

The Peoples Partner...

"voices of peoples and communities"

This e-newsletter features the various programs and projects developments of Peoples Partner for Development and Democracy (PPDD)

Issue N°2 - November 2008

News Brief

BEAT Malaria!

Burma Empowerment Action Team

Malaria kills one person every 30 seconds worldwide. In Burma, malaria kills more people than any other disease, the majority of whom are children under five and pregnant women. But it is completely treatable and preventable.

BEAT Malaria works to supply local medics in Burma with malaria medication, diagnostic tests, and mosquito nets. A \$12 donation can save the life of one individual and ensure a malaria free future for their family.

Burma's brutal military dictatorship routinely performs mass human rights abuses against its people, forcing thousands to become internally displaced people (IDPs). These people are forced to hide in the jungle and lack access to basic needs such as health care and food, and are particularly vulnerable to insect born diseases like malaria. One young medic described fleeing into the jungle with his family where three of his nieces and nephews contracted malaria and died.

This medic is now one of many who has turned his experience into a passion for helping others and despite the danger, he now returns to deliver basic health care to other IDPs like himself. Local groups have already developed strong networks to deal with Burma's massive human rights abuses, but they lack access to basic resources. These teams are well trained and are effective because they share the background, language and understanding of the situation with those they are treating. We can help address these human rights atrocities in Burma by helping them deliver malarial and other basic health care. By strengthening these networks now, we will be able to create a sustainable and lasting system that has the potential to bridge political and ethnic divides

In fact, BEAT has already raised over \$10,000 to stop the spread of malaria. This is enough to buy medication for 400 IDPs and for hundreds more to receive mosquito nets. However, the need is vastly greater.

This is Eh Kler Gu, a 2 year old patient with severe malaria. He is pictured with his mother who walked nearly 10 days to get him treatment. She was lucky, but many cannot travel because of the dangers. Our doctors and medics provide care to both stationary clinics and mobile teams, which travel to IDP camps deep inside Burma that may be far from a stable clinic. The teams also document human rights abuses and provide other basic needs.

Already more than half of the world's population is at risk of acquiring malaria and this percentage increases each year due to drug resistance and other issues. Although Africa has the highest burden of disease and thus the largest concentration of malaria advocacy groups, more than one-third of cases occur in Asia. Burma has the highest drug resistance in the world, which means it will only get worse if we do not address this need on a large scale. By bringing malaria care to Burma, BEAT joins in the global mission to create a malaria free future.

To get involved, visit our website at www.beatmalaria.org or donate to our cause. \$12 will buy malaria medication and a malaria test for one individual and a mosquito net for their entire family. Any donation made to BEAT is tax deductible through our partner organization, Earth Mission. Visit our website for information on how to donate online or donate by mail by sending checks to:

BEAT Malaria! Earth Mission, 608 S. Hico St., Siloam Springs, AR, 72761, U.S.A

Quiz Night at Thaimes!

Fundraising Activity for Light School – "Alternative School for Stateless, Displaced and Marginalized Children from Burma at the Thai-Burma Border"

Every Tuesday night we hold our quiz night to any and everyone who comes to Thaimes bar. Our team creates a list of various questions from interesting facts about nature to questions about history and current affairs, so that we can reach all different cultures that live in the small town of Mae Sot.

For this day only we ask an entry fee from the participants. We divide the whole crowd in teams of 4 or 5, depending on the total amount of people

at the moment. The winning team gets half of the amount from the fees and second place get a free beer for each team member. We also have an activity during the quiz, heads and tails, in which the winner gets a free drink of choice.

This has been an incredible and fun way to raise funds for our school and children.



-- by Camila Fassarella

Light School opened the school year 2008-2009 with much enthusiasm!

PPDD and its local staffs at the Thai -Burma border, Maesot, Tak, Thailand held an opening ceremony last June 15, 2008 to formally welcome another exciting year for LS as it continuous fulfill its vision of providing educational opportunities to stateless, displaced and marginalized kids from Burma. The ceremony went well and it was attended by both local and international staff of PPDD, partner organizations and individual supporters of the school. This school year, LS is catering to over 100 kids.

