

STRENGTHENING PROTECTION CAPACITY PROJECT

LIVELIHOODS COMPONENT

**Phase One
TAK PROVINCE**



**A report by Robert W. Duffy
on the potential for increasing opportunities
for self reliance and income earning/generation
on the Thai-Myanmar border**

Collaboration between ILO and UNHCR

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS	4
SECTION 1: BACKGROUND	5
1.1 Context.....	5
1.2 Legal status	5
1.3 Background: Refugees in Thailand	6
1.4 UNHCR-ILO Cooperation	15
1.5 Scope of the report	16
1.6 Definitions	16
SECTION 2: INITIAL RESEARCH.....	18
2.1 Desk study	18
2.2 Review	18
SECTION 3: SPECIFIC ISSUES AND FINDINGS.....	21
3.1 General description of the target population and hosting areas	21
3.2 Degree of access to the labour market	21
3.3 Existing training related programmes initiated by UNHCR and other actors	25
3.4 Coping strategies.....	27
3.5 Skill level among refugees	31
3.6 Environmental conditions in the camps and hosting areas.....	36
3.7 Skills that should be developed to enhance self-reliance of refugees	37
3.8 Impact of livelihoods strategy in local communities and potential cooperation. ..	41
3.8 The availability of (i) local training providers, (ii) local micro-finance institutions and (iii) local business advisory services that partnerships can be developed with to provide sustainable support.....	44
SECTION 4: CONSIDERATIONS	48
4.1. Strategic Considerations	48
4.2 UNHCR mandate.....	48
4.3 ILO Mandate.....	49
SECTION 5: PHASE ONE CONCLUSIONS.....	50
5.1 A Programme approach.....	50
5.2 NGO Project strengthening	50
5.3 Livelihoods Management Committee (LH MC).	51
5.4 Recommendations.....	52
List of Appendixes	56
Appendix One: Rules for NGOs providing services	57
Appendix Two: Implementing partner profile summaries.	60
Appendix Three: Terms of Reference	71
Appendix Four: Definitions for discussion.....	72
Appendix Five: References	75
Appendix Six (i): Mae La	80
Appendix Six (ii): Nu Poh.....	85
Appendix Six (iii): Umpiem.....	92

List of Tables

Table 1:	Summary of preferred jobs in Umpium, Nu Poh and Mae La camps
Table 2:	ZOA Vocational Training programme numbers 2003 to 2006
Table 3:	Numbers of physically disabled.
Table 4:	Percentage of workers inside/outside in Umpium, Nu Poh & Ban Dong Yang
Table 5:	Summary of declared occupations at entry Tak Province camps
Table 6:	Preferred occupations, KRC survey, 2007
Table 7:	Ranked training preferences Mae La, Umpiem & Mae La Oon, ZOA, 2003.
Table 8:	ZOA enrolments, Karen C camps, 2006.
Table 9:	Consolidated list of actual & potential courses

List of Figures

Figure 1.	Proposed structure for relief assistance
-----------	--

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

ARC	American Refugee Committee
CC	Camp Committee
CCSDPT	Coordinating Committee for Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand
CoC	Chamber of Commerce (Tak Province)
COERR	Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees
FTUB	Federation of Trade Unions- Burma
FTI	Federation of Thai Industry (Tak Province)
HI	Handicap International- Thailand
IRC	International Rescue Committee
JRS	Jesuit Rescue Service
KED	Karen Education Department
KNU	Karen National Union
KRC	Karen Refugee Committee
KWO	Karen Women's Organization
KYO	Karen Youth Organization
LHP	Livelihoods Programme
LPM	Livelihoods Programme Manager
LP MC	Livelihoods Programme Management Committee
MOE	Ministry of Education [Thailand]
MOI	Ministry of Interior [Thailand]
NGO's	Non Governmental Organizations
RTG	Royal Thai Government
SIYB	Improve your business [ILO product]
TBBC	Thai Burma Border Consortium
TREE	Training for rural economic empowerment [ILO product]
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WEAVE	Women's Education for Advancement & Empowerment
ZOA	ZOA Vluchtelingen zorg (ZOA Refugee Care)

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

1.1 Context

In early 2006, UNHCR requested funding for a project aimed at strengthening refugee protection in Thailand - that is, the capacity of the Royal Thai Government, UNHCR and NGO partners to receive and protection refugees. A specific focus of this project was refugee livelihoods and self-reliance. ¹ The request was based on the assumption that the Thai Government would allow refugees ² from Myanmar, living in camps ³ on the Thai-Myanmar border, to engage in various forms of economic activity both within the camps and in the local communities surrounding them.

1.2 Legal status ⁴

The relevant sections of the 1951 Refugee Convention are described in CHAPTER III: Gainful Employment,

Article 17 relating to wage earning employment.

- “1. The Contracting State shall accord to refugees lawfully staying in their territory the most favourable treatment accorded to nationals of a foreign country in the same circumstances, as regards the right to engage in wage-earning employment.
2. In any case, restrictive measures imposed on aliens or the employment of aliens for the protection of the national labour market shall not be applied to a refugee who was already exempt from them at the date of entry into force of this Convention for the Contracting State concerned, or who fulfils one of the following conditions:
- (a) He (sic) has completed three years’ residence in the country;
 - (b) He (sic) has a spouse possessing the nationality of the country of residence. A refugee may not invoke the benefits of this provision if he has abandoned his spouse;
 - (c) He has one or more children possessing the nationality of the country of residence.
3. The Contracting States shall give sympathetic consideration to assimilating the rights of all refugees with regard to wage-earning employment to those of nationals, and in particular of those refugees who have entered their territory pursuant to programmes of labour recruitment or under immigration schemes.”

Article 18 of the same Convention relates to self employment:

“The Contracting States shall accord to a refugee lawfully in their territory treatment as favorable as possible and, in any event, not less favorable than that accorded to aliens generally in the same

¹ The proposal was entitled "Strengthening Protection Capacity Project-Thailand (SPCP-T): Module II" and commenced on 14th of December 2006 with the appointment of a consultant to undertake data gathering and research on three camps in Tak Province.

² The word “displaced person” or “person fleeing from fighting” is prepared by the RTG.

³ The word "camps" is used by UNHCR and temporary shelters is preferred by the RTG.

⁴ For a comprehensive analysis of the various international obligations and conventions see Amnesty International, (2005), para v.

circumstances, as regards the right to engage on his own account in agriculture, industry, handicrafts and commerce and to establish commercial and industrial companies.”

Article 19 refers to liberal professions

- “1. Each Contracting State shall accord to refugees lawfully staying in their territory who hold diplomas recognized by the competent authorities of that State, and who are desirous of practicing a liberal profession, treatment as favorable as possible and, in any event, not less favorable than that accorded to aliens generally in the same circumstances.
2. The Contracting States shall use their best endeavors consistently with their laws and constitutions to secure the settlement of such refugees in the territories, other than the metropolitan territory, for whose international relations they are responsible.”

Thailand is not a party to 1951 Refugee Convention. This has an adverse affect on the manner in which refugees in Thailand are treated. The 1951 Convention is clear in respect of the rights of refugee. The Royal Thai Government is fully aware of the distinction and has offered to allow a certain amount of freedom to allow refugees to become more economically active.

1.3 Background: Refugees in Thailand

For two decades Thailand has been host to large numbers of refugees.⁵ At present, approximately 150,000 from Myanmar are living in nine (9) camps on the Thai-Myanmar border.⁶ There are also approximately 1,000 asylum seekers living in local urban areas.

In addition, some 200,000 persons are reported to have fled from ethnic persecution, forced relocation, and physical violence but are not registered as refugees in Thailand. These people live illegally and therefore are in a particularly precarious situation in Thailand.

Many thousands of refugees in Thailand have been in this situation a generation, and conditions of protracted uncertainty and insecurity have negatively impacted these communities. Within the camps, refugees have limited opportunities for in-camp employment and are denied the right to move beyond the confines of the camps unless there are circumstances warranting an exception. The restrictions deprive them of the freedom to pursue economic activities and thus lead normal and productive lives. Those refugees resident within the camps, as well as those living without papers outside the camp, are arrested and face possible detention and deportation if caught outside the camps.⁷

The meagre supply of rations within the camp is a "push" factor that urges the economically active to leave the camp illegally to earn sufficient to supplement these rations. Although not the sole reason to contravene the camp rules this is quite common and, whilst the risks are well known, is a common daily occurrence. It is also due in part to the fact that some people see a

⁵ The use of refugees is used throughout this report as a general term to describe the target group. Legally in Thailand refugees are classified as "displaced" or those "fleeing from fighting".

⁶ According to UNHCR the number was 132,399 in March, 2007.

⁷ Whilst the RTG does not officially or willingly deport those who have broken the law the risk of refoulement is of concern to UNHCR.

value in working, both from the perspective of income and in terms of proving their worth to themselves, their family and civil society in general.

In such a restrictive environment, violence and human rights abuse is rife. There are increasing incidences of rape, abnormal levels of domestic violence and serious psychological problems being noted. Such restrictions have exacerbated the problems facing refugees. The consequences of ignoring these issues further illustrate that a more liberal approach to the treatment of these unfortunate people (by allowing them to engage in activities as part of improving their livelihoods) would result in a vastly improved situation for all concerned.

There have been encouraging signs in recent years that the RTG wishes to work in cooperation with UNHCR and other partners in improving the situation of refugees in Thailand. The suggestion by senior Government politicians, announced in early 2005, was that the refugees be engaged in productive work that would benefit their livelihoods as well as those of the local Thai community.

Employers were willing to be involved as they too wished to raise their profits through improved productivity. Enterprises were prepared to train for the work to be performed at the work place. The impact on the immediate hinterland was predicted to be a reduced amount of criminal activity, increased affluence in the local community, less disruption to traditional life style and a marked improvement in the health of the refugees and their families.⁸ However there are concerns at the provincial government level with respect to the additional burdens of managing and monitoring a more mobile group of refugee workers, and supervising the conditions under which they would provide labour to local employers.

1.3.1 National level

In 2005, on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of Cooperation between the Royal Thai Government (RTG) and UNHCR, Mr. Kittiphong, the Director General of the Department of International Organizations specifically referred to past experiences that have demonstrated that: *"... if various stakeholders joined hands, they could work wonders and for the benefit of the people in need of assistance' and he very much welcomed the consultative working approach in the spirit of international burden and responsibility sharing"*.

In February 2006 the then Prime Minister Mr. Thaksin Shinawatra, accompanied by diplomatic personnel from various countries, visited Tak Province to assess the situation with respect to refugees living in the different refugee camps. The Prime Minister reiterated the Royal Thai Government's commitment to providing both innovative and workable approaches leading to one or other of the three durable solutions. The need to work with the international community to provide assistance was stressed as was the requirement to conform to international standards and practice.⁹

⁸ This was the outcome of discussions with the three local public administration officials in each of the areas surrounding Tak Province refugee camps.

⁹ See Remarks by H.E. Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand on the occasion of his visit to Mae La camp, Tak Province, 4th February 2006.

Prime Minister Shinawatra also explained that the Government's approach is multi-faceted, stating that:

- (i) Development assistance should be targeted at the country of origin as a way to promote solutions" and that this can be achieved in part by "...extending assistance and implementing sustainable development programmes in areas from which people have been displaced",¹⁰ and that
- (ii) "...capacity-building has also been directed at displaced persons with a view to helping them be well prepared for their reintegration upon eventual return to the home country, or their integration in resettlement countries".¹¹

His final point was that there needed to be support at the community level as this "...relies heavily on the cooperation and goodwill of local communities".

This report must take account of the approach advocated here as it is relevant to the strategy proposed later in this report for the implementation of pilot courses and self-reliance and income generation activities in each of the refugee camps and hinterland locations.

During his visit to Thailand in August 2006, UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres won a commitment from the Thai administration to work towards granting greater freedom for education and employment outside the camps.

Equally, following the change of government in September 2006, early comments by the interim Prime Minister Surayad Chulanont were also encouraging. The Prime Minister stated that he had long been sympathetic to refugees and that during his military career he had worked with them on both the Cambodian and Myanmar borders. Stakeholders believed that the RTG wished to move ahead on the issue of refugee livelihoods, including the distribution of identity cards to all camp residents. It was hoped that ID cards would enable residents to move outside the camp. These steps would be in line with accepted standards and would also contribute to meeting the genuine needs of Thailand's growing economy and thus a larger skilled workforce.¹²

In December 7th to 9th 2006, at a seminar attended by the RTG, UNHCR and NGOs held in Kanchanaburi, requests were made by the RTG for the international community to assist local communities directly affected by the influx of refugees. NGOs were requested to notify the Government of their intentions in this regard. Soon after in a letter from the MOI dated 20th December 2006, approval was granted for 15 NGOs to implement their relief projects in the refugee camps in Tak Province during the year 2007, but only for on-going projects that are carried on from the year 2006. The same correspondence outlined the rules under which the NGOs must operate. This is attached at **Appendix One**.

¹⁰ In this regard, one suggestion has been to engage refugees in contract farming. However that would require refugees to return to Myanmar, thus jeopardizing their legal status as refugees and placing them at serious risk of human rights violations (see below at Section 4.2).

¹¹ No mention was made of the durable solution that promotes integration into the local community.

¹² Source: UNHCR briefing notes dated 17 October, 2006.

A statement of significance is that: "*Assistance should be given only to displaced persons inside the temporary shelters or on the approved sites on Thai territory*". The inference is that there are other locations apart from the camps to which refugees can be located. If this can be interpreted as to utilize land on "approved sites on Thai territory", there may be an opportunity to exploit land for (i) the erection of more substantial skills training and storage buildings, (ii) the development of improved agricultural practices, and (iii) the provision of buildings to offer selected services to the general camp population and the passing Thai public.

1.3.2 Provincial level

At a seminar held in Mae Sot, Tak Province, in November 2006, the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) called for an exchange of views on the issue of allowing the displaced to engage in work activities inside the refugee camps. The seminar was attended by a wide range of stakeholders including government staff of the Office for the Coordination of Displaced Persons (OCDP), the Department of Displaced Persons (DOP) of the MOI, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MOLSW), Tak provincial police, immigration police, some camp commanders (MOI), the National Security Council, and a number of senior provincial level officials.

In addition there were representatives of the private sector including the Chamber of Commerce (COC), the Thai Industrial Council (TIC) and training providers from the NGO community who have been offering development assistance to the target groups in each location.¹³ A representative of the Asian Studies Institute of the Chulalongkorn University was also in attendance.

The Deputy Permanent Head of the MOI reiterated that his Ministry was nominated to be the lead agency responsible for the control of displaced persons within the country. They were instructed to implement the national policy laid out by the NSC. This responsibility extends to all those refugees residing in camps along the Thai/Myanmar border. He further explained that the current policy of engaging the residents of the camps in income-generation activities should be encouraged and sought the views of those present. The presentations were followed by group work, each with a theme related to the seminar's purpose. The results have been reviewed and the conclusions summarised below:

Group One: Possible wage employment in industrial enterprises outside the refugee camps. This group raised the following for clarification:

- What types of enterprises were to be agreed as suitable and what type of work/jobs were available? Would this require amendments to the existing Work of Alien's Act
- Would identification cards be required by MOI?
- Would regulations and rules for their implementation be developed that allowed the refugees to work outside the camps?
- What form of control would be introduced to administer the system of out-of-camp workers?

¹³ The Tak Chamber of Commerce was approached by the Livelihoods consultant undertaking this study but they declined to be involved due to the current policy of the MOI. When information was requested from the Tak Chapter of the Federation of Thai Industries, a similar response was received.

- How would fair wages levels be determined?
- How would this impact the local Thai communities work opportunities
- What would be the political implications of this relaxation of the present regulations?

Group Two: Possible employment for camp residents in agricultural sectors outside the camps. This group divided the responses in to positives, negatives and suggestions

Positives

- Tension, both personal and community-wide, would be reduced when workers are able to earn an extra income.
- Corrupt practices surrounding illegal exit and entry to the camp for the purposes of obtaining work would be reduced.
- Refugees would learn additional and new skills that prepare them for eventual return or third country resettlement.
- Employer's costs in recruiting migrant workers, whose fees are high would benefit financially from the reduction in overhead cost.
- The access to the refugees as workers on a seasonal basis would be possible with a minimum of time lost in recruiting other types of employee.

Negatives

- New arrivals from Myanmar may increase once the new system is in place.
- The administration of the workers movements will be difficult to manage.

Suggestions

- A committee within each refugee camp must be set up to administer the new programme of worker's activities and develop its own terms of reference.
- The committee would gauge the impact on local Thai communities, set limitations and ensure equitable access to all income-generating opportunities offered to refugees.
- Refugees must be issued with an Identity Card and Camp Pass allowing them to work outside the refugee camp.
- This committee would verify employer requests for labour and determine the conditions under which employers would engage and be responsible for them.
- Employers should specify the numbers needed, the duration, the conditions package and the location(s).

Group Three: Possible employment of camp residents inside the refugee camps. This group also offered positives, negatives and suggestions.

Positives:

- Income-generating activities proposed included: all types of handicrafts, sarong weaving, mushroom growing chicken and fish farming, knitting and embroidery.

Negatives:

- Employers would find it difficult to bring materials to some of the refugee camps due to the distances involved.

- Enterprises need delivery on time and quality products control which is not easily achieved with piece work.
- The lack of electrical power constrains what can be offered as income-generating employment inside the refugee camps.
- The potential to work outside the camp should be denied as the residents may engage in political activities.
- Income earned may be diverted to provide support for armed factions.

Suggestions

- Skills training be provided and a pool of skilled people established.
- A grant should be made to a cooperative to commence selected micro enterprises.
- Training in design should be provided to ensure products meet contemporary markets
- Training in market needs research provided prior to any grants being awarded.

1.3.3 Local community level.

Local public administration officials in areas adjacent to Mae La, Umpiem and Nu Poh have agreed that there are both economic and social reasons why the activities of the refugee camps should be more integrated with the community in the hinterland. Farmers need the labour and the communities need the services available in the camps. The general opinion is that the numbers of workers leaving the camps should, however be carefully managed.

1.3.4 Refugee camp level

Refugees have developed a number of informal arrangements to overcome the various situations. There is an informal trading system within the camp where rationed goods are exchanged. In other cases the goods are sold and other essentials purchased with the proceeds. The transactions are often made with external traders from nearby towns to sell items supplied by the traders on a consignment basis.

In a number of cases the economically active find employment in the catchment area of the refugee camp through an informal network. This often directly contravenes the current MOI regulations.¹⁴ Many of these and similar issues that create tensions in the refugee camps increase the work-load of the understaffed Camp Commander to control, regulate, administer and operate each camp. The representative of the MOI, at the camp level, has adapted its methods to the circumstances. This approach is fully understood by all concerned and the “unwritten rule” is that if there is no criminality involved within the community at large, this mainly informal survival system will be allowed to continue.

¹⁴ Whilst the desire to work may primarily be to provide alternative sources and types of food it must be acknowledged that in many cases the desire to be actively working and earning provides a form of independence and dignity that is absent in the “closed hand-out mentality” of camp life.

The MOI, at the central level, must be fully aware that a variety of these coping mechanisms are in operation. This is also occurring with the full knowledge of the provincial and local government, employers' and workers' organizations and the local administration.

1.3.5 Employer's Organizations

Mae Sot is in Tak province and is strategically placed close to the border with Myanmar. It is currently under marshal law. The province was designated as a Special Investment Promotion Zone in the 1990's due in part to the need to have additional low skilled workers from adjacent countries during that economic boom period. Migrant workers swelled the workforce. Thai enterprises in the province were given a variety of incentives to ensure that they could compete on international markets. However significant numbers of additional Myanmar workers crossing into Thailand for these jobs were in fact refugees fleeing from fighting and persecution. Many of these people have now joined those in the refugee camps set up by the Thai government. Those who then seek to be registered under the Provincial Admissions Board system are not officially allowed to work. This pool of labour is not being utilized because of the MOI's rules on movement.

The employers, represented by the Tak chapter of the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI), Chamber of Commerce (CoC) and local agricultural land-owners, have contributed to discussions on the advisability of better collaboration with the refugees in the camps. The diverse views expressed have provided a realistic scenario of the economic and social potential of such collaboration. This has ensured that any future programme proposal can make judgments and suggestions that are grounded in a local context, take account of the participants concerns and contribute to social cohesion.

FTI in Tak province currently hires approximately 50 percent of its labour from those officially classified as migrant workers. Of that number some 70 percent are women, many in their late teens and early twenties.¹⁵ The Chairman of FTI is convinced that there are both economic and social benefits in engaging female refugees to undertake wage employment. This does not however assume that they can be given the same conditions as the migrant worker. Employers are held responsible by MOI for migrant worker fees. As a means of control they frequently hold employees' documents to ensure they remain in the jobs they were hired and paid permits for.

Currently there is a shortage of labour from the existing pool of Thai and legally registered migrant workers for the textile, ceramics and electronics factories. This is limiting the expansion of this sector of the economy. The RTG has addressed this issue and each of the neighbouring countries (namely Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar) has signed a memorandum of understanding for the importation of labour to meet the shortages mentioned.¹⁶

In the case of Myanmar it makes sound economic sense for the FTI members to recruit from the pool already located in the various camps. The predicament they face is the restrictions on

¹⁵ See mission report of Ms Anne Knowles and Elizabeth Morris of ILO, dated 23-26 January 2005

¹⁶ For a complete copy of the MOU see ILO, (2005-1), pp 65-69

travel placed on refugees in the camps. Without some flexibility on the part of the Government this is not realistic. Should this situation persist the FTI would negotiate with the Myanmar Government to import more migrant labour at a considerably higher unit cost.

