

Final Report

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Livelihoods Vulnerability Analysis in Burmese Refugee Camps in Thailand

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Executive Summary

Background of the Burmese refugee camps in Thailand

After the first influxes of Burmese refugees into Tak Province in Thailand in 1984, the Royal Thai Government (RTG), which has not signed the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention, established a series of refugee camps near the border. In 1991 there were new influxes of refugees in all four border provinces and a more extensive support package became needed. In 1994, water and sanitation and education programmes were added to the basic health care and food / relief items distribution programmes. From 1995 onwards, a policy of 'containment' in closed camps near the border was adopted which continues up to today. From 1998 onwards, the NGOs were allowed to start vocational training programmes and UNHCR started with technical support to RTG on refugee status determination. A re-registration was carried out in 2004/05 identifying 136,053 refugees. Since 2006, there are vast resettlement programmes (per end of August 2009 a total of 52,866 refugees). In the past years, there have been many new arrivals in the camps that are not yet registered; a pre-screening process to catch up with this backlog was launched in March 2009.

Since 1995 DG ECHO has been funding NGOs for programmes in the food, health care and water and sanitation sectors for the Burmese refugees in Thailand but the financial support currently is gradually being phased down. Other EC support for the camps comes from the Aid to Uprooted People (AUP) programme and NGO co-financing budgetlines. To break away from the permanent dependency on external aid, DG ECHO has requested its partners to look for more durable solutions and to target assistance only to the most vulnerable refugees in the camps. The draft Strategic Plan 2010-2014 of the service delivery NGOs together with UNHCR follows this strategic direction, and focuses on more self-reliance for the remaining and new refugees in the camps and gradual integration of health and education services into the Thai system.

Livelihoods Vulnerability Analysis study

The global objective of this study commissioned by DG ECHO is to gain a good understanding of the different livelihood strategies and levels of self-reliance amongst the refugee communities as a precursor for more evidence-based programming and interventions with specific reference to food assistance. Applying the Sustainable Livelihoods Analysis (SLA) framework, the study particularly focused on how households generate income and access food and on potential alternative strategies to the current food ration. Data collection tools for the household interviews (systematic sample of 350 households in four of the camps) and the meetings with groups of refugees, the NGOs and donor/UN stakeholders were based on elements of the SCF-UK Household Economy Approach (HEA) method, and the Food Consumption Score (FCS) and Coping Strategies Index (CSI) tools developed by WFP.

Currently food assistance programmes operated by TBBC

- The general food basket is composed of eight items of which rice, vegetable oil, beans and fish paste are the main commodities in terms of quantities. The ration has more or less stayed the same over the past years, and meets the international nutrition standards in terms of energy but not fully for protein and fat content. The cost of the ration including transport to the camp but excluding distribution costs is 315 baht per month for adults and 205 baht per month for children under five who get a ration of different size. For each beneficiary, there also is a monthly ration of charcoal that costs 63 baht per month. In the past years, TBBC has increasingly focused on improving the management and cost efficiency of the food supply chain including food stock management in the camps and food distribution systems.
- Supplementary feeding for pregnant and lactating women was started in the mid-nineties of the past century to address high levels of vitamin B1 deficiency ('*beri-beri*') in the very monotonous rice-based diet. Although a fortified blended food was added to the general ration in 2004, the additional rations for pregnant and lactating women have continued up to today. The basket is currently provided to nearly 5,500 women and is comprised of beans, vegetable oil and either

eggs or canned fish with a costs level of 130 and 147 baht per month for pregnant and lactating women respectively.

- Supplementary feeding for children specifically targets malnourished children, but as a result of case finding problems due to low attendance of the growth monitoring sessions the coverage of malnourished children is below standards. The basket provided consists of premix and vegetable oil combined with either beans, eggs or canned fish, with a rather high cost of 394 baht per child per month. Nutrition support to children at nursery schools (3 – 5 years of age) is provided in the form of a cash contribution by TBBC to the education agencies to buy fresh foods. Coverage is good and currently over 8,000 children are reached with this programme.

Livelihood patterns in the camps

Although most of the refugees used to make a living in Burma through farming, the possibilities for agriculture and horticulture are limited to some projects implemented by NGOs while the overall context is that RTG does not allow allocation of any farming land to the refugees. While some horticulture and tree planting is allowed within the camp boundaries, rearing of animals in the camps is officially prohibited but implementation of this regulation varies between camps.

Possession of productive assets (for skilled labour and for renting out in the case of means of transport) is limited to a small part of the camp population, 5% on average (with some variation between camps). Skilled labour as a source of income was mentioned by 7% of the households interviewed. In all camps, casual labour was found to be the most important source of income while fixed employment (stipend workers with one of the agencies) is the second-most important source of income. Remittances are the third most frequently mentioned source of income received by one out of four families.

Sales from own production and sale of the food ration is the fourth most important source of income, overall mentioned by 15% of the households but much more in Site #1 where one-third of the refugees mentioned this source of income. Selling handicrafts and running a shop or being involved in petty trade was mentioned by around 10% of the refugee households, in both cases with little variation between camps. Cash support from relatives in Burma or Thailand is a source of income for 7% of the refugees on average (but much more prevalent in Site #1, 20%). 7% of households in the survey had no source of income at all (highest in Tham Hin, 14%).

Wealth groups in the camps

Results from the household survey indicate that 9% of the households in the camps are 'very poor' earning less than 100 baht per month. Overall 25% of all households earn between 100 and 500 baht and are labelled as 'poor'. Together, these two groups make up one-third of the population in all four camps. 'Better-off' households earning more than 2200 baht per month (equivalent to the monthly local cost of food and charcoal provided in the ration) were found to form about 9% of the camp population. In the sample, only 5 households (1.4%) were found to earn more than 5,000 baht per month.

For all wealth groups together, the average amount of cash earned per household is 960 baht per month. More than 60% of the households spend over 50% of their money on food which by far is the biggest post in the average household budget. Nearly 25% of the households spend money on loan repayments. Cell phones are owned by 22% of the households on average (but none in NuPo and 40% in MaeLa), while a TV is owned by 14% of the refugee households and a radio by 17%.

Food consumption patterns in the camps

Rice and also vegetable oil were found to be eaten nearly daily in all of the camps studied, but items from the category of protein rich foods of non-animal origin (beans/pulses/Asiamix/groundnuts) are only consumed on 2.8 days per week on average. More than 80% of the households consume an acceptable diet which is marked by much more frequent consumption of fruit and protein-rich foods.

In the surveyed camps very few households (average of 2% for all camps together) were found to consume a poor diet. This percentage was higher in Site #1 especially among animist Karenni. Households consuming a poor diet were found to be more likely to sell (part) of the food ration.

The group of people having a border-line diet averaged around 16%. This group was found to eat rice, oil and vegetables every day but just much less regularly consume other commodities. Such a diet will cause malnutrition in groups with higher nutritional needs (children under five, pregnant and lactating women, sick people). A borderline diet was more common among the Karen and households without relatives in the camps. The general food distribution apparently cushions the access to food as no relation was found between a poor or borderline diet and the lowest income level.

Wealth group and relation with quality of the diet

While for the poorer households the food consumption score (FCS) was not found to be a good indicator for livelihood vulnerability in the camps (the most vulnerable were not more likely to have a low FCS), there is a significant relation between an acceptable diet and a higher income. However, no significant relation could be found between quality of the diet and any of the agricultural variables, household composition, possessing assets or sources of income, or type of ration card. Overall, results of the analysis suggest that consumption of a poor or borderline diet is more likely to be related to social-cultural factors (religion, habits, having relatives) than to lack of money.

Three wealth groups were distinguished in the survey: (a) a very poor group that earns less than 100 baht per month including many households without male adults, with no relatives in the camp, low education level, no fixed employment, not owning any transport means, and be of Karen ethnicity; (b) a large middle group that earns between 100 and 2200 baht per month, generally with better education levels, more fixed employment, more likely to possess agricultural land and/or non-agriculture productive assets, and relatively more Buddhist and Muslim households; and (c) a 'better off' group earning more than 2200 baht per month, with secondary / tertiary education, far more often having fixed employment and/or a shop and possessing a means of transport and/or electronic goods, more likely to be a larger family but without children under five.

Alternative options for the food distribution programmes

- To improve the nutritional value of the general food basket but with a slightly reduced energy content in case of the ration for adults and children over five. For the adult ration it is suggested to reduce the amount of rice, take sugar and chillies out, and increase of the amounts of beans, AsiaMIX and vegetable oil. For children under five a basket is proposed with less rice but more beans, vegetable oil and AsiaMIX. The costs for a ration including charcoal will be 371 baht per month for adults and 286 baht per month for children under five. In total, with the proposed adaptations, costs level for the general ration will increase with 0.68%.
- Several options were identified to reduce budget requirements for the general food distribution.: (a) options to reduce purchase/storage costs; (b) options to reduce total food requirements through reduction of the Extra Needs supplies and a minimal refinement of the targeting criteria through border-wide application of the measure already taken in Tak camp to exclude newcomer households earning over 5,000 baht per month from the food distribution (the measure is primarily aimed at reducing the pull factor, the effect on the feeding caseload is very minimal); and (c) options to reduce the charcoal requirements. A key conclusion of the study is that exclusion of all 'Better Off' (income higher than 2200 baht per month) from the feeding population is not a viable option. Many of them actually just earn the equivalent of the cash value of the food and charcoal ration, and removing them from the feeding list would thus automatically affect their well-being and also have a negative impact on the cash economy in the camp.
- Continuation of supplementary feeding for pregnant and lactating women but with a simpler and cheaper ration that just consists of AsiaMIX (plus vegetable oil in case of lactating women) and not all of the other food items. In total the required budget for the supplementary feeding of P&Ls would decrease by 15%.

- Addition of supplementary feeding for children up to 3 years upon attendance of growth monitoring. Regular children would get a ration of AsiaMIX for attending growth monitoring while malnourished children would get the same quantity of AsiaMIX plus the premix but minus the eggs and tinned fish that are currently provided.

Most suitable options for scaling up of livelihood support in the camps

1. Stimulation of agricultural production

- Vegetable and chillies production (less suitable to reach households with a poor or borderline diet; would require a substantial shift in RTG policy including allowing refugees to sell their produce on markets outside the camp)
- Fruit production (limited potential for expansion after x number of years of intensive CAN campaigns; mainly aimed at diversification of the diet, not for selling)
- Production of other crops (e.g. replication of the coffee project in NuPo)
- Pigs rearing (viable option to raise income). Advocacy needed to lift the prohibition. Another option is to secure land for livestock on the outskirts of the camp through agencies like COERR.
- Fish ponds (not very common in the camps but with good marketing potential)

2. Increased labour market opportunities

- Stipend work (option to raise the stipends for primary school teachers)
- Casual labour in agriculture (maybe there are options to better link up with agriculturalists in nearby villages; esp. interesting when RTG would lift the containment policy)
- Skilled labour (more skills training including Thai language skills and provision of a start-up capital; needs careful liaison with the Camp Commanders and RTG authorities at provincial level)
- Work in nearby cities (promote options to work in factories and as domestic help, requires continued lobby to RTG to lift the containment policy and is not foreseen to be a real viable option in the near future)

3. Other sources of income

- Promote establishment of a shop or engage in petty trade (would require a good marketing study)
- Stimulate handicrafts (but need to overcome the limited marketing potential, e.g. through lifting of the containment policy)
- Voucher scheme (suggested to assess the feasibility to start a scheme of targeted support for identified vulnerable households) based on vouchers that can be spent on a limited number of goods that are available in special ration shops)
- Remittances (currently third-most important source of income).
- Provision of credit (better outreach of existing networks)

1 Introduction on the Burmese refugees in Thailand

1.1 Political and Historical Context of Refugee Problem

The first Burmese refugee influx in 1984

Rooted in the political set-up under British colonial rule which concentrated on 'Burma Proper', the Eastern Burmese border areas have never been under control by the Burmese Government / Army. The areas were ruled by the Shan, Karenni, Karen and Mon ethnic minorities, actually forming de facto autonomous states. Taxes on the substantial black market trade between Thailand and Burma (teakwood, gem stones, opium) formed the main income source for these ethnic regions. Also there is a long history of migrant workers from Burma (especially the Shan) who come to Thailand looking for seasonal casual labour.

Already starting from the '70 of the past century onwards, the Karen National Union (KNU) has been gradually pushed back towards the Thai border. For many years, Karen refugees had stayed temporarily in Thailand during the dry season to flee from the offensives of the Burmese army, returning in the rainy season when the Government troops withdrew. This changed in 1984 when there was a major offensive that broke the Karen front lines across the border from Tak Province. About 10,000 refugees arrived in Thailand that could not return home anymore.

Following streams of Burmese fleeing to Thailand

The Karen increasingly lost territory over the years, leading to new refugee influxes into Thailand. Other Burmese refugee flows occurred after the 1988 crush of demonstrations led by students and monks and the denial of elections results in 1990 (with overwhelming victory for Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy - NLD) and Burmese army offensives in Karenni and Mon States. An alliance grew between the ethnic and pro-democracy movements in exile in Thailand. Manerplaw (where KNU headquarters were located) was overrun in 1995 when the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) joined forces with the Burmese army. In 1996/97, the entire border area was overrun by the Burmese army including Karenni and Shan areas and the remaining Karen controlled territory. The total number of Burmese refugees in Thailand increased to about 115,000, and they were regrouped into nine camps. The Royal Thai Government (RTG) has not signed the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention and has consistently pursued a policy of 'containment' of the so-called 'Burmese displaced' in closed camps along the border.

The Burmese government village relocation plan that has been implemented since 1996 in the overrun Eastern ethnic areas has resulted in new influxes of refugees pushing up the total number of Burmese refugees in Thailand to around 150,000 people. Also the relocation has led to the creation of internally displaced persons (IDP) camps within Burma where over 500,000 people are staying. With the upcoming General Elections in 2010, continued refugee influxes into Thailand are expected caused by new military activity and further suppression of the population including the ethnic areas along the border with Thailand.

1.2 Border-Wide Humanitarian Assistance

Arrangements for humanitarian assistance have changed over the years

The camps from the onset have been administered by the Thai authorities¹ themselves with the assistance of the refugee committees which were established by the respective ethnic authorities to oversee the refugee population². In 1984, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) invited the NGOs that were already working with the Indochinese refugees in Thailand to provide emergency assistance to the Karen refugees that had arrived in Tak province. The assistance was restricted to essential support only as it was expected that the refugees would repatriate in the next rainy season. However, this did

¹ The Operation Centre for Displaced Persons (OCDP) within the Ministry of Interior (MoI)

² Karen Refugee Committee (KRC), Karenni Refugee Committee (KnRC), and Mon National Relief Committee

not happen and the health programmes run by some French NGOs and the food and relief assistance through the Consortium of Christian Agencies (CCA) turned out to be needed for a much longer time. Already in 1984 MoI established the Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced People in Thailand (CCSDPT). Up to today all NGOs that are active in the camps participate in the meetings of the CCSDPT and its Sub-Committees and Working Groups³.

In 1991, in response to the new border-wide refugee influxes, the NGOs sought permission to work in all four border provinces. This resulted in a written approval by MoI to provide basic assistance (food, clothing, medicines) to the refugees according to their new guidelines. The main agencies present were the Burmese Border Consortium⁴ (BBC; replacing the former CCA), COERR⁵ and MSF-France. In 1994, MoI allowed agencies to add sanitation and education services to the refugee support package. A total of twenty agencies are currently working in the camps, all under bilateral agreements with RTG. UNHCR became operational in Thailand in 1998 and is the only UN agency involved in the Burmese refugee camps. Their work concentrates on monitoring and support to RTG for registration of the refugees (see 1.3) and on protection issues including promotion of self-reliance.

More focus on self-reliance

The CCSDPT / UNHCR Comprehensive Plan 2005–2009 includes an increased focus on skills training and education opportunities as well as income generation projects and employment. However, it has proved to be very difficult to really move ahead towards more self-reliance for the refugees, which is a serious concern from the Donors' side. Among others, this is related to the regime change after the 2006 military coup in Thailand. Meanwhile the CCSDPT / UNHCR are currently drafting a new five-year Strategic Plan which again aims at shifting away from 'care and maintenance' towards increased refugee self-reliance, integration of refugee services in the health and educations sectors into the Thai system and expanded livelihoods initiatives inside and outside the camps. Continued dependence on food aid is seen to be increasingly undesirable and unsustainable. The Strategic Plan envisions working towards an incremental shift from near-blanket support towards encouraging self-reliance for the majority (a.o. through expansion of current initiatives to develop livelihood access outside the camps under supportive policy frameworks), with targeted assistance for the most vulnerable. Also for TBBC for the coming years the focus will shift away from strengthening and sustaining services whilst waiting for change towards re-orientating all its activities to promote change and durable solutions. The overall objective behind the policy shift towards self-reliance is to enable refugees to live more dignified and productive lives and to become increasingly self-reliant and less aid dependent⁶. TBBC has recently hired an Income Generation Specialist for development of a TBBC strategy on income generation linked to Thai government, other NGO and camp partner's directions.

1.3 Burmese Refugee Registration in Thailand and Resettlement to Third Countries

Official registration of refugees started in 1999

In 1999, MoI together with UNHCR undertook the first formal registration of refugee population in the Thai border area. The original intention was to issue UNHCR/MoI Refugee Identity Cards (for people > 12 year old) in order to prepare for legalized participation of the Burmese refugees in the Thai labour market, but the latter so far has not taken place. Provincial Admissions Boards (PABs) were set up to take care of status determination for new arrivals but this system did not function well. By 2004 there were large numbers of unprocessed new arrivals as well as many people rejected by the PABs but still living in the camps.

In 2004/05 a re-registration was carried out of the entire population in the nine camps. 101,992 persons were re-registered from the 1999 exercise while 34,061 people were identified who had

³ Over the years the organizational structure of the CCSDPT has changed several times.

⁴ The Thai Burmese Border Consortium (TBBC; ten member agencies) was registered in London in 2004.

⁵ The Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees

⁶ TBBC Programme Report January – June 2009, p. 21.

arrived later. Thus, in total 136,053 Burmese refugees were registered in 2004/05⁷. Up to end of June 2009, an additional number of 6,864 refugees were registered by UNHCR in the nine camps through the 'fast track' procedure that operates on a case-by-case basis.

Next to the registration exercises in the camps, there also has been registration by UNHCR of other Burmese living in Thailand outside the camps. Those who were registered by UNHCR before 31st December 2003 are referred to as Persons of Concern (PoC), the group registered by UNHCR between 31st December 2003 and late 2005 (when the PABs were re-established) are called 'slip holders'.

Procedures for registration/verification of new arrivals since 2005

Since 2005 there have been many new arrivals into the camps, both directly coming from Burma and from within Thailand. With support from UNHCR, MoI resumed PAB screening late 2005 with expanded status determination criteria. This registration is focusing on all remaining and new caseload that is not yet registered.

In order to set more accurate 'feeding population' figures that include both registered or unregistered people staying in the camps, TBBC end 2007 started its own annual verification system (which includes taking photographs which are pasted in the annually updated rations books) together with a mechanism for monthly updating of camp population figures involving the section leaders in the camps. By early 2009, TBBC added about 25,000 verified but unregistered refugees to its feeding population figure. On the other hand, some 4,000 refugees who are on the UNHCR list but who were not found to be present in the camps were taken off the feeding list. In Tak Province, there were so many new arrivals that budgetary constraints made it necessary to focus on feeding of the most vulnerable unregistered refugees only. Currently about 19,000 unregistered 'new entrants' are present in the Tak camps who are not being fed.

Border-wide, an estimated total of 42,000 unregistered people are currently living in the camps. In March 2009, MoI launched a 'pre-screening' process for the unregistered refugee population. The pre-screening is undertaken by a team of MoI interviewers and monitored by UNHCR. The first phase covered four of the nine camps and runs up to September 2009⁸. After making adjustments the process will also be undertaken in the other five camps. Expectedly, work will be finished in the first quarter of 2010. In the four pilot camps, the pre-screening has resulted in a database of 10,538 cases⁹. After a decision has been made whether any of these cases should be screened out, they then will be put forward to be interviewed by the PABs for refugee status determination. In order to avoid that people who are screened out will move to one of the camps not yet covered, individual results will only be announced when the work is finished in all camps. The remaining challenge will be to establish a process to screen new arrivals on a continuing basis to avoid that again a backlog of unregistered people will build up.

Resettlement to third countries

Since 2005, UNHCR has been involved in activities relating to the resettlement of refugees from the border to third countries. This mainly involves support to the on-going group resettlement programme to the USA for refugees who were registered before November 1st 2005¹⁰. This resettlement programme started in 2006 and is organized on a camp-by-camp basis, moving from one camp to the next. The exercise has been completed in the Karen camps in Ratchaburi, Kanchanaburi and Tak Provinces and currently is on-going in Mae Hong Son Province¹¹. Considerable

⁷ This figure excludes the students who are in the camps purely for educational reasons.

⁸ Tham Hin, Ban Don Yang, Nu Po and Site 1 camps.

⁹ This number closely matches the TBBC figure of verified but unregistered people in these four camps.

¹⁰ Basically this comprises all refugees who were registered during the 2004/05 re-registration process and those later on approved by the PABs.

¹¹ The USA resettlement programme started in Tham Hin in 2006; Mae La in the first half of 2007, Umpiem Mai and NuPo during the second half of 2007; Ban Don Yang in 2008; and the Karenni camps Site 1 and 2 in 2009. For the second half of 2009, resettlement will be finished off by covering the two remaining camps Mae Ra Ma Luang and Mae La Oon.

numbers of refugees from Burma have gone to a range of other countries as well¹². As per end of August 2009, a total of 52,866 Burmese refugees have left Thailand for resettlement.

¹² Next to the USA which accounts for 73% of the resettlement up to end June 2009, other main recipient countries have been Australia and Canada. Within Europe, Finland, Norway, Sweden and The Netherlands thus far are the main countries taking up Burmese refugees.

2 Purpose of the Study and Methodology

2.1 Context of the Assignment

EC contributions to the Burmese border camps

Since 1995, DG ECHO has been funding NGOs for food, health care and water and sanitation programmes in the Thai Burmese refugee camps. From 2005 onwards, the EC has also allocated substantial funds to the Burmese refugee camps in Thailand from the Aid to Uprooted People (AUP) and NGO co-financing budgetlines, mainly for projects in the education and health sectors. Since 1995, the European Commission has provided a total of € 140 million in support of the refugees in the camps along the Thai Burma border, 59% of which were provided by ECHO and 41% by the AUP and from other budgetlines. The table below gives an overview of current and recently completed support projects¹³.

Table 1: Current / Recently Completed EC Funded Projects in the Burmese Border Camps

Amount (million)	Project period	Type of support	Partners
DG ECHO			
€ 3.50	Jan '08 – Dec '08	Basic health care (6 camps)	AMI, Malteser International, IRC
€ 6.00	Jan '08 – Dec '08	Food aid (3 camps)	TBBC
€ 3.25	Jan '09 – Dec '09	Basic health care (6 camps)	AMI, Malteser International, IRC
€ 5.50	Jan '09 – Dec '09	Food aid (3 camps)	TBBC
Aid to Uprooted People			
€ 0.98	Oct '05 – Oct '08	Vocational training	ZOA
€ 1.00	Nov '05 – Nov '08	Mine risk education and assistance to people with disabilities	Handicap International
€ 1.00	Mrch '06 – Mrch '09	Karen education project IV	ZOA
€ 0.84	May '06 – May '09	Reproductive and Child Health	IRC
€ 0.79	Apr '07 – Apr '09	Sanitation MaeLa	Solidarité
€ 0.62	June '07 – June '10	HIV/AIDS prevention Tak Province	AMI
€ 0.79	Oct '09 – Sept '11	Durable solutions	UNDP
€ 1.28	Aug '08 – Feb. '10	Protection assistance (9 camps)	UNHCR
€ 2.00	Mrch '09 – Feb. '12	All inclusive Education (7 camps)	ZOA
€ 1.64	Nov '08 – Nov '12	Malaria and other infectious diseases	Shoklo/Mahidol University
€ 1.60	Oct '08 – Oct '11	Improvement living conditions MaeLa	Solidarité
€ 0.70	Mrch '09 – Feb. '12	Health care	Malteser International
NGO co-financing			
€ 0.67	Apr '08 – Mrch '11	Inclusive education	VSO
€ 0.75	Jan '08 – Dec '10	Karenni Education Programme	Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

DG ECHO strategy on support to Burmese refugees in Thailand

DG ECHO has labelled the humanitarian situation inside Burma/Myanmar and the camps in Thailand as a 'forgotten crisis'¹⁴ for which durable solutions are not very likely in the short term. DG ECHO sees it as vital to continue with provision of essential humanitarian assistance. The 2009 European Commission Decision¹⁵ (ECHO/-XA/BUD/2009/01000) is the continuation of the 2007-08 DG ECHO strategy in response to the protracted crisis in Burma/Myanmar, but with a gradual phase-down of the financial support to the Burmese refugees in Thailand.

¹³ Based on information provided by the EC Delegation in Thailand.

¹⁴ More but short-lived media attention existed when cyclone Nargis hit the Irrawaddy delta in Burma / Myanmar in 2008.

¹⁵ DG ECHO (2008), Humanitarian Aid to vulnerable populations in Burma / Myanmar and to Burmese refugees in Thailand; Global Plan 2009, Humanitarian Aid Committee, Brussels, November 2008

As shown in the table above, the biggest part of the 2009 DG ECHO assistance to the Burmese refugee camps in Thailand is comprised of funds to TBBC for food and cooking fuel¹⁶; the support is meant for the three camps in Tak Province. DG ECHO also is co-funder of basic health services in six camps through AMI, IRC and Malteser International. To break away from the permanent dependency on external aid, DG ECHO has requested its partners involved in the delivery of assistance to the camps in Thailand to re-assess the eligibility criteria and only target the most vulnerable asylum seekers.

