EUROCHAM
MYANMAR

HEALTHCARE GUIDE 2020

CO-FUNDED BY

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IMPLEMENTED BY

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FRENCH MYANMAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

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EUROCHAM MYANMAR

EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN MYANMAR

EuroCham Myanmar serves as the voice of European business in Myanmar. Its main mission is to increase the presence of European companies in the country and to facilitate market access particularly for European SMEs – by advocating for member interests with the government and organisations in Myanmar, the ASEAN region and the European Union.

With a strong, growing network of partners, EuroCham Myanmar offers on-the-ground assistance for European businesses interested in commercial endeavours in Myanmar, whether in the form of advocacy, business services, research or networking.

This report serves as a guide for European small-to-medium sized enterprises interested in investing in Myanmar. It provides an overview of the country's business and legal environment, followed by analysis of selected sectors that offer promising potential for growth and returns on investments.

Please contact us for further information and support.

Yangon, November 2019

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ACRONYMS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CAGR	Compounded Annual Growth Rate
CSO	Central Statistical Organisation
DAE	Department of Atomic Energy
EU	European Union
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IMF	International Monetary Fund
JV	Joint Venture
MHV	Myanmar Health Vision
MIL	Myanmar Investment Law
MIC	Myanmar Investment Commission
MOHS	Ministry of Health and Sports
OPP	Out-of-Pocket-Payment
UHC	Universal Health Care
WHO	World Health Organisation

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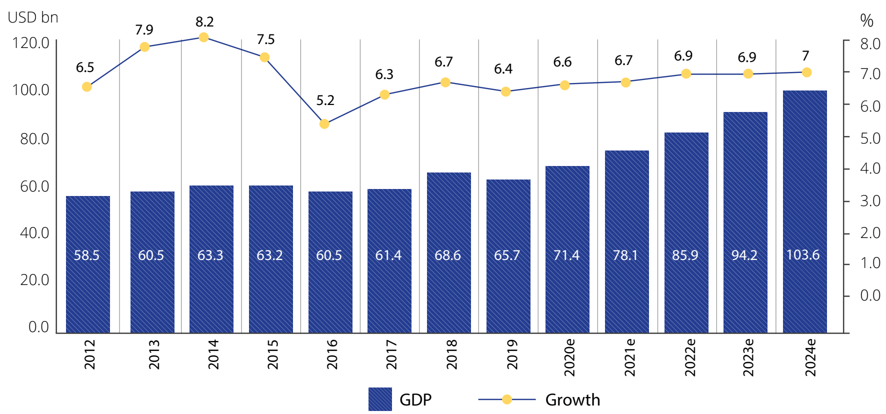
1 MACROECONOMIC OVERVIEW - MYANMAR

Myanmar is the second largest country in Southeast Asia in terms of land area at 676,578 square kilometres, and the fifth largest country in the region in terms of population with a size of 53 million as of 2019, estimated to grow to 54.7 million by 2024[1]. The neighbouring countries of China, India, Bangladesh, Thailand and Laos, account for approximately 40% of the global population and approximately 20% of the global gross domestic product (GDP). Strategically located between China and India, with vast natural resources and a large coastline, Myanmar is expected to have the highest GDP growth rate at 6.8% till 2024 among the ASEAN countries and holds significant potential as a regional player, which remained largely untapped during almost five decades of economic isolation under a debilitating military rule.

Figure 1: Myanmar's Nominal GDP (in USD billion) and GDP Growth Rates 2012–2024e



Source: IMF-World Economic Outlook Database, 2019

A series of economic and political reforms were started by the quasi-civilian government since March 2011, attracting foreign investment into the market. There was a slight decrease in growth rate in 2015, which has since recovered and is expected to stabilise in the next five years.

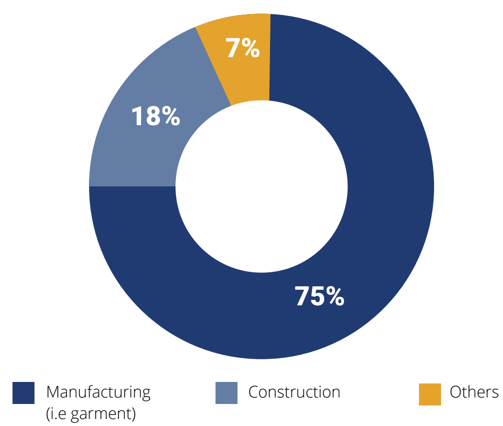
Table 1: Macroeconomic Benchmarking – ASEAN

	Population 2018 (mn)	Current GDP 2018 (USD bn)	GDP / Capita 2018 (USD)	GDP Growth (2018-2024)
Indonesia	261.9	1,022.4	3,870.6	5.2%
Philippines	106.6	330.8	3,103.6	6.6%
Vietnam	94.6	241.2	2,551.1	6.6%
Thailand	67.8	487.2	7,187.2	3.6%
Myanmar	**52.8**	**68.6**	**1,297.7**	**6.8%**
Malaysia	32.4	354.3	10,941.8	4.8%
Cambodia	16.2	24.5	1,508.8	6.6%
Laos	6.8	18.4	2,720.3	6.7%
Singapore	5.6	361.1	64,041.4	2.6%

Source: IMF-World Economic Outlook Database, 2019

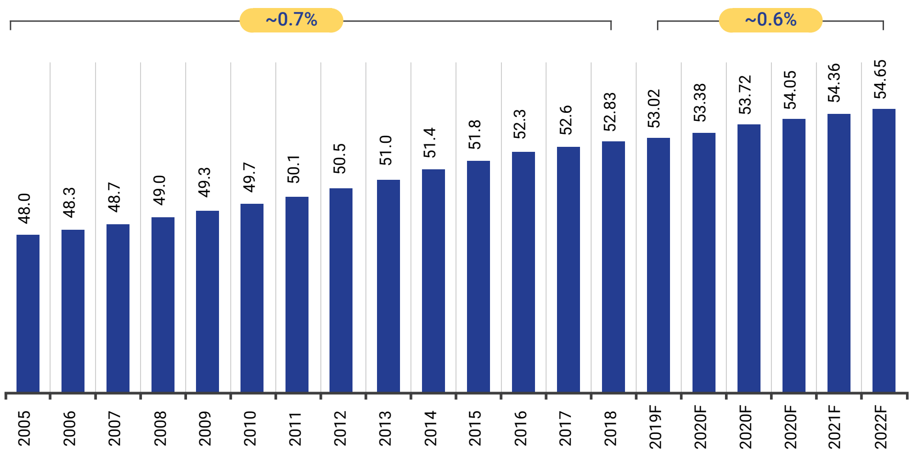
With the further relaxation of regulations for foreign investment in Myanmar, a renewed sense of business optimism led to an influx of foreign firms and strong manufacturing led economic growth, primarily driven by foreign direct investment (FDI). Myanmar, being one of the last accessible frontier markets in the world, is experiencing an accelerated pace of development, similar to economic transformations experienced by its Asian peers such as Thailand and Vietnam.

Figure 2: Industry Growth Contribution by Sector



Source: Asian Development Bank, 2019

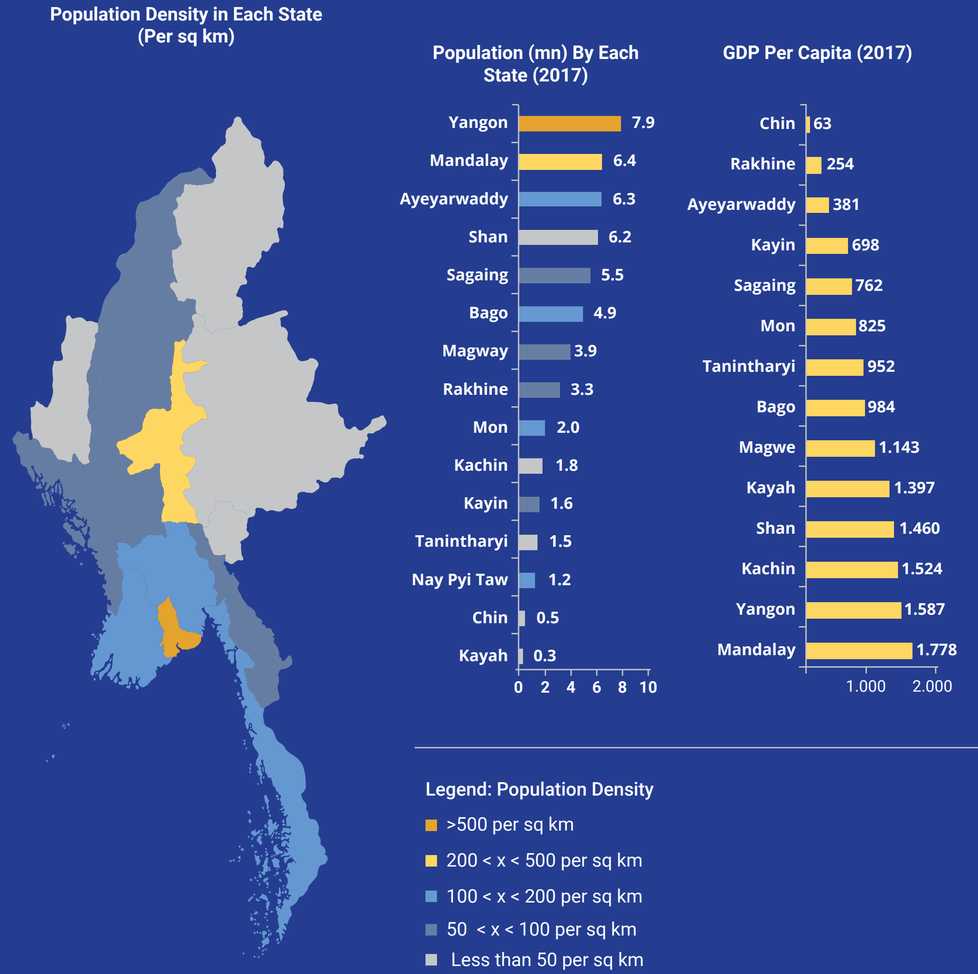
Figure 3: Myanmar's Total Population 2005–2024 (in million)



