

Comparative analysis of the DEALS approach in two pilot wards in Pathein

This comparative analysis of the two pilot wards in Pathein was done by the City Focal Person (CFP) in April 2020. The reason for this analysis is the different levels of enthusiasm, success or participation in the two pilot wards 12 and 7, while the DEALS approach was the same for both. In summary, the participation in ward 12 is higher than ward 7, because of the support of the Ward Administration to the Ward Support and Cleaning Group (WSCG) members and the volunteer spirit in ward 12.



Ward 7 is situated between ward 6, ward 8 and the Nga Wun River. The three main streams that cross the ward are called Wat That Chaung Stream, Wae Taunt Stream, Daw Aye Yin Stream. These streams are the main drainages of the ward. Around 3000 formal and informal households reside in this ward. Ward 12 is only 2.6 kilometre from ward 7. Between ward 7 and ward 12, a big landfill is located in ward 8. Ward 12 is surrounded by water and there are two main streams for drainage. Ward 12 has a hilly landscape; some parts of the wards are located much lower than other. Moreover, ward 12 borders on the Pathein Industrial City zone.

At the start of the project, five issues per ward were indicated during a first Multi-Stakeholder meeting:

Ward 7

- Wat That Chaung stream blocking;
- Ayeyar Win Market waste and water cannot flow to Wae Taunt stream;
- Daw Aye Yin stream bridge height is too low and can block the drainage of water;
- Informal household settlements;
- During rainy seasons waste water from ward 8's landfill flows into ward 7.

Ward 12

- Two sluice gates are too narrow and the stream also became narrow for flow the water;
- Water flows directly into the ward because there is no water gate;
- Waste is thrown away directly into the corners of the lanes;
- The pipe culvert was not installed properly;
- Informal household settlements.

The DEALS approach in Pathein

Pathein is a fast-growing city with urgent challenges with regard to sustainable waste and water management. Furthermore, Pathein is confronted with challenges related to social, economic, health and increase in squatter settlements. The DEALS approach in Pathein is to improve the performance of the local government in the cooperation with multi-stakeholders and growing a collaborative, responsive and flexible municipality and keep the city alive and sustainable. Therefore, the DEALS project direct stakeholders, the Township Development Affairs Organisation (TDAO) and Development Affairs Committee (DAC) (Pathein municipality) collaborate with other departments such as the General Administration Department (GAD), the health department, the WSCGs, Pathein University, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) such as ATAA and Clean Pathein and private company like Pathein Industrial City for dealing of above mention challenges together with citizens.



What has happened so far

- Pilot ward selection workshop was conducted in a participatory manner in December 2018. Ward 7 and ward 12 have been selected, based on criteria set up for ward selection.
- A Multi-stakeholder workshop was conducted in February 2019, facilitated by an international expert. A result of the workshop was a strengths and weakness analysis of the pilot wards and the formation of the coordination groups.
- Baseline study was conducted in March 2019 with the help of Patheingyi University professors and students. Further, the study was coordinated by Ward Support and Cleaning Group members.
- DEALS project supported Clean Patheingyi for their batch ToT for plastic and waste awareness raising in April 2019.
- World Environmental Day event was conducted in the pilot wards in June 2019. An awareness session about environmental sustainability and tree plantation actions were organised.
- Multi-Stakeholder (Social Accountability) module 1 workshop was conducted in July 2019 with TDAO, TDAC, ward supporting and cleaning group member, ward administrators and CSOs of Patheingyi township present.
- Multi-Stakeholder module 1 follow up meeting and awareness campaign were conducted.
- Multi-Stakeholder module 1 follow up action plan was drafted including grants for the pilot project.
- A waste audit was conducted in December 2019 with Thant Myanmar and a waste reduction training was conducted on 11 December 2019
- The scoping mission of DRI was conducted in March 2020 for integration of waste management in planning and budgeting.
- In April 2020 a hand-wash campaign for the prevention of COVID-19 was conducted together with several DEALS stakeholders in the market and other public areas.



During to the multi-stakeholder module 1 training, TDAC and TDAO had the opportunity to elaborate about the services they offer – citizens appear to be unaware quite often – and explain about the process of their activities. They expressed their willingness to support the development of both pilot wards as much as they could. Representatives from two wards’ CSOs and WSCG members were familiar with the difficulties the TDOA/DAC encounter and were enthusiastic about the collaboration with their municipality.

After the module, two priority issues were identified in each ward. In ward 7 the Wat That Chaung stream needed to be dug and in Ward 12 main road number 2, number 3 and number 4 needed to be dug. Before the actual pilot activities took place in the wards, several follow up meetings and awareness sessions were conducted.

