

# Free Burma Rangers



STANDING FOR FREEDOM  
ANNUAL REPORT 2008 - 2009



IN LOVING MEMORY  
2008-2009



DOUNG NYO

Former team member of Karen Thaton District FBR, was shot and killed by the Burma Army on 26 September, 2009.



DIGAY HTOO

Original FBR relief team member, died 7 September, 2009, of a fever of unknown origin while on a mission.



SHINING MOON

FBR relief team leader, died 20 May, 2008, of complications of malaria contracted while on a mission.

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LOVE EACH OTHER.  
UNITE AND WORK FOR FREEDOM,  
JUSTICE AND PEACE.  
FORGIVE AND DON'T HATE EACH  
OTHER.  
PRAY WITH FAITH,  
ACT WITH COURAGE,  
NEVER SURRENDER.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your love, prayers and support. We are making this report to thank you and to testify to what God has done. Since 1997 and with the help of many people, Free Burma Ranger teams have stood with the oppressed and helped those in need. This report covers 2008 and 2009 Free Burma Ranger operations.

We now have 52 indigenous humanitarian relief teams from nine ethnic groups giving help, hope and love to displaced people in Burma. We work with people and organizations of different faiths and ethnicities and we are grateful to the people of Burma for their acceptance and the opportunity to work together for freedom, justice and peace. This partnership makes us better people and better organizations.

My family and I are personally committed to following Jesus Christ because He loves us, saves us, and helps us every day. At the same time, FBR has Christian, Buddhist and Animist team members who are free to practice their own faith and we work with all who want to serve their people. We want the teams to have a relationship of love with God and to be men and women of high principles. We ask the volunteers who join FBR to be physically fit, literate, courageous, and loving, to be with people under attack and to stand with them if they cannot flee. We work together to develop practical skills and the tools needed to help. The team members also develop professionally, which benefits them and their communities.

When we are afraid we pray for love and it is in that love that we stand with the people of Burma. When under pressure, some of us may ask, "What will become of me?" The real question is, "What should I do?" When we ask that question, we find the answer in love. We are compelled by that love in heart, mind, and soul.

- \* We love the people of Burma and we stand with them. This is our heart.
- \* We believe that oppression is morally wrong. This is our mind.
- \* The people of Burma are God's children. It is right to be with them and help them. This is our soul.

With your help, and alongside others, we are part of building a new Burma in the midst of war. Thank you for standing with us for freedom, and for working with us for human dignity, justice and reconciliation.

