

The above map reveals the major refugee camps across the borderline between Myanmar and Thailand. While the fire reveals the major conflict areas, the number one the right-side graph reveals the estimate population inside the camps.

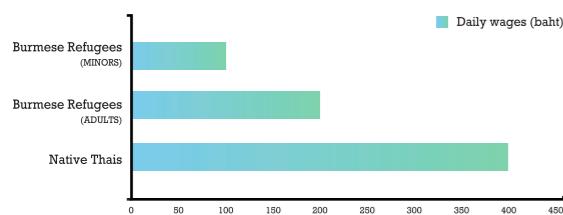


The Influx of Myanmar Refugees and Employment Situation

Xuanjing Wu

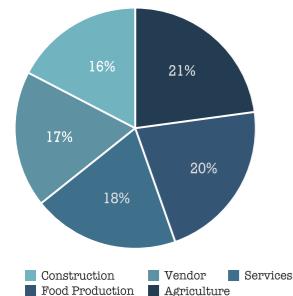


Comparison of daily wages of Burmese refugees and Thai natives (for the same type of work)



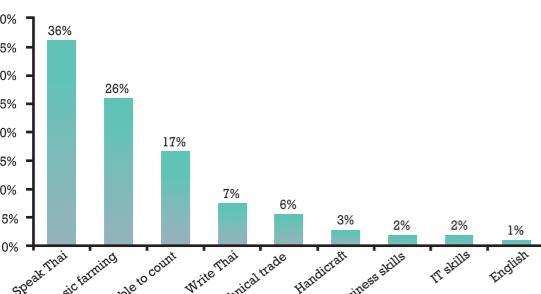
Generally, while the daily wages of native Thai could reach around 400 baht, the wages for Burmese Refugees is only 200 baht or less, not even half of that of Thai. For teenagers that are under 18, the wages is often around a hundred baht. However, facing severe living situation, a lot of teenagers still choose to work despite the low wages.

Percentage(%) of Employees' Work Sectors



With limited education level and working restriction posed by Thailand, most of the refugees work in local skilled industries. Agriculture, food production, and service are the main industries that refugees work in. Estimated by the International Labor Organization, Myanmar refugees account for approximately 80% of the workforce in these industries in Thailand.

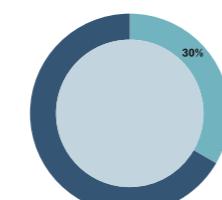
Skills required by employers for most positions



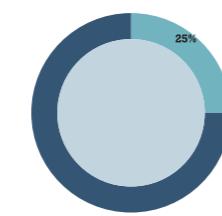
Meanwhile, education set a strict barrier for refugees to seek for job.

While the ability to speak Thai has been an important requirement for job, most of the refugees can't meet this criteria. Meanwhile, with less than 13% refugees finished high school study, they are excluded from entering high skilled industries.

Percentage of Myanmar refugees burdened with debt



Percentage of Myanmar refugees whose income covers basic expenses



According to the data of IMO, despite their low income, some refugees face severe debt burden. This is mainly driven by their need to secure their basic living and expenditure. There's approximately 25% of the refugees suffering from the insufficient income.



A woman and her grandchild in a makeshift temporary camp on the Thai-Myanmar border in December 2021-January 2022.
(Photo by Aung Naing Soe)



Sample of UNHCR Thailand card

Employment Practical Information



Applying for the MOI Pass

The MOI Pass is a special pass issued by the Thai Ministry of Interior. It allows some Myanmar refugees living in refugee camps to temporarily leave the camps for work. Individuals cannot apply directly. It's limited to specific regions, employers, and positions. Individuals cannot freely seek employment or change jobs. And the validity period is generally 6 months to 1 year, and must be renewed regularly.

Step 1



Employer Expression of Interest

The employer (or employer assisted by an NGO) expresses their intention to hire to the local immigration office or camp NGO. They should provide job information, location, salary, and job description.

