

MYANMAR



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1. NATIONAL PROFILE

1.1 General¹

Myanmar, formerly known as "Burma" has existed for centuries. Myanmar is at an historic stage in its development and is pursuing a reform agenda. Following the coming into effect of a new Constitution in May, 2008, elections and bye-elections was held in November 2010 and in April 2012 respectively. Parliament and governments have been formed at the national and region/state levels. The President has set out a reform agenda focusing on good governance and ensuring fundamental rights. A number of reforms have already been undertaken in the financial sector, in relaxing media censorship, release of detainees and reaching ceasefire agreements in a number of conflict areas. These reforms are seen as positive steps, which have led to increasing engagement with the international community.

1.2 Physiography²

Location: Southeastern Asia, bordering the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, between Bangladesh and Thailand

Geographic coordinates: 22 00 N, 98 00 E

Area: total: 676,578 sq km

Land: 653,508 sq km

Water: 23,070 sq km

Land boundaries: total: 5,876 km

border countries: Bangladesh 193 km, China 2,185 km, India 1,463 km, Laos 235 km, Thailand 1,800 km

Coastline: 1,930 km

1.3 Climate³

Myanmar's climate is largely tropical with three seasons: the monsoon/rainy season (May-October), cool season (November – February), and hot season (March-April). Rainfall during the monsoon season totals more than 500 cm in

upper Myanmar and over 250 cm in lower Myanmar and Yangon while Central Myanmar and Mandalay receive about 76 cm each.

1.4 Socio-economic Profile^{4,5}

Socio-economic Indicators		
GDP: Gross domestic product (million current US\$)	2011	55320
GDP per capita (current US\$)	2011	1144.0
GNI: Gross national income per capita (current US\$)	2011	1144.0
Population (millions)	2014	53.26
Urban (% of population)	2014	33.78
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	2012	97.1
Life expectancy at birth (females/males, years)	2010-2015	67.9/64.1
Adult literacy rate (% ages 15 and older)	2014	92.7
Expenditure on education (% of GDP)	2014	0.77

1.5 Administrative Setup⁶

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar comprises seven states and seven regions named in the 2008 Constitution, six self-administered zones or divisions, and one union territory containing the capital Nay Pyi Taw and surrounding townships.⁹ The smallest formal administrative unit is the village, with several grouped together into village tracts. Urban wards, towns and village tracts are grouped into townships, where the lowest levels of government offices are generally located. Collections of townships are organized as districts, which in turn form the region or state.

2. DISASTER RISK PROFILE⁷

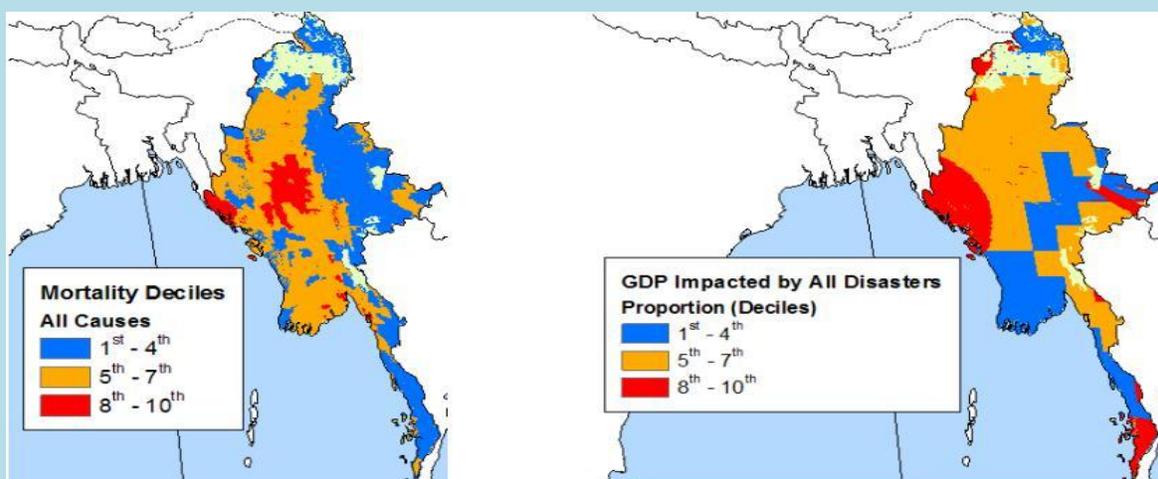
Myanmar is exposed a number of hazards, especially epidemics, floods, drought, and earthquakes, with extreme mortality risk from earthquakes. Its population is highly vulnerability to multiple hazards: in the last 30 years alone, Myanmar suffered from 27 disaster events (seismic activity, epidemic, flood, landslides and

