



Save the Children

Yangon Urban Poverty Reduction Programme

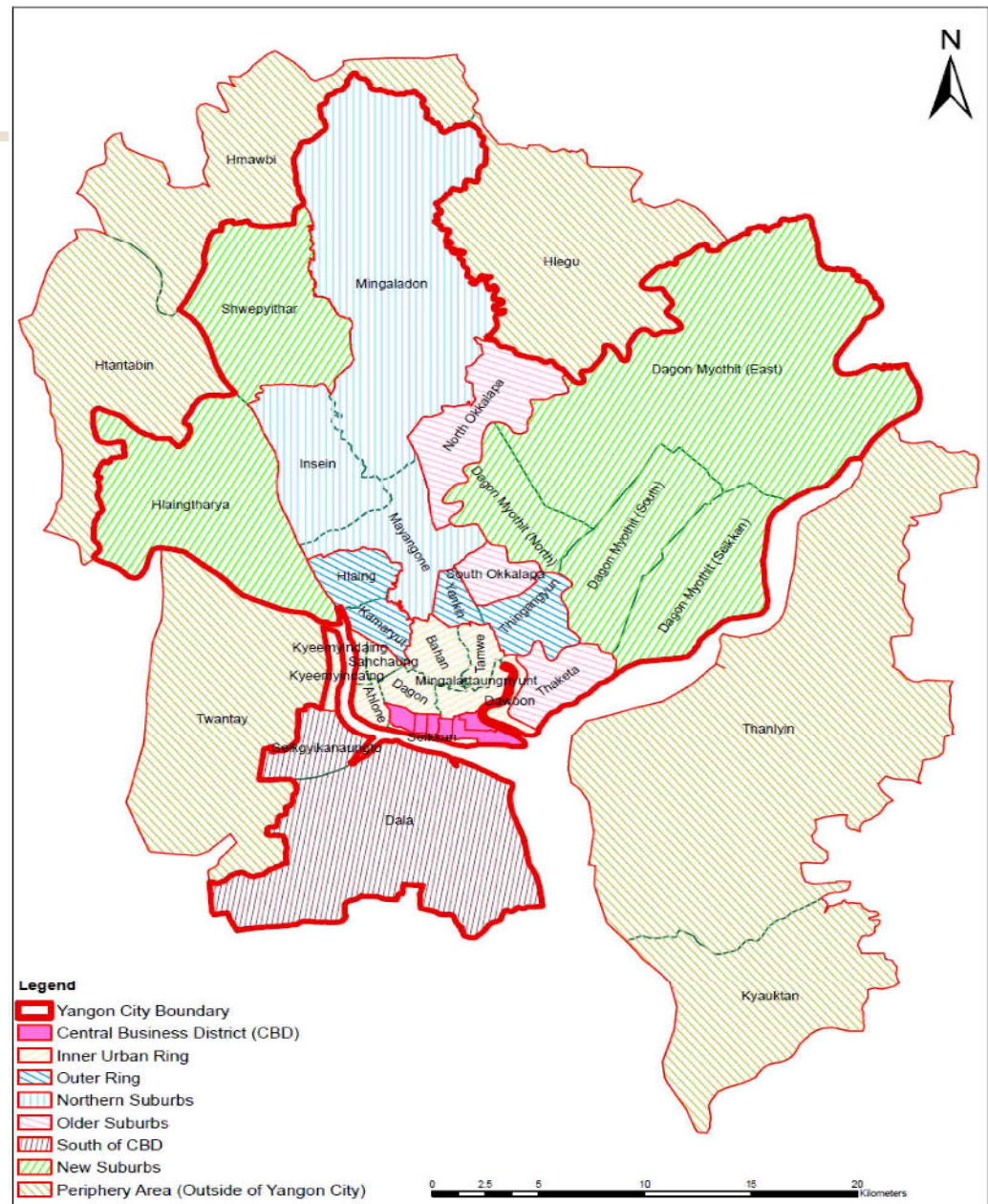


Urban assessment

July-Oct 2015

YCDC and Save the Children conducted an urban poverty survey which provided information on the **economic and social conditions** of 300 poor households in 3 townships of Yangon

- Shwe Pyi Thar
- North Okkalapa
- Seikgyikanaungto



Source: JICA Study Team

2015 urban assessment, key issues assessed:

- **Low-income and unstable employment / income-generating activities.**
- **High levels of indebtedness,** often for daily consumption.
- **High proportion of children not attending school**
- **High costs of emergency health expenditures** leading to long-term indebtedness as well as untreated chronic and/or severe illness.



2015 urban assessment, top line findings:

- 85% of surveyed families had taken out **loans** (out of 300 HHs).
- 51% of loans were fully or at least partially for **food**.
- Around 70% of loans were charged at between 20 and 30% **interest**. Most were paid on at least a monthly basis.
- 88% of surveyed HHs expressed financial difficulties as the main **barrier** to sending children to school.
- Only 5% of HHs had what can be described as a sanitary **toilet** - e.g. contents piped into a concrete tank and protected from flooding.
- 35% HHs are paying rent of between 20,000 and 30,000 kyat per month.
- Only 50% of children are at **school** at age 13; 14% by age 16
- Many young children **working** to support household income

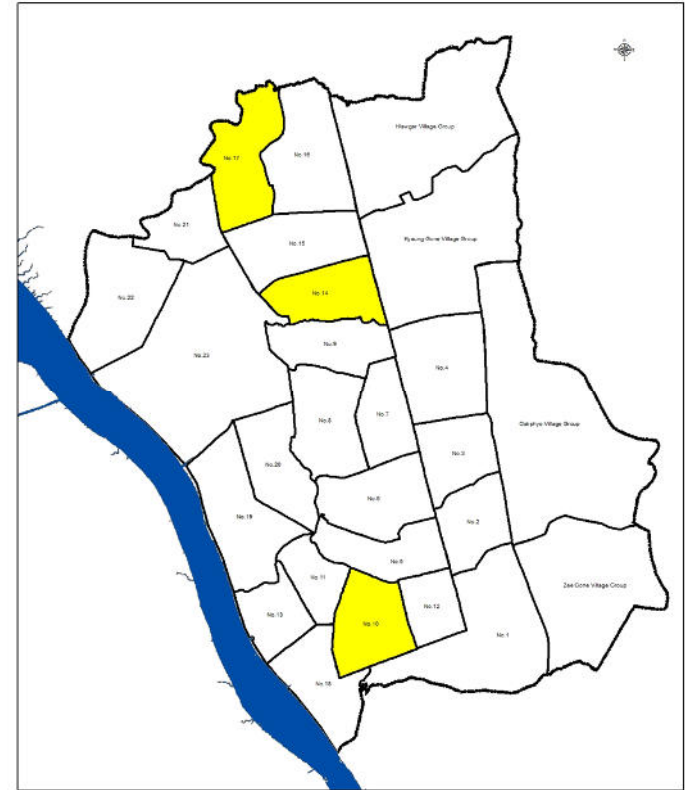
Urban research

Feb-June 2016

YCDC and mPower conducted research in **Shwe Pyi Thar** (wards 17,14,10) including:

- Background study and literature review
- In-depth interviews of 24 households and short individual interviews of 20 children
- Key informant interviews (45 staff from 14 organizations)
- Community events with children/youth (2 events/53 participants) and adults (3 events /125 participants), including participatory mapping and prioritization exercises
- Field observation and informal discussions with residents and children
- Study of graduation programmes and of potentially relevant interventions in other contexts

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Source: Zoning & Land use planning Section, Urban Planning Division, City Planning & Land Administration Department, Yangon City Development Committee

Community events



2016 research, key findings:



- HHs overwhelmingly think that education is important for their children and would like to see them pursue their studies
- Most HHs have built, managed and/or financed the construction of their own houses
- The vast majority of HHs surveyed have been living in Shwepyithar and/or Yangon for years but security of tenure and the risk of eviction remain a key concern.

2016 research, key findings:

- There is awareness and demand for security of tenure, legalization of status and improved water sources.
- Income-generating activities include petty trade and services, daily labour, construction, selling food. Mostly informal sector with irregular income. Some workshops and production. Some factory employment, particularly for young women.
- Savings groups in some areas are examples of successful community mobilization.



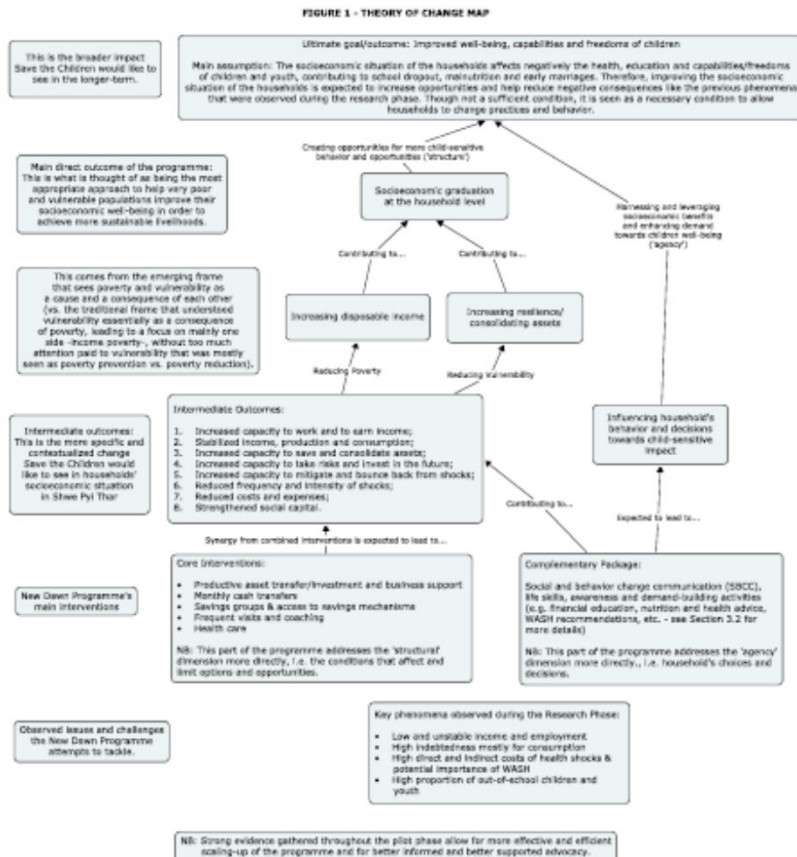
2016 research, key findings:

- Many HHs with many children, inter-generational dependencies and many members without work or income generating activity, especially women and elderly.
- Limited savings and assets, often pawned for loans.
- Fast-changing socioeconomic situations with high levels of indebtedness and sale of productive assets to face shocks and daily needs, creating a spiral of decreasing income.
- Major impact of health shocks and direct and indirect costs affecting health seeking behaviour.



Designing an urban poverty reduction programme

Working through a theory of change



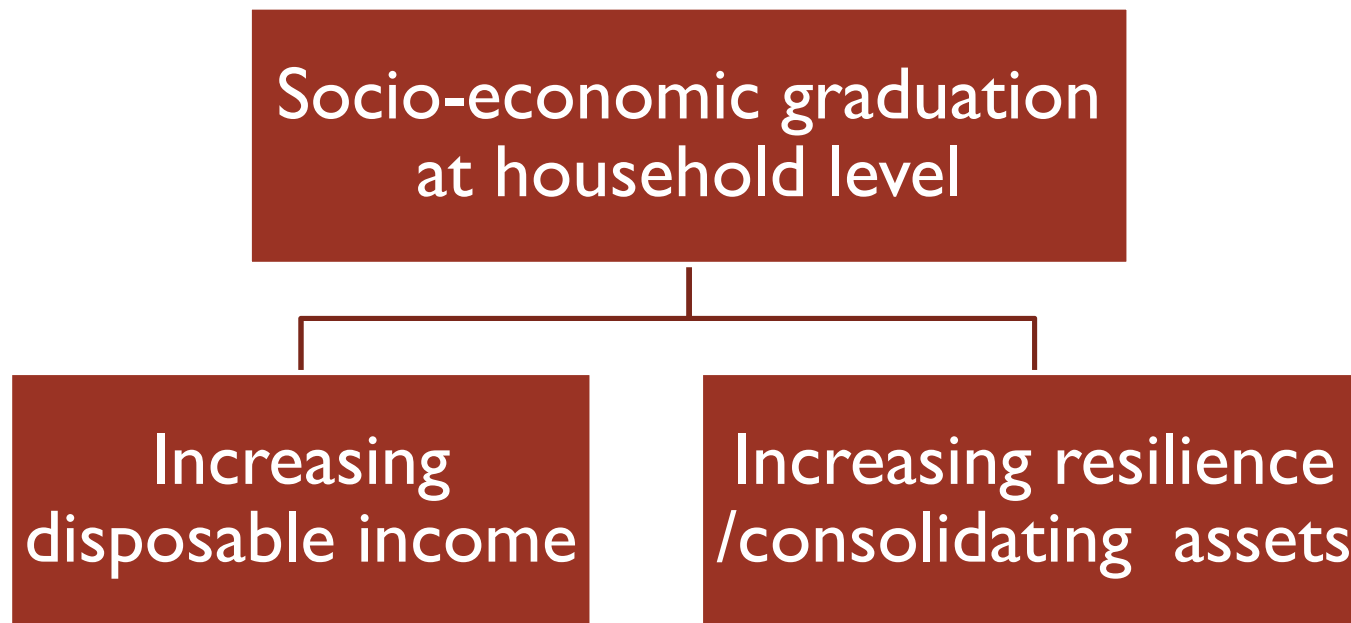
Improving the socioeconomic conditions and resources of the HH through a 'graduation approach'

1. Improving well-being, mostly through increasing income/reducing poverty
2. Improving resilience and the capacity to deal with shocks, reducing vulnerability through consolidating assets

Addressing both **poverty** and **vulnerability** at the same time

Programme Theory of Change

Improved well-being, capabilities and freedoms of children



Household targeting process

Shwe Pyi Thar: Wards 10 and 14.

- Poor households with children – priority will be given to households with pregnant women/children under 1 (key intervention point for IYCF and nutrition).
- Working with Ward Authorities, CBOs and CPGs to determine areas within the wards with the highest concentration of poor households.
- Collaboratively defining a set of vulnerability/poverty criteria to guide the selection process (e.g. using proxies around asset ownership, employment status, housing materials etc.).

Urban programme interventions:

- **Cash transfer** (consumption smoothing) – A cash transfer provided to each household to ensure they can buy food and for any lost income for joining project activities. This will be on a monthly basis for around 12 months and can technically be spent as the HH sees fit.
- **Productive asset transfer** – One-off support provided to the HH a few months after the launch of the project. A lump sum to buy an asset for productive means – e.g. an asset for their economic activities.
- **Savings groups and access to savings mechanisms** – not compulsory, but we will be promoting HHs to start saving in groups.

Urban programme interventions:

- **Complementary package** – This will be a combination of training to the HH on nutrition/hygiene and general life skills. Focus on pregnant women and adolescent girls.
- **Financial education and business training** – provided to all HHs, will focus on HH budgeting (especially ways to manage savings and investing in children – e.g. education etc.). The business training is focused more on how to save, budget and invest in business activities. Financial education will focus on adults and youth (14+)
- We will *not* work directly on health issues, but hope to link with others (PSI) who can promote/provide HHs with free/low cost healthcare.
- We are *considering* linkages to apprenticeships and vocational training for HHs, dependent on further analysis and budget availability.

Intermediate outcomes

- Increased **capacity to work** and to earn income;
- **Stabilized income**, production and consumption;
- Increased **capacity to save** and consolidate assets;
- Increased **capacity to mitigate** and **bounce back** from **shocks**;
- **Reduced costs** and expenses;
- Strengthened **social capital**.

Broad learning objectives

- Determine whether the programme is working and bringing significant positive change (**effectiveness**)
- Be able to learn, adapt and deploy interventions when appropriate (**responsiveness**)
- Capture improvements to children's well-being as much as possible (**child-sensitivity**)

Thank you!

