

*CE A.F. 12/26/72*  
*W*  
*A-08-REE*  
*woodson*

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director 15 December 1972  
FROM : *John W. MacQueen* AD/RA  
SUBJECT : Office of Refugee Affairs  
Monthly Report - November 1972

I. GENERAL

The total refugee population at the close of November stood at 285,892 persons, a net decline from the preceding month of 28,566. This significant drop in the number of refugees receiving support is accountable primarily because of the recent rice harvest which made certain refugees self-sufficient in rice. The most notable reduction occurred on the Vientiane Plain where 40,052 refugees were removed from the rolls. Offsetting the number of refugees in the self-sufficient category were the continued number of new refugees being added to the rolls because of enemy activity, which showed an upswing in mid-October. For the period October 21 through December 8, a total of 44,851 new refugees have been reported in the following areas:

Region I	Ban Houei Sai	3,649
"	Luang Prabang	6,230
Region II	PDJ	199
"	Central 272	6,160
Region III	Thakhek	4,588
"	Savannakhet	14,097
Region IV	Pakse	7,519
Region V	Vientiane Plain	432
"	Paksane	<u>1,577</u>
	Total	44,851

DISTR: OD, DD, AD/M, AD/FIN, AD/P, AD/RA(9), EPM(2), AD/FO, SMB(2), FFPO, C&R(3), AD: Vte, Sby, LP, BHS, Svkt, Pakse, XK, All Division Chiefs, Laos Desk-AID/W(3)

Monthly Refugee Report - November

15 December 1972

Comments relative to each of the areas noted above are as follows:

Ban Houei Sai: The new refugees reported were, almost without exception, added to the rolls during the month of November. The enemy gained control of considerable areas of land, including Vieng Phu Kha (LS 135), Ban Tha Fa (LS 216), Ban Pang Poth (PC 9658), Pak Tha Kang (PC 6724), and Pak Tha Neua (PC 6725). The enemy now controls more area and population in Houa Khong Province than at any time since 1965. It is felt that more refugees would have fled to remaining RLG areas but were prevented from doing so by the enemy.

Luang Prabang: Enemy pressures and occupation of areas, particularly north and east of Luang Prabang, continued during the month which forced many refugees to again flee, as well as adding new refugees to the rolls. Pak Ou (TH 09115) - Pak Xuang (TH 121102) area; Xieng Ngeun - Pak Bac (TG 1586); Nam Khan and Pou Pha Theung (TG 1696) and from areas east of the Nam Khan region were involved in enemy movements.

Central 272: The new refugees reported in Region II were new to the area but actually represented a transfer of responsibility for support, primarily from Region V (Vang Vieng/Muong Kassy). The enemy remained active during the period in Region II; however, few new refugees were realized from that source.

Thakhek: During 1967-68, some 7,000 refugees, originally from the Kham Keut (VF 6517) area of north central Khammouane Province, were relocated in nineteen villages in the Nam Thone Valley stretching from approximately kilometer 50 to 100 along Route 13 north of Thakhek. By the harvest of 1969 most of these people were cultivating paddy or upland rice fields and had built new houses. Schools, dispensaries and temples were also constructed. On 27-28 October 1972, PL/NVA forces overran the Nam Thone Valley, once again forcing these people to flee their villages. In addition, enemy forces managed to gain control areas directly east and south of Thakhek. Significant numbers of refugees fled into Thailand, Savannakhet, Paksane, and to Vientiane. During the month, at Thakhek itself, temporary village sites were designated at Ban Kok Hai (VE 7729) and Hin Boun (VE 5945). Refugees immediately commenced building temporary shelters using local materials and plastic sheeting provided by USAID. Medics have been assigned to the sites and dispensaries are in operation. Emergency relief in the form of rice and other commodities is being provided.

Monthly Refugee Report - November

15 December 1972

Savanna het: The city itself became the refuge of persons fleeing Kengkok (WD 220185), which fell to the enemy on 28 October, and areas in Khammoune Province including those from the Thakhek area. Many refugees at first moved in with friends or relatives but during the month reported to relief officials and were placed on support rolls. Friendly forces reoccupied Kengkok on 3 November and efforts are being made to encourage refugees to return to their original homes. Relief items are being distributed in Kengkok to those who have returned.

With the continued influx of refugees, the city has found itself hard pressed to provide facilities for housing. To relieve this situation, a reception center is being built in the Thasano Project area.