Step 2



Employer and NGO collaborate to prepare application materials

Assisted by NGOs such as IRC, JRS, ADRA, etc. Required documents
1. Employer's business license: Must be a legally registered company or farm
2. Employment intent letter: Including job type, contract duration, salary, and insurance details
3. Employer's identity proof: Passport/Thai ID card

Step 3



Employer Screening and Camp Announcement

NGOs match employers' needs with refugees' skills and recommend candidates.

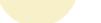
Step 4



Submit the application to the local office of the Thai Ministry of Interior (MOI)

Required documents
1. UNHCR registration documents
2. Camp ID/internal pass
3. Health examination certificate
4. Copy of employment contract

Step 5



Approval granted

refugees will be permitted to work outside the camp at authorized locations and times



JRS (UEP)
0643248478

<https://jrs.net/en/country/thailand/>

Bangkok Refugee Centre (BRC)
091-196-4064

BEAM Education Foundation
+66 (53) 200 024

<https://beamedu.org/>

GOOD SHEPHERD'S LANGUAGE SCHOOL
085-908-6560

thegoodshepherd@gmail.com

CREATIVE LIFE FOUNDATION
creativelifethailand@gmail.com

ASYLUM ACCESS THAILAND (AAT)
094-498-2500

thailand@asylumaccess.org



Handicraft Products Sales Guide

NGO
Borderline Collective

<https://borderlinecollective.org/>

WEAVE Fair Trade
+66 053 357 695

handicraft@weave-women.org
<https://www.weavefairtrade.com/pages/contact-us-1>



100,000 Myanmar refugees in existential crisis

Human Rights Watch says more than 100,000 Burmese refugees in Thailand are at serious risk of losing basic food and medical assistance due to U.S. funding cuts and other donor shortages. Most of the TBC's food aid and the International Rescue Committee's (IRC) basic medical services in nine refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border have been terminated as of July 31, 2024, the organization said.

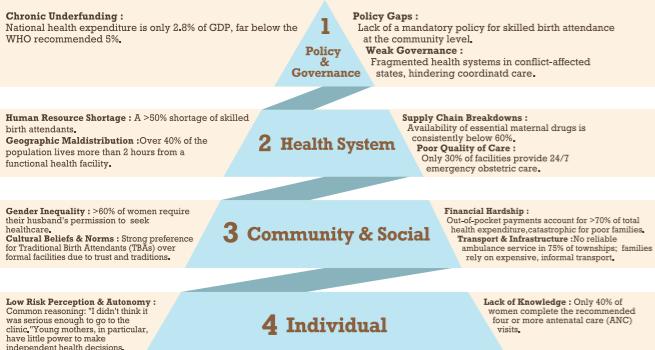


After July 2025

TBC Food Aid Termination
IRC Medical Withdrawal
U.S. Aid Funding Cuts + Donor Shortages

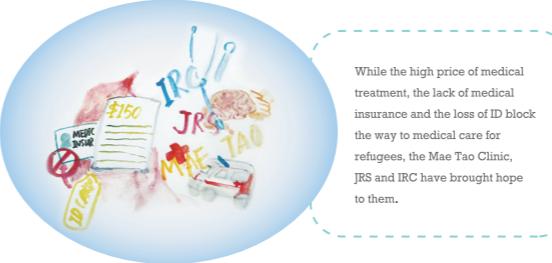


The Architecture of Exclusion: Structural Barriers to Maternal Care in Myanmar

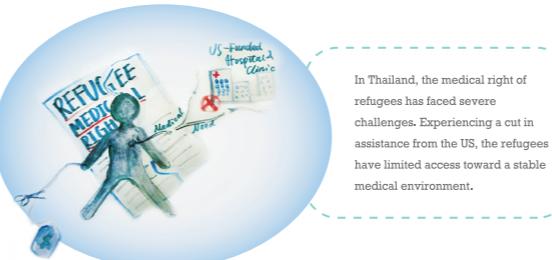


The Education and Medical Situation of Refugees in Thailand

Xuanjing Wu



While the high price of medical treatment, the lack of medical insurance and the loss of ID block the way to medical care for refugees, the Mae Tao Clinic, JRS and IRC have brought hope to them.



