

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census

# THEMATIC REPORT ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**Census Report Volume 4-M** 



Department of Population Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

With technical assistance from UNFPA







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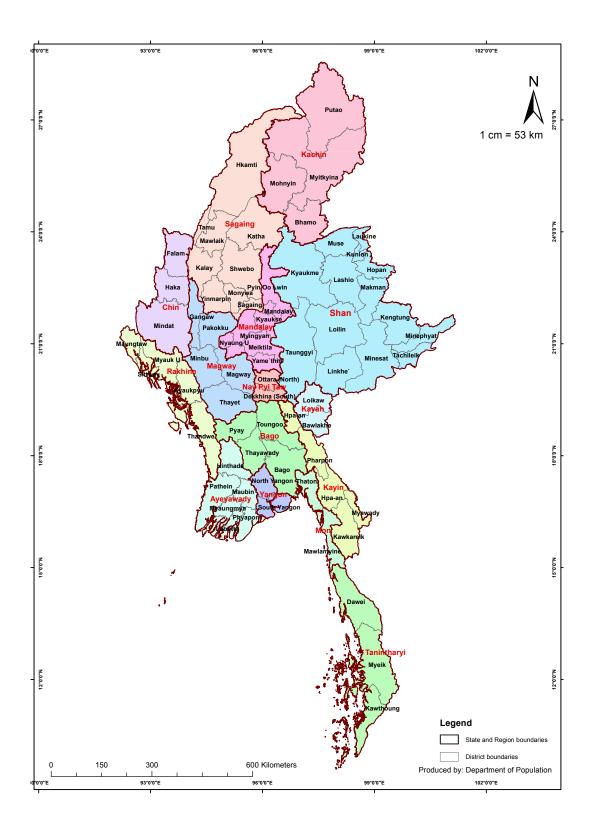
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### Figure 1

Map of Myanmar by State/Region and District



# Foreword

The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census (2014 Census) was conducted with midnight of 29 March 2014 as the reference point. This is the first Census in 30 years; the last was conducted in 1983. Planning and execution of this Census was spearheaded by the former Ministry of Immigration and Population, now the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, on behalf of the Government, in accordance with the Population and Housing Census Law, 2013. The main objectives of the 2014 Census are to provide the Government and other stakeholders with essential information on the population, in regard to demographic, social and economic characteristics, and housing conditions and household amenities. By generating such information at all administrative levels, it is also intended to provide a sound basis for evidence-based decision-making, and to evaluate the impact of social and economic policies and programmes in the country.

The results of the 2014 Census have been published so far in a number of volumes. The first was the *Provisional Results* (Census Volume 1), released in August 2014. The Census Main Results were launched in May 2015. These included *The Union Report* (Census Report Volume 2), *Highlights of the Main Results* (Census Report Volume 2-A), and the reports for each of the 15 States and Regions (Census Report Volume 3[A-O]). The reports on *Occupation and Industry* (Census Report Volume 2-B), and *Religion* (Census Report Volume 2-C) were launched in March 2016 and July 2016, respectively.

The current set of the 2014 Census publications comprises 13 thematic reports and a Census Atlas. They address issues on Fertility and Nuptiality; Mortality; Maternal Mortality; Migration and Urbanization; Population Projections; Population Dynamics; the Older Population; Children and Youth; Education; Labour Force; Disability; Gender Dimensions; and Housing Conditions and Household Amenities. Their preparation involved collaborative efforts with both local and international experts as well as various Government Ministries, Departments and research institutions. The thematic reports published to date include: Fertility and Nuptiality; Mortality; Mortality; Maternal Mortality; Migration and Urbanization; Population Dynamics; Population Projections; the Labour Force; Education; Housing Conditions and Household Amenities; Disability; and the Older Population.

Data capture for the Census was undertaken using scanning technology. The processes were highly integrated, with tight controls to guarantee accuracy of results. To achieve internal consistency and minimize errors, rigorous data editing, cleaning and validation were carried out to facilitate further analysis of the results. The information presented in these reports is therefore based on more cleaned data sets, and the reader should be aware that there may be some small differences from the results published in the earlier set of volumes.

The children and youth in Myanmar today represent the future of our country. This report draws on the information collected in the Census to present a picture of the younger generation in order to assess how well children are being given a good start in life through better health, a nurturing home life, and improved educational opportunities, and how youth are transitioning to adulthood in ways that will contribute to the country's social and economic development.

The total number of children and youth rose from 16.9 million in 1973 to 23.4 million in 2014. Assuming continued fertility decline and improvements in child mortality, it is anticipated

#### Foreword

that over the next ten years the number of children and youth will increase very little, and that in the following two decades the numbers will even decline from 24.5 million in 2024 to 23.1 million by 2044.

With still close to half of the population comprising children and youth, the country should benefit from the "demographic dividend" through savings and investments for the modernization of agriculture and the development of manufacturing sectors, where most 15 to 29 year olds are working.

One in three children live in households which use kerosene or candles as the main source of energy for lighting, while a significant proportion live in households which use solid fuels or kerosene for cooking. These could put children at risk of respiratory diseases, poisoning and fire. More than two thirds of rural children and one fifth of urban children live in households with two or more of these health risks.

Eight per cent of children aged 10-13 in Myanmar are engaged in child labour. The Government of Myanmar is committed to reduce, if not eliminate, child labour. This commitment was stipulated in the 1993 Child Law which was amended in 2014, and states that children under the age of 12 should not work and those between the ages of 12 to 14 should only take on light work which will not interfere with their education, health or development.

Attending and completing at least some primary school grades has become an almost universal experience for children in Myanmar. However, not all children complete primary school, and even fewer pursue secondary school. Education reform is needed to reduce obstacles and increase the benefits of schooling to encourage children and families to complete higher education.

The results presented in this report show the need to invest in a healthy foundation for children, especially in rural areas, by improving access to safe water and sanitation, better availability of electricity and affordable health care. There is also a need to invest in meaningful and accessible education by reducing the obstacles which children face in attending school beyond primary level.

On behalf of the Government of Myanmar, I wish to thank the teams at the Department of Population, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the authors for their contribution towards the preparation of this thematic report. I would also like to thank our development partners, namely: Australia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom for their support to undertake the Census, as well as the technical support provided by the United States of America.

H.E U Thein Swe Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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