

Thaleba: A Village in Transition



We started to support the village of Thaleba in 2008. Situated in the vast plain north-east of Mandalay in Upper Burma, this village was just *one* village among hundreds of other similar villages. Each of these villages would have been happy to get the support that we have extended to Thaleba since then. The reason why we chose *this* village, and not any of the others, is the fact that it is Sayadaw U Indaka's native village. Ever since the beginning, Sayadaw U Indaka has been very supportive of our Metta In Action projects, in many cases he has been instrumental in organizing and coordinating the projects.

A big change is visible as one approaches the village: the new bridge, built by the government, is almost finished. It is part of a new road that is being built to connect the towns of Their Kyaung and Ayadaw. How long will the oxcarts be still seen in Thaleba?



The new bridge



The old bridge

Last year we donated money for the big **water project**. 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.

This year the project was almost finished. A generator pumps the water from the Mu River into a big water tank from where it flows through the pipes to the five 'water-stations' in the village. What is still needed to do is to cover the water-stations so the water does not get polluted with dirt and dust.



Our ongoing support includes the village **Mettā Clinic** and the **Education Fund**. Young doctors from Mandalay come on a regular basis to Thaleba and treat whoever is sick or injured. They do not take money for this work because they see their service as a voluntary contribution to the Mettā Clinic. At present, people older than seventy-years and poor people are treated FOC (free of charge). The next step is to make medical treatment free of charge for everybody.



At present, five students from Thaleba are supported in their studies at university. One of them will finish this year, her major is Myanmar (below, picture in middle). After the 10th standard exams in March it will become clear how many students can go to university. Of course, we hope that many students will have the chance to study!



With heartfelt and great appreciation for your ongoing support!

Ariya Baumann
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