Healthcare & Education Practical Information



ACTED Thailand

<https://www.acted.org/en/countries/thailand/>

ADRA Thailand

<https://www.adrathailand.org>

JRS Thailand (Jesuit Refugee Service)

https://jrs.net/en/resources/?fwp_programme=education

World Education Thailand

<https://thailand.worlded.org>

Ban Nai Soi Community Learning Center

<http://bnsclc.org/>

Karen Refugee Committee Education Entity (KRCEE)

<https://krceeuk.wordpress.com/>

Mae Tao Clinic

<https://www.maetaoclinic.org>

Shoklo Malaria Research Unit (SMRU)

<https://www.shoklo-unit.com>

IRC Thailand – Health & Mental Health Programs

<https://www.rescue.org/country/thailand>

Jesuit Refugee Service

<https://jrs.net/en/country/thailand/>

UNHCR Thailand – Health & Support Partners Page

<https://www.unhcr.org/th>

COERR / Bangkok Refugee Center

<https://www.coerr.org>

UNHCR Partnerships

<https://help.unhcr.org/thailand/our-partners/>

GED Test



General Equivalency Diploma Test is a United States testing system, in which participants can earn High School Diploma. It is recognized internationally, acknowledged by lots of employers.

The test includes four subjects:

- Language arts
- Mathematical reasoning
- Science
- Social Studies

By taking the test, refugees will be able to enter international universities in Thailand, US and other countries.

<https://ged.com>

Online source:

<https://beamedu.org/ged-online-program/>

Policy guarantees for education in Thailand vs. Obstacles to the reality of children in Myanmar

Thai legislation guarantees all children in Thailand, including Myanmar migrants, the right to equal access to 12 years of free basic education, but Myanmar migrant children continue to face difficulties in enrolling in school due to their family's legal status, language barriers, economic difficulties and the lack of resources in Thailand's public schools.

Policy Highlights of Education in Thailand

Thai legislation provides that all persons have equal rights and opportunities to receive education. Migrant education is also supported to ensure equal protection for all children under Thai jurisdiction.

01 '12-year free education for all children' (1999/2005 laws)

02 'Non-discrimination protection' (2024 clause)

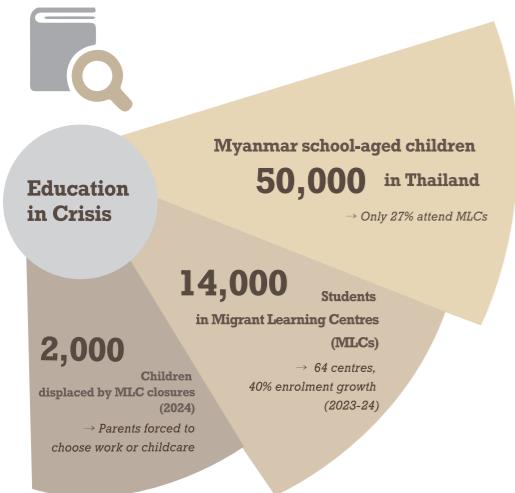
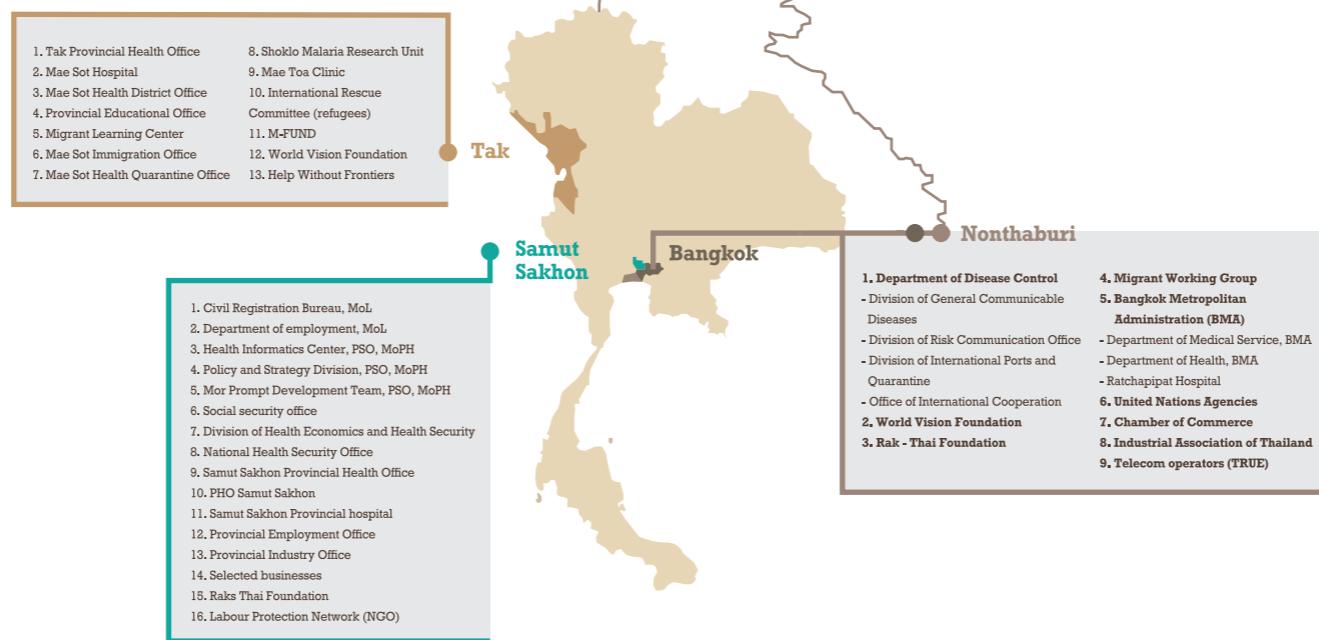


