

## Mae La Temporary Shelter

VERIFIED POPULATION\* (AS OF 30 JUNE 2019)

A total of **35,373** persons of concern to UNHCR

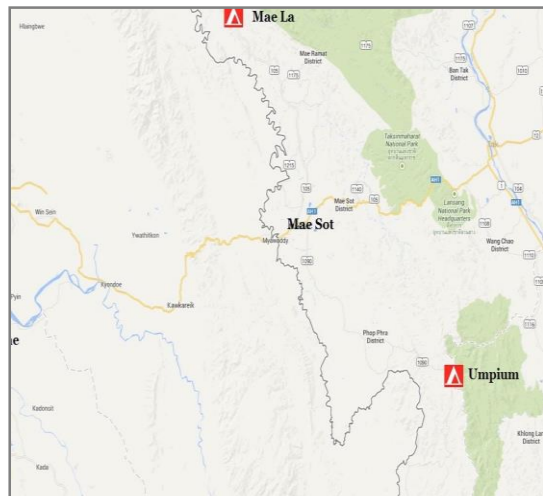
### POPULATION PROFILE

**Gender:** 51% Female | 49% Male

**Age:** 60% 18 years and above | 32% 5-17 years | 7% below 5 years

**Ethnicity:** 93% Karen | 4% Burman | 1% Mon | 2% Other

**Religion:** 37% Christian | 50% Buddhist | 13% Muslim | 1% Other



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

Mae La Temporary Shelter 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.

## Background

- Mae La is the **largest temporary shelter on the Thai-Myanmar border**. Established in 1984, its population largely comprises refugees from Myanmar fleeing armed conflict.
- Mae La, commonly known amongst its residents as Beh Klaw, has become a **centre for educational and other community development activities**.

## Governance

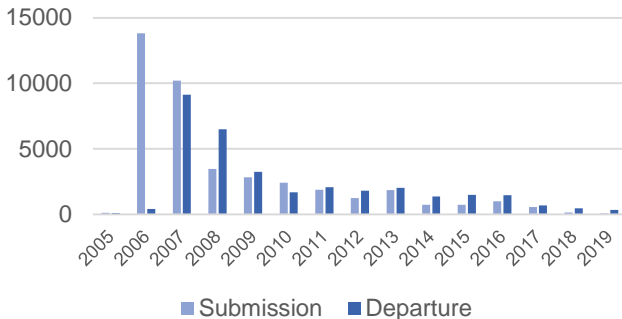
- **The Ministry of Interior (MOI)** is responsible for administration in nine camps. The Mae La Camp Commander is the Deputy District Officer of Tha Song Yang District. A refugee Camp Committee is directly involved in the governance of Mae La Temporary Shelter, receiving support from the Karen Refugee Committee (KRC).
- **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 security at Mae La Temporary Shelter.

## UNHCR Activities

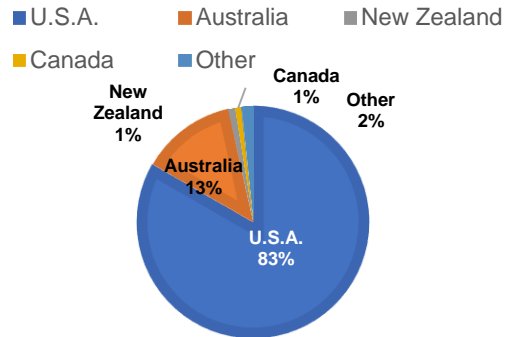
- UNHCR implements **protection activities** including facilitating refugees' access to the Thai justice system, addressing child protection concerns through its partner and conducting activities to prevent and respond to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).
- In line with amendments to the Civil Registration Act (2008) UNHCR continues to advocate to the Royal Thai Government (RTG) to ensure every child has their **right to birth registration upheld**. As of 30 June 2019, 6,738 birth certificates have been issued in Mae La Temporary Shelter.
- UNHCR continues to work closely with the Thai and Myanmar governments, the refugee community and other stakeholders to unlock a **multi-solutions approach** to find a dignified, sustainable and comprehensive end to the situation of protracted encampment on the Thai-Myanmar border.
- UNHCR works in collaboration with the Resettlement Support Center (RSC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and third countries' embassies on the **resettlement process for refugees** with serious protection needs including lifesaving medical care. As of end-June 2019, a total of 32,798 individuals have been resettled from Mae La Temporary Shelter.
- Through the Facilitated Voluntary Return (FVR) programme led by the governments of Thailand and Myanmar with UNHCR and other partners in support, UNHCR **facilitates voluntary repatriation** for Myanmar refugees who through their own initiative approach UNHCR and express their wish to return home. As of 30 June 2019, a total of 154 individuals (38 families) from Mae La Temporary Shelter have returned to Myanmar through the FVR programme.

## Resettlement Statistics

Total individual submissions (30 June 2019): **41,123**  
Total individual departures (30 June 2019): **32,798**



### DEPARTURES BY COUNTRY OF RESETTLEMENT (30 JUNE 2019)



## Humanitarian Organisations



### Health

- The **International Rescue Committee (IRC)**: health services

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- **Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR)**: community-based waste management
- The **International Rescue Committee (IRC)**: water and sanitation

### Protection and Community Services

- **Catholic Office for Emergency Relief (COERR)**: child protection, assistance for vulnerable adults\*
- **Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Education Network (DARE)**: drug and alcohol abuse prevention
- **Humanity and Inclusion (HI)**: mine risk education for FVR\*
- The **International Rescue Committee (IRC)**: SGBV prevention and response, access to justice and promotion of rule of law, psychosocial support



### Registration

- **Ministry of the Interior (MOI)**: registration and status determination for fast-track PAB\*



### Shelter

- **The Border Consortium (TBC)**: repair materials for shelters



### Non-Food Items (NFIs)

- **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**: NFI distribution for FVR\*
- **The Border Consortium (TBC)**: NFI distribution



### Food and Nutrition

- **The Border Consortium (TBC)**: food distribution



### Livelihoods

- **Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR)**: small-scale livelihood activities
- **The Border Consortium (TBC)**: agriculture and marketing for preparedness



### Education

- **Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)**: education and vocational training
- **Film Aid**: awareness raising
- **Right to Play (RTP)**: non-formal learning class and recreation
- **Save the Children (SCI)**: education
- **Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA)**: educational libraries
- **World Education (WE)**: education, skills and knowledge building



### Resettlement

- **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**: post-approval resettlement services
- **IRC Resettlement Support Centre**: US resettlement service

#### CONTACT

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