

MYANMAR SYSTEMATIC COUNTRY DIAGNOSTIC
MAIN QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS FROM STAKEHOLDERS AND HOW THEY WERE INCORPORATED IN THE SCD

Location – stakeholder group	Main comments, questions, and suggestions	How the comments, questions, and suggestions are reflected in the final SCD
Yangon - Civil society, academics, researchers, & think tanks	How would the WB implement policies for critically poor in the ceasefire areas?	The World Bank would work with the Government to design programs that are targeting the most disadvantaged areas and the critically poor. One project is already underway, the nationwide Community Driven Development (CDD) Project. The SCD has enhancing social inclusion as one of the pre-requisites for ending poverty in Myanmar.
	In four years, how much can the WB realistically address the issue of poverty?	It is not possible to determine how much the WB can realistically do or achieve within four years to address poverty. However, it is hoped that the findings of the SCD will help inform the design of not just World Bank supported programs, but policies and programs of the Government and other development partners as well, and therefore have a noticeable impact on poverty in the next four years
	Since land is crucial in this agricultural country, poverty alleviation is not feasible without tackling the land issue.	The SCD has taken this point on board. Paragraph 136 emphasizes the critical role of access to land and land tenure security to improving agriculture productivity and private sector development more broadly
	How can the CSOs be a part of the implementation process? To monitor the enforcement of policy is equally important. How can INGOS help with the delivery and implementation?	Paragraph 70 of the SCD emphasizes the need for broad based participation in the development process. However, at the SCD was not designed to outline in detail implementation issues of policies and programs. It is expected that specific projects designed to implement some of the recommendations of the SCD will specify further how CSOs can be part of the implementation process
	How can we improve access to energy for rural poor?	This question is beyond the scope of the SCD. However, the SCD in paragraphs 114-115 highlights the critical role of increasing access to electricity in reducing rural poverty
	Without the CSOs, we cannot implement the rural development strategy. Without people-centered, you cannot implement Myanmar development strategy.	The SCD in paragraph 89 recognizes the importance of the Government’s people-centered development and highlights the need for more to be done

Location – stakeholder group	Main comments, questions, and suggestions	How the comments, questions, and suggestions are reflected in the final SCD
	How does the WBG diagnostic link into the other simultaneous diagnostic (such as ADB)	The two are complementary. The ADB’s country diagnostic focused more on constraints to the country’s development process more broadly while the WB’s SCD focuses more specifically on constraints and priorities for ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity
	Take into greater account the role of regional governments—political trend toward (fiscal) decentralization can be both opportunity/constraint.	Paragraph 89 of the SCD recognizes the progress made in decentralization while paragraph 90 highlights the challenges that still need to be addressed to improve the role of regional governments.
	Focus on not just growth but inclusive growth (constraints on inclusion); reorientation towards governance (such as land) and inequality (distribution of resources, land owners and landless)	The SCD has highlighted the enhancement of social inclusion as a key pre-requisite to ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity. The first pillar of the SCD is about promoting universal access to basic services and empowerment for inclusive growth, particularly in rural areas. Paragraphs 136-138 highlight the importance of increased access to land and land tenure security
	Highest priority is to improve secure land tenure	Paragraphs 136-138 of the SCD make this point
	Quality of service provision—not just expanding services but regulation	Paragraphs 103 – 106 focus on the need for quality basic health and education.
Yangon - Private sector	Major constraint is lack of investment in agriculture and rural infrastructure. WBG should start with strategy in those areas.	The SCD highlights the critical role of increasing agriculture productivity and investment in paragraphs 132-138, and also of the role of expanding rural infrastructure in paragraphs 110-116
	Lack of self-employment and entrepreneurial capacity is a major constraint and should thus be a priority	The SCD identifies private sector-led growth for more jobs as a key pathway out of poverty. It also highlights empowerment of the poor by improving universal access to quality basic education and vocational training. Both are aimed at promoting self-employment and entrepreneurial capacity.
	There is an urgent need for clear rules and legal framework	Paragraphs 88, 92, and 126 highlight the need for a conducive legal, regulatory, and institutional policy framework.
	Agriculture is the number one sector, but rural areas have the highest poverty rates. WBG should address this imbalance.	The first main pathway (pillar) of the SCD focuses on promoting universal access to basic services and empowerment for inclusive growth, particularly in rural areas. It is expected that strategies and interventions emanating from this pillar will help to address the observed imbalance

