

»» Project Information



Rural Roads Rehabilitation Programme – Myanmar

Better access through rural infrastructure

In Myanmar both passenger travel and goods traffic is conducted mostly via the road network. However, besides of few major highways many roads are neither asphalted nor in good condition and especially in rural areas infrastructure is very poor. Therefore people living in remote areas have very limited access to the regional and national road network and hence are unable to reach schools, healthcare facilities and markets. Roads and bridges which are passable all year round can provide the rural population access to all these institutions and are therefore a prerequisite for the development of rural regions.

Therefore the KfW Development Bank supports on behalf of the German Government the upgrading and/or construction of rural roads and pertaining bridges and culvert in Kalay District in Sagaing Region that were destroyed by floods in 2015 to provide the rural population with an all year access to economic centres and the national road network.

Context

Sagaing Region is one of the 14 administrative areas in Myanmar. It is the second largest state/region of Myanmar and characterised by North – South mountain ranges and fertile valleys, but poor access to villages. It is home to 5.4 million people, 55% of the population is Chin, 35% is Burmese (Bamar) and 10% of the population is from other ethnic. Around 83% of the population live in rural areas. Their main source of income is agricultural production and the major agricultural products are rice, wheat, sugarcane, sesame, millet, nuts, pulses, cotton and tobacco. Some livestock farming and freshwater fishing is conducted.

The conditions for agriculture are very good as the region has fertile soil and the climate suits the purpose of agriculture.

But Cyclone Komen caused heavy rainfall and flooding in Myanmar in July 2015. Flooding continued in September 2015 affecting 12 of Myanmar’s 14 states, resulting more than 100 deaths and affecting 1,000,000 people. Torrential rains destroyed farmland, roads, bridges and houses. Sagaing region was one of the four worst-hit regions.

Destroyed roads and bridges resulted in high transport costs and long journey time to access schools, markets and health centres. Further the neighbouring Chin State should be one of the main tourists’ sites in very near future. As Kalay is a gate to the Chin State, a good infrastructure which is accessible all year round is very important for this region.

Project name	Rural Road Rehabilitation Programme (RRRP)
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/Region	Myanmar/ Sagaing Region
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI)





In Kalay district: bridge was destroyed by flood, Source: KfW / Mie Mie Tun

Project approach

The Department of Rural Development (DRD) at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) is responsible for road and bridges construction and maintenance in rural areas in Myanmar. Therefore the DRD is the partner of KfW Development Bank for the Rural Road Rehabilitation Programme.

KfW finances the rehabilitation of selected roads and pertaining bridges and culverts that were destroyed by the flood in 2015. So that the rural population in project region can get all year access to schools, health centres, markets, places of employment and public administration.

The responsible DRD supported by KfW plans the reconstruction of the selected bridges, causeways and rehabilitation of the selected roads, issues tenders for the various construction projects, reviews the bids and awards the contracts.

The programme is designed as a “learning-by-doing” project. Experts accompany the staff of the DRD so that they can learn how to implement international projects. This experience helps DRD to plan, award and supervise construction projects autonomously in the future and gain knowledge on high quality infrastructure.

Furthermore a preventive maintenance system is going to be developed and implemented by DRD, which is supported by KfW. So far, the DRD only reacts once damage of roads and bridges already has occurred. By implementing a cyclical and preventive maintenance approach possible damage can be identified much earlier and therefore greater damage can be prevented. This

reduces the costs for repairs and prevents the necessity to close roads while they are repaired.

Impact

The reconstruction of the bridges and causeways and the rehabilitation of the rural roads results in an all year accessible road network in Sagaing Region so that the rural population has access to public institutions and regional markets all year long. Therefore the people from remote areas can offer their products at regional markets and especially farmers are able to grow rice, vegetables and fruits for the regional markets and thereby generate income. By ensuring access to regional economic centres often also the access to the national highway system is ensured. This establishes the opportunity for farmers not only from Sagaing Region but also from Chin State to grow and sell their products even on national markets. Overall trade in the region will be increased and the entire population will benefit from higher incomes.

Additionally, the population will have access to public institutions, more children will be able to attend schools and sick or injured people have faster and better access to health care stations.

KfW Development Bank has already launched similar programmes in the neighbouring countries Cambodia and Laos. This has not only resulted in higher average incomes for the people, but also led to an improvement in healthcare and the enrolment rate of students has risen sharply.



Contact

KfW Group
KfW Development Bank
Palmengartenstrasse 5-9
60325 Frankfurt, Germany
Phone +49 69 7431 -9555
michael.sumser-hellstern@kfw.de

KfW Office Yangon
45, Inya Myaing Road,
Golden Valley Ward 2
Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Phone +95 12 30 55 48
Fax +95 12 30 55 53
kfw.rangun@kfw.de