Resettle to a new country? Refugee kids at Northern Thai camp watching the life-style pictures of USA, curious but also puzzled.
重新安置到另一国家？泰北難民營內的小孩面對著介紹美國生活的照片感到好奇又疑惑。

Without us, refugees can experience dangerous gaps in vital aid. • With us, they can get the all-round, practical assistance and protection they so desperately need.
無數難民在危難中生命受到威脅，感覺絕望。聯合國難民署奮力確保難民得到必需的保護和提供實質的援助。
A widespread and rapid escalation of violence broke out in Osh and Southern Kyrgyzstan on June 10. Hundreds of people have been killed and more than 375,000 Uzbekistan were forced to flee their homes to save their lives. About 100,000 people fled to neighboring Uzbekistan and the rest remain displaced within Kyrgyzstan.

The situation seems to be back to normal, however, both refugees and internally displaced people have expressed mixed feelings to UNHCR staff about going home. Although they want to be reunited with their families, many are worried for their safety and going back to destroyed, damaged or looted homes.

Every day UNHCR teams in Osh and Jalalabad visit displaced people who complain of detention, harassment and difficulties in getting basic medical services, electricity, garbage and sewage treatment services.

Another concern is that refugees may be returning to situations of further displacement because many homes have been destroyed or badly damaged. In the district of Tashlik, UNHCR visited some 70 people from 10 families who were taking shelter in a burnt-out school after returning from Uzbekistan on Thursday. Ismailia, 58, was in tears as she told UNHCR she had to leave her daughter behind in Uzbekistan because the younger woman gave birth in a refugee camp on Tuesday and could not travel. “It happened earlier than we expected because she was so worried. I am so sad it happened in such conditions, although she was looked after,” she said, adding that she expected her daughter to be back soon.

The priority of UNHCR work is restoring lost or destroyed personal documentation, and assisting Kyrgyz authorities to enhance its capacity to issue new documents.

“We need food, clothes and other things urgently,” an elderly woman told UNHCR protection officers in Osh. “We are waiting for something to happen but have not seen results yet. The government has not come to see us yet and we don’t know if there’s any plan to reconstruct our houses.”

The UN Refugee Agency appealed for US$23 million for emergency shelter and protection projects in southern Kyrgyzstan before the winter arrives.

6月10日在吉爾吉斯的奧什和南部城市發生了嚴重的種族衝突，事件令數百人死亡，並引致超過37萬5千名烏茲別克人被迫逃離家園。約10萬名難民逃到鄰國烏茲別克，其餘則在吉爾吉斯境內流離失所。

現時局勢已經回復平靜，大批難民由烏茲別克返回吉爾吉斯。難民和國內流離失所人士向難民署職員講述他們對於返家感到百感交集。雖然他們能和家人團聚，但大部分人仍害怕生命受威脅，亦難以面對被摧毀和洗劫一空的家園。

聯合國難民署救援隊伍每日都會在奧什和賈拉拉巴德探訪，並記錄關於流離失所人士被扣押、騷擾的投訴，以及他們在獲取基本藥物援助、電力供應、垃圾和污水處理服務時遇到的困難。

聯合國難民署關注的另一問題是由於大量房屋已被破壞，已返回家園的難民有可能被迫繼續流離失所的生活。聯合國難民署職員在Tashlik市，訪問了七十名難民，他們分別來自十個不同的家庭。Ismailia哭著告訴聯合國難民署她的女兒因為剛剛在難民營生下嬰兒不能走動，所以仍然留在烏茲別克。她說：「由於她太緊張，所以早產了。雖然在當地有人照顧她，但我仍然很傷心嬰兒在這情況下出世。」她還補充說，希望能盡快和女兒重聚。

聯合國難民署現時最急切的任務是為回家的難民回復生活秩序，包括確認難民的公民身份，重新領回財產、文件及提供法律諮詢。

一位年長的婦女告訴在奧什市負責保護工作的聯合國難民署職員，說：「我們急需食物、衣服和其他物資，我們仍在等待救援。政府沒有派人來視察我們的情況，我們亦不知道有沒有計劃幫助我們重建家園。」

聯合國難民署希望盡快籌集2,300萬美元，趕在冬天來臨前在南部搭建更多緊急庇護所和提供生活必需的援助。
READY TO RESPOND 隨時待命
Inside UNHCR's Central Emergency Stockpile in Dubai
揭開聯合國難民署杜拜中央緊急倉庫真面貌

A refugee crisis can develop very quickly, requiring UNHCR’s immediate response. Come with us behind the scenes of our Central Emergency Stockpile in Dubai and see how UNHCR rushes tonnes of emergency aid and equipment to the field.

UNHCR established its massive warehouse facility in Dubai in late 2006. In terms of logistics, Dubai is an ideal location with ready access to all continents and excellent cargo handling facilities. It is close to the Middle East’s busiest seaport and within a short drive of five international airports where charter planes can be deployed in 24 to 48 hours.

