

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director Date: 23 May 1973
FROM : John W. MacQueen, AD/RA
SUBJECT : Office of Refugee Affairs
Monthly Report - April 1973

I. GENERAL

The situation during April was to a great extent similar to that which prevailed during March, namely, continued enemy activity in the northern regions of the Kingdom and in the south as well. Ban Houei Sai continued recording previously displaced refugees and dropping approximately 1,500 refugees when four additional sites were taken over by the enemy. In the south, the situation remained fluid with new refugees reporting in to temporary refugee sites and others departing for their original homes.

Military Region I:

Ban Houei Sai: Over 3,500 refugees were added to the rolls in refugee sites primarily along the Mekong. In the main these were persons displaced earlier by enemy activity. During the month it was reported that four additional refugee sites were overrun by the enemy. These were Pha Ong (PC 5863), Nam Pong (PC 6158), Ban Houei (PC 4297) and Houei Sanh (PC 3795).

Luang Prabang: By months and almost all of the 6,674 refugees from the Pak Ou/Pak Xuang area had returned home. Elsewhere in the area refugees also continue to return to Kio Nya (TG 783); Xieng Lom (TG 1199) and the Xieng Ngeun area.

Sayaboury: No change.

Military Region II:

PDJ and Central 272: Only minor changes in numbers of refugees reported primarily through recount procedures and eligibility review.

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

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Military Region III:

Thakhek: Situation remained fluid with refugees moving from contested areas into Thakhek itself or to Savannakhet and Vientiane area although at a reduced rate. Movements occurred primarily north and west of Thakhek city. The actual number of refugees reported decreased by a net of 1,801 during the month as they commenced returning to their former homes.

Savannakhet: Refugees continued coming in from Phalane, Saphangthong Laikatha and Khammouane Province. However, reduced military activity in Khammouane Province enabled many refugees to return to their home sites so that a net reduction was realized in the number of refugees carried on the rolls.

Military Region IV:

Pakse: A net of 2,518 new refugees were counted during the month, coming almost exclusively from Saravane Province. Almost all of the Wapikhamthong refugees have returned to their original homes, however, they have remained on the support rolls.

Military Region V:

Vientiane Plain: Number of refugees carried on the rolls declined by 811 in spite of arrival of 416 new refugees at the Pak Sap refugee site and Vientiane city. Those added to the rolls came from the Thakhek area. This was off set by eligibility review and departure from area of previously reported refugees.

Paksane: A small number of new refugees (91) provided support after arriving from Hat Sai (UF 998265). An overall decline in number of refugees (81) due to moving from Paksane area.

Vang Vieng: Situation relatively unchanged with only 19 new refugees added to the rolls.

Other Comments:

Donald L. Goodwin (SA/TCD/LD) and Edward H. Ruoff (PHA/POP) were on TDY from Washington from 23-26 April. During this time they met with various Mission program managers, received comprehensive

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briefings, and visited Site 272 and Savannakhet. They also met with Mr. Houmpheng Prathoumvan, Director General RLG Ministry of Social Welfare and Miss Sunthorn Bilavarn, Director of Social Services for the same Ministry. Time was also spent with representatives of the International Red Cross and World Vision.

At the Phak Khao Supply Center, construction on the last of a series of three warehouses is well underway and all three should be usable by 15 July if not earlier. ORA and SMD agreed to the necessity for additional warehouse space at Ban Houei Sai so that direct shipments can be made to that point from Bangkok. An extension to the present warehouse, similar to the one recently completed should provide sufficient storage capacity at that point. It was also determined that a temporary warehouse would be constructed as quickly as possible at Ban Ton Phung in Houa Khong Province. This location is centered among a series of refugee sites which have developed along the Mekong River as a result of enemy activity in the Province. These particular sites are not accessible by road from Ban Houei Sai proper nor is river transportation certain during all months of the year, however, the warehouse can receive stock from Thailand which will prove in the long run a less costly arrangement than providing the refugees with air drops.

II. RELOCATION ACTIVITIES:

A major portion of the Vientiane Relocation Office staff time was spent gathering information for the FY 74 budget review scheduled for May. Visits were made to the various field stations to discuss FY 74 relocation proposals with the AC's and ORA Operations Officers and calculations were done in Vientiane to determine the amount of funds required to carry out the proposals.

Vientiane Plain:

Cadastral Survey: Surveys have now been completed in Reserve Areas #3, #4, #5, #8, and the major portion #6. Ten teams are presently assigned to area #7 and are expected to complete the area by the end of May. To date 5,678 hectares have been surveyed, and lotteries held for allocation of 252 hectares. Lotteries for allocation of additional land will be held as the Muong and Khoueng committees resolve land claims.

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Dug Wells: The EOD section of RO has contributed some vital assistance in blasting wells at Pak Sap, Nam Cheng, and Km-52. As a result of their efforts, 7 wells were producing at least 1 to 1-1/2 meters of water by the end of April, the height of the dry season.

Pak Sap: Thatch was purchased for use in construction of houses. By month's end approximately 80% of the families had received their roofing material.

