Emerging from decades of economic and political isolation, Myanmar has strong potential for broad economic expansion. The country possesses abundant natural resources, a strategic location at the crossroads of Asia, a young population, and a sizable market with wide-ranging investment opportunities. Successful national elections, held in November 2015, and a peaceful transition to a new government in April 2016 represented important milestones in Myanmar’s transition. The country, however, needs to achieve and maintain stability, both on the macroeconomic front and in terms of peace and reconciliation. It needs to address substantive infrastructure and human resources deficits, which constrain social and economic development. Myanmar also needs to sustain its reform momentum toward good governance, effective public sector management, and a conducive business environment.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) supports Myanmar in promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, with focus on infrastructure, education and training, and agriculture and rural development. Cumulative disbursements to Myanmar for lending and grants financed by ordinary capital resources, the Asian Development Fund, and other special funds amount to $1.17 billion since 1973.

**ADB-SUPPORTED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

The ADB program in Myanmar aims to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth. It focuses on infrastructure (transport, energy, and urban development), education and training, and agriculture and rural development.

With the approval of the East–West Economic Corridor road rehabilitation project in late 2015, ADB is providing support to upgrade Myanmar’s road network.
ADB projects: 2016

network to improve connectivity with the country’s regional neighbors. It is also helping improve energy transmission and distribution systems, to reduce power losses—currently above 20% nationally—while improving the stability of the grid.

ADB private sector lending to the telecommunication sector is fostering rapid growth in access to mobile telephony and technology applications. In the city of Mandalay, ADB will help establish a model for private sector participation in improving urban drinking water, sewerage, and sanitation services.

In 2016, ADB approved a major project to provide assistance for reforming secondary education and vocational training, which will help give the country’s youth the skills they need to find productive employment. Meanwhile, an entrepreneurship development project along the East-West Economic Corridor is creating jobs and incomes for the poor, particularly women. A rural development project to rehabilitate irrigation infrastructure and strengthen agriculture value chains was also approved in 2016.

Technical assistance grants are helping to build capacities and develop policy, as well as implementing institutional and legal reforms in priority sectors.

ADB has been supporting the Government of Myanmar in disaster risk management and disaster response. In response to the devastating floods and landslides of 2015, ADB provided a quick-disbursing grant for disaster relief under the Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund and an investment grant through the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) to restore livelihoods in Chin State. The JFPR project is expected to benefit about 138,400 people in seven townships (of which 52% are women and 73% are poor) by 2019.

**NONSOVEREIGN OPERATIONS**

As a catalyst for private investments, ADB provides direct financial assistance to nonsovereign public sector and private sector transactions in the form of direct loans, equity investments, guarantees, B loans, and trade finance. Since its inception, ADB has approved $1.04 billion for five private sector transactions in Myanmar. The outstanding balance as of 31 December 2016 was $270 million, representing 2.8% of ADB’s total nonsovereign portfolio.

**COFINANCING**

Cofinancing operations enable ADB’s financing partners, governments or their agencies, multilateral financing institutions, and commercial organizations to participate in financing ADB projects. Additional funds are provided in the form of official loans and grants, technical assistance, other concessional financing, and commercial cofinancing such as B loans, risk transfer arrangements, parallel loans and equity, guarantee cofinancing, and cofinancing for transactions under ADB’s Trade Finance Program.

From 1973 to the end of 2016, cumulative direct value-added (DVA) official cofinancing for Myanmar amounted to $1.44 billion for 15 investment projects and $37.7 million for 38 technical assistance projects. Cumulative DVA commercial cofinancing for Myanmar amounted to $445 million for three investment projects.

In 2016, Myanmar received loan cofinancing of $1.27 billion from the governments of France and Japan, and the World Bank for three investment projects; and $32.3 million grant cofinancing from the Government of Japan and the Asian Investment Facility for two investment projects.