1.3.6 Worker's Organizations

The long history of unionized labour in Myanmar extends back to before the Second World War.¹⁷ Various organizations have, over the years struggled to provide equitable working conditions for their members. In 1988 the Federation of Trade Unions- Burma (FTUB) merged with the All Burma Labour Union. However following a series of demonstrations FTUB was abolished by the government of the day. FTUB was reformed in 1991 by exiled workers, students and activists and has eight affiliated worker's organizations covering agriculture, food processing, handloom production, health, education, social services, mining, rubber plantations, seafaring and transport.

Forced labour in Myanmar has been a major focus of the FTUB. The Federation has been instrumental in alerting the international community to the plight of its affiliated members inside Myanmar. Their active documentation of cases was reported to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions who, in turn, submitted information to the International Labour Organization (ILO). In 1999 the ILO conference adopted a resolution which addressed the issue of forced labour by the State Peace and Reconciliation Council. As a result of FTUB's consistency in requesting that the international community act, the ILO Conference of June 2006 required the SPRC to adopt credible mechanisms to deal with forced labour complaints.¹⁸

FTUB also has undertaken to assist migrant workers from Myanmar seeking employment in South East Asian countries and has established a Labour Law clinic to assist migrants with legal documentation. The Union also assists with the education of migrant worker children.¹⁹ In local discussions they have expressed concern for those working in the area saying that there are many cases of exploitation by Thai farmers and business people when hiring migrant and other illegal workers, including refugees from the camps. However they acknowledge the need of the refugees to earn some level of income and are aware of the consequences if strict adherence to follow MOI rules was introduced.

1.3.7 Non Government Organizations

The delivery of assistance, including training for self reliance and income earning/generation services to the refugee population is through an extensive network of NGOs. Each is driven by its own mandate. Each has a niche within the refugee camps and there are many instances of active collaboration between NGOs and RTG institutions. There is a large body of written information available to the researcher. It was however written for a specific purpose and did not in some cases present itself in a format useful to this livelihoods programme. In these instances contact was made with the NGO's executive and the information was provided.

¹⁷ See www.ftub.org.

¹⁸ See Reuters, World News, 9th July 2006.

¹⁹ See ILO (2005-4) Chapter 4, section 4.2, p 39 for details on education for migrant children.

NGOs have adapted their current programmes to match the constraints of (i) MOI rules, (ii) budget and (iii) stability of the target population.

(i) MOI rules²⁰ officially:

- Encourage vocational training leading to skills that would improve income generation in the future.
- Expect that local Thai villages around the refugee camps will receive assistance from the NGOs.²¹
- Forbid refugees to leave the camp for employment. Hence strategies have always focused on the delivery of services - including livelihood activities - within the camp.
- Forbid the establishment of permanent structures, concrete floors and the provision of public power supply.
- Limit the number of NGOs who are allowed to provide services,

What is unclear at this stage is how these edicts can be accomplished given the contractions in the rules. It is likely that there are a number of interpretations depending on the reader's motivations. This should be clarified.

(ii) Budget constraints have limited the amount of goods and services that an NGO can provide, especially in the areas of livelihoods and particularly in the resource-heavy skills development courses. Vocational training has been extensive and in accordance with the desires of the camp residents.²²

(iii) Stability of the refugee population is a continuing problem for NGOs who have engaged refugees in their programmes. More recently refugees who make up a large part of the in-camp volunteer level work force have applied for third country resettlement. Some receiving stipends for their work are classified as "incentive workers" and will certainly be resettled. This means that NGOs need to plan ahead to have a steady intake of new replacement people, e.g. paramedics, teachers and instructors to ensure their initiatives can continue.

The possibility to legally work outside the refugee camp, as part of the proposed Livelihoods Programme could also have the effect of stripping good people from the NGOs as the compensation may be better. There is also the concern that increased disposable income may cause additional social problems for the refugee population. This needs to be carefully managed to ensure that any future interventions do not destroy the social fabric of the camp population.

A summary of the NGOs who are providing services which support self reliance and have the potential to lead to income earning and/or income generation, is attached at **Appendix Two**.

²⁰ See MOI, (2006)

²¹ MOI expects that the suggestions made at a meeting in Kanchanaburi in December 2006 will be included in the 2007 programme. This report and the resulting Livelihoods Programme may provide some support to local Thai villagers. However it is through a system of collaboration with the local people and this requires that refugees are allowed to work together with the local community.

²² See JRS 2006, Kittisakchoocai, 2006, MOE 2006, TBBC (2006-2) & (2007), UNHCR, (2006-7), ZOA, (2003), 2006-1, 2006-2, 2006-3, 2006-4, 2006-5, for examples of various self reliance and limited income earning/generation activities.

If financial and technical assistance through UNHCR can be offered to these existing NGOs and they are reluctant to extend their existing services, alternatives must be sought.

Also additional projects, identified as a result of this research, that have potential to promote these services may require additional NGOs to be proposed to MOI in the future. This however is not the preferred option from the RTG's perspective. They would prefer to reduce the existing number of NGOs and see a more consolidated programme of services offered through a rationalization of activities.

1.4 UNHCR-ILO Cooperation

1.4.1 The Strengthening Protection Capacity Project in Thailand

In July 2006, UNHCR introduced the Strengthening Protection Capacity Project (SPCP) in Thailand. The key objective of this project is to identify gaps in refugee protection capacity, and to facilitate the development, funding, and implementation of projects to fill those gaps. The SPCP relies on a consultative methodology, involving a range of stakeholders at each stage of the process. It is being implemented with the full support and co-operation of the Royal Thai Government (RTG). The SPCP methodology had previously been piloted by UNHCR in four African countries, to encouraging effect.

The introduction of the SPCP coincided with a similar initiative already launched jointly by a consortium of NGOs and UNHCR in Thailand – the 'CCSDPT/UNHCR Comprehensive Plan'. The SPCP seeks to support this ongoing process, by both drawing on existing information and partnerships, and by contributing resources and experiences gained from SPCP projects in other countries. To this end, the SPCP is collaborating with the RTG, NGO partners, donors and refugee communities.

The SPCP-Thailand is an ambitious exercise. To help manage the process and ensure it results in tangible improvements, UNHCR has separated the SPCP-T into two (2) different components. Module I, which has received funding from the Australian government, involves the following activities: protection gaps identification, analysis and publication; national stakeholder consultations to agree on means to remedy identified gaps; specific project development and implementation.

1.4.2 The Livelihoods component of SPCP-Thailand

There were encouraging signs in recent years of an interest on the part of the RTG to work in cooperation with UNHCR and other partners in improving the situation of refugees in Thailand. In particular, the RTG appeared increasingly open to the possibility of vocational training, income-generation projects, and legal employment for refugees in Thailand.

UNHCR and partners felt it was essential to support and inform these welcome policy developments by implementing a livelihood project in cooperation with the ILO in Thailand.

The livelihoods project, which is being supported by a financial contribution from the US Government, builds on existing NGO work in this area and draws on the technical expertise of the ILO with the aim of producing a comprehensive strategy for facilitating refugee self-reliance while maximizing the benefits to Thai society.

This Livelihoods Project, is itself broken into two Phases:

(i) This first Phase report describes the issues, makes observations and draws conclusions on refugees' opportunities to generate income and attain self-reliance in Thailand. It is expected that there will be an analysis of the impact of an expansion of self-reliance opportunities in collaboration with local Thai society.

(ii) The second Phase report is expected to develop a comprehensive strategy for expanding opportunities for refugees to become self-reliant by documenting present gaps and opportunities for self-reliance and income earning and income generating activities. The Phase Two report will also develop a package of project outlines and list typical activities as a guide to NGOs as Implementing Partners (IPs) to address the gaps identified with particular consideration to opportunities for youth and women.

1.5 Scope of the report

The **Phase I** report's scope is determined by the TORs at **Appendix Three**. The content is predominantly concerned with Tak Province refugee camps. However some discussions have been held with organizations with responsibilities in other provinces. Many of the reports available cover additional camps. These include TBBC who have documentation on its activities covering all camps and ZOA Refugee care offering services to the seven Karen camps.

1.6 Definitions

The descriptions and definitions provided in the literature often create confusion in the minds of those conducting research in the area of skills development. There are various and different philosophical positions as to what these definitions mean in the minds of those interpreting legislation, policies and regulations in different ministries. As a means of ensuring that terms are agreed please see **Appendix Four**.

Key among them is the following:

- Demand-driven skills development is conducted as a result of actual needs identified by the labour market, linkage with enterprises, employer's organizations and the community.
- Income generation refers to the situation where income is earned and wealth is created as a result of adding value to a good or providing a service.
- Income substitution is defined as work undertaken that produces a good or service that would otherwise have to be purchased.
- Livelihood is defined as the means of living, or of supporting oneself.

- Self-reliance is defined as the ability to rely on one's self, or each other in the case of a community or group, to sustain an acceptable minimum quality of life.
- Supply-driven skills development is conducted by training providers based on the interests of the students, parents, the training institution, the ministries or planners and may be linked to national policies but may not be directly linked to market requirements.
- Wage earning is income from supplying labour for payment in cash or kind from agriculture, manufacturing, production, services etc.

SECTION 2: INITIAL RESEARCH

2.1 Desk study

Various forms of information were reviewed as a means of understanding the background to the livelihoods project. The reference list is attached at **Appendix Five**.

2.2 Review

Empirical analysis of data.

Data review, analysis and comparison has limitations as NGOs and other contracted agencies have focused on individual camps, or particular activities in accordance with the programmes and priorities of specific donors. The penchant for those collecting data and compiling reports, to use colloquial and frequently incorrect titles when describing or classifying occupations, or when eliciting information from respondents, makes comparisons difficult. However it must be acknowledged that the reports, when written, were targeted to the particular audience at the time of writing and as such served a very important purpose.

From the Livelihoods Programme perspective it was decided that to conduct yet another survey to identify the potential for self reliance and possible income earning and income generating activities would be an anathema to residents. They are research weary, wary and wise having been bombarded with checklists, questionnaires, focus groups and case studies for many years and with little or no result. To do surveys using samples of the populations, whether they be random or stratified selections was considered unnecessary, especially when it is well-known that there are huge numbers of refugees at every level of the population who wish to be made more self reliant and hopefully be able to earn some sort of income.²³ In addition the LHP is unlikely to be able to address all the needs, preferring to pilot ideas to demonstrate their feasibility.

Nomenclature

The numerous reports provided as a resource for the Livelihoods Programme team show a considerable variation when comparing nomenclature. Job titles such as “trading livestock” versus “animal-raising” versus “animal-husbandry” are examples. The job title “agriculture” or a course called the same is equally as vague and makes any decisions on what to include in a training course package impossible. As an occupation it is equally vague. The Thai Standard Classification of Occupations (Thai SCO) as used by the census bureau would be a good starting point for those wishing to describe employment and training initiatives.

²³ Kelley, N., UNHCR (2006-2), p1.

The Thai SCO is also a useful document upon which to base any proposed vocational guidance and career counselling initiative on. The descriptions provided, once adapted to the national culture, and established by the statistics bureau can form the basis of any such package for those seeking assistance.

Analysis of selected reports

The IRC report in the Mae Hong Son province covers labour market requirements in relation to the populations of Ban Mae Nai Soi (Ban Tractor/Ban Kwai) and local environs. The resulting analysis suggests that, at the time of the survey in 2005, 68% of the population in the camp are involved in income-generating activities; of these 58% work inside the camp, the balance outside. The majority of the economic activity was in Agriculture, animal husbandry and crafts.

24

The IRS report on vocational training/non formal education focuses on Ban Mae Nai Soi and Ban Nai Surin camps. The report is based on the assumption that refugees will be allowed to work outside the camps. It was carried out in collaboration with the Karenni Education Department and the IRC. The resulting analysis of a 20 percent sample was that post ten graduate's priorities were, in order of priority: computing, environmental health-water, accounting/book-keeping/financial, first aid, English language, weaving, baking/cooking, electrical, Thai language, sewing, management stove/toilet making and lastly traditional massage. Agriculture was not mentioned.

In the same survey of adult women and men the priorities were agriculture/vegetable/fruit production, then equally soap/candle/shampoo making, wood/furniture making, embroidery, then management, Burmese language, music, sewing and weaving. A further table suggests that "life in-camp" and "return to Karenni State" priorities have similar profiles. ²⁵

The UNHCR report on mobility and protection risks in the Ban Mai Nai Soi camp recommended that there be increased self-sufficiency coupled with improved economic freedoms. Key among the recommendations was that there should long-term funding for TBBC's Community Agriculture and Nutrition (CAN) Programme. Furthermore that training be made available to the vulnerable, that funding for a pilot for seasonal work permits be introduced, that increased opportunities for specific income earning/generation inside the camp be advocated. ²⁶

ZOA has produced a number of detailed reports related to vocational training commencing: a baseline study in 2003, an education study in 2005 and midterm review in 2006. The detailed information contained in these documents reveals that in the Karen refugee camps there are almost 5000 refugees trained. This represents approximately 13 percent of the target population. The impact in terms of increased self reliance and IE/G was limited due in part to the current MOI policies restricting movement outside the camps. ²⁷ In a survey of approximately 5000 of

²⁴ See Kittisakchoochai, R., (December 2006).

²⁵ Jesuit Rescue Service, (2005)

²⁶ "Mobility and Protection Risks: A Study of Ban Mai Nai Soi refugee camp", report prepared by S. Chandra for UNHCR Mae Hong Son, September 2006

²⁷ See ZOA Refugee Care- Thailand, (2003), (2006-1), & (2006-4) .

those trained some 2000 responded. The average number working following training was approximately 12 percent. The highest percentage was working in agriculture and the lowest in computing.

2.2 Review findings

Each report reviewed was prepared for a particular target group and particular donors.²⁸ The contents are informative and provide useful background to what is a very fractured and complex environment. Unlike a traditional government or corporate structure that evolves over time, NGOs have had to act unilaterally. There are obvious duplications but this is not considered to be detrimental as each is targeting different populations. E.G. The Jesuit Rescue Service provides education and vocational training in the Karenni Camps whilst ZOA Refugee Care covers the Karen camps. Similarly services in the micro/small enterprise development area have a number of potential providers. As the extent of these programmes is still being formulated it may be appropriate to ensure that they focus on different target groups to minimize any waste of resources. The role of CCSDPT in this regard is not clear.

2.3 Coordination

The Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced People in Thailand (CCSDPT) provides a monthly forum for NGOs involved with the refugees to report on issues they face, network their activities and to share information. CCSDPT is chaired by the head of the Thai Burma Border Consortium (TBBC). Sub committees also meet following each monthly meeting. The formal education sub committee membership includes the main providers of vocational training. The majority of members on the education sub-committee of CCSDPT are concerned with the functioning of the most important formal level education system. Vocational training is currently included within that committee because it is being implemented by the same NGOs who deliver primary and secondary programmes.

However VT is not a major aspect of this sub-committee and it is suggested that there be a separate forum to discuss the livelihoods issues.

²⁸ There is a dearth of data on the plight of the disabled.

SECTION 3: SPECIFIC ISSUES AND FINDINGS

This section addresses the individual terms of reference provided at the commencement of the contract

3.1 General description of the target population and hosting areas

The camps covered in this Phase One report are located in Tak Province.²⁹ The three locations are distinctly different. The populations are made of a variety of different ethnic and language groups. Each camp has an extensive informal network developed that allows the refugee to function within the restricted camp environment.

Responsibility for, and authority over, the refugee population is managed by the Ministry of Interior (MOI) on behalf of the Royal Thai Government (RTG). Security is assured through the Royal Thai Army Paramilitary Rangers and the Border Patrol Police. Each camp has a Commander (Palat), usually a nominated person from the province's MOI. Regular meetings are held where all NGOs operating in the camps are able to report on their activities and receive instructions on policy matters.

A Community Elder's Advisory Board operates at the highest level to assist in guiding the work of the refugee committees, camp committee elections and in resolving conflict. Camp affairs are organized through a committee structure made up of refugees. The Camp Committee leader is an elected position, usually with two year tenure. This committee manages the day to day affairs of the camp. Larger camps such as Mae La are further divided into zones and sections, each in turn having its own committee structure.

Of particular interest to this project is the Vocational Training Committee (VTC). The VTC advises on the type of training required, the selection of participants and assists with the management of training delivery. This committee will be a direct beneficiary of the proposed Livelihoods Programme. This will require a complete review of its earlier role and considerable capacity building undertaken to re-orient the Camp Committee members toward the concept of self reliance leading to income earning/generation. For specific detail see **Appendix Six**³⁰

3.2 Degree of access to the labour market

As a preliminary point, when talking about the labour market, it is assumed that this refers to the need for labour outside the camps.

²⁹ A separate report on the unique circumstances surrounding four camps in Mae Hong Son Province is available.

³⁰ These profiles were developed by UNHCR and updated in February 2007

The official position of the National Security Council (NSC) is that there can be no linkage to the local labour market outside the refugee camp. This was reiterated at a meeting with the NGO community in Mae La camp in January 2007 by the representative of the NSC. It was explained that the Government's position is that there be strict adherence to the regulations and that miscreants would be dealt with in accordance with the policies already well known to all. The Camp Commander explained that NGOs should be fully aware that MOI was obliged, as the responsible authority, to implement these directives. NGOs were instructed to refrain from assisting illegal people and illegal visitors who are in the refugee camp as this would be seen as irresponsible behavior.

The informal system

As the report of the Karen Refugee Committee (KRC) suggests there are a large number of informal activities currently being conducted inside the camps.³¹ **Table One** provides a summary of those that could employ the largest numbers as indicated in the survey conducted in January 2007.

Table One: Summary of preferred jobs for Tak province

Location	Mae la	Umpiem	Nu Poh	Total
Paid Activities				
Animal raising	891	446	461	1798
Agriculture	161	21	14	196
Sewing	75	43	31	149
Trading food services etc	178	110	123	411
Thatch making	1092	34	30	1156
Weaving	109	65	261	435
Trading livestock	794	197	- ?	991
Teachers and medics	192	212	144	548
Totals	3492	1128	1064	5684

It is also well known that there are many informal arrangements in place and that some residents work informally outside the camps in direct contravention to Government policy. This is occurring with the tacit agreement of local officials of MOI. The suspicion is that when asked many refugees do not reveal that they are in fact working outside and this skews the data on employment numbers.

The report of ARC (p 34) did however record that refugees would be interested in working in the agricultural cluster, particularly in animal husbandry, but that the availability of suitable land was a major obstacle. The report also recommended that the initial piloting of any such arrangement would focus on the needs of the camps and, if the venture was sustainable and could be expanded, excess production could be sold to local markets.

³¹ The survey was conducted across the seven camps by the KRC to establish what IE/G activities were operating and sought recommendations for additional work activities.

Local Thai economic sectors

Manufacturing

The Federation of Thai Industry (FTI), representing a number of manufactures/producers in Tak Province, has suggested that most employers can absorb more workers. The main products are textiles, ceramics and electronics. They currently hire a large number of workers in establishments in and around Mae Sot, some of whom are from the Burmese, Lao and Cambodian population. The numbers employed include those who have migrant worker status, those who have entered the country illegally and some who have left the camps illegally to work. The FTI would like to see this formalized and is prepared to train to suit their individual skill requirements. FTI has indicated that it is willing to discuss various permutations to engage the refugees in income earning/generating activities. Whether it is economically feasible through piece-work in the camps or on a daily-paid waged basis in enterprises adjoining the camp in Mae La is being assessed at the moment by FTI with particular companies in the immediate area of Mae Sot.

Outside the camp

There are two approaches being discussed. First is the possibility of having refugees engaged as workers in established enterprises in the Mae Sot area. Accommodation can be found by the enterprise. This option is obviously the preference of the enterprise owners. The concern of these owners is that if there was stipulation by MOI that these workers return to the camp frequently and that this is simply uneconomic. The second proposal was to establish a facility to undertake selected production/ manufacturing activities in a location close to the camps. The details are being discussed with the FTI and a more definitive proposal for both options in being developed.

Inside the refugee camp

There have been initial discussions with the FTI to engage refugees inside the Umpiem camp to undertake the knitting of products for external consumption.³² The intention was that yarn and machines would be provided to interested refugees. The goods would be purchased by the respective enterprises for sale on the open market. This suggestion is being further assessed with the assistance of the FTI. Details concerning the rate per piece, the quality of items and the rate of production require further discussion in the second phase.



³² See ARC (2006), p 36.

Agriculture Waged employment

A similar scenario faces the local farmer who faces a seasonal shortage of farm hands and needs access to workers who can assist at various times throughout the agricultural cycle. In discussions with the local public administration officials responsible for liaison with the three refugee camps there would appear to be a number of opportunities for IE/G activities. However where this arrangement is currently in place, the refugees are acting illegally. This complication would be eliminated with the acceptance of the MOI that some refugees can be allowed to work for local landowners. The range of locations that can benefit would then need negotiation with MOI and then regulatory systems developed and a system of monitoring put in place to maintain the concession within the agreed limits.

Agricultural training/production

If the NSC is adamant about having the refugees focus on agriculture, additional access to suitable land, whether inside or adjoining the refugee camps, is essential. This is being discussed with key stakeholders including local government officials responsible to community liaison, the MOI Camp Commander and the Camp Committees and refugees.

The formulation of a sound strategy that is both economical and practical to achieve this is however constrained by a lack of clear direction from the Government as to what they will allow.³³

If the NSC's position is that MOI promote the skills development of refugees and the local Thai community. If this to be achieved it is necessary the RTG make the situation clear concerning the availability of land for this purpose close to each camp. The land needs to be accessible from a public road, have adequate water and have adequate nutrients in the soil to be an effective solution to the current lack of arable land. The use of privately owned land is considered more acceptable as this would deflect any criticism from local inhabitants of favouring the refugees by using government areas. Such an arrangement should include an opportunity for local residents to participate either as trainees, workers or local traders once the produce from any future agricultural activities reach fruition. However access to suitable land needs to be agreed.³⁴

Goods and Services

The sector is truly informal as there is no tax system. Internally there are a number of services that engage people to work for wages. These people are described as "incentive workers". This classifies those refugees whose work is limited to the internal operation of the refugee camps through NGOs and MOI. However other informal sector activities by their very definition are piecemeal, are not operating in a way that develops real growth of the economy and collectively have little impact on the improvement of living conditions.

