

Mae La Temporary Shelter

Profile



December 2017

Verified Population* - December 2017

36,613

Population profile

Gender

Female 51% Male 49%

Age

18 years and above: 57%

5-17 years: 34%

Below 5 years: 10%

Ethnicity

Karen 93% Burman 4% Mon 1% Other 2%

(Other ethnicities include Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Rohingya, Karenni, Naga, Leu, Bariba, and Tamil)

Religion

Christian 37% Buddhist 50% Muslim 12% Other 1%

**According to Verification Exercise conducted from Jan-Apr 2015 and subsequent changes in population*

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.

Voluntary Repatriation

Given the significant political and security changes taking place in Myanmar, preparedness for voluntary repatriation (VolRep) began in early 2012. Planning for VolRep has steadily increased following positive events such as the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement in October 2015 and the General Election in November 2015 which led to the formation of the new civilian government led by National League for Democracy (NLD). In order to support the preparedness for voluntary repatriation of refugees who reside in the nine temporary shelters, various tools and activities have been developed and carried out in close consultation with NGOs and the refugee community.

Facilitated return figures as of December 2017

Departed		Pending Departure	
Individuals	Families	Individuals	Families
0	0	115	33

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

- Facilitate the repatriation of persons who voluntarily want to return to Myanmar
- 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 the Child Protection Framework

Key Repatriation Activities

- Facilitated return including protection counseling support for persons with specific needs, mine risk education, organized transport, cash and NFI assistance
- Outreach activities e.g. focus group discussions, public forums and film screening
- Physical dissemination of information materials
- Stakeholders meetings
- Support for "Go and See" visit among the refugee community
- Cross-border dialogue through joint workshops, meetings and "Come and Tell visits"

Resettlement Statistics

Total (persons)

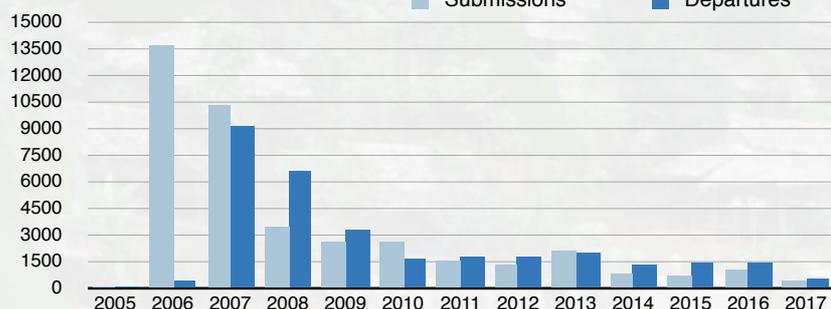
until end of December 2017

41,032

31,971

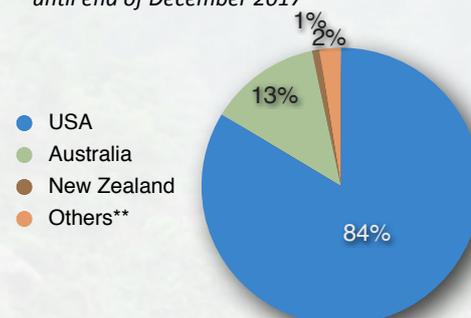
Submissions

Departures



Departures by Country of Resettlement

until end of December 2017



**Norway, Canada, Finland, Netherlands, Ireland, Great Britain, Sweden, Japan and South Korea

Humanitarian Organizations

 Health	
• Health services	International Rescue Committee (IRC)
 Water, Hygiene & Sanitation	
• Community-based waste management	Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR)
• Water and sanitation	International Rescue Committee (IRC)
 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)
• Mine risk education for voluntary repatriation 	Handicap International (HI)
• Legal Assistance Center and Promotion of Rule of Law (LAC)	International Rescue Committee (IRC)
• SGBV prevention and response	IRC Women Protection and Empowerment (IRC-WPE)
 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)
• NFI distribution for voluntary repatriation 	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
 Food and Nutrition	
• Food distribution	The Border Consortium (TBC)
 Livelihoods	
• Agriculture and marketing for preparedness	The Border Consortium (TBC)
• Small scale livelihood activities	Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR)
 Education	
• Education and vocational training	Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA)
• Educational libraries	Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA)
• Non-formal learning class (NFL) and recreation activities	Right to Play (RTP)
• Education, skills and knowledge building	World Education / Consortium (WE)
• Awareness raising	Film Aid
 Resettlement	
• Post-approval resettlement services	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
• The US resettlement service	IRC Resettlement Support Center (IRC-RSC)
 UNHCR financially supported	