

THAILAND 2016



Thailand



MANDATE

Handicap International's mandate in Thailand is to increase access to basic and livelihood services and to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities living in refugee camps and neighbouring host villages. The organisation also aims to prevent accidents and casualties caused by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) close to the border. Our projects are concentrated along the Thai-Myanmar border.

SITUATION

Thailand has been a major destination country for asylum seekers and refugees from Myanmar for the past decades. Since 1984, Thailand has provided refuge to people fleeing violence in Myanmar, and more recently to economic migrants. Following policy changes, since 2011, the evolution of the situation in Myanmar had led to a slow but steady decline in the number of refugees in the camps. This population is now estimated at 109,035 people¹. However, changes are slow and refugees still waiting. Living conditions are extremely poor in the nine camps located along the Myanmar-Thailand border, particularly for people with disabilities. Therefore, refugees rely heavily on the humanitarian assistance provided by international NGOs and community-based organizations.

INITIAL ACTIONS

Handicap International was founded in 1982 in Thailand by two French doctors. Its first activities were to help refugees living in camps along the Cambodian borders, including the orthopaedic-fitting of amputees injured in mine accidents. Since 1984, Handicap International operates along the border with Myanmar. The main activities since then have been: fitting refugees with locally-produced prostheses, community-based rehabilitation², the empowerment of people with disabilities and their inclusion in local communities (villages, neighbourhoods, etc.), and the prevention of mine accidents through risk education activities.

Handicap International is one of the 19 member organisations of the Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand (CCSDPT). Handicap International actively promotes collaboration and coordination between international organisations, refugee committees and key operators, such as community-based

organisations working with vulnerable communities.

STAFF

- National staff: 32 + an average of 100 camp-based workers³
- Expatriate staff members: 2

KEY FACTS

Human Development Index (HDI) *	93/188 classified countries HDI value: 0.726
Life expectancy*	74.4
Gross National Income per capita * (PPA\$)	13,323 \$ per year
Population**	67.22 million
Surface area**	513,120 sq.km.

*UNDP: Human development report 2015

** UNSD 2015

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	Ratified 07/29/2008
Oslo convention on cluster munitions	Not joined
Ottawa mine ban convention	Ratified 11/27/1998

¹ Number of refugees living on the Myanmar/Thailand border at the end of July 2015, according to the verification exercise conducted in January-April 2015 by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

² Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) consists in involving and training the friends and family of disabled people in rehabilitation exercises and care to ensure their continuity.

Current projects 2016



Access to physical rehabilitation services

GOAL

Improve access to physical rehabilitation and assistive technology services in five out of nine Myanmar refugee camps in Thailand.

METHOD

Handicap International is the only organisation providing rehabilitation services to people with disabilities living in refugee camps in Thailand. These services are organised around:

- Three Assistive Technology workshops producing orthoses, prostheses and adapted technical devices;
- Seven rehabilitation centres providing physiotherapy and occupational therapy services to people with disabilities and advice to their families/caregivers;
- A network of community volunteers supplying occupational therapy and physiotherapy services in the homes of people with disabilities;
- Advising people with disabilities and their families/caregivers to assist voluntary repatriation and facilitated return in coordination with UNHCR and the International Office for Migration (IOM);
- Development of rehabilitation return kits consisting of physiotherapy, occupational therapy and assistive technology supplementary consumables and tools

In addition to rehabilitation services, Handicap International also promotes the early detection of disabilities in children in partnership with other NGOs (Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), American Refugee Committee (ARC), Malteser International and primary schools.

Handicap International also works closely with four Thai institutions which help to improve the quality of services provided to refugees.

BENEFICIARIES

- 822 people with impairments/disabilities and their family member/caregivers including 190 children with disabilities and 13 landmines survivors;
- 102 refugee health workers from partner INGOs;
- 45 camp-based staff.

PARTNERS

- Première Urgence Internationale;
- American Refugee Committee;
- Malteser International;
- International Rescue Committee;
- Siridohorn National Medical Rehabilitation Centre;
- Siridohorn School of Prosthetics and Orthotics;
- Mae Sot General Hospital;
- Phrae Hospital.

LOCATION

The project is run in five out of nine refugee camps set up along the Thai-Myanmar border: Mae La, Umpiem Mai, Nu Po, Mae Ra Ma Luang and Mae La Oon.



Growing Together

GOAL

To develop accessible, safe and child friendly spaces in Thailand, Pakistan and Bangladesh refugee camps, where children with disabilities and other vulnerable children can play and learn together and have better life conditions.

METHOD

Handicap International develops accessible, safe and child friendly spaces for children with disabilities and other vulnerable children. Through educational games, arts, sports and learning activities, Handicap International promotes personal development, self-esteem, social cohesion and inclusion. A special attention is paid to the youngest children who are at risk of development delays. Thanks to early detection and rehabilitation, disabilities can be prevented and the lives of children with disabilities can be made more comfortable. In a safe environment, parents and caregivers will learn how they can contribute to the early stimulation of their child. Simultaneously the program engages local child-development service providers to be more responsive to the needs of boys and girls with disabilities and other vulnerable children, and assists the organizations in implementing measures to facilitate their inclusion.

