

# **Country Gender Profile: Republic of the Union of Myanmar Final Report**

**December 2013**

**JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY  
INTEM Consulting, Inc.**

<b>EI</b>
<b>JR</b>
<b>14-028</b>

**Country Gender Profile:  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Final Report**

**December 2013**

**JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY  
INTEM Consulting, Inc.**

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) commissioned INTEM Consulting, Inc. to carry out a study to develop this Country Gender Profile in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The views and analysis contained in the publication therefore do not necessarily represent JICA's views.

## Summary

<b>General Situation of Women and Government Policy on Gender</b>
<b>General Situation of Women in Myanmar</b>
<p>(1) In Myanmar patriarchal cultural norms and values have still been existed. For example, men have responsibilities of decision making and household income as household heads and women take care of housework and child caring. Buddhism is the major religion of Myanmar practiced by 89% of the population. Myanmar's Buddhists believe that males have religious superiority over females, in turn influencing social norms, cultural traditions and opportunities accorded to women and girls.</p> <p>(2) Women's rights for their own body have been limited by some Acts, Customary Laws and Religious Laws in Myanmar.</p> <p>(3) Socio economic situation is affected by the regional gaps in accessing to governmental services. Some ethnic minorities in the conflict areas are vulnerable to the violation of human rights or discrimination. In these areas, female headed households face more risks to face poverty and are also more vulnerable for the risks of human trafficking and exploitation, because their limited education and literacy prevents them from accessing to information.</p> <p>(4) Women's participation in decision making in the political, administrative and economic spheres is very limited.</p> <p>(5) Because of the difference of the economic situation from the surrounding countries, there are many women and girls who become victims of human trafficking. Legislation related to domestic violence has not been prepared yet (under preparation).</p>
<b>Government Policy for Gender Equality and Gender Mainstreaming</b>
<p>(1) The Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar 2008 states in Chapter VIII, Article 348 that the Union shall not discriminate any citizen of the Union of Myanmar based on race, birth, religion, official position, status, culture, sex and wealth. Article 350 states that women shall be entitled to the same rights and salaries by men in respect of similar work.</p> <p>(2) In October 2013, National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 (NSPAW) was launched. The objectives of the plan are empowering women to enjoy their rights with support of the government, and establishing systems, structures and practices for the advancement of women, gender equality, and the realization of women's rights.</p> <p>(3) Myanmar is a signatory of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). It has also committed to International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Myanmar is a member in ASEAN Commission on Women and Children's rights and ASEAN Committee on women.</p> <p>(4) Basic legislations related to gender based violence are Constitution, Criminal Act and Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law.</p>
<b>National Machinery for the Advancement of Women</b>
<p>(1) After the participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing) in 1995, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR) established the Myanmar National</p>

Committee for Women's Affairs (MNCWA) to enhance the advancement of women in 1996. According to the policies of the new government, MNCWA was re-established in 2012.

- (2) National Working Committees (MNWCWAs) were formed as focal points at the central, state, division, district and townships levels. Members of the National Committee and the Working Committee are the Deputy Ministers of all ministries and presidents of active women's associations in the country and national NGOs responsible for women's development.
- (3) The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (MWAFF) was also formed in 2003 to organize women all over the country to carry out activities to ensure the security and advancement of women's life.
- (4) MNCWA will guide the management committee for the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW).

### **Current Situation of Gender by Sector**

#### **Education**

- (1) Major education policies in Myanmar have been developed and implemented based on the 30-Year Long-Term Education Development Plan 2001-2031 (30-Year Long-Term Plan).
- (2) The National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 (NSPAW) includes 'Education and Training' as one of the twelve priority areas. It covers the activities to strengthen systems, structures and practices for ensuring access to quality formal and non formal education for women and girls.
- (3) Girl's enrolment rate of primary education is relatively high and gender gap cannot be found in the access to primary education in Myanmar. Instead, regional diversity and poverty has raised gaps in access to governmental services, including education.
- (4) Women's ratio to men in enrolment in tertiary education is 164 percent in 2010, which shows reverse gender gap between girls and boys. Women's higher enrolment rate in tertiary education has not linked to expansion of women's employment.

#### **Health**

- (1) Major policies related to health have been implemented based on the 'Myanmar Health Vision 2030' in Myanmar. Based on the vision, five year National Health Plans (NHPs) such as National Reproductive Health Strategic Plan 2009-2013 and Five-Year Strategic Plan for Child Health Development in Myanmar 2010-2014 were developed and the activities to achieve the targets have been implemented.
- (2) National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 (NSPAW) includes 'women and health' as one of the twelve priority areas. It covers the activities to strengthen systems, structures and practices to protect, promote and fulfil women's and girls' right to quality and affordable health care, including sexual and reproductive health.
- (3) Maternal mortality rate and infant and under-five mortality rate are relatively high, although they have been improved for these twenty years. There are gaps between urban and rural areas. Mother's educational level is also a key aspect for maternal and infant/under-five mortality. Quality of health services is also a reason of poor reproductive health.
- (4) Myanmar has the third highest HIV prevalence rate in the Southeast Asia, following Thailand and Cambodia. More men than women face risks to be infected of HIV.

### **Agriculture and Rural Development**

- (1) The National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 (NSPAW) does not include either 'agriculture' or 'rural development' as one of the twelve priority areas. However, it covers the activities to ensure gender equality in land reform and agrarian reform.
- (2) Rural poverty remains considerably higher than urban poverty. Poverty incidence is higher among female headed households than the male headed ones. Living conditions of the households headed by women are also severer.
- (3) Women tend to have dual responsibility because of the gender division of labor. In rural area, women are required to taking care of livestock and/or work as free family labor for agriculture, besides doing reproductive works.
- (4) Agriculture has been the main industry in Myanmar. Employment related to agriculture is important opportunity for rural women to access to income. However, despite legal provisions for equal pay for men and women, women's wage tends to be lower than the one for men in agricultural sector.

### **Employment and Economic Activities**

- (1) The constitution 2008 declares the rights of all the citizens to be engaged in economic activities in Article 370 and the equal rights of women to equal pay from the same occupation in Article 350.
- (2) The National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 (NSPAW) includes 'women and economy' as one of the twelve priority areas. It covers the activities to strengthen systems, structures and practices to ensure fairness and equal rights for women in relation to employment, credit, resources, assets and economic benefits.
- (3) Despite legal provisions for equal opportunity for economic activities for men and women, only about 50 percent of women are economically active in 2012, when over 80 percent of men are involved in any economic activities. Patriarchal cultural norms and values favor the economic activities of men over those of women.
- (4) Women's participation in decision making is limited even in economic activities. Women tend to be employed in lower-skilled labor and/or in the lower level posts. Difference of the level of employment causes a wage gap between women and men in the same occupation.
- (5) Women tend to have dual responsibility because of the gender division of labor. Women who are involved in economic activities are required to take care of family members as care givers and be engaged in productive work as employers.

## List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ANC	Antenatal care
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
AusAID	Australian Aid Program
BHS	Basic Health Staff
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CESR	Comprehensive Education Sector Review
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DFID	Department for International Development
DPT	Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus
DV	Domestic Violence
EC	European Commission
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FES	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
GBV	Gender Based Violence:
GDI	Gender Development Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEM	Gender Empowerment Measurement
GEN	Gender Equality Network
GGI	Gender Gap Index
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GNI	Gross National Income
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IHLCA	Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessments
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MNCWA	Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs
MNPED	Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development
MSWRR	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
MWAF	Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation
NA	Not Available
NHP	National Health Plan
NLD	National League for Democracy
NSPAW	National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women:
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	US Dollar
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WLB	Women's League of Burma

Map of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar





## Table of Contents

Summary .....	i
List of Abbreviations and Acronyms .....	iv
Map of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar .....	v
Table of Contents .....	vi
1. Basic Profiles .....	1
1.1 Socio-Economic Profile .....	1
1.2 Education Profile .....	2
1.3 Health Profile .....	3
1.4 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Indicators .....	4
1.5 National Commitment to Gender Issues .....	5
2. General Situation of Women and Government Policy on Gender .....	6
2.1 General Situation of Women in Myanmar .....	6
2.2 Government Policy for Gender Equality and Gender Mainstreaming.....	10
2.3 National Machinery for the Advancement of Women .....	13
3. Current Situation of Gender by Sector .....	15
3.1 Education .....	15
3.2 Health .....	17
3.3 Agriculture and Rural Development .....	19
3.4 Employment and Economic Activities .....	21
4. Gender Information Sources .....	23
4.1 List of Gender-related Organizations .....	23
4.2 List of Gender-related Reports and References .....	24
5. Definitions .....	25
6. References .....	29

## 1. Basic Profiles

### 1.1 Socio-Economic Profile

International Development Indicators	Year	Human Development Index		Gender-related Development Index		Gender Empowerment Measurement	Gender Inequality Index		Reference	
		Value	Rank	Value	Rank		Value	Rank		
	2012	0.498	149/187				0.437	80/146	(1)	
	2007	0.586	138/182	NA	NA	NA			(2)	
Demographic Indicators	Year	Population			Urban Population			Reference		
		Total (thousand)		% of female population	% of urban population		% of female population			
	2012	52,797		51.48%	33.22%		NA	(3)		
	2007	50,829		51.39%	30.46%		NA	(3)		
	Year	Population growth rate	Median age	Households by head of households		Reference				
				Male-headed			Female-headed			
	2012	0.85%	28(2010)(4)	NA		NA	(3)(4)			
	2007	0.65%	26(2005) (4)	NA		NA	(3)(4)			
Economic Indicators	Year	GNI per capita	GDP growth rate	Inflation	Gini index	ODA/ GNI	Reference			
	2012	USD 1,817(1)	NA	4.69%(5)	NA	NA	(1)(5)			
	2007	NA	13.64(2004)	21.16%(5)	NA	NA	(3)(5)			
Public expenditure by sector/ Total government expenditure	Year	Health	Education	Employment and Social Welfare	Agriculture	Defense	Reference			
	2011	1.30%	NA	NA	NA	NA	(3)			
	2007	1.09%	18.12(2001)	NA	NA	55.69(2005)	(3)			
Sectoral Share of GDP	Year	Agriculture	Industry	Services			Reference			
	2012	30.5%	32.1%	37.5%			(6)			
	2007	43.3%	20.4%	36.3%			(6)			
Labor Indicators	Year	Labor force participation rate		Unemployment rate (15 years and older)			Nominal minimum wage	Reference		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female				
	2012	82.7%	50.2%	4.0%	NA	NA	NA	(6)		
	2007	82.0%	49.8%	4.0%	NA	NA	NA	(6)		
Employment by Economic Activity	Year	Agriculture	Industry	Services			Reference			
	2012	NA	NA	NA						
	2007	NA	NA	NA						
Access to Mobile phone/ Internet facility	Year	Persons having mobile phones				Persons using internet facilities				Reference
		Urban		Rural		Urban		Rural		
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Global Gender Gap Index	Rank in					2013	2006	Reference		
	Overall (Rank/ out of the total number of countries)					NA	NA			
	Economic Participation and Opportunity					NA	NA			
	Ratio: female labor force participation over male value					NA	NA			
	Wage equality between women and men for similar work					NA	NA			
	Ratio: estimated female earned income over male value					NA	NA			