³³ See the reference to the letter provided by MOI dated 20 December 2006.

³⁴ A series of questions have been drafted to assist in assessing the suitability of land for this purpose.

The distinction between cash and subsistence income in the refugee camps is also difficult to measure where there is no liability for taxation, no savings banks, no commercial micro-finance system, no employment service or system and no official opportunity to be actively engaged in economic sectors in the local economy outside the camps.

Defining those who are economically active as only those who engage in waged or self-employment in what is a traditionally an agrarian society is misleading as many of the needs of the traditional subsistence sector are being realized without the intervention of money. The contribution of women working in the household, cultivating fields, running of a family business and the management of activities within the local community is most likely unpaid but it impacts that economy significantly. This is not being factored in to the discussions when discussing the impact of the informal sector. More effort needs to be made to capture the potential of the women in the camps regardless of labelling it as informal or otherwise.

3.3 Existing training related programmes initiated by UNHCR and other actors

The following **Table Two** shows the training that has been offered over the last three years by ZOA Refugee Care, the major provider of vocational training for Tak province. The various NGO programmes can be classified as being either self reliance and/or income earning and income generation activities depending on the depth of the programme. However there are no base-line skills levels against which the performance of those trained could be measured. If the intent of the proposed Livelihoods Programme is to direct those trained to demand driven jobs it is necessary to establish what entry level skills are required and what level of competence is needed by the employer.

Table Two: ZOA Vocational Training Programme numbers 2003 to 2006

Training course	2003	2004	2005	2006		Total
	Total	Total	Total	Male	Fem	
Agriculture	121	140	147	167	100	267
Animal raising				62	10	72
Auto Mechanic	105	156	260	297	2	299
Bakery Cooking	120	312	342	126	195	321
Basket Weaving	18	19	39	10	0	10
Blacksmithing	10	15	37	28	0	28
Carpentry	10	8	24	31	0	31
Computer Operation	0	0	440	628	410	1038
First Aid	47	52	0	0	0	0
Goat raising	0	0	27	0	0	0
Mini-hydro repair & maint	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handicraft	13	0	0	0	0	0
Knitting	18	78	85	0	128	128
Music	180	238	343	133	107	240

Radio Mechanics	35	22	79	35	0	35
Sewing	122	335	497	24	370	394
Stove Making	18	17	30	41	25	66
Tinsmithing	15	32	53	29	1	30
Typing	25	177	0	0	0	0
Weaving --see TBBC	0	33	32	8	17	25
Fish Breeding see ARC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Raising see ARC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	857	1634	2435	1619	1365	2984

Source: ZOA internal documents January 2007.

There is a programme of dedicated training being offered to the disabled by Handicap International. This extends to a small group within the network of camps to provide aids to the disabled. There are delays in delivery of these aids, due in part to funding for the materials and also the pace at which the trained people can produce the items required. HI has indicated that it will be focusing on improving the training options to be provided to the disabled where it can increase their self reliance. The proposed Livelihoods Programme will mainstream this group where ever possible. As **Table Three** below suggests the number of potential beneficiaries is high.

Table Three: Summary of physically disabled by Camp

Camp	Female	Male	Total
Ban Don Yang	69	86	155
Ban Mae Surin	92	138	230
Mae La	1318	1571	2889
Mae La Oon	399	437	836
Mae Ra Ma			
Luang	344	490	834
Mai Nai Soi	474	637	1111
Nu Po	307	379	686
Tham Hin	192	224	416
Umpium	518	640	1158
Grand Total	3715	4603	8315

Source: UNHCR data February 2007

Late in 2006, with support from UNHCR, the Office of the Non-Formal Education Commission, Ministry of Education (ONFEC) commenced Thai language training in eight camps. The basic Thai language course was provided between September and December and focused on speaking and listening followed by reading and writing. In 2007, the courses focus on intermediate and advanced levels.³⁵ Other agencies have conducted a range of vocational training courses. However they are directed towards income substitution activities.

³⁵ ONFEC, Thai Language Training in Myanmar Refugee Camps Year Book, 2006

3.4 Coping strategies.

The locations

Each camp has its unique character based on the topography, the location relative to the Thai/Myanmar border, the ethnicity of those living in the hinterland, the character of the personnel in authority, both in the camp and the surrounding catchment area and lastly the demographics of the target group. The three camps covered by this report are Mae Ia, Nu Poh and Umpiem. UNHCR has very detailed information on these refugees. Data is broken down into households, age group; those classified as Registered (Active) those awaiting the PAB approval (Hold).³⁶

Informal arrangements.

The capacity for any community to adapt to, and find ways to circumvent any or all of regulations imposed on them is universal. Some refugees have had upwards of 20 years to find ways and means to provide for their families. The various locations of the camps provide different challenges but in each case they have found ways to improve their access to goods and services needed to sustain themselves.

Self-employment and micro-enterprises

These are operating as a service in the camps providing a wide range of goods, some of which are produced within the camps. There are those who offer services for radio repair, food outlets, restaurants and hair dressing. Traders from the surrounding community are selling to micro-enterprises within the camps and some goods in excess are being sold externally.



(Grocery store inside camp)

³⁶ The totals are changing daily due to many factors including illegal movements in and out of the refugee camps. The main one however is the departures due to resettlement which will accelerate in the near future.

A small number of service-related income-generation is available within and bordering the camps for the general public. The report of ARC suggested that in the two camps it surveyed the numbers of refugees working outside the camps is relatively high. See the following **Table Four**.

Table Four: Percentage of existing workers inside/outside camps

Work location	Nu Poh		Umpiem		Ban Dong yang	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Inside	16	48	43	65	13	93
Outside	17	52	23	35	1	7
Sample total	33	100	66	100	14	100

Source: ARC: (5/2006), p17. & ARC (12/2007), p 12

Within that admittedly small sample, over half volunteered that their partner was also involved in an income earning or income generating activity. It is doubtful however if this finding should be generalized across all camps as there are a number of external factors that would make such an assumption doubtful.³⁷ What is important is that there are activities and opportunities to work and that there are lessons to be learned from exploiting the experiences of those who are already engaged in doing so.

Informal employment

Refugees are illegally employed in the catchment areas of the camps as farm labourers, factory workers and general hands. The numbers are difficult to quantify as this is not official and involves a number of different actors, each having a vested interest in maintaining the status quo. However the positive impact of the additional income earned in this way on the internal economy of the camps is clearly evident.

The target group.

Each camp has a diverse population. The range of professed occupations covers a wide spectrum also. To estimate the numbers available for additional income-generation and self-reliance activities it was necessary to establish who was to be excluded. They include those who already:

- I. Are engaged in paid employment with NGOs.
- II. Have ad hoc local permission and are working outside.
- III. Work inside the camp in self-employment/trading/services etc.
- IV. Attend some form of skills development course.
- V. Attend formal education courses .
- VI. Illegally work outside the camp on a daily basis.
- VII. Are long-term absentees elsewhere in Thailand.

³⁷ It is necessary to conduct a study of all camps using the same methodology/check-lists/questionnaires as a means of establishing a baseline against which the impact of any future interventions can be measured. The sample size should be increased and the analysis made using quantitative data analysis techniques.

- VIII. Are classified as physically/mentally incapable of productive work.
- IX. Are not willing to engage in income-generating activities.
- X. Represent religious orders.
- XI. Are engaged in providing services on a voluntary basis. ³⁸

Groups of additional workers

The following groupings are identified as those who would be available to undertake wage employment or engage in some form of self-employment/micro-enterprise. This assumes that sufficient assurances are forthcoming from the Thai Government and that access to credit through a system of micro-finance was possible.

Numbers of additional workers

It is difficult to accurately estimate the number of genuinely unemployed. If the figures generated by UNHCR, based on the stated occupation as described by refugees at registration, can be used as a guide, there are large numbers of both women and men who come from an agricultural background or claim to have no occupation. UNHCR numbers based on the data from December 2005 are shown in **Table Five**

Table Five: Summary of declared occupations at entry --Tak Province camps

Location	Mae la		Umpiem		Nu Poh		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
No Occupation	2857	2884	1295	1013	793	809	4945	4706
Agricultural cluster								
Farmers crop & veg	5629	6245	2045	2358	1155	1295	8829	9898
Farm labour	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Fishermen	16	9	8	2	0	0	24	11
Forestry	30	22	6	1	1	0	37	24
Total	8532	9161	3352	3374	1949	2105	13835	14639
Grand total							28,472	

ZOA, in the application for funding in 2006, defined the target group for their programme as coming from "...the most active population aged between 18 and 45 years old". ³⁹ The pool of people to draw from across the seven camps for vocational training was estimated to be 36,852.

⁴⁰ The numbers estimated above are for the three refugee camps in Tak Province.

³⁸ These groups are volunteers who assist various NGOs, the camp committees and CBOs but do not receive stipends. Should the livelihoods programme be able to improve the opportunity to be paid for work this arrangement would be seriously impacted.

³⁹ See Sub-project Symbol: 06/AB/THA/CM/200(a), *Support to Vocational Training and non-formal education in refugee camps*, Annex A/Revision 1. p1.

⁴⁰ *ibid.*, Table b, p4.

As a means of confirming the estimate of available numbers the Karen Refugee Committee (KRC) requested each leader of the Camp Committee to complete a check list in January 2007. The questions were kept simple as the timeline was short. However the sample size was large and extended down to family level.

Refugees were asked to indicate:

- How many of them are working now and at what type of job?
- How many more positions are available in that job?
- How many more people wish to do that job? and
- How many people want to do new or different jobs?

The numbers did not tally within the report nor did they match other recent studies. The respondents answered as individuals in some cases and as a group/family in others. Some are suspected of making multiple choices. The result however is that within the seven Karen camps alone there are over 12,200 refugees who are not working and who wish to, and over 9000 who wish to work outside the camps. See **Table Six**.

Table Six : Preferred occupations KRC survey, Karen Camps 2007

Preferred occupation	No.
Animal, frog & fish raising	3162
Sewing, knitting & weaving.	1378
Trading livestock	1289
Trading offering food & related services	1072
Agriculture, mushroom growing	759
Medical (including training needs)	571
Mechanical /automotive training	555
Musical training	418
Teachers & paramedics	357
Construction work	280
Shoe making & repair	246
Auto mechanics	227
Candle and soap making	225
NGOs and CBOs	206
Handicrafts	204
Thatch making	170
Movie theatre operator	150
Men's hairdresser	130
Bead and cake making	112

A total of 9166 refugees responding to the KRC request by answering that they were working and simply wanted to be allowed to leave the camp officially. When this was raised with the KRC they explained that these people are at risk as most are already working outside.

3.5 Skill level among refugees

Limited opportunities were available for vocational education to refugees between 2001 and 2003. Some subjects were included in the formal education curricula. However the intention there was most likely to expose students to the types of activities undertaken if they were to choose to work in that field.

The major provider of skills development in Tak Province, the ZOA Vluchtelingen zorg (ZOA Refugee Care, a non governmental organization) entered this field in 2003 with a clear mandate to promote “uniform training programmes across camps” and a common certification system”.⁴¹ As a first step a study was commissioned “...to identify felt needs for vocational training among the refugees and their organizations and establish a suitable baseline of existing vocational skills through the selection of appropriate indicators for use in measurement and assessment of impact”.⁴² The outputs included assessment of the vocational training needs, skill levels of different cohorts and groups and an assessment of existing resources and staff.

Skills training needs

The ZOA report asked a sample of refugees for at least five priority selections undertaken by the baseline study team, from the populations in Mae La, Umpiem and Mae Kong Ka (Mae La Oon).

The report revealed that the priorities refugees wished to undertake differed depending on the age groups. The preferences expressed varied with the younger generation preferring languages and computers and adults opting for agriculture, automotive and construction jobs.⁴³ The provision of computer and language training can only be seen as a social activity in the present environment. If there was to be some flexibility by the RTG to allow refugees to participate within the Thai education programme then the better students could attend Thai tertiary institutions and this would be an important contribution.

The remaining preferences are in line with skills requested from the refugees and RTG’s preferred focus. These should be given similar priority in any future livelihoods Programme. See **Table Seven**

Table Seven: Ranked preferences for skills development Tak Province camps.

Rank	Course description	%
1	Languages	50
2	Computer skills	48
3	Animal raising	46
4	Crop production	38
5	Machine sewing	37

⁴¹ Thai Education Foundation, (2003). Vocational Training for Karen Refugees along the Thai-Burmese Border: Baseline Study, for ZOA Refugee Care, p18.

⁴² *ibid*, p5

⁴³ According to the Karen Youth Organization the age range of youth is from 18 to 35 years.

6	Cooking & baking	29
7	Construction	25
8	First aid/medics	23
9	Soap-making	21
10	Radio mechanics	19
11	Music & dance	19

Source: ZOA (2003), Annex D

Setting baseline standards

The initial interview with each refugee by UNHCR when registering in the camps includes a record of occupation. This information is of little use as a means of establishing skill level. It may in fact not even be the reality as many refugees have gained their skills informally and may have little knowledge of the current competencies required for the stated occupation. The current provider of vocational training in Tak Province camps is not in a position to test competencies of refugees as there is no baseline against which to test. Nor are there people trained to assess prior knowledge, current skill levels or attitudes to work.

Whether such sophistication is needed is debatable. However if the current restrictions of the MOI are lifted to allow pilot projects that develop employable skills some base line skills standards need to be set. Establishing those standards would therefore be realistically set by conducting a job profiling exercise. This would involve a number of local employers, the worker's organization and competent Thai skilled employees in typical enterprises.

The ZOA baseline report established a series of four skill levels. These ranged from 0 to 3, and were self-administered. This revealed that at that time, i.e. 2003, a significant percentage of the sample of refugees considered they were skilled to a basic (1) or intermediate level (2) in a wide range of occupations. It is noted that here was certain degree of correlation between the level of professed skills and the needs identified earlier with women indicating preference for sewing and cooking while men focused on the agricultural sector, namely crop production and animal husbandry.

The same report suggested that it was not possible to link this anecdotal information to any existing skill standard as in fact none existed at that time. There was a clear recommendation that a process be put in place to establish a set of three standards, namely basic, intermediate and advanced. It was also suggested that formal vocational education subjects follow the same curricula in an endeavour to create a link with the basic course level for skills training. A further point was that a system of assessment to determine current knowledge and prior qualifications be introduced to ensure that those possessing sufficient skills be awarded the appropriate level of certificate, regardless of whether they attended a formal or non-formal course.

By doing so it was postulated that the skill level to be achieved in any course would be linked to the difficulty of the competencies identified during a thorough analysis of the occupational requirements. The report also stressed that competencies must be described in a way which takes into account the quality standard of the work to be performed, the conditions under which the tasks are accomplished and the cost in terms of time and materials. However the

report was reluctant to undertake such analysis suggesting that as the jobs did not currently exist this was not possible. A curriculum development workshop was mooted toward the end of 2003 to develop course outlines, agree standards and set competencies assessment of skills attained.

The eight (8) occupational clusters recommended were:

- (i) Rural livelihoods including small scale poultry raising, homestead vegetable production, food preparation, hand sewing, basic carpentry, soap making, nutrition and first aid,
- (ii) Agriculture including poultry production, vegetable production, paddy rice cultivation,
- (iii) Food processing including small scale milling/drying /storage, snack food, sauces, pastes and preserve production,
- (iv) Textiles and garments covering sewing and weaving,
- (v) Engineering for mechanical and electrical repairs and maintenance,
- (vi) Construction offering carpentry for the housing market, electrical installation, brick laying, plastering, tiling and reinforced concrete work,
- (vii) Business skills including communications and accounting supported by computer courses and
- (viii) Occupational literacy that ensures that the vocabulary used and applied in the labour market is understood.

Skills analysis

No attempt was made during Phase One of the Livelihoods project to analyze the levels of skill of those trained by ZOA and others. Tracer studies conducted by ZOA of those who have passed through their courses were not considered useful as the only comments are from the trainees themselves. Few, if any employers contribute as most of the trainees are engaged in self-employment or operating micro-enterprises in collaboration with other residents in the refugee camps. Those trained who are employed inside the camp in the areas in which they are trained are limited to a few hired to assist NGOs. Employment outside the camp is not allowed at this time although it is suspected that some are being hired by enterprises in the immediate area. They cannot be traced at this time.

The subsequent action taken by ZOA since 2003 to follow through on the recommendation concerning skill levels has been achieved in most instances. Competencies have been developed, modular packages have been written, some basic level standards have been set and certificates issued. Unfortunately the materials are in Karen or Burmese and cannot be triangulated without going into a convoluted translation exercise using experts from each field to evaluate the content.

In 2006 a Mid-Term Review of the overall ZOA programme was undertaken.⁴⁴ The report stated that there had been insufficient progress made to establish detailed standards. The report suggested three (3) tiered system of skills levels for each course is not mentioned in the

⁴⁴ Thai Education Foundation, (May 2006). "*Mid-term review of the vocational training for Burmese displaced persons*", a report for ZOA Refugee Care, Bangkok

report. Mention was made that the system-wide common assessment criteria had yet to be developed as the baseline report had suggested.

As an alternative means of establishing whether the courses had provided sufficient employable skills the mid-term review team asked the trained people to self-assess their skills and knowledge following course completion. The results are anecdotal and cannot be used as a means of establishing the internal efficiency of the programme as they are not linked to any known baseline skill or knowledge statements. In most instances those trained were quite content with the additional skills and knowledge they acquired. The same could be said for the results of responses from Vocational Training (VT) instructors and the VT committee. It is of little value to ask the people responsible for the delivery and supervision of a training programme to comment on its efficiency and effectiveness. External efficiency can only be determined by the market. Unfortunately there is no market. A more useful analysis would have been to ask the teachers and the VT committee what they saw as the short-comings of the programme in general, especially in terms of physical, financial and human resources and how this impacts the overall performance

Courses available

It is noted in ZOA's 2006 mid-term review that more recently there have been some significant shifts recommended in the types of courses offered, delivery strategies and assessment procedures used, the duration of courses, the increased need to have new instructors trained and the expansion of the number being trained. It is also evident that the priorities for skills recommended in 2003 have shifted.⁴⁵ Courses are being offered in many of the occupations in the eight clusters mentioned above.

There could be a number of reasons for the shift. Limited budgets restrict the intake of trainees into courses. Course planning and the related budgets have been "globally" determined, i.e. a lump sum basis for a programme is requested rather than a unit cost calculation.⁴⁶ This approach to budgeting results in a lack of sufficient capital equipment, minor tooling and consumables being available to conduct courses with high unit costs. The high turnover of teachers exacerbates the problem as poorly trained staff gives courses they facilitate a bad reputation. The use of inappropriate technologies in courses can also create confusion for trainees. Unless the technology is available in the market there is little point in introducing it at the level the current programme is addressing.⁴⁷ Inadequate facilities including a lack of public utilities are also factors that reduce the attractiveness of training courses.

⁴⁵ This could be because there are other NGOs providing some training. However from information gathered to date only the KWO is catering for sewing and WEAVE is delivering weaving courses. As of today (25 01 2007) little more is known.

⁴⁶ Unit costs have been developed by ZOA as a basis for future funding requests. They will be used as baseline costs, compared with performance against the skills to be achieved to meet the MOE standards and adjusted accordingly following pilots in 2007.

⁴⁷ There are few if any motor vehicles in the camps. The existing courses should focus on small two- and four-stroke engines, generators, pumps for wells and petrol driven farm implements. This requires different tools, spares and related equipment. It can also be taught in smaller workshop facilities.

There are other political issues outside the control of the VT committee, ZOA or even the refugees in the community itself that impact negatively on the delivery of appropriate courses. The restrictions placed on movement of the refugees by the MOI may well have influenced the type of course sought by refugees. Agriculture-related courses, whilst initially preferred require access to significant amounts of land, something that has, until now been impossible to obtain in sufficient amounts to make it worthwhile.

Appropriate skills

What is appropriate for the target group? The suggestion made by the ZOA 2003 report was that all trainees be assessed for current knowledge and prior qualifications. Assuming that there are some who would pass through this without attending a course they could be fast-tracked into the job specific courses. The balance would first be assessed and a decision taken whether to (i) provide survival skills to ensure they can participate in civil society and then (ii) direct them to wage employment or (iii) provide skills development for known income-generation possibilities.

The options would equip the younger generation to live in a changing world, one that is more technologically advanced than their own. These courses are known as core skills or life skills and prepare people to work in the modern world. The older adults may need to be put through a programme such as the one proposed by the ZOA 2003 report, namely a rural livelihoods course that ensures they are well grounded in the essentials needed for rural life. Those with an entrepreneurial profile would be encouraged during earlier training to participate in modules to sensitize them to the needs of the micro/small business world. Experience suggests that as few as five (5) percent are likely to select this option and half of those will not follow through. It is therefore not economic to put all skills trainees through such modules.

To determine the necessary level required it is essential to measure the skills needed in the market. The market is limited to the refugee camps and unless there is agreement for interaction in the hinterland of each refugee camp providing skills to match the local labour market may be ineffectual. Should this be possible the skill level must be aligned with the capacity of the people in the catchment area to pay for the good or service. The three (3) level skills system proposed by ZOA Refugee Care based on these requirements should be developed further and certification based on the competencies achieved. Certificates should describe the competencies as written in the approved assessment document on the back of the certificate. This will be arranged in collaboration with the Thai Ministry of Education (MOE). However the suggestion that certification should be aligned with the MOE's non-formal programme is untenable unless the trainees are allowed to interact with the facility that trains Thais. The existing ZOA workshops are totally inadequate for that level of programme. A Project within the proposed Livelihoods Programme will address the shortfall of skills development resources.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ See Section D (iii) of the Phase Two Report

3.6 Environmental conditions in the camps and hosting areas

Following a series of visits to each of the three sites the only conclusion that can be reached is that, if taking the physical definition of the environment as a first assumption, the degradation of the environment is serious. This will continue in and around the refugee camps until the recommendations of the reports such as the one prepared by the Asian Institute of Technology for Mae La camp are implemented.⁴⁹ The activities of the Border Green Energy Group should also be further supported in each camp through increased funding for mini-hydro and solar power installation.