BENEFICIARIES

- 13.000 vulnerable boys and girls (0-18 years old) and their parents
- Local service providers trained to make their services accessible to all vulnerable children, reaching 50.000 beneficiaries (indirect beneficiaries)
- In each country, interventions also address the needs of hosting communities in order to promote social cohesion

PARTNERS

With IKEA Foundation support

LOCATION

- Bangladesh: Nayapara and Kutupalong camps, surrounding makeshift camps and host communities in Cox Bazar district
- Pakistan: Jalozai camps and surrounding host communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province
- Thailand: Refugee camps in Mae Hong Son and Tak provinces



Access to basic services, accessibility and socio-economic inclusion

GOAL

Promote and improve inclusive local development at refugee camp level to facilitate access for people with disabilities to services provided to refugees (including care and vocational training) and foster their self-reliance and involvement in the social life of refugee camps.

METHOD

Handicap International takes a global approach to promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities, by providing a comprehensive range of services for people with disabilities and operators involved in the social and economic life of refugee camps. This global approach includes:

- Ensuring access for people with disabilities to mainstream buildings (schools, vocational training centres and public buildings) and their communities (information on the rights of people with disabilities targeted at people with disabilities, camp managers, organisations and the general public);
- Improving the physical accessibility of public buildings and individual houses;
- Setting up self-help groups of people with disabilities;
- Improving access to basic services (health, education and livelihoods) for people with disabilities through capacity-building to service providers;
- Supporting inclusive policy through accessibility audits and barrier assessment.

BENEFICIARIES

- 601 people with disabilities and their families;
- 5 self-help groups composed of 15 members - on average one in each targeted camp, which represent people with disabilities and will advocate for their inclusion in mainstream services;
- An average of 50 staff from 5 mainstream agencies;
- All people with disabilities regardless of their legal status in camps will benefit from social inclusion activities through public events and awareness activities.

PARTNERS

- American Refugee Committee;
- Adventist Development and Relief Agency;
- Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugee;
- Solidarités International;
- The Border Consortium;
- Thai Foundation for empowerment of persons with disabilities

LOCATION

The project is run in five out of nine refugee camps set up along the Thai-Myanmar border (see map): Mae La, Umpiem Mai, Nu Po, Mae La Oon and Mae Ra Ma Luang.



Mine and explosive remnants of war risk education

GOAL

Inform and educate the Myanmar refugee population and migrant students and teachers in Thailand on the risks of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

METHOD

Risk education, which consists in providing refugees/migrants with information related to the identification of suspicious areas and mines/ERW, the actions to take if they come across these devices, marking/reporting the finds, what to do when they witness mine accidents, and how to prepare for a journey to suspected areas.

Handicap International uses posters, banners and an awareness-raising film to get the prevention messages across to communities (schools, families and community leaders). Handicap International is also raising awareness through various activities:

- Information sessions for highly vulnerable groups such as travellers, boarding students and teachers, people with disabilities including mine survivors, pregnant women, single parents, older people;
- Information sessions for refugees who are registered with UNHCR for 'Go and See visits' in Myanmar and facilitated return regardless of gender, age, occupation and return destination in Myanmar;
- Risk education briefings with a focus on camp-based organizations (CBOs), cross-border CBOs and NGO staff, students aged 6-18;
- Risk education training for camp committees, teachers in camps and migrant schools in Mae Sot district;
- Risk education return kit tools development.

The organization has also developed a database of mines and explosive remnants of war victims to better identify at-risk zones and to provide better information to people crossing the border. This data will also be used to facilitate mine action in Myanmar when the situation allows.

BENEFICIARIES

- A total of 18,683 refugees who are at-risk groups (people who travel between Myanmar and Thailand: men aged 15 to 35);
- Approximately 1,050 students and teachers including children from 20 migrant schools outside the camps - a total of 1,039 pupils and 11 teachers;
- International INGOs active in camps and in Myanmar: Right to Play, COERR, PUI, Solidarités International, ACTED, ARC, IRC, Save the Children, World Education, Malteser International and ADRA
- Camp-based organizations: Karen Youth Organization (KYO), Karen Women Organization (KWO), Karen Student Working Group (KSWG), Karenni Women Organization (KnWO), Karen Culture Group (KCG) and Muslim Women Organization (MWO);




PARTNERS

- Save the Children
- FilmAid.

LOCATION

This project is run in nine refugee camps set up along the Thai-Myanmar border (see map): Mae La, Umpiem Mai, Nu Po, Mae Ra Ma Luang, Mae La Oon, Tham Hin, Ban Don Yang, Ban Mae Surin and Ban Mai Nai Soi.

MAIN FUNDING BODIES

<p>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</p> 	<p>Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (US State Department)</p> 	<p>European Commission (DEVCO)</p> 
<p>IKEA Foundation</p> <p>IKEA Foundation</p> 