

The DaNa Facility



The Programme

The DaNa Facility is an innovative £25 million private sector development programme based in Myanmar created and funded by the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) running from 2015 through 2020.

DaNa

In the Myanmar language, "DaNa" means prosperity or wealth, which reflects the focus of the programme on increasing the prosperity of Myanmar's poorest for the benefit of all.

The DaNa Facility is designed to support the transformation of Myanmar's economy to become more inclusive, with a focus on priority sectors that have the potential to substantially enhance inclusive economic growth. The goal is to generate new jobs, increase household incomes, or create new economic opportunities for the poor and near-poor, women, youth and disadvantaged communities.

The DaNa Facility is one of six components of the DFID-funded 'Business for Shared Prosperity' (BSP) programme and serves as the Secretariat for the BSP. Delivered by DAI Europe and KPMG, DaNa is designed to be agile enough to work across a variety of sectors and regions in Myanmar, and to respond to emerging private sector development priorities.

Our objectives

DaNa aims to:

- 1) improve the ease of doing business;
- 2) enhance trade and investment;
- 3) support reform of the financial sector to increase access to finance, especially for the poorest;
- 4) stimulate inclusive and responsible business; and
- 5) address gender equality and social inclusion.

DaNa activities are focused on three key sectors: agribusiness, financial services and textiles. Interventions also include cross cutting initiatives on women's economic empowerment, conflict sensitivity, decent work and social and environmental sustainability.

Our focus

DaNa has two main ways of achieving its objectives.

- 1) competitive grants and technical support for innovative new projects from the not-for-profit and business sectors;
- 2) direct technical assistance, delivered alongside partners in the Myanmar Government, business community, civil society and other development partners.

The DaNa FACILITY competitive grants:

The DaNa Facility currently has two competitive grant programmes. The first, the **Economic Empowerment Window (EEW)**, launched on 30 January 2017, targeted non-profit organisations awarding grant funds to four innovative projects. Each of these projects are co-financed with money from DFID and the organisation delivering the project. EEW projects include:

The **Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP)**, which is undertaking a project targeting interventions in value chains to increase and diversify incomes for fruit and vegetable farmers in upland areas of southern Chin and Shan State and directly reaching more than 2,000 farmers. In alignment with Myanmar's national export strategy, the project is creating new economic opportunities for smallholder producers, including 'inter-cropping' and shifting away from unsustainable 'slash and burn' techniques.

The **Leprosy Mission Myanmar** and **BRAC Myanmar** are providing new and sustainable economic opportunities for people with disabilities (PwD) through innovative microfinance and workforce interventions in Mandalay, Bago and Yangon. The project will reach over 1,000 PwD. In Myanmar, two-thirds of all PwD of working age are unemployed, and the figure is even higher for women with disabilities.

The **Business Innovation Window (BIW)** grant programme, was launched in August 2017, and targeted at businesses with innovative projects to promote inclusive economic growth in the three focus sectors. Eleven Inclusive businesses were selected to receive DaNa investment. Two examples of BIW projects include:

Myanmar Artisans, which through training, product development and building better links to higher value markets, will use these diverse textile traditions and skills of Myanmar to improve the livelihoods of women and underserved groups working in the sector.

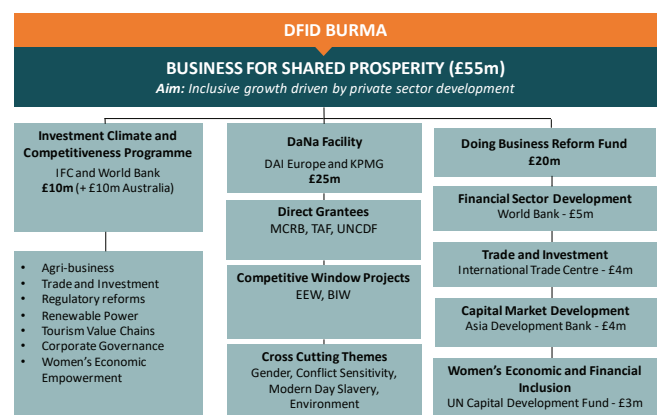
Stonestep Myanmar/Vision Fund, an innovative new project that plans to develop a pioneering micro-insurance market in Myanmar by introducing and expanding micro-insurance products designed to build the resilience of households and small businesses protecting them from financial and other shocks through products such as health, life and asset insurance.

Our successes

- Securing the first ever Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certificates in Myanmar for mung bean farmers. The DaNa Facility will continue collaborating with more than 10,000 farmers on GAP.
- Supporting the government's Private Sector Development (PSD) Committee to establish an innovative mechanism for Public Private Dialogue (PPD) to enhance the business reform environment and benefitting businesses with cost savings and decreased regulation. This activity provides a forum to share and discuss issues of relevance on inclusive trade and investment and private sector development.
- The Asia Foundation has completed the first Myanmar Business Environment Index (MBEI) survey covering all 14 states and regions, the only nationwide survey that ranks the ease of doing business at the state and regional level. The report will be disseminated across the country in 2019 aimed at supporting regional business environment reform in all states and regions. The MBEI will be followed up with additional surveys and analysis to support state and regional enterprises.
- Supporting foreign investment into Myanmar by translating an investment promotion and facilitation handbook into Myanmar language. Worked in Chin,

Kayah and Kayin states on investment strategies and promotion; and collaborated with the Yangon Investment Committee to help establish a web-based information system, a channel for investor friendly information dissemination and online submission – cutting unnecessary bureaucracy and costs for businesses.

- Establishing a high-level Inclusive Business (IB)/Impact Investing Steering Group to guide reform and promotion efforts, through selected technical assistance activities, and awarding grants to organisations that build the ecosystem for inclusive business. Inclusive business ventures will provide new jobs, better incomes and enhance access to finance for thousands of poor people across Myanmar.
- Producing a new Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Five-year Strategic Development Plan for 2018-22 in partnership with the Myanmar Integrated Institute for Development (MIID). Subsequent interventions in Pa-O will increase competitiveness and trade opportunities for small holder farmers in the region.
- Collaborating with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), DaNa produced a refresh to the Making Access Possible (MAP) dataset, providing data on access to finance across Myanmar in five key diagnostic areas. The information provides a snapshot of access to finance by gender, state and region. The study feeds into a comprehensive update of the Financial Inclusion Roadmap and supports the implementation of key activities ranging from financial literacy to fintech.
- DaNa, MCRB and IFC worked together to launch the Myanmar Institute of Directors (MloD) in 2018 and will provide intensive support to the MloD as it reaches out to Myanmar's business community to promote improved corporate governance.



For more details on the DaNa Facility and the work of the programme please visit: danafacility.com. The DaNa Facility is a project funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and is managed by DAI Europe as part of the Business for Shared Prosperity Programme (BSP).