

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar



**World Population Day
Commemorative Ceremony
11th July 2017**

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

World Population Day Theme

**“Family Planning: Empowering People,
Developing Nations”**

“တိုင်းပြည်သာယာဖွံ့ဖြိုးဖို့၊ ကိုယ်တိုင်ပါဝင်ဆုံးဖြတ်လို့၊
မိသားစုစီမံကိန်း ချမှတ်ဖို့။”

KEY MESSAGES

“Women with choices and greater reproductive health are better empowered to seek and keep better jobs and contribute more to their families, nations and global prosperity. Their families are better-off financially and their children receive better education, helping trigger a cycle of prosperity that carries well into future generations. This produces demographic dividends and enhances global prosperity”

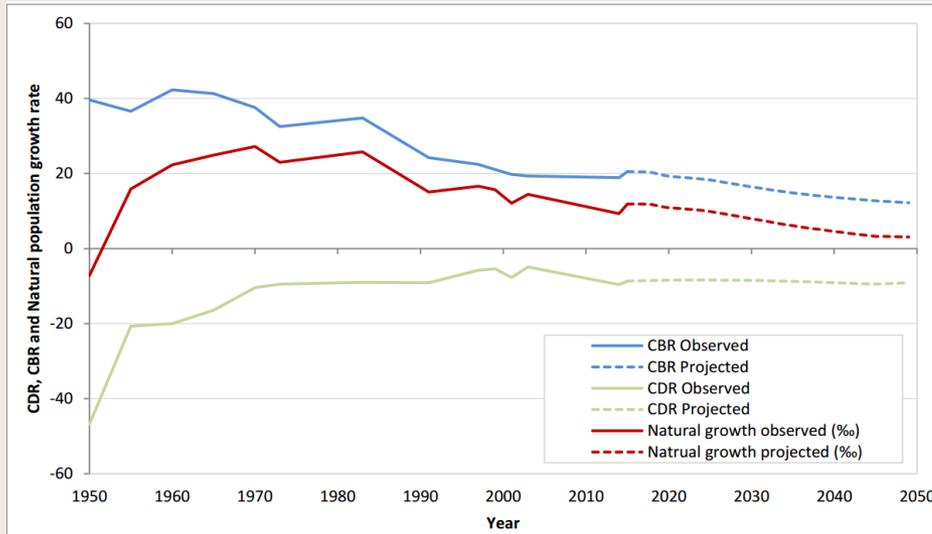
THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND AND FAMILY PLANNING IN MYANMAR

Myanmar's current situation

- Myanmar is at a junction of its social and economic development.
- Population dynamics will be an important parameter in the plans and policies to give direction to Myanmar's further development.
- The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census is an essential source of information for planning and evidence-based policy.

Myanmar's current situation

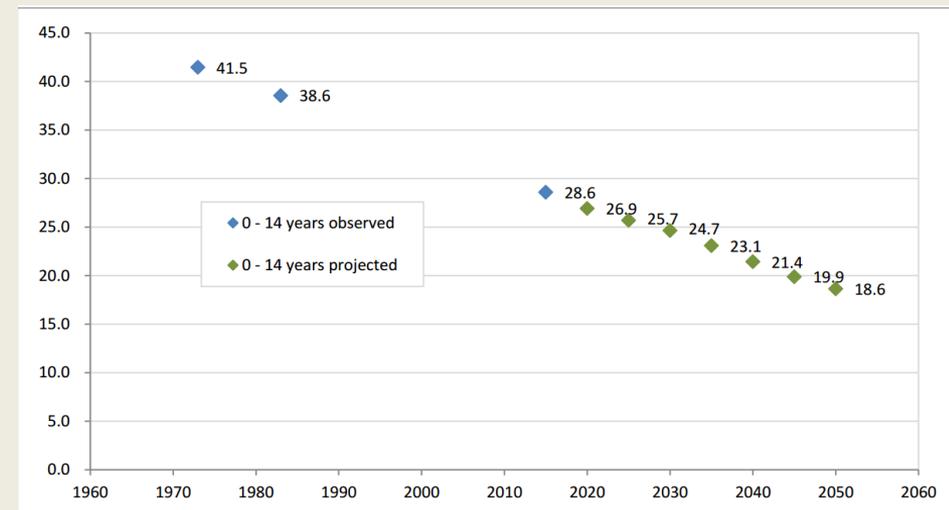
Demographic Transition in Myanmar (1948-2050)



➤ Myanmar has gone through the various stages of its demographic transition and it has profound consequences for Myanmar's society.

