

Mae Tao Clinic Mission

The Mae Tao Clinic (MTC) is a health service provider and training centre, established to contribute and promote accessible quality health care among displaced Burmese and ethnic people along the Thai-Burma border. In addition to the comprehensive services provided at its onsite facilities, MTC also promotes general health through partnerships with other community based organisations. We work together to implement and advocate for social and legal services, as well as access to education for people living along the border.

Mae Tao Clinic Objectives

1. To improve health status among target communities along the border
2. To improve quality of service of MTC through trained workers
3. To provide quality education and livelihood for displaced children
4. To improve the relationship between MTC and NGOs, GOs and CBOs
5. To monitor the quality of health services



Ways to Help

- ☀ Increases Awareness of the Clinic
- ☀ Global Grant Application Support
- ☀ Fund Raising
- ☀ Volunteer Time and Talent
- ☀ Donate

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"Service Above Self"

Chiang Mai International Rotary Club (CMIRC) invites you to join us in our effort to support the Mae Tao Clinic as they see 300-400 patients daily. The clinic delivers up to 15 babies daily. They fit over 250 new and replacement prosthetic limbs each year.



Mae Tao Clinic is truly the center of community for thousands of displaced Burmese along the Thailand / Myanmar border, providing health services, health training and child protection services.

www.maetaoclinic.org



MTC Health Services

People of all ethnicities and religions are welcome at the clinic. Its origins go back to the student pro-democracy movement in Burma in 1988 and the brutal repression by the Burmese regime of that movement. The fleeing students who needed medical attention were attended in a small house in Mae Sot.

Since 1989, the Mae Tao Clinic (MTC) has grown from that one small house to a large complex of simple buildings that provide a wide variety of health services to different groups of people. Today, it serves a target population of approximately 150,000 on the Thai-Burma border. Exact numbers are hard to calculate because of the fluidity of the population. About 50% of those who come to MTC for medical attention are migrant workers in the Mae Sot area; the other 50% travel across the border from Burma for care.

In addition to the comprehensive services provided at its onsite facilities, MTC also promotes general health through partnerships with other community-based organisations. We work together to implement and advocate for social and legal services, as well as access to education for people living along the border.

The future vision for MTC is to continue providing quality health and social services. MTC is endeavouring to further promote health education, and improve access to and utilisation of its health services. MTC also advocates for improved access to quality education for migrant children in the Mae Sot area and works to strengthen the child rights and child protection network among local and international human rights institutions. MTC serves a broader role as a community centre and centre for advocacy with respect to issues related to Burma and the migrant community.



MTC Child Protection



While Mae Tao Clinic began as a humble health service delivery organisation, it has evolved into an umbrella social services network for refugees, migrant workers, and other displaced Burmese. As a focal point of these activities, child protection is the most rapidly growing area of need. The continued deterioration of services in eastern Burma, coupled with the steadily growing population of migrant families, accounts for the increased demand for our work.

The services supported by MTC are community-created and operated, with the goal of

creating a strong civil society network to best protect children and foster positive youth development. We partner with local community-based organisations from basic logistics and supplies through policy and advocacy issues.

The objective of our children's programmes is not just education. Our objective is to enable the development of strong community networks and services that are locally sustainable. To support this broader objective, we organise various collaborative community projects and forums to maximise the use of limited resources and to strengthen protection mechanisms.

Due to the ongoing violence and unrest in Burma, many Burmese people, especially ethnic minorities, have fled to Mae Sot. It is estimated that there are approximately 150,000 Burmese migrant workers and their families living in the Mae Sot and Pho Phra districts of Tak province (although this number is very difficult to estimate as most migrant workers are not registered with the Thai government). The children of these families face innumerable barriers to a healthy and prosperous future, including lack of education, proper housing, and basic human rights.

The first step in child protection is to ensure that basic physical needs of the children are provided in a consistent manner, including health, food and accommodation. The second step is education, employing core curriculum as well as vocational training. Third, these basic elements require the support of a strong framework of protection. This protection framework includes birth registration, child protection policy, and psychosocial support.

Since 1995, Mae Tao Clinic has been providing education to children from Burma living in the Mae Sot area. The child protection programme was originally an ad hoc project to support needs as they arose. This has evolved into a comprehensive programme with a holistic approach to child protection.



Training Collaboration

Mae Tao Clinic is viewed as an excellent training facility as it offers skilled trainers, including Burmese doctors, senior medics, and international professionals. Due to the Clinic's high patient load, it also offers extensive practical training. Although travel from inside Burma to the Clinic is expensive and difficult, involving passage through areas of conflict and the passing of security checkpoints both in Burma and Thailand, participants come from all over Burma to attend trainings at MTC. The growth and development of training programmes began with malaria and has expanded as an organic response to the continually changing needs of the growing population on the border. The MTC Training Programme has grown to include trainings in: Prosthetics, Eye Care, Dental, and Comprehensive Reproductive Health, as well as an Internship Programme for previously trained health care workers to come for upgrade training. There are frequent short workshops available on topics such as: Leadership Training, Gender-based Violence, Community Management, Human Rights, and Environmental Health.

Although the trainings are incredibly beneficial to the populations living both inside Burma and along its many borders, the fact that such a diverse group of individuals come to MTC for the trainings also poses one of the biggest challenges – that is to say, training a group of individuals from various social, cultural and political backgrounds, with different education and skill levels. A further problem is student retention, which can be as challenging as staff retention; although it is required that participants of the training programme have not applied for resettlement before beginning the training, this is not always the only problem and some students end up leaving the programme due to other obligations.

The Thai Ministry of Health also recognises the strength of the training and has MTC health workers assist in the TBA trainings offered by the MoH. MTC is only able to support a small portion of travel cost for participants, but does provide full support for food, shelter, training materials including stationery, and a small stipend for pocket money. It is often difficult to find training space, teaching materials, and knowledgeable, skilled trainers that are able to commit the time needed. Fortunately, participants from large NGOs are frequently sponsored through their own organisations, relieving MTC of the financial burden in these instances. We hope they will play a significant role in the establishment of a Rotary Community Corp.