May God bless you,

David Eubank

Free Burma Rangers

# The Free Burma Rangers

## Our Vision

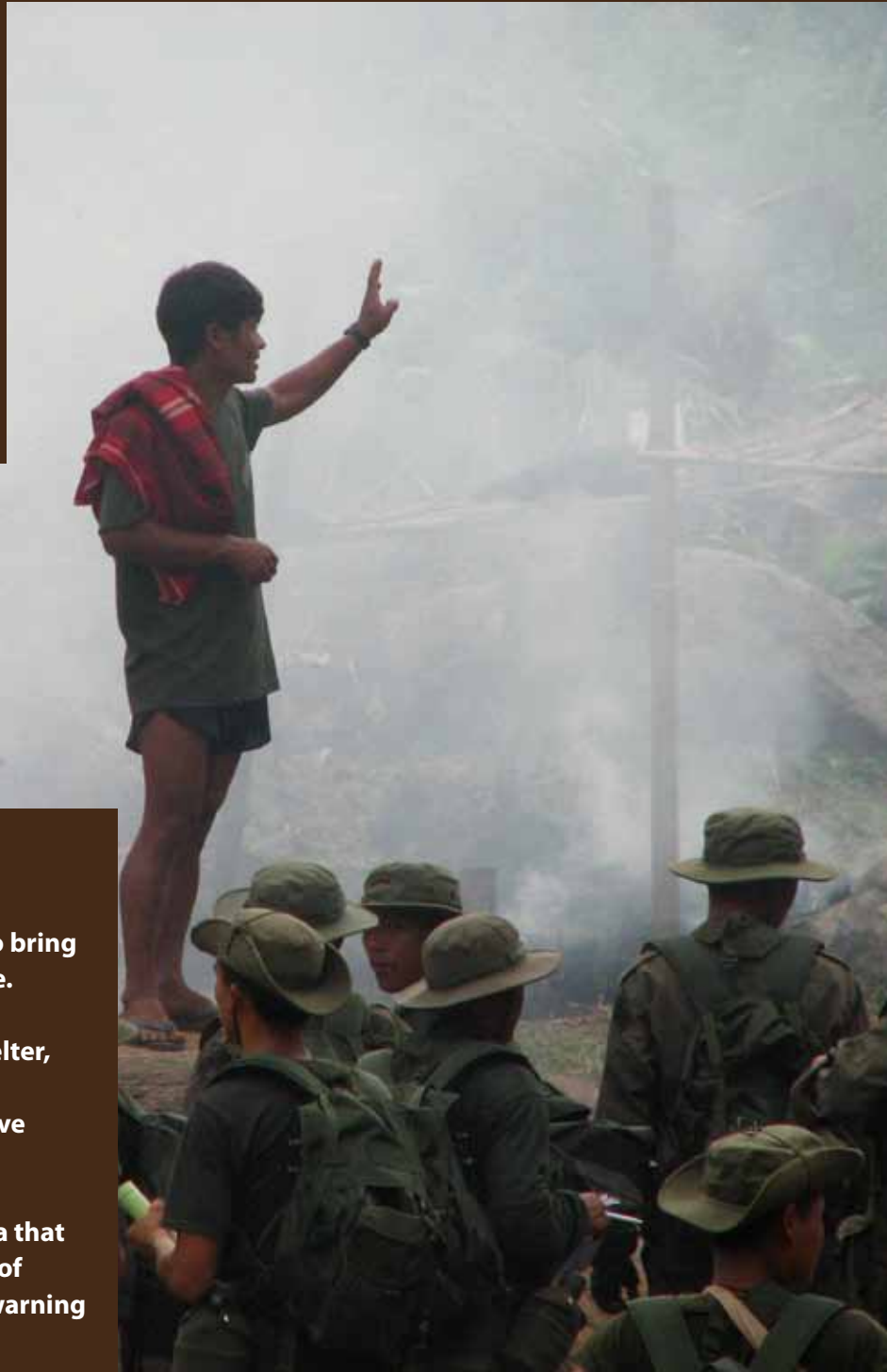
**To free the oppressed and to stand for human dignity, justice and reconciliation in Burma.**

## Our Mission

**To bring help, hope and love to people of all faiths and ethnicities in the war zones of Burma, to shine a light on the actions of the dictators' army, to stand with the oppressed, and to support leaders and organizations committed to liberty, justice and service.**

## Our Objectives

- 1) To inspire, train and equip people in Burma to bring positive change through acts of love and service.**
- 2) To provide immediate medical assistance, shelter, food, clothing, educational materials and other humanitarian aid in the war zones and to improve logistics and medical evacuation.**
- 3) To develop the Information Network of Burma that documents, reports and disseminates accounts of human rights violations and provides an early warning system of Burma Army attacks.**
- 4) To provide prayer and counseling for victims of human rights abuses and to support programs for women and children.**
- 5) To train, equip and sustain indigenous humanitarian relief teams in the field.**



*Training exercise at FBR training site, Karen State, Burma.*

# FBR Teams in Burma

## Chin State

Number of Chin Free Burma Ranger teams: 4

The Free Burma Rangers have been providing relief in Chin State for 2 years through the Chin National Congress.

## Arakan State

Number of Arakan Free Burma Ranger teams: 3

The Free Burma Rangers have been providing relief in Arakan State for 9 years, coordinating with the Arakan Liberation Party.

