

Mae La Temporary Shelter

Profile



May 2016

Verified Population - May 2016

37,958 *

Population profile

Gender

Female 51% Male 49%

Age

18 years and above: 53%

5-17 years: 34%

Below 5 years: 13%

Ethnicity

Karen 93% Burman 4% Other 3%

Religion

Christian 37% Buddhist 49% Muslim 13%

Other 1%

**According to Verification Exercise conducted from Jan-Apr 2015 and subsequent data changes to-date*

Governance

The Ministry of Interior (MOI) is responsible for administration in nine camps. Mae La Camp Commander is the Deputy District Officer of Tha Song Yang District. A refugee Camp Committee is directly involved in camp governance, and received support from the Karen Refugee Committee.

A Thai Ranger Unit is stationed near the camp to monitor security. Territory Defense Volunteers, known as Or Sors, are employed and trained by the MOI to provide internal camp security.

Background

Mae La is the largest refugee camp on the Thai-Myanmar border. Established in 1984, its population largely comprises refugees from Myanmar who fled an armed conflict.

Mae La, known commonly amongst camp residents as Beh Klaw, has become a centre for educational and other community development activities, attracting refugees from other camps.



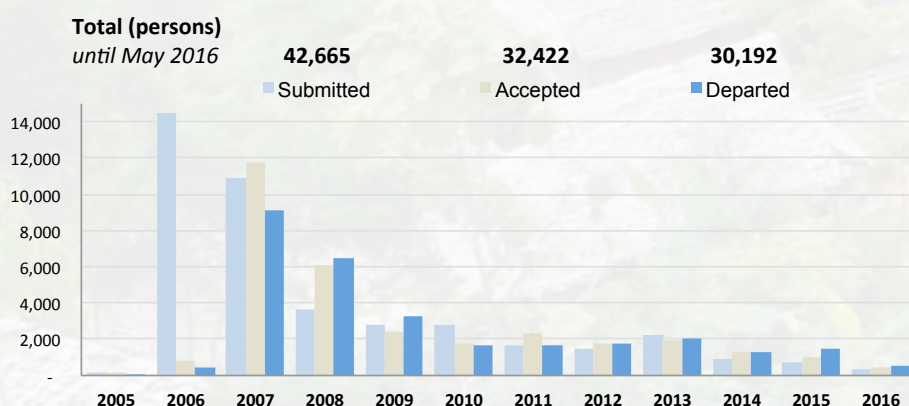
Location

Mae La camp is in Tha Song Yang District, approximately 8 kilometers from the Thai-Myanmar border and 57 kilometers from Mae Sot. It has a surface area of 454 acres (1.84 sq. km.) and is divided into three zones, which are further separated into sections.

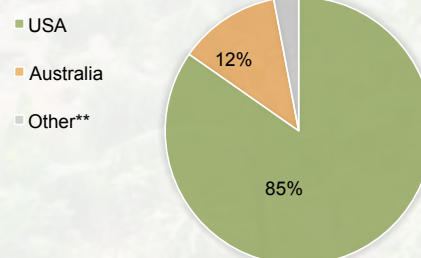
UNHCR Activities

- Ensure access to asylum, legal, material and physical protection.
- Work towards the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence and improve the quality of response.
- Ensure child protection through the promotion and application of a Child Protection Framework.
- Strengthen self-reliance and help secure livelihood opportunities.
- Secure durable solutions for all refugees from Myanmar.

Resettlement Statistics



Departures by Country of Resettlement until May 2016













**Norway, New Zealand, Canada, Netherlands, Ireland, Finland, Sweden, UK & N.Ireland and Japan

Access to Asylum

Thailand is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol and does not have legislation regulating the status of refugees. In accordance with MOI regulations, admission to the camps and access to asylum in Thailand is the responsibility of the Provincial Admission Boards (PAB). At the end of 2005, the Tak PAB, assessed the status of “persons fleeing fighting” and “persons fleeing political persecution” for thousands of asylum seekers in Mae La. Between 2005 and 2006 the PAB recognized virtually all of the unregistered population at that time.

With UNHCR support in 2012, RTG started conducting a "Fast Track" procedure that provides access to the PAB to the unregistered camp residents in the nine temporary shelters if they are immediate family members of those who were already resettled and/or of the registered camp residents who are in process of resettlement. There have also been submissions for persons with protection and medical concerns. This is not a general registration PAB exercise and the conditions are strict.

Humanitarian Organizations

 Health	
• Health information system and psycho-social support 	Premiere Urgence Aide Medicale Internationale (PU-AMI)
 Water, Hygiene & Sanitation	
• Community-based waste management	Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR)
• Water and sanitation	Solidarites International (SI)
 Protection and Community Services	
• Drug and alcohol abuse prevention	Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Education Network (DARE)
• Child protection, assistance for vulnerable individuals 	Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR)
• Prosthesis, disability social inclusion and mine risk education	Handicap International (HI)
 Registration	
• Registration and Status Determination 	Ministry of Interior (MOI)
 Shelter	
• Repair materials for shelters	The Border Consortium (TBC)
 Non-Food Items (NFIs)	
• NFI distribution	The Border Consortium (TBC)
 Food and Nutrition	
• Food distribution	The Border Consortium (TBC)
 Livelihoods	
• Agriculture and marketing for preparedness	The Border Consortium (TBC)
 Education	
• Education and vocational training	Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA)
• Educational libraries	Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA)
• Early childhood education and care	Taipei Overseas Peace Service (TOPS)
• Education, skills and knowledge building	World Education / Consortium (WE)
 Resettlement	
• Post-approval resettlement services	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
• The US resettlement service	IRC Resettlement Support Center (IRC-RSC)



UNHCR financially supported

For updated sectorial information from Mae La Camp, please consult: <https://www.unhcr.or.th> and <http://www.commonservice.info>