

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Landmine Information Received August 2012 – February 2013 **Compiled for UNHCR**

February 28, 2013

This briefing document analyses KHRG's field information gathered between August 2012 and February 2013. During this period, villagers trained by KHRG collected a total of 367 oral testimonies, sets of images and written documentation. In response to UNHCR's request, two KHRG staff analysed available English translations of 89 of these documents, as well as 47 sets of images; 17 of the documents raised concerns or dealt with issues related to the use of landmines in eastern Burma between 2011 and 2013. KHRG staff coded these documents for four categories identified by ICBL: (1) New use of landmines by armed forces and groups; (2) Marking, fencing and removal of landmines; (3) Human mine sweeping and forced mine clearance; and (4) Landmine casualties (death or injury). Documents were also coded for three additional categories determined relevant by KHRG staff: (1) Forced labour entailing landmine risks; (2) Movement restrictions resulting from landmine risks; and (3) Civilian use of landmines. Relevant excerpts from all 17 of these documents, 4 of which have also been published on the KHRG website in their entirety, are included below along with coding and remarks.

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Source Document #1: 2013/February/Nyaunglebin

KHRG	13-13-D1
	13-13-01
source:	
Published	Not published in full yet
as:	
Location:	Nga Law Teh village, Kyoh Pay Say village tract, Moo Township, Nyaunglebin District
Date:	February 2 nd 2013
Details:	On February 2 nd 2013, at 9:30 am, 22-year-old Saw A called Saw Y is the villager from P village, Kyoh Pay Say village tract, Moo Township and his parents are; Daw Tin Shwe and uncle Pah Toh Noh. He went and gathered firewood at Maw Lay called Kyaung Pya, stepped on the landmine on his way home, in the middle of the oxcarts road, which villagers travel back and forth along it on February 2 nd 2013, at 9:30 am. The Tatmadaw camp and the Karen National Union [Karen National Liberation Army] camp are situated in that area. Light Infantry Battalion [LIB] #599 bases at the Tatmadaw camp and KNU [KNLA] Column #1, which is under the control of KNLA Battalion #8, bases at KNLA camp. The villager was hit by the landmine between these two military camps and we did not know exactly whether it was an old landmine or a new landmine. The landmine hit his foot [left side] and caused the deep gash but a doctor said that it does not need to be cut off. This villager stepped on the landmine while many people and buffalos were walking behind and in front of him as well as oxcarts were driving [along the way]. I will send complete information with a next coming situation report.
Relevant Categories:	Landmine casualties (death or injury)

Source Document #2: 2013/February/Nyaunglebin

KHRG source:	13-25-P1
Published as:	Not published in full yet
Location:	H village, Noh Kay village tract, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District
Date:	January 20 th 2013
Details:	I took these photos on February 2 nd 2013. I took the photos of a person who stepped on the landmine at the Kawkareik hospital, the place where he accessed the treatment. The name of the person who stepped on the landmine is Saw K and lives in H village, Noh Kay village tract, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District. He is 36 years old and has got two children. He stepped on the landmine on January 20 th 2013 at Yaw Kuh Hkee [Yaw Kuh Hkee is a place which is close to L village] and he stepped on the DKBA [Democratic Karen Benevolent Army] landmine.

	Situation update written by a community member, H village, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District (Received in February 2013)
Relevant	Landmine casualties (death or injury)
Categories:	
Remark:	Photos available upon request

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Source Document #3: 2012/June/Nyaunglebin

