

Myanmar Urbanization Challenges and Way Forward

Group 9

Tachana Upapong 6104640047
Peechanika Phoomrittikul 6104640260
Krittaphong Kaewvichian 6104640609
Saranpat Limpaviboon 6104640690
Chananyu Wongwien 6104640773



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Overview

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Country Overview

- Myanmar is divided into **7 states & 7 regions.**
- The official capital is Nay Pyi Taw
- Strategic location linking :
 - South Asia
 - Southeast Asia
 - China
- The country is expected to continue to urbanize

Urbanization Overview

- Myanmar population ≈ 60 million
- An early stage of urbanization
(30 % of its population living in cities)
- Chronic underinvestment in urban infrastructure
- Urbanization process is “ **Inclusive is a critical component** ”
- Inclusive urbanisation is reliant on **2 key dimensions:**
 - 1.) **Economic inclusion** : ensuring opportunities for all in contributing to and sharing in rising prosperity.
 - 2.) **Spatial inclusion** : to improving access to affordable land, housing, and services for all.



MYANMAR



Economic Challenges



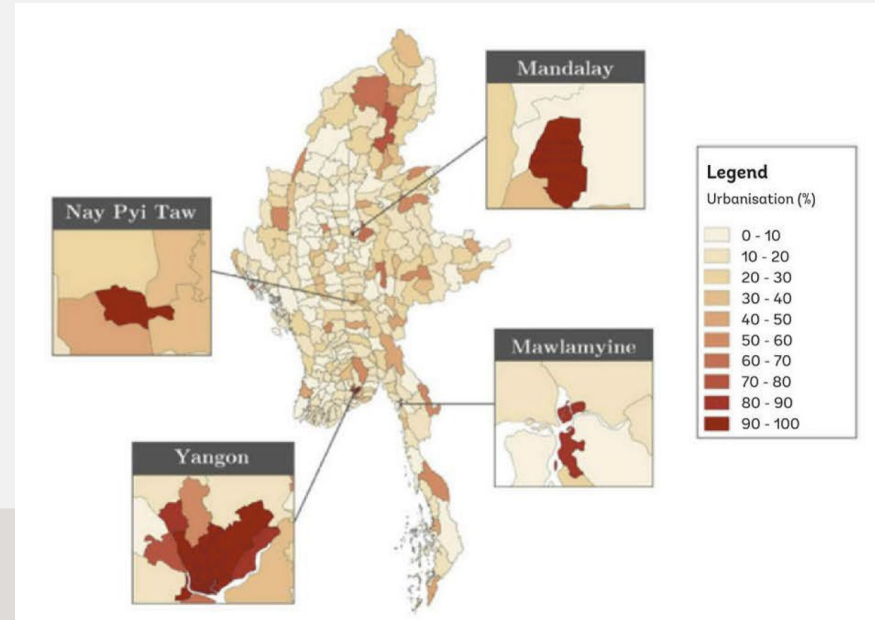
Economic Challenges

As Myanmar transitions to manufacturing and service based economy, rural people move to cities for jobs

- In Yangon, 81% of the population growth between 2009 and 2014 were due to internal migration
- Yangon is now the country's largest city, surpassing the largest second city by a big amount
- In 2014, Yangon's estimated population was 4.753 million, while Mandalay's was 1.2 million



Share of people living in urban area by township in 2014



Economic Challenges

Despite the job opportunities in urban areas, most are informal and low paid, which leads to..

Economic Vulnerability

The urban poor are the most vulnerable to and economic shocks since they do not have social protection



Risk to Natural Disasters

The poor are forced to reside in marginal locations (hillsides and flood prone areas) and cannot access natural disaster warning system



Inability to meet basic needs

The urban poor struggle with fluctuation in prices of basic commodities



Root Cause to Economic Challenges

Lack of skills and education


- The need to work at an early age forces people to dropout of school early
- The education that they receive from skills do not reflect the skills needed by employers

Lack of access to finance


- The urban poor often lack the resources to lift themselves out of poverty and are often rejected when borrowing money from banks
- Many seek loans from informal sectors with high interest rates

Lower Secondary School Completion Rate in CLMV

Country	Lower Secondary Completion Rate (%)
Myanmar	49.045%
Thailand	78.038%
Vietnam	94.339%
Cambodia	45.233%
Lao PDR	55.482%



Spatial Challenges



Spatial Challenges

Rapid Urbanization and high demands

Myanmar faced with rapid urbanization that caused Increase in migrations to find opportunities for jobs in Yangon.

High property values

The lack of sufficient housing and commercial space in Yangon as well as the living cost.

Informal settlements

Majority were forced to live in peri-urban or informal settlements instead.



Spatial Challenges



Transportation Congestion

In Mandalay, motorcycles account for over

70% of trips

Spatial Challenges



Water access

The urban
population
access rate to
water supply is

94%

HOWEVER

18%

have piped water
supply

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Government Strategies

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Policies to address Economic Challenges



Myanmar Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Management Project

- Myanmar's government has allocated a total of 117 Million USD to develop drainage services in low income areas and improve the government's ability to respond to natural disasters



Skill Training

- many private companies and NGOs have been offering work based training, particularly in handicrafts and food and beverage production
- formal technical vocational and education training (TVET) exists but is underutilized and ill-suited to the skills that businesses require.

Policies to address Spatial Challenges

Housing



- **Million Homes Plan** → Create 1 million homes by 2030 and make 90% accessible to low income households
- **The Construction and House Development Bank** → Provide cheap loans to potential homeowners

Road Infrastructure and Transport



- Create 10,000 km of **new truck roads**
- **Comprehensive Urban Transport Plan of the Greater Yangon (YUTRA)** → develop 2 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors in partnership with private sector
- Signed **loan agreement with Japan to develop new railway projects**

Water Supply



- Partner with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to develop water source, treatment plant, transmission system, disinfection equipment and distribution pipes
- **Aim: 124,000 households can access water without interruption in 2024**



Lesson Learned



The Experience that We Learn From This Project

The Challenges for Myanmar policymakers

- 1 Enhance the urban poor **out of poverty**
- 2 Deal with **natural disasters** and **infrastructure deficit for high risk areas**

Action Plan

- More focus on **education and training facilities**
- **Update training curriculum** and **increase distribution of school supplies**
- Design **warning systems** and **support basic infrastructure** (roads, installing water supply, drainage, sanitation and electricity services) in the most vulnerable areas



Good Governance: Being transparent and involving the public in decision making



Conclusion

Conclusion

Key Issues

Economic: Informal jobs, lack of skills, shock vulnerability

Spatial: Lack of housing, traffic congestion and limited water supply

Government Strategies

- **Myanmar Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Management Project**
- **Skill Training**

- **Housing:** Million Home Plan & The Construction and House Development Bank
- **Road Infrastructure:** YUTRA & Loan agreement with Japan for new railway projects
- **Water Supply:** Partner with JICA for the advancement of water sources.



And by implementing extra policies, Myanmar will have an inclusive urban development