

# MYANMAR

## National Community Driven Development Project Helping Communities to Help Themselves



### Overview

The **Myanmar National Community Driven Development Project** is funded by a US\$80 million IDA grant approved in November 2012 and is the World Bank's first project in Myanmar in 25 years.

The development objective of the Project is to **enable poor rural communities in Myanmar to benefit from improved access to and use of basic infrastructure and services through a people-centered approach**. Approved in November 2012 with financing from an \$80m IDA grant, this six year project is empowering rural communities in 15 townships to identify and implement public investments they need most, such as roads, bridges, irrigation systems, schools, health clinics or rural markets. The Project helps to realize President Thein Sein's vision of "**people-centered development**", a significant shift in the way that Government engages with communities in rural areas, and a beginning to reach poor and historically underserved areas.

### Who is benefitting from the project?

The project is financing three annual block grants of on average US\$27,000 each for about **640 village tracts** in **15 poor rural townships**—one in each of the 14 States and Regions, plus the Union Territory. Eventually over **3,000 villages**, which are home to approximately **2.5 million people**, will benefit from the project across the country. Participating townships are selected by a union-level based on the following criteria: high levels of poverty, absence of external funding, and the commitment by regional government to the objectives of the project.



Villagers in Kanpetlet Township, Chin State

### How does the project help poor rural communities?

Assets constructed under the Project should help to address key community needs and aimed at reducing poverty rates in beneficiary villages. In addition, the project empowers villagers to manage and participate in their own development, with communities making decisions in project design and being responsible for implementation. The project has four components: (i) block grants to communities; (ii) capacity building; (iii) knowledge and learning; and (iv) implementation, including monitoring and evaluation. A fifth component allows reallocation of project resources to respond to emergency needs, for example in the wake of natural disasters.

### Current Status

Currently, the project is under implementation in the first three townships (the project employs a gradual rollout model, with three townships participating in the first year, at least five being added in the second, and at least seven in the third year). **Community consultations have been held, village committees and volunteers identified, village tract development plans formulated and approved, and subproject implementation now underway.**

### Approach

Community Driven Development (CDD) programs devolve decision making to communities, by putting them in charge of what to do with and how to manage development resources. This type of intervention helps match scarce resources to priority needs by turning spending decisions over to those who often understand their needs and aspirations best – local communities themselves. By empowering communities to identify priority interventions and providing the funds to implement them, CDD allows for context-specific aid delivery that is responsive to citizen demands. Moreover, by channeling funds directly from central-level government to communities, CDD approaches minimize leakages. International evaluations indicate that CDD methods frequently enable delivery of small scale infrastructure and essential services more cheaply and with a better quality than similar projects implemented by regular government service delivery channels.

CDD approaches can thus be an important element of a rural poverty reduction strategy. Over the last decade, the World Bank has financed CDD approaches in a diverse range of settings to help national governments and communities address a variety of basic development needs, including water supply and sewer rehabilitation, construction of schools and health posts, nutrition programs for mothers and infants, construction of rural access roads, and support for micro-enterprises. Experience in countries such as Indonesia, Philippines and Afghanistan have also shown the potential of CDD approaches to work at national scale, operate in conflict-affected areas, and serve as platforms for natural disaster recovery.

### How is the project financed?

The total cost of the project is currently \$86.3 million. It is financed by an \$80 million IDA grant, as well as a government contribution of \$6.3 million. The design of the project allows easy scaling up, and other donors are currently considering financing the expansion of the project to cover additional townships.


### Who manages the project?

Ultimately, local communities manage sub projects at the village level, with decisions being made at the village tract level. The Foreign Aid Management Central Committee (chaired by the President, and composed of Ministers from a range of line ministries) acts as steering committee and provides project oversight and policy guidance. The Department of Rural Development is the implementing agency that also provides capacity building at union and township levels. Experienced international NGO's have been contracted to provide technical assistance at the township level. The World Bank, in its turn, supports the Myanmar Government in project implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation.

### How is the project ensuring the participation of women, marginalized groups and ethnic minorities?

The project includes a range of measures to ensure the full participation of women, vulnerable groups and ethnic minorities, including: the recruitment of village volunteers elected from among ethnic groups; free, prior and informed consultations for village and village tract development plans; the involvement of ethnic minorities in community decision-making and monitoring and evaluation; and the use of local languages.





ပါ ကွန်းကျေးရွာကန်သရံအုပ်စု  
 National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP)  
 လူထုဗဟိုပြုဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးစီမံကိန်း  
 IDA Grant No: H814- MM

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name of the Sub-project စီမံကိန်းလုပ်ငန်းခွဲအမည်</li> <li>• Budget ပံ့ပိုးရန်ပုံငွေ</li> <li>• Started Date လုပ်ငန်းစတင်သည့်နေ့စွဲ</li> <li>• Completed Date လုပ်ငန်းပြီးဆုံးသည့်နေ့စွဲ</li> <li>• Sub-Project Number (If any) -</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Primary School Rehabilitation - မူလတန်းကျောင်းပြုပြင်ခြင်း</li> <li>- 3.2 Millions - (၃၂)သိန်း</li> <li>- 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 - ၁၃.၃.၂၀၁၄</li> <li>-</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
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## How does the project engage with civil society?

The project design benefited from multiple consultations with a range of civil society partners in Myanmar, to learn from the experience in particular of those groups that had been engaged in grass-roots level community work in the country for a long time. During implementation, the project includes provisions for social audits at the village tract level, as well as an annual national-level multi-stakeholder review that provides opportunities for interested civil society organizations to engage with and provide feedback on the project and its implementation. In the future, the project will also organize an annual Development Marketplace to showcase innovation around rural poverty reduction in Myanmar – including initiatives from within and beyond the project.

## What are the roles for NGOs in this project? How will these NGOs be identified?

In addition to opportunities for providing feedback and sharing learning, the Department of Rural Development contracts technical assistance at the township level to support project implementation, including in the area of community facilitation. The contracts for the first three townships were awarded to the International Rescue Committee (for Chin State) and Mercy Corps (for Shan State and Thanintharyi Region) following a competitive and open tendering process. Additional township-level technical assistance will be procured in years 2 and 3 of the project, in keeping with the project's gradual rollout schedule.



Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development  
Department of Rural Development  
Office # 14, CDD Secretariat  
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
[www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org](http://www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org)



The World Bank Myanmar  
No.57, Pyay Road  
(Corner of Shwe Hinthar Road)  
61/2 Mile, Hlaing Township, Yangon,  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

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[myanmar@worldbank.org](mailto:myanmar@worldbank.org)