



Statement of Ethnic Health Research and Development Seminar 2025

20th May 2025

The **Ethnic Health Research and Development Seminar 2025** was convened by the **Burma Medical Association (BMA)** in collaboration with **Mae Tao Clinic (MTC)** on **May 19–20, 2025**, at the Thai-Burma border under the overarching theme, “*Health Systems in Disrupted Situations.*” The seminar aimed to freshen research and development efforts, particularly in light of the significant challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing disruptions following the 2021 military coup d'état in Burma.

A total of 174 participants (80 male and 94 female) attended the seminar, where 23 research studies were presented, addressing critical health and humanitarian challenges along the border. These research efforts were carried out in collaboration with a diverse group of local and international partners, including Ethnic Health Organizations (EHOs), Ethnic Community-Based Health Organizations (ECBHOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), international NGOs (INGOs), government agencies, academic institutions, and other partner organizations. The seminar underscored a collective commitment to promoting health in conflict-affected and border areas.

The seminar was organized with the primary objectives of enhancing research capacity among ethnic health organizations, fostering collaboration across sectors and borders, and advocating for strengthened cross-border assistance mechanisms. In the context of the ongoing fragmentation of health systems in conflict-affected areas, the seminar served as a vital platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and strategic planning.

The seminar highlighted ongoing health challenges in conflict-affected and border areas, including limited service access, weak referral systems, and unmet needs of displaced populations. Drawing from diverse research studies, key priorities emerged: strengthen local research leadership, improve data and training systems, and promote sustainable, equity-focused financing. Emphasis was placed on cross-border collaboration and evidence-based, locally led approaches to build a resilient and inclusive federal health system.

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