Covering an area of the size of several football fields, the Central Emergency Stockpile contains 16,000m³ of relief items — enough to meet the immediate non-food needs of 500,000 people. The aisles are stacked high with tents, plastic sheeting, kitchen sets, blankets, mosquito nets, jerry cans and buckets along with operational support items like trucks, generators, hospital tents, prefabricated warehouses and telecommunications equipment.

UNHCR Supply Manager Relson Cordero is one of 12 dedicated staff who oversee the delivery of goods to and from the stockpile. The team handles a minimum of three shipments a week, with each outgoing shipment replenished by multiple incoming shipments.

“We are a small team in Dubai,” Relson says, “but we work together and complement one another. This is so crucial when dealing with emergencies. We never miss a flight or a shipment, whatever the situation or the conditions. Whether it’s day or night or the weekend, even if there’s a dust storm in Dubai, we can’t afford to be late for a flight because we know that it means a delay of one or two days in the delivery of the relief items on the ground.”

In 2009, the Dubai team dispatched relief and equipment to 24 countries including four major emergency operations in Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

“You really see the huge difference it makes during a crisis like Georgia, Myanmar or Pakistan,” says Relson. “Yemen has a major emergency right now and we’ve sent nine shipments there since mid-2009.”

“I can say that we are proud and honoured with what we do here in Dubai. We usually need to send supplies within 48 hours and even some of my special family celebrations have to be postponed because of emergencies. My wife always tells me not to feel sorry, but to think about the people we are helping. The reward is knowing that a blanket will give warmth to a child or a kitchen set will let a mother cook a basic meal for her family.”

The UNHCR cargo plane is loaded at Dubai airport to bring urgently needed relief supplies to 1.5 million civilians displaced by the conflict in north-west Pakistan’s Swat Valley region last year.

Thanks to the Central Emergency Stockpile in Dubai, UNHCR has the capacity to respond to any new emergency impacting upon up to 500,000 people, with many relief and emergency supplies available worldwide.

A UNHCR cargo plane is loaded at Dubai airport to bring urgently needed relief supplies to 1.5 million civilians displaced by the conflict in north-west Pakistan’s Swat Valley region last year.
Resettlement programme brings hope to those stranded for long periods of time amongst the Karen clan in Thailand

May 2010 was the hottest summer in the history of Chiang Mai, Thailand. The temperature reached a record high of 45 degrees Celsius. The sunshine became so blinding to the human eye that my Thai colleagues and I found it unbearable. We found ourselves immersed in a huge oven as our four-wheel drive journeyed through the winding roads of the hillside. It took three days to travel from Hong Kong to the refugee camp situated between Northern Thailand and the border of Burma. What lay before our eyes was a huge country-side village with houses built with bamboo frames and leaves-stacked roofs. There were a total of 27,154 refugees and asylum seekers located there.

The United States of America started a Resettlement Programme for Mae La Ma Luang and Mae La Oon Refugee camps this year which will allow many refugees to begin their new lives in US. UNHCR has been working proactively with the refugees in providing information on the application procedures and addressing their questions on ways to adjust to a new lifestyle in the United States. The agency encouraged the refugees to apply for the programme to start a new path in the most difficult environments, but not every refugee has met the application requirements.

Receiving a New Life - Blu Ta Htoo/Saw Thee Kaw

Beautiful with a nice smile, Blu Ta Htoo, is a 19-year-old young woman who completed her 11th grade, the most senior class in junior high school in the camps. She and her two sisters already enrolled in the Resettlement Programme for the United States and they are waiting for the interview. She remembers the time in 2003 when she and her family lived in the refugee camp. She says that she is very happy to have the opportunity to reside in another country. Because she knows that if she is accepted, she can continue her studies in the United States and fulfill her dream in becoming a doctor. She aspires to be like those doctors who work in the refugee camps and serve people.

Blu Ta Htoo: “My parents did not apply for the Resettlement Programme, they wanted to return to their homeland, but people in Burma are still being oppressed and there is no timeline on when people can return. But I am still young; I don’t want to waste my life on just waiting in the refugee camps.”

When asked about the time he arrived at the refugee camp, 72-year-old Saw Thee Kaw revealed a sense of sadness in his face. In 2000, two different camps of soldiers started fighting in the village he lived in. Saw Thee Kaw was wounded by stray bullets and the villagers used herbal medicine to treat his wound. His entire family immediately fled for their lives and they ran day and night for two days in the forests and finally reached the Mae La Oon Refugee camp. But the doctors said his ulcerated left arm must be cut off in order to save his life. Ten years have passed and Saw Thee Kaw’s family has applied to relocate to the United States so that his three grandchildren can receive more education and employment opportunities. They will also be able to rebuild a new home in the States.

