

# Myanmar

Population<sup>1</sup> (000s)

(2024)  
54 500



Urban population<sup>2</sup> (%)

(2024)  
32.5



GDP per capita<sup>3</sup>

(current US\$) (2023)  
1 187.6



Life expectancy at birth<sup>4</sup>

(years) (2021)  
67.8

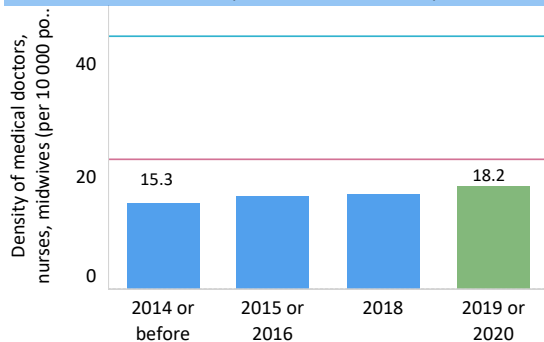


UHC SCI<sup>5</sup> (2021)

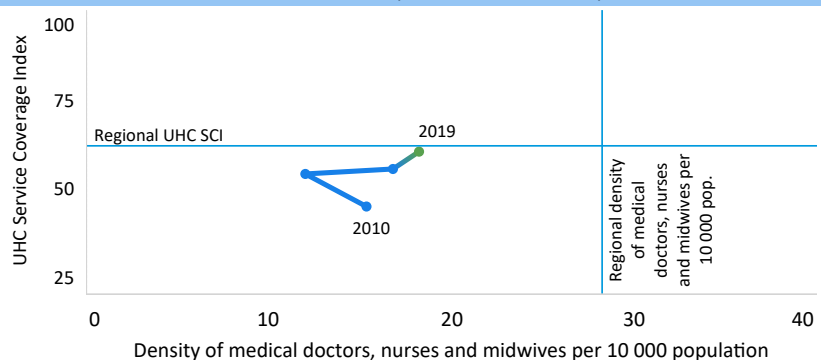
52



Trend in the density of medical doctors, nurses and midwives<sup>6</sup> (SDG indicator 3.c.1)



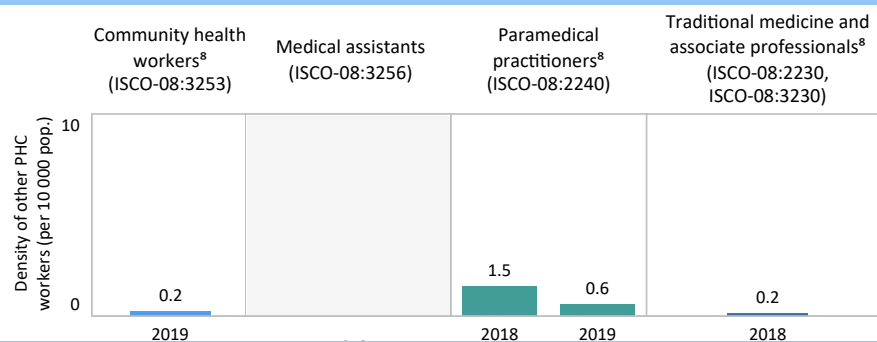
Trends in UHC Service Coverage Index (SDG indicator 3.8.1) and the density of medical doctors, nurses and midwives (SDG indicator 3.c.1), 2010–2019<sup>7</sup>



— 44.5 per 10 000 pop.: GSHRH:2030 (2016) — 22.8 per 10 000 pop.: World Health Report (2006)

