Preparing for community-led return settlement planning

UK Shelter meeting April. 2015
Refugee camps population data
1994-2012 SE Myanmar Conflict
Map Ethnic groups in Myanmar
Mae La refugee camp: 44,000 people
Map of Mae La camp:

3 km long, expanded from east to west between mountain range and main highway.
Return Road map:

**PREPAREDNESS**

- Since 2012
  - Beginning of ‘peace-process’
  - Decrease in conflict/increase in access to areas of SE Myanmar
  - Small number of individual return
  - No assistance

**FACILITATED GROUP RETURN**

- 2015 onwards
  - Ceasefire agreement signed/peace negotiations continue
  - No conflict/landmine/rehabilitation programmes commence
  - Self organised Group return by camp/Non-state actors
  - Assistance in areas of return SE Myanmar

**ORGANISED RETURN**

- 2016/17 onwards
  - Durable peace agreement reached
  - Tripartite agreement
    - Camp closure
    - Assistance ‘package’
Community-led shelter management mechanism:

Building capacity in managing spatial settlement issues

Karen Refugee Council (KRC) Housing and settlement adviser

Camp Committee's shelter and settlement guidelines

Chapter 1, settlement issues
Chapter 2, shelter assistance
Chapter 3, quality control/distribution procedures

1 KRC Housing policy
9 Camp committee-settlement/housing secretary
108 Section based shelter working groups (876 people)
Steps of community-led settlement planning

**Camp**
- Drafting Shelter policy
- Building capacity of managing spatial settlement issues
- Forming the shelter working groups
- Setting up CBNRM

**SE Myanmar**
- Rice banking pilot projects
- KNU land title / land demarcation
- Rehabilitation of community infrastructure

**Border wide**
- Settlement planning workshops – introduction of community driven spatial planning
- Refugee scoping trips to potential areas of return
- Settlement planning workshop for potential areas of group return
- Upscaling of demarcating land/land title
- Upscaling of ‘rice-banking’
- Transfer of CBNRM knowledge and mechanism from camp to SE communities
Example: Scoping visit to Tanintharyi, SE Myanmar
Challenges:

The word “settlement planning” recreates anxiety
Establishing the relevant stakeholder groups
Data/access to the potential return area are very limited
Examples of sustainable re-integration