Source: IMF-World Economic Outlook Database, 2019

Myanmar's population as of 2019 is estimated to be 53 million with age groups below 24 years old accounting for ~45% of the population. As the commercial centre of Myanmar, Yangon accounts for the highest population density in the country and approximately 15% of Myanmar's population at 7.9 million people with approximately 700 people per square kilometer (sq km).[ii]

Figure 4: GDP and Demographic Trend by States and Regions



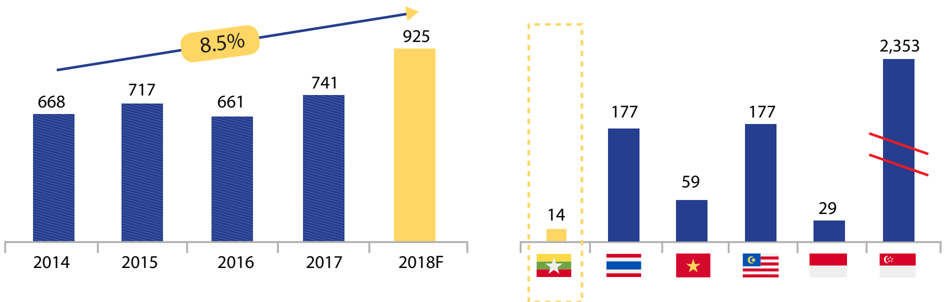
Source: Central Statistical Organisation, Myanmar Development Institute, 2019

2 MYANMAR HEALTHCARE SECTOR ASSESSMENT

2.1 MEDICAL EXPENDITURE OVERVIEW

Medical expenditure in Myanmar is divided into government expenditure and private expenditure. Government expenditure has increased vastly in the past few years at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8.5% between 2014 and 2018. The increased expenditure has been primarily used for providing better healthcare access in Tier 2 and 3 cities and rural regions such as in Mandalay, Ayeyarwaddy Region, Shan State, Sagaing Region and Magway Region, as well as for updating the existing public hospital facilities.

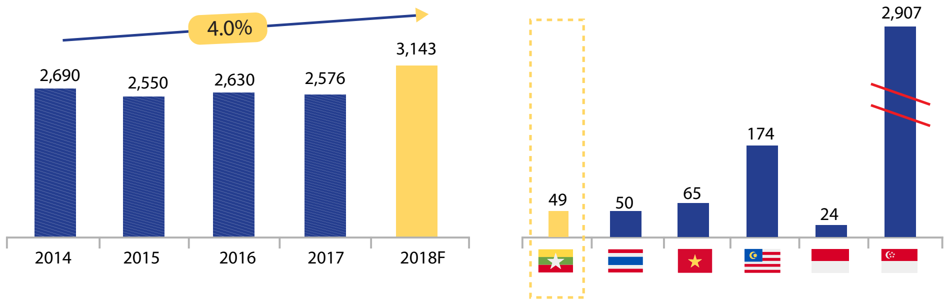
Figure 5: Myanmar Government Healthcare Expenditure (in USD million) and Benchmarking Government Healthcare Expenditure per Capita 2017



Source: World Bank, 2016 ; Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports, 2017

In comparison with its ASEAN neighbours (Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore), the amount of expenditure is still relatively modest with the other countries spending well over USD 20 per capita. In 2017, government expenditure was at approximately USD 741 million which is 6% of the total government budget. This is equivalent to only 1% of the GDP. However, the Government of Myanmar aims to increase healthcare budget allocation from 30% healthcare spending in 2017 to 60% of total healthcare spending by 2030.

Figure 6: Myanmar Private Healthcare Expenditure (in USD million) and Benchmarking Private Healthcare Expenditure per Capita (in USD)



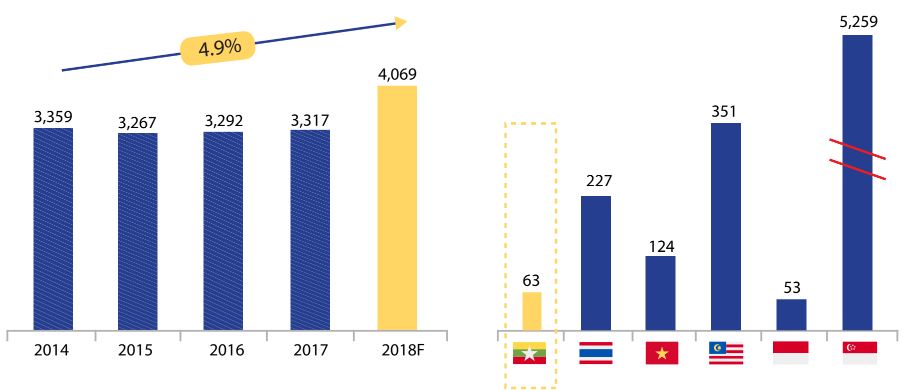
Source: World Bank, 2016 ; Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports, 2017

Healthcare expenditure on goods and services in the private sector is also observed to be rising as illustrated in **Figure 6** from USD 2.5 billion in 2015 to USD 3.1 billion in 2018. On average, the compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) is at 4.0% between 2014 and 2018. Total expenditure has been increasing primarily due to better healthcare awareness and rising investments in healthcare facilities such as hospitals and laboratories.

Without a comprehensive public insurance system in place, out-of-pocket-payments account for the bulk of the healthcare expenditure in Myanmar. Hence, the private healthcare expenditure for Myanmar has been comparable with its ASEAN counterparts. Myanmar's private healthcare expenditure amounted to USD 2.6 billion as of 2017 compared to USD 3.4 billion in Thailand, USD 6.1 billion in Vietnam, USD 5.6 billion in Malaysia and USD 6.3 billion in Singapore. With the Government liberalising the private insurance sector and with increasing public awareness towards healthcare, the total medical expenditure is expected to increase further and account for approximately 5% of GDP by 2025. While total healthcare expenditure has posted steady growth over the last five years, it remains significantly lower compared to its ASEAN neighbours such as Thailand and Vietnam. This is mainly due to the lack of comprehensive healthcare insurance and widespread access to healthcare services in Myanmar, especially in Tier 2 and 3 cities and rural areas.

The total healthcare expenditure of Myanmar in 2017 is USD 3.3 billion or USD 63 per capita which is higher than Indonesia, but much lower than some of the other ASEAN countries.

Figure 7: Myanmar Total Healthcare Expenditure (in USD million) and Benchmarking Total Healthcare Expenditure per Capita (in USD)



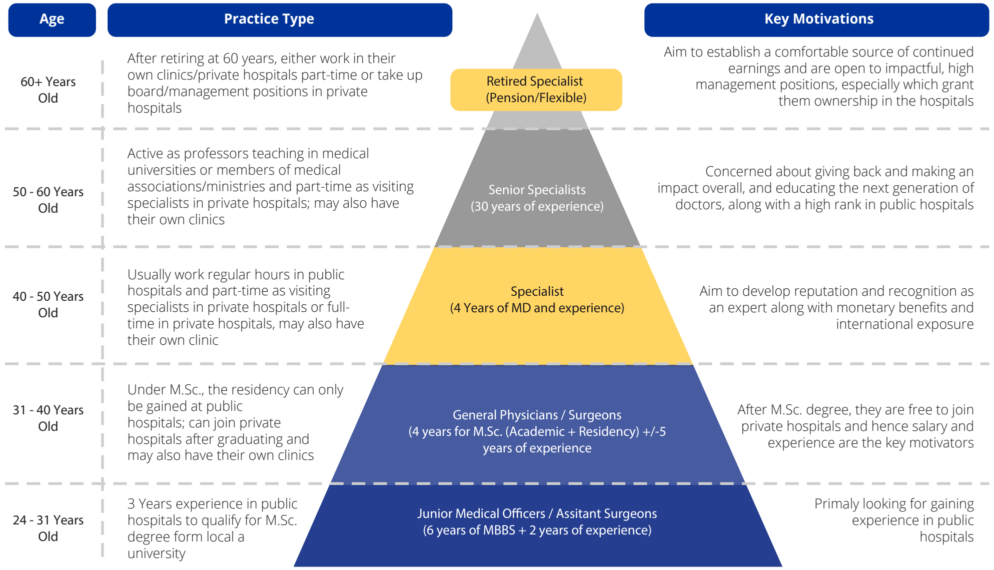
Source: World Bank , 2016; Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports, 2017

2.2 MANPOWER AND INFRASTRUCTURE

In Myanmar, patients are likely to have loyalty to a particular specialist rather than a hospital. Hence, patients tend to visit the hospitals where their preferred specialists would be visiting, especially for more serious cases. However, pricing remains the key influencing factor for bulk of the population due to the lack of insurance and limited affordability for private healthcare services. There are 34,256 doctors registered as of 2016, which is the latest available data from the Ministry of Health and Sports, with the total number increasing at a CAGR of 5.6% during the 2011–2016 period. Private doctors account for the majority of licensed doctors at 53%. However, a considerable number of doctors do not practice, and with emerging opportunities in other sectors often switch careers despite holding a valid medical license. The number of registered nurses is reported at 33,525 as of 2016. Myanmar still has fewer doctors per capita than other countries in Southeast Asia and has a shortage of well-trained doctors and nurses with many doctors completing their Master's degrees abroad.