- (1) UNDP (2013). "Human Development Report 2013," p.146 (HDI and GNI) and p.158 (GII).
- (2) UNDP (2009). "Human Development Report 2009," p.169.
- (3) World Bank. "World Development Indicators," <http://data.worldbank.org/country/myanmar> (Accessed in November, 2013).
- (4) WHO. "Myanmar All Health Indicators," <http://www.quandl.com/health/myanmar-all-health-indicators> (Accessed in November, 2013).
- (5) IMF. "World Economic Outlook Database 2013," <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2013/02/weodata/index.aspx> (Accessed in November, 2013).
- (6) ADB (2013). "Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2013 Myanmar (Country Table)," p.1.

## 1.2 Education Profile

Education System	Eleven years of basic education (Five years of primary education, Four years of junior high school, Two years of high school). <i>*Under the education system reform, basic education is going to be extended to be twelve years.</i>						Reference	
							(7)	
Adult Literacy Rate	Year	Total	Male	Female			Reference	
	2010	92.29%	94.82%	89.88%			(8)	
	2000	89.94%	93.92%	86.42%			(8)	
Kindergarten	Year	Gross Enrolment Ratio		% of Enrolment		Reference		
		Total		Boy	Girl			
	2010	10.18%		9.89%	10.49%	(8)		
	2006	5.24%		5.50%	5.54%	(8)		
Primary Education	Year	Gross enrolment ratio			Net enrolment rate			Reference
		Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	
	2010	125.59%	125.54%	125.64%	87.7%(9)	87.8% (9)	87.6% (9)	(8)(9)
	2005	112.17%	111.38%	112.98%	84.7%(9)	84.2% (9)	85.2%(9)	(8)(9)
	Year	Completion rate						Reference
		Total	Boy	Girl				
	2010	54.2%	51.2%	57.1%				(10)
	2005	NA	NA	NA				
Junior High School and High School Education	Year	Gross enrolment ratio			Net enrolment rate			Reference
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	
	2010	54.27%	52.58%	56.00%	50.79%	49.33%	52.29%	(8)
	2005	47.26%	47.71%	46.80%	46.41%	46.70%	46.12%	(8)
	Year	Completion rate						Reference
		Total	Male	Female				
		NA	NA	NA				
	NA	NA	NA					
Senior High School Education	Year	Gross enrolment ratio			Net enrolment rate			Reference
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	
	2011	14.82%	12.52%	17.14%	NA	NA	NA	(8)
	2007	10.97%	9.21%	12.74%	NA	NA	NA	(8)
Technical and Vocational Education	Year	Enrolment in Technical and Vocational Education (no.)					Reference	
		Total	Male	Female				
		NA	NA	NA				
		NA	NA	NA				
Collages of Education (Teacher Training)	Year	Enrolment in Colleges of Education					Reference	
		Total	Male	Female				
		NA	NA	NA				
		NA	NA	NA				
Tertiary Education	Year	Enrolment in Polytechnics			No. of Students in Public Universities			Reference
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	
Global Gender Gap Index	Rank in				2013	2006	Reference	
	Educational Attainment				NA	NA		
	Ratio: female literacy rate over male value				NA	NA		
	Ratio: female net primary level enrolment over male value				NA	NA		
	Ratio: female net secondary level enrolment over male value				NA	NA		
	Ratio: female gross tertiary level enrolment over male value				NA	NA		

(7) JICA (2013). "Data Collection Survey on Education Sector in Myanmar," p.9 and p.13.

(8) World Bank. "World Development Indicators," <http://data.worldbank.org/country/myanmar> (Accessed in November, 2013).

(9) Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2013). "The Millennium Development Goals Report: Republic of the Union of Myanmar," pp. 34-36.

(10) MNPED, Ministry of Health and UNICEF (2011). "Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2009-2010," p.109.

### 1.3 Health Profile

Life Expectancy at Birth (age)	Year	Total	Male	Female		Reference		
	2011	64.76	62.75	66.87		(11)		
	2007	63.97	61.99	66.05		(11)		
Health Workforce	Year	Doctor to population ratio (Number of Doctor/1,000)		Nurse to population ratio (Number. of Nurse/1,000)		Reference		
	2010	0.50		0.86		(11)		
	2004	0.36		0.98				
Reproductive Health	Year	Maternal mortality ratio	Total fertility rate	Contraceptive prevalence (aged 15-49)	At least one antenatal visit	Reference		
	2010	200/100,000	1.98(2011)	46%	83%(2005-2012)( 12)	(11)(12)		
	2007	230/100,000 (2005)	2.08	41%	80.0%(14)	(11)(14)		
	Year	Births attended by skilled health personnel	Maternal anemia rate	Age at first marriage	Adolescent fertility rate (per 1,000)	Reference		
	2010	70.6%	NA	21.0(2006) (13)	12.89	(11)(13)		
	2007	63.9%	49.60(2005)	20.0 歳(1997)(13)	16.22	(11)(13)		
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	Year	Total	Male	Female		Reference		
	2012	41.1	45.8	36.3		(11)		
	2000	58.5	64.6	52.0		(11)		
Under-five Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	Year	Total	Male	Female		Reference		
	2012	52.3	57.5	47.0		(11)		
	2000	78.8	85.2	72.2		(11)		
Immunization Coverage (1-year-olds)	Year	Measles	DPT3	BCG	Polio	HepB3	Hib3	Reference
	2010	99%(2011)(12)	90%	93%	90%	90%	NA	(12)(14)
	2000	84%(12)	82%	88%	86%	62%(2005)	NA	(12)(14)
Nutrition	Year	Underweight	Stunted		Iodine deficiency	Oral rehydration therapy use rate		Reference
	2010	22.6%(2009)	35.1%(2005-2012)(14)		NA	66.3%		(11)(14)
	2000	29.6%(2003)	NA		NA	NA		(11)
Access to Safe Water and Sanitation	Year	Access to safe water			Access to improved sanitation			Reference
	2011	84.1%			77.3%			(12)
	2007	78.0%			71.9%			(12)
HIV/AIDS	Year	HIV Prevalence among pregnant women attending ANC clinics			Prevalence of HIV among adults aged 15 to 49 (%)			Reference
	2011	NA			0.6%			(11)
	2007	NA			0.8%			(11)
Global Gender Gap Index	Rank in				2013	2006	Reference	
	Health and Survival				NA	NA		
	Sex ratio at birth				NA	NA		
	Ratio: female healthy life expectancy over male value				NA	NA		

(11) World Bank. "World Development Indicators," <http://data.worldbank.org/country/myanmar> (Accessed in November, 2013).

(12) WHO (2012). "World Health Statistics 2013," p.100 (antenatal visit and immunization of Measles) and p.112 (access to water and sanitation).

(13) Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). "Report on Situation Analysis of Population and Development, Reproductive Health and Gender in Myanmar," p.49.

(14) WHO. "Myanmar All Health Indicators," <http://www.quandl.com/health/myanmar-all-health-indicators> (Accessed in November, 2013).

## 1.4 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Indicators

(Figures in bold are the targets by 2015.)

### Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Indicator	<b>Target 1A:</b> Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day		<b>Target 1B:</b> Achieve full & productive employment and decent work for all	<b>Target 1C:</b> Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger		Reference
	National poverty Incidence <b>(16%)</b>	Poverty gap ratio	Employment to population ratio	Prevalence of under-weight children under 5	% of population below minimum dietary consumption	
2010	25.6%	0.041	57.1%	22.6%(19)	5%	(15)
2005	32.1%	0.064	54.3%	41% (1991)(19)	47%(1990)(19)	(15)

### Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Indicator	<b>Target 2A:</b> Achieve universal access to primary education by 2015			Reference
	Gross enrolment ratio <b>(95%)</b>	Net enrolment rate <b>(90%)</b>	Primary completion rate <b>(98%)</b>	
2010	87.7%	75.2%	95.8%	(15)
1990	65.7%	24.5%	80.9%	(15)

### Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Promote gender equality and empower women						
Indicat or	Target 3A : Eliminate gender disparity in primary, secondary and tertiary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015					Refer ence
	Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education (100%)			Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	% of seats held by women in national parliament	
	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary			
2010	104	105%	164%	44.7%	4.6% (2012)	(15)
1990	93%	93%	151%	41.3% (2005)	NA	(15)

### Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Indicator	<b>Target 4A :</b> Reduce the under-five mortality rate by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015			Reference
	Under five mortality rate <b>(43/1,000)</b>	Infant mortality rate <b>(32.7/1,000)</b>	% of 1 year old children immunized against measles <b>(90%)</b>	
2010	62 (45-84) (2011)	48 (2011)	82.3%	(15)
1990	130	98	80.3%(2005)	(15)

### Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Indicator	<b>Target 5A :</b> Reduce the maternal mortality rate by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015		Reference
	Maternal mortality rate <b>(130/100,000)</b>	% of birth attended by skilled health personnel <b>(80%)</b>	
2010	200	67.1% (2011)	(15)
1990	520	51.7% (1996)	(15)

### Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS & Malaria and other diseases

Indicator	<b>Target 6A :</b> Halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS		<b>Target 6C :</b> Halted by 2015 and reverse the incidence of malaria and other disease		Reference
	HIV prevalence among population 15plus <b>(0.43%)</b>	% of 15-24yrs, with knowledge of HIV/AIDS	Incidence rates associated with Malaria(/100,000) <b>(&lt;50%)</b>	Incidence rates associated with TB <b>(&lt;404/100,000)</b>	
2010	0.53%(2011)	47.5%	11.28	377	(15)
1990	0.66%(2000)	NA	24.4	404	(15)

### Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Indicator	<b>Target 7C:</b> Halve the proportion of persons without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation		Reference
	% of population with access to safe drinking water	% of population with access to improved sanitation	
2010	69.4%	79.0%	(15)
1990	56%	62%	(15)

(15) Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2013). "The Millennium Development Goals Report: Republic of the Union of Myanmar."

## 1.5 National Commitment to Gender Issues

### Women in Decision-making Positions

Year	Parliament	Government		Private Sector			Reference
	Member of Parliament	Minister	Deputy Minister	Manager	Professional	Technician	
2012	53/1153(4.6%)	1/37 (2.7%)	6/54 (11.1%)	NA	NA	NA	(16)
2008	3.7%(2010)	0/37 (0%)(16)	1/42 (2.4%)(16)	NA	NA	NA	(16)(17)

### Global Gender Gap Index

	Rank in	2013	2006	Reference
<b>Economic Participation and Opportunity</b>		NA	NA	
Ratio: female legislators, senior officials and managers over male value		NA	NA	
Ratio: female professional and technical workers over male value		NA	NA	
<b>Political Empowerment</b>		NA	NA	
Ratio: females with seats in parliament over male value		NA	NA	
Ratio: females at ministerial level over male value		NA	NA	
Ratio: number of years of a female head of state or government (last 50 years) over male value		NA	NA	

### Signature and Ratification of Treaty/ Convention

Signed in	Ratified in	Convention
1995	—	Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
—	1997	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women: CEDAW
—	1997	Convention on the Rights of the Child: CRC
2000	—	Millennium Declaration
—	2004	Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime

### Legislation for Gender Equality and Protection of Women

Year	Legislation
2005	Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law
2008	Constitution

### National Policy on Gender

Year	Legislation
2012	Second Five Year National Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking 2012-2016
2013	National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022

### National Machinery for the Advancement of Women

Organization	Established in
The Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs : MNCWA	1996 (Reestablished in 2012)

(16) Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2013). “*The Millennium Development Goals Report: Republic of the Union of Myanmar*,” p.49.

(17) FES (2009). “*Country Gender Profile*,” p.2.

## 2. General Situation of Women and Government Policy on Gender

### 2.1 General Situation of Women in Myanmar

Summary
(1) In Myanmar patriarchal cultural norms and values have still been existed. For example, men have responsibilities of decision making and household income as household heads and women take care of housework and child caring. Buddhism is the major religion of Myanmar practiced by 89% of the population. Myanmar's Buddhists believe that males have religious superiority over females, in turn influencing social norms, cultural traditions and opportunities accorded to women and girls.
(2) Women's rights for their own body have been limited by some Acts, Customary Laws and Religious Laws in Myanmar.
(3) Socio economic situation is affected by the regional gaps in accessing to governmental services. Some ethnic minorities in the conflict areas are vulnerable to the violation of human rights or discrimination. In these areas, female headed households face more risks to face poverty and are also more vulnerable for the risks of human trafficking and exploitation, because their limited education and literacy prevents them from accessing to information.
(4) Women's participation in decision making in the political, administrative and economic spheres is very limited.
(5) Because of the difference of the economic situation from the surrounding countries, there are many women and girls who become victims of human trafficking. Legislation related to domestic violence has not been prepared yet (under preparation).

#### [Socio-economic situation of Myanmar]

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar (here in after Myanmar) is located in north western coast of the Southeast Asia and bordered by China, Thailand, India, Laos and Bangladesh. The size of the country is 677,000 km<sup>2</sup> and 1.8 times to the size of Japan. The population is estimated at about 52.8 million and 51.48% of it is women in 2012. After the independence from the United Kingdom in 1948, the country has been governed by military government as a socialist country from 1962 to 1988. In May 1990, the government held free elections for the first time in almost 30 years. However, the military junta refused to cede power and continued to rule the nation. In 2008, the new constitution is approved through referendum and the name of the country was changed from the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. In 2010, general election was held under the new constitution and the new democratic government was established in 2011. Since the political transition started in 2011, political, governance and economic development has been taken place such as reconciliation with some ethnic and religious minorities and floating the kyat (Myanmar's currency)<sup>1</sup>. International economic sanctions by the western countries have also been eased.

Various changes have caused of the transition. For example, since the democratic transition started after 50 years of military regime, manufacturing industry has been expanding the share from 20.4% of GDP in 2007 to 32.1% in 2012<sup>2</sup>.

Myanmar, a low-income country with GNI per capita of US\$ 1,817, is a least developed country (LDC) and ranked 149 among 187 countries in Human Development Index in 2012<sup>3</sup>. About 90 per cent of the

<sup>1</sup> McKinsey Global Institute (2013). p.13.

<sup>2</sup> Agriculture shrunk its share from 43.3% of GDP in 2007 to 30.5% in 2012.

(World Bank. "World Development Indicators," <http://data.worldbank.org/country/myanmar>, Accessed in November 2013)

<sup>3</sup> UNDP (2013).

population is Buddhists, Christians and Muslims comprise about 5 and 4 percent, and other religions together comprise about one percent<sup>4</sup>. The people of Myanmar are made up of 135 national races belonging to eight major groups (Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan) and there are more than 100 languages and dialects spoken across the nation<sup>5</sup>. According to the 1983 Population Census, Bamars (also known as Burmans) form the majority of the population with 69 percent. Some ethnic minorities have been in conflicts with the military government<sup>6</sup>. Socio economic situation is severer in rural area than urban area, where majority of ethnic minorities stay. In Myanmar national poverty incidence was 26% in 2010<sup>7</sup>. However, 71 percent of the population who live under poverty line lives in rural area. For example, rural poverty remains considerably higher than urban poverty, at 29% and 16% respectively.

### **[General situation of women]**

Myanmar is ranked in 80 among 146 countries in the gender inequality index (GII). Although there are some reports and researches which state that women's status is traditionally high and few barriers in participating socio-economic activities<sup>8</sup>, GII shows that gender equality has not significantly achieved in Myanmar, compared to the situation in other countries.

In Myanmar patriarchal cultural norms and values have still been existed, such as men have responsibilities of decision making and household income as household head and women take care of housework and child caring. Women are also required to get involved in free agricultural activities and take care of livestock<sup>9</sup>. Although girls enrolment rate in the primary education is relatively high, there are girls who dropout from school and start working out for family income<sup>10</sup>.

Myanmar is a multi-cultural society made up of 135 national races with different cultural habits and norms. Buddhism is the major religion of Myanmar practiced by 89% of the population<sup>11</sup>. Attitudes to women are strongly influenced by religious beliefs. Myanmar's Buddhists believe that males have religious superiority over females, in turn influencing social norms, cultural traditions and opportunities accorded to women and girls. Similarly, the Christians and Muslims see men and women as having different roles, with the wife generally obeying the husband as the head of the family. Some groups are more conservative. For example, among some Muslim groups in Rakhine State, women cannot leave the house without a male relative<sup>12</sup>.

Women's rights for their own body have been limited by some Acts, Customary Laws and Religious Laws in Myanmar. For example, Abortion is considered illegal in Myanmar, as is sterilization through surgical means, which requires the approval of a Sterilization Supervisory Committee<sup>13</sup>. These legislations prevent women from exercising their rights to reproductive choice. Also, under the current (1982) citizenship law, women's citizenship is not automatically passed on to their children born outside the country or to non-national husband and their children. This law also appears to discriminate against some minorities in

---

<sup>4</sup> MNPED and UNICEF (2012). p.14.

<sup>5</sup> MNPED and UNICEF (2012). p.14.

<sup>6</sup> JICA (2012). p.17. However, reconciliation has been enhanced since the new government was established in 2011.

<sup>7</sup> MNPED, UNDP, UNICEF, and SIDA (2011). p.5.

<sup>8</sup> Delegate of Myanmar government reported that "Gender equality has never been a big issue in Myanmar mainly due to the fact that Myanmar women traditionally enjoy high degree of equal rights with men. Their rights are being protected by tradition and the existing laws," in the 67th UN general assembly in 2012.

<sup>9</sup> JICA (2012). p.15.

<sup>10</sup> JICA (2012). p.15.

<sup>11</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). p.138.

<sup>12</sup> MNPED and UNICEF (2012). p.16.

<sup>13</sup> JICA (2012). p.16 and FES (2009). p.10.



Northern Rakhine State, and Northern Shan State in particular. Restrictions on the movement of this segment of population have negative impacts on the access to education, health services and employment opportunities of women and girls<sup>14</sup>.

Socio economic situation is also affected by the regional gaps in accessing to governmental services. For example, basic services coverage, such as antenatal care, institutional deliveries, preschool and primary school, in states/regions with significant hard-to-reach areas, such as Chin, Sagaing, Kayin, Kayah and Northern Rakhine State, are considerably lower than in other parts of the country<sup>15</sup>. This results in a higher illiteracy rate and higher infant, child and maternal mortality rates<sup>16</sup>. Some ethnic minorities in the conflict areas are also vulnerable to the violation of human rights or discrimination. In these areas, female headed households are also more vulnerable for the risks of poverty, human trafficking and/or exploitation, because their limited education and literacy prevent them from accessing to information<sup>17</sup>.

### **[Women's participation in key political and administrative positions]**

Women's participation in decision making in the political, administrative and economic spheres is very limited.

In the multi-party general democracy election in May 1990, only 13 women were elected for 485 seats (2.68%)<sup>18</sup>. The 1993 and 2005-08 National Convention also include very few women nominated as representatives from parties and other group. For example, the National Convention was held in 2006-07 for the preparation of State Constitution and out of total 1080 delegates, only 67 delegates (6.2%) were women<sup>19</sup>.

Under the new constitution multi-party election in 2010 and by-election in 2012, 53 women (4.6%) were elected among the 138 female candidates in total<sup>20</sup>. Myanmar still has a long way to go to reaching the target of 30 percent in MDG 3.

