



The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census

THEMATIC REPORT ON EDUCATION

Census Report Volume 4-H



**Department of Population
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population**

With technical assistance from UNFPA



JUNE 2017



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For more information contact:

**Department of Population
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population**

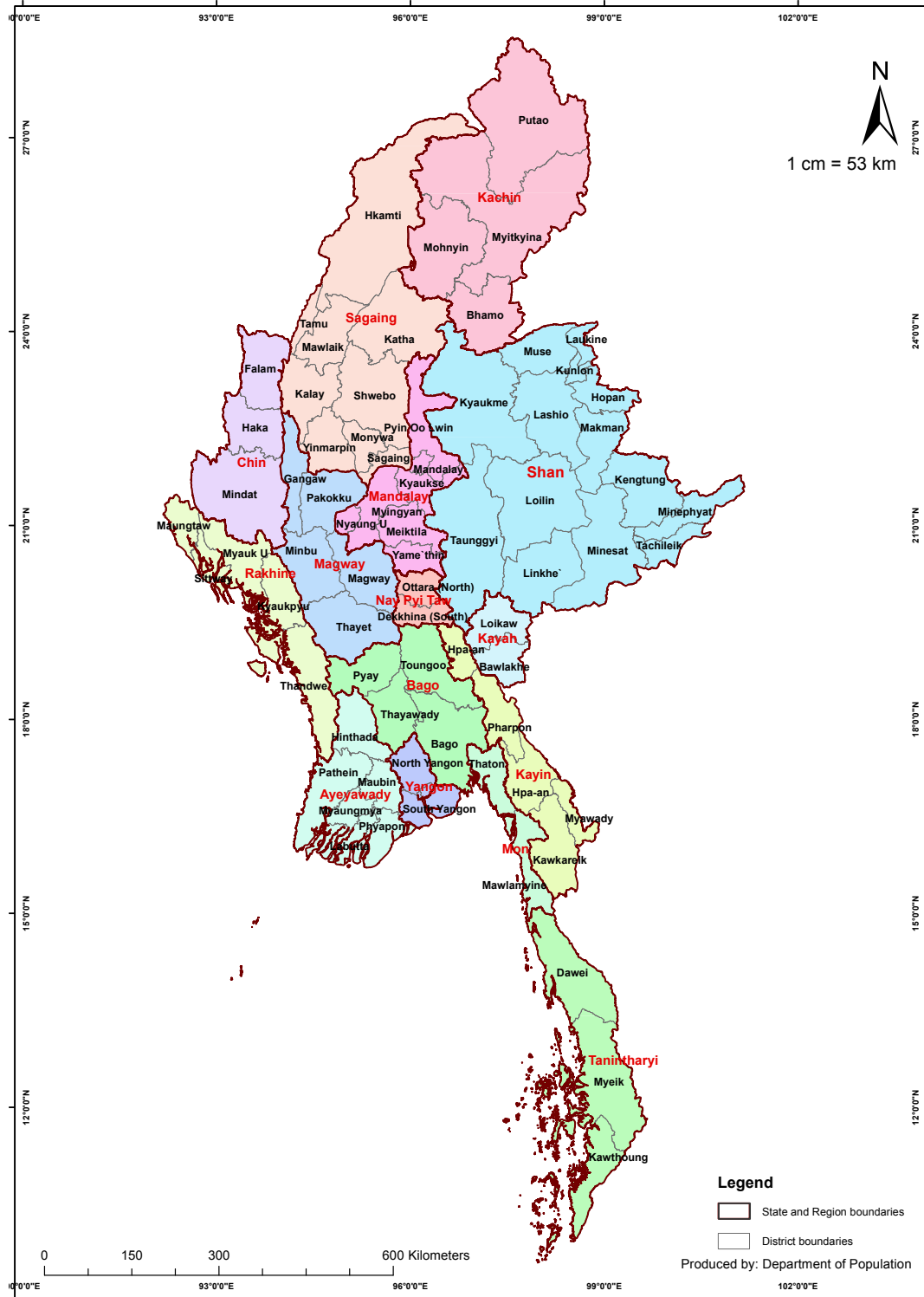
Office No. 48, Nay Pyi Taw, MYANMAR

**Tel: +95 67 431 062
www.dop.gov.mm**

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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 objective of the 2014 Census is to provide the Government and other stakeholders with essential information on the population, in regard to demographic, social and economic characteristics, 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 Elderly; 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; and the Labour Force.

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.

This report presents the findings on Education, through information collected from three questions in the Census on literacy, school attendance, and educational attainment. The progress of any country is heavily dependent on its education system. Education has to reach all groups within society and has to be of a high quality to be able to meet the demands of an expanding labour market. At a critical time in the development of the education system in Myanmar, the information presented in this report will assist the Government in its effort towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goal of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Foreword

The report notes that the Census showed that the national adult literacy rate was almost 90 per cent, and although higher rates were reported for males (93 per cent) than for females (87 per cent), there has been greater improvement among females since the 1983 census. Gender differences in literacy are relatively small up to around aged 50 after which males are more literate than females, and these differences increase with age. This reflects the gender differences in school attendance in earlier years. Urban residents are more literate (95 per cent) than rural residents (87 per cent).

The Census further reported that just under half a million children aged 7-15 years had never attended school. Again, there were large differences in urban and rural patterns of non-attendance. The proportion of non-attenders in urban areas was just 2 per cent, but was three times higher (6 per cent) in rural areas. And there were even greater differentials at the State/Region level, with Shan recording the highest rate (at 22 per cent) and Nay Pyi Taw the lowest (at less than 2 per cent). The report notes several reasons for children not attending school, and though the Census was not able to enquire into these directly, other information collected provides some indication that affordability is one of them.

Educational attainment is still quite low in Myanmar. About 16 per cent of the population aged 25 years and over reported having no schooling. This proportion was higher for females (19 per cent) than for males (13 per cent) and this was the case generally in all age groups, with the proportion increasing with age such that more than half of women aged 80 and over had no schooling. A striking feature of Myanmar's educational attainment profile, however, is the high performance of women compared with men at higher educational levels.

The current school-age population was almost 11 million in 2014, having increased from 8 million in 1973 to 9.5 million in 1983. But the future school-age population will, according to recent population projections, decrease by about 12 per cent from 12.1 million in 2015 to 10.7 million in 2050. All the basic school-age groups will be affected, decreasing to levels of 4.3 million for those aged 6-10; 3.6 million for those aged 11-14; and 2.8 million for those aged 15-17 by the year 2050. This projected decline will have consequences for future education policy at both the national and local level, and particularly in rural areas.

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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