



## Situation report No. 7

Of

Karuna Myanmar Social Services – Banmaw diocese,

Emergency humanitarian assistance to the Refugees and Internal Displace people (IDP)

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### Executive summary:

The objective of this paper is to describe the humanitarian situation in Banmaw district areas of northeast Myanmar following the outbreak of hostilities in June 2011. Since mid-June, some 40,000 civilians have become displaced in Kachin State and northern Shan State. The essential aid to the affected people have been channeled to the areas that are not currently controlled by the government and controlled by government. To the areas not controlled by the government where the discrepancy between aid and needs are largest.

Until now, very little international support has been supplied in areas controlled by the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) to local non-governmental organisations that are providing relief to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

Until now, one of the main source of support for the IDPs in Banmaw district is Karuna Banmaw, humanitarian assistance have been given to the IDPs for at least 6 months, that includes building camps, providing food, and medical help, education and providing non food items (NFI) all free of charge. This is an unsustainable situation.

Number of IDPs grow very rapidly from the month of November, 2011 that makes huge gap of humanitarian aids requirement. Urgent need to set up temporary camps inside China and many shelters need to be extended inside government control areas because many IDP came out from the jungle where they have been hiding until the government troops deployed into their areas.

### Condition of War

On 12 December, media reports quoted a spokesperson of the President office in Naypyitaw as saying: "The president instructed the military on Saturday not to start any fighting with the KIA (Kachin Independence Army) in Kachin State, except for self defence. All military commands were sent the president's instruction."

Against the order of Resident Thein Sein fightings continues in Banmaw Laiza road and Banmaw Loi Je road. Fighting becomes more severe and more intense from 25 December, 2011 and many Burmese soldiers are sent to those areas as reinforcement where fighting happens every day. Continuation of fighting will take longer time and to return home by the displaced people is still out of their dream.

### Humanitarian Issues

#### *Settlement conditions*

Living condition of the camps in China, Yang Luk camp, Law Hpai camp and Je Gau camp are overcrowded. These include not enough roofing, nicket floor inside the camps, limited number of toilets, for instance, La Ying camp in China has very limited water source for over 1000 population where the Chinese government government doesn't allow any NGO or INGO to openly help the refugees. Children are not entitled to have education or there is limitation to open even temporary school in the camps.

The camps situated in Banmaw, Momawk, Shwegu and Nang Hlaing villages are constructed according to SHPERE guiding principles and many

## Health

There is no serious outbreak of health situation in any IDP camp except the common deceases like diarrhoea, malaria and flu. These locations lack sufficient privacy for IDPs and create an increased risk of communicable disease outbreaks. The main issues that need to be addressed



very quickly are Limited space for the pregnant women in the shelter, no means or no rights of access to hospital as refugees in China land for delivery and limitation of medicine supply in the camps.

*\* Health care service was given as soon as war broke out.*

KBSS has assigned health care doctors and nurses for every IDP camps with volunteer contract to work at least for four month basic, in addition to that there are also health care nurses from



government hospital who are also assigned by the government in some IDP camps in the town. All the medical services to the IDPs are given with free of charge.

The cost for medical supply to the camps is getting very high because people have been suffering from various deceases for many years but no chance of getting proper medication and access to get proper medical treatment in the jungle and in the villages is very difficult. When the doctors and nurses do proper medical checkup they all are more or less already embraced serious deceases, like the women who already have more than 9 children but continue to have a child, suffering from tuberculosis, HIV& AIDS, Skin deceases and etc.

## Education



Thses are a large number of young children among the IDPs. Karuna Banmaw has build one boarding house and four schools, providing primary and basic education. The schools are run by the government teachers from the Education Department. KBSS has run the schools in Prang Hku Dung village and Mahtang village from the

month of July but because of the serious fighting between Burmese army and KIA all those school were forced to close down in November 5<sup>th</sup> 2011 and all the students, over 400 students, scattered to various IDP camps.



*\*KBSS arranged teachers for the schools where government teachers are not able to continue teaching.*

*\*Prang Hku Dung school, Lu Su Pa School and Mahtang school but when government troops started shelling motors to those areas all the schools were stopped and now the students are in the IDP camp.*



There is no opportunity to continue education for the students who are now staying in the IDP camps of China Border areas and inside China, over 2000 students (our own estimation in KBSS camp alone) have no way to continue attending schools for this academic year.

The IDPs, who have education background at least to give basic education were organized in every camp to teach the students in the camps like Yang Luk camp, Law Hpai camp and Nga Nawng Pa camp in China are now able to give education to the students with a very limited permission. Temporary education system and Child Friendly Space (CFS) program are very essential to set up in the camps where resources are very limited, like Je Gau camp in Nhkawng Pa areas, La Ying Camps in China and La Na Pa camp.

