

# Burma Relief Solar Projects



## EXPANDING OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE HEALTH

Location  
Eastern Burma

Project Dates  
August 2003-Present

Clinics with Solar Power  
35 remote clinics  
2 referral hospitals

People Served by Clinics  
Approx. 175,000

People Served by FBR Teams  
172,000

Medics Trained to Date  
90

Capabilities Achieved through  
Access to Solar Electricity  
Medical training and reporting  
Delivery and simple surgery  
Dental training  
Human rights violation recording  
and reporting

Cost per Clinic System  
\$3,000

Cost per Hospital System  
\$20,000

Budget  
FBR Center \$54,000  
Clinic maintenance and  
training \$13,000

All over eastern Burma (also known as Myanmar), indigenous people are subject to attacks, forced labor, land mines, and displacement by the army of Burma's military dictatorship. The area has been under siege for several decades, as members of the military burn villages, rape women, force people into slavery and kill indigenous inhabitants. Although the situation in Burma is dark, Green Empowerment continues working to bring light to communities victimized by Burma's military juntas.

### Assisting victims in the jungle

Since 2003, Burmese medics have received training and solar electrification equipment on the Thai side of the border. After the training, medics return to 35 remote clinics with the solar power systems. These clinics serve hundreds of thousands of people and, thanks to solar electricity installed by Green Empowerment and partners, can now treat patients at night.

In December 2007, two larger referral hospitals serving Burma's conflicted zones received more powerful solar electric systems, enabling them to store vaccines in refrigerators and operate medical equipment, microscopes, and computers.

Local partner BGET is now reaching an additional 172,000 indigenous people in

collaboration with the Free Burma Rangers. This group provides assistance to communities ravaged by the military, regardless of ethnicity or religion.

The Free Burma Rangers conduct training sessions on relief activities, leadership, and ethnic unity. Each year, up to 100 men and women, working in teams, participate in the program.



The program culminates in a two-day field training exercise to test the teams in every area of their training, under pressure and over difficult terrain, shown in the picture above.

### Deepening our commitments

With our original objectives accomplished, maintenance and sustainability for existing clinics remain top priorities. Every year from 2008, a full re-training is planned, as a refresher for existing medics and to train their new colleagues. As we move forward with our work in Burma, Green Empowerment will concentrate on providing replacement parts needed for maintenance, as well as instructions and trainings in the native language. Our continued commitment is made possible by our exceptional volunteers and donors.



*Your generous donation will fund these important Burmese relief projects. Visit [www.greenempowerment.org](http://www.greenempowerment.org) and click "Donate Now"*



The clinics are located in Eastern Burma (or Myanmar) near the border with Thailand

This project is supported by funding and/or technical assistance by:



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## Current situation for Karen refugees in Burma

Burma's military dictatorship is widely regarded as one of the harshest in the world. Scattered throughout the roadless jungles of eastern Burma, indigenous people are under constant siege from the military junta, and are subjected to rape, slavery, or death. The largest of these indigenous groups is the Karen people. Troops launched an offensive against the Karen in 2006, and have looted and burned homes and planted land-mines in civilian areas to further terrorize them in order to prevent their escape into Thailand. Medical assistance is not supported by



any government agency. In order to provide relief to the thousands of internally displaced people of Burma, the KDHW, BGET and Green Empowerment are delivering materials and technical trainings so that each solar clinic can work to its full capacity, serving as many victims as possible. Recently, collaborations with the Free Burma Rangers have expanded the types of relief provided to Burmese refugees.

## Free Burma Rangers tackle wide scope of problems

Teams organized by Free Burma Rangers are equipped to handle the range of services necessary to assist victims in war-torn Burma. The teams receive training in leadership, conflict resolution, public health, first aid, medical and dental care, human rights reporting, counseling, wilderness survival, and solar power use. Teams also learn to teach nutrition, sanitation, food preparation and personal hygiene.

The FBR then sends these mobile relief teams to areas that are away from the border, and populated by various ethnic groups. The teams are equipped with enough medicine and medical supplies to treat 2,000 persons, and they also carry cameras, radios, flashlights, backpacks, food for emergency relief, educational supplies, toys for children, and clothing.

Afterwards, complete reports document relief, human rights, medical & information for various organizations. The teams are then evaluated, retrained in needed areas, re-supplied and sent on to the next relief mission.