In 2013, seven women are appointed in the cabinet as Union Minister and Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement which is the focal ministry for women's affairs, and as Deputy Ministers in the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Forestry and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security<sup>21</sup>. Although the number of female Ministers and Deputy Ministers is increased from only one Deputy Minister in 2008 to seven, the rate of women in such decision making post is still very limited (less than 10% of the cabinet).

In the State/Regional Parliaments, 4 women hold ministerial positions, two in the Kachin State Parliament, one in the Ayeyarwaddy Region and one in the Yangon Regional Parliament<sup>22</sup>.

Women's participation in decision making is limited even in the government institution. Women occupied only 36.6 percent of senior level posts, although the ratio of women's participation in government institutions and ministries has reached to 52.4 percent in 2010-2011<sup>23</sup>. Although the constitution declares the prohibition of discrimination in the employment of civil servants in the Article 352, it also added that it does

---

<sup>14</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). pp.156-157.

<sup>15</sup> MNPED and UNICEF (2012). p.21.

<sup>16</sup> MNPED and UNICEF (2012). p.21.

<sup>17</sup> JICA (2012). p.17.

<sup>18</sup> FES (2009). pp.1-2. The result was not accepted.

<sup>19</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). pp.155-156.

<sup>20</sup> Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2013). pp.49-50.

<sup>21</sup> Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2013). p.49.

<sup>22</sup> Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2013). p.49.

<sup>23</sup> Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2013). p.49.

not prevent men from being hired for the position where only men are preferable.

The implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Advancement of Women 2013-2022 (NSPAW) and strengthening of the organizational structures and administrative instruments will lead to the equal participation of women in employment and governance, particularly in leadership and decision-making positions<sup>24</sup>.

### **[Gender based violence]**

Because of the difference of the economic situation from the surrounding countries, there are many women and girls who become victims of human trafficking<sup>25</sup>. The victims tend to be suffered from human trafficking in Thailand, China, Malaysia, Korea and Macao and work as forced labors in factories and fishing boat, and exploitative domestic labors. Forced marriage is common among female victims<sup>26</sup>.

Legislation related to domestic violence has not been prepared yet<sup>27</sup>, although the ‘Law for Violence Against Women’ is under preparation<sup>28</sup>. Rapes in the intimate relationships have not been treated as criminal case if the wives are over 12 years old. Polygamy is not banned although it is discouraged<sup>29</sup>.

---

<sup>24</sup> Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2013). p.50.

<sup>25</sup> JICA (2012). p.11.

<sup>26</sup> JICA (2012). p.11.

<sup>27</sup> FES (2009). p.13. and Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). p.139.

<sup>28</sup> Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2013). pp.52-53. and Hearing form the Project on Capacity Improvement of Recovery and Reintegration Assistance for Trafficked Persons in Myanmar (December 2013).

<sup>29</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). p156.

## 2.2 Government Policy for Gender Equality and Gender Mainstreaming

Summary
(1) The Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar 2008 states in Chapter VIII, Article 348 that the Union shall not discriminate any citizen of the Union of Myanmar based on race, birth, religion, official position, status, culture, sex and wealth. Article 350 states that women shall be entitled to the same rights and salaries by men in respect of similar work.
(2) In October 2013, National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 (NSPAW) was launched. The objectives of the plan are empowering women to enjoy their rights with support of the government, and establishing systems, structures and practices for the advancement of women, gender equality, and the realization of women's rights.
(3) Myanmar is a signatory of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). It has also committed to International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Myanmar is a member in ASEAN Commission on Women and Children's rights and ASEAN Committee on women.
(4) Basic legislations related to gender based violence are Constitution, Criminal Act and Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law.

### [National policy on gender]

The Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, 2008 states in Chapter VIII, Article 348 that the Union shall not discriminate any citizen of the Union of Myanmar based on race, birth, religion, official position, status, culture, sex and wealth<sup>30</sup>. Article 350 states that women shall be entitled to the same rights and salaries by men in respect of the same occupation<sup>31</sup>.

In October 2013, National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 (NSPAW) was launched. The objectives of the plan are as follows;

- All women in Myanmar are empowered and able to fully enjoy their rights with support of the government,
- Establishing systems, structures and practices are created for the advancement of women, gender equality, and the realization of women's rights.

NSPAW is composed based on the twelve Priority Areas of the Beijing Platform of Action and CEDAW, such as livelihood, education and training, health, violence against women, emergencies, the economy, decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights, the media, the environment, and the girl child.

NSPAW covers activity plans about 'research and survey', 'awareness raising', 'implementation' and 'budgets and policy making' in each areas. However, the time lines and the budget sources for each activity have not been detailed<sup>32</sup> in it and will be planned in five-year Operational Plan which is planned to be developed.

Development of NSPAW was initiated by Department of Social Welfare (DSW) of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR). The management committee of the NSPAW will be established under the guidance of The Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs (MNCWA). For

<sup>30</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). p.154.

<sup>31</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). p.154.

<sup>32</sup> NSPAW. pp36-39. Governmental organization, national/international NGOs, UN agencies, private organization, civil society and individual donation are listed as potential implements and funding sources.

the implementation of activities, more than one gender focal point will be assigned and subcommittee will be organized in the related ministries.

National Plan of Action for Children 2006–2015 has also been implemented to achieve Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Millennium Development Goal (MGDs) in Myanmar.

#### **[International commitments related to gender]**

Myanmar is a signatory of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). It has also committed to International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

As a member of ASEAN, Myanmar participated in these declarations;

- Declaration on the Commitments for Children in ASEAN (2001),
- Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children (2004),
- Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region (2004),
- Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (2007).

Myanmar is also a member in ASEAN Commission on Women and Children's rights and ASEAN Committee on women and involved in the activities to enhance women's protection and women's development at the international, regional and national level.

#### **[Laws and regulations related to Gender Based Violence]**

Basic legislations related to gender based violence are Constitution 2008, Criminal Act and Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law.

NSPAW also includes 'violence against women' as one of the twelve priority areas. It covers the activities to strengthen systems, structures and practices to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to respond to the needs of women and girls affected by violence<sup>33</sup>.

Myanmar's customary laws and Religious Laws deal mainly with personal affairs such as marriage, divorce and inheritance<sup>34</sup>.

Regarding Human trafficking, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law was enforced in 2005 and Five Year National Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking 2007-2011 was implemented. Activities in policy and cooperation, prevention, prosecution, protection and capacity building were implemented by governmental institutions, UN agencies and NGOs based on the plan. Since 2012, Second Five Year National Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking 2012-2016 has been implemented. The main focuses of the plan include strengthening protection in the focused area, establishment of national fund for human trafficking, expansion of shelter and capacity building of watch groups<sup>35</sup>. "The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report" published annually by the government of the United States of America is considered as the world's most comprehensive resource of governmental anti-human trafficking efforts. Being acknowledged such significant efforts made by the government, the tier placement in TIP report on Myanmar got

---

<sup>33</sup> NSPAW. pp.13-16.

<sup>34</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). p.139.

<sup>35</sup> Hearing form the Project on Capacity Improvement of Recovery and Reintegration Assistance for Trafficked Persons in Myanmar (December 2013).

progressed from repetitive “Tier 3<sup>36</sup>” placement until 2011 to “Tier 2 Watch List.” in 2012. Myanmar got placed on “Tier 2 Watch List” for a second consecutive year in 2013.

There is no legislations specifically targets cases of domestic violence other than the criminal law in Myanmar. DSA of MSWRR has been drafting ‘Law for Violence Against Women’<sup>37</sup>.

---

<sup>36</sup> U.S Department of States. “*Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report*,” <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/index.htm> (Accessed in November 2010). In the TIP Report, each country got placed onto one of three tiers based on the extent of their governments’ efforts to comply with the “minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking”. Tier 1: Countries whose governments fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act’s (TVPA) minimum standards, Tier2: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA’s minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards, Tier2 Watch List: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA’s minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards AND: a) The absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing; b) There is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year; or c) The determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year, Tier3: Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

<sup>37</sup> Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2013). pp.52-53. and Hearing form the Project on Capacity Improvement of Recovery and Reintegration Assistance for Trafficked Persons in Myanmar (December 2013).

## 2.3 National Machinery for the Advancement of Women

Summary
<p>(1) After the participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing) in 1995, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR) established the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs (MNCWA) to enhance the advancement of women in 1996. According to the policies of the new government, MNCWA was re-established in 2012.</p> <p>(2) National Working Committees (MNWCWAs) were formed as focal points at the central, state, division, district and townships levels. Members of the National Committee and the Working Committee are the Deputy Ministers of all ministries and presidents of active women's associations in the country and national NGOs responsible for women's development.</p> <p>(3) The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (MWAFF) was also formed in 2003 to organize women all over the country to carry out activities to ensure the security and advancement of women's life.</p> <p>(4) MNCWA will guide the management committee for the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW).</p>

### [Background]

After the participation at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing) in 1995, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR) established the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs (MNCWA) to enhance the advancement of women in 1996. According to the policies of the new government, MNCWA was re-established in 2012.

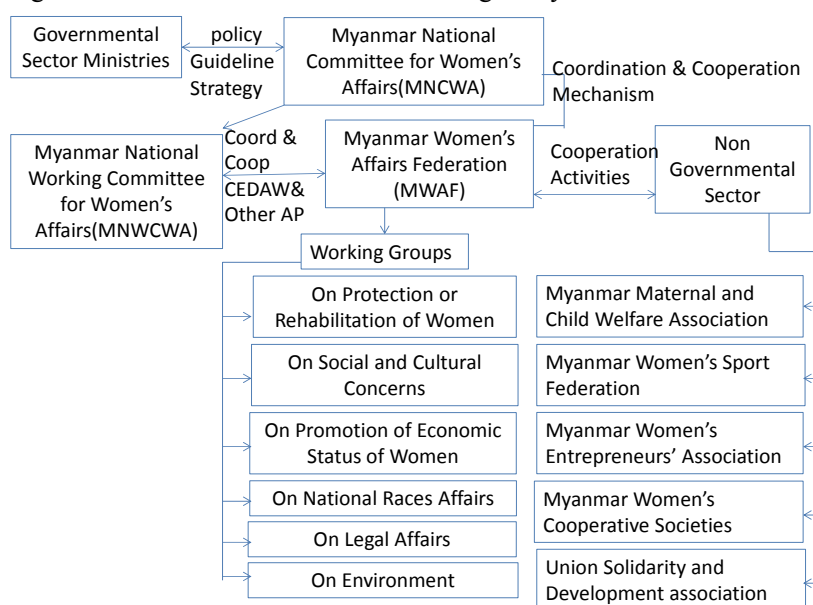
### [Organization]

MSWRR is the line ministry with its Department of Social Welfare (DSW) as focal point to address gender issues<sup>38</sup>. MNCWA was established by the MSWRR in 1996. MSWRR is the focal ministry of MNCWA, and the committee is chaired by the Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the administrative works are taken by DSW.

