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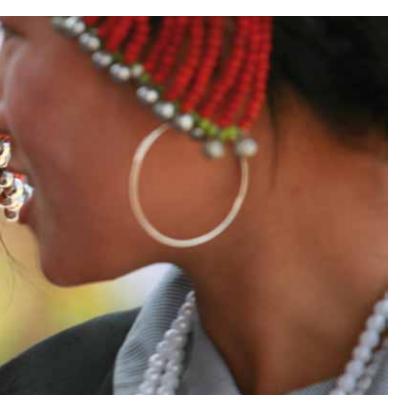
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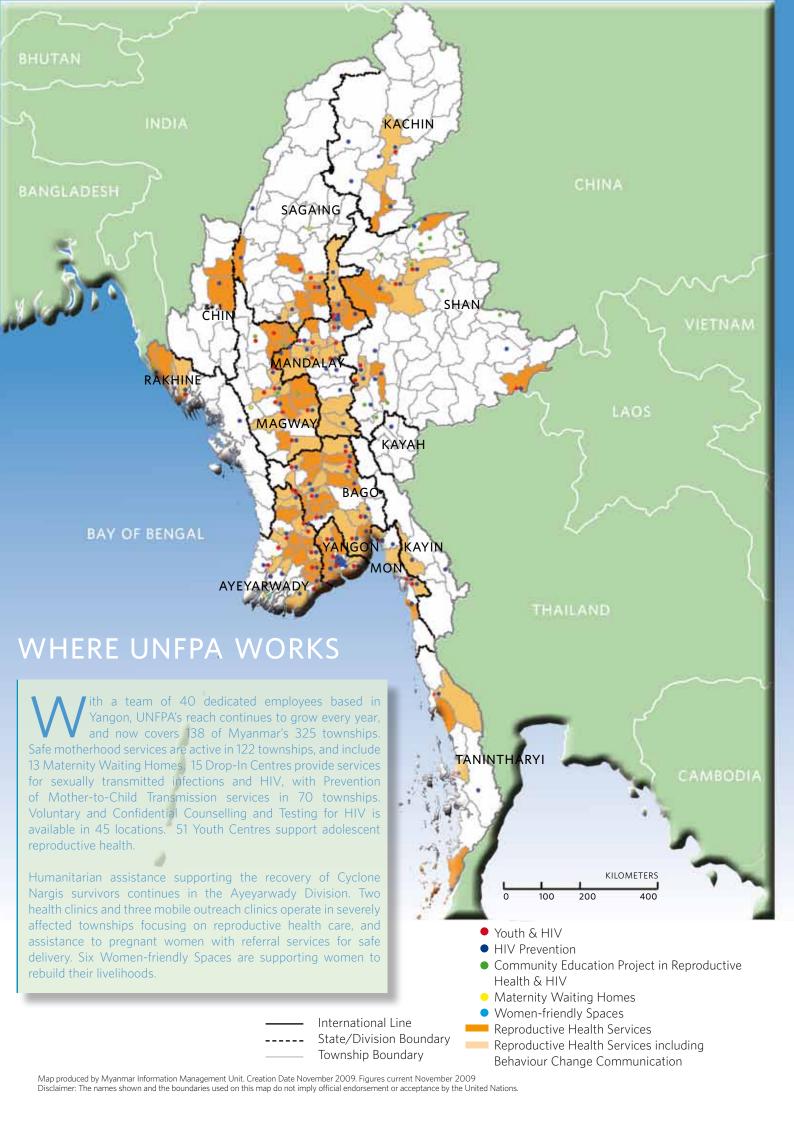
The Mission of UNFPA



UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity.

UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

Because everyone counts.



MESSAGE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE

We are very pleased to launch this booklet on UNFPA's Programme of Assistance to Myanmar which updates readers on UNFPA's mission and activities in the country. It highlights partnerships with government, civil society, UN sister agencies and the donor community, and gives voice to project beneficiaries to bring to light the impact of UNFPA's support for their lives.

