



Country card  
**Myanmar**





# General data of the country

## a. Key General Indicators

Country <sup>1</sup>	Myanmar	Neighboring country (Thailand)	France
Population	54.409.794	69.799.978	67.391.582
IHDI	0.581	0.78	0.90
Maternal mortality	250	37	8
Gender Development Index	0.954	1.008	0.987
Population under HCR mandate		102.245	368,352
INFORM index	6.3	4	2.2
Fragile State Index	76.86	70.81	30.48
GINI Index	94	36.4	31.6
Public Social Protection	1	3.7	31.7

## b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	not signed
Convention on Cluster Munitions	not signed
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Ratified (2011)
Convention on Conventional Weapons	not signed

<sup>1</sup> [https://hinside.hi.org/intranet/jcms/pl1\\_2540344/fr/2020-update-country-indicators-2ndary-data/-/donnees-secondaires-mises-a-jour](https://hinside.hi.org/intranet/jcms/pl1_2540344/fr/2020-update-country-indicators-2ndary-data/-/donnees-secondaires-mises-a-jour)



## c. Geopolitical analysis

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### 1. Social/cultural/demographic elements

Myanmar is a very diverse country where, according to the census run in 2014, at least 135 ethnicities coexist, speak different languages and practice different religions. The country is articulated in 7 regions (Ayeyawady, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Sagaing, Taninthayi, and Yangon) and 7 states: Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine (Arakan), Shan. The states are usually the areas of the country where the Union Government and independent entities related to the main local minority coexist, often shifting between open war and moments of relative calm. In 2021, parts of the territories located in the states are under the control of the Central government, while the rest is ruled by parallel entities linked to the Ethnic Armed Groups (EAO).

### 2. Historical background

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

In November 2015 the country hosted its first democratic elections, that ushered in the victory of the NLD (National League for Democracy) headed by Aung San Su Kyi, who became State Counselor and Minister of Foreign Affairs <sup>2</sup>. According to the 2008 constitution, 25% of the seats in the Parliament and some key ministries were still held by the Military, while a partial reshuffle took place in the other 75%<sup>3</sup>.

In November 2020, Myanmar held new national elections in which the NLD increased its share of the vote, winning 396 out of 476 contested seats in parliament. The military-backed USDP won just 33 seats. The military called on the Union Election Commission to investigate the vote, claiming irregularities on the voter lists, but the Commission rejected the request.

On 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2021, shortly before the new government was due to take office and convene parliament, the military declared a state of emergency and took back the power. Dozens of opposition politicians were detained, including Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD’s senior leadership, a move condemned by the UN Secretary-General. Since then, the vast majority of the population entered in a civil disobedience movement.

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<sup>2</sup> The constitution forbids her to access the position of President.

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



### 3. Economic elements

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

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

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

Since the start of the COVID pandemic in 2020 and even more since the political crisis from February 2021, economy and financial services have collapsed and foreign investments have decreased, announcing a strong setback in the level of development and putting at risk of extreme poverty more than 50% of the population.



# HI Team and intervention areas

The HI Myanmar program has 140 staff members





# Summary of HI presence in the country

Negotiation between HI and the Myanmar government started in 1994, but the first operations are dated 2008, following cyclone Nargis. The program, mainly focused on emergency response, was closed at the end of the response operations. In 2013, after a new exploratory mission, the program was reopened, initially focused on the possibility of starting humanitarian mine action.



# Overview on ongoing projects

Sectors of services where HI conducts projects and focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships

Main sectors of intervention	Objective of project in the sector	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Final Beneficiaries	Partners	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project and donors and funding it
<b>Rehabilitation</b>	Strengthening community and Institutional resilience to natural hazards in Myanmar ; and providing rehabilitation support for people with disabilities affected by conflict in Kayin state	Capacity building of Institutions, hospital staff, emergency units strengthening the quality of services offered to people with disabilities	PwD identified and located Referred survivors to physical rehabilitation. Representatives of local and political authorities Representatives of international NGOs	Conflict affected communities	MPHA, ICRC, KBC, KDG, Myanmar Independent Living Initiative-MILI, Thazin Community Development Institute -TCDI and Center for Social Integrity- CSI	Kayin, Bago, Kachin, Rakhine	01/01/2018 – 31/12/2022 (Luxembourg MoFA)  01/04/2020 – 30/09/2021 (ECHO / Luxembourg MoFA)  17/08/2020 – 16/07/2023 (BMZ)  01/05/2021 – 30/04/2022 (ECHO / Luxembourg MoFA)  31/07/2021 – 31/07/2022 (MHF)  Fondation de France 01/01/2020- 31/12/2022
<b>Inclusive disaster risk reduction</b>	Strengthening community and Institutional	Capacity Building of Institutions,	Partners' staff trained (technical, educational, etc.);	Urban communities affected by	Yangon General Hospital; Mandalay General Hospital;	Mandalay, Yangon,	01/04/2020 – 30/09/2021 (ECHO / Luxembourg



	resilience to natural hazards in Myanmar.	Hospital Staff (Emergency Units) ; advocacy (National Plans) ; capacity building of international actors on inclusive Disaster Risk Management (DRM); capacity building of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs)	Disaster management training centre Community members	disasters and communicable diseases	North Okkalapa General Hospital ; Yangon and Mandalay Children Hospitals ; ActionAid; PLAN; UNHABITAT; UK-Med		MoFA)  17/08/2020 – 16/07/2023 (BMZ)
<b>Inclusive livelihoods</b>	Improvement of socioeconomic conditions of accident survivors and victims through livelihood services	Identification, needs assessment and referral of persons with disabilities (PwDs) and their families to appropriate livelihood services ; set up of Victim Assistance Centres; production of Service Providers Directory	Mine/ERW survivors and PwDs and their families	Communities affected by conflict	Myanmar Physically Handicapped Association (MPHA); Department of Social Welfare (DSW)	Bago, Kayin	01/01/2018 – 31/12/2022 (Luxembourg MoFA)





<p><b>Psycho-social support</b></p>	<p>Improvement of socioeconomic conditions of accident survivors and victims through Psycho Social Services (PSS)</p>	<p>Set up of Victim Assistance Centres ; Production of Service Providers Directory; Peer-to-peer counselling; PSS</p>	<p>Mine / Explosive Remnant Weapons (ERW) survivors trained in peer-to-peer counselling to support other victims</p>	<p>Communities affected by conflict</p>	<p>Myanmar Physically Handicapped Association (MPHA); KBC, MILI, TCDI and CSI Commitments to Affected Populations</p>	<p>Bago, Kayin, Kachin, Rakhine</p>	<p>01/04/2021-31/03/2022 (Luxembourg MoFA)  01/05/2021 – 30/04/2022 (ECHO) 31/07/2021 – 31/07/2022 (MHF)  Fondation de France (01/01/2020-31/12/2022)</p>
<p><b>Humanitarian Mine Action</b></p>	<p>Communities living in targeted landmine/ERW affected areas better manage related risks (community-based RE delivery and risk management )</p>	<p>Real-time data management system for mine action database Implementation of a sustainable model for RE and capacities to report risks Mine Risk Education and Non-Technical survey</p>	<p>Communities</p>	<p>Communities affected by conflict</p>	<p>KDG (Kachin Development Group)</p>	<p>Kachin</p>	<p>01/09/2020 – 31/07/2022 (Centre de Crise et de Soutien)</p>
<p><b>Rehabilitation / Maternal and Child Health</b></p>	<p>Disability and / or health complications is prevented (physical and/or mental) through enhanced early identification / detection of difficulties and early intervention</p>	<p>Early emergency intervention through provision of physical and functional rehabilitation services and/or Mental Health Psycho social services</p>	<p>Children Under-5  Children with disabilities  Pregnant and Lactating women  Women with disabilities</p>	<p>Communities affected by conflict</p>	<p>ACF</p>	<p>Rakhine</p>	<p>31/07/2021 – 31/07/2022 (MHF)</p>



		(MHPSS) in case of disaster (man-made or natural) to avoid development of complication /disability (both mental health issues and/or physical limitations) Emergency physical and functional rehabilitation services (direct or through partners) including provision of technical aids	Health Personnel  Community workers				
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# Donors

	
	