

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a woman and a young child. The woman, in the foreground, has dark hair and is wearing a pink and grey striped shirt with a red strap across her chest. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The child, positioned behind her, is holding a small orange fruit and looking off to the side. The background is blurred, showing other people in a public setting.

# Annual Report 2016

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**Delivering a world where  
every pregnancy is wanted  
every childbirth is safe and  
every young person's  
potential is fulfilled**

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# Foreword



During one of my visits to a Women and Girls Centre in Myitkyina, a displaced Kachin woman told me a very personal story of how she and her husband transformed their relationship.

The woman had become more aware about gender inequality and how she was experiencing this when she began attending the Women and Girls Centre that had opened close to her camp. The way she chose to share her new insights with her husband was at a most intimate time of day: at bedtime. She would tell stories that challenged gender roles, and these turned into conversations. One day she found her husband doing the washing up after dinner, and as time went on they started sharing more and more household chores.

The intimate bedtime dialogue connected them. And that connection made them more attuned to each other and the needs of the other. Most of all, it gave a new meaning to reaching her full potential and it opened up space for her to consider new possibilities and have the ambition to pursue these.

I've thought of her story often, because it shows that the desire for and realization of personal transformation can stem from the empathy that intimacy and emotional connection brings. Women's path to gender equality and empowerment may often begin like this story - through experiences, relationships and negotiations in the home and in the community. However, for these to flourish, there needs to be clear and strong policy and political backing at every step.

As Myanmar transforms as a country, so do the perceptions and views of its people. This year's annual report provides many facets of the journey to gender equality. It tells a story of widening horizons for women, of women being capable in their own right. It is also a story of women fulfilling their reproductive rights, and of couples having access to family planning choices. Modern contraception brings hope that women no longer need to die in silence when giving life.

Family planning is inextricably connected to gender equality. Women's empowerment can start in the home but must not be confined to there. The awakening must be political as well as personal, and both women and men need to experience the full force of political will and progressive policies.

Census data shows that Myanmar can harness a demographic dividend if it invests in young people. Myanmar can also generate a gender dividend by paving the way for more women to enter the workforce. When given equal rights to education, jobs, credit and land, women can benefit from as well as to contribute to Myanmar's prosperity. With women playing a crucial role in economic growth, Myanmar can harness a double dividend – both youth and gender.

*Janet Jackson*

*UNFPA Representative for Myanmar*

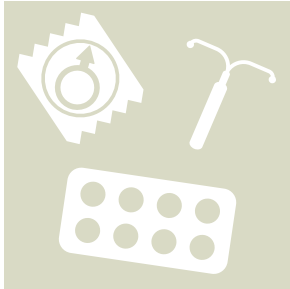
# UNFPA in Myanmar

UNFPA has a history of more than 40 years in Myanmar, working at first to support population data and focusing more recently on family planning and maternal health. Assistance was first given in 1973, and again in 1983, to Myanmar's first and second population censuses. UNFPA's activities grew in Myanmar in the 1990s with support for the collection of data on reproductive health and fertility. With improved availability of demographic data on reproductive health, and an urgent need for continued assistance, UNFPA's activities expanded. In 2002 UNFPA adopted a programmatic approach, and today it assists Myanmar in the areas of:

- Sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Population and development
- Young people
- HIV and AIDS
- Gender equality
- Gender-based violence
- Emergencies and humanitarian assistance



# 2016 Highlights



## Sexual and reproductive health

- Providing contraceptives – making the difference between life and death
- Delivering to the last mile – a modern logistics system that reaches those in most need
- Supporting the development of a midwifery workforce strategy that can save 80,000 lives
- Recording the story of each maternal death – developing a tool to prevent future tragedies
- Introducing long-acting, free of charge, contraceptives to the public health sector



## Population and development

- Thematic reports highlight where change is most needed
- Building countrywide capacity to use census data for development
- Employment data puts spotlight on child labour
- Data on religious affiliation is released peacefully



## Young people

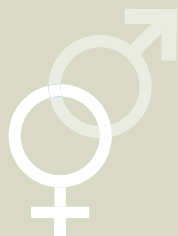
- Protect: Strengthening dignity and rights through youth-friendly health services
- Empower: Giving young people a voice in the policy dialogue
- Educate: Pioneering mobile app on sexual health for young people, by young people





## HIV and AIDS

- Teaming up with sex workers as partners, not beneficiaries
- Bringing modern family planning to sex workers through peer educators
- Supporting sex workers as agents in the policy reform dialogue



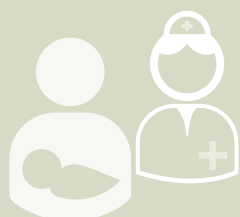
## Gender equality

- Supporting the Government to eliminate discrimination against women and girls
- Building capacity for gender mainstreaming in policies and programmes
- Bringing dignity and gender dimensions into humanitarian action
- Challenging social norms with cartoons



## Gender-based violence

- Women and Girls Centres protect women affected by conflict in Kachin and Rakhine
- Mobile GBV clinics support displaced women in northern Shan
- Training police officers to respond professionally to women who report violence
- Flood response reaches more than 26,000 people



## Humanitarian assistance

- Reaching over 100,000 people
- Supporting safe births for 24,400 women
- Proving reproductive health care to 76,700 people
- Building Government capacity to deliver reproductive health care in humanitarian crises



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