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**Myanmar: Project Success Rates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Success Rate (%)</th>
<th>No. of Independently Evaluated Projects and Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: “Year” refers to the circulation year of the project completion report (PCR). The success rates reported here are based on the ratings from validated PCRs and independently evaluated performance evaluation reports only and do not include self-evaluations. With small sample size, the success rate does not necessarily represent country operations performance.

Source: PCR validation reports and project/program performance evaluation reports ratings database as of 31 December 2016.

**Myanmar: Portfolio Performance Quality Indicators for Sovereign Lending and Grants, 2015–2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Ongoing Loans (as of 31 Dec 2016)</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contract Awards/Commitmentsa – 2015 ($ million)</td>
<td>63.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursementsb</td>
<td>3.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Ongoing Grants (as of 31 Dec 2016)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract Awards/Commitmentsc – 2015 ($ million)</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursementsd</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a = nil.

b Excludes policy-based lending/grants.

c Includes only Asian Development Fund and other ADB special funds.

d Includes closed loans/grants that had contract awards or disbursements during the year.

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**Myanmar: Share of Procurement Contracts for Loan, Grant, and Technical Assistance Projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amount ($ million)</td>
<td>% of Total</td>
<td>Amount ($ million)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goods, Works, and Related Services</td>
<td>21.31</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>4.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting Services</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>2.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Procurement</td>
<td>22.09</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>6.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A summary of projects with cofinancing from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2016 is available at www.adb.org/countries/myanmar/cofinancing

PARTNERSHIPS

As an active member of Myanmar’s development partner group, ADB supports aid coordination and policy dialogue between the government and its development partners. ADB is a co-lead for sector working groups for the energy and transport sectors. In 2016, together with the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the World Bank, ADB led the Joint Country Portfolio Review for Myanmar, which resulted in an ambitious government-agreed action plan to improve investment project implementation.

ADB regularly consults with civil society, the private sector, and academia on development issues and approaches in Myanmar. In 2016, ADB reinforced its involvement through the activities of its Myanmar civil society advisory group, extensive consultations with stakeholders on the new country strategy, and grassroots consultations on specific projects.

ADB worked with the government and the business community on a private sector development framework and action plan to support improvements in Myanmar’s business environment and strengthen public–private dialogue. This resulted in the formation of a high-level committee to oversee improvements to the business environment.

PROCUREMENT

Each year, ADB provides loans, grants, and technical assistance to fund projects and activities in its developing member countries; and several billion dollars in contracts to procure goods, works, and consulting services. Most contracts are awarded on the basis of international competition, which is open to firms and individuals from any ADB member, regional or nonregional.

Share of ADB’s Procurement Contracts

Goods, Works, and Related Services

ADB’s procurement contracts in Asia and the Pacific for goods, works, and related services under loan and grant operations totaled $11.09 billion in 2015 and $11.42 billion in 2016. Cumulative procurement since 1966 was $158.68 billion covering 206,915 contracts.

In Myanmar, 281 contracts worth $603.24 million were awarded to contractors and suppliers since 1973.

Consulting Services

ADB’s procurement contracts in Asia and the Pacific for consulting services under loan, grant, and technical assistance operations totaled $655.31 million in 2015 and $612.46 million in 2016. Cumulative procurement since 1966 was $11.26 billion covering 52,232 contracts.

In Myanmar, 144 contracts worth $6.29 million were awarded to consultants since 1973.

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

While Myanmar has made progress in laying the building blocks for an inclusive market economy and improved livelihoods, significant challenges remain. ADB is helping the government by supporting macroeconomic policy reforms, accelerating human capital development, and developing suitable infrastructure projects.

ADB is providing support to develop Myanmar’s country systems and strengthen the capacity of central and line agencies in areas such as project management, financial management, procurement, environmental and social safeguards, and other critical operational skills.