## Karen State

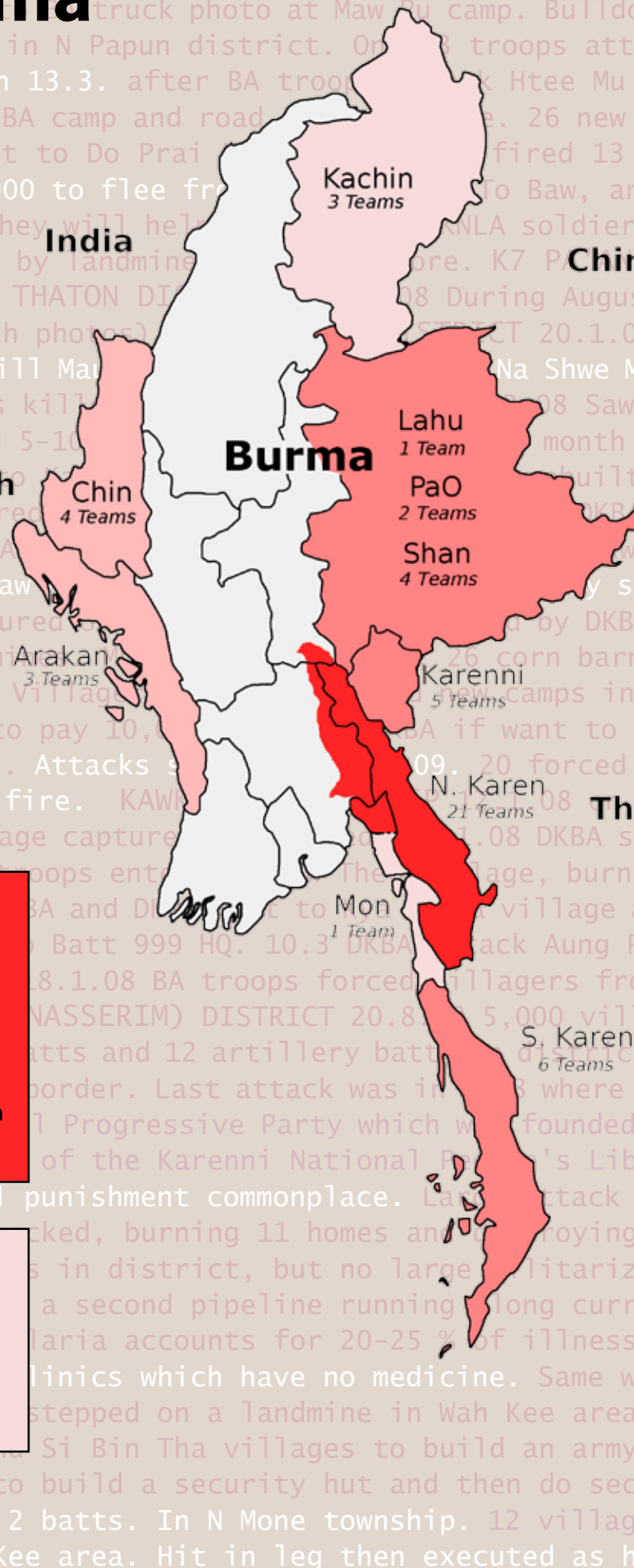
Number of Karen Free Burma Ranger teams: 27

The Free Burma Rangers have been working in Karen State for 13 years, since the founding of the FBR. Working together with the Karen National Union, FBR conducts trainings and relief missions in Karen State.

## Mon State

Number of Mon Free Burma Ranger teams: 1

The first Mon FBR team was trained and deployed in 2009.



## Kachin State

Number of Kachin Free Burma Ranger teams: 3

The Free Burma Rangers have been working with the Kachin for 4 years, and providing relief through the Kachin Independence Organization.

## Shan State

*Note: FBR works with three different ethnic groups whose home areas are within the currently recognized boundaries of Shan State.*

### Shan

Number of Shan Free Burma Ranger teams: 4

The Free Burma Rangers have been working in Shan State for 8 years. Working together with the Restoration Council of Shan State, the FBR teams conduct relief missions and trainings in Shan State.

### Lahu

Number of Lahu Free Burma Ranger teams: 1

The Free Burma Rangers have been working with the Lahu for 7 years, conducting relief missions in the Lahu area of Shan State to Lahu, Shan and Wa people.

### Pa'O

Number of Pa'O Free Burma Ranger teams: 2

The Free Burma Rangers have been working with the Pa'O for 2 years. Working together with the Pa'O National Liberation Organization, the FBR teams conduct relief missions in the Pa'O areas of Shan State.

## Karenni State

Number of Karenni Free Burma Ranger teams: 5

The Free Burma Rangers have been providing relief in Karenni State for 13 years, since the founding of the FBR. Working together with the Karenni National Progressive Party, Karenni FBR teams conduct relief missions in Karenni State.

## Headquarters

Number of FBR Headquarters teams: 2

Headquarters teams work in the conflict zones all over Burma, conducting relief missions and trainings.

# Burma Overview



Over sixty years of civil war have left Burma one of the poorest countries in the world. In an attempt to suppress the democratic opposition, the military dictatorship attacks its own people, killing thousands and leaving millions displaced. Many in opposition are either imprisoned or killed. Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Prize recipient and leader of the democracy movement, has repeatedly been placed under arrest.

