

**The Union Republic of Myanmar**

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## **Survey System in Myanmar**

### **1. Introduction**

The Union Republic of Myanmar is situated in the South East Asia Region with total land area of 676,577 sq. kilo meter, sharing of 5858 kilo meter with Bangladesh and India on the north-west, China on the north-east, Laos on the east and Thailand on the south-east and, along coastline on the south-west and south, touching Bay of Bengal and Adaman sea. Myanmar possess tropical and sub-tropical climate with three general seasons (rainy, winter and summer). The Union Republic of Myanmar is ago-based country with and estimated population of (51.5) million in 2014 (2014, Myanmar population and housing census). The population of male was (48.22%) and female was (51.78%) in 2014. The annual population growth rate was (0.89%) in 2014. There were (15) states and regions. The number of districts was 74 and Township and sub Township were 412. Approximately 70 percent of the people live in rural areas and making people to be convenience of food, shelter, water supply, electricity and transportation, job creation, access for education and health care are fulfilling the basic needs of the people. Moreover, the majority of rural populations are farmers engaged in agricultural activities. Myanmar has over 135 different ethnic groups and eight major national races living in seven states and seven regions and one Union Territory, Nay Pyi Taw Council. It has a great diversity of ethnics groups, dress and traditions.

The Government of Myanmar has taken visible strides in many areas of socio-economic development during 2011-2015, national reconciliation and democratization and continues to progress steadily with the policy of people-centered development. Government of Myanmar in recent years paid attentions for obtaining better statistics as an important governance tool to guide planning, implementation as well as a tool to bridge the real needs of its citizen to the

evidence-based policy making. “Quality of Statistics and Statistical System” is one of the four economic policies in compliance with the economic, social and political reforms. A legal framework is necessary to strengthen the National Statistical System and a new statistical law has been formulated. Moreover, a Statistical Policy brief and a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics- NSDS- is recently being developed by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) with the consultation and technical support of World Bank, ADB and other development partners and under the guidance of the committee for the Accuracy and Quality of Statistics.



Central Statistical Organization (CSO) collects data in accordance with the Central Statistical Authority Act, No.34 of 1952 and plays a key role in National Statistical System. The CSO is engaged in collecting and compiling social and economic statistical data from three main sectors of the country, namely public, cooperation and private.

Data are compiled by three means of data collection:

1. Statistics provided by concerned agencies.
2. Statistics jointly compiled by agencies concerned and CSO.
3. Statistics obtained from surveys conducted by CSO itself.

For the public sector, relevant data are collective from administrative records of the Government. Most of the economics and social data are compiled by CSO in collaboration with respective government departments.

CSO is always trying to produce the socio and economic data to be able to monitor the existing conditions of the country and timely and reliable data for social and economic effective planning for the development of the country.

The aims and objectives of the CSO consist of the following functions:

- To improve a comprehensive efficient and reliable statistical system for social and economic policy, effective planning administration.
- To review and advice on all statistical operations of the Union Government whether performed for statistical administrative or other purposes.
- To coordinate and integrate statistics and statistical operations.
- To establish, prescribe and maintain the highest statistical standards.
- To organize and conduct socio-economic surveys with reference to the requirement of prepared planned basis and other purposes.

## **1.2. The role of CSO and its function**

The Central Statistics and Economic Department (CSED), was formed in 1952 under the Central Statistical Authority Act (Act No. 34 of 1952): Then; the CSED was reorganized as the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) in February 1974 with a view to functioning more effectively in statistical field. After Introduction the Computing Development Project to the CSO funded by the UNDP and the Government of the union of Myanmar to improve both statistical and computational capabilities, the CSO has been upgraded with close coordination and cooperation between CSO and other Statistical Offices, CSO is a focal point for producing all round socioeconomic statistics of the country.

The CSO is the only authoritative organization in Myanmar that has mandate to collect, process, organize and supply data for the use of planners, policy makers and other users in the country as well as international organizations. The CSO's main functions are to provide timely and reliable data to those who are in need of statistical information.

The main objectives of the CSO consist of the following functions.

1. To compile reliable and timely data to be used as basic for formulating long-term and short-term economic plans.
2. To develop consolidate methods and techniques for collecting and presenting data and provide other departments in statistical field.
3. To present economic and social situations of the country in terms of statistical indicators.
4. To exchange published data with those of UN organizations and other agencies to make further studies by means of international comparison.

### **1.3. Current Statistical activities of CSO**

The statistics collected and compiled are disseminating for the users as a book form and electronic version. Statistical publications of CSO such as Statistical Yearbook, Selected Monthly Economic Indicators and other Statistical reports such as Forestry statistics, Livestock and fishery statistics, household income and expenditure survey and statistical profile of children and women. Central Statistical Organization is trying to its outmost effort to fulfill the various statistical needs of the planning and development of the country with the limited staff working in the office. Furthermore; CSO is engaged in collecting and compiling social and economic statistical data from three main sectors of the country, namely public, cooperative and private. There are (14) sections in Central Statistical Organization (CSO), namely

- (1) External Trade section
- (2) Internal Trade and Price section
- (3) Agriculture, Livestock, Fishery and Forestry section
- (4) Social and Labor statistics section
- (5) Vital Statistics section
- (6) Industry, Mines and Power statistics section
- (7) Transport, Communications and Construction section
- (8) Fiscal and Monetary statistics section
- (9) Survey section
- (10) Administration section
- (11) Accounting section

(12) Computer system and applied section

(13) Research and Development section

(14) Regional section

The collection of socio-economic data are classified into (9) Sectors.

(1) External Trade

(2) Internal Trade and Price

(3) Agriculture, Livestock, Fishery and Forestry

(4) Social and Labor

(5) Vital Statistics

(6) Industry, Mines and Power

(7) Transport, Communications and Construction

(8) Fiscal and Monetary

(9) Survey

The above-mentioned data are grouped into either national level or regional level and by collecting them from State, Co-operative and private for convenience of professional users and government complex.

#### **1.4. Mainly responsibility of CSO**

CSO is mainly responsible for computing and presenting statistics including consumer price index and rate of inflation, external trade statistics by weekly and monthly basis. Millennium Development Goals (MDG) indicators produced from vital statistics based on vital registration system. Moreover, nationwide surveys, Informal Sector survey based on household, fertility and mortality survey, price survey and private industrial survey were conducted by CSO.

Household Income and Expenditure Survey and Industrial Survey are on a regular basis.

### **1.5. Conducted survey in CSO**

CSO has conducted many sample surveys through its own effort and by learning from the other's experiences.

- The following survey was conducted in CSO.
- Household Income and Expenditure Survey
- Nation Wide Manufacturing Survey
- Sample Survey on Completeness of Vital Registration system
- Retail Price Survey
- Whole Sale Price survey
- Cost of Cultivation survey
- National Mortality survey
- Household Integrated and Living Condition Assessment Survey (CSO/PD).
- Sample Survey on Children and Women

## Conducted Survey in Central Statistical Organization

sr	Survey Name	Conducted Year																		
		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1	Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) (45),(75),(80),(82) Townships																			
2	Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) (only Border Township)																			
3	Retail and Wholesale Price Survey																			
4	Household Assets and Liabilities Survey (Yangon and Mandalay) 8 Townships																			
5	Rural Development Survey in Dry Zone (Mandalay, Sangaing and Magwe) 72 villages																			
6	Myanmar Private Industry Sector Survey																			
7	National Mortality Survey (66),(80) Townships																			
8	Informal Sector Survey (80),(82) Townships																			
9	Wholesale Trade Survey (15) Township																			
10	Non-Residents Travel Expenditure Survey (cooperation with Central Bank)																			
11	Social-economic Survey in Chaung Thar and Ngwe Saung																			

## **2. Background of Conducted Surveys in CSO**

### **2.1. Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)**

Central Statistical Organization (CSO) was conducted Household Expenditure and Social Survey starting from 1958. Before 1989, Household Survey had been done by township level (or) regional level.

In 1989, CSO conducted first Nationwide Household Income and Expenditure Survey with the sample size of 14700 households. The CSO had conducted nation- wide household income and expenditure surveys in 1989, 1997, 2001, 2006 and 2012 respectively.

#### **Objectives**

- (1) To investigate into the change in consumption pattern, and expenditure of households at the township level, State and Region level and Union level, separately for urban and rural areas.
- (2) To get the necessary weights in computing Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the cities and for the Union.
- (3) To access the standard of living of the households and the Poverty level in Myanmar.

#### **Sampling Design**

Stratified three-stage random sampling design may used

- First-stage sampling was based on township
- Second-stage sampling was based on wards in urban area and village tracts in rural area
- Third-stage sampling was based on household

Particular	Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)			
	1997	2001	2006	2012
1. No. of State & Region	14	17	17	15
2. No. of predetermined townships	9	20	15	15
3. No. of random sample townships	36	55	65	67
4. No. of sample townships surveyed	45	75	80	82
5. No. of sample households	25,470	30,000	32,000	32,669
6. No. of sample urban households	10,610	16,800	17,600	18,069
7. No. of sample rural households	14,860	13,200	14,400	14,600
8. No. of supervisor	107	150	160	82
9. No. of enumerators	746	1,050	1,120	1,148
10. Survey Period	19 days	21 days	21 ays	21 days

Note: One enumerator have to survey at least (3) households in a day.

## 2.2. Rural Development Survey in Dry zone

### Objectives

- (1) To analysis by comparing of economic, social, education and health status improvement and development in the rural villages
- (2) To analysis by computing and comparing of improvement indicators to be able to measure of the rural villages development
- (3) To access the standard of living of the households and the [Poverty level in Myanmar.

### Sampling Design

Stratified two-stage random sampling design may used

- First-stage sampling was based on township
- Second-stage sampling was based on villages

<b>Particular</b>	<b>Rural Development Survey in Dry zone</b>	
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
1. No. of region	3	3
2. No. of predetermined townships	12	12
3. No. of random sample villages	72	72
4. No. of sample households	18491	18392
5. No. of supervisor	144	144
6. No. of enumerators	620	620
7. Survey Period	19 days	19 days

Note: One enumerator have to survey at least (3) households in a day.

