projects are proceeding without transparency and without respect for the rights of impacted communities.

Construction of the pipelines in northern Shan State by China National Petroleum Corporation began in 2011 and gas began flowing in June 2013, despite local farmers' appeals to halt the project due to disruption of livelihoods, inadequate compensation, and fears of gas leaks and explosions.

Proceeding with these projects in active war zones is leading to increased troop deployment to provide security, which is fuelling further conflict. Burma's Energy Minister Than Htay was quoted in a Reuters article on June 12, 2013, saying *"The security (for the pipelines) will be strong. If necessary, in some areas the armed forces will take charge. In some areas, the police will take charge. In some areas, the pipeline company security personnel will take charge."*

¹Myanmar gas pipeline complete but cites China delays, Reuters, June 12, 2013



Land confiscation in Palaung areas under Shwe Gas project

Findings:

Ongoing attacks and human rights abuses causing further displacement

In October 2012, PWO had documented the displacement of over 1,000 villagers staying mainly in three camps in Mantong and Namkham.

During late 2012 and 2013, the Burma Army launched fresh attacks against Shan, Kachin and Ta'ang forces in the townships of Namtu, Kutkhai and Tangyan. Shelling of villages, destruction of houses and property, forced portering, torture, and sexual violence² have caused over 3,000 mainly Palaung villagers in these areas to flee and set up four new camps.



IDP in the Camp

²PWO: Update of human rights violations by the Burma Army during offensives in Palaung areas (March and April 2013)

No	Location of IDPs	Approx. no. of IDPs	Original villages of IDPs (where known)
Camps already set up in October 2012			
1		200 +	Pan Khar, Mine Kha and Pan Hlone
2	Manton township	260 +	Lwae Mauk and Man San
3		200 +	Lwae Mauk, Awe Law and Man San
4	Namkham township	334 +	Man Lwae (1), Man Lwae (2), Kyu Sai and Auu Lan Par
Camps set up since October 2012			
5		800 +	Mantong, Naw Hwae, Hein Mone and Man Lway
6	Kutkhai township	2000 +	Man Sein, Pain Bonn, Lwae Khaing and Lwae Sayan, Ngawt Ngar
7	Namtu Township	200 +	Man San, Awe Law and Lwae Mauk (Kachin and Lisu)
8	Tangyan Township	300 +	Kuang Kaw, Kaung Sai, Nammanwit, Par Phan, Man Toke, Hwae Puu, Man Kyaung and Mat Woung
Overall current total of IDPs		4294 +	

Kachin State

Muse

Namhkam
Nay Win Nee Camp

Nam Hpaik Ica Camp

Thoo Hone Camp

Manton

Nanttu

Namhsan

Lashio

Hsipaw

Kyaukme

Mongyai

Tangyan

Kutkai

Hseni

Kar Lal Camp

Kunlong

Mangmit

Nawngkio

China

Legend

- Township
- Displaced Villages
- IDP Camp
- Dam
- Gas/Oil Pipeline
- Planned Dam

The direction of IDPs flow

Detailed situation of IDPs in camps visited by PWO in September 2013



Kar Leng IDPs camp

Kutkhai Township

There are two camps housing Palaung IDPs in Kutkhai township: Kar Leng camp and Mai Yu camp. They were set up in December 2012.

Kar Leng camp

Current population: 800+

This IDP camp was set up outside the village of Kar Leng, about 30 kilometers south of Kutkhai town.

The IDPs in this camp are from four villages: Mantong, Naw Hwae, Hein Mone and Man Lway. They had fled due to heavy fighting in their area in November 2012. One of the IDPs said: “We heard the sound of guns through our village. It was very scary. We could not bring anything with us. When we heard the sound of guns and heavy weapons, we just fled from the village.”

When the camp was first set up, various international and local agencies visited the camp and provide food and shelter, including the World Food Program (WFP), Meta Foundation, World Concern, Maggin and the Kachin Baptist Convention. However, there has been little aid provided since then, and no health assistance. Many of the IDPs, including children, in the camp have been suffering from malaria, diarrhea and coughing.

There has also been no educational assistance. The IDPs have had to organize their own makeshift primary school in the camp, attended by about 45 children.

A teacher at the camp said: “I didn’t finish school myself, but I am willing to work as a teacher here because I feel sorry for the children. There is no other school in the village. The villagers just collect money among themselves and support my salary. The conditions are really bad. You can see there are not enough facilities for the children. There are no chairs, no blackboard, chalk, pencils or books.”



School in Kar Leng Camp

The IDPs are unable to grow their own crops around Kar Leng because there is no land available. Most of the land around the village has been confiscated by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and is being used by militia leader and parliament member to grow sold to Chinese businessmen, and turned into corn, pine and eucalyptus plantations for export to China.

