

# THE KACHIN RELIEF FUND

A registered charity in England and Wales,  
Registered Charity Number 1148586



## Visit Kachin IDP camps 7 to 24 February 2013



## Executive Summary

On June 9th 2011, the Burmese Army broke a 17-year ceasefire causing massive displacement of civilians; the fighting intensified and the KIO states there are now 156 Burmese Army battalions in Kachin State.

We are very concern after the fighting became most intense in December 2012. During December 2012 to January 2013, Burmese army used aerial bombardment of civilians and shelling directly onto the town of Laiza, causing further displacement of civilians. The Burmese Army has used cluster bombs, phosphorous bombs and helicopter gunships to attack civilians. Thousands of Laiza residents became “war effected people”.

Since beginning of fighting on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2011, the Kachin Relief Fund (KRF) has been providing aid direct to IDPs with our local actors. The KRF is fulfilling the major gaps using our supporters’ donations, while international agencies have been preoccupied with their inability to operate freely in the KIO administrative areas. Our capacity to donate IDPs may be small but we have been lobbying to the funding agencies for urgent fulfilment of humanitarian space with local actors, bypassing the Burmese government’s restrictions.

We have been identified many needy spaces not been covered by the UN relief agencies or the DFID’s funded projects.

We have developed the KRF’s strategy for work. We have appointed a local coordinator during our trip for robust communication with local actors and develop our ability to grant funding effectively and efficiently.

Our current work include equipping with good medical equipment facilities for IDP clinics and General Hospitals, donating most urgent need medicines for General hospitals and IDP clinics, assisting the medical cost for emergency life threatening IDP patient.

In coming year, we will continue our current works and additional funding will include sponsor orphanage and IDP school children for the coming academic year, supporting teachers, donating teaching materials, text books and exercises book and providing adequate facility for IDP children’s nursery school.

## Objectives

1. To obtain up-to-date information on the humanitarian situation, especially following the heavy fighting in December 2012 in Kachin State.
2. The Kachin Relief Fund, registered UK charity to visit to the IDPs in hard to reach area (by INGOs and foreign relief workers) to have humanitarian situation in the ground, major gaps, challenges and scopes, and recommendations to the humanitarian actors especially to the DFID.
3. To develop KRF’s strategy for work.
4. To find out the funding receive from the UN relief agencies, INGOs and projects supported by DFID’s partners INGOs in KIO administrative area as well as Burmese government controlled area.

5. To meet representatives of local Non-Governmental Organisations in order to strengthen existing and potential networks of support for KRF partners.
6. To appoint KRF local coordinator.

## MEETINGS



**JAW camp, NAMHKAM, Myen asuya uphkang ginra**

### JAW camp in Namhkam (Burmese government administrative area)

The Kachin Relief Fund have assisted JAW camp at one occasion when they short a donation for daily groceries for their community kitchen in 2012.

The purpose of visit to this camp was to find out what relief assistance have been reaching in this camp from the international relief agencies since it is located in Burmese government administrative areas. Any Rangoon base relief or the UN relief agencies can reach to this camp for assistance.

There are 444 IDPs in this camp with 168 students are studying in four local schools.

### **Relief organizations assisting JAWM camp.**

**CARE** - Help with camp's shelter and water supply.

**KBC (through UNOCHA)** - Will provide a family shelter for the IDPs with family soon.

**Save the Children** - Help children's toys and children books. Stop assistance from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2013. Chair of JAWM camp committee expressed it is important to get continue support from Save the Children.

**Karunna Myanmar Social Services-** KMSS has been supporting St. Thomas 1 and 1 camps near by JAWM camp. KMSS will provide assistance for fire woods and groceries for IDP community kitchen.

**World Food Programme (WFP)-** providing rice, salt and beans.

Requirement at this camp:

- Monthly support (in term of salary) for nursery and childcare teachers.
- Medicine
- CARE MYANMAR has stopped emergency patient referral support therefore need support for the Patient referral assistance.
- Need text book donation for more than 168 students (estimated 5,000 kyats per student), tuition fees and pocket money.
- Patient consultation feels for elderly and children (under 5) for those require going a private clinic.

