



Water For Women



OXFAM

WaterAid



Oxfam

Water for Women: Myanmar

Improving the health, equality and wellbeing of communities in Myanmar



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade





 Oxfam



 WaterAid/Htoo Tay Zar



Gender equality and social inclusion are central to Water for Women

Actively involving all people within communities (women, men, marginalised groups, people with disabilities) ensures more equitable and inclusive processes, which lead to more effective and sustainable outcomes in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Water for Women will support opportunities and benefits in WASH for everyone in the community.

Water for Women is the Australian Government's flagship WASH program and will be delivered over five years from 2018 to 2022.



Partnering with:



OXFAM

Breaking down barriers to socially inclusive market-based sanitation in Myanmar

Water for Women is partnering with Oxfam to benefit communities, particularly those marginalised within these communities, in some of the poorest rural states in Myanmar, reaching an estimated 40,000 beneficiaries.



Supporting safer births in Myanmar

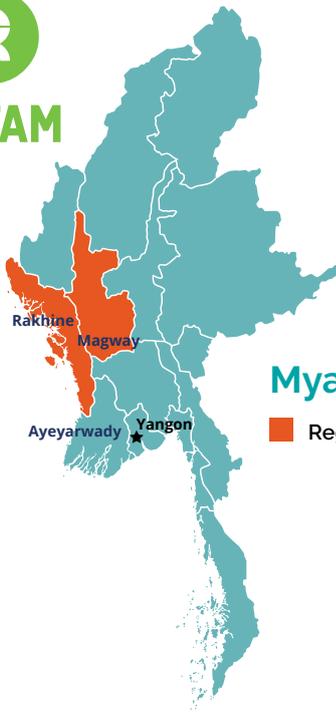
Water for Women is partnering with WaterAid so that women have safer births as a result of improved WASH and Infection Prevention and Control, which supports quality maternal and newborn care.

The infographic consists of three main parts. On the left, three overlapping water drops contain icons for 'Sanitation' (a toilet), 'Water' (a glass of water), and 'Hygiene' (hands being washed). In the center, a teal circle contains icons of diverse people (including a person in a wheelchair) and the text 'Benefitting an estimated 40,000+ people' above a white hand icon. On the right, a map of Myanmar is highlighted in teal with a red location pin.



Australian Government
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Myanmar

Regions of operation



Breaking down barriers to socially inclusive market-based sanitation in Myanmar

The Australian Government is committed to delivering effective and sustainable WASH access. Water for Women will contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6), water and sanitation for all.

While Myanmar outperforms most other low-middle income countries in the region for sanitation statistics, coverage is not geographically equitable or socially inclusive, with rural regions suffering the most from lack of access.

Around 10 million people in Myanmar do not have a latrine. The two target areas of the project: Rakhine and Magway are particularly affected, with their predominantly rural populations:

- Over 75% of households in rural Rakhine are without access to a basic household latrine.
- 20% of households in rural Magway are without access to a basic household latrine.

Breaking Down Barriers will support opportunities and benefits in WASH for everyone in the community, with its emphasis on gender equality and social inclusion.

main users with responsibility for domestic water and for household sanitation, to become decision makers.

The project goal is improved health, wellbeing and gender equality in Rakhine and Magway, based on the right to household sanitation, which entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable sanitation.

As well as strengthening the sanitation supply system and working with households on gendered decision making, this project aims to:

- Support 40,000 beneficiaries through the construction and use of new toilets;
- Reach 160,000 with direct hygiene face-to-face sanitation and/or hand washing messaging;
- Indirectly support other households to access cheaper and improved products and services in the local markets.

The Water for Women project will enrich the lives of women from the target communities. Clean and safe latrines means dignity and well-being for these women... This project will create a safe space for women and girls and promote using the different kinds of facilities suited to the local context. Women in Myanmar play an important role within their families, so investing in the empowerment of women through this project will also benefit their family members and the wider community.

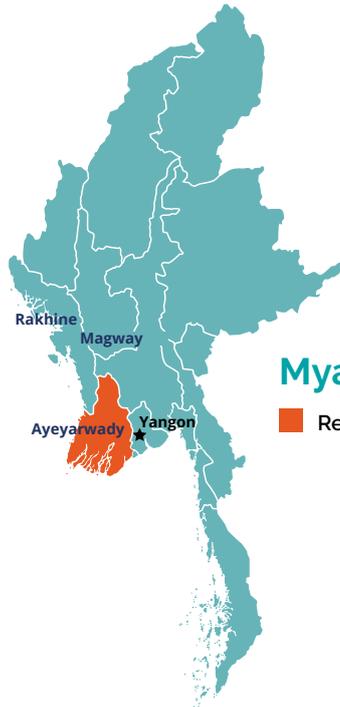
- Ma Khin Hla, the Director of Yaung Chi Thit (a national organisation working for women's empowerment and gender equality in Myanmar)

Myanmar Government's recently released Rural WASH Strategy notes that there is limited understanding in Myanmar of roles and needs of women and men, girls and boys in relation to water and sanitation. It identifies this as a key challenge to enable women, as the



The Australian aid program is investing in Myanmar over a five-year period. Water for Women is proud to be partnering with Oxfam to improve the lives of thousands of people in Rakhine and Magway in Myanmar.





Myanmar

Regions of operation



WaterAid/Htoo Tay Zar

Supporting safe births in Myanmar – strengthening health systems to improve the quality of maternal healthcare

The benefits of improved, safe access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are clear. Not only does access to WASH prevent disease and death, it also has profound, lasting socio-economic impacts on a community and its ability to prosper, particularly for women and girls.

Myanmar's national neonatal mortality rate of 25 per 1000 live births is one of the highest rates among Southeast Asian countries and the maternal mortality rate is 200 per 100,000 live births. The rates are even higher for births in rural areas, mothers with little or no education, and babies born to families in the lowest wealth quintile.

Most of these deaths are from preventable causes, such as postpartum infections or complications that can be addressed with simple interventions.

Adequate access to WASH and related infection prevention and control are essential components of providing basic health services, including maternal, newborn and child health.

Supporting safe births in Myanmar will target the Ayeyarwady Region, which has a much higher neonatal mortality rate of 36 per 1,000 live births, with only 34% of births occurring in a health facility.

The main project goal is to improve the quality and safety of health care at the time of birth. Clean and safe healthcare facilities can increase demand for, and trust in these services and reinforce the role of healthcare staff and facilities in setting hygiene norms.

Australia understands that equitable WASH access is crucial in developing countries. Water for Women and our partners will provide innovative solutions to WASH delivery in Myanmar, and contribute to global WASH evidence and research.

“Supporting safe births brings together WASH and health actors to work collaboratively with the Ministry of Health and Sports... The project will trial a quality improvement approach for improving WASH delivery in a way that can be taken to scale across Myanmar and also become a model that other countries across the world can adapt to ensure services are safe and dignified for women, particularly during the vulnerable time of childbirth.”

- Alison Macintyre, Technical Lead - Health, WaterAid Australia



The Australian aid program is investing in the Ayeyarwady Region of Myanmar over a five-year period. Water for Women is proud to be partnering with WaterAid and other partners, Jhpiego, and The SoapBox Collaborative.