



## BACKGROUND

The Myanmar Partnership Multi-Donor Trust Fund was established in 2014 to help donor partners get the most impact possible out of resources designated to support Myanmar's development. The MDTF seeks to create partnerships with the Government of Myanmar and the donor community to implement Myanmar's Sustainable Development Plan through enhanced coordination, World Bank Group technical assistance and government-executed projects.

The MDTF Steering Committee has endorsed 21 activities falling under three main windows: (1) Social Development and Inclusion; (2) Institutional Strengthening; and (3) Private Sector Development. The MDTF has received pledges from its donor partners in the amount of USD 165 million (as of December 31, 2018).

In 2011, Myanmar embarked on a triple transition, from authoritarian rule to democratic governance; from a centrally-directed economy to market-oriented reforms; and from 60 years of conflict to peace.

At that time, Myanmar was among the poorest countries in Asia, had among the worst social indicators in the region, and had one of the lowest levels of access to phones, roads, and other infrastructure in the world. Although Myanmar is rich in natural resources it had not been well or transparently managed, leading to a loss of revenue, corruption, and community grievance. The country's rich agriculture had been mismanaged for decades, leading to high levels of poverty and chronic rural indebtedness. Long isolation had left the country poorly integrated with the rest of the region and globe.

The reforms initiated as part of Myanmar's transition opened up important opportunities for poverty reduction and sustainable, inclusive growth. This was reflected in an increased engagement by development partners in policy dialogue and investments.

In the year following the first donor conference ever held in Myanmar in January 2013 and prior to the formation of the MDTF, the World Bank Group, the Department for International Development (DFID), and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT) had engaged in many of the same thematic areas in the context of supporting Myanmar's transition.

These shared interests were reflected in collaborations on public financial management, financial services, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), Qualitative Economic and Social Monitoring research in association with LIFT, and the Health System Strengthening advisory work funded by the 3MDG Fund. To build on this collaboration and to increase the efficiency and impact of these programs, the Myanmar Partnership Multi-Donor Trust Fund was formed in 2014. The Kingdom of Denmark joined the partnership later that year in December 2014. Finland joined the fund in 2017.



DENMARK



Ministry for Foreign  
Affairs of Finland