Areas in the catchment area of the camp are being damaged by encroachment and pilfering of natural resources such as bamboo and fuel wood. This is because the international community is unable to adequately cover the needs of residents for additional materials to extend houses (due in part to increases in family size).



(De-forestation of the land beside Umpiem Mai camp)

It is understood that there is a limit to what can be covered to provide support to the residents within existing budgets. The MOI prohibits the building of permanent structures and hence repair to individual houses is a continuous activity. However solutions need to be developed so that the resources required can be found in sufficient quantity to solve the problem. The use of alternative building materials may be a partial solution.

Requesting the assistance of local government officials to manage the controlled extraction of natural materials may provide an alternative. This process would require a study that identifies

⁴⁹ Polprasert, P., Bergado, D., Koottatep, T., and Tanchaisawat, T. (2006). Report on water and environmental sanitation assessment of Mae La temporary shelter, Thasongyang District, Tak Province Thailand, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok

the impact of selective extraction, sets limits on an area by area basis and is managed by a Thai government official. The selection of a contractor could be through a tender process within each camp and the identification of suitable participants overseen by the Camp Committee.

A second interpretation of “environmental conditions” could refer to the learning environment. When considering the various options to improve opportunities for residents to undertake income-generation to increase self-reliance, the impact on the internal camp’s environment as well as the catchment area must be taken into account in any future training programme.

Existing training courses will be reviewed and, when new ones are developed, each will contain modules that explain and inform on the correct procedures to follow when using/reusing materials that are hazardous to the environment. Where possible the best use of appropriate new and renewable sources of energy will be encouraged. Efficient use of all energy sources will be stressed and where possible recycling will be encouraged. Correct procedures for disposal of organic and hazardous materials will also be an integral part of any training programme.

Finally the environment in the camps to promote a sense of dignity and self-respect is totally lacking. The incredible resilience of the people is remarkable given that they are officially restrained in almost every aspect of their lives. Given the uncertainties that face the residents the degree of apathy and potential for atrophy, especially within and between the youth who make up the majority of the population, is unlikely to improve until some changes are introduced to allow increased opportunity, without risk, to engage in normal productive activities associated with the any functioning civil society

3.7 Skills that should be developed to enhance self-reliance of refugees

Previous reports have suggested a wide range of possibilities to engage residents of the camps in training courses. The objective of these courses has been until recently focused on the humanitarian aspects and as such have provided a valuable outlet for many who are frustrated with their circumstances and have little or no other interests.

Opportunities to practice the skills learned, however, have been almost non-existent and as a result they have been depleted often to the point where retaining would be needed if an employment opportunity were to present itself. This is especially true of the technology based courses such as automotive and small engines.

Skills training offered under the conditions found in the camps is considered to have limited value if not linked to actual income generation. Whilst it is understood that these linkages are difficult to determine, they should now be included in any future decision making process by UNHCR that influences resource allocation.

The supply side

The CCSDPT/UNHCR's Draft Comprehensive Plan (CP) for 2006, in its assessment of gaps in services, highlighted the need for education and vocational training ⁵⁰ The plan highlights the lack of adequate resources as one of the major factors impacting the current vocational training programme being offered by NGOs. The CP also mentions the relaxation of the earlier MOI policy that the product of any training, should [whether the production of a product or a service] be confined to income substitution, termed as "household consumption" in the document. With that in mind the CP moves to promote increased opportunities through additional projects to generate income with products both inside and outside the camps. The CP does not elaborate on specifics. ⁵¹

However members of CCSDPT have been active in preparing proposals for vocational training. In addition reports prepared recently have suggested a wide range of possibilities to engage refugees in training courses.

Of particular importance are the various surveys conducted by ZOA, the major provider of vocational training, who commissioned a study that involved the residents in each location in a protracted exercise in an attempt to establish what they preferred. A summary of enrolment in the three Tak Province camps is seen in **Table Eight**

Table Eight: ZOA Refugee Care enrolments 2006

No	Course title	Mae La (i) ***				Umpiem **				Nu Poh **			
		No	Fe	M	T	No	Fe	M	T	No	Fe	M	T
1	Agriculture	4	28	45	73	2	8	21	29	5	48	75	123
2	Animal husbandry	0	0	0	0	5	10	42	52	0	0	0	0
3	Auto-mechanics	3	0	132	132	0	0	0	0	1	0	16	16
4	Basket weaving	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	02
5	Blacksmithing	1	0	4	4	1	0	5	5	2	0	7	7
6	Carpentry	0	0	0	0	2	0	31	31	0	0	0	0
7	Computer operation	6	196	304	500	4	64	98	162	3	26	94	120
8	Cooking & bakery	5	55	56	111	4	40	32	72	0	0	0	0
9	Knitting	4	128	0	128	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Music	1	57	26	83	0	0	0	0	3	6	86	94
11	Radio mechanics	2	0	35	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Sewing	3	57	0	57	4	76	8	84	3	60	1	61
13	Stove-making	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	7	0	0	0	0
14	Tinsmithing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Weaving	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	29			1123				390	17			423

Note: Course lengths vary in some locations.

Source: ZOA Mae Sot Office provided on 26/01/07

*** In collaboration with KHWA, KWO, KYO, Peace Music & the Camp VT Committee

⁵⁰ CCSDPT/UNHCR, (2006). A draft comprehensive plan addressing the needs of displaced persons on the Thailand/Myanmar (Burma) border in 2006. Project proposals developed in 2006 focus predominantly on income substitution for self reliance.

⁵¹ The individual projects developed as part of this Livelihood Project (which are detailed in the Phase Two report) have since been incorporated into the revised "CCSDPT/UNHCR Comprehensive Plan for 2007-08", May 2007, pp. 56-71

** In collaboration with the Camp VT Committee

The demand side

Due in part to the possible relaxation of the regulations by the MOI on movement of refugees it is now considered important to reassess employment needs. This must be determined; not only by the refugee's preferences, but in close collaboration with local employers to measure the labour market's potential to absorb additional workers.

Analysis of all the documentation, anecdotal evidence and the various reports indicates that there is a wide diversity of views and opinions as to what should be given priority. This was then followed up with the MOE's Mae Sot Polytechnic. They have some similar short courses. The following **Table Nine** demonstrates where there is common ground between what is available in the polytechnic and the priorities of the camp residents.

Table Nine: Consolidated list of actual & potential courses

Nine A. Courses available from MOE's polytechnic

List of the most frequently requested training courses	Available short course curricula from VET/MOE through the Polytechnic in Mae Sot	
	VEC ID. No.	Title
Automotive repair & maintenance	1101-8205	Automotive maintenance
Bakery & bread making	1402-1301, 1402-1302, 1402-1303	Bakery 1, Bakery 2, Cake & cake decoration
Beauty salon – [women]	1403-1206, 1403-1207, 1403-1103	Shampooing- Hair setting, Hair cutting – Permanent waving Manicure -- Pedicure
Electric appliance repair	1401-3301	Electrical appliance repair
Electric motor rewind/repair	1104-3304	Electrical motor repair & rewind
Furniture making	1106-2302 1106-6201	Wood furniture production Furniture finishing
Motor cycle repair & maintenance	1101-1201 1101- 1402	Motor cycle servicing Motor cycle repair
Radio repair & maintenance	1105 – 2302 1105-2307	Radio receiver/Tape repair CD,VCD Player repair
Sewing & dressmaking [female]	1401-1202, 1401-1204, 1401-1314	Basic women's clothing Modern women's clothing 1 Modern women's clothing 2
Small eng/pump/generator repair & maintenance	1101-2202	Small engines

Nine B: Consolidated list of all requests from all sources.

Course requested	Course requested
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chili production ○ Fruit production ○ Hydroponics farming ○ Mushroom production ○ Organic fruit tree growing ○ Vegetable production • Animal husbandry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cattle breeding ○ Fish breeding ○ Frog raising ○ Goat raising ○ Pig raising ○ Poultry raising • Appropriate technology applications • Automotive repair & maintenance • Bakery & bread making • Basket weaving • Beauty salon – [women] • Blacksmithing • Building construction • Commercial • Industrial • Business development services • Candle making/production • Carpentry [residential] • Commercial artistry • Commercial recycling • Computer operation • Domestic waste management • Entrepreneurship & micro enterprise development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aid • Furniture making • Hairdressing – [male] • Knitting [hand] • Metal box & container manufacture • Mini hydro electrical generation • Mobile phone repair • Motor cycle repair & maintenance • Musical instruments • Pottery • Product design [knitting & weaving] • Radio repair & maintenance • Road repair & maintenance • Sewing & dressmaking [female] • Sign & banner making • Small engine/pump/generator repair & maintenance • Soap making/production • Solar panel/instrumentation repair & maintenance • Stove making • Tailoring [male] • Thai language • Tinsmithing • Traditional handicrafts/art/crafts • Translation & interpretation services • Typing • Water harvesting • Weaving [manual back & frame loom]

Note: Items in **BOLD** are those most frequently requested

Determining external labour market potential

An approach was made to the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) to provide an overview of the local economy and more specifically identify where the labour market needs are and what likely numbers are required for those who wish to be engaged in wage employment. This would be limited to either piece work within the camps or as production workers in an enterprise.

Whether it is a viable proposition to have an enterprise located at, or near the camps is unclear. The FTI has indicated that it would require the MOI's prior written acceptance of either arrangement before moving forward with this possibility. When asked about the possibility of having workers placed in existing factories they also expressed concern regarding the mixing of

migrant and refugee workers. The Chamber of Commerce, when asked how they would like to utilize any labour, indicated that they were not in need of additional workers at this time.

3.8 Impact of livelihoods strategy in local communities and potential cooperation.

The MOI has insisted that any new initiatives related to the improvement of income earning/income generation should be shared with the local communities. Contact was made with local public administration officials responsible for the immediate catchment area around each camp and discussion held on the impact on the community of the camp population. A summary of the key points raised by the representatives follows:

(i) Mae La.

Positives

In terms of the impact of the camp it was felt that on balance the local community has benefited due in part to the services available in the camp allowing local people to have greater access to medical and educational services, improved transportation and increased business opportunities within the camp infrastructure.

Negatives

There have, over the last few years, been a number of criminal activities perpetrated by the refugees. These have been handled by the local authorities and the numbers are considered to be normal for the size of the population concerned. However there are more troubling incursions by refugees in to the hinterland where the search for fuel wood and bamboo products which has seriously reduced the local people's traditional access to the same materials. Refugees are continually stripping areas to expand their dwellings as there is no other source of building materials. The local official expressed concern at this situation.

Initiatives to be piloted

The idea of increased income-generating opportunities was greeted with some scepticism both within the camp and outside. This attitude was the direct result of previous experience where numerous similar surveys had been conducted and no visible follow up had resulted.⁵²

Attempts to introduce small pilot income-generating agricultural projects in the immediate hinterland were discussed. It was explained that the intention was to seek agreement with local private land owners to rent/lease a sufficient area to undertake training in agriculture related activities. Assuming this was agreed the intention would be to develop a joint approach that engaged the local community as partners in such a venture.

The suggestion that the manufacturing sector would establish local enterprises to hire camp residents was received with similar caution. Earlier arrangements had been cancelled because of RTG's reversal of earlier policies and there was every chance, given the present political uncertainties that this could occur again.

⁵² The report on water and sanitation was extensively discussed with all concerned.

The local public administrative officer was receptive to the ideas but qualified this by suggesting that the MOI should first issue clear directives as to how the whole process can be administered, managed and implemented.

(ii) Nu Poh

Positives

The local community has access to the medical facilities provided in-camp which is essential due to the relative isolation of the area from public health facilities. Micro enterprises are supplied with local agricultural products and trading in staple foods such as rice is also a benefit to the local community. Refugees who do receive camp passes to work locally are good workers, though the camp-pass duration needs to be extended.

Negatives

Refugees have extensively depleted the natural resources in the forest. Deer, monkey and fish have been taken which denies local people of their traditional sources. Natural food such as dog-fruit and bamboo shoots are also taken and land is stripped for agriculture without permission. There is concern that the number of camp residents is increasing even though there are departures due to resettlement. The relative isolation of the camp excludes any potential for waged work for manufacturing. Enterprises are reluctant to invest there.

Initiatives to be piloted

The local public administration official suggested that:

- There needs to be regular meetings between the Camp Committee and the local public administration officials.
- The possibility of fencing the camp should be explored.
- There is a shortfall of labour during the peak harvesting periods that should be filled by refugees.

Attempts to introduce small pilot income-generating agricultural projects in the immediate hinterland were discussed. This is already being carried out in the camp and on land immediately adjacent to it. The quantity is, however much less than the needs of the camp.

It was explained that the intention was to seek agreement with local private land owners to rent/lease a sufficient area to undertake training in agriculture related activities. Assuming this was agreed, the intention would be to develop a joint approach that engaged the local community as partners in such a venture. The official suggested that the village headman be engaged to assist in any plan to utilize private land. It was suggested that a proposal be drawn up and the idea negotiated with him before making any further commitments.

(iii) Umpiem

The Chairman of the district council, in the company of the local public administration official responsible for Umpiem Camp, expressed encouragement for the idea of an agricultural plot on private land.

Positives

The local community has access to the medical facilities. This is essential due to the relative isolation of the area, especially in emergencies. Micro enterprises are supplied with local agricultural products and trading in staple foods such as rice is also a benefit to the local community.

Transport systems passing the camp are locally owned and the increase in earnings is a positive benefit to local vehicle owners.

Negatives

The suggestion that refugees be allowed to move away from the camp on a long-term basis was not favoured.

The idea of a small holding near the camp being unattended of an evening was seen as a possible problem. The idea that local people would be involved and that there may be a way of ensuring security was not considered viable either. The suggestion that women from the local community would be welcome to participate in the agricultural activities was not seen as a good idea and it was doubted they would be very forthcoming, at least initially until there was some stability in the way the property was run.

Initiatives to be piloted

The exploration of increased income-generating opportunities to support additional livelihood activities to be undertaken by the camp residents within the camp and outside was extensively discussed.

Attempts to introduce small pilot income-generating agricultural projects in the immediate hinterland were discussed. As in the other two camps it was explained that the intention was to seek agreement with local private land owners to rent/lease a sufficient area to undertake training in agriculture related activities. Assuming this was agreed the intention would be to develop a joint approach that engaged the local community as partners in such a venture. Existing areas around the camp are being exploited by NGOs to provide agricultural goods to the camp. If this current activity is under threat from any expansion it is better, in their view, to leave the situation as is.

Conclusions

The Camp Committee and the Vocational Training Committee were sceptical of the proposed UNHCR/ILO programme saying that this has been discussed extensively in the past with a variety of international organizations with no visible progress ever being seen. If agreement can be reached with MOI to expand the amount of land and produce more fresh food this would be most welcome. However it would take a number of years to establish any real expansion as the availability of water is a real challenge.

3.8 The availability of (i) local training providers, (ii) local micro-finance institutions and (iii) local business advisory services that partnerships can be developed with to provide sustainable support.

(i) Local training providers:

Royal Thai Government:

The Ministry of Education's Vocational Education Commission has agreed to assist with the proposed Livelihoods Programme. The request was made to access short course curricula, training aids and to assist with teacher training of vocational staff. This is to be carried out in collaboration with interested NGOs and requires further clarification as to how the collaboration can be implemented. The Mae Sot Polytechnic Institute has been alerted to this and agreed to discuss various modalities. The Ministry of Labour's Department of Skills Development has also offered to assist with similar materials. This will be followed up during Phase II.

Non Government Organizations

NGOs have carried the major burden for education and skills development in the refugee camps. The programme, for what is locally known as vocational training, during 2007 is being provided by a number of NGOs, each with its separate niche, and each continuously seeking funding on an annual and sometimes half-yearly basis.

The emphasis, until recently, has been to provide courses that were requested by the refugees and the camp committees to support the various activities in the camps. In some cases they were to provide an outlet for otherwise unemployed youth and adults. Some courses were seen as a social outlet for those who were unable to engage meaningful activities supporting other NGO initiatives. Few were seen as a means of developing an employable skill. Those who may have reached such a level were generally thwarted as there were few opportunities to receive payment for services. This has created skepticism, especially among youth as to the purpose of any skills development.

(ii) Local micro-finance institutions.

Micro-finance (MF) has been widely recognized as a powerful tool for alleviating poverty, raising living standards, creating jobs, and boosting economic growth. However, the use of micro-finance and its role in development vary from one country to another. For a MF system to be successful within the refugee community the beneficiaries should be relatively stable. The targeted individual(s) need to be able to receive adequate support from an established network of professionals who can assist throughout the complete business cycle. This requires coverage to meet the growing need for micro- and small enterprises and home-based economic activities,

to access credit and other financial services. The success of such initiatives in the current situation depends on these basic conditions. They are not able to be met at this time.

Compared to other parts of Thailand, there is no commercial microfinance available to the refugee community. The conditions prevailing in the camps and the hinterland over the last two decades have not allowed any real saving to be made, no collateral can be used and there is therefore no likelihood, even if a commercial micro-finance option was available, that the refugee would qualify.

Where MF is available at present it is piecemeal, private and possibly exploitative. In the report of ARC it was noted that credit was being provided within the two camps surveyed for some 25 percent of the respondents in the sample.⁵³ The conditions of access to such credit have not been determined.

Barriers such as political uncertainty, macro-economic instability, inadequate infrastructure, lack of security and the debilitating effects of persecution hindered the process of developing any type of sound economy (e.g. the absence of even a rudimentary financial sector). To overcome this situation customized micro-finance services to refugee communities can play a crucial role to support micro and small enterprises. Experience suggests that micro-enterprises owned and managed by well-prepared entrepreneurs who start such ventures with a sound understanding of the principles and practices are most likely to survive and grow if given adequate technical and financial advice and support throughout the *complete* business cycle.

Whilst the provision of seed money for credit delivery is needed, there is a prerequisite requirement to develop sound concepts, determine the scope and identify the limitations so that good practices can be adapted to the unique circumstances found in the camps.

This particular initiative requires funding initially through a project to establish the tools, adapted from other sources where possible, to pilot micro-finance for specific well-thought out business development plans. These need to be encouraged and headed by enthusiastic entrepreneurs who are committed over a period of time to the idea they have developed. Efforts in any such project must initially focus on and specifically be tailored to assist in the capacity building and awareness raising for government officials and practitioners from several NGOs on principles, methodologies, good practices and tools of micro-finance

Sources of money in the camps

The different sources of personal funds vary, but in very few exceptions, are considered insufficient to finance a micro-enterprise. When requesting information on future income-generation activities the lack of start-up funds was continually raised. Additionally it was observed that the focus group people were not familiar with the concept of self-employment/micro-enterprise development, financing, profit, savings, etc.

⁵³ See ARC, 2006:p25.

The following responses are summarized from discussions with several focus groups on the possible sources available to tap for loans.

- Resources brought into Thailand when first arriving.
- Payment for personal items sold to others inside and outside the camp
- Income from trading goods and services in the camp.
- Wages paid for working outside the camp.
- Loans from other residents/family inside the camp.
- Loans from outside the camp from associates.
- Income from goods sold on consignment.
- Funds from Diaspora.
- Funds from relatives in Myanmar.
- Stipends from NGO employment.
- Grants from projects/NGOs.

Other issues raised included:

- Lack of access to a bank.
- Lack of access to micro-finance from any source.
- Uncertainty as to the conditions for loans.
- Understanding of the concept of interest.
- The strictures surrounding repayment conditions
- Definitions and understanding the need for collateral.
- Fear of the payment rates of private money-lenders.
- Lack of confidence in group assurance strategies. ⁵⁴
- Instability caused through continual changes in policy. ⁵⁵
- Lack of adequate support to develop a business venture. ⁵⁶
- Lack of understanding the business cycle. ⁵⁷
- Lack of post training support at the micro-enterprise.

(iii) Local business advisory services.

Further to the explanation of the basic criteria for a successful micro-finance system, an essential component within that system is the provision of a business advisory service. Access to the sorts of knowledge and experience needed to develop, maintain and sustain any viable business requires a sound business plan. Given the circumstances surrounding the camps, especially the fact that the refugees have been "warehoused" for extended periods, the idea of being "in

⁵⁴ The continuous movement of residents, whether to work outside, return to Myanmar or to third countries results in a shifting population so that any group homogeneity is difficult to sustain.

⁵⁵ The concerns here were that the camp rules are in contradiction with the official rules applied by the MOI. Secondly the possibility of resettlement in a third country, a preferred option in some cases means they are reluctant to commit to any long-term initiatives such as micro-enterprises.

⁵⁶ There are few documented models for the residents to copy. This should be provided in any BDS training delivery based on real experiences.

⁵⁷ Given that there is no official agreement to actually conduct a micro-enterprise the opportunity to understand the complete s cycle is not surprising.

business", rather than simply using the money to provide additional family income will require a radical change on the part of those currently trading.

More importantly it will become necessary to provide a comprehensive business development service covering the processes involved. Currently this is covered as follows:

- ARC is providing a service to potential business people through the use of a series of commercially developed simulation exercises in Mai La, Nu Poh and Ban Dong Yang camps.
- A proposal to deliver this type of training in Ban Mai Nai Soi has been received from Hilfswerk Austria, an international NGO. ⁵⁸
- IRC is providing training in designing business plans and providing start-up resources for micro-enterprises in Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang, Ban Mae Nai Soi and Ban Nai Surin.
- A proposal FROM Price Waterhouse Coopers to assess income-generation potential in Ban Dong Yang. ⁵⁹
- WEAVE is supplying small business grants to the KWO in each of the seven Karen camps.