The IDPs are forbidden from trespassing on the plantation land, and also from using any fallen sticks or branches in the plantations for firewood.

Some IDPs find work as daily labourers, earning 2,000 to 3,000 Kyat (US\$2-3) per day. An elderly grandmother said, “I stay with my two granddaughters while their parents go to work in town. They need to do daily labour to earn money for salt, chili, and book fees for the children.”

The IDPs in this camp do not dare return to their homes because the Burma Army are continuing to patrol in their villages, and there have been continued clashes. Some IDPs said their houses and rice stores were burned down when they left their village, so they have no homes to return to.

Mai Yu Camp

Population: 2,000 +



This camp was set up outside the village of Mai Yu (50 kms north of Kutkhai town). The IDPs fled from five villages: Man Sein, Pain Bonn, Lwae Khaing and Lwae Sayan, Ngawt Ngar. The camp was first set up in December 2012 by about 1,000 IDPs, but in mid-2013 repeated fighting in villages north of the area caused a further 1,000 villagers to flee to the camp.

Most of the IDPs fled their homes when fighting erupted in their villages, forcing to abandon their property and livestock. Some walked for 2 to 3 days without food to reach the camp.

One of the villagers described the attack in their village: “The shells exploded in Pain Bonn village, destroying some of the houses. When the Burmese military troops came to the village after that, they stayed about one week in the village. Nobody wants to stay in the village if there are Burmese soldiers.”

When the IDPs first arrived at the camp, they were visited by some agencies, such as KBC, Metta and World Concern, who provided some basic aid, but there has been no regular support to the camp. Most of the IDPs are still camping under plastic, and lack basic household supplies such as bowls, plates or blankets.

As none of the IDPs are yet able to return to their homes, they have to work as daily labourers, mostly in cornfields or vegetable plantations.

One mother of young infants said: “I don’t have anyone to help take care of my children, so I have to take them with me when I go to work in the cornfield. It is very difficult for me. If I didn’t work, I wouldn’t have any money to buy curry.”

About 100 of the over 400 children in the camp are attending the government primary school in Mai Yu village, causing overcrowding in the classrooms. Three students have to share one desk in the school. The other children are staying at home or helping their parents work.

The IDPs in Mai Yu were told in late 2013 they would have to relocate their camp, as the owner of the current location wants to use the land for growing corn. However they do not yet know where they will move to.

Namkham

Nay Win Nee Camp

Population: 334

The IDPs in Nay Win Yee camp are from the villages of Man Lwae (1), Man Lwae (2), Kyu Sai and Auu Lan Par, on the border of Kachin and Shan States. In 2012, there were over 400 Palaung IDPs in Nay Win Yee, but some moved to stay in the Kachin IDP camp in Namkham.

In 2012, these IDPs stayed in the office of the Ta’ang National Party (TNP), but as the TNP needed to use their office, in March 2013 it was arranged by community leaders for the IDPs moved out to stay in the town graveyard outside Namkham.

The IDPs have set up long huts in one section of the graveyard, and say they feel very scared staying so close to graves. The huts are also very crowded. There are only thin bamboo partitions between each family section inside the huts, so there is no privacy.

One woman in the camp said, “We have to stay in this small room. If the children cry at night, we can hear every sound. We cannot sleep well. Also, for married couples, it is not convenient.”

Most of the IDPs remain unable to go back to their homes because fighting is still

going on and their houses have been burnt down or destroyed. One of the IDPs from Man Lwae 1 village said: “I returned to our village last month (August 2013) but there was nothing left. Some houses were burnt, and some houses destroyed.”

WFP has been providing rice support to these IDPs every three months. There has also been some support from Care Myanmar and the Kachin Baptist Convention. However, there is a shortage of curry, blankets, and school uniform for children.

There are about 100 children in the camp, about half of whom have been attending government schools in Namkham. However, the schools have not allowed them to take school exams, as they did not get official permission to transfer from the schools in their original villages.

Manton township

Thoe Hone Camp

Current population: 200 +



This camp lies in a remote location, several days' journey by motorbike north of Manton town. Originally there were over 500 IDPs in this camp, from the villages of Pan Khar, Mine Kha and Pan Hlone, but due to the lack of aid there are now only about 200 left in the camp.

Even though WFP visited the camp when it was first set up, and PWO publicized in

October 2012 the plight of these IDPs, there have been no visits or aid from any agency since then. The camp is not shown on a UNOCHA map of IDP camps published in May 2013³.

There is little farming land available for the IDPs in Thoe Hone camp. Only a few are able to work as daily labourers in other villagers' paddy fields. The IDPs have therefore been unable to earn enough to feed their families. About 30 of the IDP children have been attending the school in Tho Hone village, but it is only a primary school, so after grade four, children have to leave school and go and help their parents work.

The shortage of food in the camp has led to about half of the IDPs returning to their home villages, even though it is not yet safe.

