

Burma: 35 Solar Clinics & 2 Hospitals

Training and Installation of Solar Panels for Refugee Clinics

Training Location

Mae Sot village

Clinic Locations

Eastern Burma

Project Dates

December 2003-Current

Clinics Equipped

35 Clinics

2 hospitals

Medics Trained to date in

Solar

90

People Served by Clinics

Approximately 175,000

Equipment for Each Clinic

1 130W Solar Panel

1 Deep Cycle Battery

2 20W Lights

1 LED Light

1 12V Outlet

Cost per system

\$3000

Hospital Equipment

6 120W Solar Panel

9 Deep Cycle Battery

6 fluorescent 2 light

4 LED lights

2 12V Outlets

5 220 V Outlets

1 vaccine refrigerator

Cost per system

\$20,000



Training for Isolated Refugee Clinics

Now, Thirty Five remote clinics and 2 hospitals for indigenous Karen refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) have electricity for the first time, because of training and solar photo-voltaic equipment provided by Green Empowerment. The clinics, scattered over 600 miles in the jungles of eastern Burma, each serve 3,000-5,000 people, for a total of 90,000-175,000 people. All of the clinics are in a conflicted zone within Burma where indigenous people are resisting Burma's brutal military dictatorship.

The latest series of trainings in December 2007 completed the training and installation of, 2 solar powered electricity generation system's at two hospitals in Burma. Coupled with our local partners, from BGET, KDHW, and CIDKP, the training lasted two weeks and included solar theory, and maintenance, concluding in each case with the installation of both systems.

By December 2007, 35 clinics had training and supplies. The solar-electric systems provide lighting for night time medical procedures, and basic low-power medical equipment. The

clinics were chosen because they were in areas considered "stable." and less likely to be destroyed by Burma's military.

Critical Care for Burma's Refugee's

Medics walked up to two weeks to get to the training center on the Thai side of the border. There, instructors from Green Empowerment and it's partner organizations taught Karen medics how to build, troubleshoot, and maintain



photo-voltaic systems that provide lighting and electricity for medical equipment. The training participants then carried the solar panels and equipment for weeks to reach their isolated clinics. The solar systems allow medics to address night time emergencies, have lighting for medical procedures, use electric medical devices, power laptop computers and refrigerate vaccines. The medics build the systems themselves and are fully trained to install, operate, and relocate mobile systems, if needed for safety reasons.

Mr. Eh Kalu of the Karen Medical Welfare Department (KHWP), coordinator of the project said, "Our dream 10 years ago was to have some kind of lighting for these clinics, when we did the first clinics, I could only hope that we would be able to build so many more."





The clinics are located in Eastern Burma (or Myanmar) near the Thai border

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Burma's Refugees Live in Danger

The Eastern area of Burma (also known as Myanmar), has been under siege for the past several decades. Burma's military has been burning villages, raping women, forcing people into slavery and killing the indigenous people of the area.

Numerous refugee camps, the largest of which houses 45,000 people, line the border with Thailand. However, political developments between Burma and Thailand have made it increasingly difficult to reach Thailand. Consequently, about 1 million internally displaced persons live in hiding in danger from land mines and military action. One of the largest populations of IDPs is the indigenous Karen people. An estimated 200,000 Karen IDPs live on the Burmese side of the border.

Isolated Clinics Critical to Refugee Survival

The Karen that live inside Thailand support the establishment of the clinics to help the displaced Karen hiding inside Burma. These groups are the Karen



A landmine victim receives treatment

Health and Welfare Department (KHWD) and the Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People (IDKP). Over many years they have built up a network of medics and clinics operating inside Burma, supporting 75 surgeons, medics, and nurses. Malaria, parasites, diarrhea, pneumonia and blindness are all serious conditions that can be treated within the clinics. An eye doctor who works in the area is planning to visit each location and start cataract surgeries, in early January. Medics can use microscope during the night by using the power from the installed solar system.

Ongoing Medical Support within Burma's Clinics

With Eh Kalu and his network of clinics, we plan to conduct additional trainings and equipment supply next year. These trainings will be for the medics, and the people responsible for taking care of the existing clinic systems. The final result of the trainings will be a qualified group of medics capable of making the clinic system sustainable. We will also continue our practice of providing medical supplies, medical equipment and training along with the solar training and equipment.



Medics can operate microscopes both day & night

Thank you for your generous support.