



# Myanmar/Burma\*



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## Country snapshot

<b>Population:</b>	49 million
<b>Achieved independence:</b>	1948
<b>Life expectancy at birth:</b>	61.2 years*
<b>Adult literacy rate:</b>	89.9%*
<b>Access to improved water source:</b>	80%*
<b>Under five mortality rate:</b>	104 per 1000 births
<b>Maternal mortality rate:</b>	380 per 100,000 live births
<b>HIV prevalence:</b>	0.7%

Source: UN Human Development Report 2009/10

**Program overview** CARE has worked in Myanmar since 1995 with the aim to improve the living standards of rural communities through health intervention programs, including HIV/AIDS prevention and care, as well as nutritional support for pregnant mothers and children; food security and livelihoods programs, comprised of support for agriculture, fisheries, and livestock; and water, sanitation and hygiene. As cross-cutting measures, CARE Myanmar is addressing disaster risk reduction and gender. CARE has offices in 10 out of 14 states and divisions in Myanmar, with over 600 staff members working on projects in hundreds of villages and towns across the country.

### Public health and hygiene

CARE is working to improve people's health by building the capacity of community health services and aims to reduce the transmission of tuberculosis and malaria in highly prevalent areas. CARE also works with women to improve their sexual and reproductive health. Together with village health committees and peer educators, CARE aims to prevent diseases and malnutrition, with a focus on women and children, by providing information on staying healthy and encouraging the early use of formal health services.

CARE is also raising awareness of Avian Influenza (AI) and prevention practices throughout the country, with activities including training in safe livestock handling practices, early identification and reporting systems, health education, and building links between stakeholders to better respond to the virus.

### HIV prevention and care

Stigma and misinformation surround the growing HIV epidemic in Myanmar. CARE works to prevent HIV transmission while aiming to improve the quality of life for people living with HIV and the children orphaned or vulnerable as a result of the

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virus. CARE is enabling people, especially those in high-risk groups, to identify and address behaviours that put them at risk of HIV infection. Activities include awareness-raising among peers, establishing self-help groups, condom distribution, clean needle and syringe exchange programs and ensuring access to affordable treatment.

### Food and livelihood security

CARE is working to improve and diversify livelihood options to ensure food security for vulnerable people in Myanmar, including promoting an integrated and holistic approach which targets women, poor farmers and people living with HIV/AIDS. CARE is involved in a number of income generation activities in agriculture, fisheries and livestock, and natural resources management. Following Cyclone Nargis, CARE has expanded its operations to Ayeyarwady division where it is focusing on restoration of livelihoods to fishermen, farmers and migrant workers.

### Water and sanitation

CARE is implementing a water, sanitation and hygiene program across Myanmar. This work has concentrated on providing safe drinking water, water for irrigation, sanitation, and hygiene promotion in some of the most inaccessible and remote parts of the country.

### Disaster risk reduction

With the aim to reduce vulnerability and increase community resilience to future natural disasters, CARE has identified DRR as one of the core priorities within its mandate regarding humanitarian assistance, reconstruction and development and considers DRR mainstreaming as a requisite to achieve quality programming. CARE is focused on the construction and/or rehabilitation of infrastructure and community buildings; increased environmental awareness; first aid training and kit provision; early warning systems development using alternative energy sources as well as Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)

capacity building.

### Gender

CARE is committed to mainstreaming gender in all its activities, believing it as pivotal to the success of its programs. CARE conducts gender capacity building for all staff, in addition to incorporating gender in all stages of a project life cycle. This includes providing gender sensitive criteria for selection of beneficiaries; equal opportunities for women, men, girls and boys; and encouragement of women's participation. Moreover, CARE conducts advocacy and sensitization with local authorities, leaders, and male family members.

### Major donors

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), European Union (EU), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), UK Department for International Development (DfID), Government of Austria, Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norwegian Agency for Development Construction (NORAD), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Three-Disease Fund, UNICEF, World Food Programme, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, Botstiber Foundation and various other private and corporate donors.

### CARE International members supporting current programs

CARE Australia, CARE Austria, CARE Norway, CARE Deutschland & Luxembourg, CARE Canada, CARE Japan, CARE Netherlands, CARE USA, CARE UK, and CARE France.

\*Myanmar is the name recognised by the United Nations and the country in question. Burma is the name recognised by the Australian Government.

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