Phandeeyar — Myanmar's First Equity-Taking Startup Accelerator and What the Coup Did to It

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Myanmar

Quality score: 43/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Yangon's donor-funded innovation lab ran Myanmar's first equity-taking accelerator, investing US$25,000 per startup across three cohorts from 2016 to 2019. IRS filings show revenue fell about 76% in the 2021 coup year; no independent impact evaluation of the hub exists.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability	1/3
Sustainability / continuity	1/3
Innovation	2/3
Inclusiveness / equity	1/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-20

Phandeeyar / Phandeeyar Foundation — accessed 2026-08-20

ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer — Phandeeyar Foundation IRS Form 990 filings (EIN 81-0752175) — accessed 2026-08-20

Forbes — This tech accelerator is betting Myanmar's startup scene is set to explode (October 2016) — accessed 2026-08-20

DealStreetAsia — Phandeeyar Accelerator puts US$175,000 into 7 Myanmar startups for cohort 2 (2017) — accessed 2026-08-20

DealStreetAsia — Phandeeyar receives US$2 million from Omidyar Network (June 2016) — accessed 2026-08-20

Access Now — #KeepItOn 2021 internet shutdown report (Myanmar: at least 15 shutdowns) — accessed 2026-08-20

Journal of Genocide Research — Facebook and the Rohingya genocide in Myanmar (2024) — accessed 2026-08-20

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