Four of such activities were conducted in each ward. The participation, with 192 in ward 12, is a bit higher than the 150 participants in ward 7. Even though big events such as World Environment Day took place in ward 7. The table below describes the total participants disaggregated by gender.

No.	Activities at Ward 7	Total	Male	Female
1	World Environment Day Event with Clean Pathein	58	34	24
2	Ward 7 follow up meeting for pilot project	27	22	5
3	Ward 7 Awareness Raising campaign	38	6	32
4	Pilot project digging Wat That Chaung River	27	22	5
		150		

No.	Activities at Ward 12	Total	Male	Female
1	Multi-stakeholder follow up action plan meeting at ward 12	26	15	11
2	Ward 12 Awareness Raising campaign	100	39	61
3	Ward 12 follow up meeting for pilot project	41	28	13
4	Ward 12 follow up meeting for pilot project	25	16	9
		192		



Ward 7, what worked and what did not work

The multi-stakeholder and inclusive approach was applied in all activities conducted in the two wards. TDAO/DAC together with the CFP invited amongst others the WSCG, ward administrators, CSOs in the wards, CSOs in Pathein, doctors from the health department for the activities on waste and health. The engineering department and cleaning department from the TDAO were also present.

In ward 7, the first follow up meeting went well, with active participation, sharing of pilot project background, enthusiastic ward elderly and ward administrator and supportive suggestions of the WSCG members. However, during the following awareness raising campaign, the participation was low, with only 38 participants of ward 7 compared to 100 participants from ward 12. For this campaign, the CFP directly invited the stakeholders without support from the TDAO. Perhaps because of power dynamics or the communication channel used by the CFP, the attendance of ward 7 participants was low.

Ward 12, what worked and what did not work

Similar to ward 7, four activities were conducted in ward 12 after the multi-stakeholder module 1 took place. After the awareness raising campaign in ward 12, the WSCG with the support of the ward administrators engaged with the TDAO to set up a plan for digging main road number 2, 3 and 4. The Senior Assistant Engineer from the TDOA engineering department acted as focal person in engaging with the WSCG members for this action. The VNG International team steered towards sustainable solutions, so the community based 'waste and drainage committee' was formed after two rounds of follow up meetings. The 19 members consist of a representation of women, men, elderly, youth and squatter settlers. This committee helped not only to implement the digging of the 14 lanes (while only four are supported by DEALS), they also work on awareness raising of waste management, monitoring the drainages and regular contact with the TDAO/DAC.

Due to its geographical location land in ward 12 is a good investment. It is still relatively affordable and is close to Pathein Industrial city. The job opportunities for ward 12 residents will increase once Pathein Industrial city commences its activities in full swing. A possible explanation why ward 12 citizens have been engaged this much is that they see the opportunities their ward has to offer them and the added value of cooperation with the TDAO. Moreover, they are aware that well organised ward committees are a strong partner around the table towards the TDAO, but also towards private companies such as Pathein Industrial city, that is looking to expand.

Conclusion

This analysis concludes that good results in terms of participation and coordination in ward 12 were achieved. To start, due to the geographical location of ward 12 it is easier to make infrastructural changes. There is no pavement base, as in ward 7. Thus, changes are more visible to the citizens. To continue, generally Ward 12 inhabitants have a lower income than ward 7 inhabitants. Moreover, there are more informal settlers in ward 12. The results of the pilot project (dug lanes, thus less flooding during rainy seasons) are of great importance for an improvement of their living standards. Not only informal settlers, also other ward 12 inhabitants will benefit from digging of the lanes. Therefore, it was relatively easy to involve citizens in the project. Thirdly, the Ward 12 WSCG members receive direct support from the ward administrators, because the chair of Ward 12 WSCG is the brother of the ward administrator. Lastly, the volunteer spirit of ward 12 is high because most of the regular meeting attendees directly benefit from improved waste management by the TDAO and TDAC and digging the main roads.

Ward 7 has a bigger population, more ward-based organisations representing different interests and more medium income residents. For the DEALS approach to work better in ward 7, we should seek more thoroughly to a common interest, that benefits the wards' inhabitants and improves the living conditions. For example, the TDAO provided a ward CSO Tuk Tuks to transport waste. However, there was no operation plan and now the Tuk Tuks are left unused. Showing the ward best-practices – such as from ward 3 – their interest in proper waste management process might increase again. With regards to participation we should intent to engage with the wards' urban poor through the ward administration and TDAO. In ward 12 this channel proved to be important to encourage active citizenship and for the citizens to experience positive and sustainable effects of the DEALS approach.

By: Naw Htee Ku Paw, DEALS Pathein City Focal Person