Location – stakeholder group	Main comments, questions, and suggestions	How the comments, questions, and suggestions are reflected in the final SCD
	Access to markets is a large constraining factor for a variety of industries and especially for agriculture.	Paragraphs 126 and 131 of the SCD highlight the need for access to markets
	Amongst international investors there is a large appetite for risk for investment in Myanmar, but investors find that they are constrained by government regulation in taking this risk.	Paragraph 126 of the SCD highlights the need for removing policy and institutional impediments that are still hampering entry by new domestic and foreign private sector investors into the economic space, and expansion of operations by existing investors
	Key sectors including power, telecoms, and banking sector should be prioritized	Paragraphs 111-115 of the SCD highlight the need for access to ICT and power particularly in rural areas, 140 highlights the need for power more generally, 141 highlights the need to improve the financial sector.
	Major road infrastructure program should be a priority.	Paragraphs 116 and 131 of the SCD highlight the critical role of improved transport connectivity, particularly roads in the rural areas
Yangon - Development partners	Social safeguards need to be given attention in the SCD as well as social vulnerabilities and social protection	The SCD pays attention to the need for social safeguards in paragraph 151 while social vulnerabilities and social protection are highlighted in paragraphs 13, 41-46, and 117-119.
	Political economy issues should be considered within the framework.	The SCD looks at political economy issues under the section on securing the political transition, as well as in paragraph 163 when discussing land reform
	How does the existing WBG \$2 billion pledge [by the WB President when he visited Myanmar] for health and electrification fit into the analysis?	The SCD only focuses on identifying key constraints and priorities for ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity for Myanmar and does not go into the issues of the World Bank’s strategy for supporting the country. Such issues will be covered in the Country Partnership Framework. The World Bank Group President expressed a broad commitment to provide \$2 billion in World Bank Group financing for health and electrification, two critical areas for Myanmar’s development prospects over the medium to long-term.
	How does the framework account for shifting patterns/changing state-society relations (such as accountability for service delivery)?	One of the pre-requisites that the SCD highlights (paragraphs 69-71) is the need for consolidating trust between the state and its people.
	IOM has undertaken study of refugees in Thailand. Findings suggest that attention should also be paid to internal migrants and landlessness corollaries:	The SCD has recommended in paragraph 169 the need for further analytical work on land

Location – stakeholder group	Main comments, questions, and suggestions	How the comments, questions, and suggestions are reflected in the final SCD
	Survey results from 5000 migrants in Thailand show that a majority of migrants are previous landowners—further study needed on why people give up land?	
	Will the land tenure system allow improved incomes, knowledge and use of new agricultural technologies and processes in Myanmar?	The SCD could not answer this question directly but highlighted in paragraphs 136-138 the critical role that land tenure security plays in improving agriculture investment, and hence, incomes, based on experiences in other countries.
	There should be a focus to increase non-farm jobs in rural areas	In paragraphs 12 and 47, the SCD highlights the importance of non-farm jobs for the “transitional” poor
	Expand the focus on poverty and put emphasis on vulnerability	The issue of vulnerabilities is highlighted in paragraphs 13, 41-46, and 117-119.
Nay Pyi Taw - Government	For effective rural development we need to provide farmers with long term, low interest loans.	The SCD in paragraph 141 highlights the importance of developing financial markets in order to expand access to finance.
	To improve productivity we need to provide technical training, and also need more accurate data collection and dissemination of information.	Paragraph 133 of the SCD recognizes the fact that lack of extension services, among other factors, has been responsible for low agriculture productivity in Nigeria. Paragraph 159 highlights the need for more accurate data, particularly on yields
	We also need to improve road networks.	Paragraphs 116 and 131 of the SCD highlight the critical role of improved transport connectivity, particularly roads in the rural areas
	To end poverty for farmers we need technical assistance to develop Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and we need to invest in high quality seeds and mechanization	Paragraph 133 of the SCD recognizes the fact that lack of extension services, among other factors, has been responsible for low agriculture productivity in Nigeria.
	To build a social protection system, we need to strengthen cooperation between the Ministry of Relief and Resettlement and the Bank.	Paragraph 84 of the SCD highlights the need for coordination in the delivery of services within Government
	Unless we are able to develop a national health insurance system in the near future, it will be very difficult to protect the poor.	Paragraph 118 of the SCD also notes the fact that health insurance is currently not adequately provided in Myanmar