storms) killing 162,643 people; affecting more than 4,596,724 and causing over 5,913,743,000 USD damages.

2.1 Disaster Risk

Almost the entire country is affected by natural hazards, with varying intensity depending on the hazard. Drought is the most persistent hazard throughout the country; cyclones impact three distinct regions of the country; earthquakes and floods significantly affect similar areas when weighted by mortality, however, floods generally causes more economic damaged. Landslides also present a significant risk for regions on the western border.

Multi-Hazard Disaster Risk Hotspots with all Hazards combined and weighted by Mortality (left) and Proportion of GDP Impacted (right)



2.2 Disaster Hazards

Myanmar is exposed to multiple hazards, especially epidemics, floods, drought, and earthquakes, facing extreme mortality risk from earthquakes.

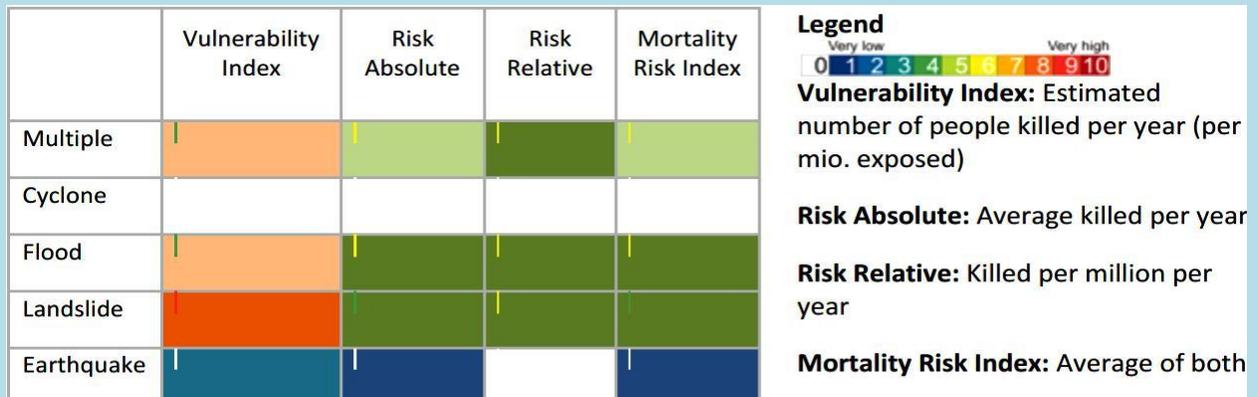
2.3 Disaster Exposure

Due to the high degree of poverty in the rural areas, even low intensity disasters have a big impact on households.

2.4 Disaster Vulnerabilities

There is an absence of a centralized system for consolidating data for all types of disasters. Systematic assessment of vulnerability data is lacking.

Vulnerability Index



Top 10 Natural Disasters in Myanmar for the period 1900 to 2014 sorted by numbers of killed⁸

Disaster	Date	No Killed
Flood	8-Sep-1970	90
Wildfire	11-Apr-1981	8
Earthquake (seismic activity)	24-Mar-2011	74
Earthquake (seismic activity)	26-Dec-2004	71
Flood	25-Jul-2013	7
Flood	21-Aug-1997	68
Mass Movement Wet	17-Jun-2010	68
Storm	4-May-1902	600
Storm	7-May-1923	6
Flood	12-Sep-1995	51

Top 10 Natural Disasters in Myanmar for the period 1900 to 2014 sorted by numbers of total affected people⁸

