



Mae Tao Clinic

PO Box 67, Mae Sot, Tak 63110, Thailand

Tel / Fax 055-544655 Email- win7@loxinfo.co.th

Annual
Summary
2001

Introduction

Over the past 12 years the Mae Tao Clinic has grown from a small house serving Burmese pro-democracy students fleeing the 1988 crackdown to a multi-specialty center providing free health care for refugees, Burmese migrant workers and others crossing the border from Burma into Thailand.

Though exact numbers are difficult because of the fluidity of our patient population, we serve a target population of around 150,000 on the Thai-Burma border. Our staff of 5 physicians, 80 health care workers, 40 trainees and 40 support staff provide comprehensive health services including inpatient and outpatient medicine, trauma care, blood transfusion, reproductive health, child health, eye care, and prosthetics for landmine survivors.

Each year we train a new class of medics to serve people throughout the border region.



Mae Tao Clinic Director Dr. Cynthia Maung

Humanitarian work

Our director Dr. Cynthia Maung has received many honors for the clinic's humanitarian work. These include the Jonathan Mann Health and Human Rights Award, The John Humphries Award, and the American Women's Medical Association President's Award.



Prenatal testing in the Reproductive Health Clinic

This year Dr. Cynthia received two additional honors: the Foundation for Human Rights in Asia Special Award, and the Van Heuven Goedhart Award in Holland.

Because of the clinic's reputation, visitors from all over the world, many of them health professionals, come to volunteer their time for clinical and educational activities.

Services beyond Mae Sot

The Mae Tao Clinic's reach extends far beyond our base in Mae Sot. We support mobile clinics serving Burma's internally displaced persons (IDP). Our clinic's community service programs include a home at Umphium Mai refugee camp for unaccompanied children.

We also support schools and boarding houses that serve the families of local migrant workers and our staff. In addition we sponsor women's

organizations, health education and community awareness events at refugee camps.

Immigration and Access

Civil war and human rights abuses inside Burma continue to cause internal displacement and refugee migration. Burma's failing economy forces migrant workers to enter Thailand illegally to seek work. Police action against these illegal immigrants disrupts patient access to our clinic.

This year the Thai government set up a new registration system for migrant workers, in which workers may obtain identification cards that allow them to stay and work in the district legally. However the high price of the passes puts them out of the reach of many. In addition, the passes do not cover workers' spouses and children. As a result, after the policy was enacted in September of 2001 we observed a drop in new registrations to our clinic. Fortunately we were able to register our staff, enabling them to travel more freely in the MaeSot area than ever before.

Developments in 2001

This year saw many new developments for our clinic. Our first audit was completed and sent to our non-governmental organization (NGO) sponsors. Construction was completed on an administration building, dining rooms (one for patients and one for

staff), lavatories (4 new, 2 renovated), a blood donation center, a children's outpatient building, and an inpatient ward for malnourished children. We have also continued to work to improve the drainage and sanitation systems at the clinic.

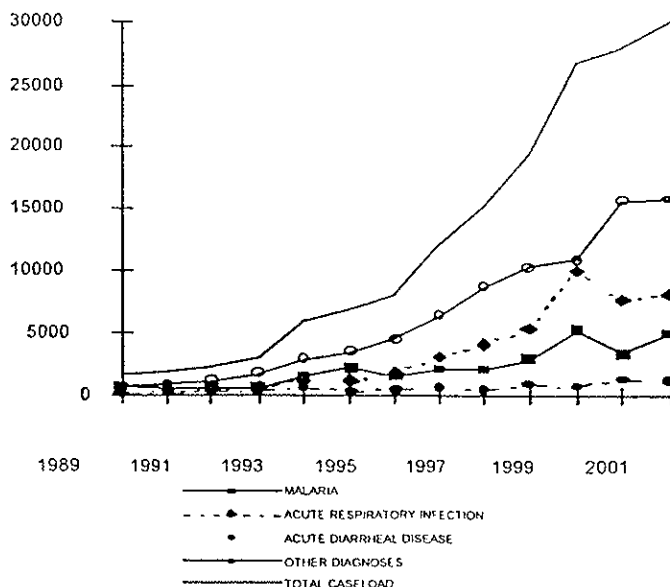
Our staff welcomed the addition of Pattinee Suanprasert as a coordinator for migrant health. Ms. Suanprasert has been working to promote greater coordination between our clinic and the Thai public health and hospital system.

