



**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

**The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census**

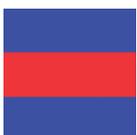
# **THEMATIC REPORT ON FERTILITY AND NUPTIALITY**

**Census Report Volume 4-A**



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

**With technical assistance from UNFPA**



**SEPTEMBER 2016**





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## **THEMATIC REPORT ON FERTILITY AND NUPTIALITY**

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**Census Report  
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## Foreword

The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census (2014 Census) was conducted with midnight 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 was 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 reports of 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 comprise 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 Elderly; Children and Young People; Education; Labour Force Dynamics; Disability; Gender Dimensions; and Housing Conditions, Amenities and Household Assets. Their preparation involved collaborative efforts with both local and international experts as well as various Government Ministries, Departments and research institutions.

Data capture 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 thematic report presents findings on fertility and nuptiality in Myanmar. The analysis shows that the total fertility rate is 2.5 children per woman at the Union level, 1.9 children per woman for urban areas, and 2.8 children per woman for rural areas. Total fertility for States and Regions varies from a high of 5.0 children per woman for Chin State to a low of 1.8 children per woman for Yangon Region. Total fertility appears to have declined at a rate of at least one child per woman per decade between 1970 and 2000. This relatively rapid decline apparently ceased sometime during the 1990s or 2000s. Estimates from the 2001 and 2007 surveys suggest that the level of fertility may have fluctuated between 2000 and 2014, but with no overall trend up or down. The marital status data shows an exceptionally high proportion of women remaining never married at age 50. Analysis of the data for older

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women suggests that the proportion of unmarried women in Myanmar was high long before 1960. Between 1960 and 1985, however, the percentage of never married women nearly doubled, rising from 6.5 to 12 per cent for women at ages 50-54.

On behalf of the Government of Myanmar, I wish to thank the teams at the Department of Population, UNFPA and the authors for their contribution towards the preparation of these thematic reports. I would also like to thank our development partners, namely; UNFPA, 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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