



DARE Network 2015 Annual Report | Progress



About DARE Network

The civil conflict between the Burmese Military government and the ethnic minorities has been ongoing for over 60 years. It is estimated that more than 1.1 million people have been displaced due to constant human right abuses, persecution, and terror inflicted by the military forces. Myanmar is also one of the world's largest producer of methamphetamines. The production, distribution and forced use of drugs across Burma has been used to fuel war efforts and disable local communities for decades.

Today, human rights abuses and attacks on civilians in Myanmar continue despite democratic elections and ceasefires. The refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border, which house an estimated 130,000 people, have existed for over 30 years, and the addiction situation in the refugee camps is continually complicated by the mix of cultures, ethnic groups, anxiety about their realities, and past trauma. The 2012 ceasefire in some ways aggravates the situation further, as it has increased the safe passage of drugs from Northern Myanmar to Karen State and across the border into the camps, while funding reductions have resulted in an ongoing lack of food and decreased services.

Although addiction rates within the ethnic areas of Burma are estimated at 40-85% of the total population, DARE Network is the first -and the only- organization that comprehensively addresses substance abuse within the refugee, migrant, and village populations along the border.

DARE is committed to supporting and fostering environments free from substance abuse within these communities. For over 15 years, we have built our on-the-ground capacity, designed an internally sustainable organization, and treated over 3,000 people in intensive detox treatments; we reach thousands more each year in comprehensive prevention work. At the core of DARE Network's work are our intensive treatment programs for those primarily addicted to alcohol, methamphetamines, marijuana, opium and tobacco. DARE also provides an option for non-residential

DARE Network is a local community based organization. DARE Network provides culturally appropriate non-medical treatment and prevention education to reduce substance abuse and associated social problems within the communities of the displaced ethnic people from Burma, on both sides of the Thai/Burma border.

DARE Network envisions the strength of ethnic people from Burma to use the power of recovery from addiction as a means to freedom.

treatment, prioritizes relapse prevention with clients and family members, and focuses on the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse among youth populations.

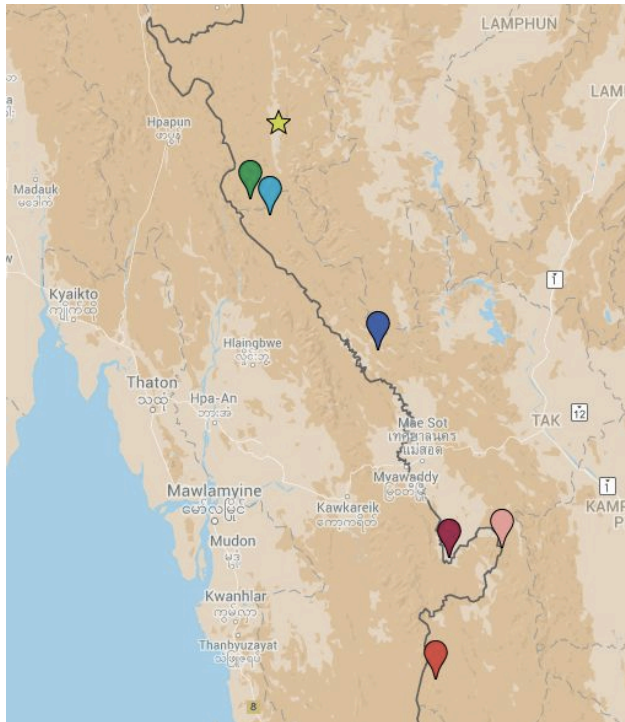
With a staff 98% comprised of workers who come from the ethnic populations of Burma, grassroots, culturally appropriate work is at the heart of DARE. We train local people to become addiction workers and master trainers to strengthen community resilience, our treatment is non-medical, and our prevention education programs are community based.

The 2012 ceasefire between the Burmese Army and the Karen Freedom Fighters has opened the door to a safe passage of drugs from Northern Burma straight to Karen State. Most rural villagers and refugees do not know that there is hope for recovery from addiction.

