



THE BORDER CONSORTIUM E-LETTER

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The Border Consortium

The Border Consortium (TBC) works in nine refugee camps along the Thailand-Burma/ Myanmar border. TBC pursues change leading to durable solutions while ensuring a protective environment for displaced people of Burma/Myanmar. Our work is centred on the provision of food, shelter, and capacity-building support for the camp residents. TBC also endeavours to increase self-reliance and reduce aid dependency by promoting and supporting livelihood opportunities.

NEW NAME: THE BORDER CONSORTIUM



As the political environment began to change and improve in Burma/ Myanmar beginning with the elections in 2010, the potential need for the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) to be prepared to change its name was recognised. This became more important after being invited by the government to discuss the possibility of establishing a presence inside the country in September 2012. The choice of The Border Consortium (TBC) was pragmatic requiring only minor adjustments to the logo to ensure familiarity and continuity. The new name was approved by members at the Annual General Meeting held at the beginning of November 2012 and has been registered in the UK. It is now used for all legal purposes and the new name and logo is in use on all stationery, forms reports, signs etc.

NEW DIRECTOR

TBC undertook a comprehensive recruitment process for a new TBC Executive Director in late 2012. This process resulted in the appointment of Sally Thompson, formerly Deputy Executive Director. Sally has worked with TBC for more than twenty years. She begins her new role, with a three month handover from Jack Dunford, in January 2013. This appointment ensures continuity of purpose and commitment as TBC moves forward. TBC now bids farewell to Jack after his 29 years of service to the refugee communities on the Thailand's western border. His unwavering commitment to the rights of the refugees and the resolution of this protracted situation will remain embedded in TBC's philosophy.



Jack Dunford

Sally Thompson

NEW DIRECTIONS, NEW FOCUS

Strategic Plan 2013 to 2017

In response to the rapidly changing situation in Burma/ Myanmar, TBC began to realign its programme direction from 'care and maintenance' to 'preparedness for return'. Starting with a session at the TBC Annual Staff Workshop in June 2012 and ending with member consultations in October, TBC has undergone a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder consultative process towards producing a new Strategic Plan for the period 2013 to 2017. This process culminated in the TBC AGM where the new mission, vision, and value statements were adopted alongside the strategic directions, which are the core of the new five year Strategic Plan to be implemented in 2013. This Plan focuses on preparedness for return as well as the official establishment of a presence in Burma/ Myanmar for reintegration programming.

Preparedness Programme 2013

Although repatriation is not imminent, it is likely to become a reality within the next three to five years. In preparation for this inevitable return, TBC reviewed all its programmes during 2012 with a view to redesigning them in a way that will help to ensure that communities can prepare themselves for return and reintegration when the time comes. Some programmatic initiatives such as peace building support were implemented immediately. During staff workshops, TBC's Preparedness Programme 2013 was finalized.

A major change for TBC's programme is the prospect of working formally on both sides of the border. TBC believes that working on preparedness with both the displaced and the conflict-affected communities in areas of potential return is important for repatriation to be sustainable. Taking this approach TBC can leverage its longstanding trust relationships with partners on both sides of the border and its relief experience to facilitate linkages among people, information, and programmes.



COMMUNITY MANAGED TARGETING (CMT) UPDATE

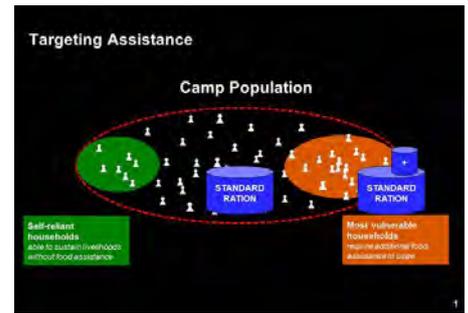
Since it was introduced in June last year, Community Managed Targeting of food assistance has been piloted in four of the nine refugee camps and will be rolled out to the remaining five camps in 2013. The CMT approach is based on approaches that have been used in emergency and refugee situations in Africa by a number of agencies and in Burma/ Myanmar by the World Food Programme. TBC has adapted the approach to the specific circumstances of the refugees in Thailand. The underlying premise of the methodology is that the communities themselves know their



Discussing CMT selection criteria in Ban Dong Yang

households and their economic situations intimately. It draws on community knowledge to

identify beneficiaries of the programme, thus empowering refugees to participate in decision-making that directly affects their current situation. Lessons from the first phase of implementation are being applied to the roll out process to other camps. One key lesson that TBC has learned is that for the process to be successful and for the communities to develop a sense of ownership and commitment to the approach, Community Mobilizers must be well-trained and the process must be fully participatory. It takes time and patience for the approach to be successful.



THE SHELTER PROGRAMME



TBC has had the responsibility of providing shelter to refugees since the first group of Karen people fled into Thailand in 1984. Since that time, regulations of the Royal Thai Government (RTG) have limited the materials that can be used for housing and other structures to bamboo and thatch. These materials must be purchased from suppliers outside the camps.

TBC has been increasingly linking its shelter assistance programme to livelihood opportunities and capacity development for refugees. The long-term objective is for refugee communities to manage targeted shelter assistance themselves, with enhanced capacities in assessing shelter needs, building and repair of dwellings, and producing housing materials with minimal environmental impacts. TBC aims to reduce the amount of materials procured each year and instead to source shelter materials either through refugee self-production (leaf thatch) or the growing of materials (bamboo nurseries). Environmentally friendly treatment techniques are being piloted. TBC also offers wide



-ranging training programmes to its shelter officers, stipend workers, volunteers, master builders, and Camp Committee members to increase community capacity in the housing sector. In 2012, TBC cooperated with *Open-Space*, a group of Thai architects, who offered training to stipend workers in design, planning, and drawing.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING AND TBC BOARD MEETING

These two meetings are to be held concurrently in Bangkok between March 18th and March 20th. The Extraordinary General Meeting includes all Consortium members from 10 international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from eight countries plus TBC senior management. The current TBC Board comprises five member agency representatives and two independent members.

TBC PROGRAMME REPORT

TBC's latest programme report for the period July to December 2012 is now available! The report provides extensive information on TBC's activities during the second half of 2012, as well as the context on the border and inside Burma/Myanmar. It also contains TBC's Preparedness Programme 2013. You can download the report [here](#) on the TBC website.

TBC is grateful for all contributions to its programmes for refugees in the nine camps along Thailand's western frontier and the internally displaced people (IDPs) in the ethnic states in South East Burma/ Myanmar. If you wish to make a donation, you can do so today through TBC's website [here](#). Thank you. We appreciate your generosity and commitment to refugees and displaced people from Burma.

