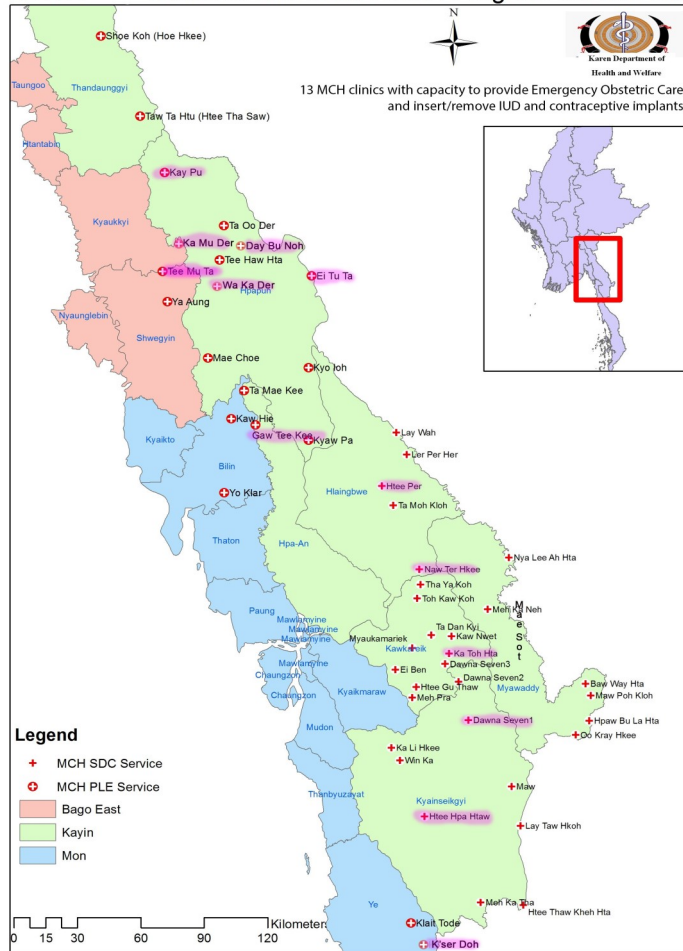




Melita
Calana

KDHW Maternal and Child Health Program Service Map



Dae Bu Noh in Hpapun District is an area suffering from the hardships due to fighting over the last 25 years and yet they remain steadfastly determined to preserve their autonomy. Consequently the district has no formal contact with the national government.



As 2017 opens, the conditions in Karen State, eastern Burma varies widely from one area to another. Communities have been fragmented by conflict for so long there is a lack of common purpose and the two linguistic groups, Sgaw and Pwo, have different traditions and customs. In some areas there is an emerging cooperation with the government ministries on issues of health care while in other areas, any form of cooperation is totally rejected until there is genuine dialogue on a peace process. Contributing to this tense atmosphere are the ever-present threats from the military. In fact in some areas threats have increased and appear as more menacing than in several years. There are military build-ups occurring in many different areas and the people ask why now that there is a ceasefire and a nascent process for reconciliation and resolution does the military continue to grow and place more troops in their area? It creates a sense of foreboding and anxiety that the peace process merely a ruse to strengthen their position for a final push to effect a complete military takeover of the ethnic areas. This is the context in which our efforts to improve women's health occur.

In January 2017, we made visits to several sites in both northern and southern sections of Karen state to assess their needs and prepare for developing upgraded facilities to serve the reproductive health needs of women and their children.



The MCH clinic in Dae Bu Noh is without electricity or running water. Following long-standing tradition, women deliver in their houses usually attended by a traditional lay midwife. There is little or no treatment of complications that can arise during the childbirth. We are planning to upgrade the clinic to serve as the local women's and infant center for Dae Bu Noh and surrounding villages.

The Daw Na mountain range in Karen State can be seen from as far away as Mae Sot. Along the base of the range are a number of villages linked only by rough unpaved roads that are dusty in the dry season and steeped in mud during the rainy season.

DawNa 7 has a basic village health center that will be upgraded to provide better services for the women and children in the area.



Many women and children came to learn about maternal health, family planning and the importance of prenatal care and safe delivery. Without access to regular primary care, they also had many questions and concerns for their children.



Ka Toe Ta Clinic in Kaw Kareik township served as a training site for long-acting reversible contraception with the subdermal Implanon. Many women have chosen to use this method in order to space their child bearing with enough time in between to assure their own health and their baby's well-being.



Counseling on family planning methods gives women factual information and dispels many mistaken ideas about reproductive health in general and contraception in detail.





Paw Bu La Hta lies just across the Thai-Burma border in an area that saw heavy fighting for more than ten years until ceasefire came into effect in 2013. They are now in the process of rebuilding the clinic and restoring confidence in the community. Paw Bu La Hta is also a training site for community health workers.



The ability to refer a sick patient to a higher level facility is a key component of an upgraded health clinic. In Paw Bu La Hta transportation of critically ill women from nearby villages means traveling by tractor cart to the highway, about an hour away and from there another hour or two in the back of a pickup truck to the nearest hospital.