The DARE Network, by listening to, collaborating with and building the capacity of local people to provide culturally appropriate and necessary assistance, is working to provide an alternative.

Where DARE worked in 2015

Throughout 2015, DARE provided its services in 5 refugee camps and 1 migrant area on the Thailand/Myanmar border, providing an estimated target population of 200,000 people with intensive addiction detox treatments and comprehensive prevention education.



DARE locations

-  Mae La
-  Mae Ra Moe
-  Mae La Oon
-  Umpiem
-  Noe Poe
-  Phop Phra Migrant Center

 Mae Sariang Thai Central Office

40-85%

estimated percent of addiction rates in the ethnic areas of Burma

70-80%

community estimates for percentages of drug and alcohol users in Umpiem, Noe Poe, and Mae La camps

44%

of our DARE For All Volunteers in 2015 were teenagers

100%

of clients, volunteers, and family members visited by DARE throughout 2015 want their continued presence

60%

of clients treated at DARE centers in 2015 remain in long term recovery

"DARE Network benefit[s] everyone who accept their activities in the community. I have seen their activities make people[s] lives better... We hope that DARE Network will still [continue to] exist and to help the addicted people in our communities." - long term recovery client



DARE Network services for refugees and migrant workers

DARE Network is focused on supporting and fostering substance free environments within the refugee and migrant communities. We engage this work primarily by providing intensive 3-month residential as well as 6-week non-residential treatment programs, prioritizing relapse prevention with clients and family members, and focusing on the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse within youth populations.

ADDICTION TREATMENT PROGRAMS

DARE's addiction treatment programs are at the core of our work. We provide culturally appropriate, non-medical treatment for addiction through auricular acupuncture, traditional Thai massage, Burmese herbal medicine, and herbal saunas. Clients receive recovery education theory, relapse prevention, nutrition education, yoga, HIV/AIDS and gender based violence prevention education. Addiction workers also work with clients' families during this time, making sure that all members are ready for reunification and creating optimal circumstances for on-going recovery.



In the fiscal year of 2015, DARE treated a total of 271 people for addiction, and 60% remain in long term recovery.

COMPREHENSIVE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION WORK

DARE works through various support groups and regular activities to provide prevention education to youth, families, and community members within both the refugee camps and surrounding migrant populations. These activities fall under the DARE For All programming, which provide family centered, age appropriate services. In 2015, these included: Women's Support Groups, Men Working with Men for Happy Families, Teens for Kids, Ultimate Frisbee programs, prevention education in schools, family home visits, and community addiction worker training programs.



In the 2015 fiscal year, DARE ran 471 prevention education sessions, held 318 NA programs, and had 236 teenage volunteers assist various DARE For All activities, in addition to hosting several other community events.

ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY ADDICTION WORKERS

Our training of Addiction Workers, Master Trainers, and Addiction Trainers is essential work and is continuous throughout the year to maintain the sustainability of the DARE Network. Addiction workers are recruited from the local communities and undergo an intensive 6-month training period before becoming certified to provide the addiction theory and practical application of detox treatment DARE Network is built upon. In 2015, DARE trained and welcomed to our teams 27 new Community Addiction Workers.



About the Karen State expansion program: Step Back to Burma

There has been much international attention around Myanmar in the years following the ceasefire, alongside talks of progress, development and reconciliation. On the ground, the basis for these claims seems unfounded. It is clear that both the Thai and Burmese governments want the refugees to return. For the people of the Burmese ethnic minorities, however, civil war, substance addiction and human rights abuses continue to dramatically affect their lives.

It is likely that there will still be over 100,000 people in borderline camps for at least another year, if not two or three. To work alongside these upcoming changes, DARE's current strategic plan is built around a dual focus: maintain and expand. In 2015, we began expanding our services inside Karen State to build the capacity of the people to address the problem of substance abuse.