In most of the country there is a false peace due to the dictators' ability to control dissent. In many ethnic areas, the regime's army continues an all-out assault on its people. There are offensives, ongoing laying of landmines, attacks on civilians, forced labor, and destruction of civilian property.

In the face of this, the Free Burma Rangers was formed in 1997. FBR is comprised of people from different ethnic groups within Burma providing direct relief to communities affected by the regime's oppression. These teams are trained to provide medical care and counseling, while documenting and reporting human rights violations.

Since its formation, more than 400 missions have been conducted to assist over one million people. Together with other organizations working towards a free and peaceful Burma, over 50 Free Burma Ranger relief teams bring help to people under attack.



**This information in this report, originally sent out by an FBR team during a mission to people under attack, is one example of the reports every team sends while on relief missions.**

## **FBR REPORT: 22 JANUARY, 2008 13-YEAR-OLD BOY BLINDED BY LANDMINE**



The village of Lay Kee in northern Karen State was attacked and burned down by the Burma Army on August 15 and 16, 2007. Everyone fled the village, and the Burma Army laid landmines in and around it. Three months later, some of the villagers returned from their hiding places to see what remained in their village. Hsa K'Tray Saw, a 13-year-old boy (grade 2 in school), came also with his family. While his mother searched for vegetables, he sat on a log, idly tapping the ground with his machete. As he was hitting the ground with the machete, it hit a

landmine that the Burma Army had placed there. The mine exploded in his face and he was blinded in both eyes and wounded in his face and upper torso. His 8-year-old sister was also wounded in the explosion.

He was taken to a local mobile clinic a long day's walk away, but after basic treatment they said they could not help him.

We met him several months later in an IDP (internally displaced people) hide site. He was bent over and shuffled dejectedly with his head down as his older brother helped him walk. Seeing his damaged eyes, his hunched-over little body and his crushed spirit, I felt very sad. I talked to him and prayed with him. After I looked at his eyes I told him that I did not know if we could help and that he might never see again, but that we would try. I held him close and talked and prayed. I stood up to talk to the medics and someone asked me how I felt. I could not answer. I started to cry. I knelt back down with the boy and composed myself.

I said, "I feel very sorry this happened. I feel very sad for this boy. As a father with three children myself, it hurts me very much. But it is not just about being a father and caring for this boy, it is about a 13-year-old boy who can't see and who is afraid and hopeless in a hiding place, high on a cold mountain. It is about the dictators' army who placed the mines, burned his village and continues to attack his people. This is wrong and words will not stop it. It takes prayer and it takes action."

I stood up again and looking at the boy I said, "Son, we will try our best to help you. Maybe we can or maybe we cannot but we will try. No matter what, I want you to know that God loves you and is with you and God suffers too. And, I want you to stand up straight. You are still strong, with working arms and legs. Even if you never can see again you have many things you can do. Stand up straight and be the man you are."

I then put my arm around him and began to walk him around the top of the ridge. As we walked, he squared his shoulders, and walked erect and, like every Karen, with agility and sureness of foot.

After finishing the eye examination, we all decided it was worth the effort to send him to Thailand to see if he could be helped. It took many days of walking, and with help from the Karen National Union (pro-democracy Karen ethnic resistance) he was brought to a hospital in Thailand. Neither Thai nor American eye experts could restore his sight so Hsa K'Tray Saw was enrolled in a school for the blind in Mae La refugee camp. He is there today and we are committed to helping him accomplish the many things he still can do.

*Hsa K'Tray Saw receives treatment after being blinded by a landmine.*



FREE BURMA RANGERS

MULTI-ETHNIC • HUMANITARIAN • SERVICE • MOVEMENT



The Free Burma Rangers (FBR) is a multi-ethnic humanitarian service movement. They bring help, hope and love to people in the war zones of Burma. Ethnic pro-democracy groups send teams to be trained, supplied and sent into the areas under attack to provide emergency medical care, shelter, food, clothing and human rights documentation. The teams also operate a communication and information network inside Burma that provides real time information from areas under attack. Together with other groups, the teams work to serve people in need.

The teams are to avoid contact with the Burma Army but cannot run if the people cannot run.

Men and women of many ethnic groups and religions are part of the FBR. There are only three requirements for team members:

1. Love- Each person strives to do this for the love of the people and no one is paid. They still belong to their parent organizations.
2. Ability to read and write- due to the medical, documentation and other skills needed, literacy in at least one language is required.
3. Physical and moral courage- they have to have the physical strength and endurance to be able to walk to crisis areas, and the moral courage to be with people under attack and to stand with them if they cannot flee.