For communication and office record keeping, the Kachin Relief Fund will donate a desktop computer for JAWM camp management committee.

**Wunpawng Ninghtoi (WPN)**



We met the Wunpawng Ninghtoi (WPN) office staff in their office in Mai Ja Yang, the KIO administrative town. We discussed about their current works. The WPN discussed that they have no project funding for emergency patient referral services that the patients need to admit to China hospital. The volunteer teachers in the IDP schools need monthly support in long term.

**Mai Ja Yang General Hospital**

The KRF staff met a director of Mai Ja Yang General Hospital. This hospital is a second largest general hospital after Laiza General Hospital. The hospital is under the KIO government and limited funding for medicine and medical equipment due



to the conflict. The KIO Health Department spend average Yuan 50,000 per season for Mai Ja Yang General Hospital depending on sickness in the area.

The following needs were identified during our meeting and we urge our supporters to help to equip our general hospital with latest medical equipments.

- Fake leg/arm for injured soldiers
- Neonatal incubator (*KRF have donated during our trip*)
- Oxygen gas concentrator
- Operation table
- Diathermy set
- Ultrasound



#### **Kachin Women Association (Eastern Division)**

Later in the evening, the KRF staff met Kachin Women Association (Eastern Division) staff members.

We had discussed various issues but will jointly work with KWA (Eastern Div.) to sponsor orphanage and IDP children for next academic year.

#### **Relief Action Network for IDP and Refugee (RANIR)**

We had a meeting with Mr.Lama Larip, coordinator of RANIR in his office.

The following points were made during our meeting.

- The villagers in surrounding villages were force to flee their villages because Burma army violated human rights abuses such as arrest, interrogation, torture and some event disappeared.
- Laiza residents are prevented to do farming since Burmese army captured the areas where they used to do farming.
- Laiza residents became “War effected people” and need support for their daily life similar to the IDPs.

- No job opportunity in China side except casual labour job like cutting sugar cans and collect coffee beans (earned Yuan 20 to 30 per day, equivalent to £2.5 or £3.5). Need to create income generation job opportunity for the IDPs.
- DFID overcome operational challenges after nearly a year- while international agencies have been preoccupied with their inability to operate freely, the DFID coordination with INGOs and local and national humanitarian actors successfully delivering aid. RANIR urged the DFID to recommend their operational method to the UN relief agencies to bypass the blocking of aid delivery by Burmese government.
- Larip said the UN relief agencies should surrender if they are inability delivery aid direct within KIO-controlled areas.
- The international aid agencies supporting the IDPs in Laiza areas are Oxfam GB through KBC, DFID (80%), WFP through KMSS and Japan Nippon Foundation.

### Kachin Refugees and Relief Committee (KRRC)



- We meet Doi Pisa, Director of KRRC and Lama Zau Raw.
- From December 2012 to current, 995 households of 5,600 Laiza residents became “war effected people”. The KRRC supporting them as the level as the IDPs.
- Acknowledged 800 family kits received for IDPs from the UN since the conflict started in June 2011.
- Karuna Social Services (KMSS) – food and shelters
- Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC)- working with Christian in China for healthcare
- The ICRC have informed of their visit (ICRC have visited on 27/02/2013)
- No IDP information from Phakant and KIO 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade area in Northern Shan State.
- Karuna Social Services (KMSS) is covering Border Post-6, Border Post-8 and Bum Tsit IDP camps.
- Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) is covering Maga Yang and Zai Awng IDP camps.
- Metta Development Society and Health Unlimited are helping Laiza residents on monthly basis.
- Nippon Foundation donated rice 134 tons.

- The KIO allows the UN relief agencies to operate without restriction for relief effort but the UN asked the KIO to write an appeal letter to help the IDPs in its administration areas.
- The KIO wrote a letter to The Chinese Central Government to help the Kachin IDPs but no response.
- The KRRC director commented on ineffective aid delivery method of the UN, wasting donor's funding on unnecessary transportation costs, such as the cost for Bhamaw to Loiye transportation cost 2 million kyat (*Please refer to Nippon Foundation's 134 tons rice donation recently*).



