

**Union of Myanmar**

**Ministry of Immigration and Population**

**Department of Population and UNFPA**

**Myanmar  
Fertility and  
Reproductive Health Survey  
2001**

**Preliminary Report**



Department of  
Population

Yangon, December 2002



United Nations  
Population Fund



**Myanmar**

**Fertility and Reproductive Health Survey**

**2001**

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## Preface

The 2001 Fertility and Reproductive Health Survey (FRHS) is the third survey to obtain detailed information on demography and reproductive health in Myanmar. The first survey was 1991 Population Changes and Fertility Survey (PCFS) and the second was the 1997 FRHS.

This Preliminary Report is the first report of 2001 FRHS to provide policymakers, programme managers, international organizations, NGOs and scholars timely and reliable detailed but brief information on fertility, contraception, maternal and child health, infant and child mortality, knowledge of STDs and HIV/AIDS and internal migration in Myanmar. Two more detailed reports are planned to supplement this one: comprehensive Country Report (main survey report) and Report on Detailed Analysis of Trends and Patterns on selected topics.

The intensive inputs and efforts provided by many Government agencies, departments and non-governmental organizations contributed to the successful completion of the 2001 FRHS. The heads and selected staff of the State, Division and Township offices of the Department of Immigration and National Registration assisted in the field operation and data collection throughout the country including hard to reach remote sample areas. The Department of Population of the Ministry of Immigration and Population was responsible for conducting the survey, including sample design; planning and organizing field operation and data collection; data processing and tabulation; and report writing.

In addition to funds provided by the Government of Myanmar, the survey received substantial support from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). A number of international consultants had provided assistance on technical matters relating to questionnaire and sample design, data processing, analysis, and drafting the Preliminary Report. In particular, I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to the invaluable support provided by Dr. Tan Boon Ann, International Consultant in the preparation of this report and to members of UNFPA/CST. I would also like to express my appreciation to the resource persons and staff from the Department of Population for their hard work at all the stages of the survey works.

Last, I would like to convey my special thanks to those who actively contributed to the survey, particularly the respondents and concerned household members without their cooperation and sincere assistance the success of this major undertaking would not have been materialized.



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Director General

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December 2002,  
Yangon, Myanmar


## FOREWORD

The 2001 Fertility and Reproductive Health survey (FRHS) is the second nationally represented population reproductive health survey in Myanmar funded by UNFPA. Subsequent to the first FRHS conducted in 1997, UNFPA funded the second survey in 2001, which has a broader scope. The survey covered various population groups, including those with diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. It gathered information on fertility and reproductive health, which is considered to be culturally sensitive and personal. Taking this factor into consideration, this exercise required extensive planning and preparations before the survey was fielded. The interviewers had to be extremely careful during data collection and field interviews in order that the data collected is accurate and reliable. These surveys have contributed towards the development of a national population database, including socio-economic indicators, which are vital to national planning. The indicators reflected in the survey can be useful in determining the effectiveness of national development efforts as well as international assistance programmes. It will also help in assessing the impact of the development programmes on the living conditions of the people. As UNFPA, as well as its partner agencies, has an important role to play in assisting countries in developing relevant measurement tools, this survey is considered to be of extreme importance to UNFPA and Myanmar as it serves as a reliable benchmark for measuring progress.

The Fertility and Reproductive Health survey has truly been a collaborative effort among several agencies. While the principal responsibility of carrying out the survey rested with the Department of Population, Ministry of Immigration and Population, all the related Ministries and agencies who are involved in population and reproductive health collaborated at every stage, starting from the design of the questionnaire to the interpretation of the results. UNFPA Country Technical Services Team provided technical assistance, including training in data processing, data tabulation, analysis of data and report writing.

The FRHS report provides the wealth of information on the current demographic and reproductive health situation in Myanmar. It also paves the way for further in-depth analysis of selected topics -such as i) situation analysis of never married women; ii) child mortality and health; iii) unmet need for contraception; iv) migration patterns; and v) labour force and economic activities. The in-depth analysis of the above topic is intended to be carried out in 2003 by the Department of Population with UNFPA support.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate the Department of Population, Ministry of Immigration and Population for this successful undertaking. UNFPA looks forward to further collaboration in the field of developing Population and Reproductive Health indicators. This report could be very useful as a tool to evaluate current population and reproductive health programmes and to help in development of future programme activities.



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