With the help of our partners, DARE accomplished several vital steps for laying the foundation of our presence inside Karen State throughout 2015.

- **We assessed:** We discovered the extent of addiction in Karen State, learned the areas of concern, and found that our programs are welcome by the Karen people and authorities.

- **We acted:** With the assistance of Karen Leaders we established a presence in 20 villages in Hlaingbwe District, where we worked with village heads to assess needs, educated about addiction, and identified 20 Village Coordinators for our programs.



- **We trained:** DARE Network Master Trainers and Addiction Trainers shared their knowledge to 15 new trainees who will begin work in the new DARE Centre in 2016.

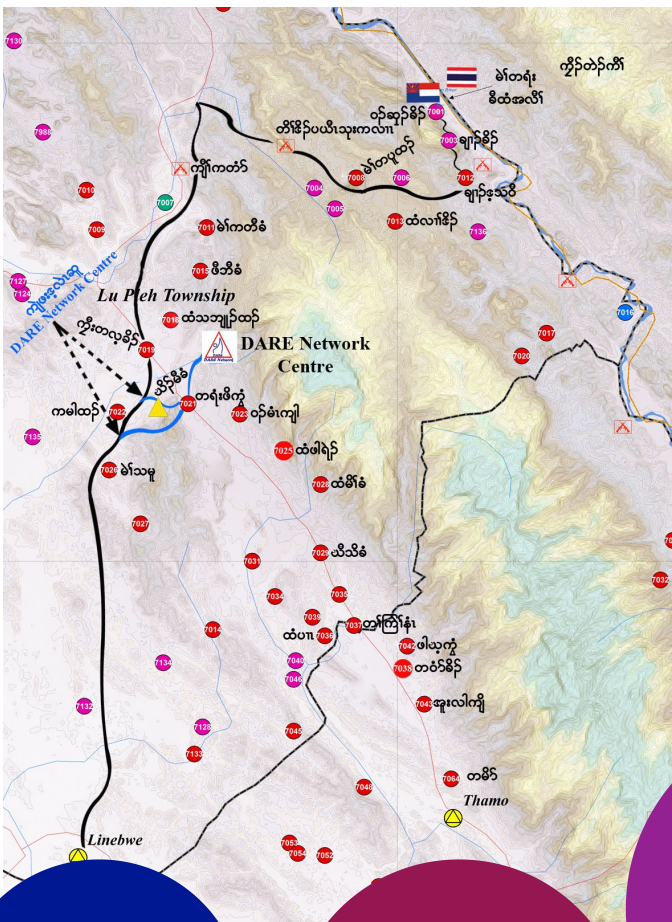
- **We treated:** DARE Addiction Workers supervised the trainees to treat their first clients in Mae La Camp, where the trainees were able to practice their knowledge safely and gain the confidence they need to join the DARE Network Team in Karen State.

- **We travelled:** The DARE Core Staff visited the 20 target villages several times to assess, introduce prevention methods, build relationships, reach agreements, find a home for the new treatment centre, and to learn. We met with funders and CBO partners to learn about the possibilities of networking and helping each other in 2016 and beyond.

"Our people face drug problems [and] they need our help. We want to go back and work together in Karen State... We want our people free from drug issue[s] and to get treatment [and] prevention education." - DARE addiction workers

Step Back to Burma: 2015 groundwork

In mid-2016, DARE will treat its first round of clients at our new treatment center inside Karen State. Here's what happened in 2015 to prepare our teams.



20
Village Coordinators recruited across Hlaingbwe District

15
new addiction workers certified at Mae La Camp and sent to the inside

1
new addiction treatment centre set to open in May of 2016

39
total DARE team members inside Karen State



ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

Myanmar is one of the world's largest producers of methamphetamines. The production, distribution and forced use of drugs across Burma is used to fuel war efforts and disable local communities, and the drugs are often disguised in candy wrappers, putting even children at great risk for substance addiction. Addiction rates are as high as 85% in some areas. A prominent Karen National Union leader has stated about many parts of Karen State, "the only people not using methamphetamines are babies and old people."

