

Adjustments to the Food Basket in 2011

As we start the New Year, TBBC is again facing a difficult funding situation. Although most of our Donors continue to strongly support the programme, they have not been able to keep pace with rising prices and the negative effect of falling exchange rates.

Over the past few years, TBBC has focussed its efforts to limit the impacts of funding shortfalls by targeting less essential items and out-of-camp support. Regretfully, with those now down to a bare minimum, we now have no choice but to focus adjustments on core camp programmes - specifically food and shelter - effective January.

Although the funding situation has made this a matter of urgency, TBBC was already planning new approaches to both our food and shelter programmes. A professional review of the **food basket** was conducted last year to review its nutritional composition. The adjustments being made will result in cost savings through the reduction of certain staple food items (while also reintroducing pulses), but overall they will provide a more balanced source of nutrition.

In effect TBBC is moving from an emphasis on rice to a more nutritionally balanced one and of course this will be very difficult for the refugees to adjust to. A comprehensive information campaign, including nutrition awareness, is being carried out to explain the revisions taking place and to mitigate the negative impact.

To ensure that the nutritional needs of the most vulnerable refugees are met TBBC will continue to support supplementary feeding programs (SFP) implemented by health agencies, and nursery school lunch programmes run by local partners. In March and April, we will conduct a comprehensive Food Security Assessment in all camps to shed further light on existing household vulnerabilities and coping capacities. This will provide TBBC with baseline information which will inform any further changes.

The funding situation has necessitated a 50% cut in the shelter programme but significant efficiencies are expected from a new approach piloted in the Tak camps, where individual household shelter needs have been assessed and assistance given by carpenters to improve construction standards, Available resources will focus on maintaining living conditions in existing shelters, rather than the building of new houses - even at a time when substantial numbers of new arrivals are expected. Support for community buildings will also be cut, although camp management structures such as warehouses will need to be maintained.

While continuing to provide a basic level of nutrition and shelter, TBBC is expanding livelihoods opportunities in the camps in pursuit of durable refugee self-reliance. We believe these interventions will assist households more easily accept these substantial changes to basic relief support.

New food ration

Standard for all

6 months to 5 year old ration	5-18 years and Boarding House Student Ration	Adult Ration
 Rice 7 kg.	 Rice 13.5 kg.	 Rice 13.5 kg.
 Yellow split peas 0.5 kg.	 Yellow split peas 1 kg.	 Yellow split peas 1 kg.
 Sugar 250 gm.	 Sugar 250 gm.	 Sugar 125 gm.
 Asiamix 1 kg.	 Asiamix 1 kg.	 Asiamix 0.25 kg.
 Fishpaste 0.5 kg.	 Fishpaste 0.75 kg.	 Fishpaste 0.75 kg.
 Salt 75 gm.	 Salt 150 gm.	 Salt 150 gm.

Food ration poster from one of the refugee camps

We welcome your inputs and support through this challenging process.

Capacity-Building Projects in Nupo and Umpiem Mai

During the past two years, TBBC has facilitated the work of an Australian Volunteers International (AVI) volunteer, Linda Ulonska, to work with CBOs in Umpiem Mai and Nu Po, to support the development of two organisational capacity building projects - the short-term goal being to strengthen CBO service provision in their communities, while the ultimate aim is to strengthen overall management of the camps.

In Nu Po camp, the Karen Women's Organisation (KWO), the Karen Youth Organisation (KYO) and the Karen Student Network Group (KSNG), explained that their greatest challenge was the loss of staff due to resettlement. As a result they hoped to initiate a capacity building project to help them train up younger members of their CBOs in order for them to take on greater responsibility. In response, Linda worked with the CBOs to help them establish a Community Capacity Building Course (CCBC) - a full-time two year program focusing on community management, computer education and English language skills. The course emphasises practical application of the skills learnt, and as such the participants spend two weeks in a classroom style environment before practicing these skills for two weeks in the community. 15 members from the CBOs began studying in July 2009, and as the course draws to a close, results show that more than half of the participants have already moved from being members of their organisations to taking on committee roles such as Vice Chairperson and Joint Secretary. Once completing CCBC, the participants will return to their CBOs for a minimum of a year in order to share their skills, train other staff members, and strengthen the CBOs from the inside. In the future CCBC will continue with a new course beginning in May 2011, in order to train more CBO members to take on community management roles.