### **Kachin Women Association (Headquarters)**

We have discussed a wide range of issues.

1. Rehabilitation for disable people.
2. The Orphan and IDP children Sponsorship Program for their education starting from the 2013-2014 academic year.
3. The KRF to sponsor two Chinese language teachers for Summer School.
4. The KRF to donate desktop computer for Computer lab, creating opportunity for local children to learn computer skills short course.
5. Multi-vitamins and nutrition supplement for elderly servicemen and young children (age 5 years old below)

### **MAGA YANG CAMP, KIO SADUNG ADMINISTRATION**

The Kachin Relief Fund has intended to visit Maga Yang camp from London. We came to know the situation of camp briefly through our local contact. We've visited this camp on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Camp population         | : 2,711 IDPs   |
| Food and shelter        | : KBC and KMSS |
| IDP students            | : 753 students |
| Teachers for IDP school | : 28 teachers  |



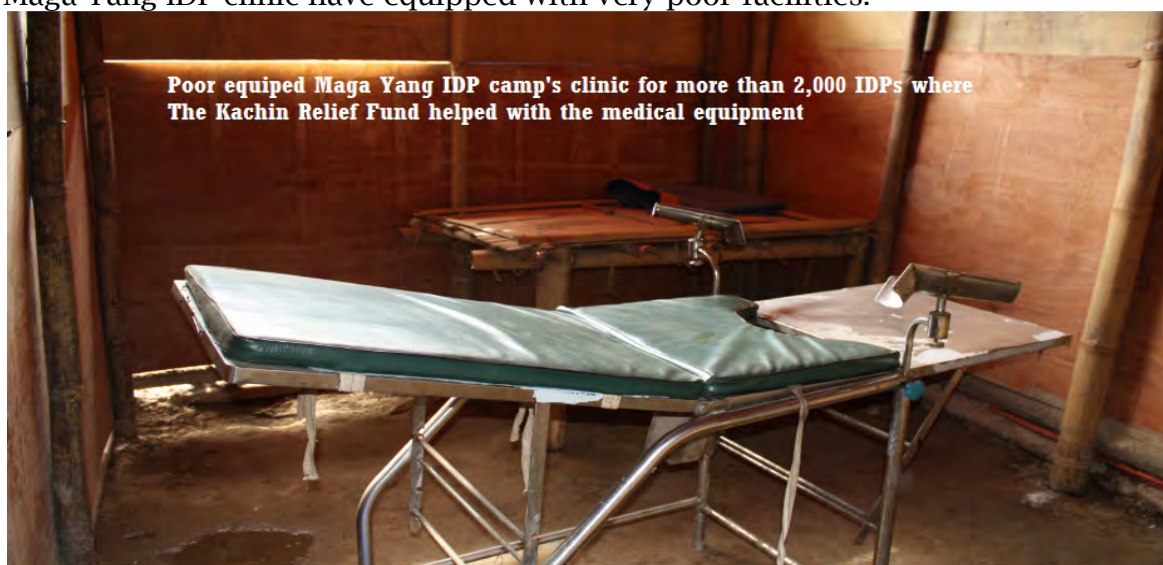
Nursery children : 135 children  
Nursery school teacher : 7 teachers

The school and nursery teachers have been receiving Yuan 250 (equivalent to £30) per month occasionally (*not a permanent basis*). The school children need exercise books and study materials where nursery children need school lunch meal, children books, toys and child play ground.



## Healthcare

Maga Yang IDP clinic have equipped with very poor facilities.