2.2 Specific Objectives of the Study

Global objective

As stated in the Terms of Reference (ToR, see Annex A) for this Livelihoods Vulnerability Analysis study in the Burmese refugee camps in Thailand the global objective is to gain a good understanding of the different livelihood strategies and levels of self-reliance amongst the refugee communities as a precursor for more evidence-based programming and interventions with specific reference to food assistance.

Specific objectives

The ToR gives the following specific objectives:

- Characterize in detail how households access food and use resources to meet their minimum expenditures;
- Determine the extent and future potential of remittances from family members who have left for resettlement or are working elsewhere in Thailand or abroad.
- Determine current economic coping strategies and identify how these strategies can contribute to a decreased TBBC food basket over the next 3 years (provide potential scenarios);
- Identify RTG policy constraints both within the camps and the external environment and identify protection concerns;
- Outline potential alternative strategies to the current food ration, with targeting criteria and identification of resources and capacity building required for implementation of these alternatives and highlighting the potential risks.

2.3 Methodological Approaches

SLA as the main model as basis for the study

The main theoretical 'lens' for the study was the Sustainable Livelihoods Analysis (SLA) model adopted by DFID and other organizations like IFAD¹⁷. The SLA model basically views people as operating in a context of vulnerability. Within this context, people have access to certain livelihood assets that are poverty reducing factors: (a) human capital; (b) natural capital; (c) financial capital; (d) social capital; and (e) physical capital. These factors gain their meaning and value within the prevailing social, institutional and organizational environment. The SLA model is based on the following core concepts: people-centeredness, a holistic and dynamic approach, building on strengths rather than weaknesses, linking up of micro and macro level, and a focus on sustainable livelihoods that are resilient to external shocks and are not dependent upon external support.

¹⁶ DG ECHO is the biggest single donor to TBBC and since 1995 has provided a total of € 47 million to TBBC for food aid support to the camps (Source: DG ECHO RSO, Bangkok).

¹⁷ A good introductory reference document on SLA is found at <http://www.ifad.org/sla/framework/sla.pdf>. A series of DFID Guidance Sheets on the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework are available on: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/dossiers/livelihoods-connect/what-are-livelihoods-approaches/training-and-learning-materials>

Set of data collection tools

The main methodological 'lens' that was applied in this study is the Household Economy Approach (HEA)¹⁸ method which was developed by Save the Children-UK in the early 1990s of the past century with the aim to better understand people's strategies to get the food and cash they need, also in times of crisis causing short-term changes in access to food. The HEA method consists of an analysis of how people get the food and cash they need, which assets they have, which opportunities and constraints they face, and which options are open to them at times of crisis. The focus in the HEA approach is on quantifying the problem and suggesting possible approaches to intervention as basis for decision-making.

As the original tool was mainly geared to use for rural contexts struck by droughts, it was necessary to somewhat adapt the questionnaire forms for use in this study in refugee camps. Because of the central focus in the study on distinguishing different economic groups of refugees, it was also necessary to shift away from the regular HEA approach for baseline studies where purposive sampling takes place within wealth groups that are determined through key informants / focus group discussions at community level. In this study, the wealth group classifications that are produced through focus group discussions in each of the camps are validated against the results of the household survey based on systematic sampling and a relatively large sample size.

Other tools used in the study are two methods developed by WFP to distinguish different wealth groups (or classes of vulnerability): the Food Consumption Score (FCS)^{19,20} and the Coping Strategies Index (CSI)²¹. The FCS is a semi-quantitative proxy for household food consumption. It is a composite score that combines information on dietary diversity for a certain household (how many food groups are present in their diet²²) with the frequency of consumption of these food groups over the last seven days prior to the interview. The CSI measures what people do when they cannot access enough food. The method is based on a series of questions about how households manage to cope with a shortfall in food for consumption that results in a simple numeric score. However, due to the short timeframe for the study, a decision was made to start with the first household interviews with the standard set of 'coping options' given by the WFP guide which then appeared to be unsuitable for the circumstances in the Thai Burmese refugee camps²³. Therefore for the analysis of the household survey results it was decided to discard the CSI information.

Data collection methods

Fulfilment of the specific objectives as per the ToR for the livelihoods vulnerability study in the Thai Burmese border camps required both an analysis of the household economy and coping strategies, identification of RTG policy constraints, and definition of potential alternative strategies to the current

¹⁸ Ref. the Food Economy Group website with a detailed guide on the HEA method:
<http://www.feg-consulting.com/resource/practitioners-guide-to-hea>

¹⁹ WFP (2008), Food Consumption Analysis: Calculation and use of the food consumption score in food security analysis, Rome, February 2008 (see: http://home.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp197216.pdf).

²⁰ A recently undertaken IFPRI study confirms the usefulness of the FCS as a quick tool for household food security assessments but states that the association of the score with caloric consumption is less in situations where food aid is provided and that there is a need to adjust the cut-off points to classify households as having poor, borderline or acceptable food security (IFPRI (2009), Validation of the World Food Programme's Food Consumption Score and Alternative Indicators of Household Food Security, Discussion Paper 00870, June 2009
(<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00870.pdf>).

²¹ WFP (2008), The Coping Strategies Index: A tool for rapid measurement of household food security and the impact of food aid programs in humanitarian emergencies, Rome, January 2008 ([http://www.enonline.net/pool/files/ife/coping-strategies-index-manual-second-edition-\(final\)%5B1%5D.pdf](http://www.enonline.net/pool/files/ife/coping-strategies-index-manual-second-edition-(final)%5B1%5D.pdf)).

²² The method differentiates seven to eight different food groups, ranging from the staple food to vegetables and sources of animal protein that are weighted by their relative nutritional importance. Essentially, the method looks at the number of days during which one or more foods from each food group were consumed and weights its relative importance in terms of nutrient quality/density.

²³ Normally the set would have been adapted prior to doing the household survey based on a series of community-level focus group discussions. In the case of this study, due to lack of time these focus group discussions were undertaken after the first household interviews had already been conducted which meant that the adaptation of the set of questions had to be kept very limited.

blanket food ration. I006E line with these objectives, the study was based on a range of data collection methods, both at Bangkok level and in the four camps studied²⁴:

- Key informant interviews with donor agencies and UN agencies involved in support to the Burmese refugees in Thailand, and with representatives of the NGOs operating support programmes in the Thai Burmese refugee camps (interview format attached, see Annex B);
- Review of documentation provided by DG ECHO / TBBC;
- Interviews with the Camp Committees in the four camps visited, and focus group discussions with men and women separately in each of the four camps visited (see Annex C for the format that was used);
- Collection of market prices for the main commodities, both in some shops in the camps and outside the camps (format is attached as Annex D);
- A household survey based on a systematic sample of 350 households selected proportional to size from the four camps²⁵ (questionnaire in Annex E, brief description of the survey methodology in Annex F).

Practical implementation of the study and constraints

The study started with a briefing at DG ECHO Headquarters in Brussels on 16 September 2009 for further introduction to the background and expectations in relation to the assignment. The one month field mission for the study was undertaken from 19 September 2009 to 21 October 2009. The field work took off with a 1-day briefing by DG ECHO RSO and TBBC, USAID and UNHCR in Bangkok which was followed by four weeks of field work in the camps where the team moved from one camp to the next involving 2 to 5 survey teams per camp (each comprised of a TBBC staff member and a Burmese refugee). Data entry and cleaning was undertaken while in the field (evening and weekend hours). Some more meetings were held at Bangkok-level with donors and UN agencies towards the end of the mission. The preliminary results of the study were presented in two separate debriefing meetings held in Thailand: one with DG ECHO and other donors and UN agencies, the other with TBBC and other NGOs that form part of the CCSDPT. A debriefing meeting was held with DG ECHO in Brussels for presentation of the findings and to discuss the draft report. An itinerary of the mission is attached as Annex G.

The team received very good support from TBBC (both at Bangkok-level and in the camps) and from the Refugee Committees which enabled the team to undertake a full-blown household survey of adequate sample size in just one month. However, time constraints formed a limitation for the design of the data collection tools²⁶ and for the development of the data entry and analysis framework in Epi-Info. While aiming at a substantial sample size so that some comparisons between the four camps are possible, the number of households interviewed was determined by the available number of data collection teams in each camp²⁷.

²⁴ The ToR requested to undertake the study in the following camps: MaeLa, NuPo, Site #1 and ThamHin.

²⁵ The sampling frame consisted of the TBBC lists of houses receiving food in each of the four camps. The sampling unit was the household, e.g. people living in the same house who are (and have been during the last three months) sharing their meals together.

²⁶ The tools were basically developed before the mission and could have been better fine-tuned to the conditions in the camps if there would have been more preparation time including for field-testing of the questionnaires. A particular issue was the CSI index for which the standard set of coping options was found to be not suitable for the specific setting of the Thai Burma border camps.

²⁷ TBBC and the Refugee Committees have done their best to facilitate the field work and made its field staff available as requested by the team. These teams have worked very hard and achieved an average of more than 8 household interviews per team per day.

3 General Conditions in the Burmese Refugee Camps

3.1 Population Size, Composition and Dynamics

The 2004/05 re-registration by MoI / UNHCR identified about 136,000 people in the nine camps, of whom 75% were already registered in 1999 and 25% had arrived later. New refugees since have been added to the official list on a case by case basis (the 'fast track'). Other new arrivals since November 2005 are not yet officially registered. The USA group resettlement process started in 2006 and only targets Burmese refugees who are registered by MoI/UNHCR²⁸. As per IOM figures²⁹, up to end of August 2009, 54,240 people have left Thailand for the USA (Burmese refugees and others); about 15,400 Burmese refugees were resettled in other countries. As of end August 2009, 14.2% of the population is below 5 years of age and the average household size in the nine camps is 4.42 persons³⁰.

Registered in 2004/05 by MoI / UNHCR	136,053
UNHCR 'fast track' cases up to end June 2009	6,864 +
Growth registered pop. (newborns–deaths ³¹ ; 01/11/05–31/08/09)	11,875 +
Other changes in registered refugees population ³²	9,859 +
Resettled Burmese refugees up to end August 2009	52,866 –

Balance registered refugees mid 2009	111,785
Expected PAB 'pre-screening' registrations ³³	35,000 +
Estimated new refugee influx (01/09/09 – 31/12/10) ³⁴	7,000 +
Expected growth pop. (newborns–deaths; 01/09/09 – 31/12/10)	4,314 +
Expected additional resettlement up to end 2010 ³⁵	22,333 –

Expected total No. by end 2010	135,766

²⁸ 'Students' (n=2858, end August '09) are not eligible for the group resettlement.

²⁹ IOM, Assisted Departures from Thailand as of 31 August 2009

³⁰ Ref. UNHCR Age Statistics by Camp as of 31st of August 2009.

³¹ This is a rough estimate of population growth in the camps based on extrapolation of a figure of about 100 births per month minus about 15 deaths per month in MaeLa camp to the total population in all 9 camps. Figure matches UNHCR End August age breakdown statistics.

³² This category includes pending PAB cases, the PoCs and the 'slip holders'.

³³ This is an estimate by TBBC. The process so far has only covered four camps and no preliminary outcome figures of the pre-screening process have been declared yet.

³⁴ Rough estimate (source: TBBC)

³⁵ This number is taken from the TBBC Programme Report January – June 2009.

Table 2: Population trends and breakdown Burmese border camps³⁶

Province	Camp	Mol/UNHCR registered	Newborns - deaths ³⁷	Accumulative total No. resettled	Other changes in registered population ³⁸	Current total UNHCR + pending PAB	New arrivals verified by TBBC ³⁹	Total 'feeding population'	Arrivals not yet verified / not fed by TBBC
		Oct '05 and 'fast track' up to June '09 (A)	Aug '09 (B)	Jan '06 - Aug '09 ⁴⁰ (B)	Oct '05 – Aug '09	Aug '09 (D)	Aug '09 (E)	Aug '09 (F=D+E)	Jan '08 – Aug '09 (G)
Chiang Mai	Weng Heng	607	0	- 0	- 607	0	654	654	-
Mae Hong Son Province	Ban Kwai / Nai Soi (Site#1)	18,744	1,575	- 6,115	1,461	15,665	- 90	15,578	-
	Ban Mae Surin (Site#2)	3,589	300	- 553	- 16	3,320	424	3,744	-
	Mae La Oon	15,331	1,300	- 2,364	348	14,615	1,766	16,381	-
	Mae Ra Ma Luang	12,593	1,000	- 1,921	2,566	14,238	2,660	16,898	-
Tak Province	Mae La	46,534	3,900	- 18,216	- 196	32,022	6,591	38,613	± 13,000
	Umpiem Mai	18,838	1,580	- 7,762	701	13,357	1,358	14,715	± 3,000
	Nu Po	12,292	1,000	- 4,514	1,805	10,583	3,821	14,404	± 3,000
Kanchanaburi Province	Ban Don Yang	4,620	400	- 1,364	- 360	3,296	952	4,248	-
Ratchaburi Province	Tham Hin	9,769	820	- 5,798	- 105	4,686	3,266	7,952	-
	Total	142,917	11,875	- 48,659	5,597	111,785	21,402	133,187	± 19,000

³⁶ Figures are per end of specified months.

³⁷ This is an estimate, see explanation above.

³⁸ This is the balance of all people who have come and left by themselves minus 2004 & 2005 resettlement cases (n=3,894).

³⁹ For all camps except in three in Tak Province this figure is up-to-date including all new arrivals up to end August 2009 without PAB-number. For Tak Province camps, the figure is not up-to-date but reflects the results of the first time that TBBC undertook a verification round (end 2007 / early 2008). Based on the results of the current verification round (Oct / Nov 2009), all will be included in the 'feeding population' as of January 2010.

⁴⁰ In 2004 and 2005, resettlement had started already by primarily from the urban areas and not from the camps.

3.2 Service Delivery for Health Care and Education

For the four camps where this study was executed, the following agencies are involved in provision of health and education services:

Table 3: Agencies Involved in Service Delivery in the Four Camps Studied

Camp	Health care	Education
MaeLa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>AMI</u> (1 IPD and 2 OPDs) - <u>Shoklo</u> Malaria Research Unit (4 clinics) - <u>MSF-France</u> (1 TB ward) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>ZOA</u> (14 primary schools, 4 middle schools, 5 high schools, vocational training courses, tertiary education) - <u>KWO/TOPS</u> (22 nurseries)
NuPo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>AMI</u> (1 clinic) - <u>ARC</u> (1 clinic) - <u>1 traditional herbal clinic</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>ZOA and World Education / Consortium</u> (4 primary schools, 2 middle schools, 2 high schools, vocational training courses, tertiary education) - <u>KWO/TOPS</u> (6 nurseries)
Site #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>IRC / KnHD</u> (2 clinics, 2 satellite centres) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>JRS / KnED</u> (8 primary schools, 4 middle schools, 1 high school, vocational training courses, tertiary education) - <u>WEAVE / KNWO</u> (8 nursery schools)
ThamHin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>IRC</u> (1 IPD, 1 OPD, 1 isolation ward) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>ZOA</u> (, 1 primary school, 1 high school, vocational training courses, tertiary education) - <u>KWO</u> (3 nursery schools)

As part of the context information collected during the key informant interviews with the camp committees, the following comments were recorded on the implementation of the health and education programmes in the camps:

Table 4: Comments from the Camp Committees on Service Provision

Camp	Health care	Education
MaeLa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The new staff recruited to replace the former staff that went for resettlement generally is doing well - Family control programme was reduced - Psychosocial support started in 2008, especially targeting the middle-aged - Malnutrition not caused by lack of food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of experienced staff (teacher training is being rebuilt with help of US consultant) - Lack of funding for learning materials - Curriculum well developed by ZOA - Need for better teacher training - Need more books - Need more practicals for the science subjects, more focus on computer training
NuPo	Communication problem with Burmese staff (AMI)	<i>(no information collected)</i>
Site #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good services but only PHC - Referrals to Mae Hong son and Chiang Mai not always allowed by RTG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff shortage - New staff has lack of experience - Need to increase the stipends
ThamHin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is going well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No real tertiary education available - No access to correspondence courses

3.3 Livelihood Systems and Access to Markets

The following picture on existing livelihood systems and support programmes emerged from the key informant interviews with the Camp Committees in the four camps⁴¹:

Table 5: Livelihood Systems and Access to Markets for Refugees in the Four Camps

Camp	Agricultural production systems	Labour market opportunities
MaeLa	Some food production but generally small-scale only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small-scale <u>vegetable cultivation</u> for own consumption and selling in/around the camps (In 2009, 1384 beneficiaries involved in agriculture through COERR; 157 refugees and 60 local villagers through ZOA; 248 households received seeds through the TBBC CAN project.) - <u>Pig rearing</u> is common, also for selling in the camp - Some households have <u>chicken</u> 	Somewhat better labour opportunities but all work outside camp is illegal and risky <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Camp</u>: 30% of people getting an income are stipend workers; earnings about 30 baht per day - <u>Surrounding villages</u>: 40% to 50% of income earners work in the paddy / maize / bean fields in nearby villages; earnings about 70 baht per day - <u>Urban</u>: 10% to 20% work in Mae Sot, Bangkok, Chiang Mai; mainly women; earnings about 100 baht per day
NuPo	Some agricultural production but small scale only apart from the coffee production being established by RTG as anti-erosion project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small-scale <u>vegetable cultivation</u> for selling in the camps and to Umphang (In 2009, 936 beneficiaries involved in agriculture through COERR; 443 households received seeds through the TBBC CAN project.) - <u>Coffee</u> production is being established - <u>Pig rearing</u> is common, for selling in the camp and to Umphang - <u>Fish</u> ponds (some) - Few <u>ducks</u> and <u>chicken</u> 	Few labour opportunities outside the camp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Camp</u>: 65% of people engaged in income generation are stipend workers; earnings about 30 baht per day - <u>Surrounding villages</u>: 35% of people getting income work as carpenters and other skilled labour, not much casual labour in the field; earnings about 1000 baht per month - <u>Urban</u>: very few
Site #1	Small scale food production for selling in the camp only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little cultivation going on due to limited space in the camp and limited options to rent land from villagers (In 2009, 312 beneficiaries involved in agriculture through COERR; 591 households received seeds through the TBBC CAN project.) - Small-scale <u>vegetable and chillies cultivation</u> for selling in the camps; not allowed to bring products out of the camp for selling outside as this could distort the market for the Thai villages - Some <u>pig rearing</u> for selling in the camp 	Overall very little labour opportunities outside the camp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Camp</u>: 90% of income earners are stipend workers and some carpenters working in the camp; earnings about 30 baht per day - <u>Surrounding villages</u>: 10% of income earners find work in nearby villages as casual labourers; earnings about 70 baht per day - <u>Urban</u>: (negligible)

⁴¹ Data collection in the focus group discussions was based on the formats for the Household Economy Approach (HEA). In retrospect, it would have been useful to add a question on the estimated proportion of households in the camp that are getting an income, but this was not done.

Camp	Agricultural production systems	Labour market opportunities
ThamHin	<p>Hardly any food production in the camp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hardly any cultivation due to lack of space in the camp (In 2009 971 beneficiaries involved in agriculture through COERR; TBBC CAN project not implemented in Tham Hin.) - Pig and chicken rearing not allowed 	<p>Labour opportunities were somewhat good in the vicinity of the camp but now going down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Camp</u>: 30% of people are stipend workers; earnings about 30 baht per day - <u>Surrounding villages</u>: 70% of income earners work in the rubber plantation (but now less demand and more risky due to stricter regulations); earnings 100 – 150 baht per day - <u>Urban</u>: (negligible)

3.4 Perceived Wealth Groups Present in the Camps

A core element of the HEA method is to arrive at a grouping of people according to wealth category based on local definitions of wealth and a quantification of assets. The idea is that through grouping in wealth categories important differences in households' vulnerabilities to different shocks can be seen, together with numbers of people who will be affected by different changes. What people have in terms of access to land, capital and livestock, together with their education status and access to political and social networks determines the ways in which they will be able to get food and cash. HEA commonly seeks to characterise three to four wealth groups. Wealth groups are defined through interviews with local key informants. 'Poor' and 'better-off' are relative to local standards and can vary from one location to another, even from one focus group discussion to another⁴².

As part of the Livelihoods Vulnerability Analysis study in the Burmese refugee camps in Thailand, in each of the four camps, focus group discussions were held with a group of men and a group of women which then are validated against the findings of the household survey (see chapter 5). Key findings for the wealth group descriptions from the focus group discussion in the four camps are presented in the table below, more detailed results are presented in Annex H.

Table 6: Wealth Group Description and Breakdown

	Most vulnerable	Casual labourers and primary school teachers	Other stipend workers	Better off
Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handicapped - Single parents / widows - Elderly without children in the camp - No education 	<p>Can vary</p> <p>Primary/Secondary</p>	<p>Can vary</p> <p>Secondary/Higher</p>	<p>Includes new comers seeking resettlement</p> <p>Can vary</p>
Agricultural assets	None	Few	Few, some have pigs	Can vary, some have many pigs
Financial assets	No savings Pawning debts	No savings Some debts	Some savings Debts at shops	Capital to invest Some have debts
Social assets	No relatives	Relatives in the camp/abroad	Relatives in the camp/abroad	Can vary

⁴² See the HEA guide prepared by FEG (<http://www.feg-consulting.com/resource/practitioners-guide-to-hea>)

	Most vulnerable	Casual labourers and primary school teachers	Other stipend workers	Better off
Physical assets	Small house No other goods	Bigger house Some electronic goods Tools for skilled labour	Bigger house Some electronic goods Some motorbike	Large house Electronic goods Motorbike / car
Most important source of cash income	Support by relatives and COERR	Casual labour Stipend primary school teacher	Other stipend workers Small shop owners	Big shop owners Jobs in the city Fish ponds
Income level range	0 – 350 / 500 baht per month	500 – 1000 baht per month	750 – 2200 baht per month	Over 2200 baht per month
Estimated % in the camp	Huge variation in estimates, from 7% to 50%	Huge variation, from 20% to 70%	Variation, from 7% to 35%	Less variation, from 1% to 10%

3.5 Market Prices in the Camps for Main Food Commodities

Understanding market prices is important to understand expenditure requirement for food purchased from the market and also for income raised through selling food (produced by the household or acquired through other means like the food distribution). Within the HEA approach, it is seen as vital to understand the market in order to explain people's food security, their constraints and their opportunities. For this study, prices were collected for the commodities that are part of the food basket and for a range of other commodities that are available in the shops in the camps and in the nearest village shop⁴³.

Not all food items within general food basket were found to be available in the shops. Prices varied somewhat between camps and also between shops within the same camp, but were in the same range and comparable with TBBC food costs levels for most of the products (esp. for vegetable oil, sugar and salt). For the other products, price variations (at least partly) can be explained by differences in quality grade (e.g. for rice) and differences in actual types of commodities within the category (e.g. for beans and also for AsiaMIX which in the shops is placed under the regular wheat flour category⁴⁴.

Table 7: Market Prices Food Basket Commodities In/Around the Camps and for TBBC

Camp	Rice (baht per kg)	Beans (baht per kg)	Vegetable oil (baht per l)	Chillies (baht per 100 g)	Sugar (baht per kg)	Salt (baht per kg)	AsiaMIX / flour (baht per kg)
MaeLa	15	40 - 55	33 - 50	70 - 80	20 - 24	6 - 15	12
NuPo	20 - 32	18 - 40	35 - 40	10	25 - 35	8- 12	25
Site #1	16 - 18	-	-	-	25	-	-
ThamHin ⁴⁵	-	-	-	100	-	-	-
TBBC ⁴⁶	13.60	33.50	41.80	6.30	23.50	5	35.70

⁴³ Prices in village shops nearby the camps were within the same range as prices in the visited smaller and larger shops in the camps; thus they are not presented separately. On average, three shops were visited per camp and one shop in the nearby village.

⁴⁴ For chillies, it is possible that there are errors in the prices collected due to different packaging sizes that were encountered in the camps (chillies are usually sold in small quantities, not per 100 gr).

⁴⁵ Collection of market prices in Tham Hin is not complete. Data collection was hampered by the fact that one of the team members had to return earlier to Bangkok in order meet with representatives from the donors and some selected UN agencies.

⁴⁶ Price represents procurement plus transport to the camp but not the distribution costs.

The table below compares price levels in the four camps for some other key commodities that are commonly available in the shops in the camps. As can be seen, the prices here don't vary very much apart from the price of soap powder and chicken in MaeLa camp.

Table 8: Market Prices for Other Commodities Per Camp

Camp	Frozen chicken (baht per piece, 1 kg)	Canned fish (baht per can of 155 g net weight)	Eggs (baht per piece)	Instant noodles (‘Mama’) (baht per package of 100 g)	Dried noodles (baht per package of 500 g)	Soap powder (baht per kg)
MaeLa	65 - 70	9	3	5 - 6	10	10 - 30
NuPo	-	10 - 13	3	6	12	25 - 35
Site #1	35	10 - 15	2.50	6	11	28 - 30
ThamHin47	-	-	3	6	-	-

⁴⁷ Collection of market prices in Tham Hin is not complete. Data collection was hampered by the fact that one of the team members had to return earlier to Bangkok in order meet with representatives from the donors and some selected UN agencies.

4 Currently Operated Food Assistance Programmes

4.1 General Food Distribution

Analysis of the food basket

The food basket is designed to meet the WFP / UNHCR reference standard (provision of an average of 2,100 kcal per person per day) and aims to provide a nutritionally balanced diet. The baskets have largely been the same over the past years⁴⁸. In 2007/08 due to funding shortages for TBBC and in relation to the global food price crisis⁴⁹, minor adjustments have been made in the basket but minimum standards were still more or less met. As shown in the tables below, the current ration indeed is found to meet the international nutrition standards in terms of energy but not fully for protein and fat. The latter is a common phenomenon in rather monotonous rice-based diets where relatively more energy is coming from the large portion of rice consumed but less from consumption of fats and oils and animal foods.

