

MYANMAR

SUMMARY STATISTICS

Region	South-eastern Asia
Currency	Kyat (MMK)
Surface area (square kilometres)	676578
Population in 2011 (estimated, 000)	48337
Population density in 2011 (per square kilometre)	71.4
Capital city and population in 2011 (000)	Nay Pyi Taw (1060)

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

GDP: Gross domestic product (million current US\$)	2011	55320
GDP: Growth rate at constant 2005 prices (annual %)	2011	5.5
GDP per capita (current US\$)	2011	1144.0
GNI: Gross national income per capita (current US\$)	2011	1144.0
Gross fixed capital formation (% of GDP)	2011	19.0
CPI: Consumer price index (2000=100)	2011	164
Agricultural production index (2004-2006=100)	2011	138
Food production index (2004-2006=100)	2011	138
Labour force participation, adult female pop. (%)	2011	75.0
Labour force participation, adult male pop. (%)	2011	82.1
Energy production, primary (000 mt oil equivalent)	2010	13005
Telephone subscribers, total (per 100 inhabitants)	2011	3.7
Internet users (per 100 inhabitants)	2011	1.0
Exports (million US\$)	2011	7625.2
Imports (million US\$)	2011	4164.3
Balance (million US\$)	2011	3460.9
Major trading partners (% of exports)	2011	Thailand (41.7), China, Hong Kong SAR (21.1), India (12.6)
Major trading partners (% of imports)	2011	China (27.1), Singapore (27.0), Thailand (11.4)

SOCIAL INDICATORS

Population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	0.8
Urban population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	2.5
Rural population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	-0.1
Urban population (%)	2012	33.2
Population aged 0-14 years (%)	2012	24.8
Population aged 60+ years (females and males, % of total)	2012	9.1/7.8
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	2012	97.1
Life expectancy at birth (females and males, years)	2010-2015	67.9/64.1

Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	2010-2015	44.8
Fertility rate, total (live births per woman)	2010-2015	1.9
Contraceptive prevalence (ages 15-49, %)	2006-2010	41.0
International migrant stock (000 and % of total population)	mid-2010	88.7/0.2
Refugees and others of concern to UNHCR	end-2011	1147275
Education: Government expenditure (% of GDP)	2006-2012	0.8
Education: Primary-secondary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100)	2006-2012	86.4/84.5
Education: Female third-level students (% of total)	2006-2012	57.5
Intentional homicides (females and males, per 100 000)	2008-2010	3.1/17.4
Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	2012	6.0

TRADE AND INVESTMENT SCENARIO

- Myanmar is following open door trade policy since early 1990s and this has contributed in achieving higher trade growth. Myanmar's total merchandise trade was \$20.4 billion in 2012 with merchandise export share was 46 percent and rest was contributed by imports. This was 12 percent higher than the previous year. In 2012, in term of merchandise exports and imports Myanmar ranks 95 and 102 in world trade respectively.
- Thailand, India and the People's Republic of China (PRC) account for more than three quarters of Myanmar export in 2012. Similarly, China, Singapore and Thailand together contributed around 65 percent of import basket in 2012.
- Myanmar's export basket is dominated by fuels (natural gas), food and other primary goods. By contrast, Myanmar import basket is dominated by manufactured goods. Myanmar is a member country to World Trade Organization (WTO) since 1995 and has signed 13 FTAs.

FDI

- Myanmar has enacted new foreign investment law of 2012 to attract FDI. Prior to this law, Myanmar has put in place the Special Economic Zone Law of 2011 (SEZL) as well as the Dawei Special Economic Zone Law of 2011 (DSEZL), which provide foreign investors with incentives such as tax reliefs.
- Special Economic Zones are created to encourage economic growth, trade and foreign investment in Myanmar. There are currently three SEZs under development in Myanmar: Dawei SEZ, Thilawa SEZ and Kyuakpyu SEZ. Myanmar Investment Commission is apex body FDI approval.