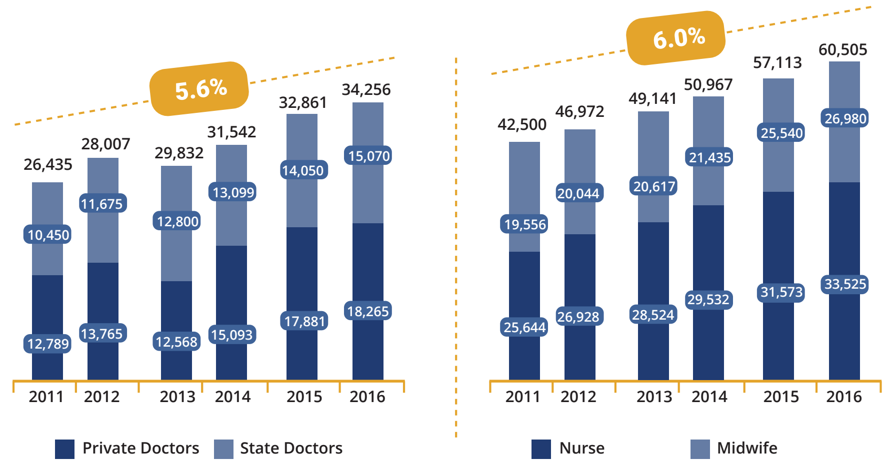
The Government has implemented the Myanmar Human Resources for Health Strategy and Nursing Skill Policy for 2018-2021 to overcome the shortage and recruit more doctors through the five government medical universities. In terms of implementation, since 2018, the Ministry has taken measures to meet the demand for more qualified medical practitioners by establishing new universities/training schools, increasing enrolment and revising the curriculum at the respective universities and training schools. Further, the Government plans to establish new nursing schools and universities in Nay Pyi Taw, Shwe Bo, Myaungmya and Haka Regions. In early 2019, the Nay Pyi Taw Training University was launched in collaboration with the Pinlon Group of Hospitals. In relation to the career path for doctors, a typical route is outlined in Figure 8.

Figure 8: Career Path of a Doctor in Myanmar



Source: Myanmar Ministry of Health & Sports, 2019; YCP Solidiance Analysis, 2019

Figure 9: Total Number of Licensed Doctors, Nurses and Midwives



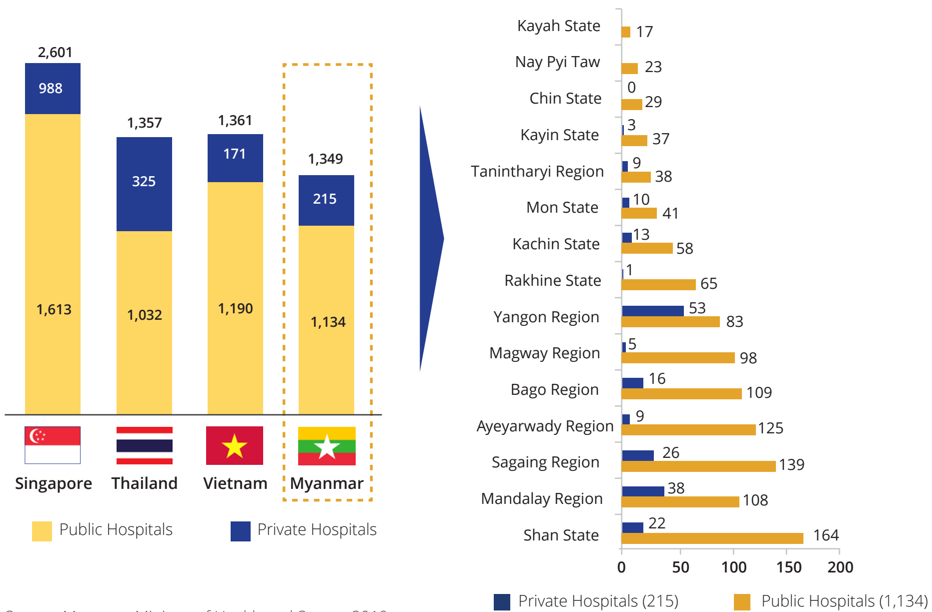
Source: Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports, 2016

The existing private hospitals in Myanmar are concentrated in the major Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities, supporting the country-wide presence of public hospitals.

Of the 215 private hospitals as of 2017, Yangon accounted for 25%, followed by Mandalay at 18% and Shan State at 10%.

On the other hand, for public hospitals, of the 1,134 hospitals registered nationwide, Shan State accounted for the highest share at 14%, followed by Sagaing Region at 12% and Ayeyarwady Region at 11% of the public hospitals in Myanmar.

Figure 10: Total Number of Hospitals and Regional Statistics 2017

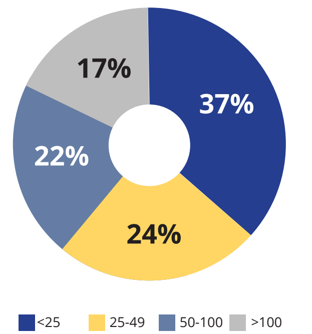


Source: Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports, 2019

Yangon has 53 registered private hospitals in operation currently, of which only nine have above 100 beds. ArYu Hospital and Pun Hlaing Hospitals are the only entities with foreign investments while all other hospitals are locally-owned and operated. Key upcoming hospitals in Yangon include Parkway Hospital, Ishii Hospital and Mitsubishi Yee Shin Hospital, all of which are expected to be launched before 2022. Private hospitals in Mandalay on the other hand, are relatively smaller compared to Yangon with most of the private hospitals in Mandalay having less than 50 beds. There are only five hospitals in Mandalay with over 100 beds. Another upcoming hospital in Mandalay will be Mingalar Hospital which is expected to open in 2020.

Figure 11: Yangon Private Hospitals Landscape

Yangon Private Hospitals by Number of Beds



# of Beds	# of Hospitals
<25	20
25-49	13
50-100	12
>100	9
Total	54

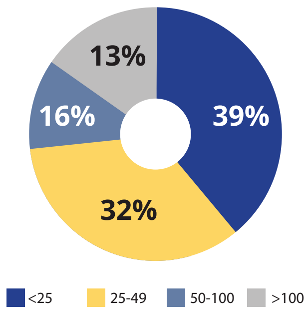
List of Existing Private Hospitals with >=100 beds in Yangon

#	Name	#of Beds
1	Grand Hanthar Hospital	700
2	Kan Thar Yar Hospital	300
3	Pinlon Hospital	300
4	Asia Royal Hospital	220
5	ArYu Hospital	200
6	Shwe Gon Dine Specialist Centre (SSC)	200
7	Sakura Hospital	150
8	Bahosi Hospital	120
9	Pun Hlaing Hospital	170
10	OSC Hospital	100
11	Shwe Baho Hospital	100
12	Victoria Hospital	100
13	Kwe Kabaw Hospital	100

