

Report on Situation Analysis of Population and Development, Reproductive Health and Gender in Myanmar





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July, 2010

Foreword

The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Beijing Platform of Action and the Millennium Declaration are international commitments reflecting a common vision of a world free from poverty, illiteracy and HIV/AIDs where all people have information and means to safe and planned reproduction and where women and men enjoy equal rights.

Throughout the world, nations strive to fulfill their international obligations and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). With only five years away from 2015, the target year of achieving ICPD goals and MDGs, Myanmar stands at a crossroads in its endeavour to achieve the Millennium targets. Issued at the 10th anniversary of the Millennium Summit, this situation analysis report provides valuable inputs in reviewing Myanmar's progress in achieving MDGs.

UNFPA has the honour to present a situation analysis of population and development, reproductive health and gender issues in Myanmar. This study, the most comprehensive of its nature to date, serves as a foundation for policy making, strategic planning and programming by Government, NGOs, INGOs, the international community and the UN.

The Situation Analysis report has identified the need to strengthen data systems and improve availability and quality of data. A population and housing census should be conducted to obtain comprehensive population and demographic data at the national and sub-national levels. Census data should be disaggregated by age, sex and locality and be gender sensitive to reflect the situation of women and men. The census will provide an up to date statistical sampling frame to be used for subsequent data collection activities.

To realize the 2015 targets of reducing maternal mortality ratio and the infant mortality rate, there is an urgent need for substantial investments to strengthen both health systems and health human resources to deliver quality reproductive health services including prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. Financial requirements are estimated for the implementation of the National Reproductive Health Strategic Plan (2009-2013). The Situation Analysis recommends that the Government of Myanmar and all other stakeholders identify financial commitments from existing and potential sources and join together to bridge the remaining resource gaps. Only through concerted efforts of all partners in the field of population and development, reproductive health and gender will there be advancement of the quality of life of the people of Myanmar.

This year-long study adopted a participatory and inclusive approach involving various national and international stakeholders. The study is enriched through its sound methodology, the involvement of a multi-sectoral team of national and international experts and the exhaustive review process of its findings and recommendations.

On behalf of UNFPA, I would like to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to all of our partners who provided invaluable inputs to the Situation Analysis. In this respect, I wish to thank the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Immigration and Population and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, our sister UN agencies, NGOs and INGOs. I wish to thank colleagues at the Asia and Pacific Regional Office

of UNFPA for their inputs throughout the process, for sharing their experiences from other countries and conducting a thorough review and comments on the draft manuscripts of the study. Much appreciation goes to the situation analysis team: Dr. Hla Hla Aye, Team Leader and her team Daw Tin Tin Nyunt, Dr. Win Mar, Dr. Akjemal Magtymova, Shanny Campbell and Dr. Mya Thuzar for their hard work, relentless efforts, patience and professionalism in executing this task.

Given the transition that the country is going through and the anticipated data from the on-going Integrated Household Living Condition Assessment and the Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey, this study will remain a living document that will be regularly updated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mohamed Abdel-Ahad', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mohamed Abdel-Ahad
Country Representative, UNFPA Myanmar

Acknowledgement

The Situation Analysis (SA) Team express their heartfelt appreciation to UNFPA Myanmar for initiating and supporting this cross cutting study of population and development, reproductive health and gender; the first-ever analysis of this scope in Myanmar. Despite challenges in the form of scarcity of data and information in some of the areas covered, the SA team is indebted to the staff of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Immigration and Population, and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement for their time and inputs given towards the success of this SA.

The SA team would like to express their thanks to HE Prof. Kyaw Myint, Minister for Health, for his interest and commitment to reduce maternal mortality and directives given towards conducting a multi-sectoral approach of situation analysis. The SA Team would like to express their sincere gratitude to HE Prof. Mya Oo, Deputy Minister for Health for his presence and technical input during the dissemination workshop held in Nay Pyi Taw on the 24th March, 2010. Our deepest appreciation also goes to all the participants of the dissemination workshop where invaluable insights were shared during the technical session and the group discussions which are incorporated and reflected in this report. We would like to acknowledge with thanks the inputs from the high level staff of the MOH, programme managers, State/Division/Township health staff, basic health staff, community support group members and men, women and youth of the communities who utilize the health facilities for sharing their knowledge and experience. Their inputs have enabled this situation analysis to be able to reflect the voices of the end users at the grass root level.

The unrelenting support of related programme managers and staff of Reproductive Health and National AIDS Programme of the Department of Health, staff of International Health Division, Ministry of Health, the staff of UNFPA country office in providing effective coordination with UNFPA's implementing partners and UN agencies, for access to project sites, for providing data and information, for web designing, ICT and logistic support are much appreciated.

We acknowledge and thank the support of Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU), the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator, for their patience and professional skills in developing maps specific for this report. The contributions of the UNFPA country office in Myanmar and of UNFPA's Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Bangkok are acknowledged for their technical support and specific comments in reviewing of drafts since the time of developing instruments through the stages of reviewing this report. We would like to thank Daniel Gelfer for his diligent language editing in spite of time constraints.

Last but not the least our sincere thanks goes to Mr. Mohamed Abdel-Ahad, UNFPA Country Representative and Daw Pansy Tun Thein, Assistant Country Representative for their confidence in our team, their interest, critique, guidance, encouragement and vision provided throughout the year-long study and for working closely with us and making this SA and launching of the report possible.

Situation Analysis Team Members

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