
Nationwide Youth Information Corners Situation Analysis Report



2017



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United Nations Population Fund



Ministry of Health and Sports

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Foreword

According to the Myanmar Population and Housing Census 2014, the total population of Myanmar is 51.4 million. This includes both the enumerated and the estimated population who were not enumerated in three States of Myanmar. Myanmar has an annual population growth rate of 0.89 per cent. Young people (10-24 years) account for 28 per cent of the total population, numbering 14.1 million. The country is still predominantly rural; 70 per cent of the population live in rural areas and 30 per cent live in urban areas.

The Ministry of Health's main strategies are to: promote and maintain the health status of youth through Youth Health Development Projects in collaboration with relevant sectors; improve youth's access to and utilization of health services; increase youth's access to information about sexual and reproductive health and rights; improve socioeconomic conditions for youth; and to create an enabling environment in which to achieve these goals.

The Youth Information Corners (YICs) were established by the Health Education Division (formerly the Central Health Education Bureau) under the Ministry of Health in 2002, with the support of UNFPA, beginning with 17 and eventually reaching 70 selected rural health centres (RHCs) in States and Regions across the country in 2012. The objectives of the YICs are to increase young people's, including young girls and marginalized young people, access to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention information in rural areas.

This report, *"A Nationwide Situation Analysis on Youth Information Corners"* was prepared by the Health Education Division and the Department of Public Health in collaboration with UNFPA. The report is based on comprehensive information collected by the analysis exercise undertaken in selected YICs by well-organized and trained teams during March to August 2015. This is the first situation analysis of the Youth Information Corners in over a decade. The analysis is based on self-assessments, a situation check questionnaire, interviews with key YIC focal persons, Community Support Group (CSG) members and young people, and focus group discussions.

The findings of the YIC assessment will be invaluable in building a foundation that links the YIC programme to the Ministry of Health and Sports *“National Strategic Plan for Young People’s Health”*, and UNFPA’s strategy for evidenced-based advocacy. The aim is the holistic development of young people through comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) based on a sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) approach. The aim is to complement national action plans that: increase investment in young people’s health and development, including facilitating young people to make healthy, safe and responsible choices in their lives; the implementation of youth programmes that build capacity for sexual and reproductive health service delivery and care; initiatives to reach the most vulnerable; and encourage youth leadership and participation in policy and programme development in Myanmar.

The Ministry of Health and Sports extends its appreciation to the youth volunteers and focal persons of Youth Information Corners who participated in the focus group discussions, giving their time and sharing their experiences of YICs, as well as rural health centre staff who took the time to speak with the analysis team. On behalf of the Ministry of Health, the Department of Public Health and Health Education Division, I would like to express our sincere thanks to Ms. Janet E. Jackson, UNFPA Representative, Myanmar, and the Analysis Team Members Dr. Hla Hla Aye (Assistant Representative), Dr. Sithu Swe (National Programme Officer), Daw Yu Myat Mun (Programme Analyst), U Aye Nyein Lin (Programme Assistant) and Ms. Agnethe Ellingsen (International Junior Consultant) for providing technical and financial support in undertaking this situation analysis.



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