



Photo by Timothy



# Thailand Burma Border Consortium

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### Election Fall-Out in Eastern Burma

Four weeks after the November 7<sup>th</sup> election in Burma, new arrivals from eastern Burma continue to seek temporary refuge along the Thai border. The main sites are the Three Pagodas Pass adjacent to Mon State, and various locations in Tak Province adjacent to Karen State.

TBBC, UNHCR and many local and international NGOs have been coordinating humanitarian assistance through the Royal Thai Government. Over 20,000 people have crossed into Thailand since the election as a result of ongoing fighting between various ethnic militia groups and the Burmese Army. This is more than have ever previously crossed the border in a whole year since TBBC began work 26 years ago. The coordinated response has been providing basic humanitarian aid to these people—food, shelter, blankets, water, cooking fuel, pots and utensils, mosquito nets, hygiene kits and medical services.

Although most of the 20,000 who crossed into Thailand immediately after the election have been sent back by the Thai authorities, there are still smaller, scattered groups of people numbering around 800 to 1,000 seeking security from sporadic fighting.

So far this emergency has not affected other parts of the border and has required only a short-term response. However, it is unclear how things will evolve politically in eastern Burma in the coming weeks and months, and there remains the possibility of more refugees and a protracted situation. TBBC staff are on increased alert to deal with any new emergencies as they arise.



New arrivals at the Three Pagodas Pass

#### Population in camps

(from TBBC data base)

On 31 October 2010 the total verified population eligible to receive rations in camps was 146,889:

Site 1:	15,205
Site 2:	3,583
MLO:	15,973
MRML:	18,159
Mae La:	46,673
Umpiem Mai:	18,029
Nupo:	15,933
Don Yang:	4,486
Tham Hin:	8,848

#### Resettlement

(from IOM)

As of 31 October 2010, 9,950 people from camps border-wide have left for resettlement during 2010.

In 2009, 16,685 people left for resettlement to the following countries: USA (12,826); Australia (2,323); Finland (202); Canada (828); Netherlands (9); U.K (5); Norway(280); New Zealand (79), Sweden (118), Denmark (11).

Over 60,000 people have been resettled since 2006.



New arrivals at the Three Pagodas Pass



Annual KRC meeting in Umpiem camp

### "3 Sides to Every Story" a Profile of Muslim Communities in the Refugee Camps on the Thailand-Burma Border

The social dynamics of the refugee camps along the Thailand Burma border have shifted considerably in the past several years, to the point where they now display significant diversities in ethnicity, religion and cultural practices.

In order to better inform itself of these changing dynamics, TBBC recently undertook considerable research to gain a fuller understanding of one of the more distinct groups within this shifting landscape - that of the Muslim communities.

"3 Sides to Every Story", is the result of that process, and provides analysis and ways forward to ensure the programme reflects sensitivities to their practices and preferences.

In response to the findings, a number of significant programmatic interventions have been identified and are currently being incorporated in strategic and operation planning.

The report is available on our website in English and Thai; the Burmese and Karen language versions are currently in translation.

### Protracted Displacement and Chronic Poverty in Eastern Burma/Myanmar

In collaboration with ethnic community-based organisations, TBBC has continuously documented conditions in eastern Burma since 2002. This year, apart from updating information about displacement across six states and divisions, poverty assessments were also conducted in six townships. This poverty assessment was developed in consultation with humanitarian agencies based in Rangoon/Yangon as a contribution towards developing a credible, nation-wide database of indicators for household vulnerability.

Analysis of the demographic structure in eastern Burma reveals high birth and child mortality rates as well as low life expectancy. There is a high degree of dependency on a relatively small working age population and almost half of the population surveyed has no proof of citizenship.

This year's survey further estimates at least 73,000 people were forced to leave their homes, the highest rate of displacement being reported in northern Karen areas, where 26,000 villagers were forced from their homes and another 8,000 villagers suffered the same fate in southern Mon areas. As these are conservative figures covering only 37 townships and districts where urban areas are discounted, we estimate well over half a million internally displaced persons remain in eastern Burma.

**TBBC's 2010 report on Protracted Displacement & Chronic Poverty in Eastern Burma/Myanmar can be downloaded from our website at [www.tbbc.org](http://www.tbbc.org) with copies available at TBBC offices.**



Muslim family - one of the minority groups in the camps

### Support refugees from Burma

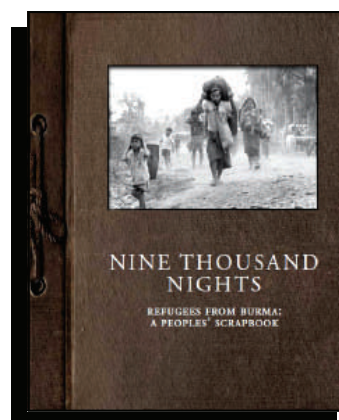
From basic food rations, shelter and household necessities, to giving refugees skills to earn an income, your gift can make a difference. Our goal is to provide not only humanitarian aid but also to support long-term self-reliance of the refugees. Find out more about how you can contribute by visiting [TBBC's gift catalogue](#)

### Nine Thousand Nights

#### Refugees from Burma: A People's Scrapbook

This unique publication, 'authored' by hundreds of people, collects together a rich array of insights, memories and images to provide a deeply human and intimate portrayal of the life and experiences of refugees from Burma over a quarter of a century. Many individual stories here may move, outrage, enlighten, or surprise the reader-collectively, the perspectives of so many contributors come together to provide a rare 'peoples' glimpse into an extraordinary place and a period of history that will one day pass and be gone.

Find out more about how can you order/purchase this book from TBBC website.: [www.tbbc.org](http://www.tbbc.org)



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