

EU Joint Programming Myanmar 2014-16

Regional Workshop, Yangon 28-29 April





We now have a Joint EU
Strategy for Myanmar





Timeline Photos

[Back to Album](#) · [Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok's photos](#) · [Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok's Page](#)

[Previous](#) · [Next](#)



Like

Comment



Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok

On 24 November, the Joint European Union Development Partners' Transitional Strategy for Myanmar (2014-2016) was launched in Yangon. The new strategy was symbolically handed over by the EU Ambassador to Myanmar, Roland Kobla, to the Minister for Planning and Economic Development, Dr. Kan Zaw.

Album: [Timeline Photos](#)

Shared with: Public

[Open Photo Viewer](#)

[Download](#)

1. Introduction

The civilian government headed by President U Thein Sein that came to power in March 2011 has embarked upon a remarkable transition process and launched a comprehensive reform agenda which has ended the country's isolation from the wider world. Myanmar aims to achieve democratisation, domestic peace, and sustainable and inclusive growth, but is still faced with significant challenges, including ethnic conflicts, deep-rooted poverty, and fragile state institutions.

Single framework for EU support

EUD, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, UK

Peace building, Governance, Rural Development, Health, Education, Trade & PSD

Cross Cutting Issues – Civil Society, Environment, Cultural Cooperation

The rapprochement between the government and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been remarkable. Her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), ran and won most of the general election in November 2010. The NLD has been instrumental in achieving significant progress in the peace process, including the signing of the National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) in 2009 and the Comprehensive Settlements to end all armed conflict in the country as a national priority. The government has also taken steps to address the concerns of ethnic groups who are seeking greater political and economic autonomy for their regions. These reconciliatory steps boosted confidence in the government's commitment to political reform, both domestically and internationally.

The EU and Member States have responded in a gradual and measured way to the opening and reforms. Based upon the progress made in 2011 and early 2012, the Council of the European Union adopted on April 24, 2012, a decision to lift the arms embargo and in April 2013 EU sanctions apart from the arms embargo were lifted altogether. The suspension of the EU arms embargo was a significant step towards normalising relations with the country. The EU has also been instrumental in the development of a Comprehensive Framework for the European Union and Member States' policy and support to Myanmar/Burma for the next three years.

The EU Comprehensive Framework for Myanmar/Burma sets out the EU's policy and support to Myanmar/Burma for the next three years. It is a collective effort involving a range of EU Institutions to support peace, democracy, development and trade.

The Comprehensive Framework states that authorities in Member States and EU Institutions will work together to plan their programmes of assistance and will be guided by the Framework. In this context the EU is fully engaged in development partner coordination efforts locally in the framework of the Nay Pyi Taw Accord agreed in January 2013 and are proceeding towards Joint Programming of EU and Member States development aid, as agreed by the Heads of EU Missions in Myanmar.



Why did we do it?



Country Context?

COUNTRY CONTEXT



Political Economy



What next?

2010

2015



What has this meant for development cooperation?

Dynamic, **unpredictable** environment (& elections upcoming)

Flood of **new aid** and DPs since 2012

Limited **coordination** structures & systems before 2013 esp. with Government

Limited **Government** capacity

DPs with similar aims and concerns but all want visibility

Idea we could make a **fresh start** here, do things differently...



Given this, how did we think JP could help?

Ownership & alignment ↑

Predictability & transparency ↑, transaction costs ↓

Aid fragmentation ↓

Makes Europe happen on the ground – including politically

Impact & value for money ↑

Influence & visibility ↑

Pressure to do everything yourself ↓

How did it turn out?



What worked well...

Helped **stimulate** joint EU action – e.g. common statements, more joint *programmes*, DoL of leadership of Sector Working Groups

Raised **visibility** of Europe as a coherent actor and our collective **influence**

Pragmatic approach, acknowledging that for some issues we will all want to work on them, but we can do this in a coordinated way

Making it part of a **package** – JP *plus* support to creation of coordination structures, AIMS, Nay Pyi Taw Accord: EU as champion of wider DPs' aid effectiveness work

A man in a blue shirt is standing in a wooden boat on a body of water. The sky is filled with large, white clouds. The boat is made of light-colored wood and has a long, narrow shape. The water is dark and has some ripples. The man is looking towards the camera.

What needs more work?

It was a long process- first TA mission: April 2012, Joint Strategy signed off: Nov. 2014...

Only 2 DPs make **reference** to the joint strategy in their bilateral strategy / implementation plan or on their website

Division of labour could have gave further (average 4 sectors per DP & 9 DPs per sector) and current monitoring shows it's anyway not always adhered to in practice

Shared drafting –volunteers are needed!

Capitals – field connection: more work needed

What's next?

Monitoring already started

Monitoring the Joint EU Development Partners' Transitional Strategy for
Myanmar 2014-16

Status of national social and economic **indicators**? GoM reporting +
international indices

Are we sticking to the agreed **division of labour** and **financial** pledges?

How is the implementation of **bilateral portfolios** going?

Are we **integrating** the Strategy into our work – quick check: is it
mentioned in our bilateral documents & on our websites?

Are we making progress towards **synchronisation** from 2016 on?

- Millennium Development Goals
- Human Development Index
- GNI per capita
- Tax to GDP ratio
- Gini Index
- Poverty rate
- Life expectancy



New strategy from 2016 on

Synchronise cycles
Do a better division of labour

Include wider package of EU joint actions incl. political ones

Adjust bilateral implementation plans / documents

Political will from capitals is key

Thank you