### **2.3. Informal Sector Survey**

<b>Particular</b>	<b>National Mortality and Fertility Survey</b>	
	<b>1999</b>	<b>2008</b>
1. No. of state and region	16	17
2. No. of random sample villages	66	80
3. No. of sample households	105,600	168,000
4. No. of sample households	40,600	61,500
5. No. of sample households	65,000	106,500
6. No. of supervisor	4	238
7. No. of enumerators	800	1120
8. Survey Period	18 days	23 days

Note: (1) National Mortality Survey in 1999 and National Mortality and Fertility Survey in 2008

(2) No. of supervisor in 1999 is CSO staff only and in 2008, 105 staffs are CSO and 133 staffs are PD staffs.

(3) One enumerator have to survey at least (15) households in a day.

## 2.4. Private Sector Industrial Survey

Particular	The Private Sector Industrial Survey (Industry Zones)			
	2005-06	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
	1. No. of state and region	17	9	9
2. No. of industry zone	26	26	26	26
3. No. of establishment (include outside zone 10%)	113,187	7,122	6,912	6,794
4. No. of supervisor	198	50	72	32
5. No. of enumerators	2,200	75	195	156
6. Survey period	21 days	21 days	21 days	21 days

Note: One enumerator have to survey at least (3) establishment in a day

## 3. Institutional Strengthening

The government laid down the four economic policies. The four policies is quality of statistics and statistical system. The committee for accurate and quality statistics was formed on 12 July 2013 with the aim of lying down necessary policies for economic development of the country and crucial for compilation of reliable statistics.

The Central Statistical Organization (CSO) was restructured starting from April 2015. The structuring of Central Statistical Organization will be upgrading to the township level.

## 4. Updated Statistics Law

The Central Statistical Organization (CSO) is updating Myanmar Statistics Law with the technical assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB). Myanmar Statistics Law (Draft) has been amended in order to have more strengthened the role of CSO. Now the draft of statistics law has been finalized.

## 5. National Strategy for the development of Statistics (NSDS)

Central Statistical Organization (CSO) is implementing the National Strategy for the development of Statistics (NSDS) with the assistance of World Bank, IMF and ADB. The NSDS has two phases. The first phase is to develop a set of core strategies. The first

phase is ongoing. The second phase is to work with six cluster groups to develop implementation plan. Some Cluster groups have been formed. The six cluster groups are as follows;

- (1) National Account Statistics Cluster
- (2) Survey Coordination and Statistical Standard Cluster
- (3) Social and Vital Statistics Cluster
- (4) Agriculture and Rural Sector Statistics Cluster
- (5) Energy and Environmental Statistics Cluster
- (6) Trade and Investment Sector Statistics Cluster

## **6. Data Dissemination Services**

Central Statistical Organization (CSO) provides the following data dissemination services.

- Regular Statistical Publications in book forms together with electronic versions on CD-ROM.
- On-line data services for the government departments under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development through the Ministry's Intranet. The main purpose is to share the CSO data to those departments for further analysis and planning.
- Some selected statistical information is provided through the CSO Home Page for the public and international organizations. The internet URL address of CSO Home page is [www.csostat.gov.mm](http://www.csostat.gov.mm). CSO is gradually expending the web based technology and its statistical capability for sharing more data on the internet as an e-government application.
- CSO is now launching the Myanmar Statistical Information System (MMSIS) with the assistance of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOCIA).

## **7. Capacity Development of Statistical Staff**

The Institute of Economic is the main Centre where specialized training is given in statistics leading to B.Ecom, Degree (Statistics), BPS and Diploma in Statistics.

Senior and middle level staff members of Central Statistical Organization have been trained at the Institute of Economic or abroad. CSO dispatches its staff to participate in training, workshop and seminar provided by government, UN organizations and other agencies and organizations. The reason is that the experiences gained from the seminar, workshop and training could improve CSO staffs knowledge and skills in statistical methodology. Moreover, CSO has conducted training on trainer course on basic and applied statistics to the staff of CSO and other eleven departments with assistance of ADB.

## **8. Conclusion**

Central Statistical Organization (CSO) is trying a focal point of survey coordination and Statistical standard for purpose of National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). And a key strategic objective of NSDS is to produce a set of national and sub-national statistical indicators that can inform the government of the social, economic and environmental situation and trends in the country. In fact, Myanmar statistical system needs to produce the creation of an effective infrastructure as one of the critical area of agricultural and rural sector statistic.

For this reason, CSO works with the respective Statistical Units from the Ministries to improve Survey Coordination and Statistical Standard. And also CSO needs the survey activities of all surveys conducted by ministries. Moreover, CSO is taking on a connecting role (1) Avoid overlapping (2) Interval (3) Questionnaire Design and (4) Sampling Frame with more cooperation, coordination across the ministries, private sectors and institutions.