KHRG	10 150 51
	12-150-S1
source:	
Published	"Nyaunglebin Situation Update: Moo Township, June to November 2012,"
as:	KHRG, December 2012, http://www.khrg.org/2012/12/12-150-s1/nyaunglebin-
	situation-update-moo-township-june-november-2012
Location:	Moo Township, Nyaunglebin District
Date:	June to November 2012
Details:	As I have reported, in the past, Burmese soldiers [Tatmadaw] and KNU [KNLA] soldiers used landmines as a tool of armed conflict; landmines still remain under the ground, [villagers] are afraid of landmines and dare not travel, so we can say that human rights abuses are ongoing. Villagers conditions, faced with things [difficulties] Villagers from the mountainous area and flatland area still live in danger, as some of them cannot travel freely. Front-line government troops have not returned [left eastern Myanmar to return to central military bases], so KNU [KNLA] soldiers still have to take care of the security for villagers, even though there is no more armed conflict. In addition, KNLA troops still use landmines, which is why [villagers] do not dare to travel and do livelihoods [activities] near military base camps.
	Situation update written by a community member, Moo Township, Nyaunglebin District (Received in November 2012)
Relevant	Movement restrictions resulting from landmine risks
Categories:	S S
	ıment #4: 2012/Julv/Nvaunalebin

Source Document #4: 2012/July/Nyaunglebin

KHRG	12-111-T1-I1
source:	
Published	Not published in full yet
as:	
Location:	D village, Ler Doh Township, Nyaunglebin District
Date:	July 24 th 2012
Details:	Could you tell me about your life experience when you came and lived in the place to where they [Tatmadaw forces] forced you to relocate? Which kind of life experience? Is it [the question] about like them asking us, our

Relevant Categories:	Forced labour entailing landmine risks
Delawart	Saw T (male, 46), D village, Ler Doh Township, Nyaunglebin District (Interviewed in July 2012)
	And also forced labour? Yes, everything. Starting from [19]77 when we came back and lived there, the elder people and our parents were asked to labour, " <i>Mwee Doo</i> ;" they called it " <i>Mwee Doo</i> ". They had to go and come back, go and come back, and they had to do it for three days [there and] three days [back] at that time [for a total of six days for each journey]. They had to go together with the military operation. After that, ever since we were grown up and understood things, there was forced labour constantly. They forced [the villagers] to go at night-time; even though there were landmines, they asked you to go. Even though you couldn't, they asked you to go in such way that you could go. They didn't want you to refuse. As there were landmines, which were planted by our ethnic people [KNLA], we didn't dare to go. Even though we were hit, they let us die like that.
	civilians, to do forced labour? About everything that abused your rights. Tell me about all of your experiences, like your livelihoods or your journey.

Source Document #5: 2012/August/Nyaunglebin

KHRG	12-134-S1
source:	
Published	Not published in full yet
as:	
Location:	Between Kat Pe Camp and Mu Theh village, Kyauk Kyi Township, Nyaunglebin District
Date:	August 8 th 2012
Details:	The Norway government has started sending the support [material aid] on August 8 th 2012. So far, the rice sacks just arrived at Hsaw Mee Luh base camp (Kat Pe base camp): the delay happened because people who transported the rice sacks by trucks had to repair the road and transport the rice sacks at the same time. At this time, just one truck was used for the transportation. One truck could transport 50 rice sacks. The truck came with five workers and one motorbike so that if the truck broke or needed some tools, they would go and buy them from Kyauk Kyi town. The Myanmar Peace Support Initiative staff [MPSI] paid 8,000 kyat for each rice sack when the truck was hired during the transportation process; they [trucks] have to transport them [the rice sacks] to Mu Theh. The workers got paid [directly] from MPSI staff; it [the payment] did not come through Burma government staff and Karen National Union [KNU] members.

At this time, there were many problems during the food transportation process: the vehicle road was ruined too much due to much rainfall and the workers and the truck driver had to patch up the vehicle road again and again.

