

# Voluntary Repatriation Center (VRC)

## Information Note - August 2016



The Voluntary Repatriation Center (VRC) is a facility where repatriation-related activities will be conducted for refugees who are interested in returning home. The VRC will be established in each of the nine camps.

### WHICH ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE VRCs?



#### Voluntary Repatriation Protection Counseling

UNHCR will conduct counseling for any refugees that approach UNHCR and who want to return to Myanmar. The counseling will include discussion on the voluntariness of return and conditions in the areas of return.



#### Repatriation assistance package

A 'repatriation assistance package' will be provided to verified refugees who wish to return to Myanmar. The package includes a cash grant for three purposes: (1) transport to Myanmar; (2) food support for three months; and (3) reintegration expenses (e.g. farming seeds and tools, school fees, construction material, etc.) Other items may be provided prior to departure. The assistance package will be given **one time only on the day of departure**. For persons with specific needs, alternative arrangements will be made.



#### Mine awareness pre-departure session

Mine Risk Education sessions on how to recognize landmines and explosive remnants of war and how to prevent related accidents will be conducted by Handicap International.



#### Information-sharing

Information will be available on issues related to conditions in the areas of return, such as livelihood opportunities, education and health services, civil documentation, etc. The VRCs will be a place where NGOs and CBOs can also provide information that will help refugees prepare for return.

### WHO WILL BE PRESENT AT VRCs?

UNHCR, IOM, HI and the Royal Thai Government. NGOs or CBOs that wish to share information about voluntary return can also use the VRC.

### WHEN IS THE VRCs OPEN?

The VRCs can be used by the refugees at any time during the week. The hours of operation and schedule of activities will be posted on the notice board in front of the VRC and at the UNHCR work station in all nine camps.

***NOTE: Return to Myanmar is an individual decision and UNHCR will only support repatriation that is voluntary, safe and dignified. All services at the VRCs are free of charge.***

**If you have any questions, please contact:** UNHCR in the camps or IOM Operation Unit Office at +66 55 039809 Ext. 9522