Source: Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports, 2019

Figure 12: Mandalay Private Hospitals Landscape

Mandalay Private Hospitals by Number of Beds



# of Beds	# of Hospitals
<25	15
25-49	12
50-100	6
>100	5
Total	38

Source: Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports, 2019

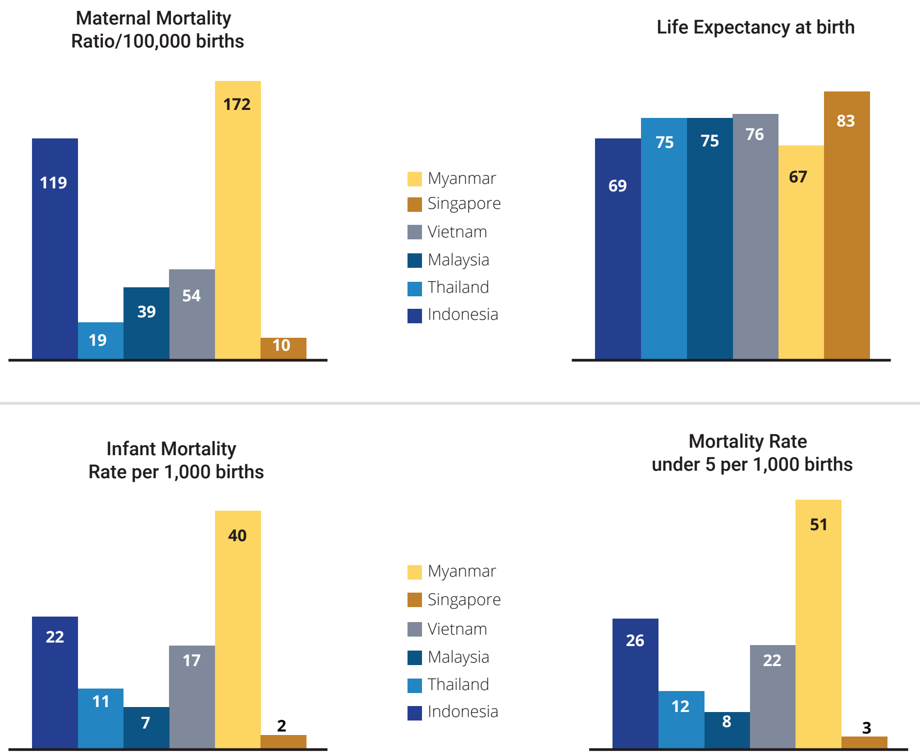
List of Existing Private Hospitals with >=100 beds in Mandalay

#	Name	#of Beds
1	Myo Taw (City) Hospital	300
2	Nyein Hospital	127
3	Royal Rose Hospital (Taw Win Hninsi Hospital)	120
4	Grand Mandalay Hospital	120
5	Mandalar Hospital	120
6	Taw Win Hospital	100
7	Kant Kaw Hospital	100

2.3 HEALTHCARE INDICATORS: DISEASE TRENDS

Average life expectancy is perhaps the most comprehensive indication of the quality of healthcare services in a country. Due to limited access to healthcare facilities and lower quality of healthcare services and facilities, Myanmar has a high mortality rate as well as a lower life expectancy. Average life expectancy in Myanmar is the lowest among other ASEAN countries with the average life expectancy estimated at 67 years as of 2016. This is a difference of about 10 years from other ASEAN countries, excluding Indonesia. Compared with neighbouring ASEAN countries, Myanmar has a very high maternal mortality rate, infant mortality rate, and mortality rate for children under 5 years of age.

Figure 13: Myanmar Healthcare Indicators



Source: Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports, 2016

A total of 425,000 deaths were recorded in 2018, 67% of which is accounted for by non-communicable diseases, making it a leading cause of mortality. Based on the World Health Organisation (WHO), total deaths are on a decline, but deaths from non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes have been increasing. 50% of all deaths in 2010 were due to non-communicable diseases and this has increased to more than 60% in 2018.

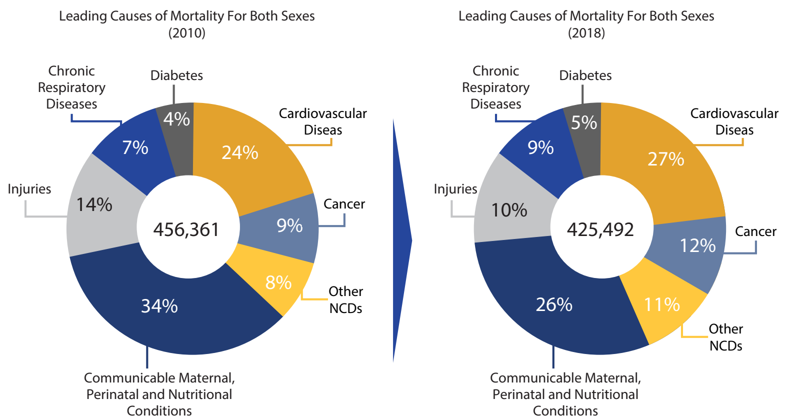
In particular, it is anticipated that the non-communicable diseases incidences will become more important due to an increase in average life expectancy and number of elderly people (population over 60 years old) in Myanmar in the future. The percentage of population over the age of 60 accounted for 8.9% of the total population in 2014 and is expected to rise to 12.2% in 2030. Therefore, private and public sector support required to address the rising trend of non-communicable diseases remains crucial.

2.4 FINANCING AGENT & **INSURANCE**

Private healthcare expenditure accounts for the majority of healthcare financing, whereas out of pocket accounts for 78% of total healthcare expenditure, amongst other financing agents.

According to the WHO, Myanmar has the highest out-of-pocket-payment (OPP) rates of healthcare spending in ASEAN at 73.9% as of 2015. The situation has gradually improved, with public hospitals providing a greater proportion of treatment free of charge. OPP is mainly for hospitalisation expenses because government insurance coverage is at MMK 20,000 (~USD 14) per day with a maximum of 60-day period of hospitalisation. Patients in Myanmar are responsible for medication expenses, as the Government's insurance scheme does not cover cost for outpatient services yet.

Figure 14: Leading Causes of Mortality in Myanmar



Source: Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports, 2018

The healthcare financing and insurance sector was liberalised in 2012, when a total of 12 local companies obtained licenses, including First National Insurance, IKBZ, Young Insurance Global, Grand Guardian and AYA Myanmar. However, in the 2018-19 fiscal year, the Insurance Business Regulatory Board (IBRB) has allowed foreign insurance companies to conduct business in Myanmar. In April 2019, five foreign companies – Prudential, AIA, Daiichi Life, Chubb, and Manulife have been authorised to establish a wholly foreign-owned insurance subsidiary, along with other foreign company joint ventures (JVs) that have been recently approved. Other foreign health insurer partnership examples are Cigna, Concorde, or Vanbreda, that partner with local hospitals to cater to expatriates.

The insurance sector is expected to develop rapidly as the Government opens the country's insurance market to foreign companies supported by gradual lifting of regulatory restrictions. With the entry of foreign companies, insurance services are likely to be improved with the influx of capital investments, new technology and operation knowledge. This will improve the delivery efficiency of insurance services and offer innovative products to customers. This initiative by the Government to allow foreign companies is aimed at improving consumer options, enhance awareness of insurances and to also offer reasonable consumer premiums.

2.5 **UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE** COVERAGE

The Ministry of Health and Sports plans to implement the Universal Health Coverage programme nationwide by 2030 and aims to improve access to healthcare via a more efficient referral system. There are three components of Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC):

- Population coverage
- Service delivery
- Financial protection

The successful implementation of the program faces numerous challenges, including shortage of medical staff, lack of proper medical equipment, weak healthcare infrastructure, and insufficient government funding.

2.6 **FOREIGN HEALTHCARE** PROVIDERS

Due to the lack of international quality healthcare services currently available in Myanmar, many affluent Myanmar citizens and expatriates prefer to fly to neighbouring countries, such as Thailand, Malaysia, India and Singapore, to receive medical treatment. Thailand is the preferred choice due to its proximity, similar culture, relatively lower costs compared to other countries, and the fact that it offers visa exemption to Myanmar nationals. Even though the majority of foreign investments is from Thailand, most of them only have representative offices to promote medical tourism to Thailand.

Some foreign hospitals that have invested in Myanmar are as follows:

Figure 15: FDI in Healthcare Sector in Myanmar

THAILAND INVESTMENTS IN MYANMAR

Bangkok Hospital is the first hospital to establish a representative office in Myanmar whereas Samitivej is the first hospital to set up a private clinic in Myanmar, followed by Bumrungrad's clinic in Yangon which is open for appointment services and medical check-ups. The key Thai investments in Myanmar are as follows:

BANGKOK HOSPITAL

In 2002, Sea Lion partnered with Bangkok Hospital to establish the Sea Lion Medical Referral Center, as a subsidiary of the Sea Lion Group. The representative office was established in Yangon to refer outbound patients to Bangkok for better healthcare services. Further, Sea Lion has also opened the N Health Myanmar Lab in a joint venture with N Health Asia and Bahosi Hospital to improve the standard of medical care for the people of Myanmar.

SAMITIVEJ HOSPITAL[v]

Samitivej Hospital signed a joint venture with Parami Hospital and opened a private clinic called Samitivej Parami Clinic, in February 2014. The clinic provides primary care and emergency (24/7) care services, hospitalisation, medical training and corporate services. In July 2018, Samitivej International Clinic was opened to provide primary care as well as follow-up care to Myanmar patients that underwent treatment in Bangkok. The clinic also provides health check-up programmes.

BUMRUNGRAD CLINIC YANGON[vi]

Bumrungrad Clinic Yangon is a partnership between Bumrungrad International and Y.I.M Services. The clinic provides appointment services to assist patients in liaising with their hospital in Thailand. Currently, Myanmar patients account for one of the highest non-Thai patients' demands for Bumrungrad Hospital in Bangkok. Other services include general medical check-up in addition to doctor consultation and vaccination.

PHYATHAI HOSPITAL[vii]

In 2017, Phyathai Hospital partnered with SML to set up a representative centre. The centre is equipped with general medicine doctors and specialist doctors who are able to provide medical consultation to Myanmar patients. The centre is also established to exchange medical knowledge between two countries and aims to offer medical consultation through video calls in the future.

