

# Factsheet: Myanmar

Last update: 24 October 2014

## DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The [Child Law](#) (1993) defines youth as those between 16-18 years, however no definition of youth is applied consistently.

### CANDIDACY AGE

**Lower House** **25**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) Partially appointed.

**Upper House** **30**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) Partially appointed.

### MARRIAGEABLE AGE

	Without Parental Consent	Opposite Sex With Parental Consent	Same Sex With Parental Consent
Male	20	--	XX
Female	20	14	--

No data for marriageable age with parental consent for men. Male homosexual acts illegal. Female homosexual acts legal. Source: [UNSD, ILGA](#)

### VOTING AGE

**18**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

### MAJORITY AGE

**16**

Source: [UN Child Rights Periodical Report](#) (2011)

### CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

**7**

**Minimum Age**  
The Government has stated its will to raise the age to 10 through a reform of the child law. Source: [Child Law of Myanmar](#) (1993)

## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

**0.43**

134 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

### LITERACY RATES

**96.32%**

Both sexes (15-24) %

**96.33%** **96.31%**

Male (15-24) % Female (15-24) %

Year: 2015

Source: [UNESCO](#)

### NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

**46.99%**

Both sexes %

**45.95%** **48.03%**

Male % Female %

Year: 2010

Source: [UNESCO](#)

### GDP PER CAPITA

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Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

### HDI

**0.498**

Year: 2013

Source: [UNDP](#)  
150 out of 187 countries.

### GINI

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Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

### CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

**21**

156 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

### PRESS FREEDOM

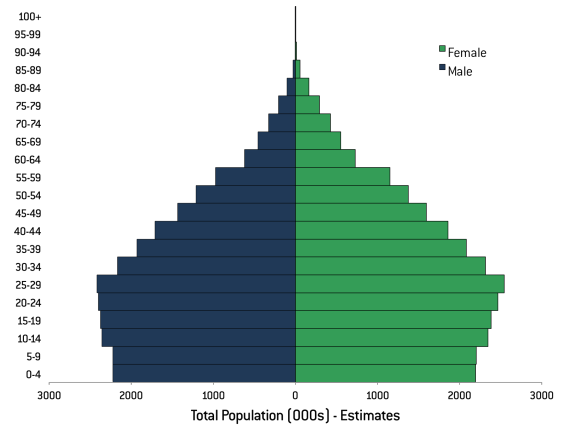
**41.43**

145 out of 180 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

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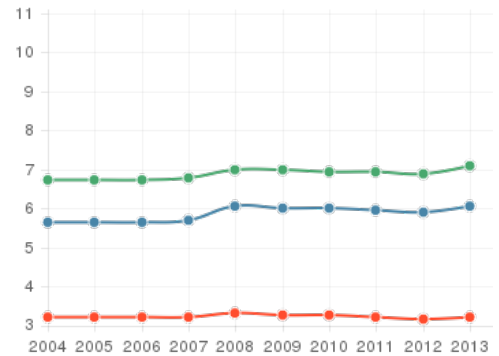
Male % Female %

Year: 2010

Source: [UNESCO](#)

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

### Share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment



## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### PREVALENCE OF HIV

**0.2%**

Male (15-24) %

**0.3%**

Female (15-24) %

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

### TOBACCO USE

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.

**15.30%**

Both sexes (13-15) %

**22.50%**

Male (13-15) %

**8.20%**

Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010

Source: [WHO](#)

## POLICY & LEGISLATION

There are two apparently parallel processes underway to develop a national youth policy. One was initiated in 2012 by the [Myanmar Youth Forum](#) and is led by the newly formed [National Youth Congress](#) - both youth-led. The other was initiated by [UNFPA](#), whose country representative is quoted saying that "[a 2014 visit of Princess Mary] confirms that we are on the right track in working closely with the Government of Myanmar to develop a youth policy." How these processes relate and interact is not clear. According to an [ActionAid blog](#), it seems - at least in part - controversial, with a youth activist stating that "the National Youth Congress was recently informed by a UN agency [...] that they themselves initiated a youth policy process" but that they "will not feedback on any youth policy that is not an outcome of a participatory and engaging process."

### Is there a national youth policy?

**NO**

Myanmar has no national youth policy yet, but there are ongoing efforts to develop one.

## PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or

The [Department of Social Welfare](#) within the [Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement](#) is responsible for youth issues, though the [Situation Analysis of Children \(2012\)](#) was co-published by UNICEF and the [Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development](#). The [Department of Social Welfare](#) implements both preventive and protective measures, including the establishment of youth centers and voluntary night schools for primary education as preventive measures and the establishment of youth development centers as protective measures.

Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

**YES**

youth programming?

**UNCLEAR**

No documentation on youth spending could be found online. According to the [World Bank](#), Myanmar spent 0.77% of its GDP on education in 2011, but does not calculate what this translates to in terms of percentage of government expenditure.

#### YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

In the context of the struggle between the army-backed government and the opposition movement, there are several organisations claiming to represent all young people of Myanmar. Among them are the [Myanmar Youth Forum](#), the [National Youth Congress](#), and the [National Youth Network](#).

Does the country have a national youth organisation / association (council, platform, body)?

**UNCLEAR**

#### BUDGET & SPENDING

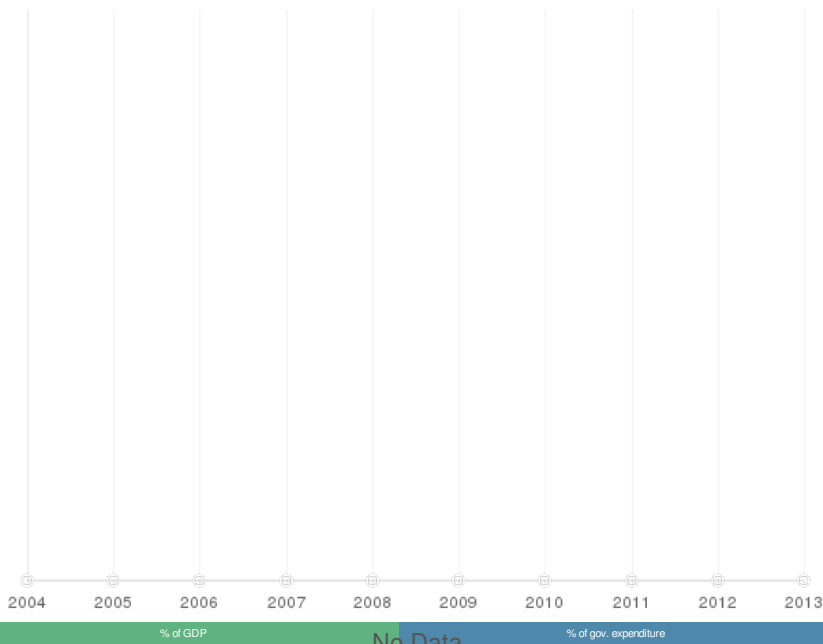
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**UNCLEAR**

#### TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

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Source: [World Bank](#)  
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

No Data

% of GDP % of gov. expenditure

Source: [World Bank](#)  
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

#### PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

Visit our library for further reading:  
[Documents about Myanmar](#)