Serving the health of the people

At a recent conference, the Thai Ministry of Public Health and the International Organization for Migration outlined an initiative to improve migrant worker health in three priority provinces of Thailand, including our province of Tak. This new program is designed to provide primary health care, infectious disease control, and reproductive health support for unregistered migrant workers and their host communities. An important part of this program will be community outreach. Though the details have yet to be worked out, we look forward to working closely with the public health community to serve the health of the people.

Thank you for your support of Dr. Cynthia and the Mae Tao Clinic.

This report is property of the Mae Tao Clinic and may be freely distributed for educational purposes only. Photographs copyright Tao Kwan-Gett and Paula Bock 2002.



Program Summary

Inpatient and Outpatient Medicine

The total caseload for our clinic exceeded 30,000 during 2001, an increase of 8% over 2000. Outpatient consultations numbered 26,586

for 2001, a 4% increase over 2000. Inpatient consultations increased dramatically to 3,504, a 50% increase.

Malaria Program

There were 3,130 cases of malaria treated at the clinic outpatient department, 1,862 admitted to the inpatient department for treatment, and 119 diagnosed on the labor and delivery service.



Feeding a patient in the IPD

Tuberculosis Program

We coordinate care of patients with tuberculosis with the Medicin Sans Frontiers (MSF) Chest Clinic. Last year more than 400 people were treated for TB.



In 2001 the outpatient Reproductive Health program served over 1,700 antenatal clients

Reproductive Health Program

Our Reproductive Health program (RH) provides antenatal care, delivery services, postnatal care, family planning services, and treats sexually transmitted diseases (STD's)/HIV and abortion complications.

In 2001 our RH unit recorded 5,417 visits. Of these 1,762 were for first antenatal visits, 563 women gave birth at our clinic and a further 207 women were referred to Mae Sot Hospital because of obstetric complications.

We also have inpatient and outpatient reproductive health units that treat pregnant

women for conditions such as respiratory infections, malaria, and abortion complications.

Because abortion is illegal, many women present with complications due to "at home" induced abortions, such as sepsis and hemorrhaging. Some women with unwanted pregnancies abandon their infants at our clinic.

Family planning counseling and contraceptives for women is one way to decrease the number of induced abortions and unwanted pregnancies. Last year our family planning program served over two thousand new patients.



Taking a nap in the clinic's new children's nutrition center

Child Health Program

In our child health program, mother-infant nutrition assessment and supplementation is synchronized with immunization to make it more convenient for parents to participate. We use the visits to educate families about breastfeeding, supplementary feeding, oral rehydration therapy, diarrhea prevention and family planning. Last year we screened more than a thousand children for malnutrition. We also gave BCG vaccine to 1,064 children and administered 560 doses of measles vaccine.



One of the many orphaned and abandoned children cared for at the clinic

Blood Donation Program

In 2001 almost 800 patients received transfusions. Most were for patients with malaria. We carefully screen potential blood donors for HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and syphilis.

Laboratory Program

In addition to the tests mentioned above, our laboratory routinely performs a range of testing and screening services including hemoglobin, urinalysis, and malaria slides.

Eye Clinic

The Eye Clinic provides basic eyeglasses and treats trachoma, vitamin A deficiency (xerophthalmia), eye infections and minor eye injuries. Cataracts and other surgical cases are registered for referral to a volunteer eye surgeon. Last year more than 1,500 patients benefited from this program.

Trauma Program

During 2001 our trauma unit served 2,670 men and 1,656 women. Workplace injuries, landmine injuries, and domestic violence injuries are commonly seen.



Examining a patient in the Outpatient Department

Prosthetics Clinic

In early 2001 our clinic completed construction of a facility to fabricate prosthetics for landmine victims and other amputees. The goals of the prosthetics clinic are to provide free surgical and post-operative care, prosthetic devices, and rehabilitation for landmine survivors and other amputees who are stable enough to reach Mae Sot.



Taking a plaster cast is the first step in making a new prosthesis

Training and Exchange

Throughout the year, the clinic holds training for new and continuing health workers, and other local partner organizations. In 2001, continuing health worker training included mental health, reproductive health, reproductive rights, TBA, health information systems, monitoring and evaluation, strategic planning, sanitation, landmine awareness, and laboratory. In addition, the clinic conducted health assistant, maternal child health, and community health worker training for new health workers.

Each year the Mae Tao Clinic also hosts health workers and students from abroad who are interested in the situation on the Thailand-Burma border. During the last year we hosted many medical students from all over the world and redesigned our student rotation to give a more structured learning experience.

Back Pack Health Worker Program

Sixty teams provide health care to an estimated 130,000 displaced people in Karen, Mon, and Karenni areas. Their activities include primary health care services, training of traditional birth attendants; collecting and analyzing health data and upgrading the knowledge and skills of health workers.