THONBURI HEALTHCARE GROUP (THG)[viii]

THG, a major Thai hospital, is the most recent Thai investor in the healthcare sector in Myanmar, and has partnered with a local company, Ga Mone Pwint Co. Ltd. (GMP) in 2018, to set up a hospital in Yangon. GMP is currently one of the leading companies in Myanmar and was founded in 1991 to trade used cars, lubricant, car tires, automotive batteries and household commodities. In 1996, GMP expanded into retail businesses and is now operating 5 departmental stores with shopping centres across Yangon. The partnership has led to the establishment of ArYu International Hospital in Yangon. ArYu Hospital consists of 11 floors and 200 inpatient beds, located in Tamwe, Yangon.

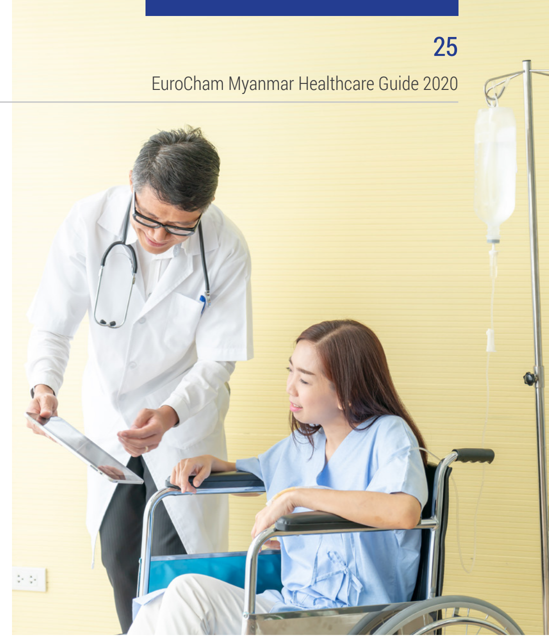
SINGAPORE INVESTMENTS IN MYANMAR

Singapore, despite being the second largest foreign investor for healthcare, has only one hospital that has confirmed plans to establish a hospital in Yangon. Others merely act as a patient referral centre.

TAN TOCK SENG HOSPITAL	Tan Tock Seng Hospital partnered with Mascots in 2005 to set up a referral centre in Myanmar. Despite the higher cost of treatment in Singapore, Tan Tock Seng Hospital was treating more than 2,500 Myanmar patients in FY2008-2009, which led to the establishment of the representative office in Myanmar.
MOUNT ALVERNIA[ix]	In 2015, Mount Alvernia signed a partnership agreement with Mascots to operate a representative office in Myanmar. Its operations in Myanmar are limited, with the representative office participating in healthcare events or medical conferences to create greater awareness among Myanmar citizens.
ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIAL GROUP[x]	In 2017, Asian American Medical Group in collaboration with Pinlon Hospital and 30th Street Clinic opened Myanmar's first dedicated gastrointestinal and liver centre for the purpose of tackling the increase in a number of incidences of liver diseases in Myanmar.
PARKWAY[xi]	Parkway is the only Singaporean hospital with confirmed plans to establish a hospital in Yangon. Parkway Healthcare IndoChina Pte. Ltd. (52%) has a partnership with Macondrav Holdings Pte. Ltd. (10.5%), AMMK Medicare Company (21.5%) and Global Star Co. Ltd. (16%) with the planned hospital expected to be completed by 2022. It has targeted a capital of USD 70 million in investment to build a 250-bed hospital.

OTHER INVESTMENTS IN MYANMAR

Other investors are also keen on establishing more hospitals in Myanmar due to the relatively high demand from outbound patients who are flying to Thailand, India, and Singapore for better healthcare services. For example, a partnership between the Pun Hlaing Hospital which is owned by FMI Group (60%) and Indonesia's Lippo Group (40%) was signed in 2015 to establish a chain of Pun Hlaing Siloam Hospitals. The JV has allocated a target capital of ~USD 420 million investment to open a total of 12 hospitals in the next 5 years with the aim to encourage Myanmar's outbound patients to seek healthcare services domestically[xii]. Currently its existing hospital in Yangon has a capacity of 170 beds and it is located 20 kilometres from downtown Yangon, while the Pun Hlaing Siloam Clinic in downtown Yangon has seen an uptake in patients due to the convenience and availability of key visiting specialists.



2.7 GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

The Government has made several efforts to develop Myanmar's healthcare sector in the last few years. In particular, the Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS), through the healthcare development plans, has outlined priority areas to meet future demands of healthcare needs in the industry.

Table 2: Key Health Development Plans in Myanmar

Existing Health Development Plans in Myanmar	Key Objectives	Implications
Myanmar Health Vision 2030 (2001–2030)	• The MOHS's main focus areas include ensuring universal health coverage, reducing the burden of communicable diseases, ensuring the availability of quality medicines and equipment, amongst others. • In addition, it also aims to enhance public-private partnerships, alternative health financing, supply chain management, community engagement along with review of healthcare policies.	• The MHV has been implemented since 2001 and structured with long-term planning for every 10 years and short-term planning for every 5 years. The plan has 9 goals, 28 strategies and action plans. • The first 10-Years-Plan was completed in 2011 with highlighted outcomes such as 1) provided general health screening on township levels and 2) expanded/opened a total of 43 hospitals and healthcare facilities, and second long-term plan is national comprehensive development plan.

	Key Objectives	Implications
National Comprehensive Development Plan (2011–2020)	• The MOHS has adopted the policies to uplift the health status and ensuring health and longevity for the citizens, to strive for sustainable development of the healthcare services in accordance with international standards by improving the determinants of health, implementing health development programs appropriately according to international declarations, agreements and commitments, and to accelerate the health sector development in line with the ASEAN Economic Community.	• The plan has introduced new medium- and long-term planning tools based on reforms since 2011. The Framework for Economic and Social Reforms (FESR) identifies policy priorities for the period 2012 to 2015. • It acts as a framework for the fifth Five-Year-Plan (2011-12 to 2015-16). However, financial regulations and public finances are still in need of further reform.
National Health Plan (2017–2021)	• The main aim of the NHP is to extend access to a Basic Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) to the entire population by 2020 while increasing financial protection. The Basic EPHS emphasises the critical role of primary healthcare and the delivery of essential services and interventions at township level and below, starting with the community. • Considerable efforts will need to go into the strengthening of the health system to support effective delivery of quality services and interventions. These efforts will largely be organised along four pillars, namely human resources, infrastructure, service delivery and health financing.	• The plan was finalised in December 2016 and covers a period of four fiscal years, from 2017-18 to 2020-21. • Some highlighted outcomes will include 1) finalised contents of the Basic EPHS, and 2) increased investment in the expansion of townships' capacity to deliver the Basic EPHS by improving service availability and readiness in the first 70 townships. The second-year NHP (2018-2019) is currently in the review process.

3 MYANMAR FOREIGN INVESTMENT REGULATORY LANDSCAPE

3.1 GENERAL LEGAL / INVESTMENT STRUCTURE REGULATIONS

3.1.1 MYANMAR INVESTMENT LAW

The Myanmar Investment Law (MIL) was enacted on 18 October 2016 which consolidated and replaced the Foreign Investment Law 2012 and Citizen Investment Law 2013. The purpose of the new law is to simplify and clarify investment application processes and offering tax breaks, incentives as well as rights protection for businesses[xiii].

The Investment Law is underpinned by the Myanmar Investment Rules 2017 (Investment Rules), and a variety of notifications including Notification 13/2017 dated 1 April 2017 and Notification 15/2017 dated 10 April 2017.

Table 3: Myanmar Investment Law – Key Regulatory Amendments

Key Change	Description
Ease of foreign Investment	Foreign investors are permitted to own 100% of businesses which are not on restricted or prohibited lists such as Healthcare related services.
Investment Screening	An investor may submit an investment screening application to the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) for non-binding guidance on whether a proposed investment: • Requires an MIC Permit application. • Requires Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) approval prior to Permit issuance. • Is prohibited or restricted under the MIL and related notifications. • Is in a promoted Sector under the MIL and related notifications.
Devolvement of Authority for Endorsement Application	Applications with investments less than USD 5 million in non-strategic and non-restricted sectors will be handled at the State/Regional level, with close involvement of the state/regional DICA officials.
Removal of Blanket Incentives	Businesses may be granted tax exemptions if investments are in promoted sectors – the duration of tax exemption is contingent upon the areas in which business set up operations. • Less developed regions (Zone 1) grant 7 years of tax exemption; • Moderately developed regions (Zone 2) grant 5 years of tax exemption; • Adequately developed regions (Zone 3) grant 3 years of tax exemption.
Long-term Land Lease	Foreign investors that invest under the Myanmar Investment Law scheme can lease land from the Government for 50 years and then extend it for another 20 years with two 10-year extensions. Lease of land must be situated at industrial zones or permissible area for business.
Compensation for Expropriation	Expropriation of investments is allowed under the following conditions: a) Necessary for the public interest; b) Carried out in a non-discriminatory manner; c) Carried out in accordance with due process of law; d) On payment of prompt, fair and adequate compensation.
Grievance Mechanism	MIC will establish and manage a grievance mechanism to inquire and resolve issues before escalation to legal disputes and to prevent the occurrence of disputes.