Disaster	Date	No Total Affected
Storm	2-May-2008	2,420,000

Flood	15-Jul-1974	1,400,000
Storm	23-Oct-1965	500,000
Flood	13-Jul-1991	359,976
Storm	22-Oct-2010	260,049
Flood	Jun-1976	200,000
Storm	21-Apr-1936	150,000
Mass Movement Wet	17-Jun-2010	145,000
Flood	21-Aug-1997	137,418
Storm	17-May-1978	132,000

Top 10 Natural Disasters in Myanmar for the period 1900 to 2014 sorted by economic damage costs⁸

Disaster	Date	Damage (000 US\$)
Flood	13-Jul-1991	79,840
Storm	19-May-2004	688
Storm	22-Oct-2010	57,000
Flood	May-1992	55,115
Earthquake (seismic activity)	26-Dec-2004	500,000
Storm	16-May-1967	5,000
Storm	2-May-2008	4,000,000
Earthquake (seismic activity)	24-Mar-2011	3,600
Storm	23-Oct-1967	3,200
Storm	10-May-1968	2,500

For some natural disasters (particularly floods and droughts) there is no exact day or month for the event, and for other disasters (particularly pre-1974) the available record of the disaster does not provide an exact day or month.

Summarized Table of Natural Disasters in Myanmar from 1900 to 2014⁸

		No. of Events	Killed	Total Affected	Damage 000 US\$)
Earthquake (seismic activity)	Earthquake (ground shaking)	7	663	22,923	4,770
	ave. per event		95	3,275	681
	Tsunami	1	71	15,700	500,000

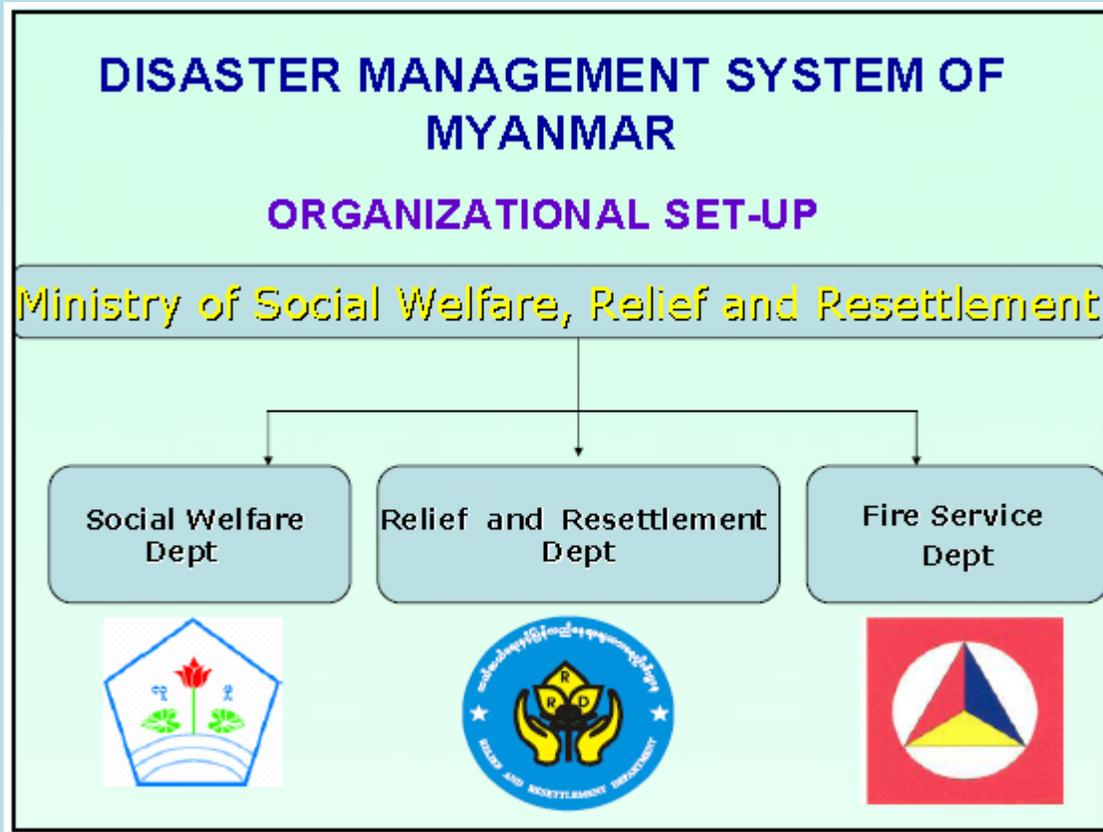
	ave. per event		71	15,700	500,000
Epidemic	Bacterial Infectious Diseases	2	10	800	-
	ave. per event		5	400	-
	Viral Infectious Diseases	1	30	-	-
	ave. per event		30	-	-
Flood	Unspecified	7	161	386,988	55,115
	ave. per event		23	55,284	7,874
	Flash flood	3	263	85,734	1,700
	ave. per event		88	28,578	567
	General flood	11	134	2,148,690	79,840
	ave. per event		12	195,336	7,258
Mass movement wet	Landslide	4	125	146,367	-
	ave. per event		31	36,592	-
Storm	Tropical cyclone	17	144,663	3,935,844	4,079,388
	ave. per event		8,510	231,520	239,964
Wildfire	Forest fire	2	8	78,588	11,000
	ave. per event		4	39,294	5,500