Table 9: Analysis of the food basket for adults and children over five years of age

Commodity	Procurement price ¹ (baht/kg) ⁵⁰	Current monthly ration scale (kg)	Energy p.p.p.d. ⁵¹ (kCal)	Protein p.p.p.d. (g)	Fat p.p.p.d. (g)	Total cost monthly ration p.p. (baht)
Rice	13.60	15.000	1775	32.46	3.93	204.00
Yellow beans	33.50	1.000	115	8.39	0.36	33.50
AsiaMIX	35.70	0.250	33	1.15	0.49	8.93
Fish paste	26.75	0.750	25	3.27	0.96	20.06
Vegetable oil	41.82	0.914	245	0.00	27.21	41.50
Salt	5.00	0.330	0	0.00	0.00	1.65
Sugar	23.50	0.125	16	0.00	0.00	2.94
Chillies	63.00	0.040	5	0.20	0.18	2.52
Sub-total		18.409	2214	45.47	33.13	315.09
Energy%				8.21%	13.47%	
Recommendation			2070	10-12%	>= 17%	
Charcoal	7.95	7.900				62.81
Total		26.31				377.90

The food basket for children under five years has been analyzed in a similar way, see Annex I. It is found that the UNHCR/WFP energy requirements are met but that the ration is similarly low with respect to protein and fat content. The cost of the ration is 205 baht per child per month plus 63 baht per month for charcoal, adding up to 268 baht per beneficiary child per month.

⁴⁸ Only for fish paste and chillies there have been substantial changes, not for the other commodities.

⁴⁹ The rice supplied by TBBC is the cheapest variety on sale in Thailand and consists of a maximum of 35% broken rice. The prices in Thailand for 35% rice have gone up from around US\$ 275/MT before the crisis to about US\$ 365 at the peak of the food crisis. Since, prices have considerably come down again. (See: http://www.mongabay.com/images/commodities/charts/chart-rice_thai35.html.) . Current price paid by TBBC for purchase cum transport of rice is US\$ 405 / MT.

⁵⁰ Sept. 2009 distribution prices (based on average costs for MaeLa and NuPo camps). These figures equal a purchase cum average transport costs to the camps price of US\$ 405 per MT for rice, US\$ 997 per MT for beans and US\$ 1362 per MT for vegetable oil.

⁵¹ Per person per day

Supply chain management up to the warehouses in the camps

Although the supply-lines are shorter and much less complicated than in many other refugee food aid programmes in the world, TBBC for many years has had to face serious criticisms on the general food ration programme, including some fierce statements in the 2008 EC Strategic Assessment report⁵². The main lines of criticism pertain to weak bargaining power in the negotiation for good product purchase conditions due to highly collaborative relationships with a limited number of suppliers for several years⁵³, insufficient monitoring of the supply chain, and absence of production and expiry dates on any packaging.

The TBBC food supply chain management is based on a system of tenders managed by the Bangkok office which are undertaken twice per year⁵⁴. The tenders are separate for each of the commodities and include transport costs up to the warehouses in the camps⁵⁵. With some exceptions, deliveries to the camps are on a monthly basis⁵⁶. Supplies are inspected upon delivery in the camps on a 10% basis. Sample checks are made on weight, packaging and quality. Substandard supplies are subject to warnings, top-ups, financial penalties or replacement depending on the degree of failure. In case it is decided that the supplier needs to replace (part of) the shipment, this automatically leads to delays in the distribution, as there usually is very little carry-over stock from the previous month⁵⁷. Although according to TBBC many failures are minor infractions of demanding specifications only, it needs to be noted that the quality of the supplied commodities shows considerable variation. E.g., a meagre 78% of the rice for the first half of 2008 and 61% of the rice for the second half of 2008 passed the quality check while this was 92% of all rice shipments in the first half of 2009⁵⁸. In recent months various shipments of rice were of inferior quality⁵⁹.

Total costs levels general food distribution

Over the years, various studies were undertaken that touched upon issues of efficiency and costs structures in relation to the food aid programme run by TBBC and the Camp Committees⁶⁰. At donor level there is continued advocacy towards RTG to make subsidized rice available for the feeding of the Burmese refugees in the camps. Access to rice against more favourable prices would tremendously decrease TBBC funding requirements (rice purchase cum transport costs currently form 40.9% of the 2009 TBBC budget⁶¹). So far the lobby for making subsidized rice available has not yet met a positive response from RTG, but it certainly needs to be continued / intensified.

In order to provide a baseline for comparison of alternative strategies to the current food ration (Specific Objective V as per the ToR), this Livelihoods Vulnerability study also encompassed a brief analysis of the costs for the current procurement and transport of food up to the camps. For the

⁵² AGRER Consortium (2008), Strategic Assessment and Evaluation of Assistance to Thai-Burma Refugee Camps, Brussels, May 2008

⁵³ An area that needs further investigation is the considerable price differences between commodities with regard to the transport costs that are charged for the various camps.

⁵⁴ Since mid-2008 TBBC shifted to tendering for rice on a monthly basis. This was done in reaction to the high volatility of market prices as a result of the global food crisis. The monthly rice tendering is continued up to today, also in anticipation of a possible contribution from RTG in the form of subsidized rice (which TBBC and its donors have been advocating for, up to now with no success).

⁵⁵ While the resulting differentiated pricing system for each of the camps is fully acceptable it is imaginable that separate tendering for transport costs will lead to reduced overall costs levels.

⁵⁶ This is with exception of Mae Ra Ma Luang and Site #2 camps where 6-months stockpiling takes place. In MaeLa camp deliveries used to be on a twice monthly basis due to shortage of storage space. Facilities have recently been expanded and now deliveries are also on monthly basis similar to the other camps.

⁵⁷ Limited stock carry-over is by default, related to the available storage space and prevailing storage conditions in the camps.

⁵⁸ TBBC Programme Report January – June 2008 p. 96; TBBC Programme Report July – December 2008 p. 139; TBBC Programme Report January – June 2009, p. 40 and p. 133.

⁵⁹ Some shipments were even fully rejected, e.g. in Site #1 for July 2009 shipment of rice. In case of rejected deliveries, the supplier needs to replace the items which leads to a 5 day delay at least.

⁶⁰ E.g., the ECHO assessment on financial and admin issues (1997), the AIDCO study for EC on rice and building materials (2005), and the EC Strategic Assessment (2008), ref. the listing provided in the TBBC Programme Report January – June 2009 on p.118/9.

⁶¹ See TBBC Programme Report January – June 2009, p. 98.

adult food basket, these costs amount to 315 baht (€ 6.36) per person per month, while the food basket for children costs 205 baht (€ 4.14) per person per month (these figure exclude the cost of the charcoal). The table below provides indicative total costs per year for the general food basket (excluding charcoal) based on current costs levels and current numbers of refugees fed. Please note that distribution costs and TBBC overhead costs are not yet included in these figures.

Table 10: Total Costs Levels General Ration⁶²

	No. beneficiaries Aug '09 (A)	Costs monthly ration per beneficiary (Baht) (B)	Annual food costs (million baht) (A*B*12)	Annual food costs (million €) (A*B/49.5)
Adults and children over five years of age	114,274	315.09	432.08	8.73
Under fives⁶³	18,913	205.31	46.59	0.94
Total	133,187		478.68	9.67

Food stock management in the camps

The warehouse management is in the hands of the Camp Committee. The supplies stay for a period of about ten days in the warehouses up to the time they are distributed to the refugees. Under the guidance of the TBBC field officers, in the past years some changes have been introduced to improve stock management by the Camp Committees. In 2004/05, the TBBC Camp Management Support Project (CMSP) introduced a system for better management of the food flows into the camps including recording of balance stocks. This was a major improvement as previously there was no system at all for recording of stocks. In principle all food was meant to be finished by the end of the distribution round. In the new system introduced in 2004/05, payments in cash were introduced to cover Camp Committee admin costs and for stipends to the workers involved in the food distribution (1700 refugees in total).

The EC Strategic Assessment identified various structural problems with stock administration and storage conditions in the warehouses in the camps⁶⁴ that cause unnecessary decay of the food items in the short period between delivery at the warehouses in the camps and the distribution to the refugees⁶⁵.

Extra Needs supplies

Since many years, a margin of extra food and charcoal is supplied to the camps for use at the discretion of the Camp Committee, with the requirement to report back to TBBC on its use⁶⁶. The supplies are primarily used for food-for-work for security volunteers and in-kind contributions to camp

⁶² Based on TBBC feeding population figures and food costs for August 2009

⁶³ Recently, TBBC decided to also include children from 0 to 6 months in the food distribution; previously these children were excluded as breastfed babies do not need a ration for themselves.

⁶⁴ The Strategic Assessment identified a.o. a need for extension and renovation of the warehouses in the camps, a need to improve the ration book system, and a need to reduce the influence of the camp section leaders who are key in two steps in the food distribution system (they are responsible for the monthly feeding population updates and oversee the actual food distribution).

⁶⁵ With the help of a consultant seconded by SDC (Swiss Development Cooperation), over 2008/09 TBBC has been in the process of trying to improve warehousing conditions, including expanding storage capacity by positioning of MSUs (Mobile Storage Units), cementing of the floors in some of the godowns, introduction of re-stacking of left-over foods, and better implementation of the 'First In First Out' principle.

⁶⁶ In 2007, CMSP introduced a new system not only for storage and administration but also a monitoring system of extra food and non food that is supplied to camp committees primarily for the camp activities. Warehouse staff are assigned to oversee and record receipt and distribution of these supplies. CMSP staff monitor this during their weekly/monthly site visits. The monthly distribution report is submitted to TBBC CMSP manager via the Refugee Committee and feedback is discussed regularly with Camp Committee. This system keeps extra needs separate from the monthly ration to camp residents in order to maintain transparency.

activities (CBO trainings, festivals and funerals, etc.). Other uses include feeding of new arrivals, and use as 'incentives' paid to the Thai authorities (Camp Commander and border patrol police). Before the CMSP was introduced, part of the extra needs supplies was also meant to serve as in-kind payment for Camp Committee staff and the refugees involved in the actual distribution of the food. In the TBBC budget and financial reporting, the margin is taken up as 'Rice Admin costs' (6.9% in 2009⁶⁷), 'Other Food Admin costs' (4.5%) and 'Admin Charcoal' (3.2%) budget lines.

Although a certain margin is commonly applied in food distribution programmes, the levels applied for the Burmese camps are rated to be too high (especially for rice which is the bulk of the food ration) as (a) in most of the camps the influx of new arrivals nowadays is limited; (b) by now there is a system of stock balances which could include keeping a small contingency stock for sudden needs; (c) the extra needs are more limited than before because of the Monthly Updates of the Feeding Population (MUPF) system that has reduced the waiting time to 2 - 3 months⁶⁸; and (d) the CMSP has introduced cash payments for the Camp Committee and the 1700 refugee stipend workers involved in the distribution. By switching to a contingency of 2.5% (a flat rate for all commodities which is seen as sufficient to cater for the needs of new arrivals and for some 'fringe expenditures'), the cost efficiency of the general food ration could be improved a lot. Based on the feeding population total for August '09, application of a 2.5% margin instead of the 6.9% margin would have allowed the provision of a rice ration to 5,860 additional refugees (border-wide) without any additional costs to TBBC and the donors⁶⁹. Or, put differently, if the number of beneficiaries is kept the same, based on the 2009 revised budget figures, adoption of a flat 2.5% margin could lead to savings in the order of 18.4 million Baht (€ 0.37 million) annually⁷⁰.

Food distribution system

From the start onwards, the Refugee Camp Committees have been responsible for the distribution of the food items from the warehouses in the camps. The system is based on ration books that TBBC in collaboration with the Camp Committee is issuing annually to the refugee households. Annual verification rounds take place in October / November to compile new feeding population lists, which are then kept up-to-date through the on-going verification of new arrivals by TBBC / the Camp Committee together with the MUPF system explained above.

In 2008/09, a new system was introduced by TBBC based on a complete verification of all refugees (both registered and unregistered) and establishment of a new population database in SPSS. All households in the database were provided with colour-coded ration books. The colour does not relate to a difference in food rations, only in registration status⁷¹. Also as from January 2009 TBBC introduced the precondition that all refugee adults have to be present at the distribution site to collect their rations⁷². This was seen to be necessary as in the past significant numbers of people could be outside the camps (temporary or for longer periods) and still receive rations.

Also in 2008, a new system of rather complicated eligibility criteria was deployed. It excludes people absent from the camps for work, study or other purposes, and all NGO and CBO workers who reside outside the camps. Also babies less than 6 months of age were excluded from the feeding figures, but recently TBBC decided to add them again. Basically all other residents in the camps are included,

⁶⁷ This is the admin allowance provided on top of the regular rice supplies expressed as percentage of the regular rice supplies. The percentages are calculated based on the information in the revised 2009 projection as stated in the TBBC Programme Report January to June 2009 (p. 75).

⁶⁸ The system was also introduced in 2005 and has substantially reduced the time lag between arrival in the camp and inclusion in the food distribution system.

⁶⁹ Note that the number of additional refugees that could be fed with the other food and provided with charcoal is lower than this number as the applied margins are different for each of the three commodity categories.

⁷⁰ It can easily be calculated that in the 2009 revised budget the total contingency margin amounts to an expenditure of 33.7 million Baht (€ 0.68 million).

⁷¹ Blue books are issued to families with MoI / UNHCR registration numbers, pink books for those who have entered the status determination process run by PAB (the pre-screening), and orange books for families verified to be living in the camp who are new asylum seekers and have not yet entered the registration process run by PAB.

⁷² A list of exceptions for e.g. refugee stipend workers has been drawn up to allow for those with genuine reasons not to attend. However, this system apparently is not yet working perfectly.

both registered and unregistered refugees and irrespective of whether one holds a Thai ID or not. Early 2009, the system of eligibility criteria for the three camps in Tak Province was slightly revised. This was felt to be necessary to deal with the high number of unregistered people in these camps. The new system maintains a full ration for the same categories of recipients as in 2008 and added the category of verified eligible new arrivals who get a half ration but with the exclusion of certain groups of unregistered asylum seekers (this applies to 'resettlement seekers', 'shop owners', 'self-sufficient', and 'business owner / enterprise'). TBBC and the Camp Committees have invested a lot of energy in elaboration of this system and are satisfied with the results. From the consultants' point of view however, it actually is not TBBC's or the Camp Committees' role to involve themselves in a sort of 'status determination' through exclusion of identified 'resettlement seekers'. The issue will be resolved for the current caseload when the results of the new pre-screening will become available early 2010, but will again need to be addressed for new arrivals who come to the camps after the closure of the pre-screening exercise.

4.2 Supplementary Feeding Programme Pregnant and Lactating Women

Historical background

The supplementary feeding for pregnant and lactating women was started between 1994 and 1998. This was done in order to address the high levels of vitamin B1 deficiency ('*beri-beri*') in the diet which was seen to be the main cause of the by then high infant mortality rates in the camps. The nutritional deficiency disorder was the result of the very monotonous rice-based refugee diets. In the early days the general food ration only consisted of rice, fish paste and (iodised) salt. Access to other food items was decreasing due to increasingly restrictive RTG policies.

A specific study on supplementary feeding undertaken in 1998⁷³ concluded that it was still necessary to provide supplementary feeding to vulnerable groups. That year, yellow beans and cooking oil had been added to the food basket but although this had improved quantities, the quality of the basket was still not up to standards (particularly lacking in micronutrients). However, it was stressed in this study that supplementary feeding should be used as a stop-gap measure only and should be discontinued when the quality of the general food basket improved.

Additional recommendations on supplementary feeding were given in the 2003 ECHO evaluation report⁷⁴: (a) to phase out the different commodities used for supplementary feeding and replace them with blended food / premix; (b) to stop reimbursing health NGOs for all foods that are not appropriate; and (c) to fully adopt international (UNHCR/WFP) recommendations for energy content and nutrient composition of supplementary feeding rations. The report also strongly supported the TBBC plan to include a blended food in the general ration in order to improve the micronutrient content of the general food basket.

Introduction of fortified blended food in the general ration

A major breakthrough occurred early 2004 when TBBC finally started to add 1 kg of fortified blended food to the monthly ration⁷⁵. However, in response to the 2008 budget crisis TBBC decided to reduce the amount of AsiaMIX provided to adults from 1 kg to 250 grams per month which continues up to today⁷⁶. This means that the general ration again has become lacking in micronutrients. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that it is common practice to use AsiaMIX as flour for preparation of snacks

⁷³ Klaver W (1998), Towards a rationalization of the BBC supported supplementary feeding programme among refugees along the Thai-Burma border, IAC, Wageningen, August 1998.

⁷⁴ Schuftan C, A van der Veen, V Bacquet _ P Winichagoon (2004), Evaluation of ECHO-funded nutrition and food aid activities for Burmese refugees in Thailand, SHER, Brussels, April 2004.

⁷⁵ At first imported wheat-soy blend was used, later on replaced by AsiaMIX produced locally (it consists of 75% rice and 25% soy beans plus a vitamin / mineral premix). With the introduction of the blended food in the ration, the amount of rice was reduced from 16 kg to 15 kg per person per month.

⁷⁶ In April 2008 the amount of AsiaMIX for adults was reduced from 1 kg to 0.5 kg per month; a further reduction took place in August 2008 up to 0.25 kg per month which continues up to today. For children under five years of age a ration of 1 kg of AsiaMIX per month was maintained.

(or for feeding of chicken and pigs) and that apart from the use as porridge for children and the elderly it is not used as ingredient for regular day-to-day meals. As there is no additional AsiaMIX distribution to pregnant and lactating women, it depends on their access to additional food items next to the food basket whether their special nutrition needs are sufficiently met.

Analysis of current nutrition support to pregnant and lactating women

As the TBBC Feeding Guidelines state, supplementary feeding intends to meet the increased needs of pregnant and lactating women⁷⁷ to ensure prevention of and recovery from malnutrition⁷⁸. However, as was already underlined in the 2003 ECHO report, prevention or cure of micronutrient deficiencies in pregnant and lactating women is usually addressed through supplementation (Vitamin A, ferrous sulphate/folic acid), and for the overall population through improvement of the general food basket. Supplementary feeding should primarily be geared towards catering for additional nutritional needs during pregnancy and lactation. Recommendations in the 2003 ECHO evaluation report included provision of increased support to malnourished pregnant and lactating women, and replacement of the different commodities used in the SFP⁷⁹. The use of MUAC for identification of malnourished women and provision of increased rations⁸⁰ has since been incorporated in the TBBC Feeding Guidelines, but AsiaMIX has not been incorporated in the ration and the provision of a food package of beans, oil and either eggs or tinned fish has continued up to today. Also, despite the advice in the 2003 ECHO evaluation to TBBC to shift to supplementary feeding through provision of food in-kind to the health agencies, the system of TBBC reimbursing the health agencies for the costs to buy additional food items has never been changed into a system of provision of food in-kind by TBBC to these agencies.

Another objective of the TBBC supplementary feeding as per the Guidelines is to act as an incentive for regular ante/post-natal clinic visits. However, it is questionable whether there indeed is a need for such an incentive to attend antenatal clinics and child vaccination sessions because of the closed camps conditions and the small distances to the clinics.

An analysis of the basket for supplementary feeding for pregnant and lactating women (not the ration for malnourished women) is attached in Annex J. Overall, the ration cost per beneficiary for pregnant women is 130 baht per month, for lactating women this is 147 baht per month. Although the supplementary package clearly provides a good source of protein and also increases the amount of fat in the diet, the energy content of the ration for lactating women is not in line with the recommendation in the WFP Nutrition Handbook (providing 424 kcal instead of 550 kcal per day). An overview of the total costs levels incurred for all nine camps together is given in the table below.

Table 11: Annual Costs Supplementary Feeding Pregnant and Lactating Women

	Total No. beneficiaries as per August 2009 (A)	Costs monthly ration per beneficiary (Baht) (B)	Projected annual food costs (million baht) (A*B*12)	Projected annual food costs (€) (A*B/49.5)
Pregnant women	2,606	130.08	4.07	82,180
Lactating women	2,858	146.83	5.04	101,732
Total	5,464		9.10	183,913

⁷⁷ As entry and discharge criteria which are used consist of the time of discovery of the pregnancy and 6 (sometimes 9) months after birth.

⁷⁸ The cut-off point for the MUAC (mid upper arm circumference) for malnourished pregnant / lactating women is set at 21 cm, which is in line with international practice.

⁷⁹ In the 2003 evaluation it was suggested to distribute a premix (mixed before distribution) of blended food and oil, but it might be a better idea to distribute the food items separately so that the beneficiaries can prepare different dishes.

⁸⁰ For malnourished pregnant and lactating women the Feeding Guidelines prescribe a weekly ration of 0.25 l vegetable oil, 1 kg of beans, and 7 eggs or 4 tins of canned fish.

4.3 Supplementary Feeding Programme Malnourished Children

The supplementary feeding for children is specifically aimed at treating malnutrition, and only targets malnourished children (plus some infants unable to breastfeed). There is no incentive programme to increase regular growth monitoring attendance. Not too surprisingly, attendance rates indeed are reported to be on the lower side which affects (timely) referral of (moderately) malnourished children to the supplementary / therapeutic feeding programme. The 2008 border-wide nutrition survey report⁸¹ revealed that the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate (primarily indicating that consumption is inadequate in quantitative terms) was 2.7% while chronic malnutrition (as a result of sub-standard quality of the regular diet from the time of introduction of complementary foods onwards) was 36.2%⁸². On average, only 33% of the children with acute malnutrition were found to be enrolled in a supplementary feeding programme during the survey. The issue is that a comparison of absolute figures of attendance of the feeding programme and the estimated number of malnourished children to be present in the camps doesn't tell the full story as the feeding programmes include some children over five years of age and some recovered but not yet discharged children that are no longer have a weight-for-height below the -2 Z-score threshold for global acute malnutrition. It has been calculated that the border-wide total number of moderately malnourished children is expected to be around 525 children⁸³ while during the first half of 2009 on average 389 children were attending the programme. In 2008, enrolment of moderately malnourished children was found to be as low as 20% in five of the camps (MaeLa⁸⁴, Umpiem Mai, Mae Ra Ma Luang, Site #1 and Site #2). This points at a major performance problem of the health agencies as the objective in the contracts between TBBC and the health agencies is to achieve at least 70% coverage. Overall, the average enrolment in SFP / TFP in the past years has been rather constant: around 2.0% of the children under five years of age that are present in the camps are included in the SFP⁸⁵.

The SFP for malnourished children is spelled out in the TBBC Feeding Guidelines which are adapted from WHO, USAID, the UN and MSF guidelines. The weekly ration for moderately malnourished children is composed of premix and vegetable oil combined with either eggs or canned fish. Studies by CDC and TBBC that were conducted in 2004 and 2006 confirmed that AsiaMix is an acceptable food and that it has increased the micronutrient content in the supplementary rations for malnourished children (with significant reduction in prevalence of anemia). However, it is true that there still remains a need for more social marketing and nutrition education on AsiaMix. As can be seen in Annex K, the ration is deemed sufficient in terms of energy and high in nutrient quality, but costs are also high at 394 baht per child per month which is about double the costs for the general food basket for children under five years of age while the energy provided is even a bit less⁸⁶. The 2003 ECHO evaluation recommendation to shift to a SFP which just provides premix and oil (phasing out of the eggs and other commodities) as soon as blended food would be added to the general food basket, has not been implemented.

⁸¹ AMI / ARC / IRC / MI / TBBC (2008), Annual Nutrition Survey Report Border-wide 2008

⁸² Since 2003, acute malnutrition levels have been rather static, varying between 3.6% and 2.7% prevalence for all camps together. Chronic malnutrition also remained largely the same but with much higher prevalence, around 35%.

⁸³ The calculation is based on a GAM level of 2.7%, a total 'feeding population' of 133,187 plus 19,000 unregistered unverified refugees also present in the camps (admission to the feeding programme is for all malnourished children living in the camps), a rate of 14.2% of the population being underfives, of whom a proportion of 54/60 is in the age category 6 to 60 months.

⁸⁴ In the 2008 nutrition survey, global acute malnutrition (GAM) was highest in MaeLa camp with 5.5%.

⁸⁵ TBBC (2009), Programme Report January – June 2009, Bangkok, p. 130.

⁸⁶ The average monthly cost for provision of 1000 kCal per day is 358 baht for the supplementary ration for malnourished children versus 163 baht for the general food basket for children under five years of age.

Table 12: Annual Costs Supplementary Feeding Moderately Malnourished Children

	Average no. monthly beneficiaries Jan – June 2009 ⁸⁷ (A)	Costs monthly ration per beneficiary (Baht) (B)	Projected annual food costs (million baht) (A*B*12)	Projected annual food costs (€) (A*B/49.5)
Moderately malnourished children	389	394.28	1.84	37,182

4.4 Preschool Feeding Programme

Another component in the TBBC food and nutrition support to the camps is a cash contribution for school lunches at nursery schools (aimed at children 3 – 5 years of age). In the first half of 2009, the programme was operational in seven of the camps and reached over 8,000 children⁸⁸. For all nine camps together about 8,650 children are expected to fall in the age category 3 to 5 years⁸⁹. The last two camps were added to the programme with the opening of the new school year in June/July. Since many years, the programme is based on provision of three baht per child per day⁹⁰. With these funds, nursery staff is buying fresh foods to prepare tasty and nutritious meals for five days per week (185 school days per year in total). The fresh foods are used together with the rice that is brought from home (or sometimes provided by the Camp Committee). From July 2009 onwards, TBBC has started to also provide AsiaMIX to the schools.

Coverage of the programme is good as virtually all children in the camps attend nurseries and the school lunch is one of their three main daily meals. The impact of this programme on the nutritional status of young children however is difficult to assess as it can hardly be separated from the much larger effect of the general food ration. From the 2008 nutrition survey report it is known that global acute malnutrition (as a result of insufficient quantities of food consumed) for the age group 3 to 5 years is rather low (below 2%; the peak of acute malnutrition is at the age of 24 months with prevalence of about 5.4%) but global chronic malnutrition (which points towards insufficient quality of the diet) on the other hand is high and continues to rise for the age group 3 to 5 years up to nearly 50% for children at the age of 5 years.

