

Pathein, Myanmar

The City Deal in Pathein takes an **anti-silo and inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach** to addressing sustainable waste and water management for **urban poor communities in flood prone areas**. The effects of annual flooding in low-lying wards with poor inhabitants and informal settlers are severe due to poor housing, inadequate services and waste collection and blocked drainages. The intention is to address this challenge in an integrated manner in several **area-based pilots** with strong involvement of the **local community**, to mobilise different government departments around the various issues facing such a neighbourhood, and to **build Sipin's (municipal) capacity for coordinated interventions**.

Project activities

- Technical assistance
- Training and coaching on multi-stakeholder cooperation
- Training and coaching on communication and public awareness for inclusive waste management
- Training and coaching on participatory planning and budgeting for inclusive waste management
- Basic governance capacity development on water and waste management
- Technical advice to promote gender mainstreaming throughout the project
- Facilitation and support for pilot projects
- Support to develop and implement multi-stakeholder pilot projects on water and waste management

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Context

Pathein is Myanmar's 6th largest city. Situated in the heart of the fertile Ayeyarwady Delta, it is a corridor city with a fast growing population, estimated at 380.000 (census 2014). Pathein township is the most urban township in Ayeyarwady Region, hosting the seat of the Region Government, the biggest Development Affairs Office, several offices of Union Ministries and a finely meshed governmental-administrative network in the 15 wards.

Pathein is a rapidly urbanising township with urgent challenges regarding sustainable waste and water management. In addition, Pathein township is confronted with challenges related to spatial planning (land use, housing), social (gender inequality), economic (informality, urban poor, livelihood), health (covid-19) and expansion of illegal settlements. In Pathein, the inclusivity and sustainability of poor urban communities (including informal settlers) around the creeks, small streams and gutters should be collectively addressed by different stakeholders on the initiative of Pathein Township.

The key challenges and priorities for urban issues in Pathein listed by the Ayeyarwady Region Government, the Region DAO, Township DAO, and Township DAC and other involved stakeholders such as CSOs and the Pathein University are flooding, drainages and waste management.



- Facilitate citizen engagement and awareness for sustainability
- Facilitation of multi-stakeholder meetings
- Facilitation and support for integrated cooperation on sustainability (cooperation with different departments)
- Learning and exchange
- Study visit to the Netherlands (2018)
- Domestic study visits
- On-demand city-to-city learning

Results

Reduced environmental impact of and enhanced living conditions for urban poor residents living in flood prone areas in Patheingyi.

Involved parties

- *Governmental*: the Township Development Affairs Organisation (TDAO), the Township Development Affairs Committee (TDAC) - together Sipin, the Ayeyarwady Regional Government, Ward Administrators, the Ward Support and Cleaning Groups (WSCG), Union ministries and their line ministries in Patheingyi, i.e., the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement – the Department of social welfare, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, the Department of natural resources, the Environmental conservation Department, and the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government – the General Administration Department (GAD)
- *Non-governmental*: the project pursues active coordination of the public sector with other actors through a multi-stakeholder partnership with: the Patheingyi University, civil society organisations such as Clean Patheingyi and ATAA and the private sector e.g. Patheingyi Industrial City. The project aligns its activities with other donors (The Asia Foundation, JICA, UN Habitat, Dutch Embassy)



“An uncommon approach! But we are moving to reach common goal.”

Ms. Naw Htee Ku Paw, DEALS City Focal Point: An inclusive, multi-stakeholder and multi-level approach is uncommon to us. As part of the political transition towards federalism in Myanmar, democratisation and decentralisation processes started. DEALS provides space for different government actors at different levels, to engage with citizens all the way down to grassroot level.

At the start of the project, the main challenges were found in cooperation and coordination at different levels – the key components of an integrated approach: coordination between departments, with other levels of government and cooperation between the township organisations and other stakeholders. It was a challenge for the stakeholders to work together with people of different roles, interests, levels of education, cultures and gender. Even within the smallest community people were not used to discussing, listening to each other and making decisions together.

The DEALS project ensured improved cooperation between inter-governmental stakeholders and between government and non-government actors. Currently, the key stakeholders recognise the benefit of working together and underline they are complementary of one another to come up with solutions for sustainable water and waste management.”

