The genesis of the Project

Cities of Myanmar face great challenges to deliver high quality services (water supply, sanitation, drainage, solid waste management, etc.). Limited financial resources, low technical skills and means, aging facilities are some of the constraints faced to cope with a growing urban population and increasing expectations in terms of services delivery.

While the recent arrival of numerous private investors, donors and other sector actors represents an interesting opportunity to upgrade and develop infrastructures, improvements brought by new facilities can only be sustained if they are implemented along with a significant technical assistance to the managers of the related services.

In Myanmar, the delivery of basic services falls under the responsibility of Regions and States governments, through the City and Township Development Committees. Therefore, while many cities face similar challenges, exchange of experience and expertise between them is scarce.

In a context of rapid demographic growth and climate change, the overall objective of the Capacity building Project is to contribute to the improvement of the well-being of the urban population, while reducing pollution and damage to the environment. This will be achieved through the strengthening of services providers’ capacities, the fostering of experience sharing nationwide and the implementation of small-scale and medium-size projects. By meeting urgent needs and testing innovative technical solutions and improved management modalities, the Project will thus contribute to improve the current situation and to get the services providers prepared for the future.

Project’s objectives

- To enhance the quality of basic services in Myanmar cities by reinforcing capacities of urban managers in terms of planning, development, operation and regulation of services.
- To establish an intercity network for urban services’ managers to share experience and expertise.

Features of the targeted cities

- All capital cities of States, Regions and Union of Territories.
- From 25,000 to more than 5,000,000 inhabitants.
- From less than 800 mm to more than 4,000 mm annual rainfall.
- Various environmental conditions, demographic and economic development perspectives.

Improving performances of basic services in Myanmar cities
The seminar on urban water management: a promising start

> The first key milestone of the Project took place in Mandalay from 8th to 10th June 2016 in the form of a seminar on Urban Water Management. It gathered water services' operators of more than 15 cities of all Regions, States and Union of Territories of Myanmar as well as Myanmar, Cambodian and other international experts.

> Discussions held during the seminar confirmed that most of the urban water services providers face similar issues and share interests for the same topics such as NRW, financial management, public-private partnerships, water quality, etc.

> For most of the participants, the seminar was the first opportunity they ever had to share their experience with their peers and to benefit from others’ experience. Their interest for such activities has been clearly highlighted by the intensity of debates.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Capacities of urban services providers are strengthened in terms of planning, operation and monitoring of services.
- Small-scale projects and medium-size programs are implemented to meet urgent needs and to contribute to capacity building activities (learning by doing).
- A intercity network of urban services providers facilitates the experience sharing across the country.
- Local expertise is better identified and mobilized to provide technical support to the service providers.
- Peer-to-peer support is developed through the creation of local and regional partnerships.

Implementation timeframe

January 2016

Capacity building Project

1st cycle on Urban Water Management

Preparatory phase
- Definition of the concept
- Contact with the 15 cities
- Preparation of the 1st seminar

Support phase
- Assessment of water services
- Initiation of an intercity network
- Testing of mutual support activities

1st seminar (8th to 10th of June)
- 1st gathering of water services' managers
- Discussions with experts
- Preparation of the support phase

June 2016

Early 2017

2017 onwards

Program

Preparation of a comprehensive program including
- Pillar 1: Experience and expertise sharing
- Pillar 2: Training and capacity building
- Pillar 3: Pilot-projects implementation

BUDGET OF 45 000 EUROS FINANCED BY:

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Present in Myanmar for more than 20 years, GRET is an international NGO that has been actively fighting poverty and inequalities for 40 years, providing lasting and innovative solutions for fair development in the field and working to positively influence policy.