In order to have an idea of the total required budget the following calculation has been made: if 8,000 children are reached and the financial contribution is 3 baht per day for 185 school days per year⁹¹, the required budget would be 4.44 million baht (€ 89,697). The total budget for the school lunch support in the revised projection for 2009 expenses however is 7.00 million baht (€ 141,414). This seems to be rather high when compared with estimated costs levels, and forms a 57% increase when compared with the actual expenditure level in 2008 (4.46 million baht, equivalent to € 90,101).

⁸⁷ This monthly average includes 18 moderately malnourished children over five years of age who actually receive a slightly cheaper ration as they get premix 2 that is just composed of AsiaMIX and sugar. Because of the very small numbers, in the calculation model they have just been incorporated as if they received the premix 1 that is given to under fives.

⁸⁸ See: TBBC Programme Report January – June 2009, p. 35.

⁸⁹ According to the UNHCR statistics, 15,367 children fall in the age category 0 – 5 years. If we assume that there is an equal distribution over all years there would be about 6,150 children in the 3 to 5 years of age group. Extrapolation in order to include all unregistered refugee children (both verified and unverified) leads to an estimated total of 8,657 children in this age group in all nine camps together.

⁹⁰ This will be raised to 5 baht per child per day in the two newly added camps. At the start of academic year 2010-2011, a flat rate of 5 baht per child per school day will be applied in all 9 camps.

⁹¹ Source: TBBC Programme Report January – June 2009, p. 36.

5 Findings of the Household Economy Survey

5.1 Demographics

The total number of people residing in the 350 houses sampled was 1986. This renders an average household size of 5.7⁹². The age and sex composition of households sampled is summarized in the table below.

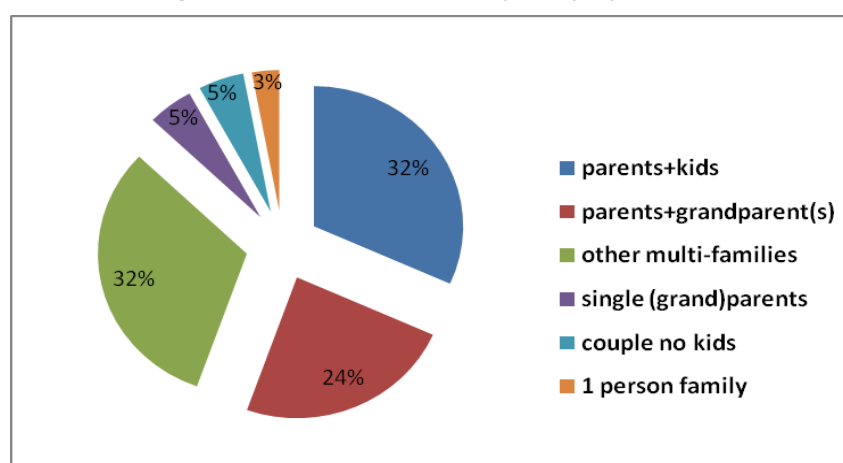
Table 13: Comparison of Households (%)

	Sample	Adults	Children aged 6-18 y	Children under 5 y	Elderly aged 60+
Female (%)	49	50	47	45	52
Male (%)	51	50	53	55	48
Total (%)	100	46	33	15	6

According to the survey there are more boys residing in the camp than girls. The surplus is largest in the under five age group. This suggests the surplus is a result of more boys being born than girls⁹³. The surplus remains in the age group 6-18, but is lower. The number of females in the age-group above 60 is higher than the number of males, as is common everywhere. The total number of elderly is low. As a consequence, also given the relatively good health and nutrition status of children less than five years of age, overall mortality in the camps is lower than normal and thus population growth higher than expected based on the number of new births.

The survey further reveals that for the whole sample together, only one-third of the households consist of a traditional nuclear family composed of a father, mother and kids. Over half of the households consist of multi-families which are composed of grandparent(s), children and grandchildren or of two or more families of the same generation. In 8% of the houses there is only one adult⁹⁴. A visual breakdown of households by type is presented in the figure below:

Figure 1: Households Surveyed by Type (%)



⁹² This number is higher than the UNHCR 2009 August figure of 4.24. The most likely explanation is that UNHCR figures do not include the (not yet) registered new-comers. If the number of households has stayed the same as in the UNHCR registered population (108,000), with the estimated current population (142,000, meaning an increase of 25,000), the average household size would indeed increase from 4.24 to 5.7. This is also in line with the fact that the total number of people living in the sampled households is about 30% higher than the total number on the ration cards. Please also refer to page 30.

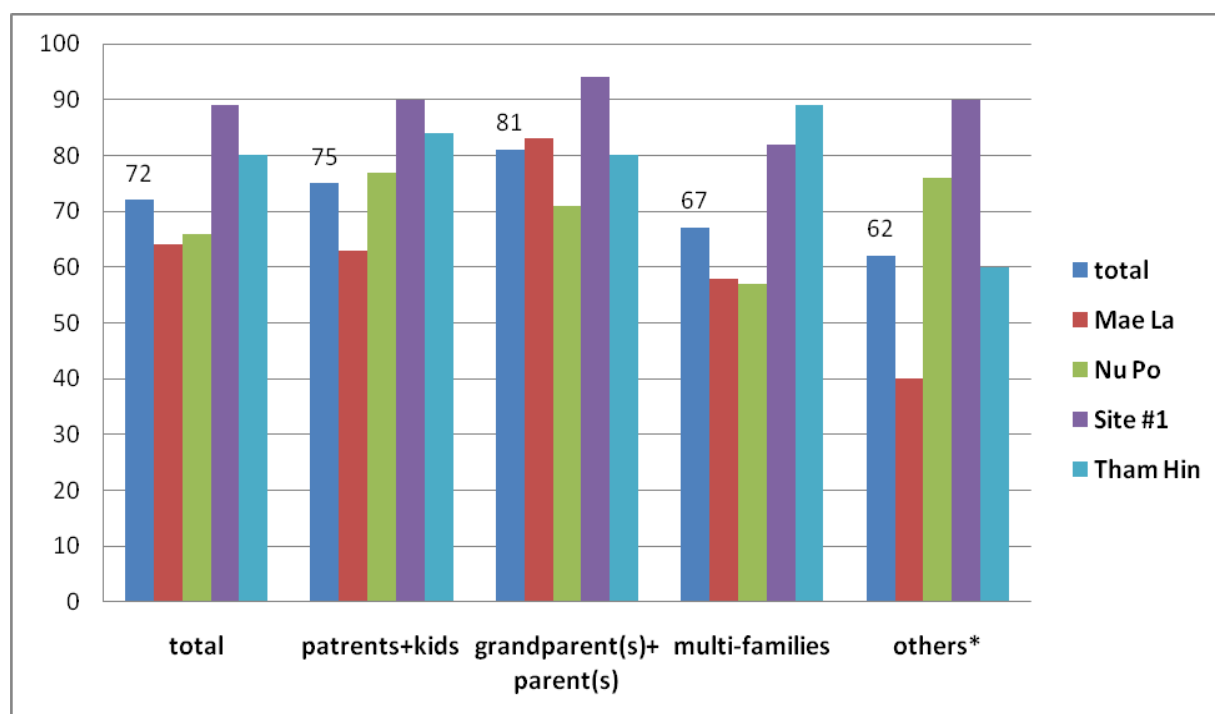
⁹³ This phenomenon is often seen in societies hit by conflict with the highest number of casualties among male fighters. This was the case, for example, in Europe after World War II.

⁹⁴ Two thirds (67%) of these houses is inhabited by single parents or a single grandparent (3 houses) and his/her (grand) children. The others (2.5% of the total sample) are single adults living alone.

Nearly 29% of the households were female-headed. In 75% of female-headed households there was also a male adult. The exception was Site #1, where 85% of the female-headed households comprised only one (or more) female adult(s). This finding suggests that except among the Karenni, the absence of a male adult/husband is not the only reason to characterize the household as female-headed. For example, sometimes respondents indicated that the woman was the head of the household because she manages the household budget. Please refer to Annex L for a breakdown of demographic data by camp.

As the figure below shows, a large majority of households of all types have relatives living in the same camp. The proportion is highest in Site #1 and Tham Hin, but also around 65% in the other two camps. Assuming that virtual all multi-family households consist of blood-relatives living together in one house⁹⁵, the number of households with relatives in the same camp is even higher. The number of multi-family households varies from 23% in Site #1 to 46% in NuPo. This may well explain why in Site #1 the number of households with relatives in the same camp is so high: houses are less often shared with relatives than in the other three camps. A possible explanation could be that the percentage of new arrivals (arriving after 1 November 2005) in Site #1 has been a low 7% (as compared to 24% overall), while also the resettlement programme has freed up houses so that multi-families were able to split up so that each family has a house for itself. Over 65% of the single adult households and one person households were found to have relatives in the camp⁹⁶. It is striking that all elderly living alone or living with one or more grandchildren have relatives in the camp. The total percentage of handicapped is 2.5%, with slightly more male handicapped than females. All handicapped live with relatives in households which are larger than average (6.7 as compared to 5.7). 70% of the handicapped also have other relatives living in the same camp.

Figure 2: Households with Relatives in the Same Camp (%)



* The numbers in this category are very small and therefore not reliable (large confidence intervals)

In all camps the vast majority of the population are of the Karen ethnic group, except in Site #1 where the Karenni are the dominant ethnic group. However, whereas in Tham Hin and Site #1 more than 90% of the refugees are Karen and Karenni respectively, the number in Nu Po and Mae La camps is

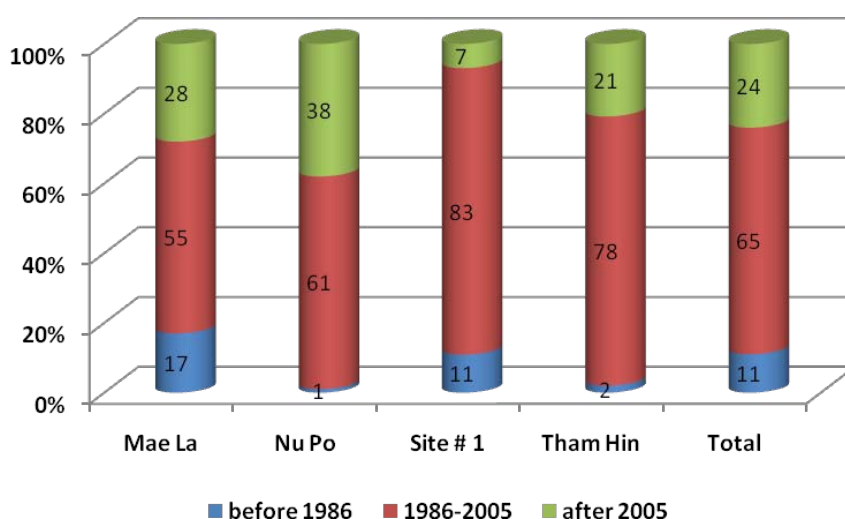
⁹⁵ Where houses were shared between families not being relatives, the families had different ration-books and as a rule did not share meals.

⁹⁶ Single person/single parent households without relatives in the camp numbered only 9 of whom one boy, 3 single males, 3 single female parents and 2 single male parents.

significantly lower (74% and 83% respectively). Other ethnic groups in the sample were mainly Burman (2.3%), other Burmese (7%), and non Burmese (3%⁹⁷).

The dominant religion is Christianity (47%), followed by Buddhism⁹⁸ (36%) and Islam in MaeLa (14%) and NuPo (12%) and animism among the Karenni in Site #1 (43%). The number of Christians in Tham Hin is significantly higher than in the other three camps, whereas the number of Buddhists in the Tak camps is significantly higher than in the other two camps⁹⁹. The number of Buddhists among the new arrivals (this refers to all people who arrived after 2005), is significantly higher than among the people who arrived earlier, which explains why their numbers are higher in the two Tak camps where there have been many more new arrivals. It is to be noted here that the sampling frame for the household survey was based on the TBBC feeding population list which includes most new arrivals from 2005-2007 and those identified as vulnerable within the 2008-2009 caseload¹⁰⁰ in the Tak camps. Thus, if new arrivals were sampled in the two Tak camps this was an indirect effect as they were found to be living in with households that are on the feeding list or were living by themselves in a house that was sampled because the previous inhabitants were still on the feeding list as living there. In one-third (101) of the households sampled the number of people on the ration card was lower than the number of people living in that household (excluding all possible children under six months¹⁰¹). In Tham Hin the number of households with fewer people on the ration-card than the number of people living in the household was significantly higher than in the other camps. A breakdown of arrival date in the camps is given in the figure below.

Figure 3: Arrival Date Categories by Camp



As was to be expected, the number of people arriving after 2005 in the two camps in Tak province was found to be significantly higher than the number of these newcomers in Tham Hin and especially in Site #1. Among all households in the sample, 24 % are new arrivals since 2005, 65 % arrived between 1986 and 2005 and 11% before 1986¹⁰². In Site #1 and Tham Hin, households were also

⁹⁷ According to survey teams most households belonging to this group were from India or Bangladesh. They were not people with a Thai ID.

⁹⁸ In Maea, Buddhism is the majority religion.

⁹⁹ The number of Buddhists among new arrivals is significantly higher than among the people that arrived earlier. This explains why their numbers are higher in the two Tak camps where there have been many more new arrivals.

¹⁰⁰ New arrivals who were not on the TBBC feeding population list were not sampled because the aim of the study was to look for options to reduce dependency/find and/or support livelihood solutions and find criteria to link groups to livelihood solutions. The aim was not to look how unregistered non fed refugees were coping.

¹⁰¹ All households with only one child under five were excluded because we could not rule out they were under 6 months. So the 1/3 is a very conservative figure. The real number of households with people not on the ration card maybe as high as 2/3 (assuming the number of babies born per year is constant). The total number of people on the ration card was 1540 while the total number of people living in all sampled households was 1986.

¹⁰² In the last group, Christians are overrepresented (60% versus 46% in the total sample).

asked about their future plans in terms of migration¹⁰³. The table below provides a break-down for the two camps.

Table 14: Future Options by Camp (%)

	Site # 1	Tham Hin
Resettlement in third countries	35	45
Reintegration in Thailand	5	14
Stay in the camp (less restrictions)	60	41
Total	100	100

A possible explanation for the (significant) difference between the two camps in terms of preference for staying in the camp might be due to the fact that livelihood options at Site #1 are better. A lower preference for resettlement on the other hand may be explained by the fact that at the time of the field work for the survey, the first batches of households that opted for resettlement had just left from Site #1 while many more were in the process of preparing for departure. The households staying behind thus might have decided to first wait and see.

In both camps, the number of households interested in resettlement was not found to be higher among people who arrived after 2005 than among people who had migrated earlier. However, households with secondary or higher education were twice as likely to indicate a preference for resettlement while no relation was found between the level of education and a preference for either staying in the camp or reintegration. Because the different context in Tak province – NuPo and MaeLa are both located in districts where the majority population is Karen-, it is not possible to extrapolate any of these findings to the Tak camps.

For 18% of the households in the survey the highest level of education was higher education. Secondary and primary education both were the highest education in 37% of the households. In only 8% of the households the highest level was no education. The number of households with one or more secondary or higher educated persons was significantly higher in Site #1 than in the other 3 camps combined. In MaeLa, the level of education was significantly lower than in the other three camps.

5.2 Livelihoods

Agriculture

The vast majority of the households in Site #1 and Tham Hin (86% and 80% respectively) were originally making a living in Burma through farming. In principle, RTG only allocated land to the Burmese refugees for them to live in closed camps and not for farming. Therefore, the possibilities for agriculture and horticulture are limited to projects implemented by NGOs (COERR, IRC, TBBC, ZOA, etc.).

Rearing animals in the camp is officially prohibited. The implementation of this regulation is highly dependent on the provincial and local Thai authorities. In Tham Hin, the ban has been implemented most strictly and none of the survey respondents was found to have pigs or chickens. Due to the crowded circumstances, possibilities for household gardening in Tham Hin are very limited as well. The number of households possessing agricultural assets in Tham Hin thus is by far the lowest. In Site #1, the number of households which hold animals is significantly higher than in the Tak camps. The number of households in Site #1 having access to agricultural land located outside the camps also significantly higher than in the other three camps, as outlined below. More than a quarter of all households in NuPo and Site # 1 have household gardens located in the camp, as compared to 15% of the households in MaeLa. Again, Tham Hin scores very low with only 1%. Over one-third of the

¹⁰³ This question was later on added after the field work was already completed in the two Tak camps, see Annex F.

households in all camps (except Tham Hin) owns fruit trees, most (but not all) located in the camp. Agricultural assets are summarized in the table below; refer to Annex M for more details.

Table 15: Households with Agricultural Assets Per Camp (%)

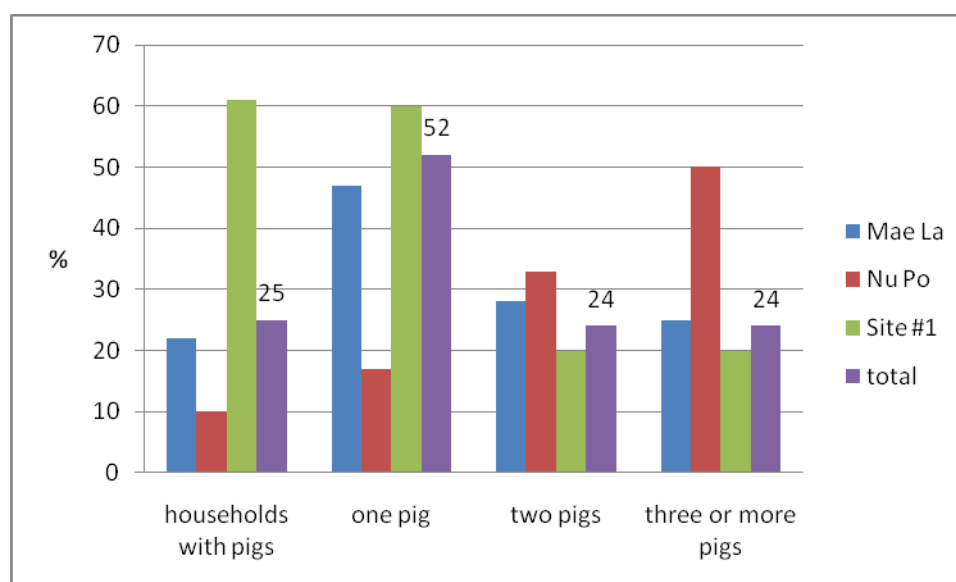
	Agricultural land	Household garden	Fruit trees	Pigs	Poultry
MaeLa	2	15	35	22	16
NuPo	7	25	41	10	10
Site #1	14*	31	39	61*	70*
Tham Hin	6	1	2	0	0
Total	6	18	32	25	24

* Statistically significant

The average size of the agricultural plot is around 900 square feet, but bigger among refugees from MaeLa (2200 square feet) and smaller in Tham Hin (500 square feet)¹⁰⁴. Agricultural plots are used for growing vegetables (cabbage, beans, roots, gourd, and cucumber); only one plot was used to grow rice. The average number of fruit trees grown was five, with little differences between the camps. In Tham Hin only one household had fruit trees. Trees most commonly grown are bananas followed by mango trees and to a lesser extent papayas. Occasionally, jackfruit trees were grown.

As the table above shows, the percentage of households rearing animals varies substantially from one camp to another, with over 60% of the households in Site #1 rearing pigs and only 10% in NuPo¹⁰⁵. The number of animals reared varies between camps as well. In Site #1 for example, households that own pigs tended to have just one pig, while in NuPo half of the pig rearing households owned at least three pigs. Details are summarized below.

Figure 4: Number of Pigs Per Household Per Camp (%)



Among those possessing pigs 25% sold one or more animals during the last three months. Not surprisingly the figure was higher (33%) in NuPo. However, because the total number of pig owners in NuPo is low, in total only 3% of all households in NuPo sold a pig in the last three months.

¹⁰⁴ Note that the total number of households with agricultural plots was only 20, half of whom in site #1. Averages for 3 to 4 households as in MaeLa, NuPo and Tham Hin mean little if the numbers are so small.

¹⁰⁵ The findings on pig rearing in NuPo are different from the information in the FGD (see 3.3).

Households with chickens have on average 6 to 7 chickens. The number in Site # 1 is higher than average (8); NuPo scores far below average with only two chicken per household. In MaeLa households with chicken have on average 5 chickens. These differences are also reflected in the number of households possessing 5 or more chicken. In Site #1 this is nearly half of the households, while in MaeLa and NuPo less than one third of the households have 5 or more chicken. Only 7% of the households owning chicken said they had sold any during the last three months, indicating that chicken-rearing does not have a major function as income generating activity. Keeping chicken however does play a function in terms of increasing household's food production self-sufficiency.

Other Productive Assets

The survey also looked at other assets to generate income. Nearly one out of five households owned assets for handicrafts, skilled labour or other income generating activities¹⁰⁶. In addition, on average 11% of the households owned or rented a means of transport (bicycle, motorbike, in the Tak camps also some cars), most of which are also assets that (help) generate income. The breakdown of productive assets by camps is detailed in the table below.

Table 16: Possession of Productive Assets Per Type Per Camp (%)

	MaeLa	Nu Po	Site # 1	Tham Hin	Total
Productive Assets	22	15	11	18	18
Handicrafts	15	5	9	10	11
Skilled Labour	8	10	1	8	6
Transport	10	10	16	8	11
Bicycle	5	3	4	6	5
Motorbike	2	5	12	2	5
Car	3	2	0	0	2

The possession of certain productive assets was not always found to be significantly related to stated sources of income. For instance, handicrafts as source of income scored highest in Tham Hin and NuPo, while the number of households owning assets for handicrafts was highest in MaeLa. Skilled labour was absent as source of income in Site #1 while it formed 8% of the stated sources of income in the other three camps. This finding is consistent with the virtual absence of assets for skilled labour in Site #1. Please also refer to section 5.3.

5.3 Income and Expenditure

Sources of income

In all camps casual labour is the most frequent mentioned source of income (42%). The number of households earning cash from casual labour varies from camp to camp with MaeLa scoring highest (50%) and Site #1 scoring lowest (32%). Fixed employment including part-time employment is the second most important source of income (32%). This means that about one-third of the households have income from a job in the camps with one of the agencies. The amounts earned as 'stipends' are much lower than under normal circumstances¹⁰⁷. The differences between the camps are small, although in Site #1 the number of households earning an income from stipends is significantly higher than in Tham Hin.

The third most frequently mentioned source of income are remittances, which are received by one out of four families. The number of households who have relatives abroad (not Burma) was found to be nearly 75%. That means that among the families with relatives in third countries only one-third is receiving remittances. There is no indication (yet?) that this percentage increases over time. In fact,

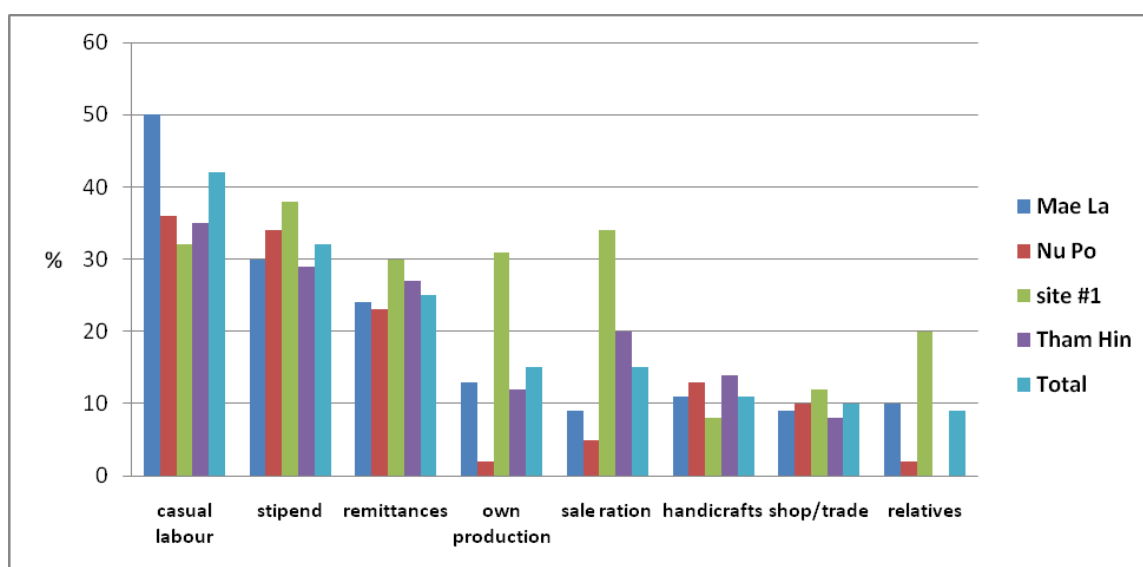
¹⁰⁶ This does not include equipment for cooking activities such as making snacks or noodles which is one of the more viable income generating activities in the camps.

¹⁰⁷ The stipends take into account the camp situation that is characterized by food and charcoal distribution and free health and educational services. Also, stipends are generally kept low in order to be able to employ more people within certain budget limits. Stipend levels vary from 500 to 1200 – 1500 baht per month.

the number of households receiving remittances in Site #1 where the group resettlement programme to the US only started this year was highest of all. Refer to Annex N for a breakdown of the whereabouts of relatives by camp.

The fourth most important sources of income are sale of own production, mentioned by 15% and sale of a ration, also mentioned by 15% of the households. There are significant differences per camp, as the figure below demonstrates. Both sale of ration and sale from own production are far more popular in Site #1 than in the other three camps, which is in line with the findings from a survey on agriculture in the camps commissioned by TBBC in 2006¹⁰⁸. The survey did not explore which items were sold most frequently¹⁰⁹ or why more people in Site # 1 were selling (part) of their ration. The TBBC post-distribution system that is currently being established would be the most appropriate mechanism for monitoring what is happening with the food distributed.