MNCWA is the national focal point and the National Working Committees (MNWCWAs) was formed as focal points at the central, state, division, district and townships levels<sup>39</sup>.

Members of the National Committee and the Working Committee are the Deputy Ministers of all ministries and representatives of

Figure 1: Structure of Gender Mainstreaming in Myanmar



Source: Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). p.160 (Proceedings of the East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting (Tokyo, Japan, 2006).

<sup>38</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). p.159.

<sup>39</sup> FES (2009). pp.7-8.

active women's associations and national NGOs responsible for women's development<sup>40</sup>.

National Plan of Action was developed in 1996 after the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing). As the key implementation body of implementation of the National Plan of Action and CEDAW commitments, the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (MWAFF) was formed in 2003 to organize women all over the country to carry out activities to ensure the security and advancement of women's life<sup>41</sup>. Although MWAFF is a national NGO, it operates under the MSWRR<sup>42</sup>.

The structure of gender mainstreaming composed of the three focal organizations, such as MNCWA, MSWRR and MWAFF is shown in Figure 1<sup>43</sup>. There are also some groups composed of national and international institutions, which enhance gender equality and gender mainstreaming in Myanmar, such as Gender Equality Network (GEM) and UN Thematic Group.

Structures and systems to enhance gender mainstreaming in the line ministries has not been established yet. However, the NSPAW instructs that more than one gender focal point will be assigned and subcommittees will be organized in the related ministries to implement activities of NSPAW<sup>44</sup>.

### **[Main activities]**

National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW) was developed and launched in October 2013 in Myanmar. MNCWA will guide the management committee for NSPAW.

MNCWA is a focal organization to enhance the advancement of women, mainly achieve National Plan of Action which was developed in 1996. The plan has covered only seven of twelve priority areas in Beijing Platform of Action, such as education, health, violence against women, economy, culture, environment and media<sup>45</sup>. NSPAW covers all the twelve areas. Therefore, activities for advancement of women and gender equality will be comprehensively achieved through implementation of NSPAW.

---

<sup>40</sup> FES (2009). pp.7-8, Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). p.160.

<sup>41</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). p.160.

<sup>42</sup> (Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). p.160. In Myanmar there are some government organized NGO (GONGO) like MWAFF (FES (2009). p.8). There is a tendency to maintain the independence of these GONGO nowadays (hearing from the Project on Capacity Improvement of Recovery and Reintegration Assistance for Trafficked Persons in Myanmar in December 2013).

<sup>43</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). "Structure in 2010," p.160.

<sup>44</sup> NSPAW. p.36. This shows the possibility of establishment of structures and/or systems for gender mainstreaming at the ministry level.

<sup>45</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). p.160.

### 3. Current Situation of Gender by Sector

#### 3.1 Education

Summary
(1) Major education policies in Myanmar have been developed and implemented based on the 30-Year Long-Term Education Development Plan 2001-2031 (30-Year Long-Term Plan).
(2) The National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 (NSPAW) includes ‘Education and Training’ as one of the twelve priority areas. It covers the activities to strengthen systems, structures and practices for ensuring access to quality formal and non formal education for women and girls.
(3) Girl’s enrolment rate of primary education is relatively high and gender gap cannot be found in the access to primary education in Myanmar. Instead, regional diversity and poverty has raised gaps in access to governmental services, including education.
(4) Women’s ratio to men in enrolment in tertiary education is 164 percent in 2010, which shows reverse gender gap between girls and boys. Women’s higher enrolment rate in tertiary education has not linked to expansion of women’s employment

#### [Legal and policy framework on gender]

The constitution 2008 declares the general rights of education of Myanmar citizens in Article 366. Enhancement of the basic education is one of the important political agenda. Major education policies in Myanmar have been developed and implemented based the 30-Year Long-Term Education Development Plan 2001-2031 (30-Year Long-Term Plan)<sup>46</sup>. In November 2012, National Education Promotion 20-Year Long-Term Plan for 2011/12-2030/31 (the 20-Year Long-Term Plan) was drafted. This will supersede the existing 30-Year Long-Term Plan to enhance basic education<sup>47</sup>.

The National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 (NSPAW) includes ‘Education and Training’ as one of the twelve priority areas. It covers the activities to strengthen systems, structures and practices for ensuring access to quality formal and non formal education for women and girls<sup>48</sup>.

Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR) has been conducted to realize the development mid/long term education policy and plan by the Ministry of Education from 2012 to 2014. In this review, gender is treated as a cross cutting category to analyze the target areas, such as political and legal system/implementation/budget, basic education, non formal education, TVET and tertiary education.

#### [Gender issues in education]

Access to basic education has been enhanced based on the 30-Year Long-Term Plan in Myanmar. In 2010, the net enrolment rate of primary education reached to 87.7 percent (the rate for girls is 87.6% and for boys is 87.8%). Accordingly, girl’s enrolment rate to primary education is relatively high and gender gap cannot be found in the access to primary education. Moreover, the ratio of girls to boys in all the levels of education has been increased. Therefore, MDG 3 is considered to be achieved<sup>49</sup>.

However, regional diversity and poverty has produced gaps in access to governmental services, including

<sup>46</sup> JICA (2013). pp.8-12.

<sup>47</sup> JICA (2013). pp.10-12.

<sup>48</sup> MNCWA and MSWRR (2013). pp.7-10.

<sup>49</sup> Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2013). pp.45-47.



education in Myanmar. For example, although primary education is provided for free, parents are required to cover various costs for education, such as transportation, uniform, textbook, allowance for teachers and school maintenance fee. These costs put financial burden to poor households and sometimes resulted in the situation in which children do not enrolled in or dropout of school<sup>50</sup>. Furthermore, girls and boys of ethnic minority in rural areas tend to face difficulty to access to education, because of the distance to school and/or barriers caused by language, additionally to the reasons caused by poverty. For example, in Kachin, Kayah, Shan, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi, a larger percentage of the population than in other states have less than a Grade One level education<sup>51</sup>. Children in poor household tend to engage in economic activities, instead of going to school<sup>52</sup>. These situation may be reflected in the low completion rate (54.2%) of primary school (rate for girls is 57.1% and boys is 51.2%).<sup>53</sup> This situation seems to raise a gap between the gross enrolment rate and the net enrolment rate in primary education<sup>54</sup>.

Enrolment rate in secondary and tertiary education is still limited both for girls and boys in Myanmar<sup>55</sup>. Girls' ratio to boys' in enrolment in tertiary education is 164percent in 2010. This figure shows reverse gender gap between girls and boys. However, this girl's higher enrolment rate in tertiary education has resulted in expansion of women's employment<sup>56</sup>.

---

<sup>50</sup> MNPED and UNICEF (2012). According to the research conducted in 2009, nearly 30% of school-aged children do not attend school.

<sup>51</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). p.141.

<sup>52</sup> MNPED and UNICEF (2012).

<sup>53</sup> MNPED, Ministry of Health and UNICEF (2011). p.109.

<sup>54</sup> Office of the UN RC in Myanmar (2011). pp.34-36 For example, gross enrolment rate in primary was 125.59% in total in 2010. MNPED, Ministry of Health and UNICEF (2011). p.109. Furthermore, it decreased to 87.7% and completion rate is 54.2%.

<sup>55</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). p.141.

<sup>56</sup> Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2013). p.47.

### 3.2 Health

Summary
<p>(1) Major policies related to health have been implemented based on the ‘Myanmar Health Vision 2030’ in Myanmar. Based on the vision, five year National Health Plans (NHPs) such as National Reproductive Health Strategic Plan 2009-2013 and Five-Year Strategic Plan for Child Health Development in Myanmar 2010-2014 were developed and the activities to achieve the targets have been implemented.</p> <p>(2) National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 (NSPAW) includes ‘women and health’ as one of the twelve priority areas. It covers the activities to strengthen systems, structures and practices to protect, promote and fulfil women’s and girls’ right to quality and affordable health care, including sexual and reproductive health.</p> <p>(3) Maternal mortality rate and infant and under-five mortality rate are relatively high, although they have been improved for these twenty years. There are gaps between urban and rural areas. Mother’s educational level is also a key aspect for maternal and infant/under-five mortality. Quality of health services is also a reason of poor reproductive health.</p> <p>(4) Myanmar has the third highest HIV prevalence rate in the Southeast Asia, following Thailand and Cambodia. More men than women face risks to be infected of HIV.</p>

#### [Legal and Policy framework on gender]

The constitution 2008 declares the rights of all the citizens to access to health care in Article 358 and the equal rights of mothers, children and expected mothers in Article 351.

Major policies related to health have been developed and implemented based on ‘Myanmar Health Vision 2030’ in Myanmar. The main components of the vision are ‘health policy and law’, ‘health promotion’, ‘health service promotion’, ‘development of human resources for health’, ‘promotion of traditional medicine’, ‘development health research’, ‘role of cooperative/ joint ventures/ private sectors /NGO’, ‘partnership for health system development’ and ‘international cooperation’.

The key indicators of the vision are ‘increase the average life expectancy to 75-80 years old’, ‘decrease infant mortality rate to 22 (per 1,000)’, ‘decrease under-five mortality rate to 29 (per 1,000)’ and ‘decrease maternity mortality rate to 0.9 (per 1,000)’<sup>57</sup>.

Based on the vision, five year National Health Plans (NHPs) have been developed and activities to achieve the targets have been implemented.

Improvement of reproductive health is one of the important political agenda in Myanmar. The National Reproductive Health Strategic Plan 2009-2013 has been implemented to achieve the MDG 4 (reduction of infant and under-five mortality rate) and MDG 5 (improvement of maternal health). Activities to achieve the target set in the plan includes ‘provision of technical training to basic health staff’ and ‘capacity development of new midwives’. Regarding children’s health, activities based on Five-Year Strategic Plan for Child Health Development in Myanmar 2010-2014 have been implemented.