In 2015, DARE began an expansion in its programming, long anticipated by our staff, to include services specifically designed for Internally Displaced People within Myanmar. DARE Network's expansion is now the first comprehensive, local addiction prevention education and treatment program delivered by indigenous people in Karen State.



MEASURABLE OUTCOMES, SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

In 2015, DARE served thousands of people along the Thai-Burma border.

271

clients treated in residential and non-residential programs

6,637

home visits made, reaching 20,079 people

20,447

people reached in 471 prevention education sessions

279

DARE For All program volunteers, 236 of whom were teenagers

181

clients referred themselves to DARE

30

people came from Myanmar to be treated at DARE centres

60%

of DARE clients treated for addiction in 2015 remain in long term recovery



Without DARE, hundreds of those struggling with addiction would have nowhere to go for treatment, while thousands more would remain unaware that there is help and hope for recovery.

"I'm so glad to see his life changing and [him] free from drug[s] [and] alcohol. [Since his treatment] We got back peace and rebuilt a healthy home in our family. The activities of DARE Network have a lot of benefit[s] for addicted people and also [for] other people who never use drug[s], alcohol in their life time. I have learnt a lot of topics about how to avoid and live free from drugs [and] alcohol after DARE addiction workers gave education in the community." – Long term recovery client

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015

TOTAL REVENUES: 7,573,504.65 Thai Baht (฿)

Contributions : ฿ 7,573,504.65

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: ฿7,424,258.00

Human Resources : ฿ 2,781,200.00

Traveling Expenses : ฿ 1,413,643.00

Equipment and Supplies : ฿ 2,086,215.00

Local Office and Action Costs : ฿ 172,791.00

Direct Program Costs : ฿ 970,409.00

2016 BALANCE FORWARD: ฿3,047,587.55

2015 Total Contributions : ฿ 7,573,504.65

2015 Balance Forward + ฿ 2,898,340.90
฿10,471,845.55

Contributions + 2015 Balance Forward : ฿10,471,845.55

2015 Total Expenditures - ฿ 7,424,258.00

2016 Balance Forward ฿3,047,587.55

DARE Network 2015 Funders

APHEDA/ANCP, Australia

British Columbia Government Employees
Union, Canada

Canada Club Thailand, Thailand

Child's Dream, Thailand/Switzerland

Friends of DARE Network, Canada

GlobalGiving, USA

Primates World Relief and Development
Fund, Canada

Refugees International Japan, Japan

Thai Oilmen's Charity, Thailand

Ultimate Frisbee Project: Soidawgz
Ultimate Team, Bangkok

Many dedicated individual donors from around the world

Resettled Burmese Refugees from around the world

OUR ORGANIZATION

DARE Network 2015 Core Team



Law La Say, Program Coordinator

Pam Rogers, Capacity Advisor/Addiction Trainer

Major, Assistant Program Coordinator

Kiri, Logistics Manager

Det Sot, Addiction Services Supervisor

Chaw Sue, Master Trainer

Ray Poe, Master Trainer

Pi Pi, Burma Assistant Coordinator

Sivalee, Thailand Liason Officer

Hai Law Lay, Karen State Liason Officer

And our many dedicated Community Addiction Workers, Addiction Trainers, community volunteers, and clients, without whom our work wouldn't be possible.



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DARE Network greatly appreciates the support we receive from our many funders, family and friends. 2015 marked a very exciting year for us as we launched our Karen State project. This wouldn't have been possible without your support.

DARE envisions Step Back to Burma will continue into the foreseeable future and become embedded in the communities in Karen State. It may be possible at some point to reach other parts of Burma. Our team is ready to integrate our refugee camp staff into this project when repatriation occurs, alongside this continuum.

To do this to the best of our ability, we need your help.

To donate to DARE Network, visit our website at: www.darenetwork.com

To contact the DARE Network Staff, email: drugfree@darenetwork.com