Percentage of the population aged 0 – 14, 1973 - 2050

- Long-term reductions in mortality and fertility result in changes in the age structure of a population



Demographic Dividend

- A relative increase in the number of working people in a country can lead to a window of opportunity for rapid economic growth; this is referred to as the “**demographic dividend**”.
- If a country has a high concentration of persons in the working age-groups, compared to its dependent population, it will have higher levels of per capita income than a country with a high proportion of persons in the dependent age groups.



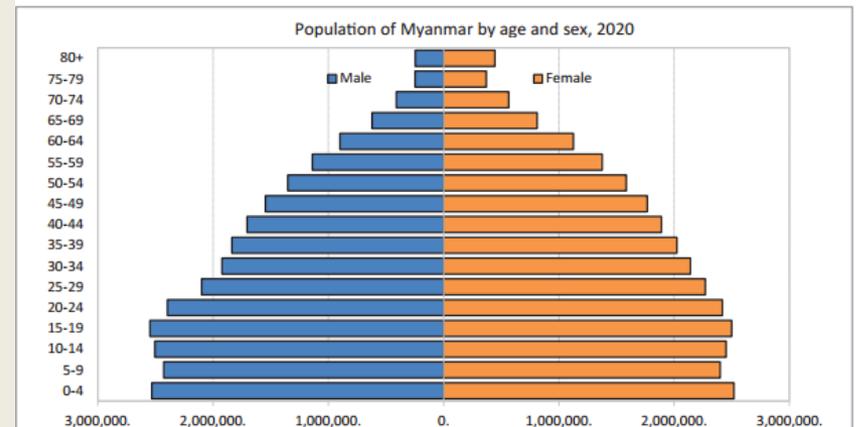
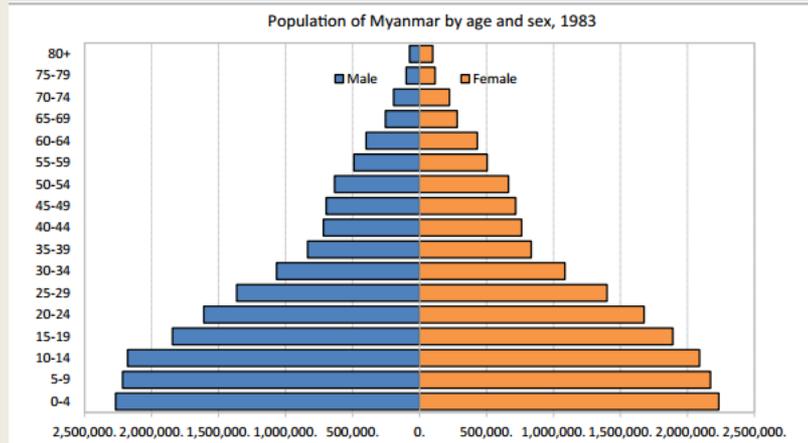
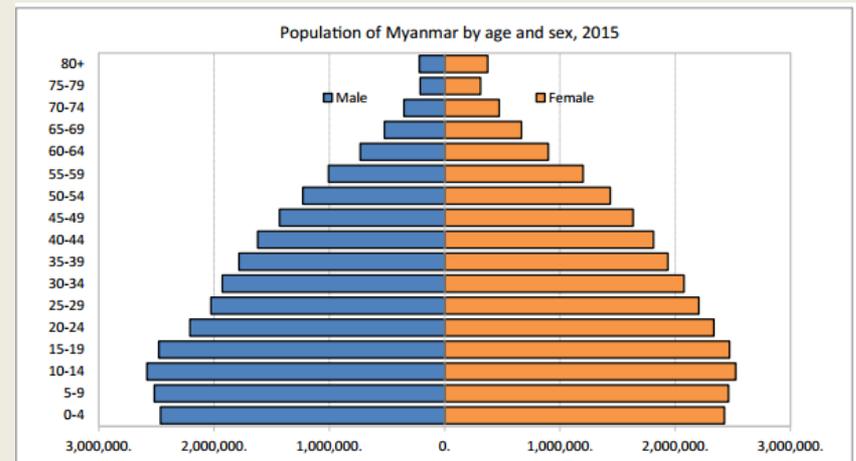
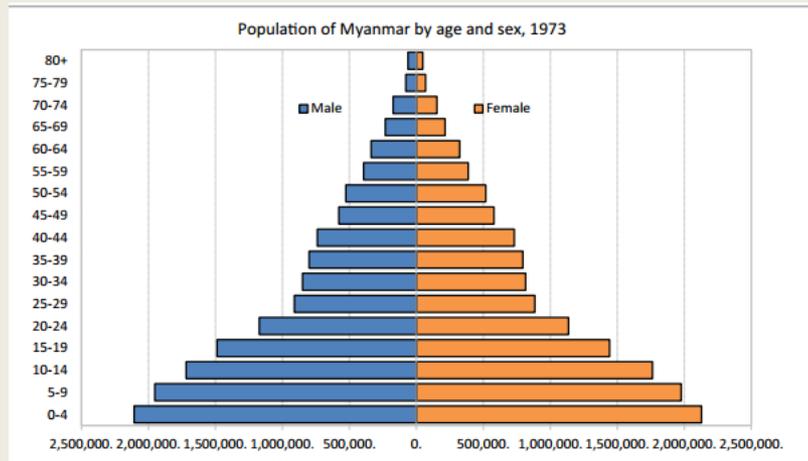
Demographic Dividend

