

Mandalay, Myanmar

Partner city

Status of the project: technical assistance on-hold



Basic Information

Urban area: 315.4 km²

Population: 1,469,193 | Growth rate: +2.1%

GDP per capita: USD 1,221 (2015)

Modal Share

Formal public transport: 2.6%

Cycling: 21.6%

Private cars: 5.6%

Private motorbikes or 2-wheelers: 70.2%

National GHG emissions per capita: 0.31 (tCO₂eq)

Context

Mandalay is the second largest city in Myanmar and is known for being an important centre of Myanmar culture and Buddhism. Mandalay is also the main commercial and economic hub in upper Myanmar. Currently, Mandalay consists of six townships and is expanding toward the south where the modern international airport is located.

The population of the municipal area is about 1.4 million while the number of inhabitants at the metropolitan scale is over 1.7 million. According to the Mandalay City Development Concept Plan, by 2040 it is estimated that the population will grow to more than 3 million. The demographic growth will require a stronger offer of urban services, including mobility.

In the past, Mandalay was known to be a city for bicycles. Today it has become a city for motorcycles, which is by far the first mode of transportation, representing around 70% of the modal share. Since the opening of the country to the global economy in 2012, car ownership has progressed rapidly. It started however from a very low level. Public transport modal share remains limited. Today, although the city is crossed by a railway track, the only mode of public transport in Mandalay is the public bus network, with 57 bus routes.

Mandalay transportation challenges are mostly related to road congestion at peak hours. However, due to the rise in ownership of private motorised vehicles, traffic congestion is increasing together with road safety issues and air pollution. The absence of a comprehensive urban mobility plan combined with the current growth of the city are preventing major investments in the sector, especially in sustainable modes of transportation.

Mandalay's ambition is to develop a smart, green, and clean city, supported by an integrated and sustainable urban mobility system. Elaborating a long-term vision and strategy for sustainable mobility should allow to preserve and strengthen the quality of life. The city wants to promote the use of a comprehensive public transport system and limit the use of private vehicles.

Concretely, Mandalay is preparing a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) which will focus on improving accessibility to public services and amenities. The SUMP should help develop a public transport network to reduce the congestion in the city centre and to improve traffic management in general. This plan will seek to professionalise private bus operators

and provide incentives to replace the old bus fleets by low carbon vehicles. Beyond these improvements of the public transport system, the SUMP will promote walking and cycling in the city. It will also help set up policies to improve road safety and air quality.

AFD is supporting both the Mandalay City Development Council (MCDC) and Mandalay Regional Government (MRG) in their efforts to develop the SUMP, strengthen local and regional capacities, and establish an observatory on urban mobility data and GHG emissions.

Support from the Partnership

Technical Assistance: Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP)

Funded by: AFD

Funding amount: EUR 500,000

Implemented by: AFD through MobiliseYourCity Asia

Local counterpart: Mandalay City Development Council (MCDC) and Mandalay Region Government (MRG)

Supported activities:

- SUMP Elaboration at the scale of Greater Mandalay
- Establishment of urban mobility observatory
- Capacity development of local authorities

Status of implementation

Project start: February 2021

Expected project completion: Project on stand-by

Completed outputs:

- Consultant Appointed
- Pending since Feb 2021

Next expected outputs

- Diagnosis

Expected impacts and results

- Development and Endorsement of SUMP
- Improved Accessibility to Public Services
- Development of Public Transport Network
- Incentives for Bus Fleet Modernisation

Highlights in the past year

The project has been suspended due to the current political situation in the country.