The other problem is there is an anti-vehicle mine between Kat Pe base camp and Mu Theh village. This anti-vehicle mine was planted by Karen National Liberation Army Battalion #9 on October 2011. After KNLA soldiers planted this anti-vehicle mine, bulldozers constructed the road before Burmese [Tatmadaw] troops sent rations, so excavated soil covered this mine. A year ago, Burmese [Tatmadaw] sent rations but this mine has not exploded because the car road did not go straight over it. This year, the rain came too much and the soil was soft, therefore, a potentially dangerous problem might take place because of this mine. KNLA Battalion #9 soldiers marked the place where old anti-vehicle mine is when MPSI came [to Mu Theh area]. KNLA soldiers don't dare to demine this mine anymore because it was placed permanently [planted in such a way that it would definitely explode if a removal attempt was made]. If people detonate the mine, it will damage the road into two parts and trucks will not be able to travel along on the road anymore. Currently, there is the mark for this mine and people extended the road to avoid going through it. If [people] detonate this mine. 30 feet of road will be damaged. Therefore, the mine was marked; KNLA soldiers will consider about it to come up with a solution in the summer. Because people could not send the rice [to Mu Theh], villagers from Kheh Der village tract had to carry it from Hsaw Mee Luh to Mu Theh [then to their villages], it is about eight miles away from Hsaw Mee Luh to Muh Theh and the additional distance from Muh Theh to their villagers takes three hours. Even though the rice could not be sent to [Mu Theh by car], villagers kept an effort to carry it [by hand] by themselves.

Situation update written by a community member, Kyauk Kyi Township, Nyaunglebin District (Received in September 2012)

Relevant
Categories:Movement restrictions resulting from landmine risks;
Marking, fencing and removal of landmines

Source Document #6: 2012/September/Hpa-an

KHRG	12-142-D1
source:	
Published	"Landmine death and injuries, old mines continue to make travel unsafe in Hpa-
as:	an District," December 2012, http://www.khrg.org/2012/12/12-142-d1/landmine-
	death-and-injuries-old-mines-continue-make-travel-unsafe-paan-district
Location:	K village, Noh Kay village tract, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District
Date:	September 20 th 2012
Details:	Previously, on September 20th 2012, a man from K village, Noh Kay village tract, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District, also stepped on a landmine. The man, who is 46 years of age and named Saw B, suffered major damage to one side of his leg and the wound has not yet healed. In Noh Kay village tract area, the KHRG community member reported that, landmines have been

	 planted by the Border Guard and the KNLA. After villagers in the area became aware of the landmine incidents involving Saw P, Saw B, and the unidentified Tatmadaw soldier, local villagers from Htee Klay, Noh Kay and Htee Kyah Rah village tracts reported to the community member that they feel unsafe to travel and remain afraid of hidden landmines remaining in their area. News Bulletin written by KHRG based on information written by a community member, K village, Noh Kay village tract, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District (Received in November 2012)
Relevant	Landmine casualties (death or injury); Movement restrictions resulting from
Categories:	landmine risks

Source Document #7: 2012/October/Toungoo

KHRG	13-5-S1
source:	13-3-31
Published as:	Not published in full yet
Location:	E village, Than Daung Township, Toungoo District
Date:	October 28 th 2012
Details:	Burmese soldiers' activities and situation
	There are still Burmese soldiers' [Tatmadaw] activities in Toungoo District. If we look back, after the ceasefire between Burmese government and KNU, Burmese soldiers [demands for] forced labour on villagers has reduced. In November, and until now, Burmese soldiers are sending their food and they are also sending more soldiers. Moreover, they are sending more machines and ammunition. One good thing is now the Burmese soldiers do not force villagers to carry food; they send it by themselves. For machines, they sent them to Bu Hsa Hkee Camp. We do not know yet what they are going to use the machines for. On October 28 th 2012, the Burmese soldiers sent two bulldozers to repair the road. However, when the two bulldozers reached to E village, they drove on an old KNU landmine, so they went back. At the same time, the LID [Light Infantry Division] #66 Commander ordered village leaders to come and meet him on October 29 th 2012. The village leaders went and they [soldiers] said: <i>"The landmine exploded because the KNU was not faithful with their compromise."</i> Furthermore, they asked the villagers to talk out the old landmines because we also don't remember the place where we have placed them. The only advice is, if we not allow you to go so don't go. If you go and an incident happens, we cannot take any responsibility."