- The demographic dividend has been a major driver of rapid economic growth in the Asian Tigers.
- Many countries in Asia now look into the possibilities of reaping their own dividend.
- It is often seen as a unique way to lift the country out of poverty and to spur economic development.
- To become an Asian Tiger, a country also needs steeply declining fertility and mortality rates.

Demographic Dividend

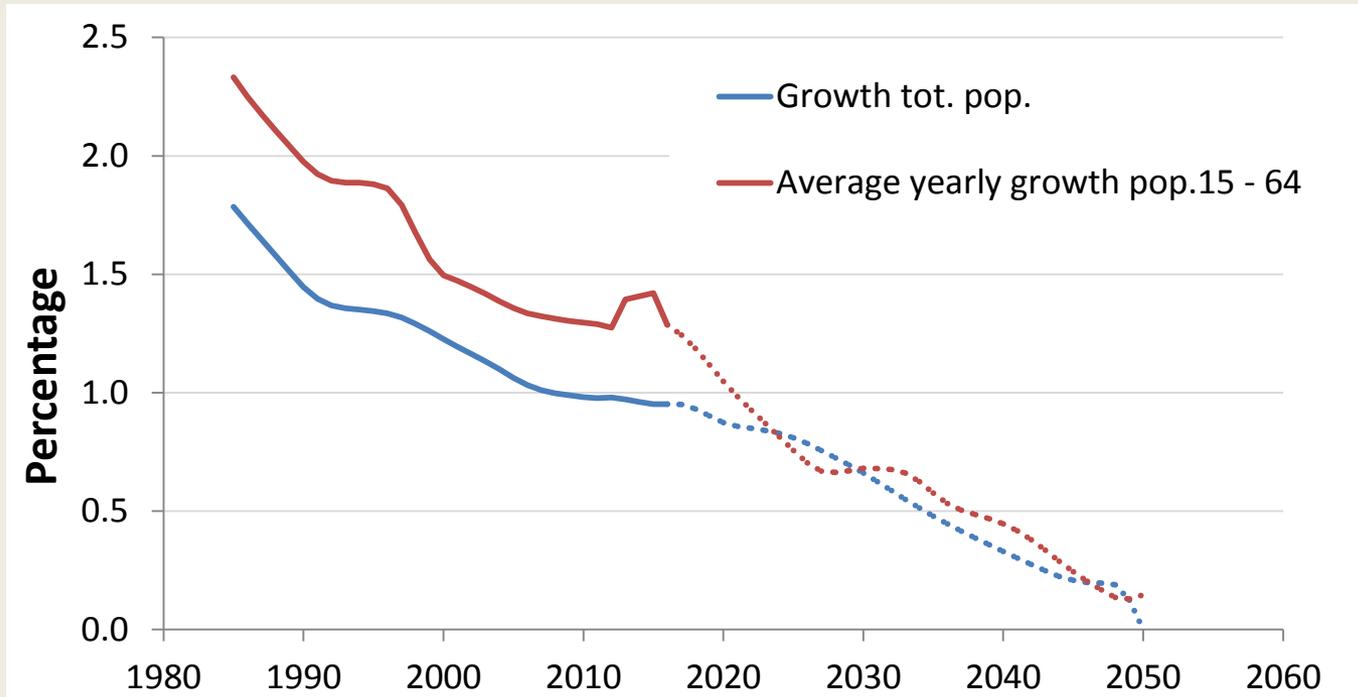
- The demographic dividend does not come automatically.
- In order to translate the favourable demographic conditions into economic gain, governments have to create the right policy environment and invest in key sectors of the economy, such as –
 - public health,
 - family planning,
 - education and
 - economic and labour market policies