Source: Myanmar Investment Law, 2016

3.1.2 MYANMAR INVESTMENT COMMISSION

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) was formed under The Myanmar Investment Law. It is a government-appointed body which streamlines and approves investment proposals and comprises high-level figures, senior officials and experts from government ministries and non-governmental bodies. The MIC also issues investment-related notifications and orders. Investors must submit a proposal to the MIC if the investments are[xiv]:

- Activities essential to the national strategy.
- Large capital-intensive investment projects.
- Likely to cause a large impact on the environment and local community.
- Use state-owned land and buildings.
- Designated by the Government as necessary to submit the proposal to the committee.

3.1.3 MYANMAR COMPANIES LAW

The Myanmar Companies Law, enacted in December 2017 replaces the older version enacted in 1914. Key points of the Companies Law include[xv]:

- Foreign investors will be able to own up to 35% of a Myanmar company before it is considered a foreign company. This enables investors to invest in local companies that previously were not able to accept foreign investment, and indirectly permits foreign investment in companies listed on Yangon Stock Exchange[xvi];
- The replacement of the inflexible Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association with a corporate Constitution.
- A company must have at least one resident director, but that director does not need to be a Myanmar citizen and allow a board of directors to determine the form of consideration for an issuance of shares.
- Purchase shares in a "Myanmar Company" without obtaining advanced permission from the DICA.
- Companies must register on Myanmar's Companies Online portal, called MyCo[xvii].

3.2 HEALTHCARE-RELATED RULES AND REGULATIONS

3.2.1 HEALTHCARE-RELATED LAWS

The Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports, the Food and Drugs Administration, as well as the Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association have together drafted a new Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Import bill. The bill has been submitted to the Parliament in October 2019 and is expected to be enacted in 2020 with the aim of creating a legal framework to streamline the registration processes and enforce legal measures against illegal or counterfeit imports[xviii]. Key existing healthcare-related laws include the Medical Degree Act (1916), the National Drug Law (1992), the Private Health Care Services Law (2007), the Medical Act (1915), the Body Organs Donation Law (2015), the Myanmar Red Cross Law (2015), the Blood and Blood Products Law (2003), and the Myanmar Medical Council Law (2015), which address a wide range of healthcare regulatory issues.

3.2.2 LICENSING OF FOREIGN HOSPITALS, CLINICS AND LABORATORIES, PHARMACIES AND MEDICAL DEVICES IN MYANMAR

Based on the latest Myanmar Investment Law, foreign operators are allowed to own 100% of an entity. An application to do so is to be submitted to the MOHS as the Ministry acts as a principal regulator for considering and approving all licensing of private healthcare service providers. Details of licensing are as follows:

FOREIGN **HOSPITALS**	• Foreign investors looking to establish a private hospital in Myanmar require permission from the Myanmar Investment Commission. • Need approval from Ministry of Industry for construction plans, environmental assessment and equipment imports. • After getting approval from MIC and Ministry of Industry (MOI), Ministry of Health and Sport (MOHS) reviews all the compliance with laws and standards in order to issue the license. • The MOHS allows to obtain separate license for Private General Hospital (up to 22 specialities) and Private Specialist Hospital (can offer only one speciality).

FOREIGN **CLINICS AND LABORATORIES**	• Foreign private clinics and laboratories require permission from the Myanmar Investment Commission, similar to foreign hospitals. • Investments of more than USD 5 million will be directly handled by the MOHS, while investment of less than USD 5 million will need to be approved at the state/regional level, with close involvement of the state/regional DICA officials. • The state/region Supervision Committee will scrutinise the license application for permit of private general practice clinics and laboratories. • The central board may issue/deny license after reviewing the application submitted by the state/region Committee. • Private clinics are not allowed to offer in-patients services.

PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	The primary legislation for pharmaceuticals is the National Drug Law 1992. The Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA), organised under the Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS), is the main regulatory authority for pharmaceuticals in Myanmar. From February 2018 onwards, an online platform (https://user.dcdfdamm.online) has been established for receiving applications for new pharmaceutical product registrations and renewals, with the key steps for registration are as follows[xix]: • The list of products need to be submitted and the the assessment fees of MMK 300,000 have to be paid upon obtaining the FDA letter for fees remittance. • An approval in the form of an FDA Permit and Trade Permit needs to be requested for importation of samples, together with the submission of a bank receipt for payment, payment confirmation letter, and lists and details of the sample drugs to be imported. • Samples have to be submitted to the FDA within 1 week from the date of clearance at the port of entry. • Form I needs to be submitted and the registration has to be completed online. Upon confirmation, the FDA will request the applicant to print and submit the Form I as well as a dossier with administrative data, product and quality information including country specific licenses for imported products, certificates of pharmaceutical products in line with WHO's format, product information (name, strength, dosage), labelling, package inserts, composition, clinical particulars, blister/strips, marketing authorisation, patient information leaflet, and manufacturer details, amongst other information. The ubmission needs to be made within 60 days of being notified by the FDA. • Laboratory test fees for the samples have to be paid after a dossier submission. • Upon approval, the FDA will issue a letter to the applicant to remit the registration fees of MMK 500,000 to be submitted within 90 days of being notified. • The applicant (authorised company representative) has to request an appointment for collecting the drug registration certificate within 60 days of the payment at the FDA office. The drug registration certificate is valid for 5 The registration process can take between two to three years depending on the documentation required. After registration, the pharmaceutical products can be sold in the market through a licensed distributor. The registration number is required to be stated on the box for prescription drugs. Pharmaceutical products are subject to an 1.5% import duty and a 2% withholding tax, but are exempted from the 5% commercial tax. The FDA has approved 94 types of registered overseas pharmaceutical drugs in 2018[xx].

MEDICAL DEVICES

The FDA regulates import and distribution of medical devices in Myanmar. If the medical device does not appear in the List of Exempt Medical Devices[xxi], it is necessary to obtain an import recommendation from the FDA prior to the import license from the Ministry of Commerce.

An "Import Recommendation" or "Import Notification" must be obtained from the FDA by submitting an application which often has complex documentation requirements and long processing times. Applications for registration of medical devices have to be filed at the FDA by a local representative, usually the authorised distributor of a foreign manufacturer. Import notifications can only be obtained by a company with a presence in Myanmar and with a license to import. Requested documents include a letter of authorisation from a foreign manufacturer, free sale/export certificates from the country of origin, ISO Certificates, manufacturing flow-charts, and a business license of the local representative. Most devices only need approval and no registration, with the exception of devices such as MRI machines, CT scanners and X-ray machines. Imports of disposal medical devices and rapid diagnostic test kits are also subject to an import recommendation requirement[xxii]. The Medical Device Law is expected to be launched in 2020 and will comply with the ASEAN Medical Device Directive.

NO OBJECTION LETTER

It is important to note that in Myanmar there are some restrictions when it comes to the importation of pharmaceuticals (both OTC and ETC). Only one importer can import one molecule under one brand name. When a brand-owner wants to change importers, the incumbent importer needs to provide a so-called "No Objection Certificate" or "NOC" to the Food and Drug Authority. In case the incumbent importer refuses to sign this NOC, it is very hard (and often not possible) for the brand-owner to change importers (and distributors). It is important to make a conscious decision when it comes to importer selection. Working with a large (foreign) regional or global distributor provides investors with higher certainty and more control over their brands.

IMPORT OF **MRI MACHINES, CT SCANNERS, AND X-RAY MACHINES**

Other rules related to the import of radioactive materials and irradiation apparatus is governed by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). It is the main regulatory body for securing permission to export, import and use any radioactive material or irradiation apparatus. The DAE is currently drafting regulations for a Nuclear Safety Law and a Nuclear Research and Application Law. The procedure to receive a license is shown in **Figure 16**.

Figure 16: License and Registration for Radioactive Materials and Irradiation Apparatus

1 Prior Permission Form Process

- Importation/exportation of any radioactive material requires the company to apply to the DAE with the prior Permission Form (DAE-5) as well as the Radioactive Source License Application Form to receive permission.
- The department may permit or refuse after scrutinising the application in accordance with a detailed description of radioactive materials, designed approved authority certificate, license certificate form the country of origin, a radiation protection programme, radiation worker personel details and addresses where the radioactive materials are to be used.

2 Registration Certificate

- A person in possession of any kind of radioactive material shall again apply to the DAE with an application form for a registration certificate (DAE-1) in order to obtain the registration certificate (DAE-2) after having inspected the radioactive material by the department.
- Once the registration certificate has been approved, if desirous of utilising, producing, storing, distributing or selling radioactive material, the company may apply to DAE with application form (DAE-3) in order to obtain the license.

3 License Application

- Whoever applies for a lincese must undertake the following steps:
  1) Appoint a radiation protection office or carry out the radiation protection programme;
  2) Place radiation protection eqipment or management of the completed programme;
  3) Place enough administration for an environmental pollution programme.
- Moreover, the DAE will check prior permissions of licenses and conduct regular inspections of a work-site employing radioactive materials or an irradiating apparatus under license.

