THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS OF MYANMAR, 2014

Provisional Results





CENSUS REPORT VOLUME (1)

DEPARTMENT OF POPULATION
MINISTRY OF IMMIGRATION AND POPULATION
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Population and Housing Census of Myanmar, 2014

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Census Report Volume 1

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Figure 1: Map of Myanmar by Administrative area, States and Regions

Foreword

The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census (2014 Myanmar Census) was conducted from 29th March to 10th April 2014. The successful planning, enumeration and now publishing of provisional results is testimony to the Government's commitment to the political and economic reform process, national cohesion and inclusive development. It is my sincere hope that the provisional results and the subsequent data will effectively inform the planning and decision making processes in our quest for national development. The 2014 Myanmar Census was conducted under the legal framework of the Population and Housing Census Law No. 19 of 2013. The Law empowers the Ministry of Immigration and Population to collect, process, analyse, publish and disseminate information through the census programme.

The formation of the Central Census Commission, various census committees and offices at all administrative levels, including the International Technical Advisory Board (ITAB), to provide administrative and technical support guided the implementation of the census. The technical support and our urge to follow international standards affirm our commitment to strict adherence to the guidelines and recommendations which form part of international best practices for censustaking.

This report on the Provisional Results is the first in a series of publications to be released from the 2014 Myanmar Census. It will be followed by the Report on the Main Census Results in May 2015, which will give detailed information on demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population and housing units. Data capture through scanning, analysis and preparation of the main results will take some time, hence the need to release provisional results to assist in the planning and decision making processes.

The provisional results indicate that the population of Myanmar on the night of 29th March 2014 (Census Night) was 51,419,420 persons. This information will be used as a provisional figure until the main results are released. The main results may be slightly different from the information presented in this first volume of the census results, which is normal in censuses.

On behalf of the Government, I express our gratitude to UNFPA and the donors, namely Australia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, for their generous contributions. Their financial, technical and logistical support was critical to the success of our census. They provided useful advice and contributed immensely to various activities including the provision of technical assistance, cartographic and computer equipment, printing of questionnaires, training of trainers and enumerators/supervisors, publicity materials and scanning of questionnaires, among others.

We are indebted to the President of the Union of Myanmar and Patron of the Central Census Commission, Vice President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham for their valuable guidance for the Census process. Also to be acknowledged are the members of the Central Census commission and Census Committees at every administrative level for working tirelessly to support the census process. Special appreciation goes to the enumerators, supervisors and trainers who were mainly from the various ministries and other institutions. Our sincere gratitude is extended to the people of Myanmar who provided responses to the census questions. Their cooperation and enthusiasm made it possible to achieve a successful census count.

H.E. U Khin Yi,

Minister of Immigration and Population

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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Chapter One: Background Information

1.1. Introduction on Censuses in Myanmar

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (Government of Myanmar) conducted its most recent census in March/April 2014. This is more than 30 years after the last census in 1983. Censuses are the main source of demographic and socio-economic information in developing countries. Such information is critical to determine levels and changes in the size, distribution, socio-economic characteristics of the population and households over time. In a country like Myanmar, reliable, accurate and timely data is vital for effective development planning, evidence-based decision-making, the peace process and transition to democracy, investment decisions and research. It is therefore important that the data used to assess such changes is accurate and updated regularly.

The history of census taking in Myanmar dates back to 500 BC during the era of King Thadodipa Mahadamayaza of the Tagaung Dynasty. The first population census under the British administration was carried out in the lower part of Myanmar in 1872; this was part of the Indian census. Thereafter, censuses were taken every ten years starting from 1881. The 1891 census and subsequent censuses were conducted in the whole country on a decennial basis up to 1941. In post-independence Myanmar, nation-wide censuses were held in 1973 and 1983. There were challenges in all these post-independence censuses, especially due to lack of access to some parts of the country. Since 1983, more than 30 years has passed without reliable and timely census information in Myanmar.

For this reason, the Government of Myanmar conducted the 2014 Population and Housing Census as a necessary pre-requisite for assessing the socio-economic needs of its population. The Government attaches great importance in determining the size, distribution and characteristics of the population in pursuit of its programmes for the political and economic reform processes, national development, peace and transition to democracy and cohesion of the country.

1.2. The 2014 Population and Housing Census

1.2.1. Legal and administrative authority

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (National Parliament) enacted the Population and Housing Census Law No. 19, 2013 in July 2013. The Law authorises the Ministry of Immigration and Population, on behalf of the Government, to obtain accurate data on the population, animals, buildings, materials, enterprises and other statistics; and to enable the effective utilisation of data and information obtained through censuses for socio-economic development. The Law also requires that the census is conducted in accordance with international guidelines and standards. Also embedded in the Law is a confidentiality clause, which protects respondents from disclosure of their individual information, collected during the census.

The Law gives the Government the authority to undertake a census in the whole or part of the country; as well as to decide on the most appropriate methodology, taking into account measures to be taken to conduct the census in difficult and inaccessible areas. The Law allows for the formation of the Central Census Commission to carry out and oversee the implementation of census activities. The other functions and duties of the commission include:

- a. Lead, in accordance with the policy of the Government, to accomplish the whole process of census-taking, including preparations to conduct the census, enumeration, data capture, analysis, and publication of results.
- b. Confirm the detailed arrangements and instructions submitted by the responsible organisations for conducting the census.
- c. Coordinate with the relevant ministries in respect of the census process.
- d. Form a Central Census Committee, as well as committees at each administrative unit, namely Region or State, Self-Administered Division or Self-Administered Zone, District, Township, Ward or Village-tract, and specify their functions and duties.
- e. Fulfil the requirements for the accomplishment of the census taking process.

The Government formed the Central Census Commission and Central Census Committee at the national level. It also formed committees at each administrative unit. These committees and the sub-national immigration officers implemented the census activities at each administrative unit.

1.2.2. Census Enumeration Area Mapping

The process of preparing census enumeration area maps began in June 2012. Township Immigration Officers who prepared these maps were trained on the objectives of the census, the roles of maps in the census process, concepts of sketching maps at township and ward/village tract level, and plotting new landmark features on the maps. After concatenating all the topographical sheets that make up the entire country, maps of each of the 330 townships were printed and distributed to the respective field offices. In total, there were an estimated 81,750 enumeration areas covering almost the entire country. Few parts of the country could not be mapped due to security reasons.

1.2.3. Census questionnaires

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