Sa Kaeo is located in eastern Thailand, approximately 200 km from Bangkok. The Thai border in Amphoe Aranyaprathet, Sa Kaeo is known as the Grand Gate to Cambodia, sharing a 165-kilometer-long border with Cambodia that connects international transportation and tourism within one route.

Today’s Thai culture is rooted in the historically significant Suvarnabhumi and Dvaravati Kingdoms. Ancient monuments and architectural points of interest are scattered across the province, with artefacts telling the history and glory of the past to their descendants.

Apart from the historical ancient remains worthy for study, Sa Kaeo also possesses abundant natural resources such as the Pang Sida National Park and the Ta Phraya National Park, as well as, the natural canyon-like soil sculpture caused by ground subsidence called “Lalu” with unique characteristics.

Key economic sectors in the province are Agriculture and Forestry, with agriculture products such as rice, cassava, cane and maize constituting the bulk of productivity. Pra Prong Dam is the biggest irrigational dam in eastern Thailand and is also one of his majesties the king’s (Rama IX) projects to create a water resource that can help the people in this area to grow plants during all seasons.

Some homes and business in the province have access to municipal water supply. However, drinking water in remote farming villages is from untreated groundwater that produces an objectionable color. These contaminated ground water wells are a source of waterborne illnesses experienced by school children. Most schools and communities cannot afford the cost of purchasing bottled drinking water, and those that can make purchases for water are unable to do so on a sustainable basis. It is very important for schools and communities to have better access to clean water and sanitation.
Wangjarakea School

Starbucks Foundation commits to provide a clean, safe drinking water system for rural Thailand community

“Unclean water affects people in the community, such as the life of agriculture, because the water source in the community is not enough and is not clean for drinking and cooking.”
- Somhwang Sreeprom, village leader
Wangjarakea is a small village located in the eastern Sa Kaeo Province of Thailand, approximately 200-kilometers from Bangkok and far beyond reach of municipal water supplies. The majestic mountain landscape, abundant seasonal water and fertile soil support farmlands tended by local farmers.

In contrast to the surrounding beauty, the water source of the school and community is contaminated groundwater, which promotes waterborne illnesses when consumed. The color of the water is unappealing for drinking and off-putting when used for cooking. The school and community bear the burden of buying drinking water for drinking and food preparation, but this puts an enormous financial strain on the community.

An AquaTower will supply up 1,800 people every day with clean, safe drinking water – plenty of water for the school and surrounding family homes to enjoy for drinking, hand washing, cooking and cleaning.
Planet Water Foundation is a U.S.-based non-profit that develops strategic partnerships that support Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts that align with four of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Quality Education; Gender Equality; Reduced Inequalities; and Clean Water and Sanitation. Project 24 programs and initiatives support these four SDGs with longitudinal support in each community for five years.

Since 2015, Project 24 is Planet Water Foundation’s World Water Day advocacy and engagement platform the focuses on the world’s critical need to bring an end to water poverty.

“There is a need to buy water every week because the community water is not clean and does not provide enough.”
- Junyaporn Punta, sixth grade
“The community and schools have a water source that is not clean and insufficient for community and school needs.”
-Porntip Khanngon, teacher