In addition the ILO has an extensive set of products related to this initiative including packages entitled:

- Know about business. Start your Business. Improve your business. Expand your business.
- Training for Economic Empowerment (Community Based Training)
- Training and Employment Needs Assessment

These packages must be delivered by trained trainers to ensure that the delivery follows an approved process.

⁵⁸ See the Proposal described in the bibliography as Hilfswerk Austria, (November, 2006).

⁵⁹ See the proposal described in the bibliography as Price Waterhouse Coopers (January, 2007)

SECTION 4: CONSIDERATIONS

4.1. Strategic Considerations

The Thai government faces a number of dilemmas. There is a need to have more labour in the Tak Province to overcome seasonal and factory-based wage employment. The pull factor for Myanmar residents is increased by the unsettled political situation in Myanmar.

The recent coup in Thailand appears to have effectively frozen any new political initiatives. The decision to liaise with ILO to undertake this research whilst entirely feasible, suffers from the timing of the activity, which was planned before the coup and commenced during the tenure of the current interim government. Until the current political uncertainties at the macro level are resolved any initiative (such as the one proposed by the previous Prime Minister) to engage refugees in income earning and income generating activities through initiative such as the Livelihoods Programme is unlikely to receive support.

4.2 UNHCR mandate

The role of UNHCR as an agency providing protection for refugees is, in the case of Thailand, a seemingly never ending battle to ensure the refugees are treated in accordance with international conventions and standards. This, it appears, is their most valuable contribution to the lives of those affected by the political machinations of the SPDC in Myanmar.

Resettlement is being seen as a means for UNHCR to assist those affected. However the pull factor is strong and the continuous flow of people from across the border is adding to the frustrations, not only of UNHCR, but the Provincial Government, those NGOs providing services and local Thai authorities.

The option to be integrated into Thai society is not possible according to the RTG. Therefore durable solutions are limited to resettlement or repatriation. In the first instance this is a long and very frustrating experience for all concerned and can never be seen as the complete solution. Both options provide challenges. The view of the KRC is that the people are not willing to return until there is a guarantee of safety and acknowledgement of the right of the Karen and Karenni to self determination. This has been discussed extensively and there would appear to no solution in sight.

The proposal of the Thai and Myanmar Governments to promote a “contract farming” option, i.e. to promote investment with improved infrastructure and road transport access, to allow refugees to return to predetermined areas adjacent to the border within Myanmar and to engage in farming as a means of earning an income, does not appear to be viable at this time. The refugees are fully aware that this shift of location would effectively cancel their status as

refugees thus removing any protection or rights they have under many relevant international conventions. Such a move would also put them at risk of serious human rights violations within Myanmar. The UNHCR and CCSDPT has advised that this should not be considered as an option.

There has been an impression that by conducting this research UNHCR intends to assume responsibility for all such related NGO activities that have a connection to livelihoods. Discussions have been held and all concerned have been assured that the Livelihoods Programme (LHP) is being developed to provide support for on-going NGO programmes. The expectation is that where there is potential to improve current programmes to improve self reliance and/or meet agreed skill levels NGOs would be asked to determine how they can be assisted to ensure that refugees can reach those levels of confidence and competence.

4.3 ILO Mandate

The role of the International Labour organization (ILO) is described in a joint statement prepared by UNHCR and ILO in 2004.

The ILO formulates international labour standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations setting minimum standards of basic labour rights: freedom of association, the right to organize, collective bargaining, abolition of forced labour, equality of opportunity and treatment, and other standards regulating conditions across the entire spectrum of work related issues.

ILO provides technical assistance primarily in the fields of:

- Vocational training and vocational rehabilitation;
- Employment policy;
- Labour administration;
- Labour law and industrial relations;
- Working conditions;
- Management development;
- Cooperatives;
- Social security;
- Labour statistics and occupational safety and health.

ILO promotes the development of independent employers' and workers' organizations and provides training and advisory services to those organizations. Within the UN system, the ILO has a unique tripartite structure with workers and employers participating as equal partners with governments in the work of its governing organs.

The capacity of ILO to undertake this project is not in doubt. However this will require further discussion to determine whether this is a real option.

SECTION 5: PHASE ONE CONCLUSIONS

The research to date has determined that there are a number of useful and potentially important initiatives being offered that should be supported in any future move toward improving the overall situation with regard to refugees. To improve livelihoods, whether it is additional opportunities or access to waged employment, self employment, or through micro enterprises requires addressing a number of gaps in protection.

A Livelihoods Programme is proposed to

- (i) Develop pilot projects inside and outside the camps with the participation of NGO's already having extensive local experience,
- (ii) Promote integration and participation with the local Thai community and
- (iii) Build trust with the Thai Government by demonstrating the efficacy of such pilots as a means of benefiting both the refugee and the local population.

5.1 A Programme approach

A Programme such as the one being proposed requires a structure supported by NGOs who, because of their existing capacity, and with added financial and technical assistance, are willing to contribute.

The current thinking is that there would be a number of projects within the LHP. Currently there are eight such projects envisaged; namely, agriculture in and outside the camp, vocational training in camp, liaison with MOE in Mae Sot, waged employment both in and outside the camp, appropriate technology in and outside the camp, support for the disabled in camp and finally an LHP Coordination Unit.

5.2 NGO Project strengthening

The intention is to determine what is needed by NGOs to ensure that refugees can be trained to meet entry level employable skills. Pro formas for specific projects are being developed for distribution to each potential NGO implementing partner.

Each LHP Project would address the following gaps/opportunities through pilots in selected camps. The success of the pilots would be used as a basis for potential expansion in the future.

Agriculture within the camps is being conducted within certain limitations. Where those limitations are resourced-based the amount required to reach competence and full potential would be identified by this Project and resources sought to remedy the shortfall.

Agricultural activities on private land outside the camp requires research and eventual funding. NGOs will be asked to consider if they wish to be involved in such a project.

Vocational training courses requiring reorientation to increase self reliance and income generation. The type, duration, level and assessment procedures for those courses required by the internal camp and the immediate external labour market require review and upgrading. This will be covered by a refocused project.

Setting standards that meet local requirements is to be established in close cooperation with the MOE's polytechnic in Mae Sot. The RTG has offered all assistance to accomplish this. This project will cover the cost of local standard setting, production and distribution of curricula, training materials and teacher training for refugee courses.

Appropriate technology. The use of simple and often complex but appropriate technologies in the camps is increasing. Similarly there is widespread use of some applications such as solar home systems through out the country. This proposed project would train existing engineering students in the camps to maintain and repair such systems. There would also be research conducted on other alternative technologies that would e reduce the reliance of non renewable resources.

The disabled are to be the focus of a Project that would assist in the manufacture of aids and prostheses for the target group. The intention would be to develop the skills of disabled people to be self reliant with the longer term objective to produce sufficient items to supply disabled persons in other camps, across the border and in the Thai hinterland with such devices.

The increased numbers of products may lead to the formation of micro enterprises in some camps to also allow more of those disabled to be engaged in wage earning activities.

Wages employment service project. If there are opportunities to work outside the camps and the skill levels of the refugees is competitive and compatible with the needs of the local labour market pilot arrangement can be introduced through this project. A system of demand and supply would be developed that links known jobs with potential workers using the camp committee structure to pilot this. Involvement between workers' and employers' organizations with the involvement of the MOI would ensure transparency.

5.3 Livelihoods Management Committee (LH MC).

The LH MC consists of those who have a stake in the proposed Livelihoods Programme (LHP).⁶⁰ Their guidance and assistance to the consultants is essential to the success of the research activity. They will also play an important role in assuring that the Projects within the LHP will be adequately described when the various pro-forma are provided.

⁶⁰ The LH MC would include provincial level representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Thai Industries, Karen Women's' Organization, Karen Youth Organization, Local Public Administration Office, Mae Sot Polytechnic, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Non Govt. Organizations, Tak College of Technology & Agriculture and Workers' organizations

As the focus of the LHP is on self reliance leading to income earning / generation each NGO will be asked to describe how it will contribute to this objective. NGOs will be asked to describe the various resources needed to redirect the specific parts of their overall programme to meet this requirement. Physical and financial needs should be described and costing estimated. This will be the major focus of the Phase II activity.

5.4 Recommendations

There needs to be acceptance and agreement on the need for a LH Programme which adopts an incremental approach, through pilot projects, with existing NGOs as the potential implementing partners.

The response to the call for submissions will be a gauge of the extent of that willingness.

Strategic Level:

At the strategy level it is recommended that:

- A strategy be developed that informs all existing and potential stakeholders so that each may make a judgment concerning future participation.
- NGOs who express interest be assisted to prepare Project submissions to seek support for their initiatives.
- The various livelihoods-based submissions be consolidated by Project activity.
- NGOs delivering self reliance and income/earning generation courses/activities be benchmarked in an agreed format so that comparisons can be made across the complete spectrum.
- Pilot activities be incorporated into each Project as a means of demonstrating field-testing
- Proposed projects demonstrate how they are linked with other projects.
- Donors be required to commit allocations and distribute them annually over a three year schedule subject to satisfactory predetermined targets.
- UNHCR and ILO approach the RTG to determine the intentions of the MOI with respect to the movement of refugees in and out of the refugee camps.
- The MOI be requested to respond in writing explaining the rules that will allow refugees to be able to seek income earning/generation employment inside and outside the refugee camps.
- CCSDPT should maintain a technical data base of skills development initiatives in a standardized format.
- This data be linked to monitoring and evaluation tools developed to measure progress and impact.

- A Livelihoods Management Committee be established that meets alternatively in each province on an agreed schedule.⁶¹

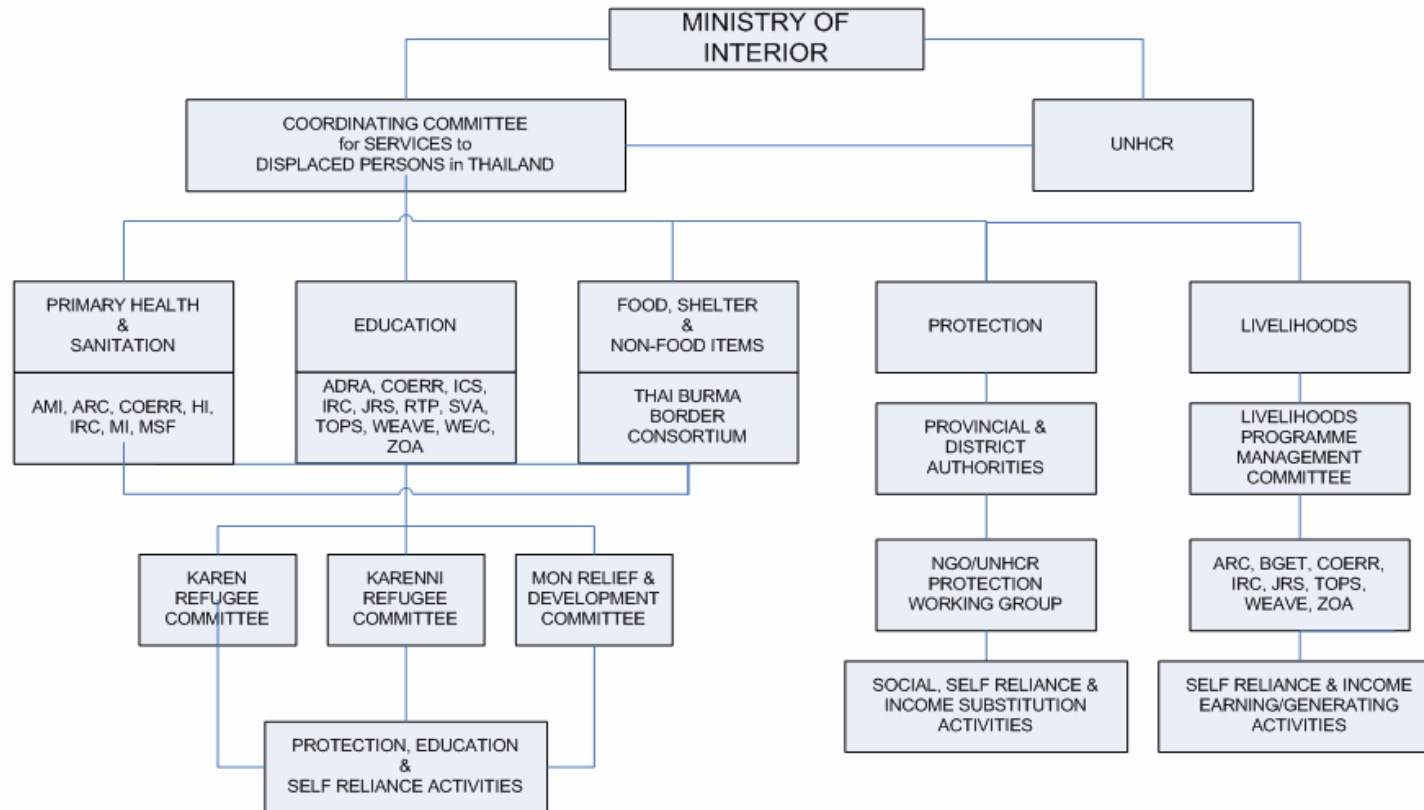
The identification of a suitable organization/institution/NGO willing to accept the responsibility of coordinating the various projects within the LHP is also an issue that will be considered in Phase II.⁶²

With the possibility of a Livelihoods Programme being included in the existing network of the CCSDPT it is considered necessary to form a separate CCSDPT sub committee. A suggested layout is seen on the following page.⁶³

⁶¹ See the Phase Two report (Appendix 3) for a proposed ToR for this Committee

⁶² For further details on LHP institutional arrangements, see the Phase Two Report at 1.2

⁶³ See TBBC (2006-2), p 52.



Provincial Level

At the provincial level the following is recommended:

- A solid working relationship be built with the local community to promote and improve self reliance and income earning and income generation opportunities.
- Core skills be focused on within the formal curricula as a means of preparing graduates to engage in useful activities in the camps.
- The education system be required to introduce students to the concepts of business development.
- The potential for waged employment with the local community be followed up with key stakeholders on a pilot basis.
- Adult education programmes be provided as a means of improving access to other capacity building programmes in the camps.
- NGOs who are prepared to extend their existing programmes to support the Livelihoods Programme be given direct financial support
- Skills development is focused on courses that have a direct relationship to improving self reliance and income generation for refugees and the local Thai in the hinterland.

Pilot Stage

At the pilot stage level it is recommended that:

- A Livelihoods Coordination Unit be established to provide administrative and technical assistance the other LHP Projects
- A Waged Employment Service be introduced to link demand for labour with supply in the refugee camps.
- The physically disabled, women and single heads of household be mainstreamed into all self reliance and income earning activities.
- A skills development project is focused on courses that have the potential to increase existing self reliance and income generation for the beneficiaries.
- Agricultural activities in the camps focus on increasing self reliance and provide skills for improved productivity inside and outside the camps
- Agricultural activity is introduced on land outside the camps using both local Thai and refugees to provide increased amounts of food for the benefit of the refugees and the local communities.
- Micro enterprise development programmes are introduced that cover the complete range of services and follow up support.
- Local appropriate technology applications are identified, researched and improved upon so that have the potential to improve the living conditions in the camps and promote micro enterprises.

List of Appendixes

Appendix One	MOI rules for NGOs providing services
Appendix Two	NGO's profiles
Appendix Three	Terms of reference
Appendix Four	Definitions
Appendix Five	References
Appendix Six	Camp profiles
Appendix Seven	UNHCR data
Appendix Eight	UNHCR/ILO protocol

Appendix One: Rules for NGOs providing services

For each activity, only the necessary number of officials may take turn to work on the site, such as distribution of food, clothing and educational materials. Only 1-2 officials are allowed on the site at any one time. The displaced persons shall attend to the work themselves with NGOs' officials acting as advisers. No official is allowed to stay overnight in a refugee camp except for doctors and nurses when medical treatment is urgently required or when there is a serious epidemic. Approval must be sought in advance from the MOI officer-in-charge.

While working on the site, officials of NGOs or other agencies must always carry and wear his/her camp pass issued by MOI for identification purposes. He/she must perform his/her duties only on the approved site and only during the period stated in the pass. NGOs', temporary personnel or donors or monitoring staff must carry the camp pass issued by MOI for identification purposes during their journey into the site. These passes will state the sites, purposes and the period of the visits.

Every level of officials of embassies and international organizations including foreign VIPs wishing to visit the temporary shelters of Burmese displaced persons in order to observe the situation must comply with diplomatic practice and protocol. They should apply to MOI for permission by coordinating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. MOI will inform them of the result of this application prior to their visit.

Before entering the site, NGOs' officials must report to the provincial or district authority supervising such site and be informed of the government's policies, such as, prohibition of entry into Burmese territory and dangerous areas. Preliminary consideration will also be given by the district authority to any extension of stay in Thailand for the NGOs' officials working on the site.

NGOs shall submit their operational reports to MOI through the district authority on a quarterly basis. Other agencies, such as Thai government agencies including foundations, associations, clubs (which are non-members of CCSDPT) working in the temporary shelters are also required to submit their operational reports in the same manner as the NGOs.

For delivery of supplies in support of NGOs' assistance projects for the Burmese displaced persons, such as delivery of consumer goods, medicines and medical supplies, educational and construction materials, the following rules should be observed:

For NGOs' distribution of basic consumer goods to displaced persons from Burma, MOI has specified that the population over the age of 12 be considered as adults and those under the age of 12 be considered as children. The ration shall be calculated according to MOI's specified rate.

NGOs must apply through the responsible district authority for approval on any proposed delivery of goods to the site at least one and one-half month in advance to enable the authority to ascertain that the number of displaced persons is accurate and corresponds with the quantity

of goods to be delivered. The district authority will submit the result of their examination to MOI for approval and MOI will inform the provincial authority of its decision.

Before each delivery of medicines and medical supplies by NGOs, samples of such medicines must be submitted to the provincial and district public health offices for inspection and quantity and quality control. A letter of certification from such public health authority must always be obtained.

The substance and pictures in publications to be distributed to the Burmese displaced persons in the temporary shelters must not be inserted with political ideas, attitudes or values and must not include political propaganda and campaign including religion.

For delivery of construction materials especially bamboos and eucalyptus poles, these items must be sold legally and in compliance with the government's regulations.

The Ministry of Interior has stipulated the following conditions for educational projects:

(1) The NGOs' officials are allowed to work only as advisors to teachers who must be displaced persons from Burma. The assistance rendered must not adversely affect the Thai villagers in the surrounding areas.

(2) No permanent school building may be constructed. Only temporary buildings may be constructed as necessary, e.g. the building structure must be made of removable poles as beams, pillars and foundation or use old wooden posts as foundation. The roof should be made of non-reflecting or painted galvanized steel instead of natural materials. The partitions should be made of natural, locally available materials without any concrete parts.

(3) For any site that does not have a temporary school building, it is permitted to set aside an area as necessary within the site to carry out the educational project.

Vocational training: All training in agriculture, stock-raising, ⁶⁴ weaving or cooking lessons etc. should aim at improving skills to create occupations and income generation **in the future**.

Assistance to the affected Thai villagers to alleviate psychological effects and to render assistance to the affected Thai villagers around the temporary shelters should be provided in accordance with the requests made at the NGO seminar, held on December 7-9, 2006, at the Felix River Kwai Hotel, Kanchanaburi, during which requests were made to provide concrete assistance to the Thai villagers around the temporary shelters. The NGOs are therefore requested to urgently submit their activity plans to MOI. The list of affected villages may be obtained from the chiefs of the temporary shelters.

NGOs' assistance provided to Burmese displaced persons, UNHCR's persons of concern (POC) and other groups should be extended to only civilians in the temporary shelters. There must be no public relations and political activities. Their project implementation must not affect the Thai-Burmese relationship.

⁶⁴ The Provincial Governor of Tak Province subsequently announced in February 2007 that there will be no livestock activities allowed in the temporary shelters.

Assistance to the Burmese displaced persons: **Assistance should be given only to displaced persons inside the temporary shelters or on the approved sites on Thai territory.** They are not allowed to cross the border into Burma or any other country.

If an NGO wishes to take any foreign visitor into a temporary shelter, a letter of recommendation from such NGO is required to guarantee that the visitor will not take any action that will affect the national security and international relationship.

Appendix Two: Implementing partner profile summaries.

Non Government Organizations

American Refugee Committee International (ARC)

Mission statement: To work for the survival, health and well-being of refugees, displaced persons and those at risk, and seek to enable them to rebuild productive lives of dignity and purpose, striving always to respect the values of those served.

Objective: To improve health status of Karen and Burmese refugees

Activities:

- **Maternal Health:** comprehensive maternal health services (antenatal services, community care, attended delivery and postnatal care), reproductive health and family planning services.
- **Child Health:** child health clinics and immunization coverage for EPI and measles; coverage for women of reproductive age.
- **Community Health:** community health for families and training for health workers concerning endemic health problems, prevention of disease and health promotion; health outreach, community participatory activities and primary health care management.
- **Water and Sanitation:** potable water; access to latrines, waste and wastewater disposal and drainage systems; and disease vector control.
- **Clinical and Laboratory Services:** essential clinical care services, epidemiological HIS and ID services; laboratory services.
- **Gender Based Violence Prevention and Response:** training and awareness-raising of individuals, communities and groups on gender violence prevention, response, counseling and referral; training of counselors and linkage with key organizations.
- **Micro-Enterprise Development:** assessment and implementation of vocational training/micro-enterprise development services for refugees and community groups.

