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Household food security and buffering mechanisms in Thai and non-Thai households in Nong Loo Sub-district, Sangkhla Buri, Thailand

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Abstract

This was a cross sectional study to measure any difference between Thai and Non-Thai households in the prevalence of food security and the effect of state and local buffering mechanisms on household food security status in Nong Loo Sub-district in Kanchanaburi Province. 75.8 % of 211 households (120 Thai and 91 non-Thai households) were food insecure. Non-Thai households were found to be significantly more food insecure than Thai households (95.6% compared with 60.8%; OR=21.4). Non-Thais tended to have less knowledge of and access to buffering mechanisms; however, this was not statistically significant. Of interest, however, was that no statistically significant association was found between household food insecurity and lack of access to buffering mechanisms. Qualitative interview results suggested that landownership, possession of a Thai card (Government registration card), increased food prices, and a dependence on imported food from other districts were important factors associated with household food insecurity in the sub-district. This survey underlines the importance of the food insecurity as a problem among Thai and, more severely, among non-Thai households and provides stake holders with information that can be used to intensify programs to address this problem. Thailand has a long border area with a high proportion of non-Thai households, and it is likely that similar food insecurity problems exist in other areas also. Further research on nutrition security (as distinct from food security) of this population is recommended in order to better assess the impact of the observed food insecurity.

Biography

May Myat Cho has completed her Masters in Public Health (Global Health) in 2012 from the Thammasat University, Thailand and was a medical doctor working at Sanpya General Hospital, Yangon, Myanmar. She is now a global scientific secretary for the 21st IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion employed by the Thai Health Promotion Foundation. She is a peer reviewer in Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy for Global Change Journal Published by Springer and was a peer reviewer in Global Journal of Medicine and Public Health. She is a member of Myanmar Medical Council. She was nominated to include her biography in 31st edition of Who's Who in the World publication. She is also appointed as a technical secretary in the lead rapporteur team for the 21st IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion.