



**FOLKETINGET
STATSREVISORERNE**



**FOLKETINGET
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submitted to the Public Accounts Committee**

Denmark's development cooperation with Myanmar

1. Introduction and conclusion

1.1. Purpose and conclusion

1. This report concerns Denmark's development cooperation with Myanmar. The study was initiated in January 2019 on the occasion of the Danish Public Accounts Committee's inspection trip to Myanmar, planned for the autumn 2019.

2. The study has focus on the administration of Denmark's first integrated country programme for Myanmar, covering the period 2016 – 2020. Government funding of in total DKK 505 million has been committed to the programme. In June 2019, 53% of the commitment had been disbursed to the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' partners in Myanmar, and 33% of the funding had been expended.

3. The purpose of the study is to assess whether the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has administered the Myanmar country programme in a satisfactory manner. In this context, satisfactory administration means that the ministry has ensured openness about the development aid towards the Danish parliament (the Folketing) and the public, and that the ministry has followed the government rules on good grant administration as well as its own guidelines on developing, implementing, following up and reporting on country programmes. The report answers the following questions:

- Has the Ministry of Foreign Affairs followed current rules and guidelines concerning the preparation of the country programme for Myanmar?
- Has the Ministry of Foreign Affairs followed current rules and guidelines on the implementation of the development engagements in the country programme?
- Has the Ministry of Foreign Affairs followed current rules and guidelines on following up and reporting on the country programme?



Conclusion

It is Rigsrevisionen's assessment that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' administration of the Myanmar country programme for the period 2016 - 2020 has been satisfactory in most respects. However, the ministry has not reported systematically and in an understandable format that supports transparency and provides the Folketing and the public with insight into the accountability for the results of the development cooperation. It is therefore difficult for the Folketing and the public to gain insight into the overall results of Denmark's development cooperation with Myanmar.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has prepared the country programme in compliance with the ministry's guidelines, and the programme is supported by the required documentation. Rigsrevisionen notes that the ministry has opted for an ambitious programme with great inherent risk that the implementation of the programme will not progress as planned. For instance, the ministry expected to see measurable results one year into the implementation period despite the fact that several of the ministry's partners in Myanmar had low capacity.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has implemented the development engagements of the programme based on clear agreements with its partners in Myanmar, and the ministry has ensured continuous reporting and follow-up on engagements. Some of the development engagements did not progress as quickly as planned, partly because the first year of the implementation period went with start-up activities and general capacity building.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' administration of disbursements to the development partners has generally been satisfactory. However, Rigsrevisionen has noted deviations from some of the ministry's own guidelines on disbursements. The ministry has informed Rigsrevisionen that it has tightened procedures at the embassy in Yangon and allocated more resources to the embassy's financial administration.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' follow-up and reporting on the overall country programme is not entirely satisfactory, as the ministry has failed to report systematically and in an understandable format that supports transparency and provides the Folketing and the public with insight into the accountability for the results of the development cooperation. At the same time, Rigsrevisionen notes that the ministry has not followed the procedures laid down for internal performance reporting and results-oriented dialogue, as described in the ministry's guidelines.