Township, Toungoo District (Received in January 2013)
Landmine casualties (death or injury); Movement restrictions resulting from landmine risks

Source Document #8: 2012/October/Nyaunglebin

KHRG	12-149-S1
source:	
Published	Not published in full yet
as:	
Location:	Daw Law Plaw area, on the border of Muh Theh village, Ler Doh Township,
	Nyaunglebin District
Date:	October 2012
Details:	Tatmadaw Activity
	There is no Burmese military that is active in the region to attack or to build a new military camp, but they only travel on the road and they rotate frequently. On October 2012, the government [Tatmadaw soldiers] who stay in the mountain [area], and set up their camp there, came and repaired the road in Than Boh for [sending] food. They then went to Muh Theh in October with three of their road construction vehicles, including two [Caterpiller] D4's and one [Caterpiller] D7. The D7 was hit by a KNU landmine on the border of Meh Theh [village], Ler Doh Township, in Day Law Plaw area. When their road construction vehicle was hit by a landmine, the Burmese military stopped at once, but on November 2 nd 2012, they continued forward towards Brigade #5. Situation update written by a community member, Ler Doh Township, Nyaunglebin District (Received in November 2012)
Relevant Categories:	Movement restrictions resulting from landmine risks

Source Document #9: 2012/October/Papun

KHRG	12-154-A3-I1
source:	
Published	Not published in full yet
as:	
Location:	B village, Kyaw Pah village tract, Bu Tho Township, Papun District
Date:	October 8 th 2012
Details:	What did they [Border Guard Soldiers] usually do when they arrive? They didn't do any special thing. They just came and visit. Like Major Kyaw win, he comes to visit his parent in law with his children and sometimes he comes to clear vegetation in his rubber plantation because he has a rubber plantation.

Does Kyaw Win is Battalion Commander?

Yes, he is Battalion Deputy Commander.

What is his Battalion?

He is [DKBA] K'Hsaw wah [white elephant] Battalion.

What is his Battalion number after he became BGF?

I don't know about that.

When you were their village tract leader, have they ever ordered you to come to a meeting where they scolded you or call meeting when they come to the village?

They do not usually call the meeting in the village. We have to go to the meeting in K'Ter Tee.

What did they say in the meeting?

They just say that now, it is peace time. They do not say any other special thing.

Did they frighten you in the past?

Two years ago, people had to porter for them at the mountain side and one person from our village was hit by the landmines and died.

What is the victim name?

Saw E---.

How old is he?

He is 38-years-old.

Was he married?

Yes.

How many children did he have?

He had three children.

How old is his oldest child?

His oldest child is properly five years old [now].

What about his youngest child?

	His youngest child is still nursing. I think over one year.
	Was he/she already born when his/her father died?
	Yes. The child was already born. I think he/she is two years old because his/her father died two years ago. When his youngest child was born, he went to porter. Then he stepped on the landmine and died.
	Saw E (male, 50), Kyaw Pah village tract, Bu Tho Township, Papun District (Interviewed on October 8 th 2012)
Relevant Categories:	Forced labour entailing landmine risks; Landmine casualties (death or injury)

Source Document #10: 2012/October/Papun

KHRG	12-154-P1
source:	
Published	Not published in full yet
as:	
Location:	Boh Hta village, Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Papun District
Date:	October 10 th 2012
Details:	These photos were taken by Saw W on October 10 th 2012. It shows the KNLA battalion #102, Company #3 taking out the [landmine] planted by the Burmese military in people's flat [paddy] field farm in Boh Hta village, Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Papun District region. They [the Tatmadaw] also did not let the villagers know that they had planted the landmine. They dug hole and planted it but when the birds find food, they unearth while finding food and it appears. Therefore, the villagers saw it and asked the KNLA soldiers to go and take it out. It is the KNLA trying to protect the villagers' lives and their livelihoods. Photos taken by a community member, Bu Tho Township, Papun District (Taken on October 10 th 2012)
Relevant	Marking, fencing and removal of landmines
Categories:	
Remark:	Photos available upon request

