

Overview of TBA Project

- ❑ Context: Planet Care & Burmese Refugee Care Project
- ❑ Background of the situation within Burma
- ❑ Internally Displaced People (IDP)
- ❑ Backpack Health Worker Team (Backpack)
- ❑ Traditional Birth Attendant Project (TBA Project)
- ❑ How Can We All Help?



Burmese Refugee Care Project And the TBA Project

- ❑ The Mae Tao clinic, founded in 1988 by Dr. Cynthia Maung in Thailand on the Burmese border, today sees over 30,000 patients a year
- ❑ Dr. Ben Brown formed BRCP in 1989 after volunteering his efforts at the Mae Tao clinic
- ❑ In 2002 BRCP transferred its assets to Planet Care and formed a non-profit under 501c-3
- ❑ One of the projects that Planet Care supports and believes in strongly is the Traditional Birth Attendant Program

Background of Burma

- ❑ Once a wealthy country - known as “the rice basket of southeast Asia”
- ❑ Over 40 years of civil war--run by an oppressive military government
- ❑ Over 2 million persons are displaced (IDP) within Burma primarily on the Thai border
- ❑ Burma is 190 out of 191 World Health Organization States for Maternal and Infant Mortality Rates

People Flee From Their Villages



Villages are burned by the military government.



Internally Displaced People Living in Burma

IDPs live:

- ❑ In remote, rural ethnic areas
- ❑ Under constant threat of forced relocation
- ❑ In poor health with very little access to health care and education
- ❑ With lack of food, transportation & security



Many of the villagers hide in the jungle during the government troop operations. People cook in the early morning or the evening to avoid detection by SPDC

Backpack Health Worker Team

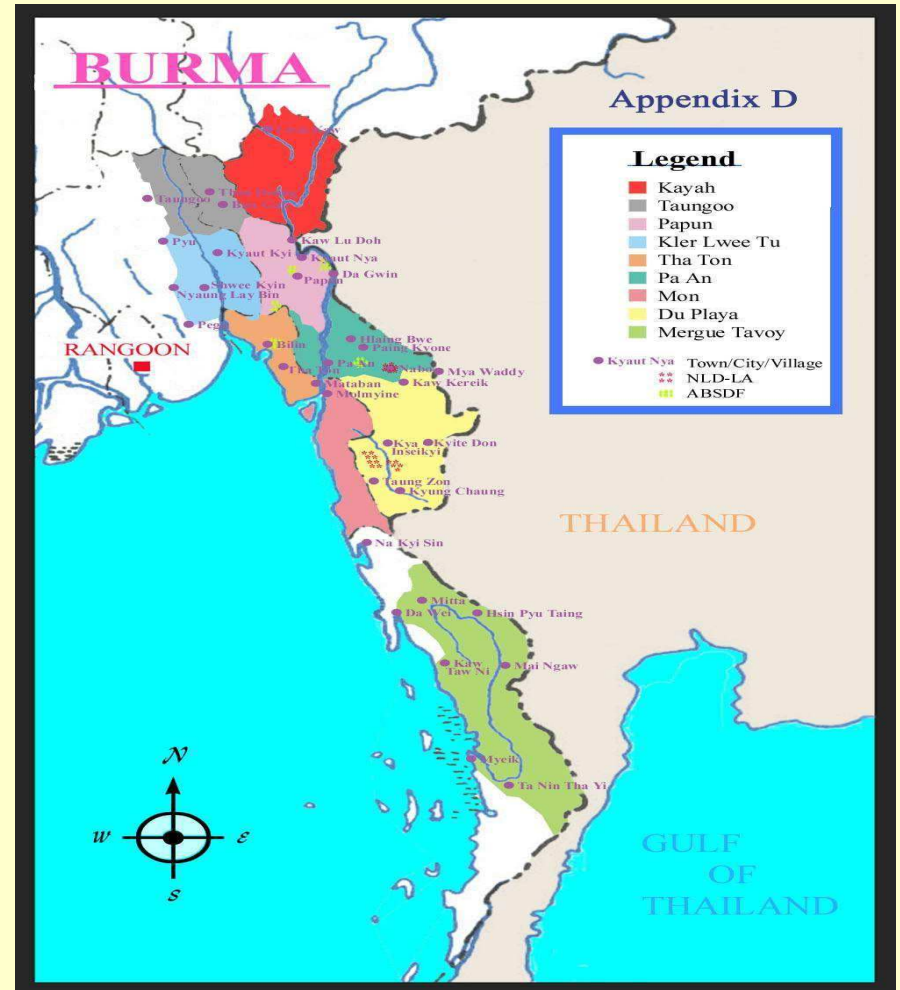
- ❑ Established in 1998 under the guidance and support of Mae Tao Clinic
- ❑ Formed by doctors and health workers from Karen, Karenni, and Mon states to provide health care to people in Burma with little or no access to government health services



Backpack Health Workers Go to IDPs in Burma



Backpack Health Workers travel to villages in Burma to see patients.



The Traditional Birth Attendant -- TBA Project

“The future belongs to mothers and children” – Dr. Cynthia Maung

- ❑ To provide TBA (midwife) training
- ❑ Since the year 2000, 200 TBA's have been trained. There are hundreds more to be trained.
- ❑ ‘Follow up’ workshops are held every six months



Objectives of TBA Program

- ❑ To improve TBA knowledge and skills of safe motherhood and child survival
- ❑ To provide essential equipment & supplies for safe delivery
- ❑ To strengthen the referral system in case of emergency obstetric care

Backpack Medics Train the TBA's



Backpack Health Worker Teams Provide TBAs with Essential Supplies for Safe Delivery

Maternity kits for each delivery

Towel, plastic sheet, sterile cloth and mosquito nets

TBA kits for 10 mothers

Sterile gloves, cotton, umbilical cutters & clamps and various medicines

Why is the TBA Project Important?

- ❑ High maternal and infant mortality in Burma, especially in the border region with Thailand
- ❑ Dangerous practices are used in birthing
- ❑ Poor access to health services (transport, security and cost) – virtually no local clinics
- ❑ Mothers prefer to use TBA
- ❑ The TBAs live there and are at hand when the babies are being born – the TBA Project helps them to be effective

Planet Care's Commitment

- ❑ Planet Care raises funds in the US to support programs of the Mae Tao Clinic
- ❑ Planet Care, its western helpers and doctors who provide TBA training are entirely volunteer and do not receive any of the funds raised by Planet Care
- ❑ 100% of all funds are sent to the Mae Tao clinic for the benefit of its programs including the TBA Project.
- ❑ Backpack Health Worker Teams will be responsible for purchasing supplies and providing the TBA training.

How Can We All Help?

- ❑ Donate to Planet Care
 - There are currently 20 teams with trained TBA's out of 60
 - By funding one team for \$2,300 - 80 to 100 mothers and 80 to 100 infants will have a better chance of living
 - This amounts to a little over Twenty-Five Dollars per birth
- ❑ Planet Care has found a donor that will match grants from Rotary up to \$20,000.
- ❑ The Rotary Club of Sebastopol Sunrise has granted \$2,300 to fund a team this year. Will you join us?
- ❑ For additional information contact Mikel Cook, (707) 823-2002 (h) or email at mikel@mandjcook.com

More Information

For more information, check these web sites:

Planet Care:

<http://www.planetcare.org>

Global Health Access Program:

<http://www.ghap.org>