



Photo: UNDP/Su Sandi Htein Win/2024

OUR WORK IN

Myanmar

2024-2025

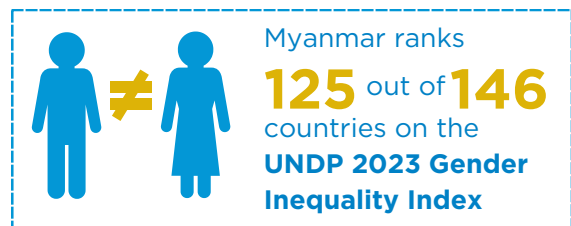
COUNTRY CONTEXT

Three years after the military takeover on 1 February 2021, the humanitarian landscape in Myanmar continues to deteriorate, affecting every aspect of life for Myanmar people. The country is experiencing a protracted, multi-layered crisis. Around one third of the population – 18.6 million people – are estimated to be in humanitarian need, of which 9.7 million are women and girls.¹ Internal displacement is surging, 13 million people are food insecure,² and the poverty rate has nearly doubled, putting it at levels not seen for 15 years.

As fighting continues to escalate and the economic, political, and humanitarian crisis worsens, families are in financial distress and coping capacities are stretched to the limit. Interruptions to agriculture and rapid inflation are making it increasingly difficult for people to access and afford adequate food, the health

system is in crisis, millions are without safe shelter or drinking water, and some 4.5 million children have been unable to access any form of education since the takeover.³

Women, girls, people with disabilities and internally displaced people are among those most marginalized by the crisis, including feeling the greatest burden of poverty.⁴ And the situation has led to a notable backslide in progress on gender equality and women’s empowerment, with Myanmar ranking 125 out of 146 countries on the 2023 Gender Inequality Index (GII).⁵



1. Myanmar Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024, UN OCHA, December 2023. [Available online.](#)

2. 2023 Myanmar Common Country Analysis

3. Myanmar Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024, UN OCHA, December 2023. [Available online.](#)

4. Myanmar Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024, UN OCHA, December 2023. [Available online.](#)

5. UNDP Gender Inequality Index 2023. [Available online.](#)

Gendered impacts of the crisis in Myanmar

Participation in decision-making

Since the military takeover, conflict has extended into regions that were previously free from hostilities. As of July 2023, Myanmar had the highest number of non-state armed groups of any country worldwide⁶ and increased conflict is directly feeding violence against women and girls.

Women leaders and activists have become political targets and harassed through online platforms, which has resulted in physical harassment, threats and sexualized violence. Many have fled the country for safety.

Many women-led civil society organizations (WCSOs) had used the opening of civic space from 2011 to 2020 to grow and establish networks to become key actors in policy and programming for women and girls. Now, they face multiple challenges to their operations, including restricted access, safety concerns and increased scrutiny and reporting requirements that make it difficult to serve vulnerable communities in Myanmar.

Gender-based violence

Stress brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated intimate partner violence (IPV), and increased conflict after the military takeover has resulted in significantly more conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV).⁷

Furthermore, limited civil society capacity and an inability to reach women and girls in active conflict areas has reduced access to essential services for responding to and preventing violence against women.

6. The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) Conflict Index. [Available online.](#)

7. Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Report of the UN Secretary General 2023. Page 17. [Available online.](#)

Women's economic participation

The World Bank reported in December 2023 that the economic conditions in Myanmar were continuing to deteriorate, with the currency depreciating by around 18 percent against the US dollar over the three months to the end of September. Increasing prices and persisting power shortages create further challenges for businesses and households.⁸

There is an ongoing disproportionate impact on women's capacity to earn sustainable livelihoods, mostly because the conflict makes it difficult for women to move around safely and means they have less access to employment opportunities.