- List of Boarding house and schools for the IDP students in Banmaw areas under the management of Karuna Banmaw are as following;

No.	Name of the school	Name of Boarding house	Location of the school	Number of students
1.		Banmaw IDP boarding	Banmaw	41
2.	Chyari school		Momawk IDP camp	21
3.	Goi Kahtawng school		Momawk IDP camp	
4.	Kyawk SaHkan school		Momawk IDP camp	13
5.	Lu Su Pa School		Loi Je	
6.	AD 2000 school	Banmaw RC camp		289

## **Livelihoods and Food Security**

The large majority of the IDPs are subsistence farmers. The crisis started just before the rice planting season, but IDPs had to leave their fields behind unattended. If people are unable to prepare for planting rice in the coming month, they will face food shortages in the future, even if the conflict is solved soon.

There is no work for IDPs in Banmaw, Momawk, Shwegu, Mansi, Nang Hlaing, Je Gau, Nga Nawng Pa, Nangdao, Man Wing Gyi and for the IDP in La Ying camp. Therefore they do not have any daily income. But from the month of October, 2011 Metta development foundation started providing 40000 Kyats for one family for every month in Banmaw camp, Momawk camp, Mansi camp and Shwegu camp, with that money they are able to cover the expenses in their family.

Access to fuel wood for cooking is also a problem. For reducing of fuel wood for cooking KBSS is trying to practice collective kitchen system where the IDPs cook food for all the people in the camp, cooking three meals a day.

Four months, July to October 2011, supporting of food to the IDPs has done by Karuna with the contribution of generous donors. For two months, November and December 2011, WFP has distributed food for the IDPs in Banmaw, Momawk, Shwegu and Mansi for two months though no future promise is given for the coming months. KBSS has to continue supporting Food in the border areas, especially supporting food to the 1409 IDPs in Man Wing Gyi village is fully rest upon Karuna Banmaw because there is no organization or very little donors coming to help the camp up to now.

### **Challenges:**

Failure of peace talk between Burmese government and KIA is the biggest challenge that creates other aspect of challenging difficulties.

1. Number of IDPs increase in Banmaw district that demands new camps to set up in many places with a very limited budget,
2. As war intensifies and getting closed to the IDP camps in the border areas, IDPs are require to move their shelter to new places. Many IDPs have to prepare for moving into China land but on the other hand Chinese government do not welcome the refugees in their land, the people who are already in China land are also questioned and checked by the Chinese authority, everyday.
3. The ways or the roads to pass to the border areas are mostly already closed; there is very little possibility to go the camps in Border areas and inside China.
4. To get fire wood for the camps, especially camps in China land, to give necessary medical supply to the IDP camps, to give daily expense for Kitchen use, to support food to the IDP camps inside China are some of major challenges encountering everyday by camp managers and the responsible people of the camps.
5. 24 hours nonstop working condition makes the staff and the volunteers tired, they need to have complete rest time but no way to get rest time.

6. Medical supply to the camps is becoming very difficult as the number of patients increase.
7. Most of the camps built only with tarpaulin are now necessary to be replaced with stronger roofing and some shelters are now essential to badly needed to be repaired.
8. As summer season is getting closer in our country people in many camps started to face water scarcity like Banmaw, Man Wing Gyi, La Ying and camps in Nangdao village, China.
9. There is no continuous staff capacity building or camp management skill trainings, therefore new staffing is difficult but which is essential.

- List of New camps in Banmaw areas from November, 2011.

No.	Name of Camp	Location	Date of settlement	Total family	M	F	Total IDP	Remark
1.	Nga Nawng Pa camp	Nangdao, China	17/ 11/ 2011	181	400	509	909	<i>Directly manage by KBSS</i>
2.	Law Hpai camp	Nangdao, China	2/ 12/ 2011	145	280	356	636	<i>Directly Manage by KBSS</i>
3.	Yang Lu camp	Nangdao, China	2/ 12/ 2011	255	494	603	1097	<i>Jointly management with local committee</i>
4.	Man Wing Gyi camp	China boarder	17/ 11/ 2011	327	499	864	1363	<i>Newly built camp</i>
5.	Nam Kham camp	Shan north	2/ 12/ 2011	97	157	312	469	<i>Newly built camp by KBSS and later handed over to Karuna Lashio</i>
6.	La Ying camp	China	3/ 12/ 2011	46	114	117	231	<i>Newly built camp</i>
7.	Loi Je camp	China border, Loi Je town	18/ 11/ 2011	47	91	106	197	<i>Newly built camp</i>
8.	Je Gau camp	China Border, Prang Hku Dung Parish	4/ 12/ 2011	433	878	994	1872	<i>Manage with local CBO, Newly built camp</i>
9.	Nang Hlaing camp	Nang Hlaing village, near Banmaw	29/ 11/ 2011	20	38	48	86	<i>2 months</i>
10.	Banmaw camp	Karuna Office	9/11/2011	277	384	643	1027	<i>2 months</i>
11.	Momawk camp	St. Patrick Church	7/8/2011	191	291	420	711	<i>4 months</i>
12.	Shwegu camp	Catholic Church	10/8/2011	13	14	28	42	<i>4 months</i>
Total				2032	3640	5000	8640	