Sector(s)	Primary Health & Sanitation,
Refugee Camps:	Tak Province: Umpiem Mai and Nu Poh camps

	Kanchanaburi Province: Ban Don Yang camp
Funding Sources:	US Government
Potential/Actual collaborating partners:	AMI, COERR, HI, JRS, RTP, TOPS, Plus CBOs

Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR)

Mission statement: To alleviate the suffering of People-In-Need along the Thai-Burmese border, regardless of their nationality, religion or gender.

Objective: To proactively render appropriate humanitarian assistance services, particularly to Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVI's), that will enable them to live their lives with dignity and encourage them to be productive and caring members of their communities.

Activities:

- Community Services
- Relief Supplies
- Self-Help Activities/Vocational Training and Education supplies
- Monitoring of Separated Children
- Psychosocial Training & Child
- Protection
- Preservation of Traditional Arts through the Elderly
- Organic Agriculture Training & Production
- Community-based Waste Management
- Healing of memory groups

Sector(s)	Primary health & sanitation Education Gender
Refugee Camps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kanchanaburi Province: Tham Hin, • Ratchaburi Province: Ban DonYang, • Tak Province: Mae La, Umpiem Mae Hong Son Province: Mae La Oon.
Funding Sources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caritas Denmark • Caritas Internationalis • UNHCR • UNICEF • MISSIO • Kindermissionwerks

Potential/Actual collaborating partners:	AMI, ARC,HI, JRC, JRS, MI, MSF, RTP, TOPS, WEAVE, WE/C, ZOA, Plus CBOs
--	--

Handicap International Thailand

Mission: To develop integrated mine action and disability programme for both refugees and surrounding communities through a sustainable approach.

Objective: To contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of Burmese refugees living along the Thai-Burmese border. The target group is trained to avoid impairment and physical disabilities due to landmines, unexploded ordinances (UXO), and other causes, and gains further autonomy and independence through the provision of physical rehabilitation treatments for people with movement disabilities in general.

Activities:

- Provision of prostheses,
- provision of assistive devices
- Physiotherapy treatments,
- Awareness activities on disability issues and accessibility,
- Mine risk education,
- Development of local competencies and networks.

Sector(s)	Education
Refugee Camps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mae Hong Song Province: Ban Nai Soi, Ban Mae Surin, Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang • Tak Province: Mae La, Umpiem Mai, Nu Poh. • Kanchanaburi Province: Ban Don Yang • Ratchaburi Province: Tham Hin
Funding Sources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), • European Commission's EuropeAid, • European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) • Handicap International's own funds.
Potential/Actual collaborating partners:	ADRA, COERR, IRC, JRS, SVA, TOPS, WEAVE, WE/C, ZOA. Plus CBOs

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Mission: The provision of relief, protection and resettlement services for refugees and victims of oppression or violent conflict. IRC is committed to freedom, human dignity, and self-reliance. This commitment is reflected in well-planned resettlement assistance, global emergency relief, rehabilitation and advocacy for refugees.

Objective: To assist refugees, migrants, conflict-impacted populations and Burmese IDPs to meet essential needs and contribute toward their transition to sustainable development by implementing strategic programs and building capacities of local institutions.

Activities:

- Funding, capacity building, and technical support for community-based organizations providing health & education services to Burmese refugees, migrants and IDPs;
- Technical and material support, and training for the Karenni Health Department, implementing primary and community health services in the Karenni camps in Mae Hong Son;
- Providing primary & community health care and water and sanitation services in the Tham Hin Camp;
- Building community capacity to prevent and counter the effects of gender-based violence in the Karenni camps in Mae Hong Son;
- Funding for food and cooking fuel for camps in Mae Hong Son province, to the Thailand Burmese Border Consortium;
- Funding for refugee and migrant education activities, to World Education;
- Health service linkages and primary health care activities for migrants in Tak & Mae Hong Son province;
- Providing legal assistance to urban migrants/refugees and human rights capacity building of local NGOs.
- Advocating for protection and basic human rights of migrants/refugees in Thailand.
- Assisting persons seeking admission the United States as refugees.
- Operating an Overseas Processing Entity (OPE) to prepare and complete refugee applications for consideration and assist the US Government in the processing of such applications.
- Partnering with local community-based organizations, and coordinates with the Thai Government (particularly Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Public Health, National Human Rights Commission), the United Nations (particularly UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM and WHO), and with other non-governmental organizations through the Coordinating Committee for Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand (CCSDPT).

Sector(s)	Primary health & sanitation Education Gender
Refugee Camps:	Mae Hong Son Province: Sites 1& 2, Karenni Camps Ratchaburi Province: Tham Hin Refugee Camp

	Tak Province: Bangkok:	Phop Pra and Umphang Districts Urban Migrant/Refugee Communities
Funding Sources:	Government (USAID & US State Department), ECHO, Stichting Vluchteling, UNHCR, UNICEF & various foundations & corporate donors	
Potential/Actual collaborating partners:	ADRA, COERR, IRC, JRS, SVA, TOPS, WEAVE, WE/C, ZOA. Plus CBOs	

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)

Mission: To accompany, serve and defend the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced people

Karenni Education Program (KnED) Mae Hong Son:

Goal: To develop the capacity of the Karenni Education Department to manage the education system.

Objective: To support the Karenni Education Program at all levels of management to ensure an educational system that is effective, sustainable and inclusive.

Activities:

- provide education services for teacher training, curriculum development, teaching materials, textbooks and a small stipend for teachers and the KnED staff.
- provide vocational training,
- provide special Education, capacity building and training for all levels of management. In
- conduct a system of home school liaison.

- Strengthening the capacity of the Karenni Education Department

Urban Refugee Program Bangkok:

Goal: To find a humane and sustainable solution for asylum seekers in urban areas, and to support their communities.

Objective: The Urban Refugee Program aims to assist asylum seekers by facilitating the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process, and provides support during this procedure.

Activities:

- provide casework, legal assistance and emergency financial assistance to Burmese and non-Burmese asylum seekers and some vulnerable refugees who reside in Bangkok.

IDC Suan Phlu Bangkok:

Goal: To improve conditions in the IDC.

Objective: JRS assists those persons detained who do not have the documents or money required to be released and return home. While in detention, the objective is to take care of the detainees' health and living conditions.

Activities:

- contacts embassies, detainees' families and friends as well as airlines.
- processes requests for financial and extra administrative assistance for those who have been detained for over six months.
- distributes supplementary food
- provides medical care through its clinic in the IDC
- provides receive legal assistance and counseling.

Sector(s)	Education
Refugee Camps:	Ban Nai Soi and Ban Mae Surin
Funding Sources:	
Potential/Actual collaborating partners:	COERR, HI, IRC, WEAVE, WE/C, ZOA. Plus CBOs

Sectors:

- education,
- counseling,
- legal aid,
- emergency services
- medical services.

Refugee Camps:

Mae Hong Son:

Funding Sources:

Collaborating partners:

Thai Burma Border Consortium (TBBC)

The Thailand Burma Border Consortium, a non-profit, non-governmental humanitarian relief and development agency, is an alliance of NGOs, working together with displaced people of Burma. TBBC is a Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales.

Members include Christian Aid, UK • Christian World Service Australia • Church World Service, USA • DanChurchAid, Denmark Diakonia, Sweden, International Rescue Committee, USA • ICCO, Netherlands Norwegian Church Aid, Thailand Baptist Missionary Fellowship and ZOA Refugee Care Netherlands.

Mission statement:

To support internally displaced people and refugees by supplying humanitarian needs, strengthening self-reliance and promoting appropriate and lasting solutions in pursuit of dignity, justice and peace.

Objectives:

- To alleviate the suffering of the displaced people from Burma brought about by the ongoing conflict and to alleviate malnutrition and food insecurity and meet the primary physical needs for survival of women, men and children, in partnership with their community
- To ensure that displaced persons will receive adequate availability and access to food to sustain life.
- To ensure that the displaced will receive adequate shelter, cooking fuel and non-food items.
- To ensure that a representative cross-section of the population (gender, religion, ethnicity) will participate in the design and implementation of the programme.
- To coordinate all activities with other service providers.
- To minimize any adverse effects which the presence of refugees might have on Thai communities.

Activities:

- Provision of basic food basket : rice, mung beans, cooking oil, salt, fish paste, blended food
- Support of Supplementary Feeding Programmes through CCSDPT Health Agencies
- Support of Nursery School lunches (Tak, MHS provinces)
- Nutrition education, monitoring and research
- Support of Food Security initiatives: CAN project – training, demonstration sites, seed distribution.
- Provision of shelter materials: bamboo, thatch, eucalyptus pole, nails, plastic sheeting.
- Provision of non-food items: blankets, bed-nets, sleeping mats, cooking fuel, clothing.
- Support of sarong weaving and stove making projects.
- Support and capacity building of camp management.
- Displacement documentation.
- Participation in CCSDPT/ UNHCR Protection Working Group.

Sector(s)	Food, shelter & relief. Gender
Refugee Camps:	Mae Hong Son Province;

	<p>Ban Nai Soi, Ban Mae Surin, Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang</p> <p>Tak Province; MaeLa, Umpiem Mai, Nu Poh</p> <p>Kanchanaburi Province; Ban Don Yang</p> <p>Ratchaburi Province; Tham Hin</p>
Funding Sources:	Over 30 Donors. About 85% of funding is from the Governments of Australia, Canada, Denmark, Great Britain, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands and USA, plus the European Women’s Education for advancement and empowerment (WEAVE). ⁶⁵
Potential/Actual collaborating partners:	COERR, HI, IRC, WEAVE, WE/C, ZOA Plus CBOs

Taipei Overseas Peace Service

Mission:

To provide humanitarian assistance, mainly education and child care, for displaced Burmese and local people affected by the influx of displaced populations and migrants who have fled from fighting or persecution from Burma.

Objective:

- To ensure that conflict-impacted ethnic children along the Thai-Burma border have an improved quality of child learning friendly environment and to meet their psycho-social development needs.
- To ensure that Displaced Burmese children and conflict-impacted ethnic children grow up in a safe and learning-friendly environment.
- To establish a comprehensive early childhood development system responds to national and local contexts and realities.
- To promote the sustainability of child care system by enabling the local community to manage and coordinate the program by itself.

Activities:

⁶⁵ See TBBC (2007), pp43-48

- Early Childhood Development Programme in Shelters.
 - In order to promote the project’s sustainability, the activities have been carried out in coordination with, and through, the community committees and local partners. The activities include capacity building, nursery teacher training, parents meeting, school nutrition, and curriculum development and so on.
- Social Service for EVIs programme in Shelters
 - TOPS supports the safe houses project and elderly services in shelters run by local partners. Include financial and advisory support, as well as delivering training.
- Childcare and Community Development Programme in Affected-Thai Villages.
 - TOPS supports the community-based schools and wider-related community development projects in border area by working closely with villages, Thai authority, and other related agencies.

Sector(s)	Primary health & sanitation
Refugee Camps:	Mae Hong Son Province; Ban Nai Soi, Ban Mae Surin, Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang Tak Province; MaeLa, Umpiem Mai, Nu Poh
Funding Sources:	
Potential/Actual collaborating partners:	ADRA, AMI, COERR, HI, ICS, IRC, MSF, SVA, WEAVE, WE/C, ZOA, Plus CBOs

Taipei Overseas Peace Service (TOPS) & Border Green Energy Team (BGET)

Mission statement: To build local capacity using new and renewable energy-efficient and appropriate technologies

Objective: To provide hands-on appropriate technology training and financial support to village innovators in ethnic minority areas both sides of the Thai/Burma border.

Activities:

- Training and installation of hybrid energy systems
- Training, installation and repair of solar home systems
- Feasibility studies to determine potential for mini hydro and ram pump electricity generation.

Sector(s)	Education
Refugee Camps:	Tak Province: Mae La, Umpiem Mai and Nu Poh camps Mae Hong Son, Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Lunag

Funding Sources:	Private donors etc..
Potential/Actual collaborating partners:	TOPS, UNDP, UNHCR, ZOA, Plus CBOs

Women's Education for Advancement and Empowerment (WEAVE)

Mission statement: To empower indigenous women, support their basic human rights, including the right to education, livelihoods and health care

Objective(s):

Activities:

- Back-strap weaving
- Candle making paper making
- Embroidery
- Handicrafts
- Loom weaving
- Sewing
- Sewing - hand and machine
- Spinning
- Use of natural dyes

Sector(s)	Education Gender
Refugee Camps:	Mae Hong Son Province; Ban Nai Soi, Ban Mae Surin, Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang Tak Province; MaeLa, Umpiem Mai, Nu Poh
Funding Sources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernard van Leer Foundation – Netherlands • Terre des Hommes – Germany • American Jewish World Service • Global Fund for Women, • Private individuals • Canada Fund
Potential/Actual collaborating partners:	ADRA, COERR, HI, IRC, JRS, SVA, TOPS, TBBC, WE/C, ZOA, Plus CBOs

- **ZOA Refugee Care (ZOA)**

Mission statement:

To provide relief to refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and victims of disaster regardless of race, religion, social background as an expression of Christian compassion.

Objective(s):

Activities:

- Agricultural activities support
- Education services from primary to post secondary level
- Establishment of hybrid/solar energy systems through sub contract to BGET.
- Vocational Training services for post grade ten students, school drop outs, young adults and the physically handicapped
- Foreign language programmes in R English and Thai
- Repair of existing buildings & establishment of new education & training schools
- Strengthening the capacity of the Karen Education Department
- Support to the PAB community

Sector(s)	Education (and vocational training)
Refugee Camps:	Mae Hong Son Province; Ban Nai Soi, Ban Mae Surin, Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang Tak Province; MaeLa, Umpiem Mai, Nu Poh Kanchanaburi province: Ban Dong Yang Ratchaburi province: Tham Hin
Funding Sources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alfa/Omega, New Jersey, USA • Belgian Government • Diakonia, Sweden • European Union KEP &VT • ICCO/PRISMA, Netherlands • Japanese Government • Swedish Government • UNICEF • UNHCR • Wilde Ganzen, Netherlands
Potential/Actual collaborating partners:	ADRA, COERR, HI, IRC, JRS, SVA, TOPS, TBBC, WE/C, ZOA, Plus CBOs

Appendix Three: Terms of Reference

The consultants will carry out the following tasks in two phases covering seven camps.

PHASE ONE

Preparatory Work (approximately two (2) work months)

- 1.1 General description of the target population and hosting areas including;
- 1.2 The degree to which refugees are able to access the labour market, including the informal sector;
- 1.3 Existing related programmes initiated by UNHCR and other actors;
- 1.4 Economic coping strategies of refugees and communities in hosting areas.
- 1.5 Skill level among refugees;
- 1.6 Environmental conditions in the camps and hosting areas;
- 1.7 Skills that should be developed to enhance self-reliance of refugees;
- 1.8 Possible relationship and impact of livelihoods strategy in local communities and potential cooperation;
- 1.9 The availability of
 - (i) local training providers,
 - (ii) local micro-finance institutions
 - (iii) local business advisory services with whom partnerships can be developed to provide sustainable support to those engaged in income generating activities;
- 1.10 Summary of gaps and opportunities for livelihoods and self-reliance.

Appendix Four: Definitions for discussion

The following definitions are intended to clarify those words or phrases used in the current document.

Career guidance is defined as helping clients to:

- understand their own needs relating to learning and work;
- set and review goals/objectives for learning and work;
- understand their barriers to learning and work;
- overcome barriers/obstacles to learning and work; and to produce learning and career action plans.

Demand-driven skills development is conducted as a result of actual needs identified by the labour market, linkage with enterprises, employer's organizations and the community.

Durable solutions: Any means by which the situation of refugees can be satisfactorily and permanently resolved to enable them to live normal lives. UNHCR traditionally pursues the durable solutions of (i) voluntary repatriation, (ii) local integration and (iii) resettlement.

Employment and skills development system describes the components that make up an integrated network of complimentary, multi-ministry, public and private sector institutions that promote and provide training for employment.

Income generation refers to the situation where income is earned and wealth is created as a result of adding value to a good or providing a service.

Income substitution is defined as work undertaken that produces a good or service that would otherwise have to be purchased.

Livelihood is defined as the financial means of living, or of supporting oneself.

Local integration is a durable solution to the problem of refugees involving their permanent resettlement in a country of first asylum.

Refoulement means the expulsion of persons who have the right to be recognised as refugees. The principle of non-refoulement has first been laid out in 1954 in the UN-Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, which, in Article 33(1) provides that: "No Contracting State shall expel or return ('refouler') a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion."

or

Refoulement is the removal of a person to a territory where he/she would be at risk of being persecuted, or being moved to another territory where he/she would face persecution.

Resettlement is a durable solution when the transfer is agreed of refugees from the country in which they have sought refuge to another State which has agreed to accept them.

Retraining is defined as skills development offered to those changing occupations whether in a non-formal or enterprise based environment.

Self-reliance is defined as the ability to rely on one's self, or each other in the case of a community or group, to sustain an acceptable minimum quality of life.

Skilled workers are who have become highly competent in their trade or craft as attested by industry.

Skills development is the process through which learners and workers are systematically provided with learning opportunities to acquire or upgrade, ability, knowledge and behavior patterns required for a job or range of jobs in a given occupational area.

Stipend describes the form of payment or salary paid to learners or those wishing to gain work experience and are usually lower than what would be expected as a permanent salary for similar work. This is because the stipend is complemented by other benefits such as accreditation, instruction, work experience, food, accommodation, and personal satisfaction.

Students are those who are acquiring practical skills and knowledge through formal or non-formal education and training equivalent to at least a secondary education but preferably at post-secondary education with a corresponding certificate, degree or diploma.

Supply-driven skills development is conducted by training providers based on the interests of the students, parents, the training institution, the ministries or planners and may be linked to national policies but not directly linked to market requirements.

Technical education refers to the education process designed at post-secondary and lower tertiary levels, officially recognized as non-degree programs aimed at preparing technicians, para-professionals and other categories of middle-level workers.

Technical training is provided to those who elect to train for employment at the skilled worker level

Trainees are those who are being prepared for a particular occupation or for self-employment in either a non-formal course or within any type or size of enterprise.

Vocational education is described as the exposure full-time students have to the world of work.

Vocational education and training is a generic term used by governments to describe the non-formal level programme it offers to students and trainees requiring preparation prior to or even during initial employment.

Vocational training is provided to students who have reached a terminal point in their formal education and are being prepared within that system with introductory employable skills to enter the labour market.

Voluntary repatriation is a durable solution when return to the country of origin based is on the refugee's free and informed decision. It may be organized, i.e. when it takes place under the auspices of the concerned governments and UNHCR, or spontaneous, i.e. the refugees return by their own means with UNHCR and governments having little or no direct involvement in the process of return.

Wage earning is income from supplying labour for payment in cash or kind from agriculture, manufacturing, production, services etc.

Appendix Five: References

American Refugee Committee International (ARC), (2006). *"The stepped approach for improving livelihoods"*: An implementation manual for refugee camp & post-conflict environment programs, Bangkok.

ibid., CD:*The stepped approach for improving livelihoods* (SAIL) Appendices, 1st edition.

Amnesty International, (June 2005). *"Thailand: The plight of Burmese Migrant Workers"*, Bangkok

Chandra, S., (September 2006). *"Mobility and protection risks: A study of Ban Mai Noi Soi refugee camp"*, a report for UNHCR, Bangkok.

Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced persons in Thailand (CCSDPT) and UNHCR, (2006). *"A draft comprehensive plan addressing the needs of the displaced persons on the Thailand/Myanmar (Burma) border in 2006"*.

ibid., (2007). *Monthly report: Education Newsletter*, vol7, Issue 1, Bangkok.

Gibson, A., (1993). *NGOs and income-generation projects: Lessons from the Joint Funding Scheme*, Development in Practice, vol. 3., no., 3., October 1993

Hansen, E., (2006). *"Career Guidance: A resource book for low and middle income countries"*, International Labour Organization, (ILO) Geneva

Hilfswerk Austria, (November 2006). *"Updated concept paper for UNHCR: Innovative income generation as a means of self-help for uprooted people along the Thai-Burma border"*, a proposal submitted to UNHCR for a project to develop entrepreneurial skills in Ban Mai Nai Soi temporary shelter.

Ho, A., (2007). *"Assessment of Mae La group referral and verification exercise"*, an anecdotal report for UNHCR, Mae Sot.

International Labour Organization, (1996). *Training and employment needs assessment manual*, a product of the Vocational Training for alleviation of poverty project, Phnom Penh.

ibid., (1999). Working paper 1: *Business development services for micro and small enterprises in Thailand*, prepared by Michael Allal, series editor Gerry Finnegan, project number THA/99/003 entitled Micro and small enterprise development and poverty alleviation in Thailand, Bangkok.

ibid., (1999). Working paper 5: *The needs and characteristics of a sample of micro and small enterprises (MSEs) in Thailand*, prepared by Maitree Wasuntiwongse, series editor Gerry Finnegan, project number THA/99/003 entitled Micro and small enterprise development and poverty alleviation in Thailand, Bangkok.

ibid., (2003). *Skills for Life: Debates on skills development, paper 8*, a report of the working group for international cooperation in skills development, Bonn, Germany.

ibid., (2005-1). *"The Mekong Challenge: Employment and protection of migrant workers in Thailand: National laws/practices versus international labour standards"*, part of a series on human trafficking and labour migration in the Greater Mekong Region, Bangkok.

ibid., (2005-2). *"The Mekong Challenge: Underpaid, overworked and overlooked: The realities of young migrant workers in Thailand, Vol 1.*, part of a series on human trafficking and labour migration in the Greater Mekong Region, Bangkok.

ibid., (2005-3). *"The Mekong Challenge: Destination Thailand: A cross border labour migration survey in Banteay Meanchey Province, Cambodia.*, part of a series on human trafficking and labour migration in the Greater Mekong Region, Bangkok.

ibid., (2005-4). *"The Mekong Challenge: Working day and night: The plight of migrant child workers in Mai Sot, Thailand, .*, part of a series on human trafficking and labour migration in the Greater Mekong Region, Bangkok.

ibid, (2005-5). *Skills development for economic empowerment using the community based training methodology: a report of an experts meeting Chiba, Japan.*

ibid., (2006). *"GET Ahead for Women in Enterprise: Training Package and resource Kit"*, a manual funded jointly with Development Cooperation Ireland & the Department of Job Creation and Enterprise Development, [English and Thai versions], Geneva.

ibid., (2006). *Guidelines on the formulation of self help groups: For families of working children, Cambodia.*

ibid., (xxxx). *Community based training manual, Geneva.*

Jesuit Rescue Service, (2005). *"Vocational Training/Non-formal education"*, a report on the two Karenni temporary shelters in Mae Hong Son province.