PPDD in action... the Light School and its development

PPDD Training-Workshops Activities

Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (Health and Sanitation Training)

This past July 29th, we conducted a one-day training for trainers on basic health and sanitation. There were four basic steps identified and taught:



- Problem identification (community stories and health problem in our community);
- Problem analysis (mapping water and sanitation in our community, good and bad hygiene behaviors, investigating community practices and how diseases spread)
- Planning of Solutions (blocking the spread of diseases, selecting the barriers and task of men and women in the community)
- Selecting Options (choosing sanitation improvement, choosing hygiene improvements and final time for questions)



This training helped our community to be aware of basic hygiene issues, how to identify problems and, most importantly, how to solve them in a simple manner. Many of us are aware of the poor condition these families live on, so this training was of great importance to everyone.

Organizational Development Training

This past August we had a training on Organizational Development Training. The course basically aimed to provide the participants with knowledge and skills in making an organization sustainable and successful in fulfilling its visions, missions and goals. This was a one-week training held last August 11-15, 2008 in Maesot, Tak Province in Thailand and with the participation of young activists from Burma coming from different local organizations under DAB.



The main objectives reached through this training were:

- A look at the different definitions of and approaches to development, emphasizing the importance of participation, empowerment and inclusion.
- Clarification of the organization's mission.
- To examine the factors that influence an organization's success and sustainability.
- To help local organizations achieve the greatest possible program impact through the best organizational practice.
- To help the organization outline the basic standards of best practice.
- To educate the participants on the step by step guide to developing an effective and well-managed organization that makes best use of its people and financial resources to design, deliver and develop its program.

Training-Workshop on Social and Family Development

-- by Anna Malindog

On the tenth of March a handful of our PPDD staff commenced a social/family development and human rights course for the parents of our light school children. Our main aim with this project is to build a dialogue and a more rounded understanding of the concept of dignity and human rights, family development and the need for equality among all the worlds' people.

We figure it to be a subject of the upmost importance for all participants involved. We hope that most, if not all attending the workshops can leave with some tools to help them with any personal

issues they may be facing, difficulties within the family and general well being.

None of the participants have ever touched base on the idea of international human rights so it is a slow and carefully approached project with the dire need for patience and understanding. We are using as many creative methods of facilitating as possible without straying too far from the base curriculum.



The parents seem to be enjoying themselves and there is a great feeling of warmth and community spirit in the workshops thus far. Although most of the participants live within walking range we do understand that they also have their private affairs, jobs, family responsibilities etc, taking this under consideration we are happy to report that we are still have a large number attending.

Given the foreign subject matter we are pleased to say that we feel the parents are taking the workshops very seriously, and obviously enjoying themselves at the same time.

After the completion of this month's training we will be organizing follow up workshops for may and commencing training in a variety of other subjects for our light schoolteachers and parents.

More...

PPDD in Partnership with Democratic Alliance of Burma conducted a joint training on **Logical Framework Approach (LFA)** to capacitate the senior staff of DAB for them to be effective in their work. The training was held every weekend and it started **last September 20-21, 2008**. The training-workshop lasted for three (3) successive weekends.

PPDD Executive Director and its Local Staff actively participated and was in-charge of the whole program of activities and was the secretariat of the **Three Day Training Workshop on Management Planning and School Administration and Supervision** sponsored by MOE (Ministry of Education) Tak Education Service **Area 2 Migrant Learning Centers Liason Office and Volunteering Service Overseas (VSO)**. The training aims to strengthen and enhance the administrative and supervisory capacity of the migrant schools at the Thai-Burma border to develop and attain the overall mission and vision of migrant education in Thailand.

Reflections...

By Misu Na

I always dreamed of traveling around the world, without destination or purpose like Sinbad or Gilbert Grape. This volunteer work was quite unusual for me because I decided to go to Mae Sot with the distinct purpose of helping people. I thought focusing on my personal career and property all the time was useless. I wanted to make change in this crazy world, and so I came to Mae-sot, which is the headquarters of many CBOs and NGOs, to learn from these organizations.

I also came to Mae Sot because of my interest in activism for Burma. I worked for a political non profit organization in Korea, and did research on East-Asia's political situation and history. This sparked my interest in Burma, so I decided to stay in Mae Sot for 10 months.

