



มูลนิธิ เดอะ บอร์เดอร์แลนด์ เฮลท์  
The Borderland Health Foundation

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF YEAR 2022**

**MAE SOT, TAK PROVINCE  
THAILAND**

## **I. Board Member and Foundation Objectives**

### **1.1 List of board committee member of Year 2022**

|                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Prof. François Nosten   | Chairperson                    |
| Mr. Tip Ruchaitrakul    | Vice Chairperson and Secretary |
| Ms. Wannee Ritwongsakul | Treasurer                      |
| Ms. Daraporn Yuwaphan   | Board member                   |
| Ms. Ladda Kajeechiwa    | Board member                   |
| Prof. Nick Day          | Board member                   |

### **1.2 Objectives of foundation**

- Objective 1    Promotion of public health service work and health at the border.
- Objective 2    Support and coordination for study and research, professional development of the public health work and health at the border.
- Objective 3    Development of personnel for public health and health at the border in cooperation with related working units.
- Objective 4    Support for disadvantaged people so that they acquire knowledge on public health and care for their health in the sustainable way.
- Objective 5    No activities related to politics.

## II. Activities Of Project

### **2.1 PROJECT – Health Systems Strengthening for marginalized and undocumented migrants in Tak Province, Thailand: a focus on sexual and reproductive health needs**

This project is funded by L'Initiative and now implementing year 3 activities in accordance with specific objectives:

- 1) Support networking and coordination of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) stakeholders in Phop Phra and Mae Ra Mat districts of Tak Province, Thailand;
- 2) Strengthen capacity of rural community health workers (CHWs) and scale up outreach in SRH activities; and
- 3) Establish a surveillance system for SRH activities including SRH emergencies.

The activities had been accomplished during year 2022 show as follow.

#### **2.1.1 Maternal and Child Health (MCH) outreach**

BHF has permission to work closely with community health workers in Mae Ramat and Phop Phra to operate mobile clinic, SRH services in remote communities and screening at Antenatal care unit for prevention of mother to child transmission diseases. Since March 2022 every two weeks, our outreach and CHW team operated in 16 sites with 32 visits per months.

The contraceptive services provided for largely migrants reproductive age ( 15-49 years ) as well as knowledge of family planning needed. Hence the training for outreach and CHW team has included counseling, family planning and teenage pregnancy. Within this year 2022 our goal of 1300 women to attend family planning has been accomplished well ahead of schedule.

#### **2.1.2 Family planning support to border communities**

In February at Wang Pha Clinic, the maternal and child health (MCH) team conducted a family planning services while the Public Engagement team presented a dialogue drama on adolescent pregnancy for community-social transformation. Another knowledge sharing on family planning and service to insert an implant at Kam Nan Suk community was held on 12 Aug.





## 2.2 PROJECT- Strengthen Maternal and Child Health along the border area

Health Equity Initiative (HEI) project is an operation along Thailand and Myanmar border. The two countries project have focused on Mother and Child health care , pregnant women and maternal emergency transferred through joint collaboration with local authorities and voluntary community health workers. The HEI MCH working area are Walley, Mor Ker Thai in Thailand and Koe Yaw Lay and Lay Kay in Myanmar. Key activities operated during 2022 listed as following;

1. **Clinic-based ANC:** 529 women were registered and screened for HIV, Hep B, Syphilis, etc.
2. **Outreach ANC:** Outreach service was 2-3 times per week. It provided patient the transportation to our clinics for clean insertion if we have patient who wants to do implant or IUD more than 2 cases. Since started project and outreach, the implant /IUD have been supporting total 1,512 cases.
3. **Community engagement:** Establishment of a trusting relationship with the authorities on both sides of the border was led by public engagement (PE) team and Tak Community Advisory Board (T-CAB) members. This action paved the road for the following medical service and activities to be successfully implemented in target area.
4. **Essential support to community:** BHF/SMRU provided technical support as well as medical equipment's to perform caesarean section for pregnant women who required. Now C-section has been doing without complication in a small village Koe Yaw lay in Myanmar.





### **2.3 PROJECT –Tuberculosis (TB) Treatment for Migrants**

BHF/SMRU aims to provide an integrated service of comprehensive patient-centered care. Besides medical treatment, counseling service and psychosocial support, the TB Clinic also help on identifies TB patients' socioeconomic problem(s) which may cause the interruption of treatment.

#### **2.3.1 Long-term treatment for TB**

Located in Mae Ramad district, Tak province Thailand, TB Clinic has been supported by multiple funding source. TB Clinic provided clinical, nursing care, a daily DOTS service, and support for TB/HIV patients through HIV testing and referral to local hospitals for ART (Antiretroviral therapy). For long-term treatment, there is a shelter-based TB centers or called TB village support the qualified health care to TB patients with free provision of accommodation and food, which good nutrition is essential for TB patients to recover.