The IDPs who returned to their homes in the village of Pan Khar found that all their houses had either been burned down or dismantled for firewood by the Burmese soldiers (of LIB 130) based nearby. The villagers also found that landmines had been laid around the village, preventing them from farming. In August 2013, an 18-year-old boy who had returned with his family from Thoe Hone stepped on a landmine and was killed.

Unable to farm and forced to live off wild vegetables, some villagers tried to return back to Thoe Hone camp during the rainy season of 2013, but were unable to do so because the water level of the Shweli and other rivers along the way were too high.

Lisu Camp

Population: 200+



³ IDP locations in Kachin and northern Shan States, OCHA, May 2013

There are over 200 Lisu IDPs staying at this location just outside the town of Manton. They fled mainly from the villages of Lwae Mauk, Awe Law and Man San villages in March 2012.

They have received regular rice support from KBC, but very little other aid. There are not enough shelters and not enough toilets. The IDPs have to work as daily laborers, but there is very little work available.

None of the Lisu IDPs have returned back to their homes. Only some Palaung IDPs who were in the camp last year returned back to their homes, despite no guarantee of safety. One of the Lisu IDPs said: “The situation is not stable yet, the Burmese soldiers are still patrolling in our village. That’s why we dare not go back yet.”

Burmese troops had tortured a Lisu village headman when the IDPs were displaced, making them afraid to return. U Kan Phan, the headman of Lwae Mauk village, had been beaten with a rifle butt by Burmese troops in April 2012 because he had a mobile phone. They had accused him of giving information to the ethnic armed groups.

Tangyan Camp

Population: 300 +



In March 2013, over 700 IDPs, mostly Palaung, fled to Tangyan, when the Burma Army launched a military offensive against the Shan State Army – North, in the south of the township. The IDPs were from 8 villages: Kuang Kaw, Kaung Sai,

Nammanwit, Par Phan, Man Toke, Hwae Puu, Man Kyaung and Mat Woung. They described how shells had been fired into their villages, and how they had been forced to work for the Burmese soldiers.

“The Burma Army took our villagers as guides, and they ordered us to collect drinking water for them. No villagers wanted to do that kind of thing. But they tied our hands and pointed guns at us when they ordered us to do this,” said one villager.

It took about 3 to 4 days for the IDPs to walk to Tangyan town. With many small children and old people, it was very difficult for them to make the journey, and they worried about meeting Burmese soldiers along the way.

A woman villager explained: “We were afraid the Burmese soldiers might see us and arrest us and order us to be guides for them. I had my family: my children, parents and grandparents. We could not allow our children to cry along the way.”

The IDPs took shelter in the Aung Mingalar monastery in Tangyan, but conditions were crowded, and on April 10, 2013, local township authorities, police, immigration officials, and MPs from both the state and union parliament held a meeting and then informed the IDPs that they should go back to their homes and “test out” the security situation. The IDPs were told that those who returned would be provided with rations for seven days. If the situation was stable, then after 7 days more rations would be delivered. However the IDPs did not agree to return home, as they feared for their security. To ease the overcrowding in the temple, the IDPs were moved to some unused land nearby where they were assisted to set up bamboo shelters.

When the IDPs first arrived, they received aid from various local groups, but now no aid is being provided. The IDPs have to work as daily laborers for survival. The men are working on nearby corn farms and some of the women are employed as domestic workers.

Currently about 300 IDPs are staying at the camp, as they still do not dare to return to their homes. Some of the IDPs who have left the camp have not returned home, but have moved to stay with relatives, or in farms near their original villages.

Overall humanitarian situation

TWO found that the amounts of aid given to IDP camps in Palaung areas differed considerably. The three camps in or near the towns of Namkham, Manton and Namtu were being given regular rice rations, and had received support for shelter, sanitation and basic household supplies, from international and local NGOs, such as WFP, Metta Foundation, Kachin Baptist convention, Maggin and World Concern.



Local people forcibly displaced in Palaung areas.

TWO found that the amounts of aid given to IDP camps in Palaung areas differed considerably. The three camps in or near the towns of Namkham, Manton and Namtu were being given regular rice rations, and had received support for shelter, sanitation and basic household supplies, from international and local NGOs, such as WFP, Metta Foundation, Kachin Baptist convention, Maggin and World Concern.

However, the majority of the Palaung IDPs, about 3,300 people, were not receiving regular rice supplies and had received very little other support. These IDPs are staying in Thoe Hone, north of Manton; Mai Yu and Kar Leng, near Kutkhai; and the Tangyan camp.

Health situation

Very little medical aid has been provided to the IDPs. During TWO's visit to the camps, we found many untreated cases of malaria, diarrhea and acute respiratory infections. Health conditions of children and older people in Kar Leng and Thoe were particularly bad, as these camps are remote and far from any health services. The IDPs also have very little basic health education, and tend to treat themselves with herbal remedies.