The National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 (NSPAW) includes ‘women and health’ as one of the twelve priority areas. It covers the activities to strengthen systems, structures and practices to protect, promote and fulfil women’s and girls’ right to quality and affordable health care, including sexual and reproductive health<sup>58</sup>.

<sup>57</sup> JICA (2011). pp.18-22.

<sup>58</sup> MNCWA and MSWRR (2013). pp.10-13.

Myanmar will conduct its first Population and Housing Census in 30 years between March and April in 2014. The preparation has already been started.

### **[Gender issues in health]**

Maternal mortality rate and infant and under-five mortality rate is relatively high, regardless of high rate of immunization coverage and antenatal visit in Myanmar<sup>59</sup>. These indicators also show gaps between urban and rural areas. They also tend to be affected by mother's educational level<sup>60</sup>. This means that mothers with limited education in rural area face more risks for maternal and infant/ under-five mortality.

Maternal mortality rate has been decreasing for these thirty years and improved from 580/100,000 (1990) to 200/100,000 (2010)<sup>61</sup>. However, the situation in the rural area is worse than in urban area. For example, the mortality rate ranged from 136 to 527 according to region in 2004/2005<sup>62</sup>. The rate is lower in the hill area and higher in the central dry area<sup>63</sup>. Infant mortality rate has been improved from 98/100,000 (1990) to 48/100,000 (2011) and under-five mortality rate also reached 62/100,000 (2011) from 130/100,000 (1990) for these 30 years<sup>64</sup>.

In Myanmar 20 percent of diseases is related to maternal and infant health. Antenatal visit rate is relatively high. However, according the research conducted in 2004/2005, the reasons of maternal/infant death include simple health problems which are supposed to be covered by basic health services. Therefore, the quality of health service related to maternal and infant health needs to be improved to improve the reproductive health in Myanmar.

Myanmar has the third highest HIV prevalence rate in the Southeast Asia, following Thailand (1.4%) and Cambodia (0.8%)<sup>65</sup>. More men than women face risks to be infected in HIV<sup>66</sup>.

---

<sup>59</sup> WHO (2012). p.100. Coverage rate of immunization of measles was 99% and the rate of one more antenatal visit was 83% in 2010.

<sup>60</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). pp.91-93.

<sup>61</sup> World Bank. "World Development Indicators," <http://data.worldbank.org/country/myanmar> (Accessed in November 2010)

<sup>62</sup> JICA (2011). p.11.

<sup>63</sup> JICA (2011). p.11.

<sup>64</sup> Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2013).

<sup>65</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). p.121.

<sup>66</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). The male and female ratio was 2.4:1, p.121.

### 3.3 Agriculture and Rural Development

Summary
(1) The National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 (NSPAW) does not includes either ‘agriculture’ or ‘rural development’ as one of the twelve priority areas. However, it covers the activities to ensure gender equality in land reform and agrarian reform.
(2) Rural poverty remains considerably higher than urban poverty. Poverty incidence is higher among female headed households than the male headed ones. Living conditions of the households headed by women are also severer.
(3) Women tend to have dual responsibility because of the gender division of labor. In rural area, women are required to taking care of livestock and/or work as free family labor for agriculture, besides doing reproductive works.
(4) Agriculture has been the main industry in Myanmar. Employment related to agriculture is important opportunity for rural women to access to income. However, despite legal provisions for equal pay for men and women, women’s wage tends to be lower than the one for men in agricultural sector.

#### [Policy framework on gender]

The National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 (NSPAW) does not includes either ‘agriculture’ or ‘rural development’ as one of the twelve priority areas. However, it covers the activities to ensure gender equality in land reform and agrarian reform<sup>67</sup>.

#### [Gender issues in agriculture and rural development]

In Myanmar national poverty incidence was 26% in 2010<sup>68</sup>. However, there are regional gaps. For example, 71 percent of the population who live under poverty line lives in rural area. Rural poverty remains considerably higher than urban poverty, at 29% and 16% respectively. The highest values of poverty incidence are in Chin at 73% followed by Rakhine (44%), Tanintharyi (33%), Shan (33%) and Ayeyarwady (32%)<sup>69</sup>.

Poverty incidence is higher among female headed households than the male headed ones<sup>70</sup>. Living conditions of the households headed by women are also severer. For example, fetching water is women’s role when it’s conducted manually in Myanmar. However, once conducted with vehicles, the responsibility goes to men, which is often observed in the middle or upper class family<sup>71</sup>. Female headed households tend to have less opportunity to access to vehicles or other technical tools and face burden for fetching water.

Women tend to have dual responsibility because of the gender division of labor. In rural area, women are required to taking care of livestock and/or work as free family labor for agriculture, besides doing reproductive works, such as caring, cooking, washing and cleaning for family<sup>72</sup>.

Agriculture has been the main industry in Myanmar. After the political transition in 2011, the share of agriculture of GDP has been shrunk from 43.3 percent in 2007 to 30.5 percent in 2012. However, employment related to agriculture is still important opportunity for rural women to access to income. It was reported that among female labor force 70 percent were involved in agricultural work and among hired

<sup>67</sup> MNCWA and MSWRR (2013). pp.5-7.

<sup>68</sup> MNPED, UNDP, UNICEF, and SIDA (2011). p.5.

<sup>69</sup> MNPED, UNDP, UNICEF, and SIDA (2011). p.5.

<sup>70</sup> JICA (2010). pp.2-9.

<sup>71</sup> JICA (2010). pp.2-27.

<sup>72</sup> JICA (2011). p.15.

workers in agriculture 48.3 percent were women<sup>73</sup>.

Despite legal provisions for equal pay for men and women, women's wage in agriculture tends to be lower than the one for men. For example, according to the research results for poverty profile both the unskilled agricultural daily wage and the off-farm unskilled daily wage for women were consistently below that of men for all five townships monitored by UNDP throughout 2008, usually by a factor of 25-33%<sup>74</sup>. Research conducted by JICA development sturdy project<sup>75</sup> also shows that women receive only 70 to 80 percent of the total amount of income which men receive<sup>76</sup>.

The gender gap in income seems to be caused by gender division of labor which decides women's and men's roles differently in agriculture. For example of rice production, women are in charge of transplanting and harvesting and men are in charge of uprooting of seedling and harvesting<sup>77</sup>.

---

<sup>73</sup> FAO (2011). p.106 and p.113.

<sup>74</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). p.153.

<sup>75</sup> JICA (2010). "*The Development Study on Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development for Poverty Reduction Programme in the Central Dry Zone of the Union of Myanmar.*"

<sup>76</sup> JICA (2010). pp.2-17.

<sup>77</sup> JICA (2010). pp.2-38.

### 3.4 Employment and Economic activities

Summary
(1) The constitution 2008 declares the rights of all the citizens to be engaged in economic activities in Article 370 and the equal rights of women to equal pay from the same occupation in Article 350.
(2) The National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 (NSPAW) includes ‘women and economy’ as one of the twelve priority areas. It covers the activities to strengthen systems, structures and practices to ensure fairness and equal rights for women in relation to employment, credit, resources, assets and economic benefits.
(3) Despite legal provisions for equal opportunity for economic activities for men and women, only about 50 percent of women are economically active in 2012, when over 80 percent of men are involved in any economic activities. Patriarchal cultural norms and values favor the economic activities of men over those of women.
(4) Women’s participation in decision making is limited even in economic activities. Women tend to be employed in lower-skilled labor and/or in the lower level posts. Difference of the level of employment causes a wage gap between women and men in the same occupation.
(5) Women tend to have dual responsibility because of the gender division of labor. Women who are involved in economic activities are required to take care of family members as care givers and be engaged in productive work as employers.

#### [Legal and policy framework on gender]

The constitution of 2008 declares the rights of all the citizens to be engaged in economic activities in Article 370 and the equal rights of women to equal pay from the same occupation in Article 350.

The National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 (NSPAW) includes ‘women and economy’ as one of the twelve priority areas. It covers the activities to strengthen systems, structures and practices to ensure fairness and equal rights for women in relation to employment, credit, resources, assets and economic benefits.

There are registrations which ensure women’s rights in economic activities, as follows<sup>78</sup>;

- The Social Security Act (1954) and the Basic Rights and Duties of Workers (1964): women workers are entitled to be paid maternity leave for six weeks before and six week after child birth,
- The Factory Act (1951): to provide children under six a separate room with proper ventilation and supervision and separate toilet facilities for women.

#### [Gender issues in employment and economic activities]

Despite legal provisions for equal opportunity for economic activities for men and women, only about 50 percent of women are economically active in 2012, when over 80 percent of men are involved in any economic activities<sup>79</sup>. Among female labor force 70 percent were involved in agricultural work in 2010<sup>80</sup>. Although enhancement of women’s employment in non-agricultural sector is included in MDG 3, only 44.7 percent of population in wage employment in non-agricultural sector was women in 2010<sup>81</sup>.

<sup>78</sup> FES (2009). p.9.

<sup>79</sup> ADB (2013). p.1.

<sup>80</sup> Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2013). p.48.

<sup>81</sup> FAO (2011). p.106.

Regarding the condition of employment, disparities in wages exist between men and women, both as remuneration gap as can be seen in the informal sector, as well as advance gaps which can be seen in both the formal and the informal sector<sup>82</sup>. Furthermore, patriarchal cultural norms and values favor the economic activities of men over those of women, with, sometimes, explicit gender roles in livelihood activities. This was seen especially in Cyclone Nargis recovery activities, where men's work was consistently prioritized over women's<sup>83</sup>. More women than men also lost their job after the withdrawal of foreign funded companies for the economic sanction<sup>84</sup>.

A research points out that female workers are more productive than men, yet are paid the same wages, and thereby are effectively discriminated against in lack of remuneration for their contribution<sup>85</sup>.

Women's participation in decision making is limited even in economic activities. Women occupied only 36.6 percent of senior level posts, although the ratio of women's participation in government institutions and ministries reached to 52.4 percent in 2010-2011<sup>86</sup>. Women tend to be employed in lower-skilled labor and/or in the lower level posts. Difference of the level of employment causes a wage gap between women and men in the same occupation.

Women tend to have dual or triple responsibility because of the gender division of labor. Women who are involved in economic activities are required to taking care of both reproductive works as care givers to families and productive work as employers<sup>87</sup>. In the informal sector, facilities for child caring are limited and female workers face more burden for child caring.

