

## Life-Saving Water

MMR-GRA-LSW-P01



Rakhine State, Myanmar



Water

Total Budget \$43,200

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

JAN 19

MARCH 21



### Overview

This project focused on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programs in the troubled Rakhine State in north-western Myanmar. Working with experienced partners, this project has been delayed due to various factors, including civil unrest that has raged in the area for the past 18 months, together with lockdowns due to COVID-19. The target area relocated to Manaung Island, off the Rakhine coast in the most poverty-stricken region in the State with 70,000 inhabitants. Strong community engagement has ensured villagers can maintain and make filters, understand the benefits of clean water, appoint local facilitators and receive WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) training.

### Objectives



construct  
173 bio-  
sand filters

### Impact

Villagers were assisted to make 173 bio-sand filters to provide clean water for families across 8 villages, together with training and the appointment of local facilitators to oversee their production, use and maintenance.



clean water  
for 1737  
people

1737 people have access to clean water in villages that have never had clean water! Each family contributed a small amount to assist strong buy-in. These funds are being pooled to allow other families to access a filter and training.



### Shwe Nu's family life transformed!

"My village has always drunk unclean water from the pond. There was no other option. As a result, so many people are sick all the time and some die every year. Some old people say that we are being punished by evil spirits. We have little money to go to the village health clinic every time we get sick. My family has helped make a bio-sand filter and we now have clean water! No-one from my family has been sick from water since then. We have been trained in how to use the filter and the villagers are using it with confidence. We are grateful. This really is life-saving water!"



### Life change

- Improved health within the community, leading to improved livelihoods and income for families and communities as a whole
- A community empowered to continue to improve, and to take care of their own development which also leads to improved self-esteem and working cooperatively
- Fewer health issues due to unclean water and more time for living a productive life

