



Note from Bonnie on behalf Bodhi

It is an exciting time at NATR, with nine weeks of assessments clarifying our mission, and with operations moving from emergency care to livelihood. As we continue to bring much needed food and water to our target villages, we have been busy solidifying ways in which we can get villagers back on their feet quickly. We have identified boats that need to be rebuilt and nets and traps that are needed for fishermen to regain their livelihoods. Where families cannot return to fishing, or where it will be some time before they are able, we have identified other work/labor plans such as handicrafts and mangrove reforestation to bring villagers income. Within the chaos of needs assessment, we continue to take care not to overlap the programs of other agencies, and listen carefully to ensure our programs will be useful to villagers.

There are several agencies with excess funds in the area that are helping to rebuild infrastructure, but few that are providing assistance with livelihood. I have attached a couple of livelihood proposals that desperately need funding. If you have the funds to help, let us know what project you would like your donation to go to. Below you will find details of our busy week. Enjoy!

Fresh Food Programs

Our fresh food programs are in full, regular swing. We bring delicious vegetables, meats, chilis, chili-paste, rice, sugar, cooking oil and other useful cooking items that have been lost, such as mortar and pestles bi-weekly to the villages of Thung Dap, Bak Jok, Tappa Yoi, and Baan Taele Nok. These villages have been temporarily relocated on the mainland while their villages are rebuilt, so transportation and access are easy and affordable. Due to their remote location and the expense of boat transportation, our deliveries to Koh Surin and Laem Naew continue, but less frequently. We are also providing fresh water to some villages that do not have it. Thanks to those of you that have donated so generously to our fresh food programs.



Bak Jok Handicrafts

In Bak Jok, villagers have shown great interest in our livelihood programs! Now that we have supplied all of the tools necessary for the creation of Moken boats, production is in full swing. We made our first weekly payment to workers in the Moken boat handicraft program and the cashew nut peeling program on Sunday. To our participants we pay 100 baht per day, and will find a market for the boats once they have been produced. In the Surin Islands we'll make our final delivery of tools needed for Moken boat making and mat/basket weaving on Friday.



Fresh Water in Thung Dap

Fresh water is still a major problem for these devastated areas. This week we provided water filtration to the Thung Dap village, so that villagers and workers have access to fresh water.

Mangrove Reforestation

We continue to make progress on our short term labor Mangrove reforestation project. Seedlings have been acquired and the next step will be to dig a pond in the area.

Looking ahead

In our mid-term efforts, we need donations for fishing boats, nets, and traps. We are also beginning education assessments, and have preliminary needs identified. Please take a moment to look over the project proposals, and make a donation. With your help and kind thoughts, we are making great headway toward getting villagers back on their feet.

-Bonnie on behalf of Bodhi