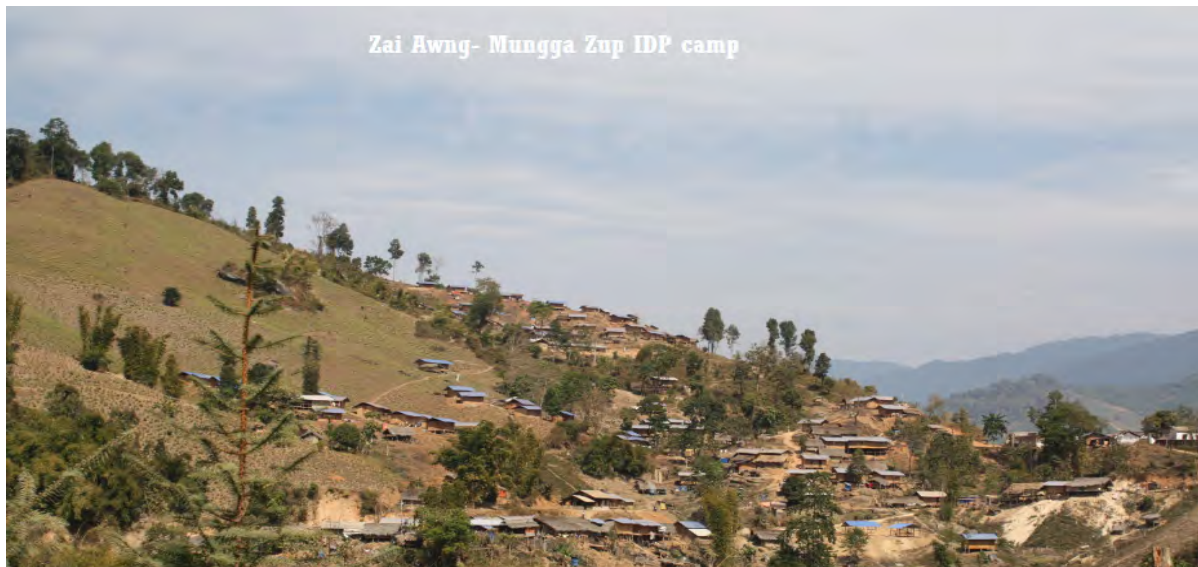
- The IDP clinic have requested they need funding for emergency Patient Referral Service, a service for referrals to specialist care and treatment in China hospitals as well as the cost of transportation to hospitals.
- Require stand-by funding to buy medicines.
- Oxygen gas concentrator,
- Blood pressure monitor, baby weight scale, diabetic blood tester and hand gloves

### ZAI AWNG- MUNGGA ZUP CAMP (SADUNG KIO ADMINISTRATION)

We have also included to visit this camp on our trip itinerary since we were in London. We've visited this camp on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

|                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Camp population         | : 2,496 IDPs                     |
| Food and shelter        | : KBC and KMSS                   |
| IDP students            | : 645 students                   |
| Teachers for IDP school | : 15 teachers                    |
| Nursery children        | : 194 children                   |
| Nursery school teacher  | : 17 teachers and two assistants |

Zai Awng IDP School have requested text book, exercise book, teaching material, school office equipment and copy machine.



- **CHILDCARE-** Nursery school is administered by Kachin Women Association (Sadung Administrative Region). There are total 194 children and 17 teachers plus two assistants volunteered in this nursery school. They have no permanent support for volunteer teachers.
- This nursery school require proper childcare structure, children books, toys and playground.
- Children spend at least Yuan 1.5 per person (equivalent £ 0.18 pence) for their lunch- normally prepared with varieties of potatoes, noodles or wheat.



CHILDCARE CENTER IN ZAI AWNG IDP CAMP

### MUNG GA ZUP GENERAL HOSPITAL (SADUNG KIO ADMINISTRATION)

- KIO Health Department not been able to provide a sufficient budget.
- KIO Health Department granted 1 million kyat (equivalent £775) for three months where they spend 500,000 kyat for surgery and the rest for medicine.
- Basic medical equipment like Fetal Doppler, body weight scale, HIV tester and hand gloves.
- Hospital staff requested for an emergency Patient Referral Service, a service for referrals to specialist care and treatment in China hospitals as well as the cost of transportation to hospitals.



MUNG GA ZUP (ZAI AWNG) GENERAL HOSPITAL- EQUIPED WITH POOR FACILITIES FOR MORE THAN 2,000 IDPs.