Location – stakeholder group	Main comments, questions, and suggestions	How the comments, questions, and suggestions are reflected in the final SCD
	Due to climate change the income of farmers is not stable. We need to develop a system of insurance to protect farmers from these shocks.	Paragraphs 120-122 of the SCD highlight this point
	There are many priority ways to reduce poverty. I would like to discuss the conditions for farmers in the border areas. The conditions there are very different from the rest of the country. There is no peace. The priorities for poverty reduction need to be area specific. Currently IDPs need social protection and job creation.	Paragraphs 64 and 115 of the SCD highlight the need for extending services particularly in the border areas
	The most important things to reduce extreme poverty are job creation, vocational training and basic education.	The SCD identifies the need to create jobs through private sector- led growth as one of the main pathway out of poverty. Also paragraphs 105-107 highlight the importance of basic education and vocational training
	In our country there are different challenges in different areas. The majority of the population is Myanmar but we need to consider the minorities.	Paragraphs 72-75 of the SCD highlight the importance of social inclusion to poverty reduction, including how to ensure inclusion of the minorities
Pathein - CSOs, Private Sector	Every farmer should own their own land; Land law and implementation of law needs to be improved; Confiscated land should be returned.	Paragraphs 136-138 highlight the importance of increased access to land and land tenure security
	Develop road system in rural areas	Paragraph 116 of the SCD highlights the critical role of expanding rural roads
	Build a social security system.	Paragraphs 117-119 of the SCD highlight the importance of building a social security system
	Support SMEs	Paragraph 125 of the SCD highlights the importance of supporting SMEs
	Good governance	Paragraphs 88-92 of the SCD highlight the importance of improving governance
	Foreign investment law needs to be clarified	Paragraph 126 of the SCD highlights the need for removing policy and institutional impediments that are still hampering entry by new domestic and foreign private sector investors into the economic space, and expansion of operations by existing investors

Location – stakeholder group	Main comments, questions, and suggestions	How the comments, questions, and suggestions are reflected in the final SCD
Pathein - Government	As 80% of population are poor farmers, agriculture development is the key to poverty alleviation.	The SCD highlights the critical role of increasing agriculture productivity and investment in paragraphs 132-138
	Low standard of education is a critical constraint	Paragraph 105 of the SCD notes the poor quality of education.
	Access to clean water is a key priority	Paragraphs 108-109 of the SCD highlight the importance of access to water
	Sanctions and restrictions imposed by other developed countries are a major obstacle to national development and poverty alleviation. When we look upon the present situation, sanctions from the United States still affect Myanmar economic development. As a result, there is only very limited investment from other countries and thus very few job opportunities.	Paragraph 128 of the SCD highlights this point and noting that the lifting of sanctions now opens up opportunities for increased investment, and hence, job opportunities
	The most important thing to alleviate poverty is creation of job opportunities for everyone.	The SCD identifies the need to create jobs through private sector- led growth as one of the main pathway out of poverty.
Taunggyi – CSOs, private sector	Human resource development is critical to ending poverty, including vocational training, entrepreneurship training , and business Development Services	Paragraphs 105-107 of the SCD highlight the importance of basic education and vocational training
	There is need to improve land tenure. If people own their own land, their income will be increased.	Paragraphs of the SCD 136-138 highlight the importance of increased access to land and land tenure security
	Poor technology is a key constraint to improving agriculture production	Paragraph 132 of the SCD also acknowledges this point, mentioning that increased mechanization would help improve farm yields. Earlier, paragraph 130 of the SCD highlights the poor state of technology particularly in the rice milling industry
	Access to finance is a constraint. If there is capital or access to loans, people would be able to start their own businesses	The SCD in paragraph 141 highlights the importance of developing financial markets in order to expand access to finance.

