



UNFPA Myanmar

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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UNFPA

Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

Foreword

As this UNFPA country report for 2015 goes out, a momentous political change has taken place in Myanmar and a new democratically elected government is now in office. Hopes are high and people are expectant. For the first time in a long time, throughout

Myanmar people have confidence that they are an integral part of defining the country's future in terms of its reform, development, peace and reconciliation. While challenges are bound to emerge, there is a sense that the country is on the crest of a powerful wave, on which much can now be carried forward and safely brought to shore.

In reflecting therefore on 2015, I am conscious of the onus that is upon UNFPA, as part of the United Nations in Myanmar, to support the swell for social and economic development. 2015 was a historic year for Myanmar. For the UN, it was a busy year that saw the global sustainable development goals accepted. Emerging from a global consultative process, the sustainable development goals are rooted in country realities, and they hold within them ample potential for Myanmar and its partners in development.

The voices and participation of people and communities are pivotal for propelling the country forward. This counts especially for the younger generations who constitute 28 per cent of the population. So far, they have hardly had a look-in when it comes to representation in the processes



for political reform, social and economic development, humanitarian relief, peace and reconciliation.

This goes for women too, who slightly outnumber men in Myanmar, but are scarcely seen in decision-making positions, whether in the area of policy, business or peace negotiations. There is a double dividend in youth and gender that is for the taking, and the country needs to invest more in these areas. In 2015, UNFPA intensified its efforts to give young people access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, to provide women and couples with family planning choices, and to improve prevention of and response to gender-based violence.

On 29 May 2015, the results of the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census were released. UNFPA provided critical technical and financial support towards the census, which was an undertaking on a massive scale and with profound significance for Myanmar's future and for its political and economic transition process. The data – the first such comprehensive collection in over 30 years – provides a profile on the varied living conditions of the 51.5 million people in Myanmar. In some areas, for example in education, health, amenities and life expectancy, there are disparities and inequalities that are considerable. The census results provide a body of data from which planners at all levels can identify gaps and pinpoint needs for improving infrastructure, social services and emergency response. The data was critical in quantifying and locating communities affected as rains intensified during the 2015 floods.

Government, local authorities, other leaders, communities and civil society have a large role to play in addressing these gaps, disparities and inequalities. The data is theirs to use for many years to come as they work towards fulfilling Myanmar's full potential.

Janet E. Jackson
UNFPA Representative for Myanmar

UNFPA in Myanmar

UNFPA has a history of more than 40 years in Myanmar. Assistance was first given in 1973, and again in 1983, towards Myanmar's first and second population censuses. UNFPA's activities grew in Myanmar in the 1990s with support for the collection of data on reproductive health and fertility. With improved availability of demographic data on reproductive health, and an urgent need for continued assistance, UNFPA's activities expanded. In 2002 UNFPA adopted a programmatic approach, and today it assists Myanmar in the areas of:

- Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Population and Development
- Young People
- HIV and AIDS
- Gender Equality
- Gender-Based Violence
- Emergencies and Humanitarian Assistance



2015 Highlights

Sexual and Reproductive Health

Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted and every childbirth is safe

- Identifying needs: One in four women have an unmet need for modern contraceptives.
- Meeting demands: Procuring US\$2.6 million worth of contraceptives and maternal health medicines.
- Assessing the gaps: Maternal health medicines almost entirely absent from one in three health facilities.
- Delivering the goods: Putting in place a system that gets the supplies to the people who need them, when they need them.



Population and Development

Moving the census to the next stage



- Publication: Results of the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census published.
- Distribution: 368,000 census publications printed and delivered to diverse constituencies in all of Myanmar's 330 townships.
- Awareness-raising and capacity building: 111,000 national and local stakeholders reached through census briefing sessions and census data workshops.

Young People

Empowering young people to fulfil their potential



- Education: More than 90,000 young people educated about their sexual and reproductive health.
- Health care: Hands-on manual promoting youth-friendly health services published.
- Policy: Five Year National Strategic Plan for Young People's Health (2016-2020) launched.

HIV and AIDS

The right of all to live healthy and fulfilling lives



- Hands-on manual helps health workers promote safe behaviour for at-risk populations.
- Peer education to over 4,000 sex workers supporting prevention and reducing stigma.
- Reducing discrimination by raising awareness among police officers.
- 3.8 million condoms distributed to townships with high HIV prevalence.

Emergencies and Humanitarian Assistance

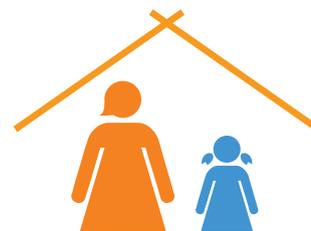
When emergency strikes, women continue to have babies



- Flood response reaching 45,797 people in Rakhine, Chin, Magway, Ayeyawady and Sagaing.
- Conflict response reaching 34,711 people, primarily women affected by inter-communal conflict in Rakhine.
- Localizing Dignity Kits to the needs of Myanmar women, and delivering 13,694 kits.

Gender-Based Violence

The right to be free from violence



- Women and Girls First: 3-year joint initiative signed with key donors.
- Women and Girls Centres: A safe space for women displaced by armed conflict and inter-communal violence.
- Rule of law: Training police officers to respond better to cases of gender-based violence.
- Emergency response: Psychosocial support to communities affected by the 2015 floods.

Gender Equality

The same opportunities, rights and obligations

- Policy: Supporting the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women.
- Legal framework: Advocating for gender equality under the law.



Sexual and Reproductive Health

Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted and every childbirth is safe

2015 Highlights

- Identifying needs: One in four women have an unmet need for modern contraceptives.

• Meeting demand: Procuring US\$2.6 million worth of



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