3. INSTITUTIONAL SETUP⁹

3.1 Legal System

The Rehabilitation Board Act (1950), the Board of Development Affairs Act (1993), the Epidemic Diseases Prevention Act (1995), the Implementation of

Insurance Act (1996), and the Fire Services Act (1997) has been promulgated. Disaster Management Law has enacted in 2013.



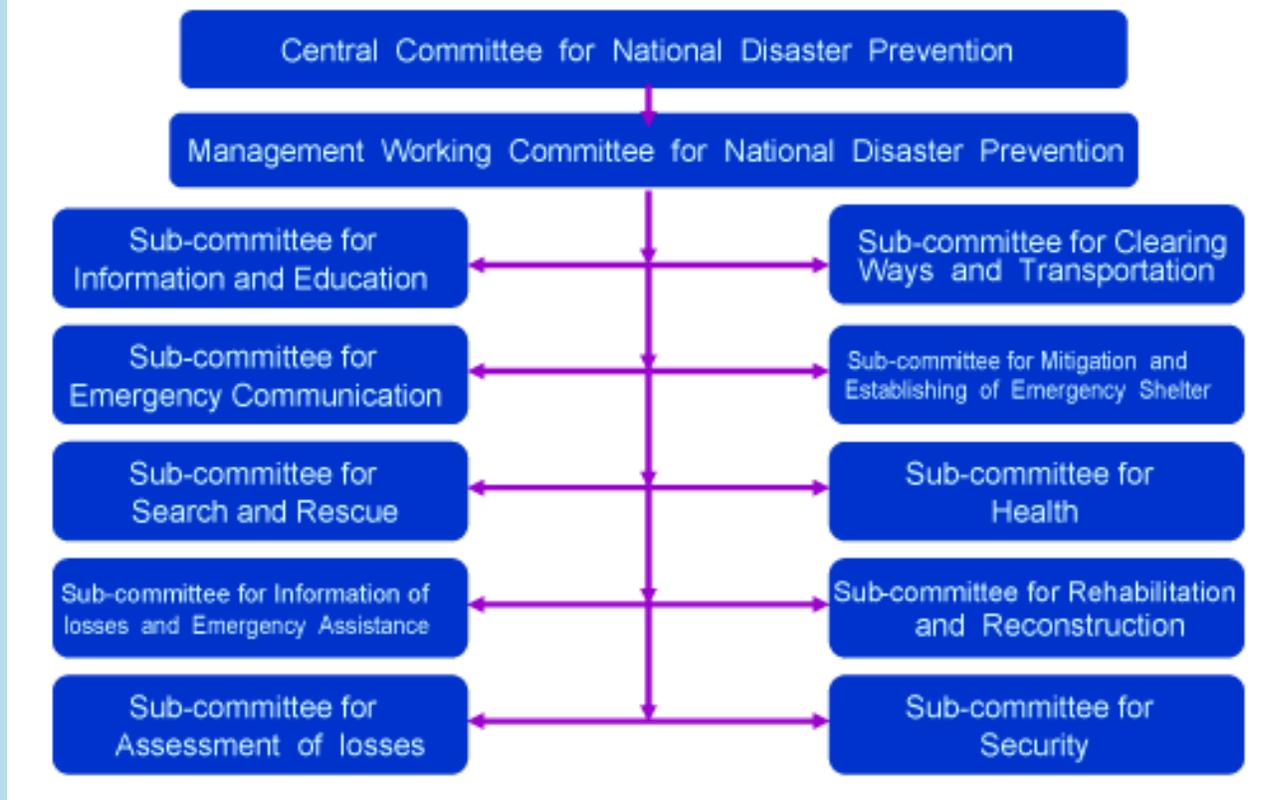
3.2 Organization

In order to effectively carry-out disaster preparedness and prevention measures the Government established a Central Committee for Disaster Prevention and Relief, a policy formulating body headed by the Minister of Home Affairs.

Fire Services Department under Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for fire precaution, fire prevention, extinction, training of fireman, relief and rescue work, educating the public for awareness of fire and disasters.

Central Committee on National Disaster Prevention	
Prime Minister	Chairman
Secretary(1), State Peace and Development Council	Vice Chairman
(15) Ministers Concerned	Member
Mayor (YGN, MDY)	Member
Minister (SWRR)	Secretary
Person Assigned by chairman	Joint Secretary

Organization Chart of Central Committee, Working Committee and Sub-committees



4. INITIATIVES

4.1 Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR)¹⁰

Myanmar is exposed to multiple natural hazards which include Cyclone, Storm surge, Floods, Landslide, Earthquake, Tsunami, Drought, Fire and Forest Fire. Its coastal regions are exposed to cyclones, storm surges and tsunamis while major parts of the country are at risk from earthquakes and fires. The rainfall-induced flooding is a recurring phenomenon across the country while some parts of the country is exposed to landslide and drought risks. As per the data from 2000-2001 to 2009-20102, fires constituted about 73% of reported disaster events, followed by floods (11%), storms (12%) and others (4%) including earthquakes, tsunami and landslides. The Cyclone Nargis (2008) was the worst natural disaster in the living memory of Myanmar.

