



The Myanmar and Thailand Program (MyTh) was created the 1st of January 2016, and its regional office is located in Yangon. This country factsheet reports data on Myanmar.

General data of the country

a. Data

Country	Republic of the Union of Myanmar			
Population	56,890,418 (2016)			
HDI	0.536 (rank 148)			
IHDI	N.A.			
Child mortality (2013)	50.2 for 1000 births			
Gender-related Development Index	n.a			
GINI	n.a.			
INFORM Index	Rank 9	Value		Value
	Inform Risk	6,8	Vulnerability	5,8
	Hazard & Exposure	7,7	Lack of Coping Capacity	7
Fragile State index 2016	Rank: 26			
	Demographic Pressures	7,3	Legitimacy of the State	8,7
	Refugees and IDPs	8,3	Public Services	8,7
	Group Grievance	9,9	Human Rights	8,6
	Human Flight	6,0	Security Apparatus	8,4
	Uneven Development	7,9	Factionalized Elites	8,6
	Poverty and Economic Decline	6,4	External Intervention	7,5
Number of all land mine casualties known by 2015	3,693 (419 killed; 3,156 injured; 118 unknown) since 1999. 159 in 2015			

Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

→ Mine Ban Treaty / Status:	Not signed
→ Convention on Cluster Munitions / Status:	Not signed
→ Convention on Conventional Weapons / Status:	Not signed
→ UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities / Status:	Ratified (2011)

b. Geopolitical analysis

Socio-demographic elements

Myanmar is a very diverse country where, according to the census run in 2014, at least 135 ethnicities coexist, speak different languages and practice different religions. The country is articulated in 7 regions (Ayeyarwaddy, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Yangon) and 7 states: Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine (Arakan), Shan. The states are usually the areas of the country where the Union Government and independent entities related to the main local minority coexist, often shifting between open war and moments of relative calm. In 2017, part of the territory located in the states is under the control of the Union, while the rest is ruled by parallel entities linked to the Ethnic Armed Groups (EAO).¹

Historical background

After the independence from Great Britain, gained in 1948, Myanmar went through almost 60 years of unrest. The central government, led by a series of military juntas and oriented to what has been called “the Myanmar way to socialism”, was opposed by numerous ethnic minorities claiming independence. Ethnic and religious diversification, control of the numerous natural resources and of drug traffic, material and psychological oppression from the central government are among the main reasons of the long lasting turmoil. The population living in the conflict areas has long coped with war, double taxation, internal displacement, land confiscation. Some have left the country, including the 100.000 refugees located in Thailand since 1984. The country has been almost completely isolated until the early 2000s, with the exception of relations with China.

Recent development in Myanmar

Need to widen economic relations beyond China, change in the geopolitical balance in the South East of Asia and internal pressure, brought the junta to seek for a gradual shift towards market economy. In order to achieve this transition, efforts towards a stable peace and more democratic governance were needed. A national ceasefire agreement was signed in 2012 with several of the NSAs and peace talks are currently undergoing. In November 2015 the country hosted its first democratic elections, that ushered in the victory of the NLD (National League for Democracy) headed by Aung San Su Kyi, who became State Counselor and Minister of Foreign Affairs². 25% of the seats in the Parliament and some key ministries are still held by the Military, while a partial reshuffle took place in the other 75%³.

Economic elements⁴

Since the transition to a civilian government, Burma has begun an economic overhaul aimed at attracting foreign investment and reintegrating into the global economy. Economic reforms have included establishing re-writing the Foreign Investment Law in 2012 to allow more foreign investment participation, enacting a new Anti-corruption Law in September 2013, and granting licenses to nine foreign banks in 2014 and four more foreign banks in 2016.

The government’s commitment to reform, and the subsequent easing of most Western sanctions, led to accelerated growth. Myanmar’s abundant natural resources, young (and cheap) labour force, and proximity to Asia’s dynamic economies have attracted foreign investment in the energy sector, garment industry, information technology, and food and beverages

Despite these improvements, living standards have not improved for the majority of the people residing in rural areas. Burma remains one of the poorest countries in Asia – approximately 26% of the country’s 51 million people live in poverty.

¹ Notice that many prefer NSA (non-state actor) to EAO, as NSA can be used also for the political branch of those organizations.

² The constitution forbids her to access the position of President.

³ However, many positions at state and national level are currently held by “civilians” who have been military until very recently.

⁴ The CIA factbook

Presence of HI in the country










Negotiation between HI and the Myanmar government started in 1994, but the first operations are dated 2008, following cyclone Nargis. The program, mainly focused on emergency response, was closed at the end of the response operations. In 2013, after a new exploratory mission, the program was reopened, initially focused on the possibility of starting humanitarian mine action. Later on, it was transferred under the development division, with strong link both with the mine action desk and with the emergency team, due to high vulnerability of the country to natural hazards.

