



GUIDELINES FOR URBAN PLANNING

PREPARED FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

P.O Box 30030 00100 Nairobi GPO KENYA

Tel: 254-020-7623120 (Central Office)

www.unhabitat.org

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UN-HABITAT | LAB
urban planning and design



Initiative by



ARCADIS with UN-Habitat

Project Supervisor: Rogier van den Berg

Authors: Rogier van den Berg, Ivan Thung, Jack Finegan, Bijay Karmacharya, Sohel Rana, Niina Rinne, Salvatore Fundaro, Maysho Prasad, Leonora Grcheva, Theresa Abrassart, Javier Torner, Bert Smolders.

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INTRODUCTION

UN-Habitat supports city, regional and national authorities to improve and adopt policies, plans and designs for more compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected cities that foster sustainable urban development and are resilient to climate change. As Myanmar is pushing for a sustainable approach to urbanization, it increasingly needs planning capacity. This document is intended to support such development of technical planning expertise.

The document should be disseminated to those in charge of planning in their cities and townships, to act as a handbook for the initial research and design phases of planning.

The Guidelines for Urban Planning are based on five principles for sustainable urban development that UN-Habitat promotes for the 21st century's urban development. It also proposes a step-by-step method for review and development of current and future plans that can be adopted by local planners. This planning and review approach is illustrated by comments and analysis on the plans of Pyay and Kalay both in citywide and city extension scales. Finally, it provides a set of references for sections and blocks that can be implemented in new developments in Myanmar.

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UN HABITAT AND MYANMAR

In addition to UN-Habitat's continuous presence in Myanmar, over the course of recent years, UN-Habitat and the Government of the Union of Myanmar met several times to determine the potential scope of collaboration and to determine how UN-Habitat can best provide technical and advisory support on urban issues. Building on that, UN-Habitat HQ conducted a mission in Myanmar October 5-16, 2014 and met with several government agencies to discuss Myanmar's current planning challenges and needs. Based on these mission findings UN-Habitat made the following three propositions where UN-Habitat can possibly support and contribute:

- Developing a National Urban Policy
- A full-phased Capacity Development Programme
- Guidelines for Township Urban Development Plans

At present, the Ministry of Construction (MOC) is preparing township development plans for 81 cities with limited manpower and technical capacity. The majority of these plans are ready and pending approval from the Ministry of Construction. However, these plans can clearly be improved upon by applying sustainable urban planning principles. During the HQ mission in Myanmar, an expert team visited Kalay and Pyay towns for which MOC has prepared plans for both the city-wide and city extensions scales. During this visit, UN-Habitat team met with agencies and individuals who were involved both directly and indirectly in the plan-making process. UN-Habitat proposed

to develop guidelines based on these sustainable planning principles to review and improve the existing plans and guide future sustainable plans in Myanmar.

The results of the plan analysis have been shared with relevant ministries and technical agencies for validation through a series of participatory workshops in Myanmar. This workshop took place in 2015 under supervision of UN-Habitat and ARCADIS Shelter Program. After the workshop, the recommendations and comments from the participants have been received and have been finalized in this document.

The first section of this document explains the five principles for sustainable urban development that UN-Habitat is promoting for the 21st century's urban development. The second section recommends a step-by-step approach for urban planning that can be adopted by local planners in Myanmar. The third section will provide comments and analysis on the plans of Pyay and Kalay both in citywide and city extension scales based on the five principles. The fourth section sums up the planning lessons in a set of guidelines that can act as reference for planners in Myanmar.

PLANNING CONTEXT IN MYANMAR

Strategically, Myanmar is located as a potential land bridge between South and Southeast Asia as the country shares borders with Bangladesh, China, India, Laos and Thailand. At present, the total population of Myanmar is 54.4 million, and the 2014 Census revealed that just under 30% of the population lives in urban areas.

Following the initiation of the reform process by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in 2011, the country has seen a general trend towards social and economic liberalization, a more market-oriented economy, and a goal of decentralization of government functions. Although still a predominantly rural based country, urbanization and urban development have become key drivers for the country to address development challenges like providing jobs, the provision of socio-economic services and managing the environment. However, Myanmar's rapid economic development will accelerate urbanization and will also increase the size of the cities and urban centres, putting additional pressure on existing urban infrastructure and services.

At the present population growth rate, the urban population will reach around 36% by 2030. Research has suggested that number of people living in large cities with over 200,000 population will double from 13% to 26% in this time. In this urbanization process, small and intermediate towns play an important role as a bridge between the rural population and larger cities as they are generally more accessible to this population. However, the small townships struggle to manage the resulting growth, and have difficulties meeting the demand for housing, attract investment, land tenure, infrastructure and basic urban services.

While the government has devoted itself to leading sustainable urban development in Myanmar and preparing township plans for the next 20 years, it should also consider how rural-urban linkages can play a role in the development process of these small and secondary townships.

UN-Habitat can assist in designing tools and systems that help cities and towns leverage urbanization for sustainable growth by securing public space and effective street networks, promoting land tenure security, developing plotting systems that accommodate mixed-use economic development and land tenure tools that respond to the needs and issues of the potential rural-urban relation for small towns/townships in Myanmar.



Yangon by Rogier van den Berg

SUSTAINABLE PLANNING PRINCIPLES

The planning practices in the twentieth century were characterized by an urban planning model

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