Location – stakeholder group	Main comments, questions, and suggestions	How the comments, questions, and suggestions are reflected in the final SCD
	Due to transport connectivity many do not have access to education, health care, electricity and to contact with proper customers to sell their products directly	Paragraphs 110 and 116 of the SCD highlight this point.
	There is need for peace because without it national planning cannot be established.	The SCD in paragraphs 63-68 of the SCD highlight the importance of peace for ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity
	To receive 100% ART for People Living With HIV	Paragraphs 102-104 of the SCD highlight the need for universal access to social services, and in paragraph 102 notes the high incidence of HIV among other health challenges
Taunggyi – Government	For farmers to own consecutive areas of land WB should help to find new land plots in mountainous areas. Many farmers have lost their land	Paragraphs of the SCD 136-138 highlight the importance of increased access to land and land tenure security
	Good transport connectivity is a key to poverty reduction	Paragraphs 116 and 131 of the SCD highlight the critical role of improved transport connectivity, particularly roads in the rural areas
	Most of the population are uneducated.	Paragraphs 105-107 of the SCD highlight the importance of basic education and vocational training
	Although there are products, farmers income is not stable due to unstable markets	Paragraph 162 of the SCD highlights the need for diversification of agriculture products and value addition which should help to increase and stabilize incomes
	Electricity would allow for development of SMEs and job opportunities and contribute to socioeconomic development.	Paragraph 114 of the SCD makes this point
	Peace will be important	The SCD in paragraphs 63-68 of the SCD highlight the importance of peace for ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity
	Low interest loans are very important to end poverty	The SCD in paragraph 141 highlights the importance of developing financial markets in order to expand access to finance.
Mandalay – CSOs, Private Sector	Education standards are very low; The poor community are unable to complete basic education, which results in a lack of knowledge; There is a need to upgrade basic education, higher	Paragraph 105 of the SCD notes the poor quality of education. Paragraph 107 also highlights the importance of increase access to vocational education

Location – stakeholder group	Main comments, questions, and suggestions	How the comments, questions, and suggestions are reflected in the final SCD
	education and vocational education; There is a lack of knowledge to apply advanced technology	
	The country is in a poor situation due to many weaknesses in the agricultural sector; Agricultural development will increase job opportunities and result in more holistic development.	The SCD highlights the critical role of increasing agriculture productivity and investment in paragraphs 132-138
	There is need to have access to market (e.g. although there are lots of gems in Myanmar, we do not have markets good enough); improve access to markets for farmers	Paragraph 126 of the SCD highlights the importance of access to markets
	Lack of health knowledge; monetary problems are also a major constraint to accessing health services	Paragraphs 102-104 of the SCD highlight the factors behind low access to health services and the fact that out of pocket expenditures on health are very high.
	Ordinary people need financial support to start their own businesses	That is why the SCD in paragraph 141 highlights the importance of developing financial markets in order to expand access to finance.
Mandalay - Government	Farmers should possess their own land	Paragraphs 136-138 of the SCD highlight the importance of increased access to land and land tenure security
	Electricity is key to improvement of other social, health, education and business sectors.	Paragraph 114 of the SCD highlights the importance of electricity to improving access to critical services and to the development of SMEs
	The lack of transport connectivity is a key to poverty in states such as Kachin, Rakhine and Chin.	Paragraphs 116 and 131 of the SCD highlight the critical role of improved transport connectivity, particularly roads in the rural areas
	Need to upgrade the public health service,	Paragraphs 102-104 of the SCD highlight the importance of increasing access to health services
	Access to finance is critical for businesses	The SCD in paragraph 141 highlights the importance of developing financial markets in order to expand access to finance.
	There is need to develop Agriculture (including rice and other long-term crops) – to create job opportunities in the agriculture sector, by ensuring access to finance and access to markets	The SCD highlights the critical role of increasing agriculture productivity and investment in paragraphs 132-138
	Electricity is critical, to among other things help develop food processing factories	Paragraphs 114-115 and 140 of the SCD highlight the importance of increasing supply of electricity and access

Location – stakeholder group	Main comments, questions, and suggestions	How the comments, questions, and suggestions are reflected in the final SCD
Hpa An – CSOs, private sector	Education is critical, in the rural areas, some schools don't have teachers	Paragraphs 105-107 of the SCD highlight the importance of basic education and vocational training
	Transportation is also important since with better means of transport, it means better access for everything - education, health, access to market, etc., especially for people who live in remote areas	Paragraph 110 of the SCD highlights the importance of expanding rural infrastructure, including transport connectivity for improved access to services
	Peace process is critical – there is lack of trust among/between stakeholders	The SCD in paragraphs 63-68 of the SCD highlight the importance of peace for ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity while one of the pre-requisites that the SCD highlights (paragraphs 69-71) is the need for consolidating trust between the state and its people.
Yangon – peri-urban civil society & private sector stakeholders	Education is critical for development in Myanmar	Paragraphs 105-107 of the SCD highlight the importance of basic education and vocational training
	The rule of law is key to alleviating poverty	Paragraph 71, 88, and 92 of the SCD emphasize the importance of the rule of law
	There should be no land confiscation. Farmers should own their land.	Paragraphs 136-138 of the SCD highlight the importance of increased access to land and land tenure security
	There is a need for low interest loans	The SCD in paragraph 141 highlights the importance of developing financial markets in order to expand access to finance.
	There should be more vocational training schools.	Paragraph 107 of the SCD highlights the need to increase access to vocational training
	Nutritional deficiency is a problem. Children under 5 need adequate nutrition for proper brain development. Many children are deficient in iron.	Paragraph 102 of the SCD recognizes the problem of malnutrition in Myanmar, amongst other health problems.
	Improved transport connectivity would improve the standard of living	Paragraphs 116 and 131 of the SCD highlight the critical role of improved transport connectivity, particularly roads in the rural areas
	Though we have plenty of products we cannot sell them unless we have a market	Paragraphs 126 and 131 of the SCD highlight the need for access to markets
Institutional environment, governance, and policy framework. Want to see a complete transition to democracy	Paragraphs 88-92 of the SCD highlight the importance of improving governance. The SCD in paragraphs 69-71 also highlight the need for consolidating trust between the state and its people, by among other things, completing the transition to democracy	

