

Building Hope Through Water

MMR-CEE-BHW-P02



Rakhine State, Myanmar



Water

Total Budget \$53,600

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

JUL 21

JUN 23



Overview

This project focused on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programs in the troubled Rakhine State. With the backing of experienced partners, this project targeted a population of 12,939, made up of 10 villages - 5 Muslim and 5 Buddhist - which have no access to clean water. It worked alongside peace-building activities in the area, which is being driven into deeper poverty and neglect by the military coup and COVID-19. 500 bio-sand filters were made and distributed to families together with WASH training, delivering clean water for the first time to these areas. What an opportunity this has been!

Objectives

Impact



Training by WASH facilitators

5 paid WASH facilitators have coordinated the production of the bio-sand filters and the training of community leaders to share their knowledge with villagers. These facilitators also advocated with local officials to garner their support.



Production of hand-made bio-sand filters

614 bio-sand filters (114 funded by villagers) were manufactured and distributed to people in 16 villages, benefitting 14,649 people. Access to clean drinking water is a basic necessity and vital for reducing water-borne diseases.



Community-led training in hygiene and sanitation

Training in hygiene and sanitation is essential for establishing healthy habits and proper use and maintenance of equipment. 261 people received training over the two year project ready to pass it on to others in their community.



Improved sanitation facilities

As most of the beneficiaries had existing toilets and sanitation facilities, focus was given to awareness of their proper use and good hand hygiene as well as production of filters. 8 people were trained in how to construct BSFs.



Life change

- Better health within the community, leading to increased income
- A community empowered to continue to improve and to take care of its own development
- Sustainable livelihood development through the promotion of WASH information and a bio-sand filter manufacturing centre resulting in jobs for local community members



Daw Aye Khine Nu's Story

My name is Daw Aye Khine Nu and I come from a Muslim village where we used to collect our water from the creek or pond. It was murky and unsafe to drink but we had no other option and would often fall sick from water-borne illnesses. Since using the BSFs, my family has not had diarrhoea or dysentery. This has impacted our lives enormously. We are much healthier and our health expenses have been reduced. I have been convincing my neighbours that they can use BSFs with confidence and encouraging my friends in other villages to also use the filters. I am so thankful that this technology came to our village. It has truly changed our lives.



Inspecting production of the bio-sand filters

Daw Aung Sein Oo's Story

I am a farmer living in a village in Kyauktaw township. We first heard about BSFs through an awareness seminar held in our village after which we enthusiastically signed up to receive one. Since then my family has been using the filters and enjoying being able to access clean water. We love that they are so simple to use and easy to maintain. The filters are very suitable for rural areas because they can be constructed with locally available materials and labour and the technology is robust and straight forward. We have noticed a marked reduction in illnesses from unclean water since we started using the BSFs. People in neighbouring villages can see the benefits too. This really is giving us life-saving water!

