

Teaching in a refugee camp on the Thai/Burmese border

Presented by Catherine Blanchard
January 2010



Overview of the political situation in Burma

- **Background information**
- **Situation of ethnic minorities**



Burmese migrants in Thailand

- **Overview of current situation on the Thai-Burmese border**
- **Facts and figures**

Access to education for Burmese “migrants” in Thailand

- In camp
- “Migrant” Schools



School conditions

- **General lack of funding**
- **Buildings and equipment**
- **Overcrowded classes**
- **Teacher training and payment**
- **Curriculum and Language related challenges**

Challenges for students

- **Poor working conditions**
- **Language barriers**
- **Psychological issues**
- **Uncertain future – Access to third level education and employment**

Positive aspects of the system

- **Continuity in education**
- **Inclusion of various ethnic groups**
- **Respect for cultural identity, beliefs and languages**
- **Wider curriculum**
- **Motivation and involvement of teachers**

Involvement of NGOs

- **Financial and logistical support**
- **Teacher training**
- **Development of curriculum**
- **Third level and vocational programs**

Case study

English Immersion Programme in Umpiem Refugee Camp

- **Umpiem Refugee Camp**
- **World Education and EIP Program**



EIP program

- Huge number of applications
- Great motivation of students
- Inclusion of various ethnic groups
- A window into the future

Benefits for the students

- **Opportunity to develop new skills (English language, computer skills, project management, translation, etc.)**
- **Access to learning resources**
- **Contact with “outside world”**



Challenges

- **Working conditions**
- **Psychological issues due to experiences**
- **Fear for relatives and friends**
- **Concerns - legal status and future**



Student profiles

- **Examples of various backgrounds and aspirations for the future**

Questions?