Changing Age Structure in Myanmar



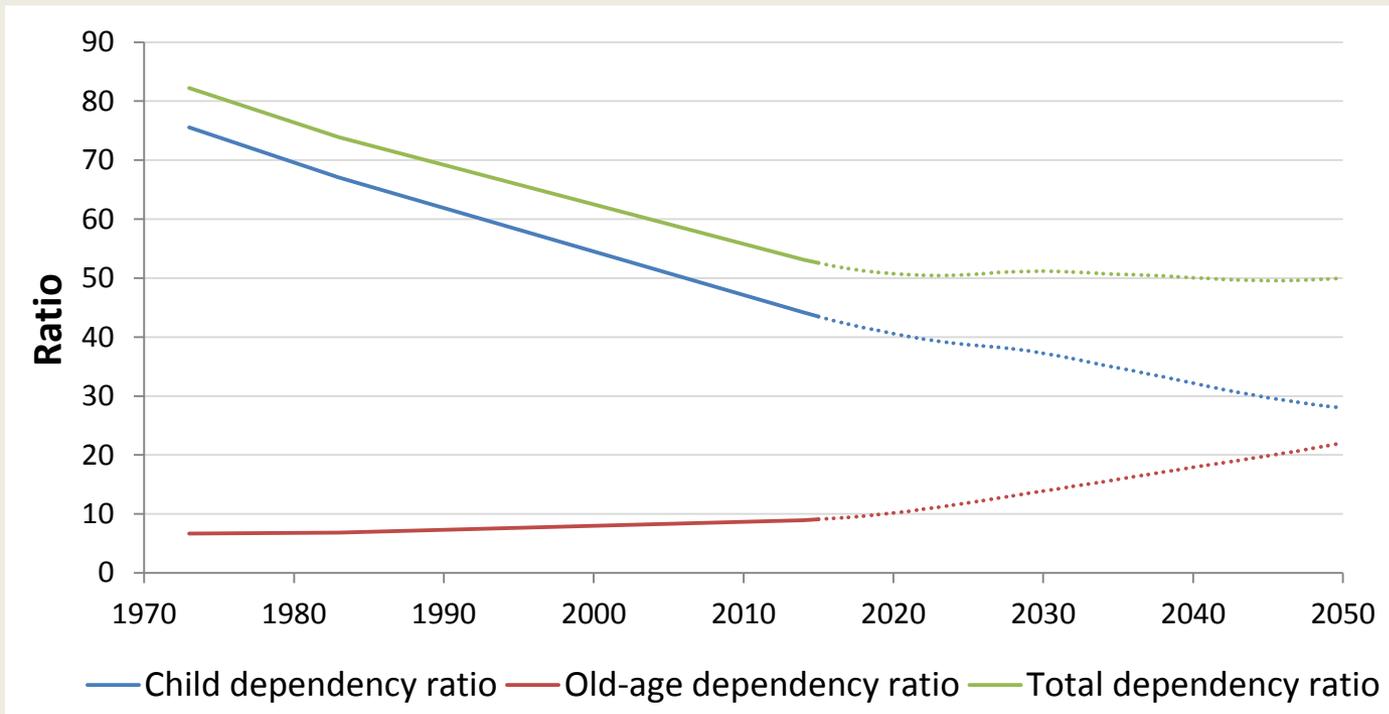
- Population pyramid in 1973 and 1983 are bottom based signifying youthful population and Pyramid in 2015 shows a pot shaped, signify slow population growth.