4 Re-export License Application

- In order to retrun radioactive material or irradiation apparatus after usage to the original country, a person shall apply again the form (DAE-5). Then the department has to inspect the radioactive material or irradiation apparatus to issue the re-exportation license (DAE-6) and a Transport Certificate.
- Radioactive material or any irradiation apparatus should be transported together with a person who recieved proper training according to IAEA safety transport regulations.

3.2.3 REGISTRATION AND TAXATION FOR FOREIGN DOCTORS

In setting up hospitals or clinics, it should be noted that foreign doctors are allowed to practice in Myanmar. The engagement will be limited by time, place of practice and type of speciality. According to the Myanmar Medical Council, there are over 100 registered foreign doctors operating in Myanmar. Most of them are specialists and short-term consultants. The registration process is shown in the below[xxii]:

Table 4: Overview of Registration and Taxation Requirements for Foreign Doctors

REGISTRATION	• All Medical practitioners (local & foreign) must be registered with the Myanmar Medical Council (MMC). • Foreign doctors are granted a license for a maximum of one year. Licensing fees for one year are MMK 2,400,000 and must be paid in quarterly instalments.
TAXATION	• No special Personal Income Tax (PIT) scheme, tax incentives or exemptions exist for foreign medical staff. • According to the Myanmar Income Tax Law, foreigners who reside in Myanmar for at least 183 days during a fiscal year are considered as resident foreigners. • PIT rate for non-resident foreigners is 25% (flat) on the monthly salary, while resident foreigners need to pay from 0%-25% at a progressive rate.
REQUIREMENT	• Foreign medical practitioners shall apply to obtain the General Medical Practitioner License and Special Practitioner License. It will be limited by time, place of practice, type of surgery and speciality applied for. • The foreign practitioners are required to be recommended by local doctors from the same speciality upon application. • There is no limitation for foreign doctors based on nationality type. However, they should obtain accredited international qualifications and good standing certificate conferred by their own country.
NEXT STEP	• In order to give approval, the MMC designs and conducts a registration exam for all foreign doctors. However in practice, the exam is not essential if foreign doctors have the above-prescribed documentation. • Furthermore, they must apply for the stay-permit and work-permit under the Ministry of Immigration. The work permit usually takes 2 to 4 weeks.

3.2.4 ACTIVITIES PERMITTED FOR 100% FOREIGN OWNERSHIP

The MIC Notification No. 15 /2017 sets out the business activities based on their permitted forms of ownership, and further relaxed laws relating to healthcare investment. Economic activities which are not included in the notification can be carried out with 100% foreign investment, although many of these activities require the approval of the relevant ministry.

3.2.5 ACTIVITIES NOT PERMITTED FOR FOREIGNERS

SECTOR	DESCRIPTION
Healthcare establishment of quarantine stations for exportation and importation of animals (livestock breeding). The Veterinary Department shall undertake to inspect animals and issue the Animal Quarantine Certificate.	These investment activities may apply to health assessments carried out at customs, as well as the manufacturing of certain pharmaceutical products. They are not permitted to be carried out by foreign investors.

3.2.6 ACTIVITIES PERMITTED FOR JOINT VENTURES

SECTOR	DESCRIPTION
Healthcare manufacturing and domestic distribution of chemicals based on available natural resources.	These investment activities are allowed only in the form of a joint venture with any citizen-owned entity or any Myanmar citizen.

3.2.7 INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE RELEVANT MINISTRY

The following healthcare activities require the approval of the relevant ministry:

SECTOR	DESCRIPTION
Healthcare manufacturing and distribution of medicines which are produced by using narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.	Investment activities to obtain the approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
Manufacturing of vaccine	Investment activities to obtain the approval of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry.
Private hospital services Private general health services Private mobile health services Private care shelter services Private traditional hospital Private traditional clinic Manufacturing private traditional medicine and medical product Manufacturing of traditional drugs Trading of traditional pharmaceutical raw materials (herbal items) Traditional herbal cultivation and production Traditional medicine research and laboratory	Investment activities to obtain the approval of Ministry of Health and Sports.

SECTOR	DESCRIPTION
Traditional medicine research and laboratory	This business shall be carried out together with the Research and Development Division of the Traditional Medicine Department or experts from the Department of Medical Research.
Research on vaccines and diagnostic test kit production	This business shall be carried out together with the Vaccine Research Division of the Department of Medical Research.
Laboratory services for the animal diseases diagnosis	Investment activities to obtain the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

3.2.8 ACTIVITIES PROMOTED BY MYANMAR

The MIC Notification 13/2017 lists several promoted sectors. Investors in these sectors may benefit from tax discounts including exemption from corporate income tax, customs duties and the right to deduct depreciation/ expenses from assessable income. Sectors relevant to healthcare include[xxvi]:

- Production of medicine, chemical products for medicine and botanical products
- Production of chemical items
- Production of traditional medicine
- Production of medical equipment and supply
- Hospital service
- Medical laboratory service
- Traditional hospital service
- Private clinic service
- Manufacturing of veterinary medicine
- Science research and development projects for agriculture and breeding
- Research for medical education and medicine
- Research for industrial development, engineering and technology
- Research on traditional medicine and laboratory service

4 INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Ministry of Health and Sports regularly advertises open tenders, providing opportunities to both local and foreign healthcare providers.

4.1 POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOREIGN COMPANIES

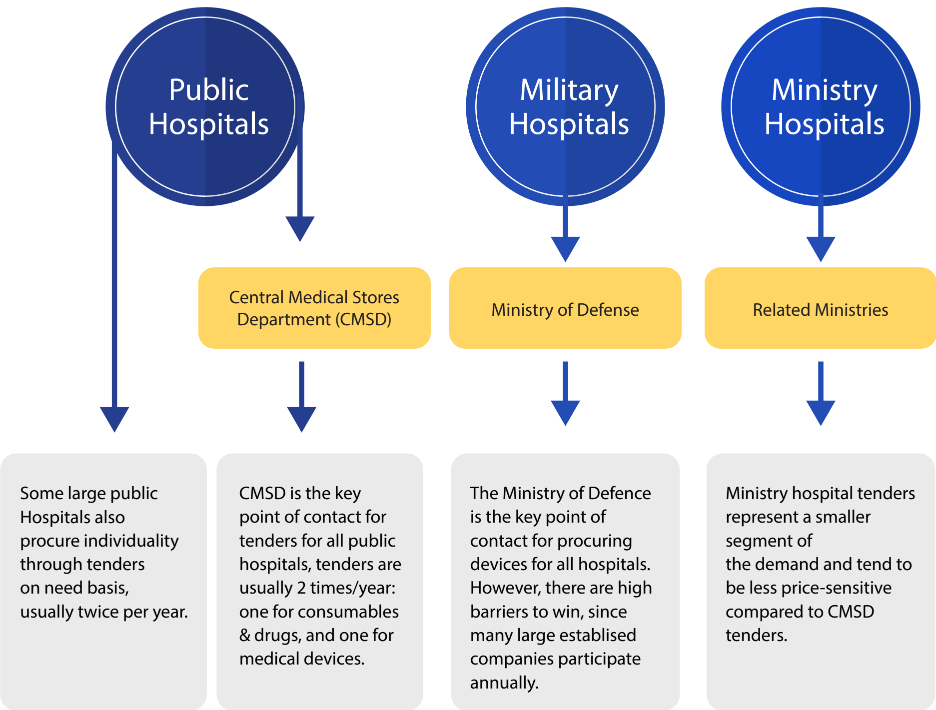
Table 5: Potential Opportunities for Foreign Companies

INVESTMENT AREA	DESCRIPTION
Healthcare **Equipment**	Demand for better healthcare equipment is on the rise driven by new hospital operators establishing their presence in Myanmar to cater to a growing predominantly young population who are more susceptible to lifestyle-related non-communicable diseases. This leads to a need for early detection and prevention techniques. The Government has been procuring medical equipment from international brands through the tenders aimed at upgrading equipment across public hospitals. However, the penetration of advanced devices such as PET-CT Scan remains limited with only two hospitals in Myanmar having a PET-CT scan machine installed.
Healthcare & Pharmaceutical Supplies	With rising penetration of foreign hospitals, expansion of local and public hospitals, as well as the pharmacy chains market which largely remains untapped, demand for pharmaceuticals remains high. Further, well-known European brands are popular among Burmese consumers due to the belief that overseas brands have higher quality. However, with the Trademark Law and Patent Law only recently approved in early 2019, the pharmaceutical industry remains dominated by illegal imports. Although the FDA has attempted to tackle this issue, no effective measures have been implemented yet.
Healthcare **Services**	With rising competition from private hospitals in Yangon, there is an opportunity to cater to patients in Upper Myanmar, which remain underserved. Diagnostic laboratory chains will offer a higher and faster market-penetration rate compared to hospitals due to the smaller land size and facility areaS, and investment required. This simplifies market-penetration, early detection of demand, and easier access in Tier 2 cities.
Healthcare **Training**	There is currently a shortage of qualified nurses and medical professionals in Myanmar. Therefore, vocational training institutes or specialised medical training providers have the opportunity to partner with local hospitals in Myanmar to upgrade the local skillset and experience.
Insurance & Financing Services	With the Government allowing foreign insurance companies to enter the market to provide greater variety and lower premiums for the people in Myanmar, there is a significant opportunity for foreign investors in this newly opened segment.