Multiple long-standing ethnic conflicts across Myanmar add complexity to the operating environment. This requires detailed understanding and analyses of the country’s political economy, and the relations between state and society and between state and nonstate entities. ADB has developed, and is integrating into its Myanmar operations, appropriate approaches that support the delivery of effective support to conflict-affected areas.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

ADB’s first full country partnership strategy for Myanmar will cover 2017–2021. The strategy addresses Myanmar’s needs and priorities, builds on ADB’s long-term strategic framework, and complements other development partner programs. It is based on extensive analysis of the country’s
In this publication, "$" refers to US dollars. Figures are estimated by ADB unless otherwise cited. Data are as of 31 December 2016 unless otherwise indicated. Fact sheets are updated annually in April.

ABOUT MYANMAR AND ADB

ADB Membership
Joined 1973

Shareholding and Voting Power
Number of shares held: 57,810 (0.545% of total shares)
Votes: 97,417 (0.734% of total membership, 1.127% of total regional membership)
Overall capital subscription: $777.16 million
Paid-in capital subscription: $38.88 million

Philasak Yukkasemwong is the Director and Rokiah HJ Badar is the Alternate Director representing Myanmar on the ADB Board of Directors.

The Myanmar Resident Mission, with offices in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, was established in 2014 and provides the primary operational link for activities between ADB and the government, the private sector, civil society stakeholders, and development partners. The resident mission engages in policy dialogue, country partnership strategy development and programming, and portfolio management, while also acting as a knowledge base on development issues in Myanmar.

The Myanmar government agency handling ADB affairs is the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

ABOUT THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ADB is a multilateral development bank owned by 67 members, 48 from the region and 19 from other parts of the world. ADB’s main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance. In 2016, lending volume was $16.35 billion (126 projects), with technical assistance at $169.03 million (225 projects) and grant-financed projects at $526.75 million (31 projects). In addition, $14.06 billion was generated in direct value-added cofinancing in the form of official loans and grants, other concessional cofinancing, and commercial cofinancing such as B loans, risk transfer arrangements, guarantee cofinancing, parallel loans, parallel equity, and cofinancing for transactions under ADB’s Trade Finance Program. From 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2016, ADB’s annual lending volume averaged $13.74 billion. In addition, investment grants and technical assistance funded by ADB and special funds resources averaged $562.24 million and $154.91 million in technical assistance over the same period. As of 31 December 2016, the cumulative totals excluding cofinancing were $247.28 billion in loans for 2,935 projects in 44 countries, $7.75 billion in 296 grants, and $4.06 billion in technical assistance grants, including regional technical assistance grants.

Future ADB operations will address the strategic areas of infrastructure connectivity, human capital and capacities, and reform. Investments will improve the inclusiveness of Myanmar’s growth by focusing on the priority areas of infrastructure (energy, transport, and urban and water services), education and training, and rural development. Capacity development, regional cooperation and integration, and private sector development will remain priorities. In addition to providing development finance, ADB will seek to leverage financial resources—from both public and private cofinancing sources—and to continue to develop and provide knowledge solutions in Myanmar.

Technical assistance grants will focus on capacity development, advisory services, knowledge solutions as well as project preparation.

CONTACTS

ADB Resident Mission in Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw Office)
Park Royal Hotel, Padauk Villa, 13/14 Hotel Zone
Dekhina Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel +95 67 8106280-86
Fax +95 67 8106287

ADB Resident Mission in Myanmar (Yangon Office)
Union Business Center, Room 0405, 4th Floor
Nat Mauk Road, Bo Cho Quarter,
Bahan Township, Yangon
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel +95 1 543426
Fax +95 1 8603439

ADB Headquarters
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City
1550 Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel +63 2 632 4444
Fax +63 2 636 2444

Ministry of Planning and Finance
Building No. (7), Zeyahtarni Road,
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel +95 67 407342
Fax +95 67 407027

Useful ADB websites
Asian Development Bank
www.adb.org
Asian Development Outlook
www.adb.org/publications/series/asian-development-outlook
Annual Report
www.adb.org/documents/series/adb-annual-reports
Depository Libraries
www.adb.org/publications/depositories

To access a complete list of development and economic indicators, visit:
Statistics and Databases
www.adb.org/data/statistics