Cassava: Mr. Sangvieng, a local business man, has made agreements with refugees in areas #4 and #7 to produce some 50 hectares of cassava. He will not only guarantee to purchase the tubers, but will buy the stalks to use as planting stocks to expand the program next year. Mr. Sangvieng is hiring the RLG/MSW Ban Amone equipment to clear and plow the land and has imported this year's planting stock from Thailand. In addition, he is providing his own technician to supervise planting and cultivation.

Ean Houei Sai: The Chao Khoueng of Houa Khong has formally reserved a large tract of land in the Na Kong - Nam Ngam area (PC 1544) for the relocation of refugees. Exact boundaries have not yet been surveyed.

Pakse: Two hand tractors from Ban Amone were sent to Pakse on a trial basis to determine if they might be of some benefit in plowing land for return-to-village people in the Muong Wapikhamthong Area. If they prove useful more will be sent.

A new relocation activities status report format has been introduced into the PMI system and, hopefully, will be providing more precise and timely information by the end of May. This will not require any additional reporting from the field, but will utilize information already in the system.

III. PERSONNEL:

Roger G. Sprowls, Food For Peace Officer, departed for home leave 28 April and is scheduled to return to post. During his absence, Robert T. Lester will be on TDY from USAID Washington as acting Food For Peace Officer.

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Tom Baranyi returned from home leave 26 April and resumed duties as Refugee Operations Officer, Xieng Khouang.

Ray Grill, Assistant Logistics Officer, was placed/on TDY in Xieng Khouang Province/11 April for the express purpose of buying upland seed rice.

IV. FOOD FOR PEACE:

See attached report.

V. LOGISTICS:

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

<u>Item</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>
Salt	83,44 MT	168,56 MT
Rice	3,879.57 MT	3,469.63 MT
Meat	13,499. cases	14,086. cases
Mosquito Nets	6,647	3,959
Sleeping Mats	6,314	3,616
Blankets	8,802	3,891
Water Buckets	2,848	2,031
Cooking pots	3,502	1,413
Steamers	2,302	1,372
Saute Pans	5,433	1,457
Dishes	17,249	8,038
Wash basin	2,105	1,604
Tools	9,378	3,802
Plastic, Rolls	205	307
Clothing, piece	11,870	5,624
Steel Bars	3,089	53

Attachments (2)

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


ORA:WCLuken:ou

Denotes
Location
Project Area

REFUGEES RECEIVING FOOD
AND
REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

REFUGEES
RECEIVING
REHABILITATION
ONLY

MONTHLY REFUGEES STATUS REPORT
FOR MONTH OF MAY 1973
POPULATION BREAKDOWN BY REGION

REGION	Full Support		Partial Support		REFUGEES RECEIVING REHABILITATION ONLY		Totals March	Totals April	Net Change
	For Mar	For Apr	For Mar	For Apr	For Mar	For Apr			
IR - I									
San Houei Sai	23,428	25,927					23,428	25,927	+ 2,499
Luang Prabang	35,307	35,966	865	1,183			36,172	37,149	+ 977
Mayaboury	868	868	280	280			1,148	1,148	
IR - II									
Rim PDJ	9,872	10,332					9,872	10,332	+ 460
Rim PDJ	4,055	4,055					4,055	4,055	
ENTRA 272	116,924	119,014	1,100	1,100			118,024	120,114	+ 2,090
Sub - Total	130,854	133,401	1,100	1,100			131,951	134,501	+ 2,550
IR - III									
Nakhak	6,815	5,913	2,427	1,522			9,242	7,435	- 1,807
Mayanakhak	18,448	16,408	2,178	2,678			20,626	19,086	- 1,540
IR - IV									
Paks	33,401	35,572	6,681	7,094			40,082	42,666	+ 2,584
IR - V									
TE Plain	8,799	9,048	1,260	200			10,059	9,248	- 811
Paksane	2,357	2,276	887	887			3,244	3,163	- 81
Ng Yang	4,220	4,279	554	554			4,774	4,833	+ 59
Sub - Total	264,300	273,558	16,736	19,498			281,036	285,056	+ 4,020

REMARKS

BHS: Net change due primarily to former refugees being picked up at new sites. Four additional refugee sites occupied by the enemy during month with over 1,500 refugees being dropped from rolls for that reason.

L. P.: 278 Meo returned to Kio Nya (TG-783) as security remained stable in that area. 105 new Lao Thung were picked up on rolls at Xieng Lom (TG-1199) and 196 new Lao Thung at Xieng Ngeun area.

SBY: No change.

N Rim PDJ: Increase due to recount and eligibility review.

SE Rim PDJ: No change.

Central 272: Increase due to recount on a eligibility review.

IKK: 50 new refugees reported from Nam Pakanh: 426 from Ban Xieng Vene (VE-8627) and 12 from Ban Nong Hoi (VE-595555) all due to military activity. Over 1,000 refugees previously reported returned to their homes and were accordingly dropped from rolls.

Sykt: Approx. 2,620 new refugees were recorded from Phalane, Saphangthong, La ka ha and Khammouane. This was offset by departure of approx. 4,600 for their home area in Khammouane, Chalamong and Nong Bok.

Paks: Increase due to arrival of new refugees from Saravane.

VTE Plain: Over 800 new refugees arrived Pakse and Viethiane city from Khammouane Phasane.

Upwards of 1,400 removed from rolls due to eligibility review or having moved from area.