The number of IDP in China border area has over 17000 IDPs and there are 6606 IDPs inside government control areas like Banmaw town, Momawk town, Mansi town and Shwegu town. Thus, generally, the total number of IDP in Banmaw diocese has over 23000 people but the number does not include the IDP in Laiza areas where according to KIA they have ..... IDPs. The list of IDP camps shown above table reflects only the IDPs who are the direct and indirect beneficiaries of Karuna Banmaw, Catholic social organization, throughout the conflict. After the present re enforcement and severe attack by the Burmese military soldiers in various areas the number of IDP grows every day.

Burmese government estimated the number of IDP inside government control areas like Banmaw town, Momawk town, Shwegu town and Mansi town has 6606 people, as of the data collected on 6/12/2012. For the IDPs in government control area United Nation World Food Program has provided food for two months, November and December 2011, and there is possibility to provide in the coming months also.

- *Yang Luk camp in China, in Nangdao area.*



- *Nam Kham camp was completely constructed by Karuna Banmaw with the permission of the diocesan Bishop Philip and with the agreement of Parish Priest of Muse. Only when everything is properly arranged the camp was handed over to Karuna Lashio. To hold all the IDP in Man Wing Gyi village is becoming very difficult and there is not enough space to arrange shelter in the village, therefore after negotiation with the government and with Karuna Lashio, Karuna Banmaw moved some IDPs to Nam Kham but the IDPs are from Kachin state.*



- *Sang Gang camp in the jungle. These people are from the village of Sang Gang where war broke out on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2011. This place is the third place that the people have moved into on October, 2011.*



- *Je Gau camp where 1807 IDPs from Prang Hku Dung parish, from around 30 villages, are taking refuge inside the jungle, near China border where very few people can go and see. Karuna Banmaw work together with the local women group and village leaders.*

- *Celebration of Christmas has taken place on 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 in Je Gau camp. Thousand of IDPs, Catholic and Baptist demonination, have participated in the celebration.*



- *2/3 of the these population is composed of young children who have no Chance to attend school, after Prang Hku Dung school was closed which was temporarily ran by Karuna Banmaw for four month.*
- *Je Gau camps are situated in different place in the same areas where the people stay based on the village they belong and set up shelters depending on the geographical position.*



- *Hka Dawng Pa IDP camp China, situated at the other bank of Shweli river where road condition is extremely difficult when it rains. Over 600 IDPs from Lagat Daw village, Bau Noi village, Kai Htik*



*village, Chyawt Phya village and Zau Bung village are staying.*



- *A Catholic priest from Banmaw diocese has been with the refugees more then or less 6 months, organizing them, giving awareness to them, given spiritual assistance to the IDPs with his own expense.*



- *Nga Nawng Pa camp in China land near Kachin village has over 1000 refugees from Kachin state, all their villages were already under the control of Burmese soldiers and therefore no chance of going back home.*

*In Nga Nawng Pa camp all the Children lost schooling and they are free for the whole day, for one child policy in China land to see many children in one place is very strange for them and that's why the Chinese government doesn't want those refugee in their land for longer period.*



*\* **Man Wing Gyi** camp was set up, after getting permission from the Burmese Military officer. To get permission is very important in this village because the village is marked as danger zone.*



*\* The IDP stay in the parish hall collectively but after Christmas KBSS has build shelters for over 300 IDP inside the Church compound while over 1000 IDP stay in the empty houses near and around the Church.*

*\* Every 15 days they came to Church to get food and other NFI and medical treatment in the Catholic Church, everything is providing to the IDPs in Man Wing Gyi is provided by Karuna Banmaw.*





*\*Loi Je camp was situated inside Catholic Church compound On China boarder, this is one of the most important strategic Border pass road. The people of this camp are from Sin Lum village where fighting took place for at least 5 months and therefore they came from around Sin Lum areas.*

- **Banmaw Camp** is situated inside Banmaw town, inside AD 2000 compound where over 1000 people are staying. This camp is manage according to SPHERE guidelines.



- Collective kitchen is used for all people where IDPs prepare food in group.
- WFP has supported food for the month of November and December, 2011 and hope that they will continue to provide food for this year.





*People, women and Children, from Prang Hku Dung parish move to China border and settled beside Chinese check point where they built temporary*

*camp.*