Figure 5: Sources of Income by Camp (%)



Households in NuPo score very low on both sale of the ration and sales from own production. Part of the explanation might be that in NuPo at the time of the survey it was nearly 4 weeks ago since the last food distribution took place so little food was left in the homes

Selling handicrafts is an income source for a little over more than 10% of all households, with limited variation between camps. In the survey, no distinction was made between small and bigger shops. Because it was often difficult to distinguish between petty trade and sales from a small shop (both operated from the house) income from petty trade and from a shop have been combined¹¹⁰. Overall, 9% mentioned a shop/trading as a source of income, again, with little variation between camps.

Overall, 7% of all households state receiving money from relatives (in Thailand or Burma) as a source of income. The differences between the camps are significant, with Tham Hin scoring lowest (0%) and site # 1 highest (20%). The number of households receiving income from skilled labour on average for all camps together was 7% as well. The number varied from 10% in MaeLa, 8% in NuPo, 5% in Site #1 to 0% in Tham Hin. Other sources of income such as the sale of firewood/charcoal (1%) or collecting grass/selling mats (5%) are localized activities and relatively unimportant as source of income¹¹¹.

¹⁰⁸ Soe Thant Aung (2006), *TBBC FSP Agricultural Baseline Survey*, Bangkok, June 2006

¹⁰⁹ It is good practice that food distribution agencies monitor possible sale of food through a system of a post-distribution monitoring. This is not happening in the Thai Burmese border camps.

¹¹⁰ The distinction could of course have mattered greatly if the question focused on the amount of income rather than the source.

¹¹¹ Collection of grass/sale of grass mats only takes place in MaeLa and Site #1. Sale of firewood is only a source of income in NuPo and Site #1.

Seven percent of the households had no source of income at all. In Tham Hin the percentage (14%) was significantly higher than average; Site #1 with 5% had the lowest number of households not having any source of income. Because the survey was a cross-sectional survey it is not possible to draw conclusions over time (trends).

Income levels

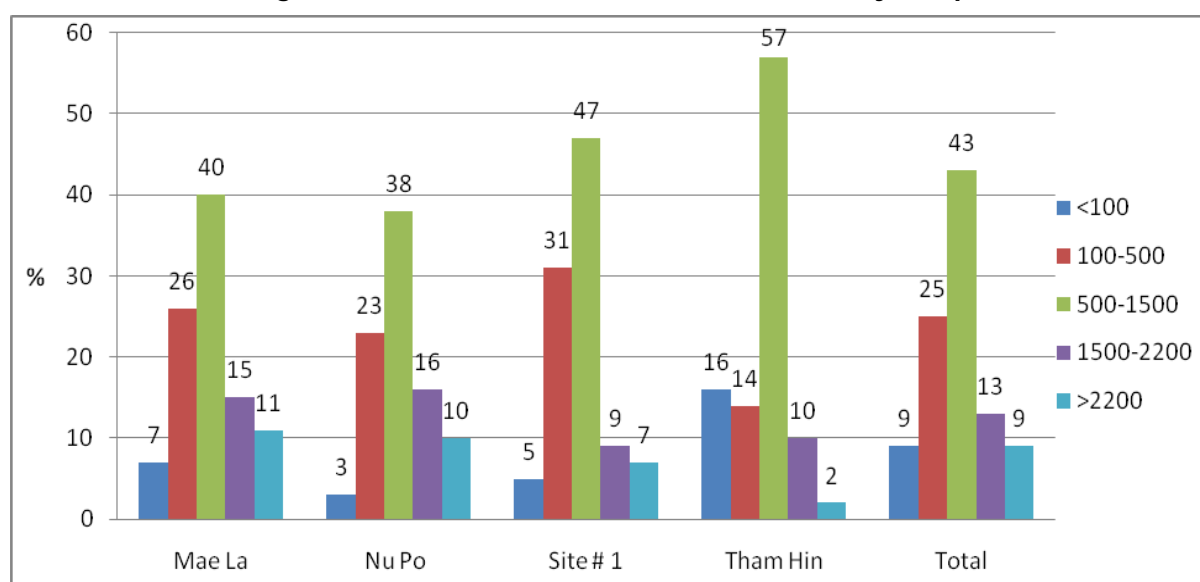
As shown in the figure below¹¹², the overall average proportion of households earning 100 baht per month or less is 9% as well, but with substantial variation between camps (higher prevalence in Tham Hin and lowest in NuPo and Site #1). In the study, these households have been classified as 'very poor'. Overall, 25% of all households earn between 100 and 500 baht per month, which is labelled as the 'poor' category. Their proportion is highest in Site #1 and lowest in Tham Hin. Together, the poor and very poor make up about one-third of the population in all four camps. The cut-off points that were used for the grouping were based on information from the focus group discussions where those earning less than 500 baht per month were classified as the most vulnerable. The very poor were seen to be those earning nothing or maybe 100 baht per month. 43% of the households earned between 500 and 1500 baht per month and 13% more than 1500 but less than 2200 baht per month. The cut-off levels for the middle income-groups were also based on information from the focus group discussions, plus data from the livelihood survey itself. The choice for a threshold of 1500 baht per month as the line between the third and fourth group however is rather arbitrary. The focus groups indicated levels ranging from 1000 to 1500 or more for the second highest wealth-group and e.g. 1250 baht per month could also have been taken as cut-off point. However, it is to be noted that it was not possible to find significant differences between the three middle-income groups (see p. 40), which reduces the importance of what value was taken as threshold.

Households earning more than 2200 baht per month were defined as 'better off'. 2200 baht was set as threshold because it is roughly similar to the value of the food ration plus charcoal (2154 baht)¹¹³. Only 9% of the households fall into the 'better off' category. The number of better-off households is significantly lower in Tham Hin than in the other three camps. The breakdown over the various income groups per camp is summarized in the table below.

¹¹² The thresholds for the four wealth categories were set with the aim to discern different groups that require different assistance packages. The results of the wealth ranking in the focus group discussions in the four camps studied were used as basis for the higher income categories, while for the first two categories the breakdown in 'very poor' and 'poor' was added by the consultants.

¹¹³ The calculation is based on an average household size of 5.7; population composition of 14.2% under fives and 85.8% adults/over fives; and a cost level of 377.90 baht for the food and charcoal ration for adults/over fives, and 268.11 baht for the ration for underfives. Thus, the total value of the basket for an average household adds up to a total of 2065.17 baht per month. Obviously, households earning less than the value of the food basket can not be qualified as 'better off'.

Figure 6: Household Income in Baht Per Month by Camp



The average amount of cash earned per household is 960 baht per month¹¹⁴. The very poor earned on average only 10 baht per month; the poor earned 238 baht per month. The average monthly income earned by the lower middle income group was 747 baht, while the higher middle income earned 1,734 baht. The 'better-off' group earned on average 3,680 baht per month (but this finding is rather skewed due to 5 households earning 5,000-10,000 baht per month).

The survey included asking the self-perception of households about how they were coping. Only 11% of the respondents thought they were doing better than average. About half were of the opinion they were coping below average, while nearly 40% thought they were not doing well. Not a single household saw itself coping well. These percentages were fairly similar in all camps.

Very poor and poor households (earning less than 500 baht per month) scored significantly lower on coping above average. Interestingly, among households earning more than 1500 baht, the number of households which were of the opinion they were coping better than average was significantly lower (!) than households who thought they were doing poor or below average. In other words, the majority of households in the two highest wealth groups thought they were coping poorly or below average. Among households earning more than 2200 baht, half were of the opinion they were coping below average. This finding indicates that self-perceived coping levels are not suitable for measuring vulnerability¹¹⁵.

Expenditure Patterns

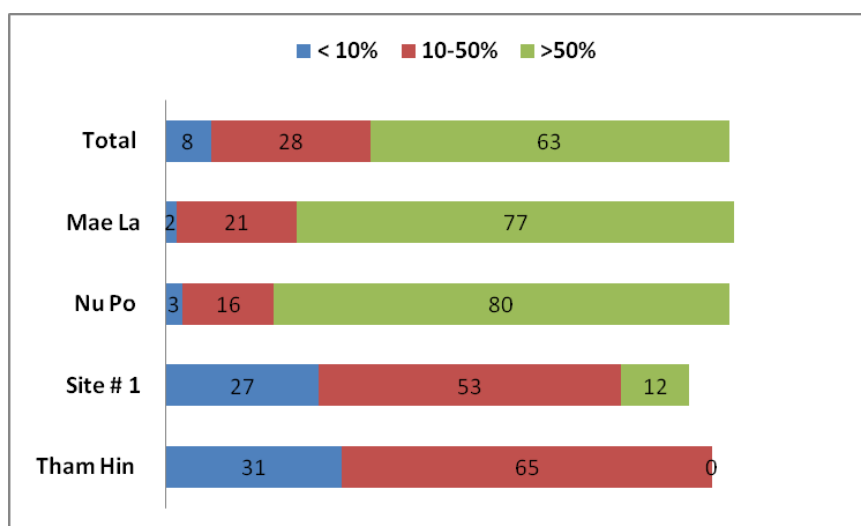
The survey also investigated household expenditures during the last three months. Respondents were asked to indicate if they had spent money on items in each of fourteen categories and if yes, to estimate which part of their cash expenditure was spent on this category. Nearly all households (98%) said they had spent money on food. More than 60% estimated that more than 50% of their expenditure was on food. Food expenditure is thus by far the biggest post on the average household budget. This is the same in all camps. However, the number of households which spend more than 50% of their budget on food is significantly higher in the two Tak camps than in Site #1 and Tham Hin (see Annex P). The survey did not ask which commodities were purchased most frequently.

¹¹⁴ It is possible this amount is on the conservative side although teams were instructed to cross-check carefully for instance total income versus sources of income, versus expenditure etc. The data on income found in this survey were in line with information collected by CCSDPT on camps stipends (2007) and the data from the labour market survey 2005.

¹¹⁵ Results suggest that households do not compare their own coping with other households in the camp, but in terms of how they are doing themselves in comparison with the past. Those who were poor before thus tend to be more positive than those who earlier were better-off.

However, from the food consumption data (Annex O) it can be concluded that vegetables are bought most frequently, followed by snacks, tea/drinks, fish, eggs and fruit.

Figure 7: Household Expenditure on Food by Camp



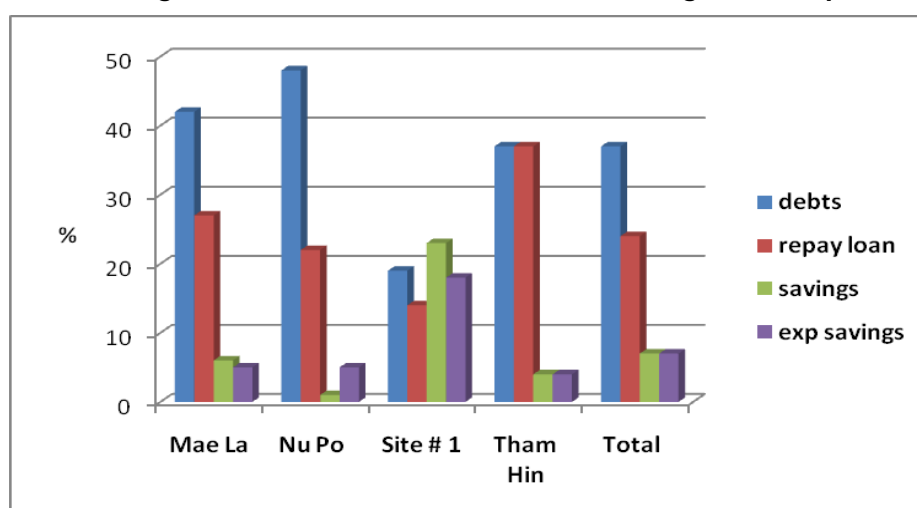
Most households (93%) spend money on household consumables including candles, soap and so on. 70% of the households were found to spend less than 10% of their cash income on food, and one out of four households was spending between 10% and 50%. Again, the number of households in this category is much higher in the Tak camps than in Site #1 and Tham Hin.

Nearly 80% of all households give children pocket money. For the majority of the families this was reported to be less than 10% of the total expenditure. However, in MaeLa and NuPo nearly one out of four households spends 10-50% of their income on pocket money for children. Other regular spending categories are donations (85%) and stimulants (80%), notably betelnut. Expenditure on both categories is reported to be usually less than 10%. Two-thirds of all households spend money on clothes; in Tham Hin significantly more than in MaeLa (84% vs. 58%). On average, one-third of all households have expenditures on health, but this varied substantially between the camps (nearly half of the households in Mae La spending money on health and only 8% in Site #1).

One-third of all households also spend money on electricity (which includes a contribution towards running of generators), with the two Tak camps scoring much higher (on average 45%) than the other two camps (14%). As expected given the large number of households with mobile phones and the existing network coverage, far more households in MaeLa than elsewhere spend money on communication. Please refer to Annex P for a breakdown of expenditure per category and per camp.

Nearly 25% of the households spend money on loan repayments, which is less than the average proportion of households having debts (37%). While the proportion of households with debts in Tham Hin and to some extent Site #1 is the same as the proportion repaying loans, in the Tak camps there seem to be many more households with debts that are not being repaid. A possible explanation could be that it is easier in these camps to postpone payment (perhaps because there are more professional moneylenders in both MaeLa and NuPo who are willing to increase the debt anticipating extra future gains). Only 7% of the households put some cash into savings, which corresponds with the 7% of households reporting they have savings. The number of households having savings varied considerably per camp (highest in Site #1). See figure below for a graphical presentation of the survey findings on debts and savings.

Figure 8: Households with Debts and Savings Per Camp (%)



Capital Goods

The survey also explored households' physical capital base including the quality of the house and households' possession of electronic goods. More than half of the families lived in houses of average size while 36% of the households lived in small houses and 5% in large houses. No relation was found between household size and size of the house: larger than average households were not living more frequently in larger houses and small families (family size less than four) did not occupy more often small houses¹¹⁶. Only families consisting of more than 8 people were more often living in a large house and very small families consisting of 1 or 2 people were more likely to live in a small house.

Survey results indicate that less than 40% of the households own electronic goods. The table below provides a breakdown per camp and type of goods.

Table 17: Possession of Electronic Goods by Camp (%)

	MaeLa	NuPo	Site # 1	Tham Hin	Total
Radio	15	21	26	8*	17
Cell-phone*	40	0	11	2	22
T.V.*	19	16	9	4	14
Total electronic goods*	50	33	30	12	37

*Significant.

Many more households in MaeLa own electronic goods than on average, while in Tham Hin fewer households possessed electronic goods. This was in particular the case for cell-phones (for obvious reasons not a single household in Nu Po had a cell-phone as there is no network coverage in the camp)¹¹⁷. The number of households owning a T.V. was significantly higher in the Tak camps than in Site #1 and Tham Hin. In Tham Hin also the number of households with a radio was significantly lower than in the other three camps. In the survey sample, there was only one household (in Site #1) which possessed a computer.

¹¹⁶ In retrospect, the quality of the house was ill-defined. Instead of the size, other quality aspects should have been assessed such as the state of the roof, use of wood etc.

¹¹⁷ While there is good network coverage in MaeLa camp, there is coverage in some spots only in Site #1 and Tham Hin camps.

5.4 Food Consumption

All respondents were asked about the food they had consumed during the last seven days preceding the survey. If a certain food was eaten the household was asked to indicate how many days this food was consumed. It is to be noted that the applied methodology does not provide information on actual consumption levels but only focuses on frequency of consumption. The foods were regrouped in food-groups; food consumption scores (FCS) were then calculated which allocated a certain weight to each food-group. Based on the thresholds given in the WFP manual on the FCS, the scores were then used to classify households' diets as poor, borderline or acceptable.

The time between the last distribution and the survey was one week in Site #1, two weeks in Tham Hin, 3½ weeks in MaeLa and four weeks in NuPo. In all camps the last distribution of sugar had been more than two months ago (sugar is distributed once every three months). To test whether the timing factor had affected consumption of food commodities differently, the food frequencies of rice, oil and beans were compared, which also provided interesting information about the use of these three food distribution commodities. The results were as follows:

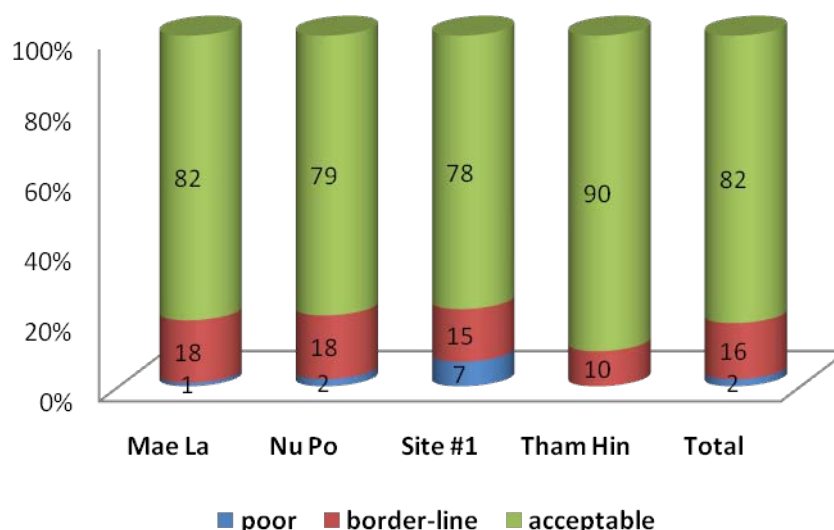
Table 18: Consumption frequency of foods by camp (in number of days per week)

	Mae La	NuPo	Site#1	Tham Hin	Total
Rice	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Oil	6.4	6.4	4.9	6.0	6.2
Beans	2.6	3.0	4.0	1.8	2.8
Average	5.3	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.3

For rice, there was no difference in consumption frequency between the camps, indicating that the number of weeks since the last food distribution did not have any effect on rice consumption levels. For oil, only the consumption in Site #1 is really lower, although distribution had been done relatively recently (one week before the survey). For beans, the picture is more varied, with highest consumption in Site #1 where distribution was most recent and household receive an additional 0.2 kg as a substitute for fish-paste, but lowest in Tham Hin where distribution was second-most recent. Overall, for all three commodities there was no significant relation between consumption frequency and the number of weeks since the last food distribution. Differences in consumption frequency levels therefore cannot be attributed to the timing of the survey but rather should be interpreted as being the result of other factors (e.g. food preferences, marketing options for selling part of the food ration).

The number of households per camp that are consuming poor, borderline or acceptable diets is summarized in the figure below. In Tham Hin the number of households eating a poor or borderline diet was found to be significantly lower than in the other three camps. There were also other significant differences between camps in terms of the consumption of certain foods. For instance meat (pork or beef) was consumed significantly less often in Tham Hin (7% of the respondents) than in the other three camps (40%). However, chicken was consumed twice as often. Snacks were consumed significantly more often in MaeLa (60%) and Tham Hin (82%) than in Site #1 (25%) and NuPo (28%). Fruit was consumed significantly more often in Site #1 than in the other three camps, but vegetables significantly less frequent. Please refer to Annex O for further details.

Figure 9: Classification of Diet by camp



A more detailed description of the meaning of the food consumption score for the three groups discerned is given here:

- Overall, 2% of the households in the four camps consumed a diet which is considered poor. This diet consisted of daily consumption of rice and condiments (fish-paste and/or chilli's), consumption of oil less than 3 times per week, of pulses once or twice per week and of some vegetables, perhaps twice a week. Households in this group did not consume sugar¹¹⁸, fish, eggs, milk, meat or snacks. Their diet is low in protein, minerals and vitamins and nutritionally inferior. Remarkably, the percentage of households found to be consuming a poor diet is significantly higher in Site #1 (7%) although this is also the camp where animals and household gardens are most common.
- A border-line diet was consumed by 16% of the households. Nearly all households in this group consumed rice, oil and vegetable every day. Two-third ate pulses, usually twice a week. Half of the households consumed fish or eggs once or twice a week. Meat was not eaten. The majority (60%) of the households did eat sweets or sugar, on average twice a week; one-third ate snacks. Only 10% consumed fruits, on average once a week. There were no significant differences between the camps regarding the number of households consuming a border-line diet. The borderline diet is insufficient in terms of protein, and border-line in terms of vitamins and minerals. This diet will cause malnutrition in groups with high nutritional needs (children under five, pregnant and lactating women, sick people).
- More than 80% of all households consumed an acceptable diet. The difference between a borderline diet and an acceptable diet in particular relates to a (much) more frequent consumption of fruit (40%) and protein-rich foods such as pulses (3x per week) and meat, eggs or fish. The latter food group was consumed four times per week on average, largely consisting of eggs and fish. However, half of the households ate meat (pork, chicken or beef) at least once a week. The vast majority (85%) of households in this group consumed sugar, on average three times per week; 55% snacked at least twice per week. The diet is adequate and meets all nutritional requirements.

¹¹⁸ Sugar is provided in the food ration, but the amount is small and the sugar is not distributed monthly. Sugar was not distributed in September so poor households had most likely finished their sugar and did not have money to buy some.

5.5 Analysis of Wealth Groups

Demographic, economic and social characteristics

Demographic, economic and social characteristics of households were tested against the income level based on the five income groups as outlined in section 5.3. Some 15 indicators differed significantly per wealth group. However, many differences were not significant between the three middle-incomes. Often, the value of variables progressed (or declined) gradually with each income group. For instance, earning an income from fixed employment in the five different income groups was 0, 11, 40, 45 and 53% respectively. Some variables showed little or no comprehensible pattern across the five groups, but nevertheless showed a significant difference when tested against the poorest or the better-off group (family composition for example). In order to find criteria that are helpful in distinguishing groups for targeting of food aid and other support, it was therefore decided to make a distinction in three groups only: those earning less than 100 baht per month, the large middle-group comprising of households earning between 100 and 2200 baht per month and the better off households earning more than 2200 baht per month. The table below gives a breakdown of these three income groups over the four camps.

Households without male adults were twice as likely to have an income below 100 baht per month. Larger households consisting of more than 7 persons were more likely to fall in the highest income groups, while households with children under five were underrepresented in these income groups. Households with no education or primary school only were twice as likely to have an income below 500 baht per month as higher educated households. No significant relation was found between being animist and income level. However, Buddhist households were more frequently earning less than 500 baht, whereas Muslim households were four times as likely as other households to earn between 500 and 2200 baht per month. There was however no significant relation between being Muslim and the highest wealth-group. Karen households were significantly more often earning less than 100 baht per month. The table below summarizes the indicators which differed significantly per wealth group:

Table 19: Indicators Per Wealth Group

Indicator	Income < 100 baht	100<=Income<2200	Income >=2200 baht
Wealth group	MaeLa : 7% NuPo : 3% Site #1 : 5% Tham Hin : 16%	MaeLa : 81% NuPo : 77% Site #1 : 87% Tham Hin : 81%	MaeLa : 11% NuPo : 10% Site #1 : 7% Tham Hin : 2%
Gender	Twice as likely	n.s. *	n.s.
Household size > 7	Half as likely	n.s.	2x as likely
Children < 5 year	n.s.	n.s.	Half as likely
Religion			
Buddhist	1.5x as likely	>100 - <500: 2x as likely; others: n.s.	n.s.
Muslims	Half as likely	>500-<2200: 4x as likely	n.s.
Ethnic Group			
Karen	Three times as likely	n.s.	n.s.
Education level	None/primary	n.s.	Secondary / higher
Agricultural assets			
Agricultural land	3x less likely	>500-<2200: 3x as likely	n.s.
Electronic goods	3x less likely	Increases with income	7x more likely
Cell-phone	5x less likely	n.s.	n.s.
T.V.	Half as likely	n.s.	Twice as likely
Transport	None	n.s.	4x more likely
motorbikes	None	n.s.	2x more likely
cars	None	n.s.	4 x more likely

Indicator	Income < 100 baht	100<=Income<2200	Income >=2200 baht
Relatives			
None	Twice as likely	n.s.	n.s.
Abroad	Half as likely	n.s.	Twice as likely
Savings	None	n.s.	Three times as likely
Fixed employment	None	n.s.	Three times as likely
Source(s) of income	0.4 (71%: non)	1.7	2.1

*n.s. = not significant

As expected, possession of assets is associated with a higher income level, but the survey showed that the relation with wealth groups is not the same for all types of assets:

- There is a significant relation between a higher income and ownership of means of transport and/or electronic goods. The latter relates to cell-phones and TVs, but not to radios. By the same token, there is no significant relation between the ownership of a bike and income level. The highest income is however much more likely to own a motorbike (or rent one) or a car.
- Having access to agricultural land is associated with middle and higher incomes.
- There was no significant relation between income and any other agricultural assets: household gardens, the possession of pigs or chickens, or owning fruit trees.
- No significant differences were found between the possession of other productive assets and income groups.
- Year of migration, type of ration card and type of identification card showed no differences per income group either.

Households with relatives, in particular those with relatives in third countries, were twice as likely to fall in the income group of 2200 baht per month and above. Households without relatives were two times more often in the lowest income group.

Households earning less than 100 baht per month were found to have no savings at all while the highest income-group was three times more likely to have savings than other households.

The relation between sources of income and the amount of income was further explored. Unsurprisingly, higher incomes were far more often linked to fixed employment. Those earning more than 2200 baht per month were three times more likely to have an income from fixed employment and three times less likely to have income from casual labour. The highest income group was also associated with receiving income from a shop (four times as likely). The lowest incomes received remittances less often. In fact, the number of households receiving remittances increases steadily with each wealth group. The two highest income groups are three times as likely to receive remittances as the two lowest income groups. The highest income group twice as often mentions relatives in Thailand as source of income. No other income-groups mention this source of income nearly as often. In the poorest income group, more than 70% of the households have no source of income at all. The figure below provides details on the percentage of households earning money from the different sources of income. Sources marked with * show significant differences for the three income groups.

