

TBBC, FAMILY AND FRIENDS APPEAL

Support refugees from Burma: put rice in the pot

UPDATE

TBBC launched this appeal on 30 May 2008 when it was almost USD 7 million short of funds to feed the refugees in 2008. Cuts to refugee rations looked almost inevitable and the target set was baht 1.6 million by 30 June (USD \$50,000, EUR €32,000, GBP £25,000).

The appeal reached its target on time and donations have continued to come in passing baht 2.93 million (USD 87,960, EUR 59,890, GBP 47,620) by 31 December 2008.

On behalf of the Burmese refugees and displaced people we would like to thank all of you who supported us when help was most needed.

Today more than 140,000 refugees from Burma are living in nine camps along the Thailand Burma border. Unlike most other situations around the world there is no United Nations-coordinating mechanism responsible for these refugees. The Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC), a non-profit organisation, provides all of the food to these camps and must raise its own funds. Rice is the main ingredient of the refugees' food basket, the price of which has been seriously affected by the global food crisis.

During 2008 rice prices have more than doubled. Unless more funds can be raised quickly to cover the increased cost, TBBC will have to cut the refugee food rations to a level below the international minimum standard required to sustain life.



World attention is currently focused on the victims of cyclone Nargis and once again, we are witnessing the incapacity and unwillingness of the military junta to respond to the needs of its own people. The people of Burma have suffered decades of human rights abuses, civil war and economic mismanagement and for 24 years TBBC has been providing assistance to those who have had no choice but to flee to the border.

These refugees must not be forgotten. Before fleeing to Thailand, they suffered serious human rights abuses including forced labour, rape and torture and most have lost everything they owned as their villages were destroyed by the army. The refugees from Burma are confined to camps but if TBBC cannot support them with adequate food, they will be compelled to leave the camps, risking arrest, abuse, exploitation, and possible deportation back to Burma. Children, pregnant women and the elderly are most at risk.

We are appealing to all traditional donors including governments to help us through this crisis. But we are also challenging ourselves as staff, friends and families. We believe that the huge network of family and friends will make a difference.

We are setting ourselves a target of Thai baht 1.6 million (USD 50,000, EUR 32,000, GBP 25,000) by the end of June. That would be enough to provide rice to 1,000 refugees to the end of 2008.

A contribution of just baht 300 (US\$10, € 6, £ 5) would cover the cost of rice for one refugee for a whole month, baht 1,800 (US\$60, € 36, £ 30) for the entire second half of 2008.

We can make a difference – even a little means a lot.

Find out ways to contribute to this appeal on the following page.

Donations can be made in any of the following ways

You will be able to follow the funding progress on our website at <http://www.tbbc.org/donate/appeal-friends.htm>. Unless you request anonymity by sending us an email to donate@tbbc.org or a message with your donation, we will list you (but not the amount donated) as a "Friend of TBBC" on the website.

1. Website

By credit or debit card via TBBC <http://www.tbbc.org/donate/donatenow.htm>.

2. Cheque*

Mail cheque, bank draft or money order payable to **Thailand Burma Border Consortium**, preferably in Thai baht, US dollars, Euro or UK Pounds to:

Thailand Burma Border Consortium
12/5 Convent Road
Silom, Bangrak,
Bangkok 10500
Thailand

* Please note that bank charges for TBBC are at least \$10 per cheque so for small amounts, please donate online by credit card.

3. International Bank Deposit or Transfer

Transfer to one of the following accounts:

Standard Chartered Bank, London
SWIFT code: SCBLGB2L, IBAN: GB52 SCBL 6091 0412 544415, Sort Code: 60-91-04
Account Name: **Thailand Burma Border Consortium**

a) **US dollar** account No. 01 01 254441550

b) **Euro** account No. 56 01 254441596

c) **UK pound** account No. 00 01 254441501 (12544415 if depositing within UK), or to

4. Thai Bank

Deposit or transfer (please email details to donate@tbbc.org) to:

Siam Commercial Bank, Bangkok, Surawong 2 Branch
Account Name: **Burmese Border Consortium**
Account No. 064-2-15287-3
SWIFT code: SICOTHBK

If you wish TBBC to acknowledge your donation, please provide TBBC with a copy of the money transfer or deposit slip, with your name and address.



Thank you.