As migrant workers, women are vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Migrant women also tend to earn less income than men from the same occupation<sup>88</sup>.

---

<sup>82</sup> Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2013). p.49.

<sup>83</sup> JICA (2011). pp.15-16.

<sup>84</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). p.167.

<sup>85</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). p.154.

<sup>86</sup> Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2013). p.49.

<sup>87</sup> MNPED and UNICEF (2012). p.89.

<sup>88</sup> Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). pp.154-155.

## 4. Gender Information Sources

### 4.1 List of Gender-related Organizations

Because of the economic sanction against Myanmar, the number of development cooperation agencies and organizations which directly provide support to the government has been very limited<sup>89</sup>. However, since the government shifted its regime from military to democracy in 2011 and undertook various reforms, approaches of these agencies for development cooperation to Myanmar have been changing. In such a transition period, only the information available through this research is listed in this section.

Name of Organization	Area of responsibility/ Activity
<b>NGOs founded by the government (GONGO)</b>	
Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide skill-based education, income generation and training of auxiliary midwives.</li> </ul>
Myanmar Medical Association (MMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct activities related to Maternal and child health care.</li> </ul>
Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association (MWEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unite and bring into focus and world attention to the role and capabilities of Myanmar women as entrepreneur business women.</li> </ul>
Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (MWAFF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement activities of MNWCA in the grass roots level,</li> <li>• Conduct activities on Women's protection and Rehabilitation, including Human trafficking, Socio cultural and Socio economic development, Ethnic minorities, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>The Myanmar Women's Sports Federation (MWSF)</b>	
AusAID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity Development of human resources in the police and judicial field ,through the regional project,</li> <li>• Support through 3DF.</li> </ul>
JICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project on Capacity Improvement of Recovery and Reintegration Assistance for Trafficked Persons (2012-2015),</li> <li>• Strengthening of Basic Health Staff Project (2009-2014).</li> </ul>
<b>NGOs</b>	
<b>&lt;Japanese NGO &gt;</b>	
AMDA Multi-sectoral & Integrated Development Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement livelihood project to rural women (Microcredit, Health insurance, Health education, Vocational training) , etc.</li> </ul>
Bridge Asia Japan (BAJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support to women on Vocational training, Literacy, Health and Nutrition, etc.</li> </ul>
Plan Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support on Emergency response focusing on children, women and people with disabilities, Preschool education, Water and nutrition, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>&lt;Other International NGO &gt;</b>	
Association François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support to the victims of Human trafficking and Street children, etc.</li> </ul>
Save the Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support on Health and nutrition, Emergency response, Education and Youth development, etc.</li> </ul>
World Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support on Education, Health, Microfinance, Child protection, Emergency response, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Others</b>	
Gender Equality Network (GEN – formerly the Women's Protection Technical Working Group) <sup>90</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established as the Women's Protection Technical Working Group in the Protection Cluster System after the cyclone Nargis,</li> <li>• Composed of international/ local NGOs, UN agencies (ex, UNDP and</li> </ul>

<sup>89</sup> These agencies tended to provide support through UN agencies or cooperation fund, such as 'The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria' and Three Disease Fund: 3DF among DFID, AusAID, EC, Norway, Netherland and SIDA.

<sup>90</sup> Collected information from the website of Local Resource Center,

<http://www.lrcmyanmar.org/en/ngo-donor-profiles/gender-equality-network-gen-%E2%80%93-formerly-women%E2%80%99s-protection-technical-working-group> (Accessed in November 2013)



	UNFPA), representatives of civil society, • Drafted NSPAW, • Main activities are Coordination, Networking, Capacity building, Information sharing, Advocacy, Communication, Researches for Gender equality and Women's empowerment.
Gender Theme Group	• Established as a networking groups among governmental and nongovernmental organizations, • Composed of UN agencies and international/ local NGOs, • Main activities are coordination and sharing of resources for gender mainstreaming of humanitarian and development cooperation.

## 4.2 List of Gender-related Reports and References

Title	Author	Publisher/ Source	Year
<b>General Situation of Women and Government Policy on Gender</b>			
The Millennium Development Goals Report of Myanmar	Government of Union of Myanmar	NA	2005
In the Shadow of the Junta, CEDAW Shadow Report Burma 2008 by Women of Burma	WLB	WLB	2008
Country Gender Profile	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung	2009
Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment (IHLCA) in Myanmar: MDG-Relevant Information	MNPED, UNDP and UNOPS	MNPED, UNDP and UNOPS	2007
Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment (IHLCA) in Myanmar 2009-2010: MDG Data Report	MNPED, UNDP, UNICEF, and SIDA	MNPED, UNDP, UNICEF, and SIDA	2011
Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2009-2010	MNPED, Ministry of Health and UNICEF	MNPED, Ministry of Health and UNICEF	2011
Thematic Analysis 2011 - Achieving the Millennium Development Goals	Office of the UN RC in Myanmar	NA	2011
Detailed Planning Survey Report for the Project on Capacity Improvement of Recovery and Reintegration Assistance for Trafficked Persons in Myanmar	JICA	JICA	2012
Situation Analysis of Children in Myanmar	MNPED and UNICEF	MNPED and UNICEF	2012
The Millennium Development Goals Report: Republic of the Union of Myanmar	Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar	NA	2013
National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2013-2022)	MNCWA and MSWRR	MNCWA and MSWRR	2013
<b>Education</b>			
Data Collection Survey on Educational Sector in Myanmar, Final Report	JICA	JICA	2013
<b>Health</b>			
Report on Situation Analysis of Population and Development, Reproductive Health and Gender in Myanmar	Ministry of Health and UNFPA	UNFPA	2010
Data Collection and Situation Analysis related to Reproductive Health in Myanmar Final Report	JICA	JICA	2011
<b>Agriculture and Rural Development</b>			
The Development Study on Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development for Poverty Reduction Programme in the Central Dry Zone of the Union of Myanmar: Poverty Profile	JICA	JICA	2010

## 5. Definitions

Empowerment	<p>Empowerment is the process of enhancing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. Central to this process are actions which both build individual and collective assets, and improve the efficiency and fairness of the organizational and institutional context which govern the use of these assets.</p> <p>(<a href="http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPSIA/0,,contentMDK:20433436~menuPK:6145452~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:490130,00.html#E">http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPSIA/0,,contentMDK:20433436~menuPK:6145452~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:490130,00.html#E</a>)</p>
Gender	<p>Gender refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, as well as the relations between women and those between men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes. They are context/ time-specific and changeable.</p> <p>(<a href="http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm">http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm</a>)</p>
Gender Analysis	<p>Gender analysis refers to the variety of methods used to understand the relationships between men and women, their access to resources, their activities, and the constraints they face relative to each other. Gender analysis provides information that recognizes that gender, and its relationship with race, ethnicity, culture, class, age, disability, and/or other status, is important in understanding the different patterns of involvement, behavior and activities that women and men have in economic, social and legal structures. Gender analysis is an essential element of socio-economic analysis. A comprehensive socio-economic analysis would take into account gender relations, as gender is a factor in all social and economic relations. An analysis of gender relations provides information on the different conditions that women and men face, and the different effects that policies and programs may have on them because of their situations. Such information can inform and improve policies and programs, and is essential in ensuring that the different needs of both women and men are met. At the local level, gender analysis makes visible the varied roles women, men, girls and boys play in the family, in the community, and in economic, legal and political structures. A gender perspective focuses on the reasons for the current division of responsibilities and benefits and their effect on the distribution of rewards and incentives. (<a href="http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/priorities-priorites/ge-es/gender_analysis-analyse_comparative.aspx?lang=eng">http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/priorities-priorites/ge-es/gender_analysis-analyse_comparative.aspx?lang=eng</a>)</p>
Gender Division of Labor	<p>Gender Division of Labor is the result of how each society divides work among men and among women according to what is considered suitable or appropriate to each gender.</p> <p>(<a href="http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001318/131854e.pdf">http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001318/131854e.pdf</a>)</p>
Gender Empowerment Measurement (GEM)	<p>The Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) is a measure of agency. It evaluates progress in advancing women's standing in political and economic forums. It examines the extent to which women and men are able to actively participate in economic and political life and take part in decision-making. While the Gender-related Development Index (GDI) focuses on expansion of capabilities, the GEM is concerned with the use of those capabilities to take advantage of the opportunities of life.</p>
Gender Equality	<p>Gender equality refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that women's and men's rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups of women and men. Gender equality is not a women's issue but should concern and fully engage men as well as women. Equality between women and men is seen both as a human rights issue and as a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable people-centered development.</p>