As we are issuing this booklet, the world is commemorating the 15th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Programme of Action developed at the conference, and still pertinent today, marks a shift away from focusing merely on demographic targets, to addressing population issues with universal access to reproductive health and primary education, and women's empowerment.

The principles of the International Conference on Population and Development are embodied in the Millennium Development Goals. Guided by these shared goals, UNFPA's Programme of Assistance aims to improve access to reproductive health, prevent HIV, especially among young people and populations at higher risk of exposure, and increase the availability of data.

Over the past three decades, UNFPA's activities have yielded tangible results. Today, women have better access to pre and post natal care, obstetric care and child spacing services.

Women, men, youth and adolescents are more aware of how HIV is transmitted, with reproductive health commodities, counselling and services needed to prevent infection, now more widely available. Infected mothers can receive services to prevent transmission of HIV to their babies. Humanitarian support for the provision of reproductive health services and livelihood skills, helped save lives and improve the health and well being of thousands of survivors of Cyclone Nargis.

Still, however, there are significant challenges to alleviate poverty, reduce maternal and infant deaths and illness, and prevent HIV.

There is also a dire need for generating more reliable and up-to-date data to guide future humanitarian and development initiatives. Such challenges are compounded by the scarcity of financial resources allocated to the people of Myanmar.

Adopting a research based approach to address such challenges, UNFPA has recently embarked on a comprehensive situation analysis of the population, including reproductive health, HIV and gender issues in Myanmar. The findings of this study will guide the development of population policies and strategic directions, and the formulation of UNFPA's 3rd Programme of Assistance. Our Programme will be an integral component of the overall United Nation's Strategic Framework for 2012 to 2015.

As part of the United Nations interagency coordination structure, UNFPA plays a lead role chairing the Monitoring and Evaluation, and Gender Theme Groups. Such groups provide excellent platforms for partnerships within the United Nations, and among government, international and local non-governmental organizations, for capacity development on data collection and analysis, and further promotion of gender equality and the advancement of women.

We wish to take this opportunity, in launching this booklet, to thank our partners in government, in civil society, the United Nations, and the donor community, for their support and collaboration with UNFPA. We reiterate UNFPA's commitment to continue working to improve the quality of life of the people of Myanmar.

Mohamad Abdel-Ahad UNFPA Representative, Myanmar



TAKING ACTION AGAINST POVERTY FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL

"World leaders now recognize that improving reproductive health, advancing gender equality and integrating population analysis into development planning can mean the difference between achieving - or missing - the Millennium Development Goals."



Thoraya Ahmed Obaid Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UNFPA's support to Myanmar is underpinned by the eight Millennium Development Goals set by countries all over the world in their pledge to reduce extreme poverty by 2015.

- 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2 Achieve universal primary education
- 3 Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4 Reduce child mortality
- 5 Improve maternal health
- 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 7 Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8 Develop a global partnership for development

UNFPA brings it expertise in reproductive health and population issues to Myanmar, where it works in partnership with the Government of Myanmar and non-governmental organizations. The Fund's support to its partners focuses on reducing maternal mortality and preventing the spread of HIV, critical to meeting Millennium Development Goals.



UNFPA IN MYANMAR

UNFPA first supported Myanmar in 1973, and again in 1983, with assistance to conduct its first and second population censuses. The Fund's population activities grew in Myanmar in the 1990s with support given for the collection of population data specific to reproductive health and fertility. With improved availability of demographic data for reproductive health programming, and an urgent need for continuing assistance, UNFPA's activities in Myanmar continued to expand into the new millennium. In 2002, UNFPA adopted a programmatic approach and is now in its second Programme of Assistance for Myanmar, covering 2007 to 2010, with an extension proposed for 2011. The second programme assists Myanmar to attain the important goals set at the International Conference on Population and Development and the mutually reinforcing Millennium Development Goals.

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ICPD/15 International Conference on Population and Development

he year 2009 marked the 15th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. That groundbreaking conference produced an inspiring and comprehensive action plan that linked poverty alleviation to women's empowerment, gender equality and universal access to reproductive health. The conference's ambitious goals are crucial to Myanmar's efforts to meet Millennium Development Goals and improve the lives of people throughout the country.



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