Background information

Since June 2013, UNHCR has been piloting a system to assess spontaneous returns in the Southeast of Myanmar, a process that may start in the absence of an organized Voluntary Repatriation operation. A verified return village, therefore, is a village where UNHCR field staff have confirmed there are refugees and/or IDPs who have returned since January 2012 with the intention of remaining permanently. During the assessments, communities are also asked whether their village is a refugee village of origin, by definition a village that is home to people residing in a refugee camp in Thailand. A village where UNHCR completes an assessment can be both a verified return village and a refugee village of origin, as the two are not mutually exclusive.

Using a “do no harm” approach based around community level discussion, the return assessment collect information about the patterns and needs of returnees in the Southeast. The project does not, however, attempt to represent the total number of returnees in a state, or the region as a whole. As of October 2013, the returnee monitoring project is underway in Kayah State, Mon State, and Tanintharyi Region, with plans to...
% of Assessed Villages in which key Services are available

- Market: 35%
- Reliable Water Source: 30%
- Health Facility: 25%
- Pre School: 20%
- Primary School: 15%
- Middle School: 10%
- High School: 5%

% of Shelter Types available in Assessed Villages

- Wood frame solid shelters: 90%
- Wood frame make shift shelter: 7%
- Others: 3%
- Brick or cinderblock shelter: 1%
- Bambo and Thatch: 0%

Average Distance to Services (Miles)

- Market: 11 miles
- Water: 6 miles
- Health Facility: 9 miles
- Pre School: 9 miles
- Primary School: 6 miles
- Middle School: 9 miles
- High School: 20 miles
- Court: 17 miles

Overview in Verified Return Villages

Presence of Vulnerable Returnees

- Unaccompanied Children: 10 villages
- Separated Children: 26 villages
- Unaccompanied Elderly: 1 village
- Female headed HH: 3 villages
- Disabled: 1 village
- Other: 2 villages

Identity Documents held by IDP Returnee

- Citizenship Scrutiny Card (CSC): 9 villages
- Family List: 2 villages

Identity Documents held by Refugee Returnee

- Citizenship Scrutiny Card (CSC): 4 villages
- Thai Birth Certificate: 1 village
- Family List: 2 villages
- None: 7 villages

Problems in re-occupying Land & Property

- Agriculture Plot: 4 villages
- Household Plot: 4 villages

Source: UNHCR
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