Source Document #11: 2012/October/Tantabin

KHRG	12-158-P1
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source:	
Published	Not published in full yet
as:	
Location:	Hkler La camp, Naw Soh camp and Bu Has Hkee camp, Tantabin Township,
	Toungoo District
Date:	October 27 th 2012
Details:	Photo #728-0177 to 0184 were taken on October 27 th 2012. The pictures show

	LID #66, based in Hkler La, sending food from Naw Soh to Bu Hsa Hkee front [line] army camp. LID #66 sent five trucks including three bulldozers. The other two trucks carried soldiers' food. After the ceasefire, the army sends food not as year by year [differently from previous years]. After the ceasefire, we can see that they send their food quickly. The KNU told them that there are still old
	landmines so don't go but they don't listen and send food by their own truck. Photos taken by a community member, Tantabin Township, Toungoo District (Taken on October 27 th 2012)
Relevant Categories:	Movement restrictions resulting from landmine risks
Remark:	Photos available upon request

Source Document #12: 2012/October/Hpa-an

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KHRG	12-142-D1
source:	
Published	"Landmine death and injuries, old mines continue to make travel unsafe in Hpa-
as:	an District," KHRG, December 2012, http://www.khrg.org/2012/12/12-142-
	d1/landmine-death-and-injuries-old-mines-continue-make-travel-unsafe-paan- district
Location:	M village, Htee Kyah Rah village tract, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District
Date:	October 31 st 2012
Details:	The KHRG community member reported that, in Htee Kyah Rah village tract, landmines have [previously] been planted by different armed groups, such as the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the Tatmadaw. These landmines have also injured members of these groups. One such incident occurred on October 31st 2012, at approximately 4:00 pm. An unknown Tatmadaw soldier from LIB #275 stepped on an existing landmine near M village, Htee Kyah Rah village tract, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District, while he was patrolling around. The soldier lost both of his legs from the explosion.
	member, M village, Htee Kyah Rah village tract, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa- an District (Received in November 2012)
Relevant	Landmine casualties (death or injury)
Categories:	

Source Document #13: 2012/November/Hpa-an

KHRG	12-142-D1
source:	
Published as:	"Landmine death and injuries, old mines continue to make travel unsafe in Hpa- an District," KHRG, December 2012, http://www.khrg.org/2012/12/12-142- d1/landmine-death-and-injuries-old-mines-continue-make-travel-unsafe-paan- district

Location:	T village, Htee Klay village tract, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District
Date:	November 1 st 2012
Details:	Old landmines that remain below the ground surface represent a risk that restricts local villagers' ability to travel safely around Htee Klay village tract, as unexploded landmines can remain armed and explode when one steps on them.
	On November 1st 2012, at 7:00 am, a 21-year-old villager named Saw P was leading his cow near T village in order to let the animal graze, when it stepped on a <i>taing</i> bomb [pressure mine]. Because of the impact from the landmine explosion, one of the cow's legs was destroyed. Additionally, Saw P was struck by shrapnel on the back his neck, the roof of his mouth and on his stomach; according to the community member who submitted this information, Saw P's bowels fell out of his body and he died one hour later.
	News Bulletin written by KHRG based on information provided by a community member, T village, Htee Klay village tract, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District (Received in November 2012)
Relevant Categories:	Landmine casualties (death or injury); Movement restrictions resulting from landmine risks