	<a href="http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm">http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm</a>
Gender Equity	<p>Entails the provision of fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits and responsibilities between women and men. The concept recognizes that women and men have different needs and power and that these differences should be identified and addressed in a manner that rectifies the imbalances between the sexes.</p> <p><a href="http://info.worldbank.org/etools/docs/library/192862/introductorymaterials/Glossary.html">http://info.worldbank.org/etools/docs/library/192862/introductorymaterials/Glossary.html</a></p>
Gender Inequality Index (GII)	<p>The Gender Inequality Index (GII) was introduced in the Human Development Report 2010. The GII reflects women's disadvantage in three dimensions—reproductive health, empowerment and the labor market—for as many countries as data of reasonable quality allow. The index shows the loss in human development due to inequality between female and male achievements in these dimensions. It ranges from 0, which indicates that women and men fare equally, to 1, which indicates that women fare as poorly as possible in all measured dimensions. The health dimension is measured by two indicators: maternal mortality ratio and the adolescent fertility rate. The empowerment dimension is also measured by two indicators: the share of parliamentary seats held by each sex and by secondary and higher education attainment levels. The labor dimension is measured by women's participation in the work force. The Gender Inequality Index is designed to reveal the extent to which national achievements in these aspects of human development are eroded by gender inequality, and to provide empirical foundations for policy analysis and advocacy efforts.</p> <p><a href="http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii">http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii</a></p>
Gender Mainstreaming	<p>Gender Mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting gender equality. Mainstreaming is not an end in itself but a strategy, an approach, a means to achieve the goal of gender equality. Mainstreaming involves ensuring that gender perspectives and attention to the goal of gender equality are central to all activities - policy development, research, advocacy/ dialogue, legislation, resource allocation, and planning, implementation and monitoring of programs and projects.</p> <p><a href="http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/gendermainstreaming.htm">http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/gendermainstreaming.htm</a></p>
Gender Parity Index (GPI)	<p>Ratio of girls to boys (gender parity index) in primary, secondary and tertiary education is the ratio of the number of female students enrolled at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education to the number of male students in each level. To standardize the effects of the population structure of the appropriate age groups, the Gender Parity Index (GPI) of the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for each level of education is used. A GPI of 1 indicates parity between the sexes; a GPI that varies between 0 and 1 typically means a disparity in favor of males; whereas a GPI greater than 1 indicates a disparity in favor of females.</p> <p><a href="http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx?IndicatorId=9">http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx?IndicatorId=9</a></p>
Gender-related Development Index (GDI)	<p>The Gender-related Development Index (GDI) measures achievement in the same basic capabilities as the Human Development Index (HDI) does, but takes note of inequality in achievement between women and men. The methodology used imposes a penalty for inequality, such that the GDI falls when the achievement levels of both women and men in a country go down or when the disparity between their achievements increases. The greater the gender disparity in basic capabilities, the lower a country's GDI compared with its HDI. The GDI is simply the HDI discounted, or adjusted downwards, for gender inequality.</p> <p><a href="http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-development-index-gdi">http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-development-index-gdi</a></p>
Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)	<p>Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) is government planning, programming and budgeting that contributes to the advancement of gender equality and the fulfillment of women's rights. It entails identifying and reflecting needed interventions to address gender gaps in sector and local government policies, plans and budgets. GRB also aims to analyze the gender-differentiated impact of revenue-raising policies and the allocation of domestic resources and Official Development Assistance.</p> <p><a href="http://www.gender-budgets.org/">http://www.gender-budgets.org/</a></p>

Gini Index	<p>Gini index measures the extent to which the distribution of income (or, in some cases, consumption expenditure) among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. A Lorenz curve plots the cumulative percentages of total income received against the cumulative number of recipients, starting with the poorest individual or household. The Gini index measures the area between the Lorenz curve and a hypothetical line of absolute equality, expressed as a percentage of the maximum area under the line. Thus a Gini index of 0 represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality.</p> <p>(<a href="http://search.worldbank.org/data?qterm=gini%20coefficient&amp;language=EN">http://search.worldbank.org/data?qterm=gini%20coefficient&amp;language=EN</a>)</p>
Gross Enrolment Ratio	<p>Number of pupils or students enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education. For the tertiary level, the population used is the 5-year age group starting from the official secondary school graduation age.</p> <p>(<a href="http://www.uis.unesco.org/Pages/Glossary.aspx?SPSLanguage=EN">http://www.uis.unesco.org/Pages/Glossary.aspx?SPSLanguage=EN</a>)</p>
Infant Mortality Rate	<p>Infant mortality rate is the probability of a child born in a specific year or period dying before reaching the age of one, if subject to age-specific mortality rates of that period. Infant mortality rate is strictly speaking not a rate (i.e. the number of deaths divided by the number of population at risk during a certain period of time) but a probability of death derived from a life table and expressed as rate per 1000 live births.</p> <p>(<a href="http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/WHS2012_IndicatorCompendium.pdf?ua=1">http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/WHS2012_IndicatorCompendium.pdf?ua=1</a>)</p>
Labor Force Participation Rate	<p>The labor force participation rate is a measure of the proportion of a country's working-age population that engages actively in the labor market, either by working or looking for work. The labor force participation rate is calculated by expressing the number of persons in the labor force as a percentage of the working-age population. The labor force is the sum of the number of persons employed and the number of unemployed. The working-age population is the population above a certain age – ideally aged 15 and older – prescribed for the measurement of economic characteristics.</p> <p>(<a href="http://www.ilo.org/empelm/what/WCMS_114240/lang--en/index.htm">http://www.ilo.org/empelm/what/WCMS_114240/lang--en/index.htm</a>)</p>
Maternal Mortality Ratio	<p>The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is the annual number of female deaths from any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy or its management (excluding accidental or incidental causes) during pregnancy and childbirth or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, per 100,000 live births, for a specified year.</p> <p>(<a href="http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/WHS2012_IndicatorCompendium.pdf?ua=1">http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/WHS2012_IndicatorCompendium.pdf?ua=1</a>)</p>
National Machinery	<p>A national machinery for the advancement of women is the central policy-coordinating unit inside government. Its main task is to support government-wide mainstreaming of a gender-equality perspective in all policy areas.</p> <p>(<a href="http://www.un-documents.net/bpa-4-h.htm">http://www.un-documents.net/bpa-4-h.htm</a>)</p>
Net Enrolment Rate	<p>Total number of pupils or students in the theoretical age group for a given level of education enrolled in that level, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group.</p> <p>(<a href="http://www.uis.unesco.org/Pages/Glossary.aspx?SPSLanguage=EN">http://www.uis.unesco.org/Pages/Glossary.aspx?SPSLanguage=EN</a>)</p>
Oral Rehydration Therapy Use Rate	<p>Proportion of children aged 0–59 months who had diarrhea in the last 2 weeks and were treated with oral rehydration salts or an appropriate household solution (ORT)</p> <p>(<a href="http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/WHS2012_IndicatorCompendium.pdf?ua=1">http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/WHS2012_IndicatorCompendium.pdf?ua=1</a>)</p>
Reproductive Health/ Rights	<p>Reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. Reproductive health therefore implies that people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide</p>

	<p>if, when and how often to do so. Implicit in this last condition are the right of men and women to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for regulation of fertility that are not against the law, and the right of access to appropriate health-care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant. In line with the above definition of reproductive health, reproductive health care is defined as the constellation of methods, techniques and services that contribute to reproductive health and well-being by preventing and solving reproductive health problems. It also includes sexual health, the purpose of which is the enhancement of life and personal relations, and not merely counseling and care related to reproduction and sexually transmitted diseases.</p> <p>(<a href="http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/2003monitoring/WorldPopMonitoring_2002.pdf">http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/2003monitoring/WorldPopMonitoring_2002.pdf</a>)</p>
Total Fertility Rate	<p>The average number of children a hypothetical cohort of women would have at the end of their reproductive period if they were subject during their whole lives to the fertility rates of a given period and if they were not subject to mortality. It is expressed as children per woman.</p> <p>(<a href="http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/WHS2012_IndicatorCompendium.pdf?ua=1">http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/WHS2012_IndicatorCompendium.pdf?ua=1</a>)</p>
Under 5 Mortality Rate	<p>Distribution of main causes of death among children aged under 5 years, expressed as percentage of total deaths.</p> <p>(<a href="http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/WHS2012_IndicatorCompendium.pdf?ua=1">http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/WHS2012_IndicatorCompendium.pdf?ua=1</a>)</p>

## 6. References

- ADB (2013). “Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2013 Myanmar (Country Table).” <http://www.adb.org/publications/key-indicators-asia-and-pacific-2013> (Accessed in October 2013)
- CEDAW (United Nations Committee on Discrimination Against Women) (2011). “Response by Myanmar to the recommendations contained in the concluding observations of the Committee following the examination of the combined second and third periodic report of Myanmar on 3 November 2008, CEDAW/C/MMR/CO/3/Add.3.”
- FAO (2011). “The state of food and agriculture 2010-2011,” Rome, Italy.
- Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (2009). “Country Gender Profile.” [www.fes-asia.org/media/Gender/Country%20Gender%20Profile%20-%20MYANMAR.pdf](http://www.fes-asia.org/media/Gender/Country%20Gender%20Profile%20-%20MYANMAR.pdf) (Accessed in October 2013)
- Government of the Union of Myanmar (2005). “The Millennium Development Goals Report of Myanmar.”
- Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2013). “The Millennium Development Goals Report: Republic of the Union of Myanmar.”
- JICA (2010). “The Development Study on Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development for Poverty Reduction Programme in the Central Dry Zone of the Union of Myanmar: Poverty Profile.”
- JICA (2011). “Data Collection and Situation Analysis related to Reproductive Health in Myanmar Final Report.”
- JICA (2013). “Data Collection Survey on Educational Sector in Myanmar, Final Report.”
- JICA (2012). “Detailed Planning Survey Report for the Project on Capacity Improvement of Recovery and Reintegration Assistance for Trafficked Persons in Myanmar.”
- McKinsey Global Institute (2013). “Myanmar’s moment: Unique opportunities, major challenges.” [http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/asia-pacific/myanmars\\_moment](http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/asia-pacific/myanmars_moment) (Accessed in October 2013).
- Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (2013). “National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2013-2022),” Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2010). “Report on Situation Analysis of Population and Development, Reproductive Health and Gender in Myanmar,” Bangkok, Thailand.
- Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, UNDP, UNICEF, and SIDA (2011). “Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment (IHLCA) in Myanmar 2009-2010: MDG Data Report,” Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, UNDP and UNOPS (2007). “Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment (IHLCA) in Myanmar: MDG-Relevant Information,” Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Health and UNICEF (2011). “Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2009-2010,” Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and UNICEF (2012). “Situation Analysis of Children in Myanmar,” Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- Office of the UN RC in Myanmar (2011). “Thematic Analysis 2011 - Achieving the Millennium Development Goals,” Yangon, Myanmar.
- UNDP (2013) “Human Development Report 2013,” New York, USA.
- UNDP (2009) “Human Development Report 2009,” New York, USA.
- UNFPA (2010) “Report on Situation Analysis of Population and Development, Reproductive Health and Gender in Myanmar.”
- WHO (2013) “World Health Statistics 2013,” Geneva, Switzerland.

Women's League of Burma (2008). *"In the Shadow of Junta, CEDAW Shadow Report Burma 2008 by Women of Burma,"* Chaing Mai, Thailand.

【Websie】

IMF Website, "World Economic Outlook Database 2013,"

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2013/02/weodata/index.aspx> (Accessed in October 2013)

SIGI OECD Website, "Social Institution and Gender Index,"

<http://genderindex.org/country/myanmar> (Accessed in October 2013)

World Bank Website "World Development Indicators",

<http://data.worldbank.org/country/myanmar> (Accessed in October 2013)

WHO Website "Myanmar All Health Indicators",

<http://www.quandl.com/health/myanmar-all-health-indicators> (Accessed in October 2013)

