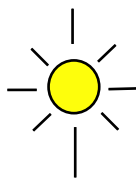




Green Empowerment
social justice - local leadership - sustainability



Thai Photovoltaics



**Burma Sustainable
Energy Project of
Palang Thai**

Karen Medical Welfare Department (KMWD) Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People (IDKP)

Burma Solar Clinic Project

Training and Installation for Refugee Clinics

Training Location
Mae Sot and village in
Tak Province, Thailand

Clinic Locations
Eastern Burma

Project Dates
August 2003-Current

Clinics Equipped
18 Clinics

People Trained
41

People Served by Clinics
3000-5000 per Clinic
54,000-90,000 Total

**Capacity of Installed
PV Systems**
2340W

Equipment for Each Clinic
1 130W Solar Panel
1 Deep Cycle Battery
2-3 Fluorescent 20W Lights
1 LED Light
1 12V Outlet
1 Charge Controller

Cost of the Project
\$55,712



Eighteen remote clinics for indigenous Karen refugees and internally displaced people now have electricity for the first time, because of training and solar photovoltaic 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 54,000-90,000 people. All of the clinics are in a conflicted zone within Burma where the indigenous people are resisting the army of the brutal dictatorship.

In August 2003 and March 2004, medics from each clinic walked up to two weeks to get to the training center on the Thai side of the border. There, instructors from Green Empowerment and partner organizations taught Karen participants how to build, troubleshoot, and maintain photovoltaic systems that provide lighting and

electricity for medical equipment. The training participants then carried the solar panels and other equipment back for weeks to reach their isolated bamboo clinics. The solar systems allow medics to address nighttime emergencies, have proper lighting for medical procedures, and use electric medical devices and laptop computers. Having built the systems themselves, the medics are fully trained to install, operate, and move the specially-designed mobile systems (if needed for safety reasons).



According to Mr. Eh Kalu of the people's organization, Karen Medical Welfare Department (KHWP), who coordinated the pilot project and organized the training, "Our dream 10 years ago was to have some kind of lighting for these clinics. And when we did the first clinics last summer, I could only hope that we would be able to do so many more." After the initial 2 clinics in August 2003, 16 more clinics have been equipped with solar equipment.

This project demonstrates how international solidarity can support medics courageously participating in a program to improve the basic living conditions of thousands of people living under a violent dictatorship.





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

This project was supported by:



Burma Sustainable
Energy Project of
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And the Generous Donors of:



Green Empowerment

140, SW Yamhill St.
Portland, Oregon 97204
Phone: (503) 284-5774
Fax: (503) 460-0450
www.greenempowerment.org

Burmese Refugees Live in Danger

The Eastern area of Burma (often referred to as Myanmar), along the border with Thailand is a zone that has been under siege for the past several decades. The Burmese military has been burning villages, raping women, forcing people into slavery and killing the indigenous people of the area.

In the past, it was sometimes possible to escape to refugee camps on the Thai side of the border. 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 (IDPs) live in hiding in danger from landmines and military action. One of the largest populations of IDPs is the indigenous Karen people. An estimated 200,000 Karen IDPs live on the Burma side of the border.

Isolated Clinics Critical to Refugee Survival



A landmine victim receives treatment

The Karen that live inside Thailand support the establishment of the basic clinics to help the displaced Karen hiding inside of Burma. These groups are the Karen Health and Welfare Department (KHWD) (not part of the government) and the Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People (IDKP). They have, over the years, built up a network of medics and clinics operating inside Burma. They support over 36 clinics with a roster of approximately 75 surgeons, medics, and nurses. The medics treat landmine victims and other casualties of the conflict as well as patients affected by malaria and other illnesses resulting from the harsh conditions.

The Solar Training and Installation

The medics operating in these rural clinics gathered at a training site in Mae Sot, Thailand, where they were fully trained in the installation, operation, and maintenance of the photovoltaic systems. After an intensive training where participants assembled and disassembled the systems, they carried the equipment back to their clinics. Each of the 18 clinics were supplied with solar panels to power florescent lights, LEDs, and 12V outlets for medical devices or laptops.

