

Why Should Thailand Help Refugees?

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A war at home, the disappearance of the freedom of speech, and poverty at the door give good enough reasons for a country's population to migrate somewhere with a promising future. Over three million refugees in Thailand, mostly from Myanmar, Cambodia, Mainland China and Sri Lanka, are struggling for survival from day to day, seeking a better place to live in, and fighting for the liberty to express their thoughts. Although, to Thais, they are just a burden as they have become a threat to the employment and increased the social problems, the preceding reasons answer the question to why we, as a country, should help these refugees.

Firstly, the arrival of these refugees will help Thailand economically as this means the accruing need in agricultural and livestock production. More resources demanded could lead to the most fundamental basic problem in economics: How to manage the limited resources to meet the increasing needs? The problem could be magnified if the host country is an import-orientated nation. Nevertheless, it would be ridicule to assume that these refugees only consume and not produce. In reality, they also contribute in the production as well. A good example would be Belize where 22,000 refugees manufacture goods worth \$8 million while demand goods worth \$6 million. What about Thailand? Instead of giving them chances to pay back the society in terms of production, we keep them in camps around the borders where they are not allowed to leave the camp or to have a profession even if some of the refugees could prove to be efficient producers as they are well educated. Consequently, the camps are financed mainly by Thailand's budget and supports from organizations such as the UNHCR. Because they have nothing productive to do, these refugees are considered a burden. If Thailand utilizes all available resources, including labor from these refugees, to push the productions, both Thailand and the refugees will benefit much more.

Aside from Thailand getting support from the UNHCR, local people can benefit as well. Primarily, property owners can sell their land for constructing a new dwelling or rent their imposing edifices as the assistance project occurs. Their arrival stimulates the host community economic activity as well. Employments are created since commodities such as clothes and food are tremendously needed in camps as well as workers to operate the enterprises.

Varied ethnicities are claimed to be an important factor inducing a problem caused by misunderstanding between different groups of people, but those who put forward the argument have neglected the fact that they could also reap the benefits from this situation. The refugees that come from

