

# COUNTRY FACTSHEET

2015



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

## SWISS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN MYANMAR



Aid Department of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). In November 2012 Switzerland opened an embassy in Myanmar. Myanmar is integrated in SDC's Mekong Region Program. Switzerland promotes the steady construction of peace and an open, democratic society, the reduction of chronic poverty, and the growth of a sustainable national economy. On the basis of a whole-of-government approach, Switzerland uses different instruments: political and economic relations tools, the SDC's development cooperation and humanitarian aid approaches as well as the peace-building and human rights promotion instruments of the Human Security Division (HSD) of the Directorate of Political Affairs (PD). In addition, the State Secretariat of Economic Affairs SECO supports a few regional and global projects which are carried out by multinational organisations in the area of economic development cooperation.

### Vocational training: better access to employment

Switzerland works in cooperation with all relevant partners (government, private sector, development agencies) for an expansion of training opportunities for young and disadvantaged men and women in the rural areas and in the hospitality industry in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw. It is also committed to policy changes in the vocational skills development sector in Myanmar (qualification framework, certifications mechanisms, standards).

### Agriculture and food security: access to land and productive resources for farmers

Switzerland is committed to supporting the adaptation of national policies related to land use and natural resources management at the policy level. At the local level in south-eastern Myanmar, it supports initiatives to promote smallholder rubber value chains in the coastal low land and sustainable use of aquatic resources in the Gulf of Mottama. Switzerland is also a financier and board member of the Livelihood and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT). Food assistance is also provided in critical and emergency

#### Swiss Representations

- Embassy
- ▲ Embassy (International cooperation division)
- ⊙ Embassy & Regional consular center
- ▲ Cooperation office
- ▲ Programme office
- Honorary representation

" Capital

! City

— River

#### FDFA, STS Geoservices

Credits: CGIAR-CSI, GeoNames.org, Natural Earth  
Copyrights: © 2014 Natural Earth, Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 License

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by Switzerland.

28.08.2014

Switzerland supports Myanmar in four areas of cooperation: employment and vocational skills development; agriculture and food security; health, social services and local governance; and peace promotion, democratisation and protection. The geographic focus is south-eastern Myanmar.

### Context

Myanmar, with a population of 51,4 million (51,8% female, 48,2% male), is in the midst of three major transformations: from an authoritarian military rule to democratic governance; from a centrally-planned to a market-driven economy; and from 60 years of armed conflict to consolidated peace. Yet progress is constrained by continued distrust between ethnic, religious and political groups; the continued monopolisation of resources by an economic elite; and weak social services and institutions.

### Switzerland's support

Switzerland has been involved in the Myanmar context since 1994, primarily through the Humanitarian



School feeding beneficiaries, Wa Special Region, © WFP



Fisherman in the Ayeyarwady Delta, © SDC



Young mother with child in the Ayeyarwady Delta, © SDC

situations through partners such as the World Food Programme (WFP).

### Health, social services and local governance: better access to health care, infrastructure and decision-making

Switzerland supports better access to quality health care services in the rural areas of south-eastern Myanmar, with a focus on maternal, child and newborn health. It is also committed to the development of the health system in Myanmar at the policy level. Community infrastructure such as schools, rural roads and health centres remain one of Switzerland's important contributions in remote and post-conflict areas. An initiative to strengthen the voice and capacity of civil society organisations in Myanmar's current development debate is also being supported. With its financial contribution to the election process, Switzerland supports Myanmar's transition that aim at a peaceful, inclusive and equitable society as well as democratically legitimised institutions.

### Promotion of peace, democratisation and protection: support to a peaceful and inclusive society

In the area of peace support, Switzerland provides direct support to negotiation parties through advisory services to government and ethnic groups, and promotes a broader inclusion of civil society and women in the negotiation process. Swiss engagement for democratisation aims at increasing the acceptance of democratic values and norms within Myanmar society. It strengthens the legal framework by assisting relevant reforms (e.g. electoral system, judiciary) and by advocating for the ratification of key international instruments. In all its activities special consideration is given to vulnerable groups, in particular internally displaced persons, refugees, returnees, children and victims of mines.

### Multilateral Cooperation

Switzerland works with different multilateral organisations in Myanmar (see partners below) both on humanitarian assistance (food security, community infrastructure, protection) and development cooperation (health, agriculture).

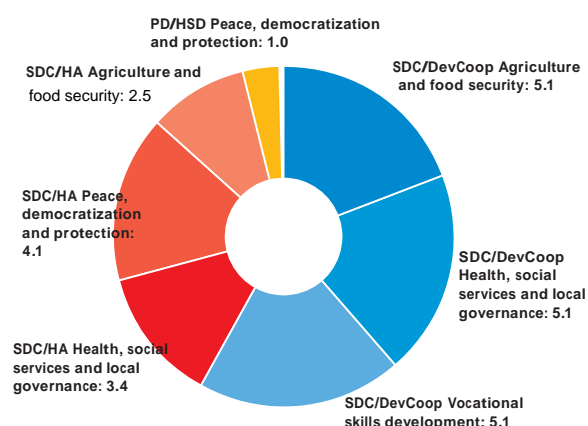
### Transversal themes

According to its gender policy, Switzerland takes into account gender-related issues and promotes equality between men and women in all its projects. Good governance, climate change and disaster risk reduction are systematically addressed in programmes supported by Switzerland.

### Partners

- › Swiss NGOs: Swisscontact, Centre for Vocational Training, 600 kids, Helvetas-Swiss Intercooperation, FXB
- › Government at central, state and district level
- › Local NGOs
- › Representatives of ethnic groups
- › International NGOs: Norwegian Refugee Council
- › Multilateral organisations: UNFPA, WFP, ICRC, UNICEF, OCHA, UNHCR, OIM, UNOPS (United Nations Office for Project Service)

### Budget 2015 by theme and source of funding (CHF million)



<b>SDC: Development Cooperation</b>	15.3
<b>SDC: Humanitarian Aid</b>	10.0
<b>PD: Human Security Division</b>	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>26.3</b>

### Facts and Figures

(Source: World Bank's World Development Indicators 2013)

Land area	676'578 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	52.8 million
Real GDP growth	5.5%
Life Expectancy	65 years