

RCC member countries

Myanmar



Country Information

Region: Southeast Asia

Population: Approximately 53.4 million

Capital: Nay Pyi Taw

GDP (US\$): \$69.322 billion

Geography: The topography of Myanmar can roughly be divided into three parts; the Western Hills Region, the Central Valley Region, and the Eastern Hill Region.

General climate: Myanmar has a monsoon climate, which produces three main seasons, the summer, rainy and winter seasons. Extreme temperatures are rare, but the directions of winds and depression bring rain.

INFORM Risk Rating: 6.6

Risk Summary

- Myanmar is affected by a wide array of natural hazards, including destructive earthquakes, cyclones, flooding, landslides and periodic droughts. Over the

last ten years, Myanmar has faced two major earthquakes, three severe cyclones, floods, and other small-scale hazards.

- In recent decades, farmers in the Ayeyarwady Delta cleared vast tracts of coastal mangrove forests to expand rice cultivation and prawn farming, reducing the number of natural buffers to storm surges significantly.
- In 2008, Cyclone Nargis killed 84,500 people and nearly one-third of the population was affected. Total damages and losses were over \$4 billion, equivalent to 21% of the country's GDP in 2007.
- In 2015-2016, Myanmar was heavily impacted by the El Niño as it caused extreme temperatures, unusual rainfall patterns, dry soil, high risk of fires, and acute water shortages.
- Temperatures, rainfall and runoff are likely to increase and there is a risk of dry periods occurring during the monsoon season. These changes will increase economic losses from natural hazards, especially in the agricultural sector, which employs about 56% of the population.

Disaster Management System

National Level

- **National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC)**

The NDMC is the high-level policy body for disaster management and is responsible for national and regional cooperation and coordination with international humanitarian actors.

- **Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD)**

The RRD is in the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and provides secretariat services to the NDMC and implementation of the Disaster Management Law and Disaster Management Rules. It also provides emergency assistance and coordinates with government departments and relevant national and international agencies.

- **Natural Disaster Management Centre**

The Centre is in the RRD and is responsible for disaster information and for disseminating early warnings from data obtained from relevant agencies.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also have key responsibilities in relation to disaster response. The Armed Forces remain primary responders in disasters and are members of the NDMC.

Sub-National Level

The Disaster Management Law and the Disaster Management Rules require the establishment of sub-national bodies:

- Region or State Disaster Management Bodies;
- Self-administered Division or Self-administered Zone Disaster Management Bodies;
- District Disaster Management Bodies;
- Township Disaster Management Bodies;
- Ward or Village Tract Disaster Management Bodies.

Helpful Links and Sources

Myanmar country profile:

<https://data.worldbank.org/country/myanmar>

INFORM country risk profile:

<http://www.inform-index.org/countries/country-profiles>

Myanmar Disaster Management Reference Handbook:

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/disaster-mgmt-ref-hdbk-burma.pdf>

Myanmar disaster risk profile:

<https://www.gfdr.org/myanmar>

Overview of the DRM system:

<http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/disaster-law/disaster-law-mapping-asean-agreement-on-disaster-management-and-emergency-response/country-profiles/myanmar/>