Pakse: The refugee population continued to fluctuate during the month with refugees being reported from the Khong Sedone-Wapi areas and Soukhouma (WB 8618) and Lao Ngam (XC 2410). As security improved, some refugees commenced returning to Khong Sedone and to other areas; however, not in large numbers so that by the end of the month the total number of refugees receiving support stood at 31,428, a reduction of 25 from the previous month.

Vientiane Plain: The new refugees reported in this area came from Nam Thone (VE 2794) in Khammouane Province and have relocated, temporarily at Veun Kham (Tha Ngone) and on the outskirts of Vientiane.

Paksane: Enemy and friendly activities in the area caused movement of refugees and some difficulty was experienced in keeping track of these people. A temporary site for refugees was established at GM 17 army camp outside of Paksane. 137 refugees arrived from Thakhek late in the month and were relocated at Song Khone (UF 6244) and Pak Pang (UF 9528).

On 29 November enemy forces overran and occupied the entire Nong Leng area (VF 6561). As of this writing none of an estimated 3,000 rallier civilians in the area had escaped.

On 16 November at 2200 hours, three companies of Pathet Lao entered Muong Ngane I and II. These refugee relocation villages are located at coordinates UF 6752. At 2400 hours it was observed that 113 families, composed of 728 persons, were led away by the PL. It has not yet been determined if they were kidnapped or voluntarily departed with the enemy.

Monthly Refugee Report-November

15 December 1972

Other general comments covering the program are as follows:

Transportation: The total cargo delivered by the RLG Ministry of Social Welfare fleet during the month took a sharp reduction as refugees on the Vientiane Plain became self-sufficient in rice and required less support. However, normal Catholic Relief Service deliveries continued and MSW delivery operations are being expanded to include Paksane and Vang Vieng.

Status of Warehouse Program: With the completion of the RLG/Ministry of Social Welfare warehouse at That Khao, project stocks at SMB Warehouse #9 were being moved into the new facility. At month's end this move was 90% completed. Of the total commodities at Warehouse #9, 60% represented ORA project stocks.

At Savannakhet, the 96' x 40' Pascoe warehouse, located adjacent to the warehouse, was completed. This will allow Savannakhet to store a six month's supply of PL-480 commodities and receive shipments direct from the Bangkok port.

The Consolidated Rice Warehouse facility at Wattay Airport is now 90% complete and will be ready to begin partial operations during December. An AP amendment to provide sanitary facilities, grade and fill, drainage, and electrical work is in the process of being prepared. Mission Guard Service and Air America Security are presently making a security evaluation of the installation at ORA request.

At the Pakhao center, the cement work for kneewalls and foundations is proceeding at a brisk pace. The steel for the first unit is repainted and that for the second is in process of being refinished. It seems reasonably clear that the first two units will be finished in time to phase out KM 14 warehouse before expiration of the lease, which will occur on 1 March 1973.

Though the shipping strike is over, the final of the three Pascoe units, being delivered from the west coast factory, may be delayed by cargo backlogs accumulating during the strike. Even so, this unit will house U. S. procured protein supplement and is not needed to allow moving out of KM 14.

At Pakse, ORA now plans to erect the last of the 96' x 40' Saigon Pascoe units. Originally allocated to RO, this unit was transferred to ORA and, upon erection at Pakse, will allow phase-out of the leased storage for PL-480 there.

Construction on the expansion of the warehouse and the new Refugee Operations Office at Ban Houei Sai will, in all probability, be completed during the month of December. Plans for the new warehouse at Ban Houei Sai are under preparation by PWD.

## II. RELOCATION ACTIVITIES

Savannakhet: Of major significance was the selection of a six kilometer square area directly north of the present Thasano Relocation Project for the relocation of some 3,000 refugees from Dong Hene. These refugees have been temporarily living at the That Ing Hang Site. Plans for the new site include a nine kilometer dry season road along which six villages will be established, twelve drilled wells provided, as well as the necessary schools and medical dispensaries. Survey work for the road and village sites is already underway.

Vientiane Plain: The cadastral survey of refugee reserve areas #4 and #5 was completed. The Muong Committee is now in the process of determining how much of the land is owned by local villagers before making final distribution to refugees.

## III. PERSONNEL

Jack Williamson returned from home leave on 6 November and assumed his duties as Refugee Affairs Officer.

In view of the complexity of the refugee situation in the Thakhek area, John Williams and/or Robert Hearn of the Vientiane staff, have been on TDY at that point since 7 November. This was necessary because the Mission phased-out Thakhek as a post to be manned by an American technician several months ago.