Not only shelter but also psychosocial support activities in Mae Ramat TB center. Case holding is maintained by regular monitoring of TB patients, health education, counseling and psychosocial support activities to enhance treatment completion. TB and MDR-TB patients face severe side effects, pills burden, social problem, psychological impact. For coping with their illness, understanding diseases nature and getting motivation for drug compliances, we facilitate supportive activities encouraging TB patients on adherence till end of treatment.

Besides the TB village in Thai side, there is another treatment center in Myanmar side along the border area. There were **254 TB patients** receiving treatment in the TB villages and 5,180 community members being screened by the TB outreach activity in 2022.

#### **2.3.2 Fun activities for children living in TB Village**

BHF/SMRU Public Engagement Team regularly organized fun activities, such as story-telling and game playing activities for children living there. The first visit aimed to improve children story telling abilities so they could share with their friends and improve their mental happiness while their join their parents who must stay in the TB village for long term treatment. The children were divided into two groups and shown how to play a pick-up game and have fun together. After the storytelling, the facilitator asked the children: What was your like /dislike part of the story? What you had learned?

#### **2.3.3 TB awareness among migrant community**

BHF/SMRU PE team visited to Mae Ka Sa village of Mae Sot district in September 2022 to conduct TB awareness raising campaign by showing a short movie to migrant community. **173**

**participants** attended to the event as it was organized at late evening time when migrants came back from their work and after their housework done. Local migrant community leaders and public health officer cooperated well and encouraged for participation of migrants in TB awareness sessions and TB screening.

#### **2.3.4 World TB Day**

On 24 March, BHF/SMRU PE team organized a TB health education information sharing by showing a short movie clip to **127 participants** in Mae Sot area. And by collaboration with Mae Tao clinic, we conducted 3 screening days to hold World TB Day event through active case finding for 161 participants coming for vaccination at Mae Tao clinic, OPD visit and migrants staying near-by areas. We found 2 bacterial confirmed TB cases.



## 2.4 PROJECT : Malaria Elimination along the border

Malaria Elimination along the border funded by Regional Artemisinin Initiative 3 Elimination (RAI3E) grant which contribute to malaria elimination in the Greater Mekong Sub region, through active case finding and surveillance of hard-to-reach, mobile and migrant populations living in the border.

This project, BHF provides support to SMRU's Malaria elimination activities along Thailand and Myanmar border. Key activities have been implemented under this project such as mobile and migrant population community case management , case detection in persistent vivax hotspot/high burden villages, interventions targeted for mobile population, community Engagement/Participation to the elimination activities and systematic data collection and epidemiological analysis, surveillance and response.

In year 2022, the 92,014 suspected malaria cases are diagnosed and 28,821 malaria-positive cases were diagnosed and treated. Thus, there were 1,768 (3.4% of total tested) *P.falciparum* positive and the remained were *P.vivax* positive. Despite BHF/SMRU prioritized the safe PQ roll out to the villages with high *P.vivax* cases, the vivax malaria homogenously increased in all of the townships which have armed conflicts, displacement and migration. In terms of bed net distribution, there were 2,047 LLINS distributed.

Since March 2022, armed conflicts started in Kayin State, it was found the increasing trend of malaria, particularly *P.vivax*. BHF/SMRU rapidly responded to the situation by ensuring the malaria posts are adequately stocked and the surveillance continuation in this period. G6PD testing and safe radical primaquine were also established in 72 villages, and there were 1,053 *P.vivax* were treated with radical primaquine treatment.



## **2.5 Grassroots and Coordination Activities**

### **2.5.1 Annual Border Health Meeting**

The 31<sup>st</sup> SMRU Border Health Meeting, jointed by BHF's project partners. The annual Border Health Meeting was primarily organised by SMRU and supported by BHF and its local partners along the border, on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The topic covers not only challenges and solution for malaria , Tuberculosis, and MCH. Participants were from Thai health authorities, CSOs/NGOs health workers, and researchers.

A difference from previous border health meetings, there was a workshop session for participants to have a group brainstorming and discussion, which led this meeting more interacted and participatory.



### **2.5.2 Twin-Village for Community Health Network along Thailand-Myanmar border**

The border length between Mae Ramat District and Myanmar is more than 97 kilometers and border crossing are quite easy along this area, especially dry season people can just walk to Moei river to cross the border. Such convenience also leads a higher prevalence of some communicable diseases, even outbreak may happen if there is no any active prevention work being implemented. To engage with local community and health care service provider, BHF/SMRU supports and plans with Mae Ramat Hospital to expand the training activity to community health volunteers (CHVs) in the villages both Thai and Myanmar sides along this area. The activity is mainly organized by Mae Ramat Hospital based on the local need assessed by public health officers of Mae Ramat Hospital and there will be around 46 CHVs as direct beneficiaries.

The twin villages training activity was held on 21 September 2022 at Mae Ramat Hospital to target some health-related issues, environmental problems plus COVID-19 pandemic and

vaccination inside participants' communities. There were 40 communities Health Volunteers from 8 villages across 2 sides; 4 villages in Thailand and 4 villages in Myanmar participated in the training.

In the training session, 6 officers from Mae Ramat Hospital in charge of knowledge sharing in several sessions such as lecture, presentation and discussed to solve problem. Mr. Pitak Sila, a public health officer from Mae Ramat Hospital, had review roles and responsibilities of CHVs as well as monitor tasks throughout the year. Training went well with plan for next meeting.



### **2.5.3 Health Care Promotion and Coordination**

BHF participated in an event at Mae Kuet Luang Sub-District Health Promotion Hospital for an exhibition that show SMRU-BHF healthcare initiatives for migrants at Thailand-Myanmar border area. This event aimed to recognize the community health worker who dedicates herself to promoting healthcare for the Thai and migrant villages in Mae Kuet Luang.

BHF also organised a quarterly review and coordination meeting with Mae Tao clinic (MTC) to review OPD screening activities in order to improve case finding and diagnosis. In summary, as OPD is opened daily, MTC has its focus on TB screening as a routine to OPD/IPD patients, PLHA (People living with HIV/AIDS), children and patients with chronic diseases. BHF and MTC also discussed how to improve data quality on TB data collection and checking of completeness and accuracy. Other supportive activities were continued for transportation support and living support for quarantine patients as needed.

## **2.6 Support of administration and operation of SMRU**

In the following services incurred in SMRU clinics and Head office, BHF partially supported the HR cost, medical supply, administrative work, and logistics coordination plus co-managing the institutional grants with SMRU administration- and operation-related departments.

### **2.6.1 Clinical Operation Support**

The continuous on-site case detection (patient with fever) and treatment of malaria and other common diseases, plus special care baby unit (SCBU) were implemented at SMRU clinics. As record shows in OPD and IPD service, there were **4,676** malaria cases (*P.vivax*) screened with **388** positive cases detected. Besides malaria, the clinics also provided common disease screening, which were **8,545** cases and **1,708** detected with respiratory infection as well as **194** referred for SCBU admission.

For the on-site and outreach ANC counseling, there were **13,551** pregnant women registered (including newly enrolled) for attending ANC counseling. The activity includes disease screening, including malaria, HIV, TB, anemia, hepatitis, and syphilis, in year 2022, which pregnant receive OPD service at SMRU clinics.

Regarding childbirth (labour method) and case referral, the number of childbirths at SMRU clinics was **2,034** and complicated case referral for pregnant women was **361** in total. The collaborated hospital for case referral includes Mae Sot hospital and Mae Ramat hospital.

### **2.6.2 Progress BHF Construction building and Laboratory**

BHF Administration building in Mae Ramat had well progress and completed construction as plan, while moving labs equipment and freezers to Mae Ramat Hospital – Primary Health Care building (SMRU new Laboratory) was taken longer time than expected. The process of moving both Administration Office and laboratory since December 2022 plan to complete in January 2023.





### **2.6.3 Grand opening of BHF Administrative Office**

On 29 November 2022, The grand opening of the new SMRU / Borderland Health Foundation (BHF) Admin Building was held in Mae Ramat District. It worth the wait, numbers of years in the planning and construction, the very impressive new building looked absolutely stunning and had been admired by the many guests.

The proceedings started at 9 am with a religious ceremony and blessing, followed by speeches from the Tak Provincial Health Authority deputy chief, Prof Chris Conlon from the University of Oxford, and Dr Julia Kemp from Wellcome. Then honored to hear an opening speech from Dr Supakit Sirilak , Thai Ministry of Public Health, a longstanding supporter of SMRU/BHF.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for opening was by Dr. Supakit, Ms. Julia, Prof Gavin Screation, Head of the Medical Sciences Division, University of Oxford, and Prof François Nosten, the founding Director of both SMRU and BHF. There were more than 300 visitors joined this ceremony and visited the new building afterwards.

BHF/SMRU sincerely appreciated the honor Thai guests, including:

Dr Suta Pattarakijroongrueng (Director of Mae Ra Mart Hospital),  
 Mr. Boonliem Takham (Mae Rmat District Administration),  
 Ms. Amornrat Tatsanakit (Director of Regional Medical Science Center 2, Phitsanulok)  
 Dr Wittaya Polseela and Dr Purichat Yingrangsang (Tak PHO),

Besides, the representatives of local hospitals, community-based organizations (CBOs), and NGOs also honored this grand opening event as witness for BHF's commitment to the border health strengthening.



### **III. Audited Financial Statement**

Please see the ANNEX.