

PROJECT REPORT MAE LA

Addiction Prevention and Health Support in Mae La Refugee Camp, Thailand

30

CLIENTS IN TREATMENT

50,000

CAMP RESIDENTS

3

SUPPORTED REFUGEE CAMPS

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW & KEY DATA

Project Title:	Addiction Treatment & Health Assistance in Mae La Camp (DARE Network)
Project Partner / Org:	DARE Network (Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Education Network)
Project Location:	Mae La Refugee Camp, Mae Hong Son Province, Thailand / Myanmar Border Region
Local Leadership & Contacts:	Pam (CEO DARE Network, Addiction Therapist), Law La Say (Project Coordinator)
Target Group:	Approx. 50,000 refugees in Mae La Camp, focusing on individuals and families affected by substance abuse
Visit Period / Travel Dates:	March 2022 (On-site inspection & field evaluation)

2. BACKGROUND & MOTIVATION

"A place where freedom is foreign and security is an unwritten law — direct aid and addiction therapy create vital perspectives amidst isolation."

Local Situation & Operating Environment:

- **High Population Density & Isolation:** Around 50,000 people reside in Mae La Refugee Camp under highly confined conditions (approx. 6x6 km). The settlement stretches steeply uphill from the roadside.
- **Security & Access Restrictions:** Due to COVID-19 regulations and strict military surveillance by the Thai government, direct entry into the camp was prohibited for outsiders. The perimeter is enclosed with barbed wire and guarded by checkpoints every 300 meters.
- **Conflict & Displacement in Border Zone:** The camp sits directly along the Moei River. Armed conflict continues on the opposite riverbank in Myanmar, driving ongoing displacement.
- **Substance Abuse & Psychosocial Strain:** The lack of future prospects and traumatic experiences within the camp lead to severe dependency issues among many residents, requiring targeted therapeutic intervention.

3. IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES & FIELD VISIT

Under the guidance of Pam (CEO) and Law La Say, the following measures and on-site consultations were conducted:

- **Partner Briefing at Main Office (Mae Sariang):** Comprehensive technical exchange with the full DARE Network office team regarding current aid operations and workflows.
- **Travel & Perimeter Inspection:** Covered 170 km through mountainous terrain along the Moei River to inspect the outer boundary of Mae La Camp under strict security protocols.
- **Evaluation at the Treatment Center:** In-depth alignment with camp workers and the DARE Camp Leader directly at the treatment facility.

- **Integration of Traditional Burmese Medicine:** Utilization of holistic, traditional herbal medicine and addiction therapy specifically adapted by DARE for refugee camp environments.

4. ACHIEVEMENT & IMPACT

- **Continuous Client Care:** Despite severe access restrictions, 30 clients were actively undergoing inpatient/outpatient treatment at the Treatment Center during the visit.
- **Regional Reach:** DARE Network supports a total of 3 refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border, operating as the sole specialized facility for addiction recovery in the area.
- **Community Engagement & Trust:** The high trust level enjoyed by the DARE team among camp residents facilitates sustainable psychosocial stabilization and reintegration.

5. SUSTAINABILITY & FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

- **Local Capacity Building:** Treatment teams are primarily composed of trained camp residents (including members of the Karen minority), ensuring long-term care continuity.
- **Holistic Therapeutic Approach:** Combines physical detoxification using traditional herbal medicine, education, sports, and ongoing psychosocial follow-up.
- **Long-Term Partnership:** Ongoing support secures the operation of the treatment center and the continuous supply of medical resources.

6. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW & ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Summary of funding and operational expenditure for the DARE Network Mae La project:

EXPENSE ITEM	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES	APPROVED BUDGET
Therapy & Medical Costs (Traditional Herbal Medicine)	€ 3,200.00	€ 3,200.00
Local Staff Costs (Addiction Therapists & Camp Personnel)	€ 1,850.00	€ 1,850.00
Logistics, Transport & Security Expenses	€ 900.00	€ 900.00
Total Sum	€ 5,950.00	€ 5,950.00

7. CONCLUSION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The field observations and findings strongly confirm the irreplaceable work performed by DARE Network under exceptionally challenging external conditions. Combining professional addiction therapy, traditional medicine, and profound human commitment restores dignity and hope to the residents of Mae La Camp.

On behalf of the camp residents, the clients, and the entire team at DARE Network, we express our sincere gratitude to **contribYOUte gGmbH** for their invaluable and life-changing support!

Location, Date: Mae Sariang / Berlin, 2022 / 2026

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Project Partners: Pam (CEO DARE Network) & Law La Say