However, the situation in Burma is quite complicated. There are 6 major ethnic groups in Burma, and many minor ethnic groups. Thus, I realize that situation in this country is much more complicated than Korea. So my previous plan to adapt Korea's history to Burma is dissipating, but I am starting to understand the situation in Burma.

I arrived here just one week ago, but I am starting to recognize that the situation in Burma is unique. It's really hard to resolve the ethnic tensions and it might be impossible to solve the problem, but we should face it rather than turn away. Burma's situation is desperate and complicated, but if you try to help, the situation will improve. The people of Burma are desperate, but we can help. I believe we can make the world a better place.

Special thanks!

Special thanks to Dale Bromley for helping us so much especially on the Light School and at Thaimes bar. Thank you for starting the weekly quiz night at Thaimes, mixing work with fun and which, of course, has helped us greatly.

Our sincere gratitude for being part of our organization for all this time and helping us make a better future for the Burmese children and the community in general.

-- PPDD team

Staff in Focus

Camila Fassarella - a Brazilian volunteer in Asia

I'm Camila Fassarella, from Brazil. I was born in 1984 in the state of Espírito Santo, but moved to São Paulo when I was still little and have been living here for most of my life. When I finished school and decided to go to college, I chose International Relations because it had most of the subjects that interest me, such as languages, law, anthropology and political science. Throughout those four years, the area which got most of my attention was human rights and since then it has been my main focus for a career path.

In August 2007, I had the opportunity to attend the International Human Rights Academy in Utrecht, Netherlands, which is where I got to meet some of people that would greatly help me in my career - Anna, from PPDD and Rowena Legaspi, from CLRDC. After the Academy, Anna invited me to be part of the organization, it took me a couple of months to get things together, but I finally had the chance to go on January this year. My mission was to coordinate the PPDD office in the Philippines.

During the one semester I got to spend in the country, Rowena Legaspi and everyone from *Children's Legal Rights and Development Center* (CLRDC) and *Children's Legal Advocacy Network* (CLAN) were there to help me out, show me around and teach new things every day. Besides my work with PPDD, I also had the chance to see how CLRDC works and also work together with them, including field work. We had our exposures in communities around Manila area, visited dumpsite areas, talked to children who have to work to sustain their families and, as part of a CLAN work, we constantly went to the Philippines Congress to pass to the Congressmen (and women) a bill on anti-corporal punishment of children.

Concerning my position as PPDD staff member in the Philippines, I was in charge of, basically, anything about the organization in the country - doing the basic and essential office work, promoting us, networking, coordinating meetings, the newsletter and etc. Plus, of course, the work of PPDD together with CLAN, since the organization is part of CLAN's Campaign/Lobby Committee.



Few months after my arrival in the Philippines, I finally had the opportunity to go to Thailand to meet with Anna and other staff members, plus get to know the school and see the work up-close. The experience was amazing beyond words, the impact of our work and of so many other organizations and volunteers has such a great impact on the lives of the refugees. What may seem "little" for us, can make a big difference for those in need.

The kids show us so much hope and perseverance, they never give in or give up. Like their parents, they hope for a better future and see in the school and our work, a way to get there.

It has always been one of my objectives to work with and help children somehow. This experience in both Thailand and the Philippines has fulfilled that wish. Though I don't consider it "complete", because it is my plan to still work on this area.

No words can describe how grateful I am to all those involved in my stay in Asia. I am now back home, in Brazil, but still working for PPDD and can't wait to be able to go back and help a little more in any way possible.



Camila and Rowena Legaspi with children from Barangay Tatalon (Philippines)



Camila and some of the Light School kids in Mae Sot, Thailand

Literary Gimmicks

• Poems

“Light School – A Happy Place for Us”

-- by Su (Grade 2 Student of Light School)

Come... come... near the cow market

Come... come... in the midst of the teak forest

In the cornfield, out of nowhere, an oasis of knowledge and happiness

There our school where we study

It's beautiful there

The birds are singing, the flowers bloom

The fields are green and the mountains stand tall and lovely

I am studying at Light School

I am happy being there...happy... happy...

The school nears the cow market

The school nears the teak forest, in the middle of nowhere

Among the corn fields that no may know

Who knows the school where I study?

