



# Humanitarian Aid in Thailand

For over twenty five years, thousands of people have fled from armed fighting in Burma/Myanmar, crossing the border into Thailand. Since 1995, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) has been one of the major donors assisting the refugees and internally displaced people on the Thai-Burma border. In addition, the European Commission has also provided assistance during major natural disasters in Thailand such as the 2004 Tsunami and the floods of 2010.

## Responding to emergencies

The European Commission is providing €110,000 to the Thai Red Cross to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to people affected by the floods which inundated the north-eastern and central provinces in August and September 2010.

## Assisting refugees in Thailand

Some 145,000 Burmese refugees are living in nine camps spread along the Thai border. Many have lived in these camps for more than 20 years, and a whole new generation has grown up knowing nothing but the life inside a refugee camp.

The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) has been providing assistance to Burmese refugees in Thailand since 1995, funding mainly food aid, health care and the provision of clean water and sanitation. In 2011, €8 million has been committed to support the refugees in six of the nine camps, bringing the total funding since 1995 to some €103 million. Implementing partners have included the Thai Burma Border Consortium (TBBC), Aide Medicale Internationale (AMI), Malteser International, International Rescue Committee (IRC), ZOA and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee.

Key food items are provided for over 65,000 refugees in three camps: Mae La, Umpiem Mai and Nu Po. This is the biggest component of the assistance and is provided through the TBBC). 100,000 refugees also have access to basic medical services funded by ECHO in five camps, including immunization and mother and child care programmes. Health workers in the camps also receive additional training.

### EC humanitarian aid since 1995

In response to natural disasters	€ 650,000
To assist refugees	€ 103 million



Picture Credit: Mathias Eick, EU/ECHO

## From relief to self-reliance

Through funding instruments other than humanitarian aid, the European Commission finances basic as well as vocational education, livelihood and complementary health programmes for both refugees and people living in surrounding villages. This additional assistance totals some €45 million since 1995.

Resettlement in a third country is one option open to refugees and twelve countries currently offer the refugees the possibility of starting a new life abroad through a resettlement programme.

The international community and the Thai government endeavor to jointly identify more durable solutions for the refugees by assisting them to expand their self-reliance.

The Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) is part of the European Commission, the European Union's executive arm. It comes under direct responsibility of Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for International Co-operation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response. Through ECHO funding, around 150 million people are helped each year in more than 70 countries outside the EU through approximately 200 partners (international non-governmental organisations, the Red Cross/Crescent movement and UN agencies).

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