



FACT SHEET

Yangon



Quick Facts

Country:	Myanmar
Population:	5,400,000 Inh.
Adm. Area:	598.8 km ²



Executive Member of City Alliance
since 2017

Contact

Water and Sanitation Department
(YCDC)

Merchant Road / Bo Myat Htun Street,
No. 9 Ward, Yangon

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Project Start/End Year
2014-2028

Introduction

Yangon is the economic capital of Myanmar and with its estimated 5.4 million inhabitants, presents the largest urban agglomeration in the country. Located at the top of the Irrawaddy river delta and hosting Myanmar's largest international airport, it is also the country's trading hub for goods and services. Presenting high opportunities for business development, industries and education, it has developed to be the major destination for country-internal migration.

With a population growth of about 2 per cent over the past 10 years (equals around 300,000 increase in just 3 years) Yangon experiences an increased pressure on public service provision and urban infrastructure. Current capacities of administrative structures, as well as financial and technical resources are limited and have difficulties to respond adequately. Implementation of the concept of Integrated Sanitation that is applied in this city contributes to achievement of a cluster of Sustainable Development Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, such as SDG 1- No Poverty; SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy; SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities; and SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals.

Challenges Related to Water and Sanitation

Yangon's more than 100-years old sewer network, constructed during the British colonial era, is one of many historical highlights of the city. Despite the fact, that it is still serving residents and businesses located in the old historical center of Yangon, it only connects about 4 per cent of the Yangon's current population. Therefore, the majority of the city relies on on-site containment systems and desludging services provided by the Yangon City government.

A major challenge is non-standardized containment systems that are often leaking into the ground or overflowing in the rainy season. This situation causes an immediate threat to the city's groundwater resources as well as to public health due to direct contamination risks.

Solid waste collection and management services are challenged similarly with an increased demand of a growing population. Operational capacities and financial resources are insufficient, leaving a large number of residents without reliable



service provision. Thus, informal and uncontrolled waste collection and illegal disposal practices are burdening the cities environment and its residents.

System Solution

Integrated Sanitation Management



Satellite cities of Yangon applied the following four modules:

- Decentralized Wastewater Management (DEWATS)¹
- Operation and Maintenance
- Capacity Building
- In-House-Management

Key Project Interventions

- Implementation of a combined DEWATS (blackwater and greywater) for 2000 users (267m³/day treatment capacity) in a newly developed low-cost housing project (Dagon Seikkann Township) including In-House-Management and O&M training. This project is initiated and managed by the Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD) of the Ministry of Construction (MoC).
- Implementation of the capacity building program, “Knowledge Transfer and Expertise Development” (KTED) with the key project partner: Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD/ Ministry of Construction).

Financing Mechanism (see Case Study: Financing Integrated Sanitation, 2019)

Funding for the implementation of the DEWATS system is provided by the Ministry of Construction.

Project Images



Flooding after severe rain



Waste accumulation at a traditional market



Clogged sewerage

Contacts

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Mallory Bellairs, UN ESCAP (Layout)

Jakrapong Tawala, UNITAR (Administrative map)

¹ UN ESCAP, UN-Habitat and Asian Institute of Technology, 2015. Policy Guidance Manual on Wastewater Management with a Special Emphasis on Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems.