



Urgent Humanitarian Situation update in Kachin and Northern Shan States

8th January 2017

A. Kachin State

As a result of recent fighting in Gidon and Lai Hpawng outposts between Myanmar Government Armed Forces (Tatmadaw) and Kachin Independent Army (KIA), including the landing of mortars shells near Zai Awng/ Mungga Zup IDPs camps, IDPs families have fled from their camps since 27th December 2016. Fighting still continues in the surrounding areas of Lai Hpawng and mortar attacks and airstrikes are taking place almost every day.

As at 8th January 2017, all IDPs have been evacuated from Zai Awng/Mungga Zup camps. Currently, they are taking shelter in Lungbyen area, on the road between Hkau Shau and Mungga Zup/ Zai Awng camps – about 10 miles away from their original IDPs camps. Initially, most of them had to flee from their camps immediately when mortars shells dropped and stayed about 2 to 3 mile away from their camps. They tried to collect their belongings from their camps the following day. Currently, the Camp Management Committee has arranged local transportation and is helping IDPs for logistical support to be able to bring their belongings to the new site or temporary location where most of the IDPs feel safe. Most of the IDPs have arrived to Lungbyen area and have started constructing tents with tarpaulins for temporary shelter. They are staying in three big groups near each other along the road at current location. A few more IDPs are still on their way to this new location and waiting for transportation assistance to be able to bring their belongings, including their animals such as chickens and pigs.

Health is a major concern, particularly for elderly people, children and pregnant and lactating mothers, due to unexpected rainfalls during the last few days in a very cold weather and having to stay on the road with very limited shelter. Local humanitarian organizations are trying their best to respond to the immediate needs, and thus far tarpaulins, solar lanterns, and emergency hygiene kits have been provided. Emergency latrines are being constructed. 800 students have had their education disrupted due to the current conflict and forced mass evacuation. Their regular classes have yet to resume. Hence, emergency education support is an urgent need. IDPs are traumatized after experiencing the mortar shells dropping near IDPs camps and witnessing fighter jets flying over IDPs camps. Moreover, most of them are deeply disturbed and stressed out because of mass evacuation.

Since the fall of Gidon and Lai Hpawng outposts, the security of Mungga Zup/ Zai Awng and Maga Yang has been severely compromised. Therefore IDPs from Maga Yang camps are also preparing to move to safer places. The situation is chaotic and precarious. The safety of the IDPs is our utmost concern.

B. Northern Shan State

As of 8th January 2017, there have been several continued armed clashes in different parts of Northern Shan State and increased militarization.

Mungkoe, Hpawng Seng and Kyu Koke - Pang Hseng areas: due to militarization and operations in these locations, civilians there are under tight control by Tatmadaw. Local civilians need to carry a new identity card issued by the Tatmadaw and government authorities during IDPs' return from the Chinese side of the border a few weeks ago. Without this card, people cannot travel or enter into these areas. Each family has been taken a photograph by the local authorities, and the family photo needs to be kept in front of every household for a surprise check. In most cases, family members have not been able to run their livelihood activities properly yet. This includes visiting their farms. The villagers who have returned to Mungkoe need support for food and shelter or housing. Their houses were burnt down or severally destroyed during the conflict and are now in need of repair and/or reconstruction. However, outsiders including humanitarian agencies are not allowed to enter this region yet for humanitarian response. While people may have returned to Mongkoe, some are still renting rooms in China in case they have to flee again. However, only the green passport holders of Government of China are allowed to stay in China. The two civilians of Mungkoe (Mr. Dumdaw Nawng Lat and Mr. Langjaw Gam Seng) who have been missing since 24th December 2016 have yet to be found.

Currently, 300 people are still staying in Lau Min Chin and Bang Wa villages in China. They have not been allowed to return to their original villages of Kawng Buk, Nawng Hpai and Man Pying. About 600 civilian are also trapped in the their villages, namely Kawng Lung, Man Kang, Kawn Sam, Ki La Pa, Pang Hkawn, Htingra Hkyet and Nawng Jang and Tatmadaw is strictly controlling on this area. 1,754 IDPs still need to stay at Hpai Kawng along the border area of Myanmar and China due to security reasons in their original villages of Hpai Kawng, Hkalem, Kawng Sahti, Hka Lum, Pawng Ra, Namhu, Kawng Wai. Children from these areas are not yet able to attend their school classes. All of them depend on local humanitarian assistance and individual donation for their daily survival. Humanitarian access and protection are key concerns for these locations.

Kutkai area: On 31st Dec 2016, around 40 motor shells were launched by the Tatmadaw and 8 motor shells landed in civilians' orchards in Manmau, Namhkun and Pangse villages. Moreover, the heavy artilleries dropped near Manyan village and upper Manping Pa village were very close to the homes of civilians. On 6th January 2017, 4 civilians (2 males and 2 females) working at a patrol station were shot dead by indiscriminate gunshots fired by the Tatmadaw, and there was an explosion on the bridge over Sabe stream in block 6, Kutkai. A 15-year-old girl who lived near the patrol shop was also injured by a gunshot. She is currently hospitalized at the Kutkai hospital and may need to refer other hospital. Around 30 motor shells were fired by the Tatmadaw in the nearby areas. Due to this incident, the civilians were in panic and parents were not able to pick up their children from school. Therefore, most of the students had to stay overnight at school with the teachers. At the moment, Kutkai - Tamonye Road has been blocked. The Tatmadaw and the police checked the population list of the new IDP camp at block six of Kutkai on 7th and 8th January 2017 who are forcedly displacement recently from their village of Manlung and Kawnglim. Those absent during the inspection will need to appear for another inspection on 9 January.

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