- Due to liberalized FDI policies FDI inflows to Myanmar has increased significantly since 2010. FDI inflows increased from 2.24 billion 2012 to 2.6 billion 2013, registering 17 percent increase.
- China, Thailand and Hong-Kong are the top three investors in Myanmar. Manufacturing sector, energy, oil and gas, mining, hotels and tourism attracted majority of investment in 2013.
- Despite the improvement in FDI inflows in recent years, business climate remained very poor in Myanmar. This is reflected in doing business report by World Bank. The World Bank's 2013 Doing Business Report ranks Myanmar at 182 out of 189 economies for the ease of doing business overall even worse than the ranking of Afghanistan in South Asia. The biggest business climate problem in Myanmar is related to starting business, protecting investors and enforcing contracts as mentioned in World Bank's 2013 Doing Business Report.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT SCENARIO

- Myanmar has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and is committed to the Millennium Development Goals.
- High maternal mortality rates unequal pay form women with similar work compared to men are the major challenges in the country. Women still have a weaker voice than men in positions of responsibility especially politics.
- Myanmar has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.437, ranking it 80 out of 148 countries in the 2012 index. In Myanmar, 4.6 percent of parliamentary seats are held by women.¹
- For every 100,000 live births, 200 women die from pregnancy related causes; and the adolescent fertility rate is 12 births per 1000 live births.²
- Female participation in the labour market is 75 percent compared to 82.1 for men.³

¹ Human Development Report 2013, UNDP

² *ibid*

³ *ibid*

- Myanmar's National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women covers key areas of the Beijing Platform for Action, which is the United Nations agenda for women's empowerment.
- Myanmar's Education for All National Action Plan ensures that all children have access to basic education of a good quality by 2015. Data shows that 18 percent of adult women have reached a secondary or higher level of education compared to 17.6 percent of their male counterparts.⁴

HEALTH SCENARIO

- The public health spending in Myanmar is 0.4% of the GDP. (World Bank,2012). In 2003 general government expenditures on health, as a percentage of the total expenditures on health, was 19.4% while the remaining 80.6% was from the private sector. External assistance is a major source of financing in the health sector. In 2004, Myanmar received total official development assistance (ODA) of US\$ 121 million, of which roughly 13% went to the health sector.⁵
- Approximately 80% of essential medicines are produced through domestic sources, but there may be more external needs given changes in the essential medicine policy.
- A review, focused on providing universal access to essential medicines free of charge to the rural population, identified medical technologies as a key problem that causes high out-of-pocket payments – more than 80%. For the rural retention of midwives in hard-to-reach areas, 'adequate supply of medicines and equipment', was a key motivation factor and may overrule other incentives. Deficiencies in the supply chain system for delivering medical supplies, advocating materials and vaccine to service delivery points are other barriers, especially in rural settings. (WHO, Myanmar 2014)
- The health system assessment 2012 noted that the major constraints to service delivery related to availability, acceptability and accessibility of services to the people. In terms of availability, the main constraints include an inadequate number of HR at different levels of the system, and particularly overworked BHS, low health expenditures, essential medicines shortages and lack of infrastructure and programme reach.

⁴ ibid

⁵ http://who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccs_mmr_en.pdf

- Multilateral sources include the European Commission (EC), GAVI Alliance, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNDP, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF and United Nations Regular Programme for Technical Assistance (UNTA). Among all these bilateral and multilateral sources of funding support, the five largest contributions of ODA for health in 2009 were: United Kingdom (18%), Japan (17%), EC (14%), Sweden (9%) and UNICEF (9%), which amounted to 63% of the total commitment of official development assistance for health. ⁶
- The main health care providers in rural area were midwives (60%). The public health supervisors grade (II) were trained to assist the midwives and the percentage of PHS II increased by 1% more in 2011 than that of 2010.
- Drugs are procured and distributed by the Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD) of the Division of Medical Care under the Department of Health within the MOH and distributed to government health facilities. There is a national Essential Medicines List (NEML) 2010 but due to budgetary constraints the CMSD is able to supply less than half the drugs on the NEML.⁷
- In 2008 total deaths attributed to NCDs are 125800 males and 116600 female deaths. Correspondingly, in spite of recent improvement in health status, health indicators are still weak compared to other countries in the region and beyond. Mortality rates are improving, as is life expectancy, but there are still many challenges. The country is in an epidemiological transition, with NCDs on the rise as well as significant prevalence of infectious diseases.
- It is estimated in 2010-11 there were 88,975 health workers, including 26,435 medical practitioners, 25,544 nurses and 19,556 midwives. Together, this equaled to 1.49 health workers (doctors, nurses and midwives) per 1,000 people, well below the WHO minimum recommended threshold of 2.3 health workers considered necessary to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Furthermore, not all these health workers are public servants, and those who are, are not necessarily employed by the Ministry of Health as the Ministries of Labour and Defence have employed large numbers of health workers.⁸