Karen Women's Organization, (2006). *KWO, Annual Report, Jan 2005-March 2006, Mae Hong Son.*

Karen Refugee Committee, (January 2005). *" Report of activities in 2004"* Mae Sot.

Karen Youth Organization, (--). *Pamphlet on the formation of the KYO, Mae Sot.*

Koenig, A., & Dube, A., (September 2005). *"Self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods for refugees in Dadaab and Kakuma camps"*, a joint report based on consultancies in Kenya for ILO and UNHCR, for the Strengthening Protection Capacity Project, Nairobi.

Kittisakchoochai, R., (December 2006). *"An assessment of the labour market and micro-enterprise development feasibility: Ban Dong Yang refugee camp, Sangklaburi Province, Thailand"*, prepared for ARC, Bangkok.

Loescher, G., (2005). "NGO-U NHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs", a key-note address presented in Geneva,

Loescher, G., & Milner, J., (2006). *Protracted refugee situation in Thailand: Towards solutions*, Presentation to the Foreign Correspondent's Club, Bangkok.

Ministry of Education, (2006). "*Thai Language Training in Myanmar Refugee Camps*", in collaboration with UNHCR, Office of the Non-Formal Education Commission, Bangkok.

Ministry of Interior, (MOI), (undated). "*Summary of Mae La temporary shelter: Thasongyang, Tak Province*".

Ibid., (2006), a minute to the CCSDPT, dated 20th December entitled "*Relief projects for displaced persons from Burma in temporary shelters in Tak Province for the year 2007*", reference, REF.Mor.Tor.0204.2?13664 , signed by Mr. Phiraphol Tritasavit, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Bangkok.

Price Waterhouse Coopers, (January 2007). "*Ulysses Project Concept Paper: Income generation activities for refugee camps*", submitted to UNHCR, Bangkok.

Stalder, H. M., (February, 2006). "*An assessment report of Ban Mae Surin Camp*", a report by H. M. Stalder on services, natural hazards, environmental degradation, camp access and infrastructure and capacity building needs.

ibid., (October 2006). "*Civil engineer assessment of environmental risks and infrastructure in refugee camps on the Thai-Myanmar border*", for UNHCR, Bangkok

Thai Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) (2006-1). "*Internal displacement in Eastern Burma: 2006 Survey*", Wanida Press, Bangkok.

ibid., (2006-2). "*Programme report for January to June 2006: including funding appeal for 2007*", Bangkok.

ibid., (2007). "*Programme report for July to December 2006: including revised funding appeal for 2007*", Bangkok.

Thornton, P., (2006). "*Restless Souls: Rebels, refugees, medics and misfits on the Thai-Burma border*", Asia Books, Bangkok

UNESCAP, (April 2006). "*Creation of employment and income -earning opportunities for vulnerable groups in the Pacific*", item 4 of the provisional agenda of the ninth session of the meeting of the special body on Pacific Island developing countries, Jakarta.

UNHCR, (1995). "*Collection of international instruments and other legal texts concerning refugees and displaced persons, Vol. I, Universal Instruments*", Division of International Protection Services, Geneva.

ibid., (July 2001). *"The repatriation predicament and Burmese refugees in Thailand: A preliminary analysis"*, UNHCR paper number 46, in the series New Issues in Refugee Research, prepared by H. Lang, Australian National University and published by the Policy Development and Evaluation Service.

ibid., (October 2001). *"Practicing and promoting sound environmental management in refugee/returnee operations"*, a collection of papers presented to an international workshop, Geneva.

ibid., (2005). *"The UNHCR tool for participatory assessment in operations"*, Geneva.

ibid., (2006-1). *"Developing history curricula to support multi-ethnic civil society among Burmese refugees and migrants"*, UNHCR paper number 139, in the series New Issues in Refugee Research, prepared by R. Metro and published by the Policy development and Evaluation Service, Geneva.

Ibid., (2006-2). Kelly, N., ed. *"Protection gaps framework for analysis: Enhancing protection for refugees: strengthening protection capacity project"*, UNHCR and the European Commission, Geneva

ibid., (2006-3). *"Protecting refugees: Questions and answers"*, Media Relations and Public Information Service, Geneva.

ibid., (June 2006-4). *"Rights of refugees in the context of integration: Legal standards and recommendations"*, Legal and protection policy research studies, prepared by R. da Costa for the Division of International Protection Services, Geneva.

ibid., (August, 2006-5). *"Water and environmental sanitation assessment of Mae La temporary shelter, Thasongyang District, Tak Province, Thailand"*, a report prepared for UNHCR by C. Polprasert, D Bergado, T. Koottatep and T. Tanchaisawat,

ibid., (November 2006-7). *"Analysis of Gaps in refugee protection capacity Thailand"*, UNHCR, Bangkok.

Wasuntiwongse, M., (2003), Finnegan. G., ed, *"Micro and small enterprise development and poverty alleviation in Thailand: the needs and characteristics of a sample of micro and small enterprises (MSEs) in Thailand"*, Working paper 5, , an ILO project funded by UNDP.

ZOA Refugee Care- Thailand, (2003). *"Vocational training for Karen refugees along the Thai-Burmese border: Baseline Study"*, conducted by the Thai Education Foundation, Bangkok

ibid., (2006-1). *"Mid-term review of the vocational training for Burmese displaced persons"*, conducted by the Thai Education Foundation, Bangkok.

ibid., (2006-2). *"Support to Vocational Training and non-formal education in refugee camps"*, a submission to UNHCR.

ibid,, (2006-3). "*Educational resources for the Burma border*", Mae Sot.

ibid,, (2006-4). "*Education survey – 2005*", prepared by S. Oh, S. Ochalumthan, S. P. L. La and J. Ho, ZOA Refugee Care Thailand.

ibid., (2006-5). "*Vocational Training Programme Manual*", Karen Education Department, Mae Sot.

ibid, CD: "*Education Survey 2005*".

Appendix Six (i): Mae La

CAMP CREATION: Mae La was first established in 1984, as one of a number of small settlements of refugees crossing the border, where they took shelter in the vicinity of Thai Karen villages. Between 1984 and 1996, several settlements (including, Kamaw Lay Kho, Kler Kho, Shoklo, and Bae Klor) were relocated to the current location, making Mae La the largest camp on the Thai-Myanmar border. Among refugees, Mae La is frequently referred to as Bae Klor, the name of one of the early settlements. MOI (under the leadership of the Camp Commander) is responsible for the internal security of the camp in coordination with the refugees, while Infantry Unit oversees the security outside the camp, under Infantry Task Force Four, based in Mae Sot.

LOCATION:

- Tak Province, Tha Song Yang District
- Distance from Thai - Myanmar border : approximately 10 km
- The camp is situated 60 kms from Mae Sot, and 1 km from the nearest Thai village of Ban Mae La Moo 9. The camp runs along national road Number 105, between Mae Sot and Mae Sarieng (in Mae Hong Son Province). The camp backs up to a mountain ridge, which runs along the border with Myanmar. The camp covers approximately 1,150 rai (573 acres), divided into 3 zones (A, B, and C), and further sub-divided into zones A1- A5, B1- B5, C1A, C1B, and C2- C5.

REFUGEE REGISTRATION AND STATUS DETERMINATION: UNHCR assists the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) in all registration activities in the Tak camps – training, technical support, registration planning, data collection, and updating. The Field Office registration officer works with an MOI team, the camp commanders, and refugee teams in the camp to conduct registration and regular updates. Following the initial registration of the population shortly after UNHCR arrived on the border, the Mae Sot Field Office continued to work with MOI on monthly updates until 2005. In 2005, however, UNHCR initiated the use of proGres, special software for use in camp registration; Mae La was the last of the nine camps in which UNHCR conducted a comprehensive re-registration of the previously registered population, and data collection of an unregistered population of over 20,000. The new system incorporates digital photos, links to related families, and information that will be useful in the event of resettlement or repatriation. The information on the unregistered population laid the foundation for the presentation of these cases to the Thai authorities, as part of the increasing responsibility of the Thai Government in managing a national asylum system.

At the end of the year, the Tak Provincial Admissions Board (PAB) – dormant for many years – resumed its function to screen and approve for refugee status the thousands of new arrivals in Mae La. In five meetings (starting from December 2005 to December 2006), the PAB recognized virtually all of the unregistered population (27, 316 persons for all three camps in Tak Province); the figures below include the newly recognized (up to December 2006), leaving only those arriving after September 2005 in the “pending PAB consideration” category. It is expected that the PAB will function regularly and will consider refugee status for all new arrivals in Tak. The

registration activities in the last quarter of 2005, in 2006 and the first quarter of 2007 have focused on refinement of the database, change of status from unregistered to recognized refugee, and re-issuance of new documents. UNHCR and MOI continues the monthly updating of the past, in which demographic changes such as births, deaths, departures, and family composition changes are recorded. UNHCR will also work with the MOI team to screen new arrivals and prepare for submission to the PAB.

Recognized registered population as of 01 February 2007:

HOUSEHOLDS	GIRLS (0-17 years)	BOYS (0-17 years)	WOMEN (18+)	MEN (18+)	TOTAL
9,745	10,883	11,447	11,864	11,977	46,171

RELIGIOUS GROUPS: The following information is from the camp committee, with UNHCR statistics (self-identification) in parentheses. For several reasons, both numbers are imprecise.

- Buddhist: estimated 38% of the population (40%)
- Christian: estimated 47% of the population (45%)
- Muslim: estimated 13% of the population (15%)
- Animists: estimated 2% of the population (0%)
- There are 24 Christian churches (15 Baptist, 1 Anglican, 6 Seventh Day Adventist, and 1 Roman Catholic), 4 Buddhist monasteries, and 5 Muslim mosques in the camp.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN: Ethnicity is recorded according to self-identification during registration. Although Muslim camp residents have different historic and ethnic roots from ethnic Karen, many Muslims were born in Karen State, may have some Karen ancestors, and speak Karen; they are likely to identify themselves as Karen, even if Karen refer to them as "Indian." The result is that there is no appropriate name for the category of non-Karen Muslim, which is admittedly not an ethnic group. Please note that because of self-identification, the category "Karen" includes a variety of ethnic backgrounds and does not reflect the obvious diversity in the camp.

- Karen: 97% of the population
- Burman: 2% of the population
- Others: 1% of the population (Rahkin, Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Mon, Shan)

THAI AUTHORITIES:

- Palat Akarapun Poonsiri, MOI Camp Commander, Deputy District Officer, Tha Song Yang District
- Mr. Songtham Vanasith, MOI District Officer (i.e. Chief), Tha Song Yang District
- Captain Thanawat, Company Commander, #442 Infantry unit, Task Force 4

KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE, MAE SOT-BASED:

Pastor Robert Htwe, Chair
Saw Tamla Wah, Vice-Chair
Saw Tay Tay, General Secretary
Saw George, Joint Secretary

Saw San Cho, Treasurer
Dr. Htaw Soe De Gay, Health/Medical Coordinator
Saw Marshall Aye, Camp Affairs Coordinator
Naw Deborah, Education Coordinator

The KRC is formed of refugee leadership from various camps. They have administrative oversight for the management of all seven Karen camps, and the office in Mae Sot is the headquarters for coordination of their activities. KRC facilitates communication between the Thai authorities, donors, NGOs, and the camp committees. They have been heavily involved since 2004 in the Camp Management Project, in coordination with TBBC, which has sought to regularize the work performed by the various camp management staff.

REFUGEE CAMP COMMITTEE, CAMP-BASED:

- Chairperson: Saw Jolly
- Vice Chairperson: Saw Tha Ker
- Secretary: Saw Toe Toe

The present Camp Committee members were elected in 2006 for a two-year term (2006-2008). The Committee is made up of 15 members, (10 males and 5 females). Sub-committees focus on such sectors as education, health, food distribution, judiciary, women's issues, security, and youth. Other committees also provide important community services; the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Committee, for example, is a strong presence in the camp, providing prevention and protection for survivors.

NGOs AND ORGANIZATIONS:

- **TBBC:** Thai Burma Border Consortium
- **MSF-F:** Medecins Sans Frontieres-France
- **HI:** Handicap International
- **ZOA:** ZOA (Zuid Oost Azie) Refugee Care the Netherlands
- **TOPS:** Taipei Overseas Peace Service
- **ICS:** International Child Support
- **COERR:** Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees
- **WE/C:** World Education/ Consortium
- **SMRU:** Shoklo Malaria Research Unit
- **PPAT:** Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand
- **SVA:** Shanti Volunteer Association
- **IRC:** International Rescue Committee
- **AMI:** Aide Medicale Internationale

HEALTH:

- AMI, in collaboration with SMRU, is in charge of the health sector in the camp. AMI has two in-patient departments (IPD) and out-patient departments (OPD), as well as laboratory facilities (in zones C1B and B4); they are in the process of recruiting additional candidates for medic training, and constructed an OPD in Zone A in 2006. AMI refugee health staff in Mae La includes medics, nurses, lab technicians, and home visitors.

- MSF-F (which handed over the medical assistance to AMI in mid-2005) still provides services to tuberculosis patients, housed in a TB ward in Zone A5.
- SMRU has clinics in 4 locations (Zones A3, B3, B4, and C2). SMRU provides antenatal care and support for delivery, as a part of its overall program on malaria.
- Major health problems in the camp are reported to be malaria and diarrhea.

WATER AND SANITATION:

- AMI manages water services in the camp. Water quality and quantity have been chronic problems for years; problems are exacerbated by the increasing population. AMI took steps in 2006 to address the problems with the construction of a reservoir in the front of the camp. Unlike in the other two Tak camps, no NGO is directly responsible for the management of latrine construction and maintenance, and this has proven to be a problem in the past – with different NGOs taking on particular construction projects when the need arises. In 2006, an assessment mission including representatives of the Asia Institute of Technology (AIT) experts was commissioned by UNHCR to carry out a review of the sanitation, water and waste disposal situation in the camp. The results of the mission were presented to the CCSDPT (Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand), and it was agreed that a new agency with specific expertise needs to be identified.
- COERR manages waste disposal and community education. Waste management has been a growing problem since 2002 and is the cause of complaints from the local area about the environmental impact of the refugee camp. COERR works continuously with both the refugees and the local villagers to rectify the situation.

FOOD/DOMESTIC ITEMS:

- TBBC provides basic food basket, shelter materials and non-food items through KRC/Camp Committee. In addition, TBBC provides support and assists in capacity building of camp management structures.

EDUCATION:

- The camp has a total of 26 schools, including 5 high schools, 5 middle schools, and 16 primary schools with **16,460** students and 675 teachers for academic year 2005 - 2006. Additionally, there are 22 nursery schools with **2,327** students (aged 3 to 5 years old) and 121 teachers. Mae La has the most students and the most educational opportunities.
- A relatively small number of students have the opportunity to further their education through various language, leadership, and other specialized courses; the lack of further education for all is one of the ongoing problems for youth.
- Mae La also has one Baptist bible school in zone C1A, as well as religious classes run by the mosques.
- One school for Thai language is staffed by an MOI Volunteer Officer, as part of the Government's policy to teach Thai language to refugee children.
- Five camp libraries were established by SVA, funded by UNHCR.

VULNERABLE GROUPS:

- Handicap International (HI) operates a prosthesis program and has a workshop in Mae La camp. HI also has the Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program which targets disabled population in the camp.

- The Karen Women’s Organization and the Muslim Women’s Organization are active in assisting vulnerable groups, including widows, orphans, elderly, and mentally ill. They are also working with COERR to provide badly-needed counseling services.
- In addition, the Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR) has an EVI project with one Program Social Worker and 18 Community Social Workers in the camp.

COORDINATION OF ASSISTANCE:

- The Ministry of the Interior (MOI) Camp Commander (based in the camp, rather than at the District Office, unlike in some provinces) coordinates assistance activities inside the camp and chairs a monthly coordination meeting.
- In Bangkok, MOI coordinates NGO activities through the Coordinating Committee for Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand (CCSDPT). Although not all NGOs in the camp are members of CCSDPT, this body is the main forum for discussion, information-sharing, and advocacy with the Thai authorities. CCSDPT and UNHCR have collaborated closely since 2004 to identify gaps in assistance and to present these to donors for consideration. The two organizations have also initiated dialogue with the Thai government to improve skills, living conditions, and prospects for the future of the camp residents.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Links to Karen State: Refugees that have entered the refugee camps along the border over many years include those fleeing the attacks by the Government of Myanmar (State Law and Order Restoration Council, which was replaced by the State Peace and Development Council), against the bases of the Karen National Union (and its armed wing, the Karen National Liberation Army, as well as Karen villagers affected by forced village relocations, crop destruction, and other impacts from the ongoing conflict. There are strong links (political, economic, and administrative) between camp residents and Karen on the opposite side of the border.

Protection Monitoring: Mae La, as the largest camp in the border area and the most accessible for quick visits, receives frequent international attention. It is also the center for political, educational, and other unique community development activities, drawing refugees from the other camps—particularly for educational reasons. The size, however, presents monitoring challenges; although UNHCR staff are in the camps weekly, the office is not allowed a permanent presence in the camp. UNHCR depends on partnership with NGOs, the Camp Committee, MOI, and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) for information on protection problems, particularly related to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and human rights violations.

Problems of Overcrowding: The camp was considered several years ago, to have reached the capacity of its space and water supply, and it continues to grow. Although supposedly designed for 40,000 people, there are no resources to support a camp of this size.



MAE LA CAMP

From Mae La West to District of Tina Song Yang, Lat 16 31 14

T H A I L A N D

Appendix Six (ii): Nu Poh

CAMP CREATION: Nu poh Camp was created in March 1997, when major offensives of the army of the Government of Myanmar prompted thousands of Karen villagers to flee across the border. Nu Poh is both the smallest and the most remote of the camps in Tak. MOI (under the leadership of the Camp Commander) is responsible for the internal security of the camp in coordination with the refugees, while Rangers (paramilitary) oversee the security outside the camp, under Infantry Task Force Four, based in Mae Sot.

LOCATION:

- Tak Province, Umphang District
- Distance from Myanmar border: approximately 10 km
- The Thai- Karen village of Ban Nu pOH is located across the road from the camp. The camp is situated 228 kms from Mae Sot.
- Boundary of the camp is demarcated by bamboo fencing. The camp size is approximately 400 rai (158 acre). The camp is surrounded by a thick forest to the east, mountains to the west, national wild animal sanctuary to the south, and a Thai- Karen village to the north.

REFUGEE REGISTRATION AND STATUS DETERMINATION: UNHCR assists the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) in all registration activities in the Tak camps – training, technical support, registration planning, data collection, and updating. The Field Office registration officer works with an MOI team, the camp commanders, and refugee teams in the camp to conduct registration and regular updates. Following the initial registration of the population shortly after UNHCR arrived on the border, the Mae Sot Field Office continued to work with MOI on monthly updates until 2005. In 2005, however, UNHCR initiated the use of proGres, specially developed software for use in camp registration; Mae La camp was the last of the nine camps in which UNHCR conducted a comprehensive re-registration of the previously registered population, and data collection of an unregistered population of over 20,000. The new system incorporates digital photos, links to related families, and information that will be useful in the event of resettlement or repatriation. The information on the unregistered population laid the foundation for the presentation of these cases to the Thai authorities, as part of the increasing responsibility of the Thai Government in managing a national asylum system.

At the end of the year, the Tak Provincial Admissions Board (PAB) – dormant for many years – resumed its function to screen and approve for refugee status the thousands of new arrivals in Mae La. In five meetings (starting from December 2005 to December 2006), the PAB recognized virtually all of the unregistered population (27, 316 persons for all three camps in Tak Province); the figures below include the newly recognized (up to December 2006), leaving only those arriving after September 2005 in the “pending PAB consideration” category. It is expected that the PAB will function regularly and will consider refugee status for all new arrivals in Tak. The registration activities in the last quarter of 2005, in 2006 and the first quarter of 2007 have focused on refinement of the database, change of status from unregistered to recognized refugee, and re-issuance of new documents. UNHCR and MOI continues the monthly updating of the past, in which demographic changes such as births, deaths, departures, and family

composition changes are recorded. UNHCR will also work with the MOI team to screen new arrivals and prepare for submission to the PAB.

REFUGEE REGISTRATION AND STATUS DETERMINATION: UNHCR, in close cooperation with MOI, conducts the registration update exercise of the camp population on a monthly basis, in order to record demographic changes related to births, deceases, departures, marriages, divorces, and relocations, as well as to carry out the interview screening and registration of new arrivals accepted by the local authorities for consideration by the Provincial Admission Board (PAB).

Recognized registered population as of 01 February 2007:

FAMILIES	GIRLS (0-17 years)	BOYS (0-17 years)	WOMEN (18+)	MEN (18+)	TOTAL
2,634	2,737	2,860	2,822	2,825	11,244

RELIGIOUS GROUPS: The following information is from the camp committee, with UNHCR statistics (self-identification) in parentheses. For several reasons, both numbers are imprecise.

