



AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

MYANMAR



AutRC project area:
Yangon, Irawadi, Pegu,
Karen, Mon

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	Myanmar	Austria
Area in km ²	676,577	83,871
Population (millions)	49.1	8.3
Rural population in %	67	33
UNDP Human Development Index	138	14
Society		
Languages	Burmese (70%), minority languages: Shan, Kachin, Arakanese, Chin, Mon, Karen	German Regional languages: Slovenian, Croatian
Religions	89% Theravada Buddhist, 5% Christian, 4% Muslim, Hindu and Animist	73.6% Catholic, 4.7% Protestant, 4.2% Muslim, 2.2% Orthodox, 0.1% Jew, 12% without religious denomination
Health		
Life expectancy	61.2	79.9
Doctors per 10,000 inhabitants	4	37
Infant mortality per 1,000 babies	47.6	4
Child malnutrition (< 5 years) in %	29.6	0
Adults with HIV/AIDS in %	0.7	0.2
Access to safe drinking water in %	80	100
Access to sanitary facilities in %	82	100
Education		
Literacy rates in %	89.9	~ 100
Economy		
Main export products	Natural gas, wood products, legumes, beans, fish, rice, clothing, jade, gemstones	Machines, automotive industry, paper, metal, iron, chemicals, textiles
GNP/capita/year in USD	904	37,370
% of the population living on < 1,25 USD/day	no data	0
Unemployment in %	5.0	3.9
Inflation in %	26.8	3.2

Sources: UNDP United Nations Development Report 2009, German Federal Foreign Office, www.cia.gov, www.who.int



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Myanmar (previously Burma) is a multi-ethnic state, the population of which comprises 135 different ethnic groups. The country has been independent from Great Britain, the former colonial power, since 1948. After a short period of democracy, various military regimes have been in power since 1962. Frequent natural disasters make poverty even worse.

The Austrian Red Cross (AutRC) has been working in Myanmar since 2008.

Aid after the cyclone

On the 2nd of May 2008, tropical storm Nargis devastated large parts of the south of Myanmar. 2.4 million people were affected by the disaster. Immediate aid measures began directly after the disaster. As a part of the International Red Cross relief operation, the AutRC deployed an "Emergency Response Unit" (ERU) of drinking water specialists to the affected region to provide the population with clean drinking water and thereby help to prevent epidemics. The AutRC also supported the local Red Cross partners through deliveries of aid supplies.

Project duration May – August 2008
Cost € 215,000.00



Reconstruction, long term cooperation

The urgent disaster relief was followed by the transition to the reconstruction phase. An international Red Cross team, which included an AutRC delegate, ensured that operations took place without any major delays. Another AutRC delegate remained on location after the ERU disaster operation, in order to start the longer-term reconstruction of rainwater systems. The AutRC is also supporting the International Red Cross disaster operation in rebuilding people's livelihoods.

Due to the high levels of need in the country, the AutRC is still committed to work in Myanmar for the longer-term on the key areas of water and health. In close cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) the AutRC supports the Myanmar Red Cross (MRC) in setting up a Water and Sanitation Unit to strengthen institutional capacities.

Project duration since 2008
Cost up to 2012 € 448,000