Practical obstacles faced by children in Myanmar

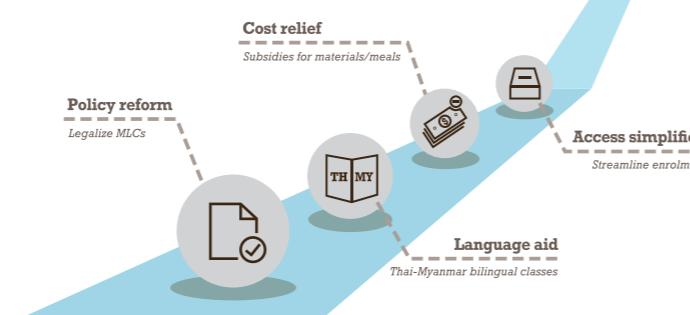
It is estimated that at least 50,000 Burmese children are studying in Thailand, but they have difficulty in receiving a reasonable education for various reasons.

Barriers for Myanmar Children
Language barriers
Undocumented status
Overcrowded schoolhouse
Costs

VS



ACCESS TO INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



Due to the inability to obtain a Thai high school diploma, most refugees with aspirations for higher education choose to take the General Educational Development Test (GED) - the equivalent of a high school diploma in the United States. Many organizations have emerged across the country to support students in taking the test. Organizations like the "Children's Dream Foundation" have received private funding and operate in four countries, with an annual budget of 12 million US dollars, and annually fund thousands of young people.

Samir, a 16-year-old refugee, has lived in Thailand with his family for 11 years. He aspires to become a doctor and help other refugees. However, his future is uncertain. "Although I am studying in Thailand, I won't be able to obtain a diploma or certificate after graduation," Samir explained, adding that his academic performance was excellent. "Without a certificate, it's very difficult for me to find a job. I sincerely hope that one day we will have the opportunity to obtain a formal certificate."



Due to the reduction in US aid funds and changes in Thai policies, many NGOs and international organizations were unable to continue providing basic services such as medical care to refugees, leading to a continuous deterioration of the refugees' living conditions.



Because the high school graduation certificates from refugee schools are not recognized in Thailand, even if they have excellent grades, they still cannot realize their dreams of finding ideal jobs. Meanwhile, as many refugees who aspire to become doctors are unable to fulfill this dream, the shortage of medical resources and personnel among refugees persists, leading to a vicious cycle.

