

**The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census** 

# THEMATIC REPORT ON THE OLDER POPULATION

**Census Report Volume 4-L** 



Department of Population

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

With technical assistance from UNFPA





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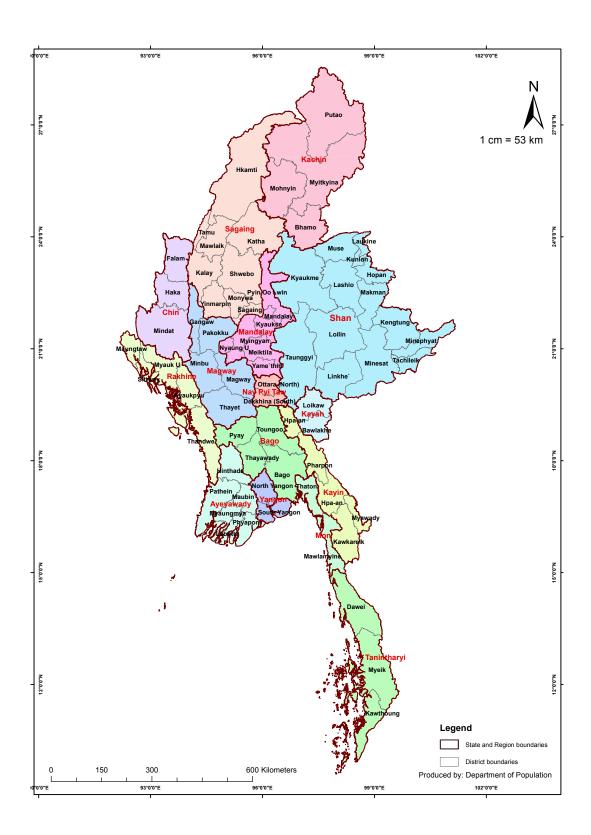
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Figure 1
Map of Myanmar by State/Region and District



#### **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 Census 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, regarding demographic, social and economic characteristics, and housing conditions and household amenities. By generating 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 to date in a number of volumes. The first was the Provisional Results (Census Report Volume 1), which was 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 2014 Census publications comprises thirteen 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; Maternal Mortality; Migration and Urbanization; Population Dynamics; Population Projections; the Labour Force; Education; Housing Conditions and Household Amenities; Gender Dimensions; and Disability.

Data capture of 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 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 first set of volumes. In such instances, the data in the thematic reports should be preferred.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda calls for all governments to 'leave no one behind'. Most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) specifically mention the importance of eliminating discrimination and increasing opportunities 'for all' or for 'all ages'. These include ending poverty for all; the right to health 'for all at all ages'; promoting lifelong learning; encouraging the development of sustainable, inclusive, and accessible urban environments, including for 'older persons'; and the production and use of age-disaggregated data to monitor the SDGs.

#### **Foreword**

Myanmar is committed to providing for the economic, health and social needs of older people. This has been stipulated in the 2008 Constitution, which states 'the Union shall care for mothers and children, orphans, fallen Defence Services personnel's children, the aged and the disabled.' This has been reiterated in the National Social Protection Strategic Plan and the National Action Plan on Ageing which were both approved in 2014.

With the older population growing at 2.4 per cent, a rate faster than the rate of growth of the total population (1.4 per cent), and where this growth of the older population will result in more older people than children by 2050 (12.9 million children aged 0 to 14 against 13.1 million people aged 60 years old and over), the Government of Myanmar must prepare and provide the means for a supportive environment for older persons such as social protection; affordable access to basic primary health care services; sufficient universal social pension schemes; work opportunities for those who wish to continue working; and other infrastructure that will ensure their well-being and facilitate their physical and social activities.

The 2014 Census also shows that the urban population was slightly older than the rural population. The proportion of the older population in urban areas is 9.2 per cent while it is 8.8 per cent in rural areas. This is the result of a more rapid decline in urban fertility, offset by net migration to urban areas by youth and young adults. Furthermore, the Census has indicated that there are more older females than older males - 2.6 million against 1.9 million, or a sex ratio of 75 older males for every 100 females aged 60 years and over. On the other hand, the younger age group (0-59 years old) recorded only 95 males per 100 females. Among States/Regions, differentials exist on the extent of ageing. Mayway Region recorded the highest proportion of the older population at 10.8 per cent of its population while Kayah State recorded the lowest at 6 per cent.

The information from the Census, which includes differentials across groups of population, as well as their geographical distribution allows for the development of policies and programmes that will directly target older people, especially those who are poor and vulnerable, to improve the quality of health and social services for this segment of the population.

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.

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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