Saw Thee Kaw: “Even though I am already 72 years old, I am confident I can adjust to living in the United States, because I am Christian, I believe that God will provide.”

2010年的5月，是泰國清邁有史以來最炎熱的夏天，氣溫高達45度，烈日炎炎得與我同行的泰國同事都忍受不了，四輪車在盤旋不斷的山路中駛進飛揚的黃土，置身其中如在火監，從香港到泰國北部與緬甸邊境接壤的難民營共花了三天時間，映入眼底的是一個飽滿的山區村寨，一大片竹林建築，樹葉為頂的房屋。在這裡共有27,154名難民及尋求庇護者。今年美國對美萊美龍(Mae La Ma Luang)及美拉奧(Mae La Oon)難民營展開了「重新安置計劃」，準備接收大量難民到美國重建新生，聯合國難民署積極向難民解釋申請程序、如何適應美國的生活模式及解答他們的疑問，鼓勵難民參加，在長期困難的環境中找尋出路，但並非每一位難民都符合資格申請。

重獲新生 — 布丹娟 / 蘇紀孝

擁有甜美笑容的布丹娟現年19歲，已完成營內最高的初中教育第11班。她和兩位姐妹已經參加了重新安置計劃到美國，正在等待面試。想到2003年因為所住的村莊被士兵燒焦，一家人徒步3天再乘船到達美拉奧難民營的情景，到今天有機會可安置到另一國家，布丹娟感到很欣慰，因為若被接納，她便可以在美國繼續學業，早日達成夢想成為一位醫生，就如那些在難民營內工作，為難民治病的醫生一樣，可以為有需要的人服務。

布丹娟：我的父母沒有參加重新安置計劃，他們很想回到家鄉生活，但克倫族人在緬甸仍備受欺壓，不知要何時才可以回去。但我仍年青，不想在難民營等待，虛耗生命。

當被問到他為何會來到難民營時，今年72歲的蘇紀孝面上仍帶著一絲絲傷感及無奈。在2000年，兩隊不同派系的士兵在他所住的村莊開戰。蘇紀孝被流彈所傷，村民以草藥為他草草包紮，一家人立即逃亡，在樹林內不眠不休的跑了兩天才到達美拉奧難民營，但醫生說潰爛的左手必須要切開才可以保住他的生命。十年時間過去了，為了3個孫兒能得到教育和工作機會，蘇紀孝一家人已經申請到美國，希望在美國重新建立自己的家。

蘇紀孝：雖然我已經72歲，但有信心可適應美國的生活，因為我是基督徒，相信神會有安排。
Saw Bue Klee Has is 16 years old. In 2005, his father passed away. The villagers witnessed the soldiers looting the village and villagers were shot dead because they refused to turn in a chicken to the soldiers. His mother feared the absence of security and arranged Saw Bue Klee Has, three brothers and sisters to flee with the other children. They hiked for three days in the forests of Burma and arrived at the Mae La Ma Luang Refugee camp. Saw and many children, who were left without their parents, were assigned to live in the children quarters. After one year, Saw was orphaned when his mother passed away from an illness and he lived together with his siblings - a six-year-old, an eight-year-old, and a ten-year-old in the camps. Even though Saw wants to enroll in the Resettlement Programme, he cannot since he does not have refugee status. He can only wait in the camps as a stateless person until there is a policy change by the Thai Government.

Saw Bue Klee Has: “The soldiers from Burma may cross the border and arrest us, we have already wrapped up food so that in case we need to suddenly flee, we are ready. Life in the camps is very difficult, I always remember what my mother said, “Always be a kind person.” And I say the same to remind my brothers and sisters.”

In Sept 2007, the Burmese Government announced a mass increase in fuel prices and people were left with no way to make a living. This led to mass protests by local monks. Mar Mar Win was an elementary school teacher and alongside millions of civilians joined the monks’ protest and they were met with the gunfire by soldiers. A man standing in front of Mar Mar Win was shot and wounded and Mar immediately took him to the hospital for treatment. Her life was since kept under surveillance and her safety threatened. In 2008, she fled to Mae La Ma Luang Refugee camp together with her family. There are no job opportunities in the camps and Mar has become very distressed. Since she does not have a refugee card, she is not allowed to enroll in the Resettlement Programme. She hopes that there can be a new policy that can help them leave the refugee camps.

Mar Mar Win: “I am still afraid even now I am in the camps. We are only 10 miles away from Burma and occasionally I still hear gunfire in the forests. If they have long-range firearms, the soldiers won’t need to cross the border to kill me. I want to immediately move to a safe and free place.”

Background Information: Although Thailand did not sign the International Refugee Convention, they have accepted over 100,000 Burmese refugees and asylum seekers. UNHCR has been working with the local government providing refugee registration services. Since early 2005, Thailand refuse to register any newly arrived refugees. Those without official refugee registration are not allowed to apply for the Resettlement Programme. They can only exist with the status of stateless persons.

