

**Dear Nila friends and supporters,**

Things have probably not changed in 2012 in any country as much as in Myanmar/Burma. It seems as though people want to make up for fifty years of lost time under the military dictatorship as quickly as possible. People are becoming self-employed, starting a business and opening up hotels and restaurants. Aung San Suu Kyi, a winner of a Nobel Peace Prize, sits for her party in parliament and the democratic process is progressing much faster than I would have thought possible.

2012 was also a very exciting year for Nila. During the first half of the year we focused on improving sanitary conditions and medical care in our orphanages. Monica was there during the first quarter, and Daniela during the second, to implement our ideas. The warden have been trained in, and are implementing, basic hygiene. They ensure the children wash regularly and keep their bedrooms clean. Thanks to the purchase of new clothes, the children now also always have a clean spare set and clothes for sleeping so they do not go

to bed dusty and dirty. The newly acquired sleeping mats are also much easier to keep clean than the old mattresses. Doctors from Germany examine the orphans several times a year and we are very pleased that the children's health has improved during the last three years. Thank you to Dr Usch, Dr Heller and his wife Mallu from Action Myanmar.

**Construction of our new orphanage**

Whilst you are reading this newsletter, I am in Myanmar/Burma preparing our largest project: the construction of our new orphanage in Inle Lake. We have formed a committee of locals, who will co-ordinate the construction on-site and subsequently manage the orphanage. We have known most committee members for many years. I am always impressed when I see with how much passion these people work and that they dedicate nearly all their spare time to helping these children. The last page of this newsletter contains a few personal words from the committee and you can believe me that every word really is meant.

*New clothes for the children of our Buddhist orphanage, Shwe Taung Tan.*





*The construction of the new well for the orphanage Shwe Taung Tan, two weeks ago (photographs on the left) and yesterday (photographs on the right).*

We purchased the land this week and we are finalising the construction plans with an architect in order to commence construction in 2013. Unfortunately, during the opening of Myanmar/Burma prices have risen sharply so our cost estimations have become obsolete and the completion of the orphanage may be delayed.

However, despite these challenges I no longer have any doubts as to whether we should really implement such a project. Almost as soon as it became known that we were planning a new orphanage, people promised to help with the construction and to use their connections to buy building materials at purchase prices. In addition, as well as a small financial reserve thanks to your donations we have already received initial donations from people around Inle Lake for constructing the orphanage.

### Three water projects

During the second half of the year we implemented specific projects, as in previous

years. Our main focus was on our largest orphanage, Shwe Taung Tan. We are currently carrying out various construction projects to further improve our orphanage's drinking water supply and hygiene situation. We are building a well with a water tank, a new septic tank for sanitation and roofs on existing water tanks. We shall also hire more warden to relieve the present two.

### Pan Pyone Net orphanage

The border region of Kayin State is one of the poorest regions of Shan State, where Nila is active. We are opening a small branch there for thirty children via our orphanage Myitta Mon. The local monk provided us with the building in the mountain village of Naung Thaung. Since it is in a dilapidated condition, we shall repair and renovate it during the next few months. We were however unable to wait any longer to open it. The first children began knocking on our door as soon as word spread about the new orphanage. We currently care for 23 children aged between two and fifteen years.



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*Our orphanage Pan Pyone Net with the orphans, the kitchen, the water source for personal hygiene and washing clothes as well as the girls' dormitory.*

### Wish list

Three of the orphanages we support are Christian: Brother Felice, Myitta Mon and the new orphanage in Naung Thaung. All the children have written a wish list and we shall fill a few Father Christmas sacks before I make my way back to Germany. It is noteworthy that only a few children asked for toys. The vast majority of requests involve new clothes.

### 2013 Calendar

As in past years, we have also created a calendar for 2013. We only photograph children from orphanages we support. If interested, you can view the photographs on our website [www.nila-ev.de](http://www.nila-ev.de) and order the calendar by sending an e-mail message to [info@nila-ev.de](mailto:info@nila-ev.de).

### Thank you!

Thanks to your help, the volume of donations has doubled again compared with the previous year and this year will perhaps reach six digits

for the first time. Something of which we wouldn't have ever dreamt when NILA was established merely three years ago. Thank you for your willingness to help these amazing people and thank you for your trust in us.

On behalf of all Nila children I wish you and your families a wonderful and very merry Christmas season.

Yours Ralf

Nyaungshwe, Myanmar, December 2012



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The new roofs on our water tanks (photographs on the left) for the orphanage Shwe Taung Tan and the construction of the septic tank, two weeks ago (second photograph from the right) and yesterday (photograph on the right).

*Dear friends of NILA,*

*we are forty members of the Myitta Mon Orphanage committee. We would like to tell you that we are very glad to get your help, which is not for us but for the orphans and the children in our surrounding areas, who have difficulties for their education.*

*We are doing this job as volunteers, because we love to help the children who are poor and have no parents. In addition to the Myitta Mon Orphanage we would like to have another compound because the current space is not wide enough for all children in our orphanage. If we have a second compound we can help further children.*

*So thank you very much to all of you, who are very kind to our children. I would like to invite you to come to Myanmar and to visit us.*

*U Kyaw Zaya  
on behalf of Myitta Mon Education Foundation  
Nyaungshwe, Myanmar*



Committee members and our new plot of land for constructing the orphanage (area up to the houses).



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