Myanmar: Economic Empowerment of the Poor and Women in the East-West Economic Corridor

**Project Name**: Economic Empowerment of the Poor and Women in the East-West Economic Corridor

**Project Number**: 48322-001

**Country**: Myanmar

**Project Status**: Active

**Project Type / Modality of Assistance**: Grant

**Source of Funding / Amount**: Grant 9184-MYA: Economic Empowerment of the Poor and Women in the East-West Economic Corridor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Funding / Amount</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction</td>
<td>US$ 3.00 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strategic Agendas**: Inclusive economic growth

**Drivers of Change**: Knowledge solutions

**Partnerships**: Sector / Subsector

**Gender Equity and Mainstreaming**: Public sector management - Public administration

**Gender equity**

**Description**: The project will support micro and small enterprise (MSE) development, and increased employment and economic opportunities for the poor and women selling crafts and local food to tourists and residents in the East West Economic Corridor (EWEC). The project locations are Chaungzon Island, Kyakhto Mawlamyine, and Mudon four townships in Mon state. The project comprises an integrated approach to enable microentrepreneurs to access technical training, skills in business management, appropriate technology, finance, and markets to build competitive and sustainable businesses and contribute to reducing household poverty.

**Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy**: Myanmar is classified as a low human development country; the 2014 Human Development Report ranks it 150th of 187 countries. Approximately 26% of the population lives in poverty. Poverty is gendered, and concentrated in rural areas and among some ethnic groups. A key objective of the government’s development agenda is to attain sustainable inclusive growth, job creation, and poverty reduction. The government’s current 5-year National Development Plan emphasizes transition from predominantly low-productive agriculture to higher-value products by promoting micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and trade, as one channel to facilitate inclusive growth. In Myanmar, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises account for 90% of all business and are the largest source of employment, accounting for 70% of the total workforce. Investing in their development is, therefore, essential for inclusive growth and poverty reduction.


**Project Outcome Description of Outcome**: The outcome will be MSEs are enabled to increase business activities and employment in project areas.

**Progress Toward Outcome**: On-going

**Implementation Progress**: 1. Skills and management capacity of MSEs and their employees developed

**Safeguard Categories**: Environment - C

**Involuntary Resettlement** - C

**Indigenous Peoples** - B
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects
The project category is C therefore no impact is foreseen. A safeguards expert undertook a mission in October 2018 and did not find any major issue.

Involuntary Resettlement
The project category is C therefore no impact is foreseen. A safeguards expert undertook a mission in October 2018 and did not find any major issue.

Indigenous Peoples
The project category is B therefore no major impact is foreseen. A safeguards expert undertook a mission in October 2018 and did not find any major issue.

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design
ADB conducted several review missions/visits to Mon State since the signing of the project grant agreement. The multi-sector project steering committee (PSC) was established after the project became effective in August 2016. The project has been following MOPF’s instructions. ADB met with the Union Minister - MOHT in Nay Pyi Taw 5 times and with the Mon State Chief Minister, H.E. Dr Aye Zan and several State Ministers on 21 March 2017 and on 15 September 2017 in Mawlamyine. The Chief Minister (appointed in February 2017) showed very strong support for the project activities and would like to be regularly briefed about project implementation progress. ADB met with the head of the Mon Women Organisation (MWO), villagers producing bamboo and cookies in Chaungzone Island and women producing longyis in Mudon. and jam/fruit producers in Khaytho and other NGOs working in Mon State. Debriefing meetings with the PIU and PMU took place at the end of each mission. A series of consultations on the construction of a market and of a processing facility were conducted in 2017 with the participation of several stakeholders. Meetings with several stakeholders took place during the review missions in February 2018 and in November 2018.

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services
11 consultants for 217 person-months

Procurement
National competitive bidding (2 contracts) (Civil works for market and processing facility) $0.65 million
Shopping (8 contracts) $0.17 million

Responsible ADB Officer
Stefania Dina

Responsible ADB Department
Southeast Asia Department

Responsible ADB Division
Myanmar Resident Mission

Executing Agencies
Ministry of Hotels and Tourism
TOURISMMYANMAR.ORG@GMAIL.COM
Building No. 33, Nay Pyi Taw, Union of Myanmar

Timetable
Concept Clearance 07 Nov 2014
Fact Finding 31 Mar 2015 to 08 Apr 2015
MRM -
Approval 15 Dec 2015
Last Review Mission -
Last PDS Update 23 Jan 2019

Grant 9184-MYA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approval</th>
<th>Signing Date</th>
<th>Effectivity Date</th>
<th>Closing</th>
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</table>

Financing Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total (Amount in US$ million)</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>ADB</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Net Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Cost</td>
<td>3.45</td>
<td>Cumulative Contract Awards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ADB</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>15 Dec 2015</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counterpart</td>
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<td>Cumulative Disbursements</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Cofinancing</td>
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<td>15 Dec 2015</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.50</td>
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Status of Covenants

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<tr>
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<th>Sector</th>
<th>Safeguards</th>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Financial</th>
<th>Economic</th>
<th>Others</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rating</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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Project Page https://www.adb.org/projects/48322-001/main
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