



The Brackett Refugee Education Fund

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

Military action by the Myanmar Armed Forces has intensified in 2024 now over three years since the February 2021 coup. This year the State Administration Council in Myanmar began mandatory conscription of young adults to take up arms against their own people. This has driven young people across the border and since January refugee camp populations in Thailand have increased by over 15%. Countless others disperse into towns and rural areas along the border. In April we saw large groups of these students on the Thai side of the Friendship Bridge waiting to get in. With no opportunity to continue their education in Myanmar, confronted with the prospect that they must take up arms against their families/friends, these young people are flooding into Thailand to live their lives. The network for educating displaced migrants depends on funding from International NGO's. The contributions you make to BREF go to directly to funding schools and individual scholarships in the region.

Our strategy developed over the last three decades has been to build deep relationships with local people who are passionate about educating children and to maintain the awareness and flexibility to address the most critical needs. This year we have re-opened a rural school in Maw Kwee as a high school and are opening a new scholarship program for Mae Sot Technical College. We increased local support for several programs offering GED preparation.

BREF operates in all countries which border Myanmar and accept refugees. We have seen increased pressure driving people into Mizoram State, India where we fund a large program to funnel the children into Indian government schools. The genocide and forced relocation of the Rohingya into camps and slums of Bangladesh continues without relent. We are excited about our efforts in concert with Children on the Edge to teach children the newly developed Rohingya alphabet and script so they may be the first generation Rohingya who can write in their native tongue.

Events around the world have conspired to displace a lot of people in recent years. As well, issues relating to immigration get colored by our challenges here at home - an inauspicious environment in which to launch our annual campaign. As you consider your donation to BREF, know that every dollar you give goes directly to pay teachers, buy school supplies, deploy learning technology/curriculum, and provide scholarships. These children rely on International NGOs. There is no safety net and at present, no way home.

Thank you for your consideration and support,

Russell