Saw Bue Klee Has patronises the Burmese government in 2005 and his father passed away. In 2005, the soldiers from Burma may cross the border and arrest us, we have already wrapped up food so that in case we need to suddenly flee, we are ready. Life in the camps is very difficult, I always remember what my mother said, “Always be a kind person.” And I say the same to remind my brothers and sisters.”

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The latest report from Global Trends 2009 published on World Refugee Day revealed that currently there are 43.3 million people uprooted by conflict and violence, the highest number since 1990. Moreover, the number of voluntary repatriations dropped to its lowest figure in the last 20 years. UNHCR is now facing great challenges including: How to raise awareness and raise funds to provide the basic needs of displaced people.

UNHCR Hong Kong office organised a series of World Refugee Day events last June, hoping to raise awareness in the community and draw support to our humanitarian work.

June 18 World Refugee Day Fundraising Concert

The evening was a joyous musical night with talented musicians sharing not only their music, but their empathy towards refugees. The talents included Henry and Roger Chung from “The Chimes”, Helen Mottee, Joey Yau, Kinman Wong, Vicky Fung, Vincent Wan, Barry Chung, The Charcoal, Of Moths & Stars and ToNick.

6月18日世界難民日音樂會

6月18日在BACKSTAGE Live Restaurant舉辦了「世界難民日音樂會」，得到多位演藝界朋友支持，包括「鐘聲」的鍾一匡，鍾一諾，馮毅琪，溫家恆，黃劍文，邱頌兒，Barry Chung，Helen Mottee，The Charcoal，Of Moths & Stars，ToNick。觀眾購票做善事之餘更享受了多類型音樂！

June 20 “Be a Refugee”

“The rebels are coming, run!” Without another thought, you flee from home!

Frightened, thirsty, hungry and with no idea where your family members are; you are now living out what millions undergo on a daily basis. 54 participants left the comforts of modern life and became ‘refugees’ and fled from the terror of war and underwent hardships for a few hours. They had to find their family members, food and clean water in a designated time. It was a new event but we found both participants and volunteers were very impressed with the event; some of them shared their thoughts:

“Fleeing to nowhere and the stress of looking for families made me feel empathy with the plight of refugees.”

“When I was looking for my family members, I was very anxious, and the lack of basic needs made me feel helpless as a refugee.”

6月20日「體驗難民情」活動

「叛軍來了，快走！」來不及收拾任何物件，你便要逃亡！到達安全的地方後你才發現和家人失散了，飢餓、口渴、徬徨...... 54位參加者在世界難民日一嘗逃難滋味，要在指定時間內找到失散的家人和食物、食水等等。活動雖然是第一次舉辦，但參加者和義工都非常投入，且聽聽參加者的話：

「感受到難民四處流離，尋找家人的焦慮心情。」

「很徬徨，物資短缺及流離失所令人感覺很無助。」
A tailor-made “Be a Refugee” team simulation is available for company team building or school activities. Call us at 2388 3278 for further enquiry.

如你的公司或學校希望參與「體驗難民情」，請致電 2388 3278 聯絡我們。

June 20–25, 3rd Refugee Film Festival
Six films concerning refugee issues were chosen for this year’s Refugee Film Festival at Broadway Cinematheque. Supporting organisation Crossroads Foundation installed a simulation of a refugee camp in the cinema. The camp consisted of a sandy curtain with wire netting, a fragile refugee tent, cutlery, jerry can and an armed soldier.

This gave audiences a sense of what a real refugee camp would look like. Via these movies from different regions, audiences have had the chance to see the human face of refugees who are not simply numbers in the news; every refugee has the right to tell their story. The film festival was a big success! UNHCR would like to thank all the sponsors and supporters for making it possible!

The photos of the events are available on UNHCR Facebook (enquiry@unhcr.org.hk)! Join us and share the joy of the events.

With tremendous support from the listed supporters, the World Refugee Day events were a success. Thank you to ALL!

World Refugee Day Fundraising Concert 世界難民日音樂會
BACKSTAGE Live Restaurant
Barry Chung
Derek Wong
Helen Mottee
The Charcoal
Of Moths & Stars
ToNick
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鍾一諾
溫家儀
黃劍文
邱頌兒

3rd Refugee Film Festival 第三屆難民電影節
A Class Consultancy Ltd
Aetna Global Benefits
Broadway Cinematheque
Chan Ying Kwong
Crossroads Foundation Limited
Friends of Hope
Goethe Institut Hongkong
Marco Polo Hongkong Hotels
MingPao Weekly /One Media Group
Phoenix TV
SoFree Media
Stanley Harper
WestEast Magazine
X-Live Magazine

All devoted volunteers! 所有參與活動的義工們！