



Completion Report

MMR-GRA-SIW-P01 Yangon, Myanmar
Reporting Period: May – November 2017

Hope Through Water - Myanmar

Budget: \$21,775 – fully funded!

Update:

Over the past 12 months, our partner has provided community-led sanitation training and assistance to the community to build and use bio-sand filters on Seikkyi Island, an isolated community a short boat ride away from the capital Yangon. This island has no clean water source nor does it have toilets. Health services are limited, there is a high infant mortality rate and other poverty-related illnesses permeate the community. Our partners report that this project is now complete with around 500 villagers benefitting from this project.

Training, a vital component of a successful program continued, and a local person was selected to be trained as a water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) trainer ensuring that the community retains the skills and knowledge to continue to improve their water and sanitation situation long after the project is complete. Several other individuals will assist the coordinator. A consultant from a specialist water organisation in Canada was engaged to further educate people on WASH and to assess the progress of the project, an excellent initiative. A four-day seminar in Yangon provided essential information and enabled the project to improve in quality which included re-installing the BSFs.

There are now 21 BSF units in place. Several bio filters have been constructed at a base and delivered to Seikkyi Island (see picture top right). A further 40 will be manufactured and installed. The WASH coordinator is now competent in installation, operation and monitoring and is working cooperatively with the project team and the local community. The manufacturing of the bio filters provides engagement and employment for the local community. Our partners are strengthening any possibility of participation drop out by providing employment on a casual basis in 2018 for the WASH coordinator and two other community participants.



It was hoped that existing water tanks could be improved, but due to contamination and pollution in the tubes below the ground, this will be addressed in a later project. The BSF training app in Burmese is proving useful and it is planned to widen its use to other communities.

Our partner is focused on delivering behaviour change and empowerment. They report greater engagement and ownership by the local authorities and community members as a result of the project. They said, “*The villagers have actively shown interest in receiving a BSF unit with many community members very positive about the improved drinking water.*” This project is addressing the most basic of needs required for a healthy life. Thank you for helping this community to provide clean water for its own community!