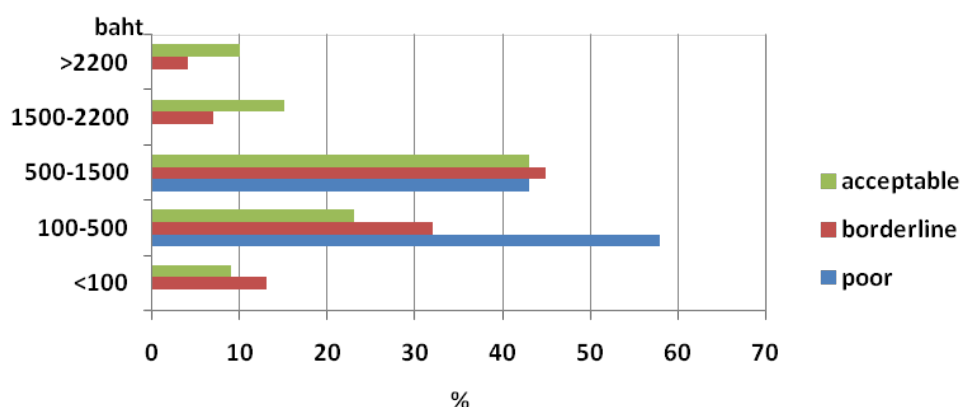
In relation with the quality of the diet

Survey data were analyzed with the aim to link wealth groups and demographic, economic and social variables to the quality of the diet. The findings from the focus group discussions (see 3.4) were also used to guide this analysis. Overall, it is found that there was no significant association between the food consumption score (and thus the quality of the diet) and household income level / wealth group classification. Scrutiny of the food consumption per wealth group revealed that the percentage of households consuming a particular food commodity and the consumption frequency per week was relatively stable for 10 commodities: the five commodities of the general food distribution (rice, oil, beans, condiments and sweets/sugar) as well as vegetables and, somewhat less, fruits, red meat

(very little consumption overall), chicken and snacks. Only four items showed a clear positive association with income: fish, eggs, milk and tea/drinks. However, the increase in consumption frequency was limited, with overall consumption frequencies being very low compared to those for rice, oil, vegetables, beans and snacks. The differences in quality of the diet between the wealth groups discerned therefore were small. Please refer to Annex O for further details. It is to be noted however that this finding does not exclude that there might be an association between livelihood vulnerability (wealth group) and the calorie consumption level (quantity of the diet)¹¹⁹. Overall, results of the analysis suggest that consumption of a poor or borderline diet is more likely to be related to social-cultural factors (religion, habits, not having relatives) than to lack of money. The analysis revealed the following patterns:

- A significant relation exists between an acceptable diet and a higher income. Households with a higher income were twice as likely to be consuming an acceptable diet. However, no significant relation was found between households consuming a poor diet and the lowest income group (earning less than 100 baht). Half of the households consuming a poor diet earned between 100 and 500 baht, while the other half earned between 500 and 1500 baht.
- No significant relation was found between a low income and consuming a borderline diet. The figure below outlines the relation between income and diet.
- Consumption of a poor diet was in particular associated with being animist. Animists were twice as likely to consume a poor diet as households with another religious affiliation.
- Households with a poor diet were also twice as likely to earn cash from the sale of their rations.
- Consuming a borderline diet was significantly related to two demographic characteristics: being Karen and not having relatives. Karen households were found to consume three times more often a borderline diet than other ethnic groups. Karen also far more frequently sold part of their ration than other ethnic groups¹²⁰. Households without relatives were twice as likely to eat a borderline diet as households with relatives.
- No significant differences could be found between the quality of the diet and any of the agricultural variables, household composition, possessing assets or sources of income, or type of ration card.

Figure 10: Relation between Income and Quality of the Diet



¹¹⁹ One of the conclusions of a recent IFPRI study on the validity of the FCS was that with ongoing general distribution the FCS is not a suitable indicator to measure calorie consumption (see literature reference under 2.3).

¹²⁰ There is some connection between being Karen and animist: all animists are Karen, but among the Karen only some of the ethnic Karenni group are animist. The total % of animists in the sample was 10%.

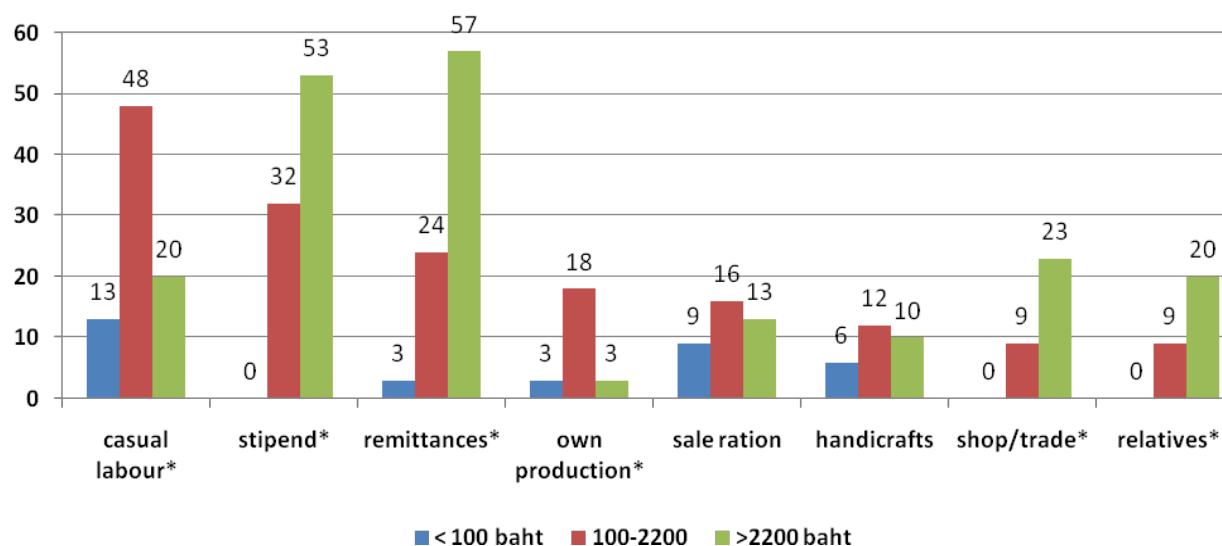
Summary of findings per wealth group

In sum, the very poor households (earning less than 100 baht per month) are more likely to be households without male adult, belonging to the Karen ethnic group, not having attended school beyond primary, and not having any source of income. These households have no relatives in the camp and certainly no relatives in third countries. This group has few assets if any.

Households belonging to the middle income group are better educated than very poor households, with 55% having attended secondary or higher education. Middle group households are far more likely to earn money from casual labour (nearly half) as the very poor or the better off. This class is most likely to possess agricultural or productive assets (for skilled labour or handicrafts) and earning income from skilled labour, handicrafts or own production. About a third of the middle income households earn stipends. More than 60% of the middle income households spend more than 50% of their monthly earnings on food¹²¹.

The better-off households (earning more than 2200 baht per month) are likely larger households who have enjoyed secondary or tertiary education. These households are less likely to have children under five years but more often have relatives including relatives abroad who provide them with remittances. Possession of assets is common, including a cell-phone, TV and a means of transport. Households in this group earn an income from at least two different sources.

Figure 11: Sources of Income by Income Groups (%)



¹²¹ With an average income of 780 for the total middle-income group this amounts to a monthly household food expenditure of some 400 baht per month.

6 Possible Short- and Medium-Term Options for Food Assistance and Livelihood Support

6.1 Alternative Options for General Food Distribution

The TBBC food basket is found to indeed meet WFP/UNHCR standards (2,100 kcal p.p.p.d.), but the nutrition composition of the provided diet is not fully up to standards, both for adults and for children under five years of age. The amount of fat is way too low, and the ration is marginally insufficient for protein. The ration is composed of eight different commodities. Rice is by far the most important component of the food ration, both in terms of quantity (15 kg out of the total of 18.4 kg representing 82%), costs (65%) and energy contribution (80%).

Revised ration scales

Based on the finding that over 80% of the households in the camps currently consume an acceptable diet with various items that are acquired on top of food provided through the general ration (including fruits and meat or fish or eggs eaten at least a couple of days per week), it is recommended to reduce the total dietary energy provided by the food ration to adults and children over five towards a level around 1900 kcal per person per day. For children below five years of age it is advised to keep the total amount of energy provided at the same level as currently.

More streamlined ration scales with higher nutritional quality have been worked out by the consultants, see table below. The main changes proposed are a reduction of the amount of rice and increase in the amounts of beans, AsiaMIX and vegetable oil, and taking the commodities sugar and chillies out of the ration.

Table 20: Proposed General Food Rations Adults and Children

Commodity	Alternative monthly ration scale adults and children over five years (kg)	Alternative monthly ration scale children under five years (kg)
Rice	11.000	6.500
Yellow beans	2.000	1.000
AsiaMIX	0.500	1.500
Fish paste	0.750	0.750
Vegetable oil	1.143 (1.25 l)	0.571 (0.625 l)
Salt	0.330	0.330

A breakdown of the nutritional composition of the proposed revised rations is attached as Annex Q. The cost per ration including charcoal works out as 371 baht per month for adults and 286 baht per month for children under five years. The change in the ration composition leads to a reduction in costs with 2.2% for the adult food ration but an increase of 8.7% for the ration for underfives. The costs differences are caused by the fact that food commodities with higher nutritional value logically are more expensive than rice. An indicative overview of overall costs level for the revised rations (excluding costs for charcoal) based on current costs levels and current numbers of refugees fed by TBBC is presented in the table below. As can easily be calculated, introduction of the revised food basket will push the total annual costs for general feeding up from the current level of 478.68 million baht (€ 9.67 million) to a level of 481.92 million baht (€ 9.74 million), meaning an increase of 0.68%.

Table 20: Total Costs Levels Revised General Ration¹²²

	No. beneficiaries Aug '09 (A)	Costs monthly ration per beneficiary (Baht) (B)	Annual food costs (million baht) (A*B*12)	Annual food costs (million €) (A*B/49.5)
Adults and children over five years of age	114,274	308.03	427.31	8.63
Under fives¹²³	18,913	205.31	54.61	1.10
Total	133,187		481.92	9.74

Options to reduce budget requirements for the general food distribution

In order to allow for an increase in the overall costs of the food ration, the mission has listed some options that TBBC could explore in order to see whether they could lead to a reduction in the costs for the general food distribution:

Reduction of purchase / transport costs:

- Separate tendering for commodities and transport;
- Increase warehouse storage space in the camps so that deliveries could be bimonthly or quarterly which would substantially reduce transport costs and also would enable TBBC to have some contingency stock;
- Continue to explore the potential for RTG to contribute with free or subsidized rice.

Reduction of food requirements:

- Return to exclusion of children 0 to 6 months as these children are breastfed and do not need the food support while the extra needs of their mothers are covered through the supplementary feeding programme;
- Reduce the Extra Needs supplies to a flat 2.5% for all commodities;
- Exclusion of all 'Better Off' from the feeding population list is not seen as a viable option. It is a relatively small group only (9% of the camp population) which is not easily singled out. Most of the households that fall in the better-off group anyway actually are close to the threshold income level and thus would have to spend a major part of their income on food and charcoal as soon as this group is taken off the ration list. Such an effect would then impact negatively on the cash economy within the camp whereas at present there is already a substantial disconnect between demand and (potential) supply/ availability, in particular for skilled labour / jobs. Therefore, it is very questionable whether the gains in terms reduction of the budget requirements for general food distribution will outweigh the negative side effects. Also, the exclusion of 'better-off' would lead to great operational difficulty as it is not so easy to single out which households actually fall in the better-off group. Trying to eliminate the 1.4% households earning more than 5000 baht is easier, but savings are small and there is again the negative effect of reducing the cash economy. The current system used in the Tak camps whereby all newcomers are screened and excluded from GFD if found to be not vulnerable is a better alternative which could also be introduced in the other camps. The main objective of this strategy is both to (considerably) reduce the caseload for general food distribution through targeting of newcomer households who are in need only, and to reduce the pull factor attracting refugees and other Burmese for the wrong reasons.

¹²² Based on TBBC feeding population figures and food costs (based on average purchase and transport to the camps costs for each of the commodities multiplies with the new quantities required) for August 2009

¹²³ Recently, TBBC decided to also include children from 0 to 6 months in the food distribution; previously these children were excluded as breastfed babies do not need a ration for themselves.

Reduction of charcoal requirements:

- Study how charcoal requirements can be brought down (e.g. other means for water purification, distribution of more fuel-efficient stoves).

6.2 Revising Supplementary Feeding for Pregnant and Lactating Women

The general line of thought would be to discontinue supplementary feeding for these target groups once the quality of the general food basket is improved. A key finding from the household survey is also that the big majority of the households in the camps consume an acceptable diet that meets all nutritional requirements. However, because of the specific characteristics of the Burmese camps in Thailand including the long-term stay in camp settings and the slight reduction of the general food ration that is proposed above, it is recommended to continue with supplementary feeding of pregnant and lactating groups.

In line with what was already recommended in the 2003 ECHO evaluation, a blended fortified food is the best option to improve the quality of the diet of pregnant and lactating women. Therefore, renewed efforts are required to promote AsiaMIX as an integral part of the diet, not just for making snacks etc. The supplementary ration for pregnant and lactating women who are not malnourished urgently needs to be revised in order to improve appropriateness. A proposal for this based on provision of 3 kg of AsiaMIX per month for pregnant women and 3 kg of AsiaMIX and 0.5 l of vegetable oil for lactating women is presented in Annex R. In this way, the supplementary ration will still meet the nutritional requirements in terms of energy while access to micronutrients will be better. The recommendation is to only provide food in-kind and stop reimbursing health agencies for procurement of other food.

The change in a simpler ration for pregnant and lactating women leads to a ration cost reduction of 17.7% for pregnant women and 12.9% for lactating women. An indicative overview of overall costs level for the revised supplementary rations for pregnant and lactating women based on current costs levels and current numbers of refugees fed by TBBC is presented in the table below. As can be deducted, introduction of the revised supplementary food basket will reduce the total annual costs from the current level of 9.10 million baht (€ 183,913) to a level of 7.73 million bath (€ 156,241), meaning an overall decrease of 15.0%.

Table 21: Annual Costs Revised Supplementary Feeding Pregnant and Lactating Women

	Total No. beneficiaries as per August 2009 (A)	Costs monthly ration per beneficiary (Baht) (B)	Projected annual food costs (million baht) (A*B*12)	Projected annual food costs (€) (A*B/49.5)
Pregnant women	2,606	107.10	3.35	67,661
Lactating women	2,858	127.85	4.38	88,580
Total	5,464		7.73	156,241

Other remarks in order to streamline supplementary feeding of pregnant and lactating women are:

- Supplementation to pregnant women usually is given for the last trimester of the pregnancy only. However, in order not to lose the incentive effect it is advised to maintain the current system;
- Micronutrient deficiencies at clinical level are better addressed through supplementation with tablets, not through a supplementary food ration;
- As a preventive approach to anaemia among women, it could be considered to start iron / folate supplementation for adolescent girls.

6.3 Revising Supplementary Feeding Malnourished Children and the Preschool Feeding Programme

The supplementary feeding for children currently is targeted at malnourished children only. However, in order to increase attendance for regular growth monitoring (thus increasing the case finding for children who fall below the threshold and need additional nutrition support), it is suggested to revise the programme towards a more preventive approach targeting children below three years while maintaining the current preschool feeding programme and the specific support for children under five years who are malnourished albeit with improved cost-efficiency levels.

Overall, similarly to the feeding for pregnant and lactating women, for young children AsiaMIX is the best option to complement the general food basket and thus to increase access to (micro)-nutrients¹²⁴. It is therefore proposed to provide 3 kg of AsiaMIX per month for all children up to 3 years who attend growth monitoring¹²⁵ and to revise the ration for moderately malnourished children towards provision of 3 kg of AsiaMIX per month (similar to non-malnourished children) plus the premix ration (same amounts as currently provided) but minus the eggs and canned fish that should be taken out of the ration. The nutritional value of these proposed food rations is elaborated in Annex S.

As shown in the table below, the projected total food costs for this supplementation of malnourished and not-malnourished children is projected to be 13.54 million baht per year (€ 271,670), which is a substantial increase of 11.70 million baht (€ 234,488) per year but will now cover nearly 10,000 children instead of just around 400 malnourished children.

Table 21: Annual Costs Revised Supplementary Feeding for Children

	Total No. beneficiaries as per August 2009 (A)	Costs monthly ration per beneficiary (Baht) (B)	Projected annual food costs (million baht) (A*B*12)	Projected annual food costs (€) (A*B/49.5)
Preventive food ration 6 -36 months	9,262	107.10	11.90	240,475
Malnourished children 6 – 60 months	389	330.79	1.54	31,194
Total	9,651		13.54	271,670

6.4 Options for Livelihood Support

Income generation in the camps and quality of the diet

Summing up the information collected during the meetings with the camp committees, focus group discussions with men and women in the camps and the household survey, it has become clear that nearly all refugee households in the camps are able to generate some income. The household survey reveals that more than 90% of the households earned some cash income during the last three months and used this for food and other commodities. There is a substantial cash economy although small in terms of amounts of money. However, only 9% of the households earn an income which is sufficient to buy the minimum food basket and charcoal (2200 baht) and a mere 1.4% earns 5000 baht or more. On the other side of the spectrum 7% of the households were found to have no income at all (with considerable variation between camps, ranging from 14% in Tham Hin to 5% in Site #1) while in total 9% of the camp population was classified as 'very poor' (earning less than 100 baht per month).

¹²⁴ The requirements for therapeutic feeding of severely malnourished children are different and not covered in this section.

¹²⁵ It is recommended to switch to a system of growth monitoring sessions that take place on a 3-monthly basis. Thus, the ration would be 9 kg per child for each session attended.

Analysis revealed that there was no significant relation between a poor or border-line diet and a low income. Interesting, for the very poor no significant difference was found with regard to the quality of the diet. This group apparently to some extent is cushioned by their relatives. Poor diets were most prevalent in the second and third income groups (from 100 to 500 and from 500 to 1500 baht per month). But it was also found that the diet improves as the income increases. It is concluded that the best option to improve livelihood is to increase possibilities to earn cash. In the long run this would also contribute towards reduced dependency on assistance and increased self-reliance.

Three types of income generation options

The following livelihood options were encountered in the four camps covered by the study:

1. Agricultural production

- ***Vegetable and chillies production:*** Small kitchen gardens around the houses supported by TBBC. Some refugees participate in the agricultural projects by COERR and ZOA which provide access to somewhat larger plots in and around the camp. Average plot size varies between camps from 500 to 2200 square feet. The proportion of households with access to land seems highest in Site #1 but nearly zero in Tham Hin. However, a poor or borderline diet was not found to be due to lack of access to agricultural production. Therefore, it is questionable whether expansion of community nutrition and agricultural programs in the camps (and/or improving targeting of such programs) are the best ways to improve the quality of the diet in the Thai Burmese border camps. Nevertheless, it is worthwhile to explore options to secure more agricultural land inside and in the vicinity of the camp, which would require a shift in RTG policy that could build on on-going initiatives. Evidently, allocation of substantial acreages of agricultural land to the Burmese refugees a bit further away from the camps would be a highly desirable and sustainable strategy to reduce dependency of the refugees on food assistance paid for by the international community. A smaller step would be to provide better access to the market in places like Tham Hin so that refugees will be able to sell their surplus agricultural products just outside the camp to a potential clientele from neighbouring villagers and the town (currently permitted by the Camp Commander in some camps only). For some products there also seem to be good niche markets inside the camps (e.g. chillies in MaeLa and Tham Hin).
- ***Fruit production:*** Fruit trees are owned by about one-third of the households, highest in Site #1 and hardly encountered in Tham Hin. The trees do not contribute significantly to diversification of the diet or as source of income, although they add to the environment by providing shade and protecting the soil against erosion. Also, a major use of bananas trees in camps is the utilisation of the stem to chop up and add as pig food. The potential for expansion seems to be rather limited after 7 years of intensive CAN campaigns by TBBC.
- ***Production of other crops:*** While normally not allowed by RTG, the exception seems to be NuPo where coffee cultivation is being established around the camp as a joint project for the refugees and villagers together as one of the measures within an anti-erosion package. As little information is available on such options, it is suggested to prepare an inventory of such innovative approaches to strengthen livelihoods in the camps and to initiate joint initiatives for refugees and Thai villagers together¹²⁶.
- ***Pig rearing:*** Officially prohibited and hardly happening in Tham Hin but practiced by 60% of the households in Site #1 and over 20% of the households in MaeLa. Although the household survey did not collect detailed information on this, it is presumed that a good proportion of households increase their income through regular selling of fattened pigs. Pig rearing seems to be a viable option to raise income. If research confirms this is the case without negative impact on the utilization of the provided food basket, the advocacy to ban the prohibition

¹²⁶ This links up with the work undertaken by UNDP in Mae Hong Son province with financial support from the EC Aid to Uprooted People budgetline.

should be intensified. Another option is to secure land for livestock on the outskirts of the camps through agencies like COERR and ZOA.

- **Keeping chicken:** Also officially prohibited but encountered in 70% of the households in Site #1 and 15% in MaeLa camp (on average 8 resp. 5 chickens per household). However, overall for all camps together only 7% of the households that own chicken reported to have sold any of these during the last three months prior to the survey and this does not seem to be a very promising area for livelihood support except as a means to improve the diet.
- **Fish ponds:** Not very common but the market demand for fresh fish obviously exists. It is suggested to further study whether fish keeping projects could be viable or not in particular in camps where lack of water is not a major constraint (NuPo for instance).

2. Labour market opportunities

- **Stipend work:** Work for the agencies providing services in the camps is the second-most important source of income in the camps. About one-third of the households in the camps is engaged in stipend work. Having a fixed income is progressively related to income level / wealth group. A good option for livelihood support to the camps is to raise existing stipends, in particular for primary school teachers. Increasing the teachers' stipends with 200 baht per month would substantially boost the cash economy in the camps. While on the one hand this would substantially increase budget requirements for primary education (or delivery of other services) in the camps, the cost of € 48 per teacher per year is actually much lower than the investment per beneficiary in income generating projects. This option is easy to implement, and could help perhaps to slow-down the current brain drain.
- **Casual labour in agriculture:** Work in the surrounding villages for paddy, maize, beans and rubber. Reported by 42% of the households and overall the most important source of income (highest in MaeLa, 50%). There currently is a varying level of how strictly the containment policy is imposed on each camp. Obviously, lifting of the containment policy would be necessary to really improve labour market opportunities outside the camps but this is a medium-term goal at the very most. In terms of revenues for the refugees, such a measure can be expected to result in significantly higher payment levels for casual labour done by the Burmese refugees from the camps.
- **Skilled labour:** Occasional options exist for carpenters etc. in surrounding villages (reported as source of income by about 8% of the households in MaeLa, NuPo and Tham Hin but virtually absent in Site #1). Evidently, also this means of income generation is restricted due to the containment policy. However, there also is the opportunity for the refugees to opt for the Migrant Labourer status which now has become legalized in Thailand. One of the viable options for livelihood support programmes is to increase skills training including Thai language skills¹²⁷. Options for vocational work could be stimulated further through provision of capital, transporting materials and assistance to identify new market outlets¹²⁸, and through careful liaison with the Camp Commanders and RTG authorities at provincial level.
- **Work in nearby cities:** Working in factories and as domestic help is one of the components in the income earning strategies of refugees which is less easily studied as it all happens outside the camps and in illegality. Obviously, lifting the RTG containment policy would be one of the most sustainable options to improve livelihoods of the Burmese refugees in Thailand, including having better access to (better paid) work opportunities outside the camps. However, obviously this would require fundamental changes in the RTG policy framework. Advocacy work in this direction is undertaken at national and provincial level by UNHCR, but negotiations have been slow and with limited success.

¹²⁷ Language problems are one of the biggest barriers for future (possible) integration and new opportunities for income generation once the current restrictions were lifted.

¹²⁸ As suggested in the Labour Market Survey in Mae Hong Son, TBBC 2005

3. Other sources of income

- ***Sale of (part of the) food ration:*** Fourth most important source of income, reported by 15% of the households (but with substantial variation between camps, ranging from over 30% in Site #1 to only 5% in NuPo). However, obviously this livelihood strategy is not an appropriate and cost-effective means to support livelihoods and therefore should be discouraged. A step in this direction is the reduction of the rice portion in the general food basket (replacing it with other commodities that have a higher nutritional value but that are less easily sold due to lack of market demand) together with additional more targeted and more closely monitored support to the most vulnerable groups in the camps. This could be either food-based and/or non food-based support (e.g. the supplementary feeding programmes and the option to establish a voucher-based social safety net programme; see below).
- Have a ***shop*** or engage in ***petty trade***: Practiced by about 10% of the households in the camps (proportion did not vary a lot between camps). It is likely that the income generated from trade/shops will increase if expenditures in the camps are increasing.
- ***Handicrafts***: Around 10% of the households own productive assets for handicrafts (e.g. a sewing machine) but possession of the equipment does not always result in generation of income with it, and marketing remains to be a key problem as the Burmese refugees officially are not allowed to sell their handicrafts outside the camp. About 5% of the households generate income from collecting grass and selling mats to refugees in the camp (only taking place in MaeLa and Site #1).
- ***Transport means***: Overall about 5% of the households in the camps own a bicycle or motorbike (in Site #1 12% of the households own a motorbike) and generate some income from renting these out to other refugees or use it as a means to transport people and good within the camps and occasionally outside. In MaeLa the Camp Commander recently decided not to allow refugees to work as taxis on the main road. This took away an interesting livelihood opportunity for the male refugees who were able to buy a (second-hand) bicycle or motorbike. It is not clear whether there still would exist a market for more transport means rental services within the camps.
- ***In-kind or cash (voucher) support***: As direct transfers are a good means to support the most vulnerable, it is suggested to study the feasibility to establish a project for targeted cash support in the camps in addition to the general food distribution. The best approach would be to base this on a voucher system combined with the establishment of ration shops (that can also create jobs for people from the same target group) where the beneficiaries of the project can 'buy' goods against the value of the vouchers from a limited list of food and household commodities¹²⁹. COERR was found to be interested to become involved in this, building on their current social work outreach programme that serves vulnerable groups in all of the nine border camps. However, it is to be noted that for a targeted voucher system it would be required to select vulnerable households according the results of this survey (household head has no education or only primary schooling, households with no male adult, not having any agricultural land, not having any electronic goods except radios, not having any transport means, no savings, no fixed employment, not having relatives in the camp, not having relatives abroad), not according to the vulnerability categories as applied by COERR (elderly, disabled, single parents, separated children). This means that e.g the focus should not *per se* be on elderly as they usually have relatives in the camp and do not belong to the 'very poor' / 'poor' category *by default*.
- ***Remittances***: Financial support from relatives living elsewhere in Thailand and in third countries is the third-most important source of income. It is received by 25% of the households in the camps with the potential to grow in the coming years. The survey found

¹²⁹ Ref. DG ECHO (2009), The use of cash vouchers in humanitarian crises, Brussels, March 2009.

that currently 75% of the households have relatives in third countries while group resettlement is still going on.

- **Provision of credit:** ARC is currently in the process of establishing a micro-credit scheme in some of the camps. As access to credit will enable refugees to generate money it is suggested to look into the possibility to initiate more micro-credit schemes, possibly linking this to existing saving systems (for example, savings mechanism established by the teachers in Tham Hin).

6.5 Recommendations for Further Study

- To undertake a study on the feasibility to establish a voucher scheme coupled with ration shops in order to provide additional assistance to the most vulnerable in the camps.
- To undertake further study on the relative proportion and characteristics (from Burma and which part of Thailand, rural or urban background, education background, etc.) of the new arrivals in the Tak camps since January 2008, as input for planning of future support.
- As part of the post-distribution monitoring undertaken by TBBC to study why and which food items are being sold, how much of each item is sold, and how people fill the food gap that results from the sale.
- Study how charcoal requirements can be brought down (e.g. other means for water purification, distribution of more fuel-efficient stoves).
- To undertake a market study inside and outside the camps to identify niche markets where there still is potential for the refugees to produce products with good demand (e.g. chillies, fish), and for skilled labour where refugees (possible through acquiring Migrant status) would be well placed to provide their services.
- To study whether pig rearing is a viable option for raising income in or near the Thai Burmese border camps without negative impact on the utilization of the provided food basket.
- To undertake a study on the scale of remittances and the impact on the livelihoods in the camps, e.g. by mid-2010 when the current waves of resettlement are over. Nearly 75% of the households in the survey indicated to have relatives abroad (not Burma); but among them only one-third received remittances.

Annex A: Terms of Reference

Annex B: Checklist Interviews Key informants

<i>Bangkok level: DG ECHO, TBBC, CCSDPT agencies, UNHCR, UNDP, ILO, other donors</i> <i>Field level: TBBC field team, aid agencies working in the camp</i>

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Background, objectives and outline of Livelihoods Vulnerability Study (as applicable)
2. Short description methodology and field study time schedule
3. Invitation for debriefing Monday 19th Oct

B. INPUT INTO THE STUDY FROM KEY INFORMANTS
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1. Involvement of your agency in the support to the Burmese refugee camps in Thailand? (*Get details on sectors of involvement, history of past years, current budgets, partners, coordination*)
2. Involvement in other support to Burmese migrant labourers in Thailand and inside Burma?
3. What are current and future strategies of your organization on the support to the Burmese refugee camps (for the registered and non-registered Burmese refugees)?
4. a. What do you see as the main RTG policy constraint(s) for refugees in the camps and Burmese migrant labourers?
b. Is your organization involved in any advocacy work on these topics?
5. What are your expectations about the outcome of the study in terms of identifying groups of households in the camps that (to some extent) are self-reliant?
6. Do you have suggestions how food assistance (modalities, food basket) could be refined in such a way that nutrition needs of certain sub-groups of households are covered in a more cost-efficient way?

Annex C: Camp Committee Interview and Focus Group Discussions

Refugee Camp	Date	Interviewer(s)
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A. DETAILS OF KEY INFORMANTS *(All)*

Group	No. of persons present:
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B. FOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEM IN THE CAMP AND CONSUMPTION AND SALES PATTERNS (only Camp Committee)

Main Characteristics (production system, topography, natural resources, population density, soils, rainfall)			
Main Crops Consumed by HHs: Rank in order of importance for home consumption	1		Main Livestock / Fish Products Consumed by HHs: Rank in order of importance for home consumption
	2		
	3		
Main Crops Sold by HHs (food or cash crops): Rank in order of importance for household cash income	1		Main Livestock / Fish Products Sold by HHs: Rank in order of importance for cash income
	2		
	3		

C1. MARKET INFORMATION: Identify the main markets for each product, together with the names of any important intermediate markets to indicate a trade route *(only Camp Committee)*

	Main commodities	Trade route / market access
1. Crops produced and sold		
2. Livestock / fish produced and sold		
3. Food bought		

C2. LABOUR MARKET: How much of the total casual labour is undertaken in different locations (e.g. 70% in the camp, 20% local villages / towns, 10% outside of zone) and average earnings per day *(all)*

	In the camp	Local villages / towns	Outside province	Total
Distribution of labour opportunities	%	%	%	100%
Type of work				
Average earnings / day				

If outside province, where do people go?

--

D. LOCAL CONTEXT AND CONDITIONS (*only Camp Committee*)

: Include **positive events** as well as **periodic or intermittent hazards** that have affected people's livelihoods in the camps over the past 2 years, plus coping strategies that have been adopted

	Trends and shocks ^{1.}	Issues RTG policies	Performance aid organizations	Issues social relations i/t camp	Coping behaviour by refugees
Food and income production ^{2.}					

1. Climate, pests and diseases, market disruptions, labour market changes

2. Crop production, wild foods collection, livestock, fish, game hunting, income generation

E. ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES IN THE CAMP during the past 2 years* (*only Camp Committee*)

	Comments (Quality issues, unmet needs, etc.)
Food distribution	
Crop / livestock / fish production interventions	
Income generation programmes	
Health and nutrition	
Water and sanitation	
Education	

* Also gather statistics and programme details from the agencies involved.

F. WEALTH GROUP DESCRIPTIONS AND BREAKDOWN: *(Only FGD)*

Wealth groups: local definitions and names <i>(In Burmese / Thai)</i>				
Wealth group name (English)				
Human capital base a. household composition (no. of able-bodied adults 18-60 yrs of age; no. of children; no. of elderly; no. of handicapped/sick 18-60 yrs) b. ability to command labour from others c. highest education level				
Natural capital base a. size of agricultural land cultivated, type of crops b. household plots (kitchen garden) c. trees d) livestock owned (1. pigs; 2. poultry)				
Financial capital base a. money /d savings (cash, bank account) b. fixed employment c. debts				
Social capital base a. relatives in the camp / in the zone but outside the camps / in Bangkok or other main towns / in other countries b. membership of networks (incl CBOs) c. Ration books (which colour)				

Wealth groups: local definitions and names (<i>In Burmese / Thai</i>)				
d. UNHCR registration card / MoI ID card				
Physical capital base a. house quality and facilities b. electronic goods c. transport means d. productive assets (1. agriculture; 2. handicrafts; 3. professional labour* Carpentry, masonry, blacksmith, shoemaker etc. ; 4. other)				
Rank three most important sources of cash income* ¹³⁰				
Income level (range) (estimated by key informants)				
Main livelihood constraints				
Other characteristics				
% of households in each wealth group (<i>do proportional piling if needed</i>)				

Casual labour (incl. farming) =1	Handicrafts =4	Brewing =7	Relatives Thailand/Burma =10
Paid domestic work =2	Firewood collection and sale =5	Petty trade =8	Remittances =11
Salaried employment =3	Collection/sale of grass, etc. =6	Trader =9	

G. COPING STRATEGIES INDEX

*In **the past thirty days**, if there have been times when you did not have enough food or money to buy food how many days had your household to: (fill all boxes in frequency column, if not applied, frequency = 99)*

	Frequency	Severity weight ¹³¹	Weighted score
G.a Rely on less preferred and less expensive foods?			
G.b Borrow food, or rely on help from a friend or relative?			
G.c Purchase food on credit?			
G.d Gather wild foods? (more than regularly done)			
G.e Use part of savings to buy food			
G.f Skip a loan repayment / interest term?			
G.g Send household members to eat elsewhere?			
G.h. Send household members to beg?			
G.i. Limit portion size at mealtimes?			
G.j. Restrict adult consumption in order for small children to eat?			
G.k Feed working members of HH at the expense of non-working members?			
G.l Reduce number of meals eaten in a day?			
G.m Skip entire days without eating?			
G.n. Other (describe)			

¹³¹ To be determined during FGDs: group strategies in four severity levels, and rank from 1 (least severe) to 4 (most severe)

Annex D: Market Prices Form

District	Market	Date	Interviewers
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OBSERVATIONS OF THE MARKET (Size, frequency, variety, quantity of goods being sold)

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Categories	Description of item	Measure	Buying price pre harvest	Buying price post – harvest (seasonal)
Ration items	Rice	kg		
	Mung beans	kg		
	Chillies	100 g		
	Veg. oil	litre		
	Fish paste	kg		
	Salt	kg		
	AsiaMIX	kg		
Other food items	Chicken	kg		
	Pork	kg		
	Fresh fish	kg		
	Salted fish	kg		
	Canned fish	medium		
	Egg	1		
	Instant noodles	100 g		
	Taro	kg		
	Potatoes	kg		
	Onions	Kg		
	Tomatoes	500 g		
	Cabbage	kg		
	Cassava leaves	500 g		
	Wax gourd/ leaves/stems	kg		
	Bananas	piece		
	Crackers	100g		
	Sugar	kg		
	Soft drink	bottle		
	Sweets for children	portion		
Non food items	Firewood	bunch		
	Soap	piece		
	Tea	50 g		
	Sleeping mat	piece		

Annex E: Household Questionnaire Form

1. QUESTIONNAIRE IDENTIFICATION

location/camp				team number					questionnaire number
Maela 1	Nu Po 2	Site # 1 3	Tham Hin 4	1	2	3	4	5

2. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

*I would like to know who is living in this house now. Could you please tell me about the people living in this household (= people taking meals together) during the **last three months**?*

	Male	Female	Total
1.a How many people live in this household?			
1.b How many adults (18-60) live in this household?			
1.c How many people older than 60 live in this household?			
1.d How many children older than 5 but younger than 18 are in this household?			
1.e How many children under five live in this household?			
1.f How many people aged 18-60 yrs are handicapped / chronically ill?			
1.g Who is the head of the family?	Male adult 1	Female adult 2	Other: 9
1.h Which type of ration book do you have?	Mol / UNHCR registered (blue) 1	Verified by TBBC (orange) 2	Not registered / not verified 3
1.i How many persons are on your ration book?	Adults:.....		Children under 5:
1.j When did you migrate to Thailand?	Before 1986 1	1986-2005 2	After 2005 3
1.k Can you indicate the highest level of education any-one in this household has?	None 1	Primary 2	Secondary 3
1.l What is your religion?	Buddhist 1	Christian 2	Muslim 3
			Hindu 4
			Other 5
1.m What is your ethnic group?	Karen/ Karenni 1	Shan 2	Mon 3
			Burmese 4
			Other Burmese 5
			mixed 6
			Non Burmese 7
1.n What kind of identification card do you have?	non 1	UNHCR /MOIID 2	PAB ID 3
			Thai 4
			other 5

3. ASSETS

Can you tell me which of the following your household has?

Agricultural assets							
2.a Agricultural land outside the camp	non	Size (feet):		Main crop(s):			
2.b Number. of Fruit trees	non					
2.c Size of household garden	non	< 15 feet	15-60 feet	> 60 feet			
2.d Chicken/ducks	Non	# possess now:	# sold last 12 months?				
2.e1 Pigs	non	# possess now:	# sold last 12 months?				
2.e2 goats	non	# possess now:	# sold last 12 months?				
2.e3 cows/buffalo's	non	# possess now:	# sold last 12 months?				
2.e4 horses	non	# possess now:	# sold last 12 months?				
Financial assets							
2.f Money savings (Cash, bank)	No	Yes					
If yes, please indicate		At home Small amount 1	At home Bigger amount 2	Bank 3			
2.g Fixed employment (3 days per week or more)	No		Yes				
2.h Debts	No		Yes				
Social assets							
2.j Relatives <i>Tick box (can be several)</i>	non	camp	other camp	Province	BKK/ city	Abroad (not Burma!)	
2.k Member of networks (incl. Grass root organisations (women's groups, CAN groups etc)	No			Yes			
If yes, describe type of network and how involved:							
Physical assets							
2.l House quality and facilities <i>Tick box</i>	Small	Normal	Big house + toilet	Own Shop	Rented shop		
2.m Electronic goods <i>Tick box (can be several)</i>	non	Radio	Cell phone	TV	Computer		
2.n Transport means <i>Tick box (can be several)</i>	non	Own bicycle	Rented bicycle	Own motor- cycle	Rented Motor- cycle	Own car	Rented car

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2.o Productive assets (for Income generating activities) <i>Tick box (can be several)</i>	non	Handicrafts	Skilled labour *	Other :		
2.p. What was your main livelihood before migration to Thailand?	Agriculture 1	casual labour 2	skilled labour 3	social services 4	Trade 5	Other 6
2.q What kind of livelihood would you like to pursue now? ω	Agriculture 1	casual labour 2	skilled labour 3	social services 4	Trade 5	Other 6
2.r If you cannot return to Burma what is your preference?	resettlement 1	reintegration in Thailand 2	stay in the camp with more opportunities for livelihood / less restrictions:			

* Carpentry, masonry, blacksmith, shoemaker etc. *

4. SOURCES OF INCOME

I would like to know something about the activities your household undertakes to generate income. Have members of the household been earning income during **the last three months**? If yes, from which sources?

Cash income				
3.a Did you earn any cash income during the last three months(ω)	no		Yes	
Income sources (can be several)			Income sources (can be several)	
3.b. Fixed employment (three or more days per week)	no	Yes	3.i Sell part of the food ration	no Yes
3.c Part time wages	no	Yes	3.j Handicrafts	no Yes
3.d Casual labour (unskilled)	no	Yes	3.k Firewood collection/ Charcoal sale	no Yes
3.e Skilled labour (masonry, carpentry, etc.)	no	Yes	3.l Collection / sale of grass/mats	no Yes
3.f Shop keeper	no	Yes	3.m Relatives (in Thailand / Burma)	no Yes
3.g petty trade	no	Yes	3.n Remittances (family / friends abroad)	no Yes
3.h Sales from own production (crops, livestock) or processing (cakes, sweets, drinks etc.)	no	Yes	Other (specify):	no Yes
3.o How much did your household earn in total per month? (average last 3 months)		baht	
3.p How much income do you think your household needs every month to cope?		 baht	
3.q How do you see your household coping?	Not well 1	Below average? 2	Better than average 3	Very well 4

5. EXPENDITURES

From the money you earned during **the last three months**, can you estimate how much goes to food, clothes and other things you need (please tick one box per group)?

Group	zero	< 10%	10%-50%	50-80%	>80%
4.a Food	1	2	3	4	5
4.b Clothing, shoes	1	2	3	4	5
4.c Household goods (soap, kerosene, candles, etc)	1	2	3	4	5
4.d Health / medicine	1	2	3	4	5
4.e Pocket money children	1	2	3	4	5
4.f Transport	1	2	3	4	5
4.g Savings	1	2	3	4	5
4.h Loan repayment / interest terms	1	2	3	4	5
4.i Alcohol / cigarettes / betel	1	2	3	4	5
4.j Donations / ceremonies	1	2	3	4	5
4.k water (not bottle!)	1	2	3	4	5
4.j electricity	1	2	3	4	5
4.l communication	1	2	3	4	5
4.m taxes	1	2	3	4	5
4.n Other (describe)	1	2	3	4	5

6. FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

I would like to ask you about all the different foods that your household members have eaten in **the last 7 days**. Could you please tell me **how many days** in the past week your household has eaten the following foods?

Food item	# days eaten in past week (0-7 days)	weight	score
5.a Rice (including rice noodles)			
5.b Bread /wheat			
5.c Roots/tubers			
5.d Pulses, groundnuts, sesame Asia mix			
5.e Fish (eaten as main food)			
5.f Eggs			
5.g Red meat (cow, goat, pig)			
5.h Poultry (chicken, duck)			
5.i Vegetable oil, fats			
5.k Milk, cheese, yoghurt			
5.l Milk(powder) in tea			
5.m Vegetables incl. leaves			
5.n Fruits			
5.o Sweets, sugar			
5.p Snacks (crackers etc)			
5.q Tea/coffee/other beverages			
5.r Condiments (salt, chilli's)			
5.s Fish paste (used for flavour)			
5.t Other (describe)			

7. COPING STRATEGIES INDEX

In **the past thirty days**, if there have been times when you did not have enough food or money to buy food how many days had your household to:

	Never	Frequency (number of days)	Severity weight	Weighted score
6.a Rely on less preferred and less expensive foods?				
6.b Borrow food, or rely on help from a friend or relative?				
6.c Purchase food on credit?				
6.d Gather wild foods? (more than regularly done)				
6.e Use part of savings to buy food/borrow money				
6.f Skip a loan repayment / interest term?				
6.g Send household members to eat elsewhere?				
6.h. reduce snacks for children				
6.i. Limit portion size at mealtimes?				
6.j. Restrict adult consumption in order for small children to eat?				
6.k Feed working members of HH at the expense of non-working members?				
6.l Reduce number of meals eaten in a day?				
6.m Skip entire days without eating?				
6.n Other:.....				
6.o Other:.....				

Annex F: Survey Methodology Household Survey

I. The Sample

The household survey consisted of a cross sectional survey of 350 houses in the four camps. The sampling frame consisted of the lists of houses receiving food in each of the four camps. These lists also contain family names, but the inhabitants do not necessarily belong to one (nuclear) family. Moreover, lists were not always up-to-date with families having moved away (resettled). As sole selection criteria the house number was therefore used. The sampling unit was the household e.g. people living in the same house who are (and have been during the last three months) sharing their meals together. Members of a household were not necessarily relatives by blood or marriage.

Systematic random sampling was used, whereby the first house in each camp was randomly selected from a table with random numbers; subsequent house were selected using the sampling interval as calculated from the total number of houses in each camp divided by the number of houses required in the sample.

The total sample sized calculation was based on a desired 3% precision, an error risk of 5% and an estimated prevalence of <10% of each of the highest and lowest wealth groups. This renders a sample size 350. To allow reliable conclusions per camp and between camps, a sample of 350 in each of the four locations would have been necessary. Due to time constraints it was decided to divide the sample over the four camps; the number of houses sampled in each camp ideally should have been precisely proportional to size. However, as this would have meant only 35 households in Tham Hin, the sample was recalculated to 48 households in Tham Hin¹³².

II. Implementation and Organization of the Survey

Prior to the survey training was given to all team members participating in the survey on the following topics:

- ✓ How to introduce the team and the survey and its objectives; selecting the correct respondent
- ✓ Sampling procedures, collaboration with the section leaders and dealing with non-response including keeping records of non response.
- ✓ Interview techniques and filling in the questionnaire
- ✓ Testing the questionnaire at household level

Questions raised and subsequent discussion during the training workshops were incorporated in guidelines for the teams and/or used to improved the phrasing of the questions, add or delete questions in the questionnaire before it was translated in Karen and Burmese. After the first round of surveys in the Tak camps, a feed-back sessions was organized which rendered additional useful information to further improve the questionnaire. For example, three extra questions were added relating to resettlement issues¹³³.

At the day of the survey (where possible the day before) section leaders were contacted with a list of households selected for the survey and assisted in finding the location of the house. From the second day onwards, section leaders also notified houses in advance. The section leaders could also sometimes (not always) explain the absence of a household (often with the help of neighbours). This helped the teams to better plan their visits, adjusts where needed their schedule and timely chose at random an alternative house. Within two days the teams had improved their efficiency to such an extent that about 8-10 houses could be interviewed each day.

¹³² Because of the very tight schedule it was not possible to correct per camp errors in the number of houses sampled. Such mistakes occurred especially where two teams were visiting houses in the same section, whereby a strict division of houses was impossible (because the numbering of the houses was not everywhere in a systematic order).

¹³³ If more time would have been available to pre-test the questionnaire, this would probably have been picked up before the survey started.

Upon arrival, survey staff first determined if a suitable respondent was present. Consent was then sought from the respondent. If no suitable respondent was home, the visit was rescheduled. If the survey team found the original family had moved away, this fact was noted and in their stead the new inhabitants were interviewed. This has been noted (but not counted) under non-response. If a household was unavailable, the house was revisited the same day (if necessary several times) and if still unsuccessful the next day as well. Some houses were visited more than 3 times. Nevertheless, some families were unavailable during the period the camp was surveyed (hospital visit, exams etc). In their stead another house was randomly selected (spinning a pen). This has been noted and counted under non-response. There were no families who refused to participate. Overall non-response (households not available) was 4%.

The sample size, the relative weight of the sample, non-response, number of teams and participants, training date and survey dates per location were as follows:

	Mae La	Nu Po	Site #	Tham Hin
% of the sample	50%	19%	20%	10%
% actually sampled	47%	17%	21%	14%
Sample size / actual sample size	168 / 166	64 / 61	72 / 74	48 / 49
Non Response:	3.5%	0.2%	6.7%	4.1%
-moved away	4.2%	0.2%	9.4%	4.1%
-refused	-	-	-	-
-not available during the survey	3.5%	0.2%	6.7%	4.1%
Number of teams	5	4	3	2
Number of surveyors TBBC and KRC/ KnRC / Camp Committee	5 + 5	4 + 4	2 + 4	2 + 2
Training date	23 Sept	Not applicable	05 October	12 October
Survey dates	24,25,26,28 September	1,2 October	6,7,8,9 September	13,14,15 October

Data-entry was done by one of the consultants the evening or day following data-collection. In this way, ambiguities could be clarified and omissions/mistakes corrected while the teams were still at work on site. Data entry could be finished in each site before proceeding to the next location. Cleaning of data took place twice, once before leaving Mae Hon Song and on the day the last households were interviewed and data entered.