While the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is striving for a peaceful, modern and developed nation, natural disasters destroy the developmental gains and hinder the developmental interventions. The preparedness and mitigation should be an integral part of the development plans and programmes. It is also important to make prior arrangement for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, in case a natural disaster strikes.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is committed to disaster risk reduction and it has systems and procedures at National, State/Region, District, Township, Wards and Village Tracts levels for Disaster Management. Furthermore, the Myanmar Disaster Preparedness Agency was constituted on 20 April, 2011 to take the systematic preparedness measures for the disasters which can occur from time to time in the country and to undertake the quick and effective activities on relief and support during the disaster. And to coordinate effectively among the countries in south east Asia and the Pacific region on search and rescue, and to lay down and implement the national search and rescue measures, the Myanmar National Search and Rescue Committee was also constituted on 20 April, 2011.

4.2 Myanmar action plan on disaster risk reduction (MAPDRR) 2009-2105¹¹

This action plan is intended to help make Myanmar disaster resilient and has been prepared through a consultative and partnership approach. It has identified projects which need to be implemented to meet the Hyogo Framework for Action 2015 and HFA and the Asian Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) commitments.

[View full plan \[PDF 2.15 MB\]](#)

References

¹ www.mm.undp.org/content/myanmar/en/home/countryinfo/

² <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bm.html>

³ <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/12628/714530v20ESW0W0AN0appendices0June12.pdf?sequence=1>

⁴ <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Myanmar>

⁵ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/MMR>

⁶ <http://asiafoundation.org/resources/pdfs/StateandRegionGovernmentsinMyanmarCESDTAF.PDF>

⁷ http://www.gfdrr.org/sites/gfdrr.org/files/documents/DRFI_ASEAN_Appendices_June12.pdf

⁸ www.em-dat.net

⁹ <http://www.adrc.asia/nationinformation.php?NationCode=104&Lang=en&NationNum=17>

¹⁰ http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/RDD_FILE_1340609699_MAPDRR_English_June%202012.pdf

¹¹ <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/policies/v.php?id=18657>