In addition to relief and reporting, other results of the teams' actions are the development of leadership capacity, civil society and the strengthening of inter-ethnic unity.

# Relief Team Training

## CAPACITY BUILDING



### LEADERSHIP RELIEF TEAM TRAININGS, 2008-2009: 10 TRAININGS, 50 TEAMS TRAINED

SHAN STATE: 10 NEW TEAMS, 1 HEADQUARTERS

SOUTHERN KAREN STATE: 11 NEW TEAMS, 2 HQ

CHIN STATE: 9 CHIN, 4 KACHIN, 3 ARAKAN

NORTHERN KAREN STATE (ADVANCED TRAINING):  
20 KAREN, 5 KARENINI, 2 PA'O, 2 SHAN, 1 KACHIN

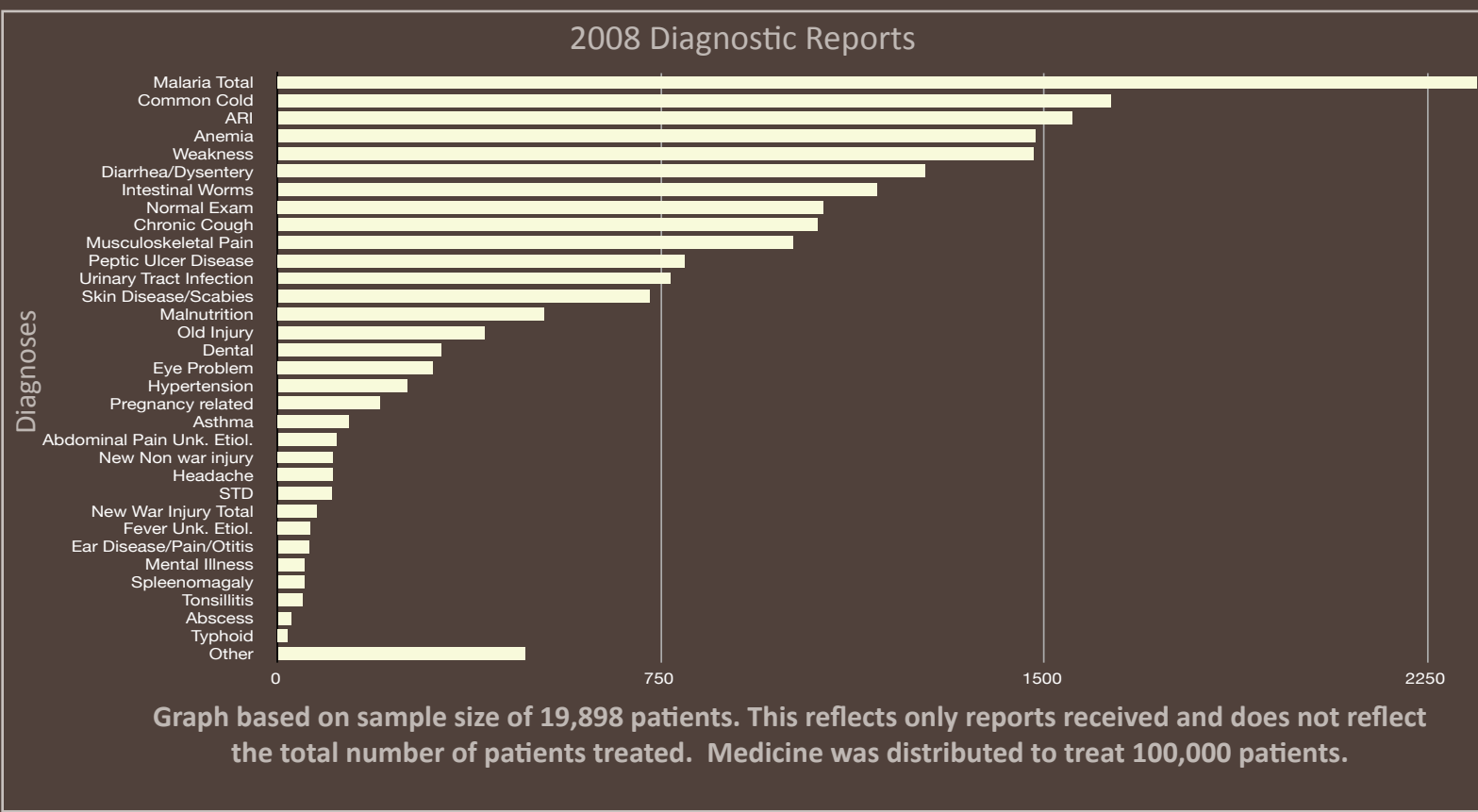
### Free Burma Rangers training courses include:

- Leadership
- Medical training and reporting
- Human rights violations recording and reporting
- Video and digital camera use
- Map reading
- Compass reading
- Land navigation
- GPS use (Global Positioning System)
- Landmine removal
- Solar power and battery management
- Information gathering, analysis, and reporting
- General reporting
- Counseling and Good Life Club
- Media and communications
- Field training exercises
- Physical training
- Rappelling
- Rope bridge building
- Radio communications
- Early warning system for villagers and IDPs
- Law of War and Geneva Conventions



# FBR Medical Assistance

FBR's medical program provides emergency healthcare to people living in the war zones of Burma, particularly Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Whole villages are uprooted at a moment's notice, and people driven into the jungles where they are especially vulnerable to disease and injury. FBR is developing strategies to address these issues and make quality healthcare more widely available to IDPs in Burma. These strategies can be divided into two main areas of focus—**data collection** and **medical training**.



# DATA COLLECTION

It is necessary to know what diseases, conditions, and injuries have the most impact on the population. This is only possible where a system of accurate data collection is in place.



## HOW WE DO IT

FBR began implementing the use of a key-word based data collection tool in 2008, using it to track what its medics were seeing in the field. Using the data from this new system, senior FBR medical staff have already made several modifications to treatment protocols.

## RESULTS

- The medicine, supplies, and equipment that medics carry on the field have been modified to more specifically target the conditions they are most likely to face in the field.
- Treatment protocols are being standardized to better systematize treatments of the most common diseases found in the IDP populations.

The FBR medical program relies on the availability of well-trained medics to administer quality medical care within Burma, and places great emphasis on medic training.

# MEDICAL TRAINING

## 2008-2009 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2008-09, FBR conducted nine separate advanced medical review courses for over 100 medics. These included:

- Lecture-based lessons
- Practical demonstrations, including IV insertion and animal labwork
- In-the-field pairing of new medics with senior medics in a master/apprentice training model

## PILOT MEDICAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN KAREN STATE

Together with the Karen Department of Health and Welfare, FBR began in April 2009 a medical training school that takes a multi-faceted approach aimed at more comprehensive treatments to be replicable across Burma. The new program:

- trains not only FBR medics but also community medics in an effort to improve access across Karen State to qualified medical providers.
- uses a standardized, qualifications-based structure that includes 3 tiers: basic community health workers, medics, and senior medics.

Currently, there are 15 senior medic students, 15 medic students and 20 community health workers in attendance at the school. The best students will eventually be asked to serve in a teaching capacity.





# GLC Good Life Club

The Good Life Club program focuses on the special needs of women and children. It is based on the idea that all people need and have the right to enjoy the good things of life. The Good Life Club counselors are men and women of varying ethnicities and faiths, and provide counseling and prayer for all people regardless of race, ethnicity or religion. They believe that good life is not just physical but emotional and spiritual as well, and is something God desires for all people everywhere.

Drawing inspiration from John 10:10, which contains the promise of Jesus that “I have come that they



*GLC health and anatomy class at a displaced village.*



*IDP boys compare gift packs sent by children from countries such as the U.S., the U.K., Australia, and Thailand.*

might have life and have it abundantly,” the GLC program includes singing and games for the children, a health lesson, and the giving of a small gift, such as a shirt or a gift pack that has been sent from children in other countries. Hope is fueled in the people in the midst of a day of fun and by the knowledge that they are not forgotten.

Hope, along with faith and courage, has given these people the strength to resist a ruthless dictatorship for over 60 years and kept the struggle for freedom alive.

*We especially want to thank Partners Relief and Development for the partnership we have together in the Good Life Club and for their support of FBR teams and medicine and other relief to IDPs.*

*GLC children's program in northern Karen State.*



# Communications and Advocacy

## FBR FIELD COMMUNICATIONS CAPACITY

- 16 satellite/toughbook systems
- 30 satellite phones
- 52 Icom radios, each team has one

## FBR communications operations have the following functions:

- To coordinate relief efforts.
- To provide early warning to villagers of Burma Army attacks.
- To shine a light on the actions of the Burma Army and the situation of the people under attack.

## EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

FBR helps to coordinate and administer an early warning system to help villagers escape Burma Army attacks. There are currently 150 early warning radio systems in use.



**STORY:** Ler Htu Law village, northern Karen State, 2008. Oncoming Burma Army soldiers forced the villagers to flee their homes. Some hid in the jungle, some ran to relatives' homes in other villages. 12-year old Naw Moo Paw ran with friends to the village of her uncle. Her mother ran to a different village. Both were terrified the other was lost or dead. With the help of the radio operators in both villages, they were able to find each other and be reunited within the next several days.

FBR contributes to an annual Global Day of Prayer for Burma.

GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR



Their village was burned and they are now in hiding.

# BURMA

March 8, 2009



Making it all happen

# LOGISTICS



All medicine and relief supplies must be carried to IDP populations on foot or pack animal, over difficult and dangerous terrain. Most supplies are carried by villagers.

FBR also maintains and is expanding a horse-and-mule pack animal program that includes 14 mules and 10 horses. Pack mules can carry approximately three times what a man can carry and navigate well over extremely rough terrain. Mule handling and packing is part of regular FBR training.



In 2008-2009, FBR provided 180 standard medical units to IDPs in Burma, supplying medicine to an estimated 85,000 to 100,000 patients.

All relief supplies are packed in 15kg loads that have been waterproofed and can be easily carried by a person or loaded onto a pack animal.

#### **LOADS TRANSPORTED BY FBR, 2008-2009:**

- Medicine or medical supplies: 1600 loads, or 50,000 pounds.
- Clothing, mosquito nets, tarps, blankets and other relief supplies: 2700 loads, or 88,000 pounds.

**Total: 4,300 loads, or 138,000 pounds.**



# It all comes together

# FBR RELIEF

In 2008-2009, over 120 relief missions were conducted by Free Burma Ranger teams in conflict areas of Burma, including: Arakan, Chin, Karen, Karenni, Lahu, Pa'O, and Shan areas.

## WHAT DOES A RELIEF MISSION LOOK LIKE?

FBR relief missions are conducted in coordination with local ethnic pro-democracy groups. FBR teams go to the places of greatest need. When they arrive to the hide sites the teams:

- Treat patients, including but not limited to: those with landmine or gunshot injuries, malaria and dysentery.
- Interview individuals: details of their situation, Burma Army activity and their needs.
- Take photos and video of the situation: documentation for human rights abuses and to put a light on the situation. Sometimes this includes reconnaissance of Burma Army positions and activity.
- Organize a Good Life Club program: songs, games and a health lesson and story time, plus giving a gift.
- Pray with the people.

## FBR RELIEF SINCE 1997

Full-time humanitarian relief teams: \_\_\_\_\_ 52

Total teams trained: \_\_\_\_\_ over 130

Relief missions conducted: \_\_\_\_\_ over 400

Patients treated: \_\_\_\_\_ over 400,000

People helped: \_\_\_\_\_ over 1,000,000

## Breakdown of 52 Full-time Humanitarian Relief Teams by State and District:

Headquarters – 2 teams

Arakan – 3 teams

Chin -- 4 teams

Kachin – 3 teams

Karen – 27 teams

- Thaton District: 2 teams

- Toungoo District: 3 teams

- Nyaunglebin District: 6 teams

- Mergui-Tavoy District: 6 teams

- Papun District: 5 teams

- Dooplaya District: 3 teams

- Pa'an District: 2 teams

Karenni – 5 teams

Lahu – 1 team

Pa'O – 2 teams

Shan – 4 teams

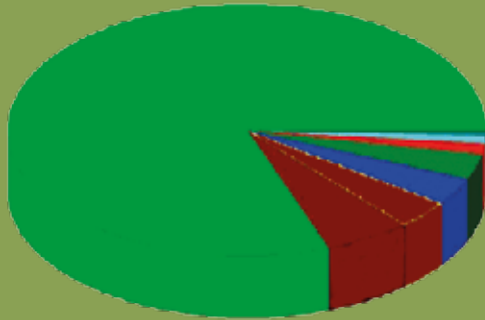
Mon – 1 team



# FINANCIAL REPORT

We thank you all and God for the funds that come in. We do not solicit them but pray and trust in God for this work. All FBR members are unpaid volunteers. For these gifts we are always amazed, and are grateful.

