

**Open letter from Talong and other villages calling on IFC to stop promoting dams on the  
Namtu/Myitgne river**

September 12, 2019

To the International Finance Corporation (IFC),

We, villagers of Talong and other nearby communities, are writing to express our great concern at your public consultation today in Taunggyi to promote dam-building on our vital mother river, the Namtu/Myitgne in northern Shan State, which is contravening our wishes and needs.

The Namtu/Myitgne river is a vital life source for thousands of indigenous local villagers who have been living along the river banks for generations, relying on it for agriculture, fishing, transport, and countless other needs.

Namtu is our blood, our heart, and without it, we will not survive. It is our benefactor, our mother, our life-saver, and our future.

When the Upper Yeywa dam project began in 2008, we were not informed or consulted. Only in 2014, villagers were formally told they would have to move to make way for the dam. Since hearing that such a big dam was coming to harm us, we have been trying in all ways to stop it, and prevent the destruction of our communities, livelihoods, our religious sites, and our environment.

We have many times pointed out that the planned dams on the Namtu are in an active war zone where the Burma Army and ethnic armed groups are fighting. It is not the right time to build such dams in our area.

You may know that the recent fighting since August 15 in Nawng Khio, Kyaukme, and other townships along the Namtu in northern Shan State has displaced over 5,000 local civilians. How can you be promoting dam building in this dangerous area while we civilians are fleeing our homes?

That is why we are writing this open letter to urge you to stop promoting dams along our beloved Namtu. We hope you will take our request into kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Talong villagers with other villages' representatives in Northern and Southern Shan State

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