One of the IDPs in Kar Leng camp, a woman in her 50s, had a badly swollen leg when TWO visited the camp in October 2013. She told TWO that her leg had been itching and painful for several months, but she didn't know how to treat it so she

had just rubbed pumpkin leaves on it. TWO advised her to visit a hospital, but she said she was too afraid. She continued treating herself but her leg worsened, and TWO learned that she died in November 2013.



A large number of IDPs face health problem in the camp



Sick mother with child in IDP camp

Education Situation

According to a survey in five of the IDP camps by TWO in October 2013, less than half of school age children are able to attend school.

No.	Location of IDPs		Approx no. IDP children (under 18)	No. of children attending school
	township	camp		
1.	Manton	Thoe Hone	80+	30 attend government school in village
2.	Namkham	Nay Win Nee	100 +	50+ attend government school in Namkham
3.	Kutkhai	Mai Yu	421	116 attend government school in village
4.		Kar Leng	100+	45+ attend informal school set up in camp
5.	Tangyan	Tangyan camp	50+	About 10 children attend classes at the monastery

In three of the five camps, some of the children are attending local government schools, but not a high proportion, as many parents cannot afford the costs of sending their children to school. In Tangyan camp, no children at all are attending the local government school, as their parents cannot afford it; only some children are attending classes at the local monastery.

It is difficult for IDP parents to find money to support their children's school fees at the government schools, and to buy books, uniforms and stationery.

A woman staying at the Namkham camp said: "We want our children to be educated but we don't have money to support them. Now we have to depend on other people. If there are no donations, we also don't have anything to eat. If the children join the school, we have to buy everything for them."

Even in the camps where children are able to access the local government school, some face the challenge that they cannot officially move up to the next grade, as they did not get formal permission to transfer from the schools in their original villages.

One of the parents in Nay Win Nee camp, in Namkham, said, "Some students can't join the next grade even though they passed the exam. Some students attended primary school last year but this year they have to attend the primary school again."

Kar Leng camp is the only location when the IDPs themselves have set up their own school, but the facilities are very basic, and the teachers are not highly educated or trained.



School in Kar Leng camp

In all camps, the children are only accessing primary level education. After primary school most children are leaving school to help their parents earn an income.



Children help parents for family income

Conclusion and recommendations

TWO's findings show that attacks and abuses by the Burma Army against ethnic resistance forces have caused the numbers of IDPs in Palaung areas to increase during 2013, despite the fact that the Burmese government claims that it wants a peaceful settlement to the ethnic conflict. Unless these attacks and abuses cease, and there are guarantees of safety, the IDPs will not be able to return to their homes.

TWO has also found that the basic humanitarian needs of the majority of the IDPs in camps in Palaung areas are not being met. The levels of aid in different IDP camps vary considerably.

TWO makes the following recommendations:

To the Burmese government;

1. To immediately stop their military offensives and abuses, and begin troop withdrawal from Palaung areas
2. To start political negotiations that will address the ethnic peoples' demands for equal rights and justice.
3. Not to force IDPs back to their home villages until conditions are completely safe and they are willing to return voluntarily.
4. To allow humanitarian agencies access to assist IDPs in all locations.

To the international community:

1. To pressure the Burmese government to stop its military offensives and abuses against ethnic peoples, and to allow aid agencies to freely access and assist all IDP populations.
2. To ensure that aid is meeting the basic humanitarian needs of the IDPs in all locations.





TA'ANG WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION – TWO

Organizational profile

The Ta'ang Women's Organisation (TWO) was established on 23, Jan, 2013 in response to the lack of women actively participating within other Palaung organizations. It was perceived that the female members of such groups lacked the opportunities, skills and self-confidence necessary for direct and active participation. Cultural factors determined that men had greater access to training, better English language and computer skills, greater self-confidence and more leadership opportunities. TWO was formed with the intention of educating and empowering women so that they could develop and strengthen their own self-determination and achieve equality of participation.

Mission: We are Ta'ang (Palaung) women who will advocate and advance the statues of women in field of development and working forwards achieving gender equality, justice, peace and democratic society.

Goals:

1. To actively work towards the elimination of all form of violence against women
2. To develop and advance the status of Palaung women to actively participate in the political sphere
3. To advocate toward the improvement of the health and well being of Palaung people
4. To increase attention and response at the local, regional and international levels towards addressing Human Rights violations in the Palaung area
5. To maintain and promote the Palaung literature and culture.
6. To promote the number of educated women and advance the status of women to access education in Palaung areas.

Programs

- Women Political Development Program
- Eliminating Violence Against Women Program
- Health Program
- Education Program

Departments

- ◆ Information Documentation and research Departments
- ◆ Financial Departments

Small Project

- ◆ Drug Education Project