In Umpiem Mai, Linda is working with KWO, KYO, KSNG, the Muslim Youth Association (MYA), Muslim Women's Association (MWA) and the Community Peace Team (CPT), to support the strengthening of the CBO Support Centre (CSC). CSC was set up in response to a needs assessment conducted by TBBC, where the CBOs involved identified four key areas of support needed: human resources, material resources, financial resources and internal/external relationships. The CSC aims to address these needs by providing organisational capacity building training; communal access to resources such as computers, meeting rooms, sports equipment, and other materials etc; and a place where CBOs can network together. In 2011, trainings offered will include accounting, report writing, leadership, management, problem solving, and fundraising skills. All courses will run over a 6 week period and participants will learn how to be a trainer, before creating their own training materials and giving this training back to their CBO with support from a CSC staff person. CBOs will also have access to computer training and English language training throughout the year. Since the beginning of Linda's placement, a total of 243 CBO staff and members have directly accessed 12 trainings, with a further 172 people accessing the roll out of trainings within their CBOs.

Shortly Linda will be moving on from TBBC, and both projects will be overseen by the TBBC Camp Management Program Officer based in Umphang.



Income Generation Opportunities for People in Tham Hin and Mae Ra Ma Luang Camps

The Income Generation Programme aims to create economic opportunities for people in camps to help them generate income and strengthen self-employment opportunities in the camps. This not only helps to improve their current financial circumstances, but also prepares people for their eventual reintegration into their homelands, or integration into 3rd countries for those interested in resettlement. In the development of new micro or small entrepreneurial activities, *Capacity Building* of clients is the prime component and this is conducted through entrepreneurship training, grants and continuous support for their business management. Since the start of the project in August 2010, 286 people (119 in Tham Hin and 167 in Mae Ra Ma Luang) have received Entrepreneurship Development Training followed by a grant of Baht 2,400 Baht to start or expand micro or small businesses in the camps. More than 95% of clients have already started small businesses and are generating additional income for their supplementary needs. 67% of the total client base are women, including new arrivals, and the programme has a specific focus on other vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities.



The average daily turnover of these micro businesses ranges from 50 to 600 Baht, depending on the type of businesses and the demand of products, and this means that these people do no longer have to go outside the camps to look for casual labour, and risk possible arrest and deportation.

The IG Programme is now planning to organize a revolving loan scheme as a way of helping people address their financial needs at the community level. There are also plans to motivate and assist these people in business activities with the introduction of micro insurance schemes which will be designed to address the particular local context. The *savings and micro insurance* program will help people to invest in the long term in various entrepreneurial activities using their own resources. This will gradually reduce their dependence on outside financial support for income generation and livelihood activities. All these activities emphasize a step by step approach to build up capacities of people to generate their own income and gradual self-reliance.

Population in camps along the border (From TBBC data base)

As of December 31, 2010:

The total verified population eligible to receive rations in all camps in Thailand was **140,452**

Site 1	:	14,313
Site 2	:	3,505
MLO	:	14,988
MRML	:	17,257
Mae La	:	45,692
Umpiem	:	17,491
Nupo	:	15,473
Don Yang	:	4104
Tham Hin	:	7559

Resettlement Source IOM

As of December 31st 2010:

11,107 people from camps border-wide left for resettlement in 2010 to the following countries: **USA (9,538); Australia (857); Finland (123); Canada (339); Netherland (50); U.K (4); Norway (50); New Zealand (5), Sweden (80), Denmark (8), Japan (27), Others (26).** Almost 65,000 people have been resettled since 2006.

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.

book from **TBBC website:** www.tbtc.org