Expense Summary  
January 1, 2008 - October 7, 2009



Category	Amount	Percentage of income
<b>INCOME TOTAL</b>	<b>*\$1,290,560.00</b>	<b>100%</b>
Relief Thai-Burma	1,041,998.00	80.74%
Communication, Training Facilities & Administration	125,571.00	9.73%
Education	45,299.00	3.51%
Advocacy	43,621.00	3.38%
Travel	19,746.00	1.53%
Gifts	12,518.00	0.97%
Ministry Center Expenses (Building)	1,807.00	0.14%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,290,560.00</b>	

Note: An additional \$130,531.75 of in-kind donations was received from abroad in 2008 in the form of team equipment, satellite communication time, advanced technical equipment such as satellite communications systems, and administrative expenses associated with transportation of these items to teams in the field. FBR is almost entirely funded by donations from individuals, churches and other organizations from all over the world.

*\*All amounts given are in U.S. Dollars*



# 10 Reasons to Get Involved

## 1. For human dignity.

The power of the oppressor is unrestrained. Girls being raped, children chased from their homes, parents murdered, restricted education, and people living in fear, are wrong. Arbitrary arrests, and forced relocation are other tools of the regime. Human value crosses all political, religious, economic, and social lines and for this we need to stand with the people of Burma.

## 2. For the restoration of democracy.

There was a democratically elected government that was forcefully displaced by a brutal dictatorship.

## 3. For the release of political prisoners.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, who is still under house arrest, is one of thousands of political prisoners.

## 4. For ethnic rights and a durable peace.

Ethnic minorities comprise over 40% of the population of Burma and thus should be equitable partners now and in Burma's future. Without them there is no just or durable solution for a peaceful and democratic Burma. Burma's brutal campaign against the ethnics has resulted in more than 1 million IDPs, over 1 million refugees, and gross human rights violations such as Burma's large scale use of landmines to target civilian populations. Many of the ethnic peoples of Burma were allies for freedom in World War II. It is a matter of honor not to forget them.

## 5. For Public Health

There is a growing HIV/AIDS epidemic in Burma, and in overall health, Burma ranks as one of the worst in the world. Approximately one out of every 10 children in Burma die before their 5th birthday. The ratio is twice as high among the thousands of families forced to flee their homes by the military's ongoing campaigns.

## 6. For an end to religious persecution.

There is widespread religious persecution in Burma and this is a violation of a foundational and sacred human right.

## 7. For an end to forced labor and the use of humans as minesweepers.

The regime forces thousands of people each year to work on state projects and, during military campaigns, uses people to carry supplies and as human minesweepers.

## 8. For the protection of the environment.

Unchecked and large scale clear cutting of some of the world's last remaining natural teak and other tropical hardwood reserves, toxic mining practices, and the poorly-planned building and proliferation of dams are among the many destructive practices that are damaging the country now and for future generations. The wanton and unchecked destruction of the environment in Burma is not only harmful to Burma, but to all of the surrounding countries.

## 9. For the control of narcotics.

Burma is one of the main producers of methamphetamines in the world, and is #1 in Southeast Asia. Burma, behind Afghanistan, is the #2 producer of opium/heroin in the world.

## 10. For regional security.

Burma is building up its military with assistance from other area dictatorships and this, along with its interest in a nuclear program, makes it a regional security threat. Its immoral leadership and lack of accountability also make it a potential global threat.

## How you can help

1. Pray for the people of Burma and join in the Global Day of Prayer for Burma.
2. Work with your church, workplace, or school to raise awareness of the situation in Burma.
3. Sponsor an FBR relief team.
4. Donate relief supplies or volunteer your time.
5. Organize a Run for Relief for Burma.
6. Donate financially.

Donations can be sent in the following ways:

By check mailed to the Thai Christian Foundation – make check payable to Thai Christian Foundation, designating it to Thai-Burma Missions or FBR in a separate note. Send it to 6116 N. Central Expressway, Suite 518 L.B., Dallas, TX 75206. The TCF tax id is 75-1730295.

Online at our website:

Please go to [www.freeburmarangers.org](http://www.freeburmarangers.org) and click on "Support Free Burma Rangers".

Love each other.  
Unite and work for freedom, justice and peace.  
Forgive and don't hate each other.  
Pray with faith,  
Act with courage,  
Never surrender.



For more information, visit  
[www.freeburmarangers.org](http://www.freeburmarangers.org)  
or email  
[info@freeburmarangers.org](mailto:info@freeburmarangers.org)