Percentage annual growth of the economically active and total population, 1983-2050



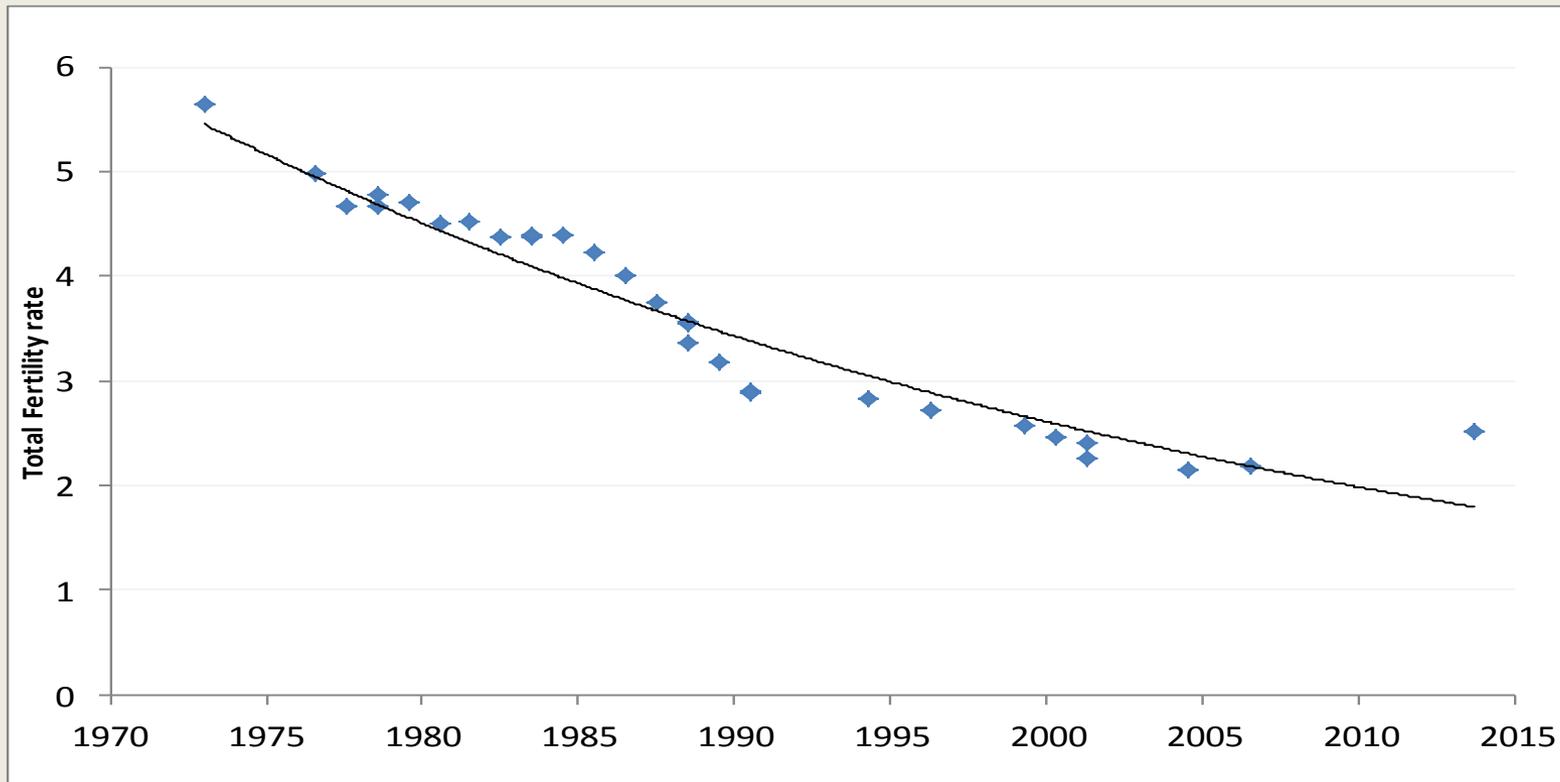
- Equal growth of the active and total population means that the window of opportunity for a demographic dividend closes
- It means that Myanmar in 2023 the window would close until 2031 and that afterwards it would only slightly open again.

