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. The returnee monitoring project has been underway in Kayah State, Mon State and Tanintharyi Region since June 2013, and expanded to Kayin State in December 2013.

Total Assessments 96
Verified Return Villages 40
Refugee Villages of Origin 56

Verified Return Villages by Township

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Township</th>
<th>IDP Returnee</th>
<th>Refugee Returnee</th>
<th>Both IDP &amp; Refugee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dawei</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myeik</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palaw</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taninthary</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thayetchaung</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bokpyin</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yebyu</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>3298</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No. of Returnees in assessed villages by Township

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Township</th>
<th>IDP Returnee</th>
<th>Refugee Returnee</th>
<th>Both IDP &amp; Refugee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dawei</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myeik</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palaw</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taninthary</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thayetchaung</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bokpyin</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yebyu</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>3298</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verified Return Villages by Type

IDP Returnee 72.5%
Refugee Returnee 22.5%
Both IDP & Refugee Returnee 5.0%
Overview in Verified Return Villages

% of Assessed Villages in which key Services are available

- Market: 1%
- Reliable Water Source: 32%
- Health Facility: 8%
- Nursery School: 18%
- Primary School: 32%
- Middle School: 8%
- High School: 1%

Needs

- Community (Assessed Villages)
  - Livelihood: 52%
  - Health facility: 34%
  - Skill: 39%
  - School: 18%
  - Water point: 16%
  - Medical supplies: 14%
  - Shelter: 7
  - Latrines: 0

- Returnee (Verified Return Villages)
  - Shelter: 23
  - Kitchen sets: 13
  - School: 8
  - Food: 6
  - Waterpoint: 1
  - Medical supplies: 1
  - Health facility: 1
  - Farming tools: 0

% of Shelter Types available in Assessed Villages

- Bamboo and Thatch: 100%
- Brick or cinderblock shelter: 8%
- Others: 0%
- Wood frame make shift shelter: 0%
- Wood frame solid shelters: 0%

Overview in Verified Return Villages

Presence of Vulnerable Returnees

- IDP Returnee
- Refugee Returnee

- Unaccompanied Children: 4
- Separated Children: 4
- Unaccompanied Elderly: 2
- Female headed HH: 2
- Disabled: 1
- Other: 0

Identity Documents held by IDP Returnee

- Citizenship Scrutiny Card (CSC): 5
- Family List: 1
- Birth Certificate: 3

Identity Documents held by Refugee Returnee

- Unknown: 13
- Citizenship Scrutiny Card (CSC): 5
- Thai Birth Certificate: 3
- Family List: 6
- None: 9

Problems in re-occupying Land & Property

- Agriculture Plot: 8
- Household Plot: 7

Source: UNHCR

For more information, contact: KEODH@unhcr.org