

The Thaleba Water Project



The wish for the well-being and happiness of everybody around us is a human trait found all over the world. Be it the members of one's family, one's friends, or the community in one's village. In the past several years, Sayadaw U Indaka has done much for the villagers in his native village, Thaleba. A lot of this valuable support has been effected with the help of Metta In Action.

You may remember some of the MIA support in the past: uniforms for the school kids, solar panels, the Metta Clinic, or the education funds.

The Water Project

This year Sayadaw was in favour of a project to alleviate a burden mostly shouldered (literally!) by women and kids: carrying water from the river to their homes. In Thaleba, the drinking water has to be fetched in the Mu River. To this end, the women and kids go to the river early in the morning and fill their earthen pots or plastic canisters. Then they have to carry the heavy load to their homes. Usually, two trips are necessary to have enough water for a whole family for the whole day. The drinking water is used to cook and to drink.

For washing their clothes and body – we would say for taking a shower – the villagers go to the river later in the day.

The vision was to have a water pipeline run through the village with four places where the drinking water can be fetched. In this way, the drinking water is available quite a bit closer to the villagers' homes and the heavy burden of the water pots and water canisters has to be carried a much shorter distance.



Pumping the water from the Mu River ... to the water tower ... and releasing it to the water stations in the village

In the past years when we visited Thaleba, I noticed and always admired the women graciously balancing the heavy earthen water pots on their heads. It looked so easy and effortless! These women provided a pitoresque setting for beautiful pictures evoking an intact culture from past times.

When I looked at the kids who carried two water canisters dangling down from the bamboo pole, I felt so sorry for these youngsters who have to carry such a heavy load. I wished to relief their burden, but at the same time I knew that it would definitely have been too heavy for me!

On our visit to Thaleba on 7 February 2016, Sayadaw and some villagers showed us the place on the river where the water would be pumped into a huge water container. From there, a pipeline would run through the village from east to west along the 'main road'.

A little while ago I got the news that the water project had been completed. Now the villagers can get their drinking water from the four places in the village which are much closer to their homes than the river. What a relief – a big burden has been lessened!



Sunset over the Mu River

As in the past we have supported the village **Metta Clinic** where the old folks are treated for free. Young doctors from Mandalay come on a regular basis to Thaleba and treat whoever is sick or injured. The oldest lady in the village is 102-years-old. The grandmothers and grandfathers, as they are lovingly called by everybody, are mostly treated for high blood pressure, diabetes, or stroke. If necessary, they are sent to the hospital in Sadaung or Mandalay for further treatment.



Ten grandmothers and grandfathers in front of the Metta Clinic in Thaleba



At the end of the little ceremony (with Ariya, Mimmi, Manfred, Ven. Virañani, Alexander – left to right)



The clinic car takes patients to the hospital



Sharing merits at the end of the ceremony

In the village across the Mu River, we have contributed some financial support for a water tank in the village monastery which is run by Sayadaw U Khema, a monk who had lived for many years in the Chanmyay Myaing Meditation Centre in Yangon.



Village impressions, Thaleba and Mu River



With great appreciation for your continued support – taking many burdens off the shoulders of many people!

Ariya Baumann