Some achievements

- 3 victims assistance centers opened in Kayin and Bago.
 - HI is prepositioned for Non-Technical Surveys in Kayin state
- The Disability inclusion Unit (a team composed of 3 people and focused on mainstreaming disability within actions of other stakeholders) has given training to frontline workers in the IDP camps in Rakhine, through DRC, and Katchin, through UNHCR
- Thanks to the advocacy of HI, the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan included some indicators on disability; the new Myanmar Action Plan for DRR (MAP) includes inputs on disability; a discussion with OCHA on the monitoring of the Disability Charter is undergoing.

Projects






Sector of intervention	Current source of funding	Since	Funding granted till...
Inclusion Mainstreaming	DRC, Australian Red Cross, UNHCR	2016	January 2018
Inclusive Disaster risk reduction	UN HABITAT, MoFA LUX, ECHO (Action Aid)	2014	December 2017
Rehabilitation	ECHO (Action Aid), MoFA LUX, UNICEF, USAID	2014	September 2018
Support to CSOs	European Union, Canada Embassy	2014	January 2018
Livelihoods	USAID	2016	September 2018
Mine risk education	USAID	2016	September 2018
Psycho-Social Support	DAI, UNICEF, USAID	2017	January 2018

<p>ECHO</p> 	<p>UNICEF</p> 	<p>USAID</p>
<p>MAE LUX</p> 	<p>EUROPEAN UNION</p> 	<p>AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS</p> 
<p>DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL</p>	<p>DAI</p> 	<p>GOVERNMENT OF CANADA</p> 
<p>UN Habitat</p> 	<p>UNHCR</p> 	


HI team in Myanmar

In March 2017, the Myanmar is employing 22 staff (6 international). 2 volunteers are sharing their time between Myanmar and Thailand.

Projects ongoing (date – July 2017) : Sectors of services where HI conducts projects and focus on operational partnerships ongoing

Sector	Objectives	Type of intervention	Target Beneficiaries	Partners	Location
 <p>Rehabilitation</p>	Strengthening community and Institutional resilience to natural hazards in Myanmar ; and providing rehabilitation support for people with disabilities affected by conflict in Kayin state	Capacity building of institutions, hospital staff, emergency units strengthening the quality of services offered to people with disabilities	PwD identified and located referred survivors to physical rehabilitation. Representatives of local and political authorities Representatives of international NGOs	Action Aid (lead) ; Myanmar Engineering Society (MES); Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) ; Myanmar Earthquake Committee (MEC) ; Action Contre La Faim (FR) ; HelpAge International (GBR); Action for Social Aid (ASA); OXFAM (GB) ; Plan International Deutschland e.V.; United Nations Human Settlements Programme; Yangon General Hospital; Mandalay General Hospital; Myanmar Physically Handicapped Association (MPHA); ICRC	Ayeyarwaddy, Yangon, Kayin, Bago
 <p>Inclusive DRR/GRD</p>	Strengthening community and Institutional resilience to natural hazards in Myanmar.	Capacity Building of Institutions, Hospital Staff (Emergency Units) ; advocacy (National Plans) ; capacity building of international actors on inclusive DRM; capacity building of DPOs	Partners' staff trained (technical, educational, etc.); Disaster management training centre Community members	<i>Same as above</i> + UN HABITAT ; ACTED; ADPC; American Red Cross; SEEDS ASIA; UNDP	Ayeyarwaddy, Mandalay, Yangon, Rakhine
 <p>Inclusive Livelihoods</p>	Improvement of socioeconomic conditions of accident survivors and victims through livelihood services	Identification, needs assessment and referral of PwD and their families to appropriate livelihood services ; set up of Victim Assistance Centres; production of Service Providers Directory	Mine/ERW survivors and PwD and their families	Myanmar Physically Handicapped Association (MPHA); Department of Social Welfare (DSW)	Bago, Kayin
 <p>Psycho-social Support</p>	Improvement of socioeconomic conditions of accident survivors and victims through PSS Services	Set up of Victim Assistance Centres ; Production of Service Providers Directory; Peer-to-peer counselling; PSS	Mine/ERW survivors trained in peer-to-peer counselling to support other victims	Myanmar Physically Handicapped Association (MPHA); ICRC and the MRCS IASC Commitments to Affected Populations	Bago, Kayin
 <p>Support to CSOs</p>	Improve inclusion of people with disabilities (PwD) at local and national level and in remote areas	Organisational, technical and financial support to DPOs Application of regional development plans for PwD Advocacy at national level to improve coordination between actors in the disability sector	PwD and their families Active members of CSOs DPOs	Shwe Minn Tha Foundation (SMTF) ; Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI); Capacity Building Initiatives (CBI); Department of Social Welfare (DSW); Eden Centre for Disabled Children (ECDC)	Ayeyarwaddy, Mandalay, Kayin, Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw

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<p>Mine Risk Education</p> 	<p>Communities living in targeted landmine/ERW affected areas better manage related risks (community-based RE delivery and risk management)</p>	<p>Real-time data management system for mine action database Implementation of a sustainable model for RE and capacities to report risks</p>	<p>Communities</p>	<p>Myanmar Physically Handicapped Association (MPHA)</p>	<p>Kayin; Bago</p>
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