



IMPORTANT UPDATE ABOUT TBBC RATIONS

A Reminder - The Cutbacks That Took Place in December

Due to budget problems, TBBC was forced to make cutbacks in all areas of the programme during 2007, starting within the organisation itself. This was mainly due to the weakening of foreign currencies against the Thai baht. As this continued throughout the year, in December we had no choice but to make a reduction in rations. This was TBBC's last resort to solve the problem.

The reductions in food only applied to fishpaste (or soya bean wafers/ prawn paste in camps where fishpaste is not supplied) and chili. Non-food items were also affected - provision of soap bars and washing powder was suspended, and it was decided that mosquito nets for 2008 could only be offered to new arrivals. Reductions in the amounts of building materials for this year also had to be made.

Our Current Situation

We continue to face budget restrictions for 2008 and so, starting in the next month or so, we will have to make further adjustments to the original reductions made in December. We have based these new changes on feedback about the communities' eating preferences.

This adjustment also includes further cutbacks within our organisation, such as a salary freeze for all TBBC staff and a suspension of all new staff recruitment.

Upcoming Adjustments to the Original Cutbacks

→ In all camps:

- AsiaMIX will be reduced for over-5s;
- Sugar will also be reduced for over-5s;
(These reductions will not apply to boarding houses residents, due to their specific age demographics and the higher nutritional needs of young people)

In addition,

→ In the Tak and Mae Sariang camps, and in Site 2:

- Fishpaste will be restored to its pre-December level;

→ In Don Yang, where a smaller ration of ground fishpaste is supplied:

- Mung beans will be increased;

→ In Tham Hin, where the prawn paste is unpopular:

- Prawn paste will be discontinued;
- Mung beans will be increased;
- Chili will be restored to its pre-December level;

→ In Site 1, where fishpaste is not supplied and soya bean wafers are unpopular:

- Mung beans will be increased;
- Soya bean wafers will be discontinued;
- Chili will be restored to its pre-December level;

TBBC will also be offering chili seeds to households interested to grow chillies themselves.



New Standard Monthly Rations (adult / child) - by Camp

COMMODITY	SITE 1	SITE 2	MLO	MRML	ML	UM	NP	DY	TH
Rice	15 kg / 7.5 kg	15 kg / 7.5 kg	15 kg / 7.5 kg	15 kg / 7.5 kg	15 kg / 7.5 kg	15 kg / 7.5 kg	15 kg / 7.5 kg	15 kg / 7.5 kg	15 kg / 7.5 kg
Salt	500 g	330 g	330 g	330 g	330 g	330 g	330 g	330 g	330 g
Fishpaste	-	750 g	750 g	750 g	750 g	750 g	750 g	500 g	-
Chili	125 g	40 g	40 g	40 g	40 g	40 g	40 g	40 g	125 g
Oil	1.0 L / 0.5 L	1.0 L / 0.5 L	1.0 L / 0.5 L	1.0 L / 0.5 L	1.0 L / 0.5 L	1.0 L / 0.5 L	1.0 L / 0.5 L	1.0 L / 0.5 L	1.0 L / 0.5 L
Mung Beans	1.2 kg / 0.6 kg	1.0 kg / 0.5 kg	1.0 kg / 0.5 kg	1.0 kg / 0.5 kg	1.0 kg / 0.5 kg	1.0 kg / 0.5 kg	1.0 kg / 0.5 kg	1.1 kg / 0.55 kg	1.2 kg / 0.6 kg
AsiaMIX	0.5 kg / 1.0 kg	0.5 kg / 1.0 kg	0.5 kg / 1.0 kg	0.5 kg / 1.0 kg	0.5 kg / 1.0 kg	0.5 kg / 1.0 kg	0.5 kg / 1.0 kg	0.5 kg / 1.0 kg	0.5 kg / 1.0 kg
Sugar	125 g / 250 g	125 g / 250 g	125 g / 250 g	125 g / 250 g	125 g / 250 g	125 g / 250 g	125 g / 250 g	125 g / 250 g	125 g / 250 g



Some Frequently Asked Questions...

- ? ***Why did TBBC decide to cut chillies? Chili is a basic part of the diet.***
- It is very difficult to buy the large quantity of chillies needed every month at a reasonable quality and price.
 - Although they are a central part of the typical diet, chillies do not offer much nutrition. For these reasons, we decided to reduce the chili ration.
 - However, TBBC will offer chili seeds and seedlings to households interested to grow chillies themselves.
- ? ***Why did TBBC cut the adult sugar ration? It's very popular in cooking.***
- Sugar was included in the rations to complement *AsiaMIX*. As the adult *AsiaMIX* ration has been reduced, sugar has also been reduced accordingly.
- ? ***How do these reductions in rations affect the nutritional health of families?***
- Because we are reducing *AsiaMIX*, the food basket will contain fewer vitamins and minerals. It is important that households find enough vegetables and other foods to compensate for this.
 - TBBC and the health agencies will be monitoring nutritional health via annual nutrition surveys of children. However, it is important that children and pregnant and lactating women eat the most *AsiaMIX* to ensure that they and their babies grow well.
- ? ***Why did TBBC cut laundry and bar soap? Many people can't afford to buy it themselves.***
- These were the most recent items added to the commodities we provide, and other agencies are also able to distribute them, although this is not happening in every camp at the moment. The alternative would be reducing food rations even more.
- ? ***There is still malaria in the camps - why did TBBC decide to stop providing mosquito nets for 2008?***
- Almost everyone in the camps has a mosquito net. This cut is only for 2008 at the moment and, if a mosquito net tears, it can be repaired in the meantime. The cut does not apply to new arrivals - they will still be offered mosquito nets.
 - ***"A stitch in time saves nine"!***

If you want to know more about these revisions, or anything else about TBBC, please contact your local TBBC office.