

**COVID-19 Outbreak Response Coordination Group for the 9 temporary shelters along the  
Thai-Myanmar border (Provincial Level) Tak  
6<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 13 April 2020 10:00 – 11:45am**

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| <b>Participants:</b> Madalena Hogg (Chair), Nikola Errington (UNHCR), Somsak Thanaborikan, Atchara Chan-O-Kul, Preeyalauk Sataranon (IRC) Tim Moore (TBC), Kelly Labrorekksasuk, (ADRA), Maggi Quadrini (KWO), Sajith Gunaratne (IOM) |
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1. Review of Action Points

See updated Action Item Tracker

2. Situation Overview (UNHCR)

- 2, 551, 38 deaths, 1218 discharged, 33 new cases. In Tak only 3 cases confirmed positive, 2 in Mae Sot, Emergency Decree is still in place. Alcohol ban now in place as well as movement in and out of the province for some.
- Most agencies have significantly reduced their presence, with food and health still continuing and waste disposal.
- Other agencies have to coordinate closely with the Camp Commander for access.
- UN agencies extended working from home until 30 April.
- Myanmar government said that they would receive migrant workers on 30 April (ADRA), quarantine will be extended from 14 to 21 days (ADRA).

3. Surveillance, Case investigation and Outbreak Rapid Response (IRC)

- No suspected or confirmed cases in any camps.
- Still doing ARI screening cases, no significant increase compared to last year.
- Still updating new case definition in line with MOPH - at the moment it is anyone who has symptoms and has been to any busy area such as a market. Based on this, CHW will start community surveillance.
- Some people still coming back without reporting, important for CSW to be aware for screening purposes.
- Still have agreement with DOs to refer cases, unlike in MHS.
- Now IRC is preparing for health facility quarantine, different purpose from MOI/quarantine for close contact suspected cases.
- IRC will provide technical support to MOI/Camp Committees on those that they put in quarantine.
- Meeting with Palad in Umpium last Thursday, asked IRC to support, technical only for water supply but no in-kind support, may be able to provide support for soap bars and will do screenings on the first and last day of quarantine.
- IRC would be able to temporarily support to transport water supplies in the beginning but need volunteers from camp community. In the long term, MOI and CC may need to discuss about water system.
- Return of students from Mae Sot - screening is done and no symptoms.
- 5 people entering at night-time and now in Camp Committee detention in Umpium. IRC have checked their health condition.

4. Infection Prevention Control (IRC)

- Working with ADRA for community outreach activities . no timeline for how long household level awareness raising will continue.

5. Risk Communication and Community Engagement (ADRA)

- Training today in Mae La, tomorrow in Umpium, Wednesday in Nupo

- UNHCR enquired as to how many households in Mae Lae have a phone, TBC indicated most in Mae La have a smart phone. It was flagged that using phone for outreach should be utilized in lieu of too many home visits and an understanding of where there are gaps for those who do not have phones would also be useful.
  - ADRA working with FilmAid, on voice of “Burmese Python” who will send message of encouragement. This Tuesday will send updated messages. FilmAid has a Youtube channel and will bring together the video/audio messages.
  - KWO have some suggestions for other Karen well-known people who can share encouraging messages/TBC too.
    - AP: share the contact with ADRA and suggestions for well-known Karen/Myanmar celebrities to pass on messages of encouragement.
  - Others are recording the RCCE messages and then they edit and send to the camp for loudspeaker announcement
  - Where loudspeaker doesn't have the SD slot to the section leader reads it out.
  - KWO - other videos in Arakenese, Karenni produced in Ohio through resettlement services. One coming on mental health.
    - AP: videos to be shared once obtained.
6. Food Assistance (TBC)
- Some restrictions on suppliers - vulnerabilities are identified 2 levels: 1. If restrictions continue with low stocks in Thailand, then could be a break in the supply chain and 2. If prices keep increasing.
  - Contingency stocks are still going into the camps - large amounts of rice went into Nupo last Friday, not to be distributed yet, it is a back-up only and TBC want to keep the current system in place for as long as possible. If there is a break in supply, then there will be re-distributed through shops.
  - TBC will increase the value of the FCS of 5% and this has been announced, next top up is 28 April so one week before everyone will know specifically how much they will receive. \\
  - Price increases are for both the 25% (broken) rice and 5% (broken)rice, 5% is more popular in the camps. TBC sets a tight cap on maximum price of items, including rice, sold by food card shops. Note actual sales often are lower than the set cap. The current maximum selling prices for rice are:

| Maximum Price agreement among FCSWG/Vendors |  |      |     |               |      |
|---|--|------|-----|---------------|------|
| Item No.                                    | Current Commodity Name in the real product | Unit | MLA | UMP           | NUPO |
|   |  |      | Max | Max           | Max  |
| 1   | Standard broken rice 5%                    | KG   | 20  | 21            | 22   |
| 2   | Standard broken rice 25%)                  | KG   | 18  | Not available | 19   |

This is consistent with rise generally in Thailand.