### ZAI AWNG IDP CAMP MANAGEMENT

The camp management committee was formed well composed of various departments. A few drawback saw was not synchronize enough with other different department especially Kachin Women Association (Sadung) to discuss welfare of children or IDPs.



Zai Awng IDP camp is located in mountainous location and difficult for water supply.

The key camp management personnel should receive more relevant training from international or local partners.

We are very concern for aid delivery to Zai Awng camp in raining season. The road infrastructure to Zai Awng- Mung Ga Zup is poorly constructed and it will compromise effectiveness on aid delivery.

The Kachin Relief Fund helped to send two emergency patients from Zai Awng IDP camp during our visit. Rut Ring Awng Tu, age 8, was infected with a serious Tuberculosis TB, died despite we tried to save him. He was admitted to a hospital in Mangshi, more than 3 hours drive from Zai Awng IDP. The specialist doctors assessed that his infection was not curable and we have to take him back to Zai Awng IDP camp. He has passed away on 5<sup>th</sup> of March morning at 10:00 am local time in Zai Awng IDP camp.

An elderly lady, who was suffering from heart decease, came together with Rut Ring Awng Tu to China from Zai Awng IDP camp was admitted in Yinjiang General Hospital in China. She received a proper medical check up and medication now recovered and returned to the IDP camp.



#### **PA KAHTAWNG IDP CAMP, MAI JA YANG**

On our return journey, we have visited Pa Kahtawng IDP camp where we used to visit in beginning of 2012. We have noted that the children from the KIO's 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Northern Shan State are increasing considerably. They came to this camp without their parents and children have to depend on the camp management authorities and their school teachers. The living condition and educational support raise us very concern for the children's welfare.





IDP children without their parents in Pa Kahtawng IDP camp, Mai Ja Yang



Orphanage IDP children preparing to cook their meal



**MEDICAL EQUIPEMENT DONATED BY THE KACHIN RELIEF FUND**

- 1). Neonatal incubator (Mai Ja Yang General Hospital)
- 2). Oxygen gas concentrator (Maga Yang IDP clinic)
- 3). 300 hand gloves (Maga Yang IDP clinic/ Mung Ga Zup General Hospital)
- 4). Gynaecological Surgical Set (Maga Yang IDP clinic)
- 5). Diabetic tester (Maga Yang IDP clinic)
- 6). Digital infant body weight scale (Maga Yang IDP clinic)
- 7). Digital Fetal Doppler (Maga Yang IDP clinic)
- 8). Stethoscopes (Maga Yang IDP clinic/ Mung Ga Zup General Hospital)
- 9). HIV tester (Mung Ga Zup General Hospital, Sadung KIO Administrative)
- 10). Adult body weight scale



Oxygen Generator for Maga Yang IDP clinic

Neonatal Incubator for Mai Ja Yang General Hospital



Mai Ja Yang Mung Shawa Tsi Rung a mata mai da ya lu sai- Neonatal Incubator

|            |  |               |
|------------|--|---------------|
| 30/01/2013 | Nutrition x 10                                       | £ 269.00      |
| 31/01/2013 | Camera Memory x 4                                    | £ 31.00       |
| 31/01/2013 | Camera x 4 – Documentation                           | £ 528.64      |
|            |  | £ 828.00      |
| 22/02/2013 | Neonatal incubator, oxygen gas concentrator & others | CNY 17,100.00 |
| 22/02/2013 | Other medical equipment                              | CNY 2,280.00  |
| 22/02/2013 | Patient referred Mangshi x 1                         | CNY 3,300.00  |
| 20/02/2013 | Advocacy – translation                               | CNY 2,000.00  |
| 18/02/2013 | Patient referred Yinjiang Hospital x 2               | CNY 5,000.00  |
| 18/02/2013 | 3 month salary for KRF staff                         | CNY 3,000.00  |
| 18/02/2013 | Medical equipments bought in Yinjiang                | CNY 4,138.00  |
|            | Total  | CNY 36,818.00 |

Report compiled  
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