Annex G: Mission Itinerary and List of People Met

Date	Travel	Camp	Overnight	Mtgs / visits	Household survey	Survey teams
Sep-21			BKK	ECHO / EC Del, TBBCBKK, USAID, UNHCR		
22	BKK-MaeSot (6 hrs)		MaeSot	Mtg TBBC MS, CCSDPT NGOs		
23	MaeSot-MaeLa (50 min)	MaeLa	MaeSot	Mtg Camp Committee (9:30)	Training/ Superv/Data check	Training / fieldtesting
24	MaeSot-MaeLa (50 min)	MaeLa	MaeSot		Superv/Data check	HH int (5 teams ML) 9:00
25	MaeSot-MaeLa (50 min)	MaeLa	MaeSot	Mtg UNHCR; FGD men; FGD women	Superv/Data check	HH int (5 teams ML); 9:00
26	MaeSot-MaeLa (50 min)	MaeLa	MaeSot	Shopkeepers; FGD youth	Superv/Data check	HH int (5 teams ML); 9:00
27			MaeSot	(Week report 1)	Data entry	
28	MaeSot-MaeLa (50 min)	MaeLa	MaeSot	Visit COERR; TBBC Admin	Data entry	HH int (5 teams ML) 9:00
29	MaeSot-Umphang (4.5 hrs)	MaeLa	Umphang	Mtg TBBC Mae Sot 9:00	Data entry	HH int (2 teams ML)
30	Umphang-NuPo (1.5 hrs)	NuPo	Umphang	Mtg Camp Committee	Superv/Data check	HH int (3 teams NuPo)
Oct-1	Umphang-NuPo (1.5 hrs)	NuPo	Umphang	FGD men; FGD women	Superv/Data check	HH int (3 teams NuPo)
2	Umphang-NuPo; NuPo-Mae Sot (dep15:00)	NuPo	Mae Sot	Shopkeepers	Superv/Data check	HH int (3 teams NuPo)
3			Mae Sot		Data entry	
4			Mae Sot	(Week report 2)	Data entry	
5	MaeSot-MHS (mo - 6.5 hrs)		MHS	Mtg TBBC MHS; Mtg Key Inf (NGOs)	Training	Training teams
6	MHS-Site#1 (1 hr)	Site#1	MHS	Mtg Camp Committee (14:00)	Superv/Data check	HH int (3 teams Site#1)
7	MHS-Site#1 (1 hr)	Site#1	MHS	FGD men; FGD women; NGOs visits, shopkeepers	Syperv/Data check	HH int (3 teams Site#1)
8	MHS-Site#1 (1 hr)	Site#1	MHS		Superv/Data check	HH int (3 teams Site#1)
9	MHS-Site#1 (1 hr)	Site#1	MHS		Superv/Data check	HHs int (3 teams Site#1)
10	MHS-BKK (flight dep 17:15)		BKK		Data entry	
11			BKK	(Week report 3)	Data entry	
12	BKK-Tham Hin (3.5 + 1 hrs)	Tham Hin	Chatpawai	Mtg Camp Committee (13:00)	Training/Data entry	Training teams
13	Chatpawai-Tham Hin (30 min)	Tham Hin	Chatpawai	FGD men; FGD women; shopkeepers	Superv/Data check	HH int (2 teams TH)
14 (AV)	Chatpawai-Tham Hin (30 min)	Tham Hin	Chatpawai		Superv/Data check	HH int (2 teams TH)
14 (AH)	Chatpawai – BKK (dep 9:00)		BKK	(Prepare debriefings / Aide Memoire)		
15 (AV)	Chatpawai-Tham Hin;Tham Hin-BKK (dep 15:00)	Tham Hin	BKK		Superv/Data check	HH int (2 teams TH)
15 (AH)			BKK	Mtgs donors		
16			BKK	Mtgs UN agencies, ECHO RSO; debrief donors / ECHO		
17/ 18			BKK	(Prepare debriefing)	Data entry/analysis	
19	BKK-Amsterdam (evening)		BKK / plane	Debrief TBBC/CCSDPT		

LIST OF PEOPLE MET

ADRA	Marc-Andre Hensel	Programme Director
Ambassade de France	Dominique Doudet	Premier Secrétaire
ARC	Charles Schumacher Madeline Sahagun	Field Coordinator Micro-Enterprise Development Lead Coordinator
COERR	Juventino (Ben) Mendoza Chiranan Liengvidhayakhun Chumpol Maniratanavongsiri	Programme Director Programme Coordinator Dpty. Programme Director
DFID	Sally Waples	Head of Political Section
European Commission Bangkok	Luca Pierantoni	Programme Officer Good Governance and Civil Society
	Priya Waeohongsa	Programme Officer
	David Verboom	DG ECHO Head Regional Support Office
	Vitor Serrano Marie Benner Phumphet Chetianonth	DG ECHO RSO Food Security DG ECHO Reg. Health Advisor DG ECHO Reg. Programme Assistance for Rapid Response
European Commission Brussels	Eszter Nemeth	Desk Officer ECHO3–Asia and Latin America
	Matthias Lange	Food Assistance Adviser Food Aid
	Peter Cavendish	...
	Hermann Spitz Jenny Nunes Correia	Food Assistance Advisor Food Aid Desk Officer ECHO3-Asia and Latin
America		
Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands	Johannet Gaemers	Second Secretary
	Ralph Severijns	Asst. to the Political Section
	Kittipong Soonprasert	Senior Policy Officer
Embassy of the USA	Adam Zerbinopoulos	Dpty. Refugee Coordinator for East Asia
	Chie Opie	Asst. Refugee Coordinator for Southeast Asia
Handicap International	Ringnapha	
IOM	Monique Filsnoël	Chief of Mission
	Claudia Natali	Labour Migration Programme Manager
	Mira Simovska	Operations Officer
JRS	Sr. Rachel	Education coordinator
Norwegian Embassy	Jon H. Rosseland	Political Officer
Royal Danish Embassy	Mikkel Vestergaard Pedersen	Trainee Political Section
SIDA	Jorgen Schonning	Councillor (Development)

TBBC	Jack Dunford Sally Thompson Angelina Salic Chris Clifford Brian Brook Erika Pied Dave Brown Krishna Acharya	Executive Director Dpty. Director Head of Programme Field Coordinator Tak Province Financial Controller Nutritionist Agronomist Income Generation Specialist
UNDP	Yuxue Xue Anupam Bhatia	Dpty. Resident Representative Programme Coordinator
UNHCR	Giuseppe de Vicentis Kyoko Yonezu Alex Novikau	Dpty. Regional Representative Sr. Regional Programme Officer Protection Officer Tak Province
WEAVE	Roalie	Coordinator Nursery Schools
ZOA	Josef Cziki	Agriculture manager

Annex H: Wealth Group Description and Breakdown

Wealth group name (English)	Group 1: Most vulnerable	Group 2: Casual labourers and primary school teachers	Group 3: Other stipend workers	Group 4: Better off
DEMOGRAPHICS - Household composition - Education level	Handicapped Single parents/widows Elderly no children in the camp taking care of grandchildren many children/large families Single children (2,3) No education /illiterate	Variable, can include larger households Primary/secondary education	Variable, often smaller households Secondary /higher education (serving the community)	New comers seeking resettlement Secondary /higher education But not always higher educated
AGRICULTURAL ASSETS - Size of agricultural land cultivated, type of crops - Household plots (kitchen garden) - Trees - Livestock	None (some have through COERR)	N.A. Some household garden No or few trees Chickens; 1 pig	N.A. Some household garden No or few trees > 2 pigs	Sometimes many trees/large plot No household garden (no need) If animals: many (8 or more pigs, some have cows)
FINANCIAL ASSETS - money /d savings (cash, bank account) - debts	No savings Yes, some through pawning; poorest less debts (can't pay back)	No savings; No access to start-up capital after vocational training Some debts	Some savings; Some invest in small shop (5000Bht) Debts for stocks for shop; Other debts repay when salary comes	Capital to invest (big shops); Bank account if Thai ID Savings Debts due to stocks/luxury goods

Wealth group name (English)	Group 1: Most vulnerable	Group 2: Casual labourers and primary school teachers	Group 3: Other stipend workers	Group 4: Better off
SOCIAL ASSETS				
- relatives	Usually no relatives in the camp/abroad	Relatives camp/abroad	Relatives camp/abroad	No clear link with relatives; some have substantial remittances
- membership of networks	Church (funerals) Temple (food)	No relation network/wealth group	No relation network/wealth group	No relation network/wealth group
- ration book/registration (type if relevant)	No card/no ration Type ration book not relevant	Type ration book not relevant	Type ration book not relevant	Type ration book not relevant
PHYSICAL ASSETS				
- house quality and facilities	Small; bad roofing. Dirty; bamboo poles only	Bigger; use wood;	Replace bamboo floor	Big house/shop
- electronic goods	None	Radio; cell phone;	Radio; cell phone	Radio; cell phone; TV; Few Computers
- transport means	None	Bicycle	Some have motorbike	Motorbike; some own a car
- productive assets	None	Own tools for skilled labour		
MOST IMPORTANT SOURCES OF CASH INCOME	Jobless Some casual labour (few) Support by (camp) relatives Skilled labour but no tools (some women)	Casual labour Petty trade Carpentry Handicraft Primary school teachers	Secondary teachers Health workers NGO staff Restaurant Small shop	Business/big shop BKK/city jobs Fish ponds
INCOME LEVEL (RANGE)	From 0 to 350 – 500 baht/month	From 500 to 1000 baht/month	From 750 to 2200 baht/month	> 2200 baht/month
MAIN LIVELIHOOD CONSTRAINTS	No ration (Tak) No relatives Deportation	RTG restrictions Lack of markets/demand Lack of land	RTG restrictions Lack of demand Lack of land	RTG restrictions

Wealth group name (English)	Group 1: Most vulnerable	Group 2: Casual labourers and primary school teachers	Group 3: Other stipend workers	Group 4: Better off
ESTIMATED % OF HOUSEHOLDS IN EACH WEALTH GROUP (results for men and women focus group discussion)	<u>MaeLa</u> : 7% (men), 50% (women) <u>NuPo</u> : 70% (men), 30% (women) <u>Site #1</u> : 10% (men), 35% (women) <u>ThamHin</u> : 45% (men), 30% (women)	<u>MaeLa</u> : 70% (men), 20% (women) <u>NuPo</u> : 20% (men), 35% (women) <u>Site #1</u> : 55% (men), 60% (men) <u>ThamHin</u> : 30% (men), 60% (women)	<u>MaeLa</u> : 20% (men, women) <u>NuPo</u> : 7% (men), 35% (women) <u>Site #1</u> : 30% (men), 2% (women) <u>ThamHin</u> : 20% (men), 10% (women)	<u>MaeLa</u> : 10% (men), 3% (women) <u>NuPo</u> : 3% (men), none (women) <u>Site #1</u> : 5% (men), 1% (women) <u>ThamHin</u> : 5% (men), none (women)

Annex I: Analysis of the Food Basket for Children Under Five Years of Age

Table 22: Analysis of the food basket for children under five years of age

Commodity	Procurement price (baht/kg) ¹³⁴	Current monthly ration scale children 0 – 60 months (kg) ¹³⁵	Energy p.p.p.d. (kCal)	Protein p.p.p.d. (g)	Fat p.p.p.d. (g)	Total cost monthly ration p.p. (baht)
Rice	13.60	7.500	888	16.23	1.97	102.00
Yellow beans	33.50	0.500	57	4.20	0.18	16.75
AsiaMIX	35.70	1.000	131	4.59	1.97	35.70
Fish paste	26.75	0.750	25	3.27	0.96	20.06
Vegetable oil	41.82	0.457	122	0.00	13.61	20.75
Salt	5.00	0.330	0	0.00	0.00	1.65
Sugar	23.50	0.250	32	0.00	0.00	5.88
Chillies	63.00	0.040	5	0.20	0.18	2.52
Sub-total		10.827	1261	28.49	18.85	205.31
Energy%				9.04%	13.46 %	
Recommendation			1290	10-12%	>= 17%	
Charcoal	7.95	7.900				62.81
Total		18.73				268.11

¹³⁴ Sept. 2009 distribution prices (based on average costs for MaeLa and NuPo camps)

¹³⁵ TBBC earlier decided to exclude children 0 to 6 months as these should be breastfed and thus do not need a food ration. However, this decision was recently reverted in order to reduce the amount of work that this additional registration step meant for updating of the monthly feeding population figures.

Annex J: Analysis Supplementary Feeding Pregnant and Lactating Women

Table 23: Analysis of the supplementary feeding for pregnant women

Commodity	Procurement price (baht/kg) ¹³⁶	Current monthly ration scale pp (kg)	Energy p.p.p.d ¹³⁷ (kCal)	Protein p.p.p.d (g)	Fat p.p.p.d. (g)	Total cost monthly ration p.p. (baht)
Red beans	33.50	1.000	116	7.28	0.62	33.50
Vegetable oil	41.82	0.457	122	0.00	13.61	20.75
Eggs (taken as 50% ¹³⁸)	57.69	0.563	29	2.36	1.99	32.50
Canned fish (taken as 50%)	64.52	0.672	99	4.40	1.76	43.33
Sub-total		2.692	366	14.05	17.98	130.08
Energy%				15.36 %	44.24 %	
Add. energy requirement			350			

Table 24: Analysis of the Supplementary Feeding for Lactating Women

Commodity	Procurement price ¹ (baht/kg) ¹³⁹	Current monthly ration scale pp (kg)	Energy p.p.p.d. ¹⁴⁰ (kCal)	Protein p.p.p.d. (g)	Fat p.p.p.d. (g)	Total cost monthly ration p.p. (baht)
Red beans	33.50	1.500	174	10.92	0.93	50.25
Vegetable oil	41.82	0.457	122	0.00	13.61	20.75
Eggs (taken as 50%)	57.69	0.563	29	2.36	1.99	32.50
Canned fish (taken as 50%)	64.52	0.672	99	4.40	1.76	43.33
Sub-total		3.192	424	17.69	18.30	146.83
Energy%				16.70%	38.86%	
Add. energy requirement			550			

¹³⁶ Sept. 2009 distribution prices (based on average costs for MaeLa and NuPo camps)

¹³⁷ Per person per day

¹³⁸ 50% was taken for the eggs and tinned fish because beneficiaries can choose one of the items.

¹³⁹ Sept. 2009 distribution prices (based on average costs for MaeLa and NuPo camps)

¹⁴⁰ Per person per day

Annex K: Analysis Supplementary Feeding Moderately Malnourished Children

Table 25: Analysis Supplementary Feeding Moderately Malnourished Children

Commodity	Procure ment price ¹ (baht/kg) ¹⁴¹	Current monthly ration scale pp (kg)	Energy p.p.p.d. ¹⁴² (kCal)	Protein p.p.p.d. (g)	Fat p.p.p.d. (g)	Total cost monthly ration p.p. (baht)
AsiaMIX (for premix)	35.70	2.040	268	9.36	4.01	72.83
Vegetable oil (for premix)	41.82	0.720	193	0.00	21.43	32.69
Dried skimmed milk powder (for premix)	134.00	0.720	103	3.59	2.57	104.76
Sugar (for premix)	23.50	0.440	56	0.00	0.00	10.34
Vegetable oil	41.82	0.914	245	0.00	27.21	41.50
Eggs (7 per week; taken as 50%)	57.69	0.789	40	3.31	2.79	45.50
Canned fish (4 tins per week; taken as 50%)	64.52	1.343	198	8.81	3.52	86.67
Sub-total		6.966	1102	25.07	61.54	394.28
Energy%				9.10%	50.27%	
Recommendation			1000			

¹⁴¹ Sept. 2009 distribution prices (based on average costs for MaeLa and NuPo camps)

¹⁴² Per person per day

Annex L: Demographic Data Per Camp

Table 26: Age groups per camps (%)

	MaeLa	NuPo	Site #1	Tham Hin	Total	UNHCR
Elderly	7	5	7	3	6	5
♂	46	48	46	57	48	48
♀	54	52	54	43	52	52
Adults	45	49	45	45	46	46
♂	50	49	53	48	50	49
♀	50	51	47	53	50	51
Children aged 6-18 y	34	33	32	29	33	34
♂	55	56	45	50	53	51
♀	45	54	55	50	47	49
Children under 5 y	14	11	17	23	15	15
♂	53	51	64	51	55	51
♀	47	49	36	49	45	49
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
♂	52	52	52	49	51	50
♀	48	48	48	51	49	50
Household size	6.1	5.7	4.8	5.6	5.7	4.3
☐headed households	34	23	14	41	29	27

Table 27: Various Demographic Characteristics Per Camp (%)

	MaeLa	NuPo	Site #1	Tham Hin	Total
Ethnicity					
Karen/Karenni	83	74	92*	96*	85
Other Burmese	12	23*	8	4	12
Non Burmese	3	3	0	0	3
Religion					
Buddhist	48*	43*	19	14	36
Christian	39	48	38	86*	47
Muslim	14	10	0	0	8
Animist	0	0	43	0	9
Education level					
Non	9	5	11	4	8
Primary	42	36	24	37	37
Secondary	36	36	38	41	37
Higher	13	23	27	18	18
Higher + Secondary	49*	59	65*	59	55
Year of migration					
Before 1986	17	2	11	2	11
1986-200	55	61	82	78	65
After 2005	28*	38*	7	21	24

*significant

Annex M: Productive Assets Per Camp

Table 28: Agricultural Assets Per Camp (%)

	MaeLa	NuPo	Site # 1	Tham Hin	Total
<i>Agricultural land</i>	2	7	14	6	6
Average size (feet)	2200	900	1200	500	900
<i>Household garden</i>	15	25	31	2	18
< 15 feet	60	60	74	100*	60
15 - 60 feet	32	33	17	-	33
> 60 feet	8	7	9	-	8
<i>Fruit trees</i>	35	41	39	2	32
# fruit trees	5	5	4	10*	5
<i>Pigs</i>	22	10	61	0	25
1 pig	47	17	60	n.a.	52
2 pigs	28	33	20	n.a.	24
3 or more pigs	25	50	20	n.a.	24
Sold pig(s)	22	33	25	n.a.	25
<i>Chickens</i>	16	10	70	0	24
1-2 chickens	41	33	29	n.a.	36
3-4 chickens	33	33	23	n.a.	28
≥ 5 chickens	26	33	48	n.a.	37
Sold chicken(s)	16	0	0	n.a.	7

* One household only

Table 30: Other Assets by Type and Camp (%)

	MaeLa	NuPo	Site # 1	Tham Hin	Total
<i>Income generating</i>	22	15	11	18	18
Handicrafts	15	5	9	10	10
Skilled Labour	8	10	1	8	7
<i>Transport</i>	10	10	16	8	11
Bicycle	5	3	4	6	5
Motorbike	2	5	12	2	5
Car	3	3	0	0	2

Annex N: Relatives by Location and Camp

Table 31: Relatives by Location and Camp

	MaeLa	NuPo	Site # 1	Tham Hin	Total
<i>Relatives</i>	72	87	80	96	94
Abroad (excl. Burma)	58	51	75	71	62
Camp	64	66	89	80	72
Other Camp	14	21	9	20	14
Bangkok/Province	11	7	18	25	15

Annex O: Food Consumption Scores Per Camp

Table 29: Food Frequencies by Camp (%)

	Mae La	Nu Po	Site # 1	Tham Hin	Total
Rice	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Beans/AsiaMIX	2.6	3.0	4.0	1.8	2.8
Oil	6.4	6.4	4.9	6.0	6.2
Fish	1.7	1.7	0.5	1.4	1.4
Eggs	1.2	0.8	1.5	1.6	1.2
Meat	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.5
Chicken	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3
Vegetables	6.4	6.8	4.2	6.5	6.0
Fruit	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.8
Snacks	2.5	1.5	0.6	2.7	2.0
Milk	0.5	0.4	0.2	1.1	0.5
Sugar/sweets	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.7	1.3
Tea/drinks	3.4	3.1	1.3	3.2	2.9
Condiments	6.8	6.9	6.8	7.0	6.9

Table 30: Household Consumption by Food Commodity and Camp (%)

	Mae La	Nu Po	Site # 1	Tham Hin	Total
Rice	100	100	100	100	100
Beans/AsiaMIX	82	88	93	78	85
Oil	99	95	89	98	96
Fish	77	74	18	84	69
Eggs	56	39	61	73	55
Meat	31	32	30	6	28
Chicken	21	25	25	35	25
Vegetables	99	100	86	98	97
Fruit	35	23	49	27	26
Snacks	60	28	25	82	52
Milk	14	8	9	31	14
Sugar/sweets	83	85	60	80	78
Tea/drinks	29	41	34	41	34
Condiments	99	100	100	100	100

Table 31: Food Frequencies by Food Commodity and Income Group (Number of Days Per Week)

	< 100 baht	100-499 baht	500-1499 baht	1500-2199 baht	> 2200 baht	Total
Rice	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Beans/AsiaMIX	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.8
Oil	6.0	5.8	6.4	6.1	6.2	6.2
Fish	0.9	1.0	1.4	2.0	2.1	1.4
Eggs	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.8	2.2	1.2
Meat	0	0.2	0.4	1.0	0.8	0.5
Chicken	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3
Vegetables	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.0	7.0	6.0
Fruit	0.6	0.5	0.6	1.3	1.9	0.8
Snacks	1.2	1.3	1.8	3.7	2.6	2.0
Milk	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.1	1.5	0.5
Sugar/sweets	2.9	3.0	2.7	3.0	2.8	2.9
Tea/drinks	0	0.6	1.3	2.7	2.8	1.3
Condiments	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9

Table 32: Percentage of Households Consuming Food Commodities by Income Group

	< 100 baht	100-499 baht	500-1499 baht	1500-2199 baht	> 2200 baht	Total
Rice	100	100	100	100	100	100
Beans/AsiaMIX	87	87	86	79	80	85
Oil	97	90	98	96	97	96
Fish	53	61	72	67	87	69
Eggs	37	42	56	75	77	55
Meat	0	19	28	47	53	28
Chicken	15	21	26	28	37	25
Vegetables	94	94	98	96	100	97
Fruit	28	29	32	51	60	26
Snacks	37	40	51	73	73	52
Milk	15	7	11	21	40	14
Sugar/sweets	81	79	67	74	80	78
Tea/drinks	3	20	35	62	57	34
Condiments	97	99	100	100	100	100

Annex P: Expenditure

Table 33: Expenditures by Category and by Camp (%)

	Mae La	Nu Po	Site # 1	Tham Hin	Total
Food	99	100	92	96	98
< 10%	2	3	27	31	8
10-50%	21	16	53	65	28
>50%	77	80	12	0	63
Household goods	96	97	85	92	93
< 10%	63	58	82	88	70
10-50%	32	39	3	4	23
>50%	2	0	0	0	1
Donations	86	84	78	94	85
< 10%	78	79	77	94	80
10-50%	8	5	1	0	5
Stimulants (alcohol, cig, betel)	80	85	89	61	80
< 10%	67	68	85	59	70
10-50%	13	15	4	2	10
> 50%	0	2	0	0	0
Pocket money kids	84	62	85	65	78
< 10%	60	41	72	65	60
10-50%	22	20	14	0	17
>50%	2	2	0	0	1
Clothes	58	67	72	84	66
< 10%	31	43	62	78	46
10-50%	27	25	10	6	20
>50%	1	0	0	0	1
Health	48	37	8	25	34
< 10%	35	32	8	24	27
10-50%	10	5	0	0	6
>50%	3	0	0	2	1
Electricity	41	49	14	14	33
< 10%	37	44	11	14	30
10-50%	4	5	3	0	3
Communications	42	25	20	14	29
< 10%	37	25	20	14	27
10-50%	5	0	0	0	2
Loan repayment/interest	28	22	13	37	24
< 10%	18	12	12	29	17
10-50%	8	10	1	8	7
>50%	2	0	0	0	1
Transport	20	20	20	2	17
< 10%	19	13	16	2	15
10-50%	1	7	4	0	2
Water	15	2	4	4	9
< 10%	13	2	4	4	8
10-50%	2	0	0	0	1
Taxes	10	8	4	2	8
< 10%	10	8	2	2	7
10-50%	0	0	0	0	1
Savings	5	5	17	4	7
< 10%	4	2	16	4	6
10-50%	1	3	1	0	1

Annex Q: Proposal for Revising General Ration Food Baskets

Table 34: Proposal for an Alternative Food Basket for Adults and Children Over Five Years

Commodity	Procure- ment price ¹ (baht/kg) ¹⁴³	Alternative monthly ration scale (kg)	Energy p.p.p.d. (kCal)	Protein p.p.p.d. (g)	Fat p.p.p.d. (g)	Total cost monthly ration p.p. (baht)
Rice	13.60	11.000	1302	23.80	2.89	149.60
Yellow beans	33.50	2.000	230	16.79	0.72	67.00
Asiamix	35.70	0.500	66	2.30	0.98	17.85
Fish paste	26.75	0.750	25	3.27	0.96	20.06
Vegetable oil	41.82	1.143	306	0.00	34.01	51.87
Salt	5.00	0.330	0	0.00	0.00	1.65
Sugar	23.50	0.000	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chillies	63.00	0.000	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub-total		15.723	1928	46.16	39.56	308.03
Energy%				9.57%	18.46%	
Recommendation			2070	10-12%	>= 17%	
Charcoal	7.95	7.900				62.81
Total		23.62				370.84

Table 35: Proposal for an alternative food basket for children under five years of age

Commodity	Procure- ment price (baht/kg)	Alternative monthly ration scale (kg) ¹⁴⁴	Energy p.p.p.d. (kCal)	Protein p.p.p.d. (g)	Fat p.p.p.d. (g)	Total cost monthly ration p.p. (baht)
Rice	13.60	6.500	769	14.07	1.70	88.40
Yellow beans	33.50	1.000	115	8.39	0.36	33.50
AsiaMIX	35.70	1.500	197	6.89	2.95	53.55
Fish paste	26.75	0.750	25	3.27	0.96	20.06
Vegetable oil	41.82	0.571	153	0.00	17.01	25.94
Salt	5.00	0.330	0	0.00	0.00	1.65
Sugar	23.50	0.000	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chillies	63.00	0.000	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub-total		10.651	1259	32.61	22.98	223.10
Energy%				10.36%	16.43%	
Recommendation			1290	10-12%	>= 17%	
Charcoal	7.95	7.900				62.81
Total		18.55				285.90

¹⁴³ Sept. 2009 distribution prices (based on average costs for MaeLa and NuPo camps). These figures equal a purchase cum average transport costs to the camps price of US\$ 405 per MT for rice, US\$ 997 per MT for beans and US\$ 1362 per MT for vegetable oil.

¹⁴⁴ TBBC earlier decided to exclude children 0 to 6 months as these should be breastfed and thus do not need a food ration. However, this decision was recently reverted in order to reduce the amount of work that this additional registration step meant for updating of the monthly feeding population figures.

Annex R: Proposal for Revised Supplementary Feeding Pregnant and Lactating Women

Table 36: Proposal for Revised Supplementary Feeding Pregnant and Lactating Women

Commodity	Procurement price (baht/kg) ¹⁴⁵	Alternative monthly ration scale pp (kg)	Energy p.p.p.d. (kCal)	Protein p.p.p.d. (g)	Fat p.p.p.d. (g)	Total cost monthly ration p.p. (baht)
PREGNANT WOMEN						
AsiaMIX	35.70	3.000	393	13.77	5.90	107.10
Sub-total		3.000	393	13.77	5.90	107.10
Energy%				14.00%	13.50 %	
Add. energy requirement			350			
LACTATING WOMEN						
AsiaMIX	35.70	3.000	393	13.77	5.90	107.10
Vegetable oil	41.82	0.457	122	0.00	13.61	20.75
Sub-total		3.457	516	13.77	19.51	127.85
Energy%				10.68%	34.03 %	
Add. energy requirement			550			

¹⁴⁵ Sept. 2009 distribution prices (based on average costs for MaeLa and NuPo camps)

Annex S: Proposal for Revised Supplementary Feeding of Under Fives

Table 37: Proposal Revised Supplementary Feeding Under Fives (Malnourished and Not Malnourished)

Commodity	Procurement price ¹⁴⁶ (baht/kg)	Alternative monthly ration scale pp (kg)	Energy p.p.p.d. (kCal)	Protein p.p.p.d. (g)	Fat p.p.p.d. (g)	Total cost monthly ration p.p. (baht)
PREVENTIVE SUPPLEMENTARY RATION CHILDREN 6 – 36 MONTHS						
AsiaMIX	35.70	3.000	393	13.77	5.90	107.10
Sub-total		3.000	393	13.77	5.90	107.10
Energy%				14.00%	13.50%	
Recommendation			N.A.			
SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING MALNOURISHED CHILDREN 6 – 60 MONTHS						
AsiaMIX	35.70	3.000	393	13.77	5.90	107.10
AsiaMIX (for premix)	35.70	2.040	268	9.36	4.01	72.83
Vegetable oil (for premix)	45.75	0.720	193	0.00	21.43	35.77
Dried skimmed milk powder (for premix)	134.00	0.720	103	3.59	2.57	104.76
Sugar (for premix)	23.50	0.440	56	0.00	0.00	10.34
Sub-total		6.920	1012	26.73	33.92	330.79
Energy%				10.56%	30.16%	
Recommendation			1000			

¹⁴⁶ Sept. 2009 distribution prices (based on average costs for MaeLa and NuPo camps)