Ernest Kuhn, Refugee Relief Office, has been on TDY at Paksane on and off during the month to determine refugee needs at that point.

## IV. FOOD FOR PEACE

See attached report.

Monthly Refugee Report-November

15 December 1972

V. LOGISTICS

The following items were distributed nationwide for the periods shown. PL 480 Title II items are reported as an enclosure.

<u>Item</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>
Rice	3,907.24 MT	4,256.14 MT
Meat	23,248 cases	22,674 "
Salt	3.52 MT	125.12 "
Mosquito Nets	3,099	10,639
Sleeping Mats	3,354	11,210
Blankets	5,773	13,524
Water Buckets	1,074	5,906
Cooking Pots	847	5,246
Steamer	849	5,179
Saute Pans	671	2,410
Plates	4,056	17,839
Wash Basin	167	4,070
Tools	2,394	6,228
Plastic, Rolls	509	253
Clothing, piece	6,141	11,777
Steel Bars	2,007	3,637
Phough Shares	13	-0-

Attachments (2)

- 1) Monthly Refugee Status Report
- 2) FFP Monthly Report

ORA:WCLucen:mhb

Denotes Relocation Project Area

REFUGEES RECEIVING FOOD AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

REFUGEE RECEIVING REHABILITATION ONLY

MONTHLY REFUGEE STATUS REPORT FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1972 POPULATION BREAKDOWN BY REGION

REGION	Full Support		Partial Support		REFUGEE RECEIVING REHABILITATION ONLY		Totals For October	Totals For November	Net Change
	For Oct.	For Nov.	For Oct.	For Nov.	For Oct.	For Nov.			
<b>MR-I</b>									
Ban Houei Sai	19,571	21,118					19,571	21,118	+ 1,547
Luang Prabang	43,043	44,706					43,043	44,706	+ 1,663
Sayaboury	1,711	1,663					1,711	1,663	- 48
<b>MR-II</b>									
N Rim PDJ	8,924	9,123					8,924	9,123	+ 199
SE Rim PDJ	4,255	4,255					4,255	4,255	
Central 272	120,642	124,336	5,088	5,071			125,730	129,407	+ 3,677
XXXXXXXXXX									XXXXXXXXXX
<b>MR-III</b>									
Thakek	600	3,587					600	3,587	+ 2,987
Savannakhet	12,945	22,319	2,912	2,865			15,857	25,184	+ 9,327
<b>MR-IV</b>									
Pakse	31,453	31,428					31,453	31,428	- 25
Sithandone	18	18					18	18	
<b>MR-V</b>									
VTE Plain	33,388	432	6,664				40,052	432	- 39,620
Paksane	9,460	2,599	329	587	209		9,998	3,186	- 6,812
Vang Vieng	12,267	10,806	979	979			13,246	11,785	- 1,461
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>298,277</b>	<b>276,390</b>	<b>15,972</b>	<b>9,502</b>	<b>209</b>		<b>314,458</b>	<b>285,892</b>	<b>-28,566</b>

REMARKS

**BHS:** 2,924 new refugees, including 289 dependents, were added during month as a result of enemy action. Another 1,377 were removed from rolls due to eligibility reviews.

**LP:** 4,416 new refugees were generated this month, primarily in the Pak Ou - Pak Xeung area, as a result of enemy activity. 1,528 others were removed from support rolls after eligibility reviews, while 1,225 more refugees on full support are now unaccounted for in enemy-occupied areas.

**SBY:** 48 dependents were declared ineligible for support.

**PDJ:** 199 refugees on Northern Rim of Plain of Jars were added to rolls.

**CEN 272:** 3,694 new additions to rolls included 1,771 formerly-supported dependent refugees declared eligible again and 1,461 others who were administratively transferred to this area. 462 were newly generated this month, while 17 others were declared ineligible for further support.

**THK:** 3,411 new refugees were added to full support due to enemy offensives north and east of Thakhek City. 424 others on support have moved to other provinces.

**SVKT:** 11,597 refugees added to full support including 3,271 formerly-supported people, due to increased enemy action in Kengkok and in neighboring Khammouane Province. 2,270 other refugees were removed from the rolls, including 1,901 who attained a self-sufficiency in rice.

**PKSE:** 1,877 people, mostly from the Khong Sedone area, were added to full support. 779 of this total figure, from Soukhouma, were only supported for one week in November. Besides this group, an additional 1,123 others were subsequently removed