“My Friend...”

By Mahn Robert Ba Zan

Karen Solidarity Organization

This century is of...

The era of national democracy, to stop

Exploitation man by man, race by race

Military dictators and fascists

Opportunities and privileged

As classes are to eliminate

The wheel of history of our revolution

Is rolling up higher in destination

So nearer is the day of our celebration

- Wendy O' Brien
- Simon
- Saw Win Thun
- Saw Kennedy
- Saw Ku Seil
- Wanna Zaw
- Kyaw Kyaw Hein
- Fred Pascal
- Marel
- Jolene
- Jack Chance
- Susan Russo
- Sandy Shum
- Arnold Leo
- Connie Woodberry
- Mike and Tolle Graham-Felson
- Joie Botkin
- Kathy Leo
- Erik Leo
- Margie Levine
- Nancy Guzik
- Thomas Wikinson
- Timothy
- Shelly Mansfield
- Gemma Niebieszczanski
- Jenny Clark
- Kris Wright
- Erin Nicholson
- Timothy Syrota

And to all people in general who have been supportive of the Light School, thank you so much for all the help and support.



Before the storm



After the storm

Thank You!

Here's a list of people who donated and helped us rebuild one of our Light School buildings, which was completely destroyed by a storm this past May.

- Tim
- Trudy Juriansz
- Melissa Leo
- Dale Bromley

Art Work of Light School Kids & Burmese Artist Activists for Auction...

A fundraising Scheme to Support Light School – “Alternative School for Stateless, Displaced and Marginalized Children from Burma at the Thai-Burma Border”

Peoples Partner for Development and Democracy – PPDD is launching fund raising scheme for Light School. Basically, the fundraising is selling or auctioning art works of Light School kids in the form of greetings cards and paintings. Pieces of art work of Burmese artist activists who are working with PPDD school projects are also being auctioned and sold in this fundraising endeavor.

This initiative is also one way of raising awareness and campaign on the different issues that Burma as a country is facing. This fundraising campaign is also a product of our regular art workshops to develop the artistic abilities of the Light School kids. The greeting cards are being sold for 5 USD since this is a fund raising scheme. The paintings are being sold for 100 – 150 USD depending on the size of the painting. PPDD as organization is asking the help and support of its friends, supporters and partner and network organizations to promote and help make this initiative successful.

Please, contact one of our staff members (emails listed on the last page of this newsletter) for more information on this fundraiser if you have any further questions or to buy our greeting cards/art work.

Regards,

-- Anna Malindog (PPDD Executive Director)

**HELP BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE
FOR LIGHT SCHOOL KIDS!!!**

Give and Thanks

Support Peoples Partner for Development and Democracy (PPDD) initiatives...

There are many ways you can get involve:

- Make a Donation to any of PPDD activities
- Help Build School for Stateless an Displaced kids in China-Burma border and Northeast India
- Donate for the Light School Alternative School for Children located at Maesot, Thailand (Thai-Burma border)
- Make monthly or recurring donations

For more information, please contact:

Anna Malindog
PPDD Executive Director
Email: anna@peoplespartner.org/armalindog@gmail.com

If you are willing to make a donation, our bank account information follows below:

Bank Name: Bangkok Bank Public Company Limited
Account Name: Ms. Anna R.D. Malindog
Account Number: 390 4 31440 2
Swift Code: BKKBTHBK

Bank Address: 125 Changphuak Road
T. Sripoom A. Muang
Chiangmai 50200, Thailand

Bank Branch: Pratungchangphuak Chiang Mai Branch

Contact Details

Find [Peoples Partner for Development and Democracy](#) online:

Official website:

<http://www.peoplespartner.org>

Official blog:

<http://armalindog.blogspot.com>

Facebook Causes Page:

<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/58258>

Myspace Official Page:

<http://myspace.com/peoplespartner>

Orkut Official Community:

<http://www.orkut.com/Community.aspx?cmm=43393908>

Staff Members

Got any comments and/or questions regarding our work or the newsletter? Feel free to contact one of our staff members:

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Light School in Thai-Burma border team:
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— Misu Na
— Naing Win
— Yee Yee Win

Ashram School in India:
— Mohammad Moosa Azmi
— Local Staff