Source Document #14: 2012/December/Papun

KHRG	13-3-I1
source:	
Published	Not published in full yet
as:	
Location:	Beside C village, Hkoo Thoo Hta village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Papun District
Date:	December 28 th 2012
Details:	On December 28 th 2012, at 4:00 pm, Maung D went to take a bath from his house to Buh Loh River. A female buffalo stepped on the landmine and died by the landmine, which was placed by Karen soldiers beside C village while he was returning home after taking a bath. After the landmine exploded, LID [Tatmadaw Light Infantry Division] #44's LIB [Light Infantry Battalion] #9 ¹ Company Commander/ Camp Commander Ko Ko Lwin and Platoon Commander were near the confluence of Hkoo Thoo stream and Buh Loh river when Maung D there. They saw Maung D and they called him to come toward to them. When Maund D arrived next to them, Camp Commander Ko Ko Lwin punched his chest once right away without saying anything, in addition, Kyaw Thu punched Maund D's face ten times, so Maung D still feels serious pain, until now.

¹ While the community member wrote 'Infantry Battalion', it is more likely that he was referring to Military Operations Command (MOC) #9, as LIB numbers typically have three digits.

After Ko Ko Lwin and Kyaw Thu tortured Maung D---, [they] did not provide any
medicines or treatment for him. Maung D--- suffered with the painfulness and he
has healed it by himself with the leave of mullein and turmeric.He has suffered with this [the torture] because Ko Ko Lwin and Kyaw Thu
suspected and blamed him that he cooperated with KNLA soldiers and planted
landmines but actually, A is the villager, farm worker and does not know
anything. Ko Ko Lwin and Kyaw Thu punched him and he had to suffer it. After
he was tortured, he has to stay at home because he still feels pain.Incident report written by a community member, Hkoo Thoo Hta village tract,
Dwe Lo Township, Papun District (Received in January 2013)Relevant
Categories:Landmine casualties (death or injury)

Source Document #15: 2012/July/Papun

KHRG	12-140-S1
	12-140-51
source:	
Published	Not published in full yet
as:	
Location:	R village and N village, Bu Tho Township, Papun District
Date:	September 2011
Details:	Not only these problems were caused, but the movement of the villagers was also restricted. They couldn't travel out of the village so much. This is because there were always landmines outside of R village and N village. For example, in September 15, 2011, one of Saw G's cows stepped on a landmine and died.
	After the Karen National Union (KNU) arranged the ceasefire process, we thought that the villagers' livelihood would be a little easier, but if we look at the NPD [Tatmadaw] army threatening the villagers, the Border Guard ordering the villagers to do forced labour and the mother army [KNLA] going around and threatening the villagers, we will know that the villagers' lives are worse than before the ceasefire talk.
	Thein Sein's government and the mother organization leaders [KNU] held the ceasefire talk in order to stop the fighting but until now, we still can't live confidently without fear. It is not possible that the threatening of the villagers, the forced labour of the villagers and the landmines problems will disappear easily even after the ceasefire.
	Situation update written by a community member, R and N villages, Bu Tho Township, Papun District (Received in November 2012)
Relevant Categories:	Landmine casualties (death or injury)

Source Document #16: 2012/July/Papun

KHRG source:	12-140-S1
Published as:	Not published in full yet
Location:	Meh K'Naw village, Bu Tho Township, Papun District
Date:	October 12 th 2011
Details:	[Also], On October 12 th , 2011, Meh K'Naw villager Saw Ye's buffalo went to the western part of Meh K'Naw and stepped on a landmine and died as well. By looking at that we can assume that there are still landmines under the ground. But we don't know whether they are the KNLA's landmines or the Border Guard's landmines. Situation update written by a community member, Meh K'Naw village, Bu Tho Township, Papun District (Received in November 2012)
Relevant Categories:	Landmine casualties (death or injury)

Source Document #17: 2011/January/Hpa-an

KHRG	12-165-P1
source:	
Published	Not published in full yet
as:	
Location:	Te village, Noh Kay village tract, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District
Date:	January 1 st 2011
Details:	I took these photos on December 9 th 2012 in Te village Noh Kay village tract, T'Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District. The photos show Saw De, 32 years old. He was hit by the landmine on January 1 st 2011.
Relevant	Landmine casualties (death or injury).
Categories:	
Remark:	Photos available upon request