Climate change and natural disasters

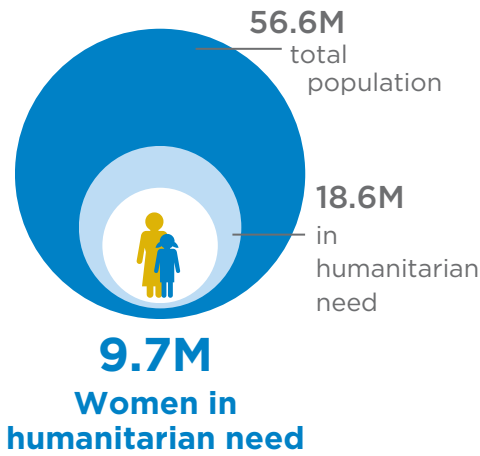
Adding to the multi-layered crisis, the 2021 Global Climate Risk Index ranked Myanmar as the second most vulnerable country in the world to extreme weather events. With more frequent heatwaves, floods, cyclones, droughts, and rising sea levels impacting production, food security, and land scarcity in Myanmar, climate change poses a severe threat to livelihoods and sustainable development. This is especially true for women in Myanmar, as they are disproportionately reliant on agriculture for their livelihoods.

Moreover, during cyclones, floods, and other disasters, women's caregiving responsibilities for children, the ill, and the elderly can make it difficult for them to promptly seek safety, access shelter, or obtain necessary healthcare.

8. World Bank, Myanmar Economic Monitor, December 2023. [Available online.](#)

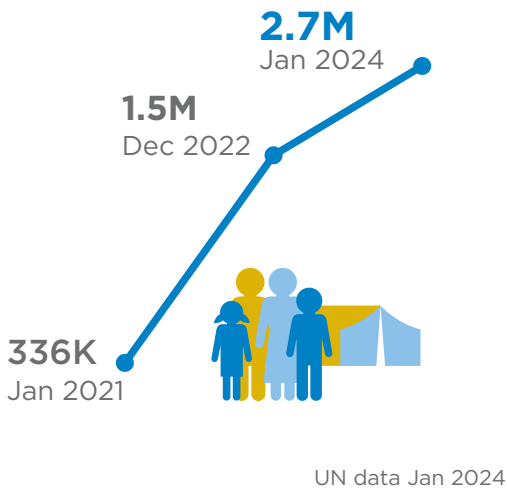
Myanmar snapshot

HUMANITARIAN NEED

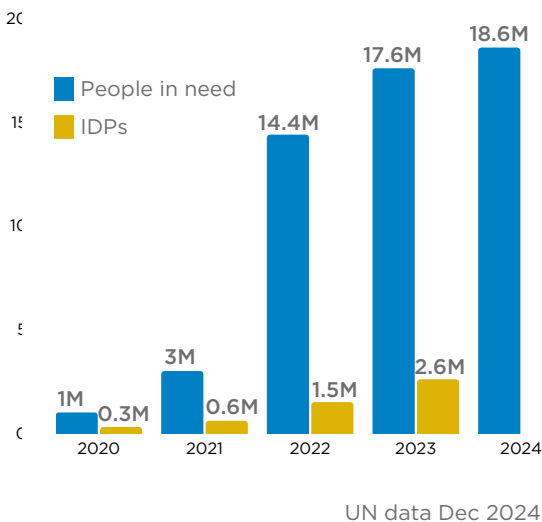


UN data Dec 2023

INTERNALLY DISPLACED



HUMANITARIAN NEED & DISPLACEMENT 2020 - 2024



MYANMAR GENDER EQUALITY INDICATORS

UN Women & UNDP jointly released the 'twin indices' in 2023 to measure gender equality and women's empowerment:

Women's Empowerment Index measures women's power and freedoms to make choices and seize opportunities in life.

Global Gender Parity Index evaluates the status of women relative to men in core dimensions of human development and exposes gaps in achieving parity between women and men.

Women's Empowerment Index



Myanmar is in the **Low Women's Empowerment** grouping of countries

Global Gender Parity Index



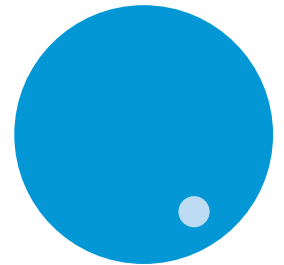
Myanmar is in the **Low Gender Parity** grouping of countries

WOMEN'S PEACE & SECURITY



Myanmar ranks **165** out of **177** countries on the **2023 Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Index** revealing low levels of women's inclusion, justice, & security.

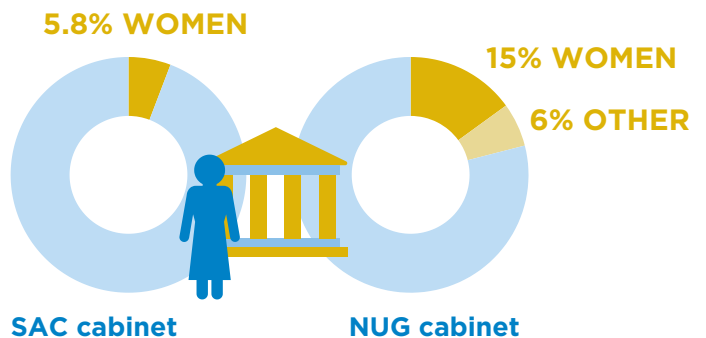
INVESTMENT IN WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS



Only **0.68%** of official development aid goes to **women's organizations** in Myanmar.

OECD-DAC 2021

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP



IDEA International, 2023



Photo: UNDP/Su Sandi Htein Win/2024

UN Women's contributions in Myanmar

Some of the ways we have supported women and girls in Myanmar include:

Produced high-quality gender research and analysis on the gendered impact of Myanmar's crisis, which is critical to inform evidence-based responses across the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding nexus.

Supported women's leadership and participation including by:

- Supporting Myanmar women to develop their peace promotion expertise through training and knowledge exchange.
- Providing institutional training and technical capacity building on a range of topics including leadership, resource mobilization, information management, safety and security, basic entrepreneurship, financial management, gender in humanitarian action, and sustainable livelihoods.

Protected vulnerable women and girls by providing, and gender-mainstreaming, critical services including:

- Providing integrated GBV prevention and response services, including cash-based interventions, strengthening GBV referrals with livelihood support, and community protection services.
- Providing cash assistance and critical services to GBV survivors, human trafficking survivors, and women facing economic hardship, and supporting women to find paid employment.
- Training community members on sexual health, reproductive rights, and GBV so they can promote women's rights and raise awareness about the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in their communities.

Supported women to lead and participate in humanitarian action including:

- Supporting local women-lead organisation to work across the country to provide humanitarian assistance including emergency aid, access to critical services, capacity building, and awareness raising.
- With our local partners, UN Women is also helping women and girls access essential services to help protect and empower them in the face of violence, including legal aid and counselling.
- After Cyclone Mocha devastated areas of Myanmar's northwest in May 2023, we worked with local organisations to distribute cash transfers and urgently needed items including food, water supplies, clothing, and hygiene kits.
- Empowering women to earn sustainable livelihoods by supporting women-led small businesses with business skills training, networking sessions, help to improve their business plans, and small grants to support growth.

UN Women's strategic priorities in Myanmar

Our goal, set out in the UN Women Myanmar Interim Strategic Note 2024-2025, is that by 2025:

“Women and girls affected by crisis lead, participate in and benefit from humanitarian and relief response, peace, and development efforts in Myanmar, thereby contributing to a more peaceful and gender equal society”

To achieve this, we are focusing on four key areas:

1 Providing life-saving support & protection services.

- Promoting gender in humanitarian action
- Contributing to the UN and humanitarian partner's [Myanmar Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024](#) and the protection of the rights of women and girls in conflict-affected and post-disaster settings.

2 Improving access to essential social services including GBV prevention & response.

- Strengthening integrated GBV prevention and response services including referrals and services, livelihood support and skills development to survivors of violence, and women and girls at risk of violence.
- Building the capacities of community-based women's groups, religious leaders, and WCSOs as first responders.
- Conducting community-based awareness raising on GBV prevention and positive gender norms.

3 Empowering women to actively participate in decision making & conflict management.

- Supporting WCSOs to access learning opportunities, technical support, and resources to increase their ability to advocate for the needs and priorities of women and girls.

4 Strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality

- Leading research, producing data, and conducting feminist analysis to inform multi-sectoral responses to the crisis, including planning and programming frameworks;
- Conducting rapid gender analyses;
- Training WCSOs on how to conduct gender-mainstreamed research and analysis; and
- Seconding a gender statistician to the Myanmar Development Observatory.





Photo: UNDP/Su Sandi Htein Win/2024

Our funding partners



Norwegian
Government



GOUVERNEMENT

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

Achieving the UN Women 2024-25 strategic outcomes in Myanmar calls for transformative, collaborative action.

Strategic, innovative, and efficient funding partnerships are essential to realize UN Women's vision of a gender-equal world, articulated in the Strategic Note.

To learn more about UN Women Myanmar's funding partners landscape visit our [Transparency Portal](#).

For more information

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