- Have committed to this for 3 months and have secured finding from UK and asked the US for additional funding. Now securing contingency oil and tinned fish in the same way as rice.
- Working closely with IRC on medical quarantine and special food card for those in medical quarantine- the other quarantines have been problematic, support the intent of the Camp Commanders but TBC is not supplying food support but can support on an ad hoc basis - generally households are covering and seems to be working.
- For re-entry to camp, option for food support only those who are fleeing fighting and those who don't show up for APV, some of these are coming back to camp and will need to track this. UNHCR flagged the importance of differentiation on re-entry to the camps for protection purposes to avoid verified refugees becoming vulnerable to arrest/deportation/exploitation outside of the camps, as opposed to eligibility for assistance in the camps.
- Reinforcing messaging on social distancing at the food shops and warehouses, and will implement markings to guide people where to stand to ensure social distancing.
- TBC is receiving requests from warehouse staff for extra PPE and other IPC equipment - they are considering what will contribute to preventing infection and what is practical. TBC not

- jumping in, but see it as an opportunity to reinforce other messages on hand washing, social distancing etc.
- KWO is concerned about the price of rice going up and TBC confirmed its going up in all 9 camps, TBC can't control the market prices in Thailand but can build up the 6 month contingency to offset the price increases and remarked that this is the most difficult procurement environment that they have faced in 35 years.
  - UNHCR has raised whether multi-purpose cash has been considered before? Over the years assistance has changed from various items to now prioritizing food/cooking fuel.
7. Protection & Advocacy (UNHCR)
- Situation in Umpium
    - Positive meeting held in Umpium last Thursday to unblock situation of those in need of returning to the camps. Still challenges in the group quarantine arrangement because it will take several months for those now reported to be outside of the camps in need of return to make it back, thereby increasing their risks remaining outside. Currently the Camp Committee has a list of around 200 people, which is much higher than the original number of approx. 60. Over the weekend, students in Mae Sot have now returned as well as a few people from Mae Klong Yai.
    - IRC has been reinforcing the message that if people are sick they should go to the camp clinic, suggested that health posts in the villages that are hosting refugees can support by providing certificates to clear them before return - but there is no flexibility at the moment.
    - TBC highlighted that only 8 people presented last week in Mae La for the RDR - this was people who returned between Jan-March, lower than expected. If there are POCs coming back to the camp for protection and not getting food support - information can be shared to consider needs on a case by case basis, which was agreed.
  - Feedback from the PWG held on Friday 10 April
    - Identified challenges in implementing the CPRs during the lockdown period. Key issues include: identifying new cases, conducting fact-finding, following up cases with PSDHS over phone and referrals to outside shelters, challenges for MAT to continue their work (implications for CP, as well as SGBV and other safety and security issues), section leaders may have to take on extra responsibilities if they are able to have mobility, ensuring the most vulnerable have phones/phone credit - particular challenge is the caretaker is the perpetrator, case conferences will be challenging.
    - Feedback on conducting emotional support guidance was shared - IRC will complement by sharing other guidance on positive coping mechanisms etc once prepared
    - SCI and RTP are preparing messages for caretakers/parents which were circulated.
    - PWG will prepare an overview of protection services/focal points which are operational for each camp to be displayed and communicated through other channels.
  - Question raised about the potential for telehealth service to be available particularly for antenatal or sexual reproductive health (SRH) services. IRC confirmed not possible at this time. There will be a minimized visit schedule for non-essential health services such as chronic disease patients without complication will be schedule every 2 months . ANC should remain visit at least 4 visit during whole pregnancy period.
  - UNHCR/IRC drafting guidelines to support MAT to continue their work under lock-down conditions.

**Next meeting: Thursday 16 April 2020 @ 10am.**