Location – stakeholder group	Main comments, questions, and suggestions	How the comments, questions, and suggestions are reflected in the final SCD
	Affordable public services for all (electricity, water, health, sanitation, education)	Paragraph 101 of the SCD emphasizes the need for ensuring universal access to basic services while subsequent paragraphs (102-116) provide additional details.
Nay Pyi Taw - Parliament	There is a need to build infrastructure for schools in rural areas	Paragraphs 104-108 of the SCD highlight the importance of expanding access to basic quality education particularly in the rural areas
	Farmers currently have to use their own money for their children’s education which prevents them from saving for long term purposes.	Paragraph 106 of the SCD also highlights this point, noting that high private expenditures on education are very high
	Road connectivity between villages in rural areas is a problem. Government funds for rural road construction are insufficient. Currently rural villagers have to contribute to these costs themselves. This is a significant obstacle in regard to the alleviation of poverty.	Paragraphs 116 and 131 of the SCD highlight the critical role of improved transport connectivity, particularly roads in the rural areas
	65% of Myanmar’s population depends on agriculture. The development of this sector could increase income for all of these farmers.	The SCD in paragraphs 132-138 highlights the critical role of increasing agriculture productivity and investment, and hence, of people’s incomes
	As soon as we heard World Bank will support our country, we visited rural area to listen their voice. They told us that they wanted to get electricity for their entertainment such as listening radio, watching TV.	Paragraph 114 of the SCD highlights the importance of expanding rural electrification
	70% of population resides in the rural areas. We cannot rely on rain water (weather) for agriculture, so we would like to get technical assistance from WBG.	Paragraph 133 of the SCD highlights notes the fact that low rice yields have partly been due to among other things, inefficient irrigation. In paragraph 47 the SCD also makes the point that further investment in irrigation systems and water basin management would be needed mainly for the dry zone
	We need to establish industry/factories for those who do not have land.	Paragraphs 47 and 123 of the SCD highlight the need to create jobs for the transitional poor through private-sector off-farm employment
	It would be good if the WBG could help to find new land for cultivation.	Paragraphs 136-138 of the SCD highlight the importance of increased access to land and land tenure security

Location – stakeholder group	Main comments, questions, and suggestions	How the comments, questions, and suggestions are reflected in the final SCD
	We do not have medicine if we are ill. Everyone should have access to medical services. The government hospitals are not reliable. The quality of service is very poor. We need to develop the health system. I would like to request support to develop this sector.	Paragraphs 102-104 of the SCD highlight the need for universal access to basic quality health
	Land security is really important. In practice there is now a lot of land confiscation.	Paragraphs 136-138 of the SCD highlight the importance of increased access to land and land tenure security
	Corruption is one of the key causes of poverty, as is illegal revenue both by government and by ethnic arm groups.	Paragraph 69 of the SCD highlights the need to tackle corruption in order to end poverty in Myanmar
	Achieving internal peace is really important	The SCD in paragraphs 63-68 of the SCD highlight the importance of peace for ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity
	We need to improve transport connectivity in order to sell our products.	Paragraphs 116 and 131 of the SCD highlight the critical role of improved transport connectivity, particularly roads in the rural areas
	We need to develop SMEs.	Paragraph 125 of the SCD highlights the importance of supporting SMEs
	Access to Finance needs to be inclusive. It should be available to all stakeholders including the disabled, disadvantaged women, the elderly.	The SCD in paragraph 141 highlights the importance of developing financial markets in order to expand access to finance.