Child, old-age and total dependency ratios, 1973-2050



- **Low dependency ratios** provide an opportunity for rapid economic development, but also carry a risk.
- The growing number of young people entering the working age groups requires the creation of a large number of jobs.

Total fertility rates, 1976 - 2014



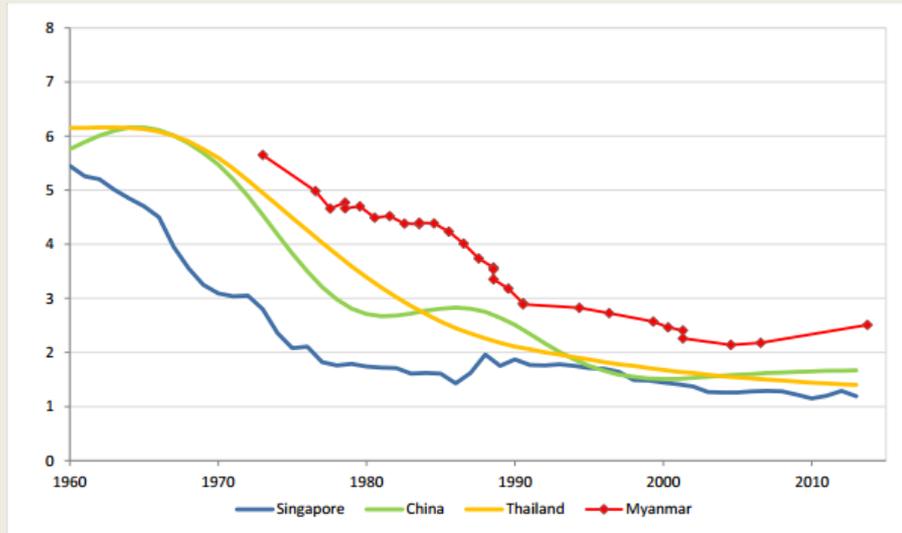
- To become an Asian Tiger, a country also needs steeply declining fertility and mortality rates.
- Myanmar's fertility rate of 2.5 children per woman shows slow decline.

Fertility Differential

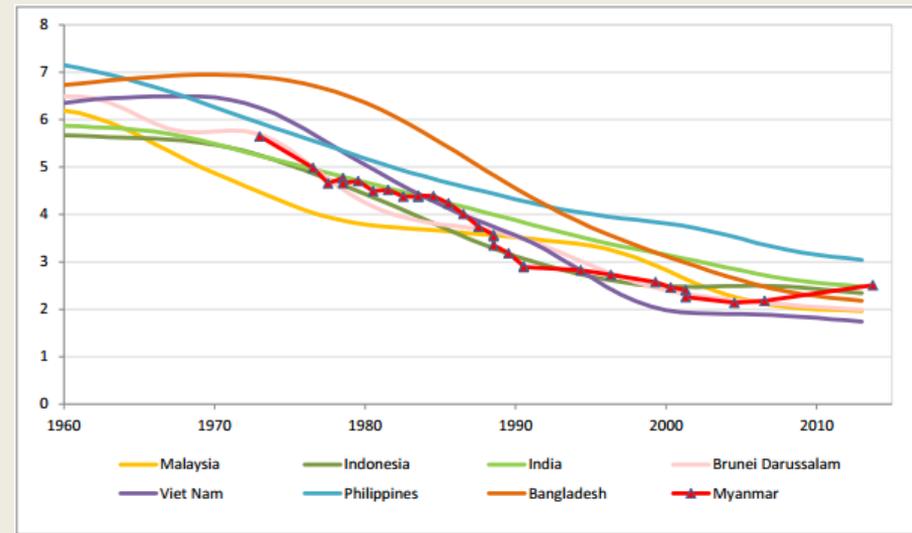
- Large differences exist between socioeconomic groups within Myanmar.
- Women with a high school or higher completed level of education had fertility below replacement level (TFR 1.88 for high school and 1.18 for above high school)
- Women with no schooling had a fertility level of 3.94, and women with primary school education only had a fertility level of 2.68.
- Large differences exist between States/Regions in Myanmar varying from 1.85 in Yangon to 5.00 in Chin.

