

Myanmar Census Update September 2014



Release of Provisional Results



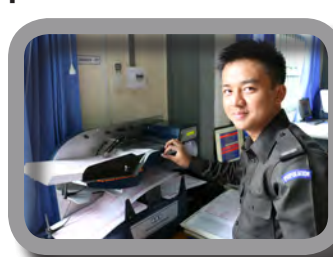
The provisional census results were launched jointly by the Ministry of Immigration and Population and UNFPA at a press conference on August 2014 in Yangon. The provisional results showed that the population of Myanmar is 51,419,420. The data also included numbers of females and males in each state, division and township, and the average household size for each division and state.

The results indicated that there are approximately 26,598,244 females and 24,821,176 males, and a male/female sex ratio of 93.3 or that there are 1.7 million more females. This includes 50,213,067 persons counted during the census. The census was able to reach almost 98% of the population with an estimated 1,206,353 persons who were not counted in three areas. These areas include Rakhine, Kachin and Kayin States.

Based on the 1983 census results the government had previously estimated that the population count was roughly around 60 million assuming an annual population growth rate of 2% annually. The released census provisional result showed a significantly lower figure of 51.4 million which can be attributed to reasons such as a decrease in fertility rates, increased international migration that had not been envisaged after 1983 census.

The main results will be released in 2015 May. These results will not include data on ethnicity, occupation and industry which require further manual coding before being able to be analysed. This is a time consuming exercise. Regarding data collected on ethnicity there will be a consultation process with different ethnic groups led by the government, after which the results will be released to the public. These results are expected to be released by the end of 2015 or in early 2016.

Update on the scanning process



As of 15 September 2014 approximately 89% of the census questionnaire forms have been scanned. Thirty staff working at the Census Office which is based in the Ministry of Immigration and Population (MoIP) is working in two shifts in order to speed up the scanning process of the 11 million filled-in questionnaires collected from all of the 330 townships.

On a daily basis approximately 150,000 questionnaires are scanned. For the scanning process eight state-of-the-art scanners are being used to expedite the process of data capture. The scanning is expected to be completed by November 2014.

To find out more information visit:
<http://myanmar.unfpa.org/census>
<http://www.dop.gov.mm/>



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Census Office tours



The Department of Population, in collaboration with UNFPA have since the beginning of May 2014 invited key stakeholders representing the donor and diplomatic community, development partners, NGOs, the media as well as religious and ethnic groups to the data Census Office in Nay Pyi Taw. The tours will continue throughout the scanning and data processing period. The general public and other interested groups are encouraged to visit the data processing centre. Videos and materials on the processing stages of the census can be accessed on:

http://countryoffice.unfpa.org/myanmar/2014/08/26/10429/census_movies/

ITAB



The International Technical Advisory Board (ITAB), an advisory group consisting of 15 census experts from around the world, held their fourth in-country meeting, with the Government of Myanmar, the Department of Population and UNFPA, between the 23 to 24 July 2014.

They discussed the census enumeration and advised on the next steps in data analysis, data processing and the release of the provisional results. The Board reviewed the alternative options for the estimation of those populations

in areas in northern Rakhine and parts of Kayin and Kachin where enumeration did not take place. The next ITAB meeting in country is expected to take place in early 2015. A press statement on their meeting can be found on: http://countryoffice.unfpa.org/myanmar/2014/07/28/10238/proposals_from_the_fourth_in_country_meeting_of_the_international_technical_advisory_board/

Conflict Sensitivity Mission



UNFPA engaged a team of national and international demographic and conflict sensitivity experts to examine concerns that different community groups may have about the release and dissemination of census data. The experts are consulting with numerous stakeholders including representatives of the Government of Myanmar, religious and political leaders as well as women, youth and ethnic groups. Extensive consultations have already taken place in Yangon, Mandalay, Mon, Kayin and Kayah. Further visits are planned for October and will involve going to Chin, Kachin and Shan.

Janet Jackson, UNFPA Country Representative, said: *"People from different walks of life have genuine concerns about how census data is going to be released and what they can expect from it. They want honest answers to their questions. Others want to get involved in ensuring that the data is well understood and used properly for development and greater equity. Integrating people's ideas into the plans for data dissemination will be critical in building trust, participation and leadership in data use on the ground".*

Census personnel payments



UNFPA, in collaboration with the Department of Population, has made the final payments to 124,317 trainers, supervisors, enumerators, township officers and support staff. It took a team of at least 15 people, almost nine weeks, working seven days a week to check that the names of the census staff matched the details and names in the master database. Due to the high quantity of payment being issued manually and systematically, the process was time consuming and meant that some townships were paid earlier while others took slightly longer. UNFPA acknowledges this meant a waiting time for most of the census staff, while recognizing the immense contribution that trainers, supervisors and enumerators made during data collection. This led

to census being largely successful across the country. *"The payment process took time to ensure that the right people got paid the right amount,"* explained Ms. Janet Jackson, UNFPA's Representative in Myanmar.