4.2 INFORMATION ON TENDERS

The Central Medical Stores Department (CMSD) under the Ministry of Health and Sports is the entity responsible for announcing tenders related to the public hospitals in Myanmar – one for consumables and drugs and one for medical equipment. The overview of public tenders is shown below[xxvi]:

Figure 17: Overview of Public Tenders by Type



There are periodic tenders from the Ministry of Health and Sports, but in practice, many of them are fairly limited, particularly for multinationals. For most European firms keen on entering the market, having a local presence scouting for private sector and government opportunities is invaluable.

To cater to the rising domestic demand, many international suppliers such as General Electric, Siemens, Philips, Carestream, Shimadzu, or Toshiba have opted to enter the market through local distributors. Due to the large project sizes, competition is very high for public tenders.

5 CHALLENGES AND OUTLOOK

The healthcare sector in Myanmar presents significant opportunities for investors driven by the rising population, gradual increase in disposable income and higher general awareness towards healthcare, supported by the policies implemented by the Government such as an increasing healthcare budget and the liberalisation of the insurance sector. However, investors also need to be aware of the potential challenges that arise with any investment opportunity, especially in Myanmar, a market with a rapidly developing economic and regulatory landscape.

5.1 CHALLENGES

On a macroeconomic level, the upcoming elections scheduled to be held in November 2020 will lead to some level of uncertainty for investors, as experienced during the last election cycle which led to a slight decline in GDP growth.

Additionally, from a demographic perspective, over 60% of the population is residing in rural areas. As a result, the Government's aim to fully roll out the universal healthcare coverage by 2030 will require significant efforts and investments.

Investors will also face competition against local healthcare providers who tend to have a better understanding of the local culture, language, and consumer insights, being able to meet consumer demands better.

Corruption risk is high, with Myanmar placing 132nd out of 180 in Transparency International's 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index (only Cambodia scores lower within ASEAN). The healthcare sector is not immune to this, and there are risks in licencing and import procedures, inter alia.

The hospital segment has room for improvement in terms of quality and shortages of technology, R&D, structured processes and skillset, especially compared to their Thai and Singaporen counterparts. Private sector hospitals also vary considerably in quality, while facing limited government engagement and oversight[xxvii].

Major challenges for private hospitals include a lack of human resources, an underdeveloped insurance market, and difficulties related to pricing quality services at an affordable level. Gradually, many of these challenges will be addressed, such as through improved education for healthcare workers and liberalisation of the insurance market.

For the pharmaceutical industry, the lack of visibility on the implementation timeline for the newly enacted patent law (March 2019) and low-quality pharmaceutical imports poses a crucial challenge[xxviii]. The Government has put in place measures to ensure quality of pharmaceutical products, wherein the quality control assurance is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. However, inspections are usually more frequently made in local factories as compared to imported goods.

As with pharmaceuticals, most medical devices are imported rather than produced domestically. The Food and Drug Administration is responsible for approving imports, though the process can be somewhat arduous, which the Government has been working to resolve. In August 2018, it was announced that medical device imports would not face commercial taxes collected by the Customs Department[xxix]. The new Medical Device Law - to be enacted in 2020 - is also expected to streamline registration processes.

Imports are likely to dominate in the near future. European companies face strong competition from international firms, including Japanese, Chinese and American companies. Although import rules have been eased, the process of bringing products to the market is still challenging, in large part due to often limited distribution channels. Regulatory standards and requirements remain weak, though medical devices are regulated by the FDA, while imports fall under the Ministry of Commerce.

Other challenges such as infrastructure and irregular power supply may affect businesses, especially the pharmaceutical industry where the products require different temperatures for different types of products with the cold storage logistics and warehousing segment still at a nascent stage in Myanmar with few providers.

5.2 OUTLOOK

Recent laws and notifications have lifted many restrictions on foreign investments. The Government has been putting in efforts to improve the condition of infrastructure and power supply and increasing healthcare budget allocation, to further attract foreign investments. With the increase in disposable income and a growing middle class, there is a rising demand for better quality healthcare services and goods in Myanmar.

According to the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industrial Enterprise, Myanmar's imports of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment was worth ~USD 400 million in 2018 with the local production only meeting approximately 10% of the domestic demand[xxx]. There are a few local companies who produce pharmaceuticals, but prescriptions are most often for foreign medications. In relation to medical devices and equipment, foreign brands hold a significant market share with limited local presence. Additionally, the limited number of healthcare professionals and facilities may at times lead to service that is below international standards. It also increases the wait time for patients seeking treatment, who then turn towards international healthcare service providers for better and more efficient patient experience, presenting investment opportunities for foreign healthcare service providers.

With the lack of capital and R&D, public hospitals in rural areas are not equipped with modern healthcare equipment and technology. Additionally, the lack of proper infrastructure facilities acts as a deterrent in further growth. The Government intends to reduce the disparity between urban and rural facilities while improving the overall performance. However, this requires a significant amount of time to be resolved.

The outlook for the healthcare industry remains positive despite various challenges. The relaxation of investment laws, the upcoming Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Law in 2020, growing demand due to rising health awareness and consumer spending power, along with positive changes in the insurance industry, present significant opportunities for foreign investors in the healthcare sector in Myanmar.

6 INDUSTRY CONTACTS

6.1 GOVERNMENT OFFICES CONTACTS

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & SPORTS

The Ministry of Health & Sports is the focal Ministry for the healthcare sector.

Mailing Address
4 Zeya Htani Rd, Nay Pyi Taw

Contact
(+95) 411189
(+95) 431080
(+95) 4431369
www.moh.gov.mm

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible primarily for ensuring the safety and quality of drugs and medical devices.

Mailing Address
Pyigyi Zayyar Road
(In front of Sabei Housing),
Zayyar Thiri Ward, Zabu Thiri
Township, Nay Pyi Taw

Contact
(+95) 67 403 609
(+95) 40317
www.fdamyanmar.gov.mm

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

The trading of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment can only be conducted with an export/import license issued by the Ministry of Commerce. Licenses for most items are issued in Yangon, while some are issued only in Nay Pyi Taw.

Mailing Address
Nay Pyi Taw
Director General
Department of Trade
Ministry of Commerce
Building No. 3, Office Compound,
Nay Pyi Taw

Contact
Nay Pyi Taw
(+95) 658102
(+95) 658103

MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS AND FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS

The Directorate of Investment and Company Administration and the Myanmar Investment Commission are the lead government bodies for foreign business incorporation in Myanmar. Both fall under the authority of the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Economic Relations. Companies need to be aware of procedural updates issued by the MIC in order to successfully navigate the legal aspect of investment.

DIRECTORATE OF INVESTMENT AND COMPANY ADMINISTRATION (DICA); MYANMAR INVESTMENT COMMISSION (MIC)

Mailing Address
Directorate of Investment and Company Administration
Ministry of National Planning and Economic Relations
Building No. 32, Office Compound, Nay Pyi Taw

Address: No.1, Thitsar Road,
Yankin Township, Yangon

Contact
(+95) 658102
(+95) 658103

MINISTRY OF PLANNING, FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

The Customs Department is an arm of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry.

Mailing Address
No.(132), Strand Road,
Kyauktada Township, Yangon

Contact
(+95) 01 379 423
(+95) 379 426

6.2 OTHER RELEVANT ASSOCIATIONS

MYANMAR MEDICAL COUNCIL (MMC)

The Myanmar Medical Council (MMC) is responsible for the recognition of medical degrees offered by local and foreign medical institutions. MMC compiles, keeps and sometimes publishes lists of registered medical practitioners and licensed medical practitioners.

Mailing Address
No. 123, Nat Mauk Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Contact
Tel: 09 45684 4445
Fax: (+95) 01 546709
www.myanmarmedicalcouncil.org

MYANMAR PHARMACEUTICALS AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT ENTREPRENEUR ASSOCIATION (MPMEEA)

Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneur Association (MPMEEA) is the association of all entrepreneurs who are actively involved with pharmaceuticals, medical instruments, hospital equipment, and healthcare consultancy. They are the manufacturers, traders, exporters, importers, wholesalers, retailers etc. in the healthcare business fields. Importing pharmaceutical and medical equipment requires price recommendations from the MPMEEA.

Mailing Address
UMFCCI Office Tower (Level - 6) No.29, Min Ye' Kyaw Swar Street, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Contact
Tel: (+95) 01 2316205, 2314834
Email: mpmeea@myanmar.com.mm
www.mpmeea.org

MYANMAR MEDICAL COUNCIL (MMC)

The Myanmar Medical Association (MMA) is a longstanding institution in Myanmar formed by medical doctors as an association representing medical doctors, giving them a unified voice when it comes to the medical profession. It does not really engage in business activities, but rather arranges medical conferences and other networking activities for the doctors' community.

Mailing Address
No. 249, Thein Phyu Road, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Contact
Fax: 951- 378863
www.mmacentral.com

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