⁶WHO Country Cooperation Strategy Myanmar 2014–2018.

http://www.searo.who.int/myanmar/CCS_Myanmar.pdf?ua=1

⁷ http://www.searo.who.int/entity/medicines/myanmar_situational_analysis.pdf

⁸http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/country_docs/Myanmar/health_workforce_strategic_plan_2012-2017.pdf

RESOURCE SCARCITY, FOOD SECURITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

- Myanmar has abundant water resources comprising four principle river basins (Ayeyarwady, Chindwin, Sittaung and Thanlwin/Salween) with a catchment area of ~737,800 km². This provides renewable water resources of ~880 km³ to 1082 km³ per year (surface water resources volume)⁹.
- However, Water availability is highly variable between wet and dry seasons. Out of total fresh water utilised, approximately 90% is consumed by the agriculture sector. This is followed by 7% for domestic use and 3% for industrial purposes¹⁰.
- Country's 70% of energy supply is based on traditional biomass and 74-87% of the population are considered to be without access to electricity.
- Myanmar has huge potential for hydropower, up to 100 GW, according to the Ministry of Electric Power (MEP). Currently, 65 % of Myanmar's energy infrastructure is in hydropower, which generates over 70 % of their energy supply, and this ratio looks likely to continue.
- Land degradation, particularly soil erosion in upland agricultural areas and dry zones, is an increasing problem in Myanmar.
- Vulnerable farming area as a percentage of the country's total cultivated area was estimated at 33% in 2008.
- Natural processes in vulnerable farming areas are aggravated by human interventions such as excessive forest harvesting, mono- cropping practices, and shifting cultivation.
- Growth in the upland human population is a key pressure that is closely correlated with land degradation and land productivity changes. From 1980 to 2008, the upland population increased by 7 million to 17.5 million people, or about 30% of the national population

Food Security

- Rainfall deficiencies in the early and late monsoon seasons have impacted key crop harvests and resulted in water shortages in various parts. Its impact is increasing Crop failures and effect both food stocks and household purchasing power while water shortages are already threatening the health and well-being of communities and livestock.
- High levels of food insecurity are persisting in the post monsoon periods as a result of insufficient rains in the early and late monsoon periods which damaged key crops.

⁹ Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Government of the Union of Myanmar

¹⁰ Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). 2000. Second ASEAN State of the Environment Report. ISBN: 979-8080-83-1

Myanmar Agricultural Department (MAD) and department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) data from certain townships in Magway illustrate these shortfalls.

- Agricultural production takes place on only about 12.4 million hectares (ha), or 18% of Myanmar's total land area. Some 5.7 million ha is considered cultivable but is currently unused.
- More than one-third of child deaths are due to under nutrition and 35% of children under age five are stunted or short for their age. An estimated 17 % of households in Burma are food-insecure.

Climate Change

- The area is food insecure and water scarcity is already a large problem that is expected to grow due to climate change with fewer and more intense rains (UNDP, 2011).
- In 2008, tropical Cyclone Nargis caused catastrophic destruction and loss of lives and livelihoods. This cyclone changes the perspective of Myanmar Govt. towards Climate Change. And, Myanmar's vulnerability to climate change is now widely recognised.
- Potential climate change impacts on Myanmar include incremental sea-level rise, saltwater intrusion, loss of mangroves, higher incidence of droughts, loss of biodiversity and ecosystems such as wetlands, and loss of land resources.
- Myanmar is already experiencing some effects of climate change: a clear trend in rising temperatures, shorter monsoon duration, and greater frequency of intense rainfall and severe cyclones along Myanmar's coastline.

More to Read:

World Trade Organization (2012), Country trade Profile, 2013, WTO, Geneva.

World Bank (2013), Doing Business Report, World Bank. Washington D,C.

UNCTAD, Country fact Sheet, 2014, UNCTAD, Geneva.

www.usaid.gov/burma/our-work/food-security

Myanmar Energy Outlook: A Country Report from EAS Energy Saving Potential Project 2013

Myanmar Initial National Communication to UNFCCC, 26 December 2012