- Christian: 49% of the population (55%)
- Buddhist: 35% of the population (32%)
- Muslim: 15% of the population (mainly living in sections 11-14) (12%)
- Animist/Others: 1% of the population (1%)

There are 5 Christian churches (2 Baptist, 2 Seventh Day Adventist and 1 Roman Catholic), 2 Buddhist monasteries, and 2 mosques in the camp.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN: Ethnicity is recorded according to self-identification during registration. Although Muslim camp residents have different historic and ethnic roots from ethnic Karen, many Muslims were born in Karen State, may have some Karen ancestors, and speak Karen; they are likely to identify themselves as Karen, even if Karen refer to them as “Indian.” The result is that there is no appropriate name for the category of non-Karen Muslim, which is admittedly not an ethnic group. Please note that because of self-identification, the category “Karen” includes a variety of ethnic backgrounds and does not reflect the obvious diversity in the camp.

- Karen: 95% of the population
- Myanmar/Burman: 4% of the population
- Others: 1% of the population (Rakhine, Kayah, Mon & Shan)

THAI AUTHORITIES:

- Mr. Singkhan Ounmanh, MOI Camp Commander, Deputy District Officer
- Mr. Thaninh Vichitrakul, MOI District Officer, Umphang District
- Lt.Yongyuth Chareonphol, Commander, Ranger Company 3501

KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE, MAE SOT-BASED:

Pastor Robert Htwe, Chair

Saw Tamla Wah, Vice-Chair
Saw Tay Tay, General Secretary
Saw George, Joint Secretary
Saw San Cho, Treasurer
Dr. Htaw Soe De Gay, Health/Medical Coordinator
Saw Marshall Aye, Camp Affairs Coordinator
Naw Deborah, Education Coordinator

The KRC is formed of representatives from various camps. They have administrative oversight for the management of all seven Karen camps, and the office in Mae Sot is the headquarters for coordination. KRC facilitates communication between the Thai authorities, donors, NGOs, and the camp committees. They have been heavily involved since 2004 in the Camp Management Project, in coordination with TBBC, which has sought to regularize the work performed by the various camp management staff.

REFUGEE CAMP COMMITTEE, CAMP-BASED:

- Camp Leader: Saw Samson
- Second Leader: Saw Sha Gay
- Secretary: Saw Taw Doh

The present Camp Committee members were elected in July 2005. New elections will be held in June 2007. The Committee is made up of 15 members, (12 males and 3 females). Sub-committees focus on such sectors as education, health, food distribution, judiciary, women's issues, security, and youth. Other committees also provide important community services; the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Committee, for example, is a strong presence in the camp, providing prevention and protection for survivors.

NGOs AND ORGANIZATIONS:

TBBC: Thai Burma Border Consortium
AMI: Aide Medicale Internationale
ARC: American Refugee Committee International
HI: Handicap International
ZOA: ZOA (Zuid Oost Azie) Refugee Care the Netherlands
WE/C: World Education/ Consortium
TOPS: Taipei Overseas Peace Service
COERR: Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees
SVA: Shanti Volunteer Association
IRC: International Rescue Committee

HEALTH:

- AMI is in charge of curative aspect of health sector in the camp. This includes the running of the in-patient department (IPD), out-patient department (OPD), and laboratory. AMI refugee health staff in Nu Poh includes medics, nurses, lab technicians, and home visitors.
- ARC is in charge of preventive aspect of health sector in the camp, including Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and community health education. In addition, they provide some household items (such as soap and buckets) and conduct health screening of new arrivals.

ARC refugee health staff in Nu Poh includes community health workers for MCH and community health education workers.

- Major health problems in the camp are reported to be malaria and diarrhea.

WATER AND SANITATION:

- ARC is in charge of water and sanitation sectors. Sufficient amount of water is available to all camp residents throughout the year 24 hours a day. There are three water sources in the camp.

FOOD/DOMESTIC ITEMS:

- TBBC provides basic food basket, shelter materials and non-food items through KRC/Camp Committee. In addition, TBBC provides support and assists in capacity building of camp management structures.

EDUCATION:

- The camp has several schools, including a high school, a middle school, primary and nursery schools. The limited opportunities for further education is one of the ongoing problems for youth.
- Languages that are being taught in these schools are Karen, Burmese, and English. However, Thai language classes are also available for the interested students in the camp (taught by MOI volunteers).
- The camp also has 1 Baptist bible school.
- SVA has established 2 public libraries, with UNHCR funding

VULNERABLE GROUPS:

- Handicap International (HI) has a small prosthesis workshop in the camp. HI has also set up a Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program to help the disabled population in the camp. According to HI, there are 312 disabled individuals in the camp.
- The Karen Women's Organization is active in assisting vulnerable groups, including widows, orphans, and elderly. They are also working with COERR to provide badly-needed counseling services.
- In addition, Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR) has an EVI project with 2 Program Social Workers and a network of Community Social Workers assigned to the camp.

COORDINATION OF ASSISTANCE:

- The Ministry of the Interior (MOI) Camp Commander (based in the camp, rather than at the District Office, unlike in some provinces) coordinates assistance activities inside the camp and chairs a monthly coordination meeting.
- In Bangkok, MOI coordinates NGO activities through the Coordinating Committee for Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand (CCSDPT). Although not all NGOs in the camp are members of CCSDPT, this body is the main forum for discussion, information-sharing, and advocacy with the Thai authorities. CCSDPT and UNHCR have collaborated closely since 2004 to identify gaps in assistance and to present these to donors for consideration. The two organizations have also initiated dialogue with the Thai government to improve skills, living conditions, and prospects for the future of the camp residents.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Links to Karen State: Refugees that have entered the refugee camps along the border over many years include those fleeing the attacks by the Government of Myanmar (State Law and Order Restoration Council, which was replaced by the State Peace and Development Council), against the bases of the Karen National Union (and its armed wing, the Karen National Liberation Army, as well as Karen villagers affected by forced village relocations, crop destruction, and other impacts from the ongoing conflict. There are strong links (political, economic, and administrative) between camp residents and Karen on the opposite side of the border.

Security: Since the creation of the camp in March 1997, no cross-border attacks on Nu Poh have occurred. However, some security incidents have taken place in the vicinity of the camp, including landmine explosions. A Ranger unit (paramilitary) based outside of camp provides external security, under the supervision of Infantry Task Force Four, based in Mae Sot.

Transfer of Persons of Concern: In March 2005, Nu Poh received some 800 Persons of Concern—mandate refugees previously living in Mae Sot—under instructions from the Royal Thai Government (RTG), in accordance with their policy that all recognized refugees must reside in one of the border camps (restricted to Nu Poh, Ban Don Yang, and Tham Hin). The majority of this group has already been resettled, and UNHCR continues to facilitate resettlement, in accordance with agreements with the RTG.

Transfer of “Slip Holders”:

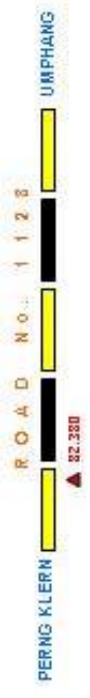
In the first quarter of 2006, MOI coordinated construction of additional housing in the camp, slated to receive the majority of the asylum seekers registered in Mae Sot. The transfer of asylum seekers from Mae Sot took place on 16-26 September, and during that period a total 1,440 persons arrived in Nu Poh in order to enter the determination process of the RTG (PAB, see first page).



NU PO CAMP

San Na Po Mao 4 District of Umpuang Tak 63170

T H A I L A N D



Appendix Six (iii): Umpiem

CAMP CREATION: Umpium camp was established during the latter part of 1999 in order to accommodate refugees relocated from Huay Kalok and Mawker camps. In the past, these two camps were subjected to several cross-border attacks, due to proximity to the border. Most recently in March 1998, both camps were attacked by intruders from Myanmar incurring significant casualties among the refugees and damages on the infrastructures of the camps. The threat of attacks led to relocation of the two camps to the current location, between August and November 1999, during which over 70% of the population of Huay Kalok and Mawker camps entered Umpium. Others are believed to have moved back across the border or remained in the area illegally among the local population. The camp has not been attacked since then. MOI (under the leadership of the Camp Commander) is responsible for the internal security of the camp, in coordination with the refugees, while Rangers (paramilitary) oversee the security outside the camp, under Infantry Task Force Four, based in Mae Sot.

LOCATION:

Tak Province, Phop Phra District

Distance from Thai- Myanmar border: approximately 13 kms

The camp follows national road No.1019, between Mae Sot and Umphang. The Hmong villages of Ban Umpium and Ban Umpium Mai are located about 5 kms and 1 km north of the camp respectively. The camp size is approximately 550 rai (195 acre) and is situated 86 kms from Mae Sot.

REFUGEE REGISTRATION AND STATUS DETERMINATION: UNHCR assists the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) in all registration activities in the Tak camps – training, technical support, registration planning, data collection, and updating. The Field Office registration officer works with an MOI team, the camp commanders, and refugee teams in the camp to conduct registration and regular updates. Following the initial registration of the population shortly after UNHCR arrived on the border, the Mae Sot Field Office continued to work with MOI on monthly updates until 2005. In 2005, however, UNHCR initiated the use of proGres, specially developed software for use in camp registration; Mae La was the last of the nine camps in which UNHCR conducted a comprehensive re-registration of the previously registered population, and data collection of an unregistered population of over 20,000. The new system incorporates digital photos, links to related families, and information that will be useful in the event of resettlement or repatriation. The information on the unregistered population laid the foundation for the presentation of these cases to the Thai authorities, as part of the increasing responsibility of the Thai Government in managing a national asylum system.

At the end of the year, the Tak Provincial Admissions Board (PAB) – dormant for many years – resumed its function to screen and approve for refugee status the thousands of new arrivals in Mae La. In five meetings (starting from December 2005 to December 2006), the PAB recognized virtually all of the unregistered population (27, 316 persons for all three camps in Tak Province); the figures below include the newly recognized (up to December 2006), leaving only those arriving after September 2005 in the “pending PAB consideration” category. It is expected that the PAB will function regularly and will consider refugee status for all new arrivals in Tak. The registration activities in the last quarter of 2005, in 2006 and the first quarter of 2007 have

focused on refinement of the database, change of status from unregistered to recognized refugee, and re-issuance of new documents. UNHCR and MOI continues the monthly updating of the past, in which demographic changes such as births, deaths, departures, and family composition changes are recorded. UNHCR will also work with the MOI team to screen new arrivals and prepare for submission to the PAB.

CAMP POPULATIONS: UNHCR, in close cooperation with MOI, conducts the registration update exercise of the camp population on a monthly basis, in order to record demographic changes related to births, deceases, departures, marriages, divorces, and relocations, as well as to carry out the interview screening and registration of new arrivals accepted by the local authorities for consideration by the Provincial Admission Board (PAB).

Recognized registered population as of 01 February 2007:

FAMILIES	GIRLS (0-17 years)	BOYS (0-17 years)	WOMEN (18+)	MEN (18+)	TOTAL
4,748	4,240	4,545	4,920	4,972	18,677

RELIGIOUS GROUPS: The following information is from the camp committee, with UNHCR statistics (self-identification) in parentheses. For several reasons, both numbers are imprecise.

Buddhist: 36% of the population (35%)
 Christian: 37% of the population (40%)
 Muslim: 25% of the population (25%)
 Animists: 2 (0%)

There are 15 Christian churches (11 Baptist, 2 Seventh Day Adventist and 2 Roman Catholic), 3 Buddhist monasteries, and 5 mosques in the camp

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN: Ethnicity is recorded according to self-identification during registration. Although Muslim camp residents have different historic and ethnic roots from ethnic Karen, many Muslims were born in Karen State, may have some Karen ancestors, and speak Karen; they are likely to identify themselves as Karen, even if Karen refer to them as "Indian." The result is that there is no appropriate name for the category of non-Karen Muslim, which is admittedly not an ethnic group. Please note that because of self-identification, the category "Karen" includes a variety of ethnic backgrounds and does not reflect the obvious diversity in the camp.

Karen: 92% of the population
 Myanmar/Burman: 4% of the population
 Mon: 1% of the population
 Others: 3% of the population (Rakhine, Kachin, Kayah & Shan)

THAI AUTHORITIES:

Palat Ketthai Wongsuwan, MOI Camp Commander, Deputy District Officer
 Mr. Theerachai Thotsaroth, MOI District Officer, Phob Phra District

Capt. Suporn Ruesrichan, Commander, Ranger Company 3501

KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE, MAE SOT-BASED:

Pastor Robert Htwe, Chair
Saw Tamla Wah, Vice-Chair
Saw Tay Tay, General Secretary
Saw George, Joint Secretary
Saw San Cho, Treasurer
Dr. Htaw Soe De Gay, Health/Medical Coordinator
Saw Marshall Aye, Camp Affairs Coordinator
Naw Deborah, Education Coordinator

The KRC is formed of representatives from various camps. They have administrative oversight for the management of all seven Karen camps, and the office in Mae Sot is the headquarters for coordination. KRC facilitates communication between the Thai authorities, donors, NGOs, and the camp committees. They have been heavily involved since 2004 in the Camp Management Project, in coordination with TBBC, which has sought to regularize the work performed by the various camp management staff.

REFUGEE CAMP COMMITTEE, CAMP-BASED:

Camp Leader: Saw Wah Htee
Vice Camp Leader: Saw Ah Tu
Secretary: Naw Eh Lweh

The Camp Committee members were elected in November 2005, while the composition of it was revised in October 2006 after the internal reshuffle. New elections will be held again in October 2008 after the completion of the 2 years term. The Committee is made up of 21 members (13 males and 8 females). Sub-committees focus on such sectors as education, health, food distribution, judiciary, women's issues, security, and youth. Other committees also provide important community services; the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Committee, for example, is a strong presence in the camp, providing prevention and protection for survivors.

NGOs AND ORGANIZATIONS:

TBBC: Thai Burma Border Consortium
HI: Handicap International
ZOA: ZOA (Zuid Oost Azie) Refugee Care the Netherlands
TOPS: Taipei Overseas Peace Service
ICS: International Child Support
COERR: Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees
WE/C: World Education/ Consortium
ARC: American Refugee Committee International
PPAT: Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand
SVA: Shanti Volunteer Association
IRC: International Rescue Committee
AMI: Aide Medicale Internationale

HEALTH:

AMI has been in charge of curative aspect of the health sector in the camp since January 2001. This includes the running of the in-patient department (IPD), out-patient department (OPD), laboratory, cholera and diarrhea ward, tuberculosis treatment center, eye clinic, and dental clinic. AMI refugee health staff in Umpium includes medics, nurses, lab technicians, and home visitors.

ARC is in charge of preventive aspect of health sector in the camp, including Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and community health education. In addition, they provide some household items (such as soap and buckets) and conduct health screening of new arrivals. ARC refugee health staff in Umpium includes community health workers for MCH and community health education workers.

Major health problems in the camp are reported to be malaria and diarrhea.

WATER AND SANITATION:

ARC is in charge of these two sectors in the camp since January 2001. There are 63 refugee water and sanitation workers in the camp as of December 2002.

FOOD/DOMESTIC ITEMS:

TBBC provides basic food basket, shelter materials and non-food items through KRC/Camp Committee. In addition, TBBC provides support and assists in capacity building of camp management structures.

EDUCATION:

The camp has a total of 12 schools including 4 11-12 grade schools, 2 high schools, 3 secondary schools, 2 primary schools, with 5,560 students and 219 teachers for academic year 2006. Additionally, there are 9 nursery schools with 1,614 students (aged 3 to 5 years old) with 42 teachers.

In addition, a total of 33 students are enrolled in Teachers Preparation Course (TPC), 96 students are enrolled in Special English Program (SEP), 17 students are enrolled in English Immersion Program (EIP) and 29 students are enrolled in Vocational Training school (VT) for academic year 2006. The limited opportunities for further education is one of the ongoing problems for youth.

Three public camp libraries have been established by SVA (funded by UNHCR).

VULNERABLE GROUPS:

Handicap International (HI) has set up a Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program to help the disabled population in the camp.

The Karen Women's Organization is active in assisting vulnerable groups, including widows, orphans, and elderly. They are also working with COERR to provide badly-needed counseling services.

In addition, the Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR) has an EVI project in the camp with one Program Social Worker and a network of Community Social Workers assigned to the camp.

COORDINATION OF ASSISTANCE:

The Ministry of the Interior (MOI) Camp Commander (based in the camp, rather than at the District Office, unlike in some provinces) coordinates assistance activities inside the camp and chairs a monthly coordination meeting.

In Bangkok, MOI coordinates NGO activities through the Coordinating Committee for Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand (CCSDPT). Although not all NGOs in the camp are members of CCSDPT, this body is the main forum for discussion, information-sharing, and advocacy with the Thai authorities. CCSDPT and UNHCR have collaborated closely since 2004 to identify gaps in assistance and to present these to donors for consideration. The two organizations have also initiated dialogue with the Thai government to improve skills, living conditions, and prospects for the future of the camp residents.

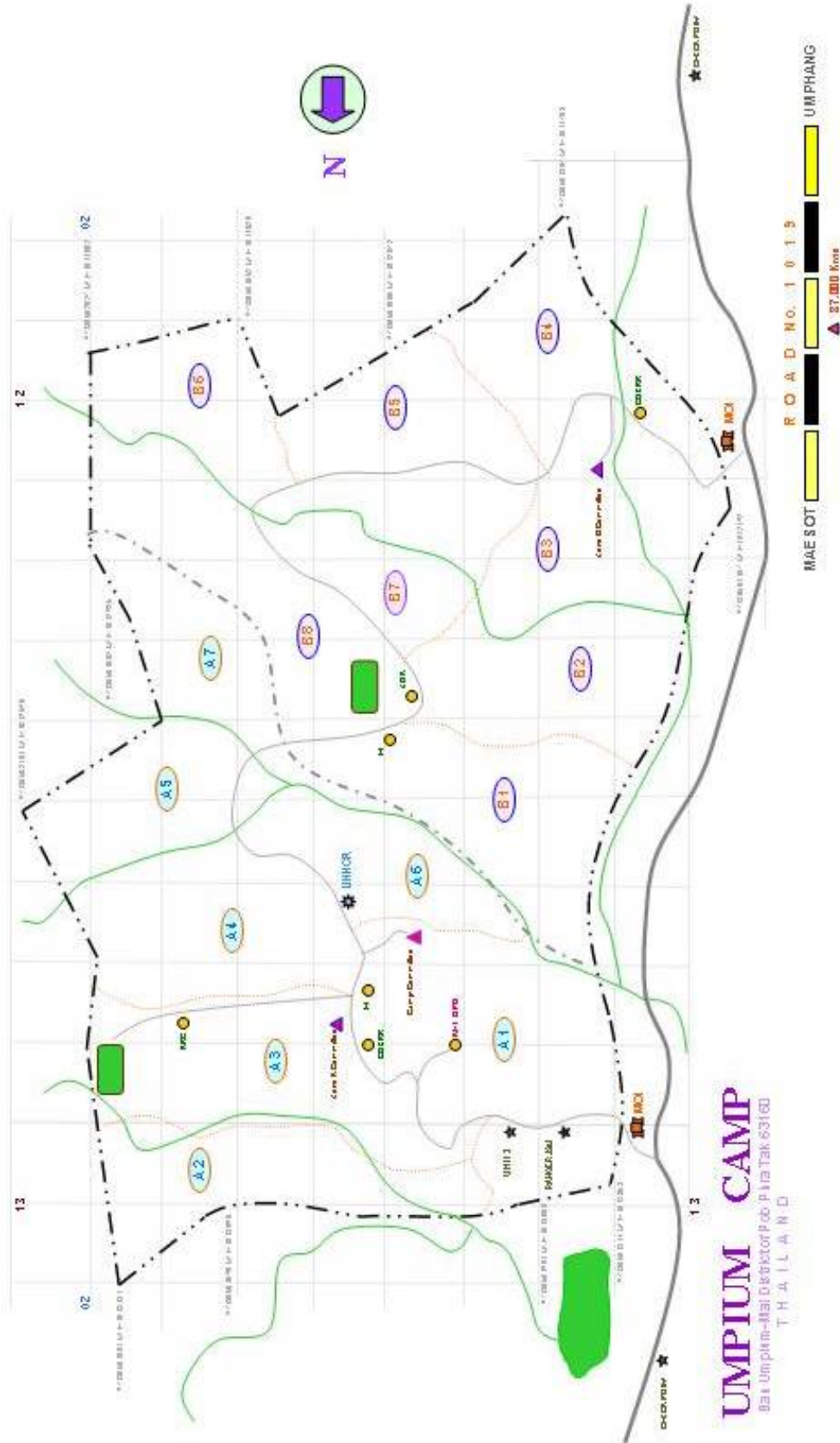
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Links to Karen State: Refugees that have entered the refugee camps along the border over many years include those fleeing the attacks by the Government of Myanmar (State Law and Order Restoration Council, which was replaced by the State Peace and Development Council), against the bases of the Karen National Union (and its armed wing, the Karen National Liberation Army, as well as Karen villagers affected by forced village relocations, crop destruction, and other impacts from the ongoing conflict. There are strong links (political, economic, and administrative) between camp residents and Karen on the opposite side of the border.

Security: The camp has not been attacked since the relocation to the current site. The MOI Camp Commander is responsible for the internal security of the camp, in coordination with the refugees, while a Ranger unit (paramilitary) is responsible for security outside the camp, under Infantry Task Force Four, based in Mae Sot.

Transfer of “Slip Holders”:

In the first quarter of 2006, MOI coordinated construction of additional housing in the camp, slated to receive a portion of the asylum seekers registered in Mae Sot. The transfer of asylum seekers from Mae Sot took place in the second half of September, and during that period a total 589 persons arrived in Umpium in order to enter the determination process of the RTG (PAB, see first page).



UMPIUM CAMP
 Ba1 Umpium-Mai District (P.02, P.13) Tak 63160
 T H A I L A N D