ROSAMUR Project

Strengthening operators for improved basic urban services in Myanmar cities

Building the capacities of Myanmar operators

Cities in Myanmar face substantial challenges to deliver quality environmental services to their population. Limited financial resources, poor technical skills and resources, and ageing facilities are some of the constraints faced by public service providers to cope with a growing urban population and increasing citizen expectations in terms of service delivery.

Following a capacity building programme initiated at the end of 2015, the ROSAMUR project aims to improve the quality of services in Myanmar cities through the establishment of a network of stakeholders, the provision of training, the organisation of experience-sharing events and the implementation of pilot investment projects.

Magway City as a starting point

The city of Magway, located in the Dry Zone of Myanmar, has been selected to implement the first integrated project including water supply, sanitation and solid waste management components. Strongly focused on strengthening the capacities of the municipal services' provider - the Township Development Committe of Magway - the project aims to enhance the performance of the services provided to the 75,000 inhabitants of the city.

Beyond the improvement of the situation in Magway city, the ROSAMUR Project will provide an opportunity to organise experience-sharing and training events for service providers in other Myanmar cities in order to share the lessons learnt and thus strengthen the capacities of operators nationwide.

Project objectives

- To enhance the quality of water, sanitation and solid waste services in Myanmar cities through the implementation of pilot investment projects.
- To build the capacities of urban service providers in terms of planning, development, operation and regulation of services.
- To strengthen sharing of experience and expertise among service operators in Myanmar cities.

Solid waste clogging a drainage channel

Waste pickers at a landfill
An integrated pilot project...

The scope of the project implemented in Magway City has been defined based on the outcomes of the capacity-building program. Through pilot investments in Magway City, the objective is therefore to tackle issues commonly faced in urban areas of Myanmar.

In terms of water supply, activities are mainly centred on the reduction of technical and commercial losses. Non-Revenue Water was indeed strongly highlighted by many Myanmar water operators as a key impediment to a high quality service.

As for sanitation, the lack of baseline data led to focusing support on the conduct of a comprehensive assessment study and implementation of an action plan to improve faecal sludge management at city scale.

Regarding solid waste management, the project aims to improve the primary collection of domestic waste in a central zone of the city, to optimise collection procedures at city scale and to build a composting unit for market waste.

... with a strong focus on capacity building

In addition to pilot investments, the ROSAMUR Project gives a strong focus to capacity building activities. While new or enhanced infrastructures will positively impact the quality of service, improvements cannot be sustainable if operators are not endowed with the required skills to maintain facilities and to manage the service.

Capacity building activities target operators from Magway and from other cities through the organisation of common training sessions and experience-sharing events. Focus is given to the technical and commercial management of services and to social related aspects of the service provision.