Fertility Decline in selected Southeast Asian and neighbouring countries

Rapid decline



Slow decline



- Myanmar belongs more to the group of countries with a slower decline in fertility.

Changing role of women in labour force

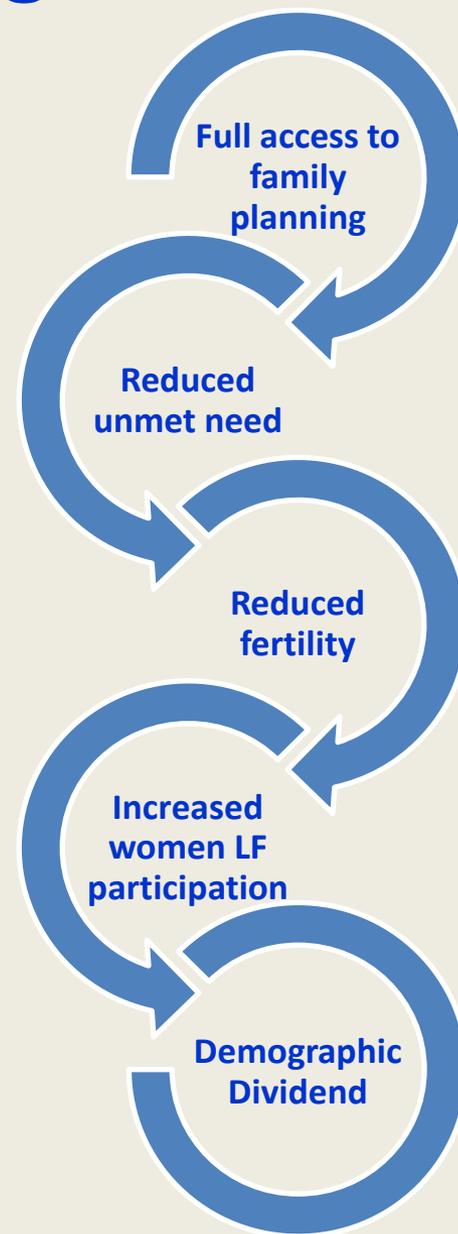
- With a labour force participation of 50.5 per cent in the age group 15-64, the capacity of women to contribute to the country's economic growth has been under-utilized.
- To benefit from its current favourable age composition and to reap the demographic dividend, it is essential to increase the labour force participation rate of women.
- The reduction in fertility may lead to a higher participation of women in the labour market.

Family Planning

- **Family Planning** saves lives and has the power to boost the development of entire countries.
- Contraceptive choices are the mechanism that allow women and couples to implement their decision to have smaller families.
- It empowers women and girls to complete their education, create or seize better economic opportunities and to fulfil their potential.
- At the household level, family planning allows women/couples to have the number of children they desire and to plan the spacing of children.
- At the societal level, family planning reduces the level of fertility, leads to direct cost savings in different sectors.

Investment in Family Planning

- Three Characteristics of Myanmar fertility decline are, slow, not steady and unevenly spread across State/ Region and socioeconomic groups.
- By making essential family planning services available and accessible to all men and women who need it, it would lead to a decrease in the unmet need for contraception and would help bring down total fertility.
- Investments in family planning can contribute to a demographic dividend, which raises a country's economic earning potential..



Harnessing Demographic Dividend

- Myanmar's age structure is not in an ideal position from which to harness a strong demographic dividend.
- According to the in-depth study on Population Dynamic in Myanmar, a demographic dividend in Myanmar would not have the same depth as in Thailand or Singapore. However, it would last over a longer period of time.
- The finding suggest that Myanmar can still a harness a modest demographic dividend, but only if the country invests in its young people; better access to family planning; public health; secondary education; vocational training; and economic policies that support job creation.

**“Family Planning:
Empowering People,
Developing Nations”**

Thank You Very Much!