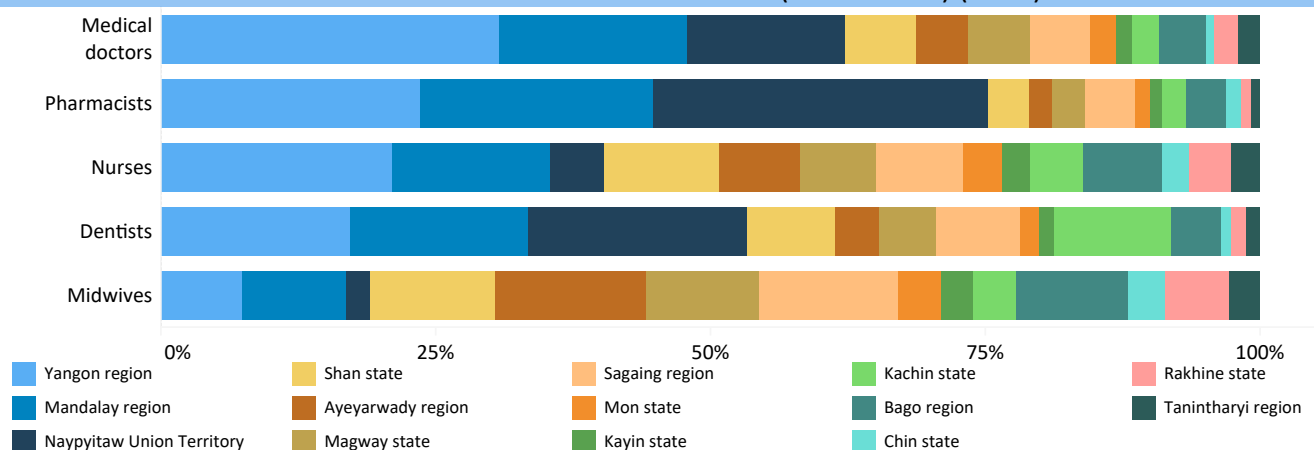
**Note:** The current density of doctors, nurses and midwives is likely to be lower. Data provided in NHWA for 2022 indicates a 73% decline in nursing personnel between 2019 (n=40 830) and 2022 (n=11 000), as potentially linked to humanitarian crisis and challenge related to information systems.

## Density of other key primary health care (PHC) workers

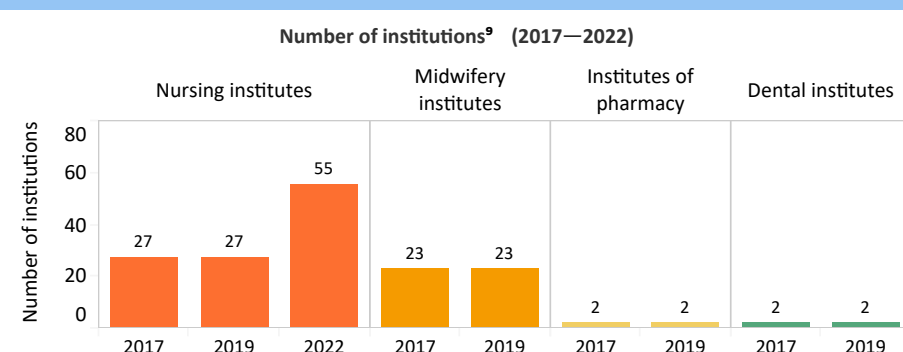


Countries in the SE Asia Region benefit from a range of key occupations close to communities. These health workers, central to the effective functioning of primary health care and district health systems, are often the first point of contact for those most vulnerable and for emergency response.

## Distribution of health workforce<sup>9</sup> (subnational) (2019)



## Production of select health workers



The increasing production of health workers across countries of the SE Asia Region speaks of a further increase in the availability of health workers in the near future. It is crucial to align this growth with evolving population health and health system needs.

# Progress over the decade

Strategic direction & governance	<p>The Myanmar National Health Plan, 2017–2021 prioritized strengthening human resources for health, with a focus on appropriate skill mix, as central to its goal of extending access to a basic essential package of health services to the entire population</p> <p>Enactment of the Myanmar Medical Council Law 2015 and Myanmar Nursing and Midwife Council Law 2015 reforming the respective health professional councils</p> <p>Myanmar HRH Strategy and Future Action Plan, 2024–2026 calls for better alignment of production (including quality) and recruitment based on population health needs, as well as integration of a variety of HRH information sources into one with strengthened data use at the decentralized level</p>
Transformative education	<p>In 2020, Myanmar developed an Inter-professional education (IPE) and collaborative practices (IPCP) manual, with cascade training conducted for health professionals across five zones in 2022–2023</p> <p>The Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council (MNNMC) developed a <i>Guideline on continuous professional development</i> (CPD) in 2023, aimed at enhancing nursing and midwifery competencies and linked to license renewal, with phased roll-out in 2024</p>
Rural retention	<p>The Rural and Remote Frontline Health Workers Retention Strategy, 2021–2026 was developed in 2020, and included an area-level bundled incentive package and local area-based recruitment</p> <p>Career progression among basic health workers is established, with provision for limited task-shifting in place</p>
Key innovations for strengthening the PHC workforce	<p>The National Health Plan (2017–2021) prioritized extension of the basic essential package of health services for the entire population, emphasizing essential service delivery at the township and community levels and associated team composition</p> <p>The Community-based Health Worker Policy was developed in 2020, with expanded roles envisaged as required for provision of basic health services, including promotion, prevention, treatment and referral</p>
International migration	<p>Large scale health professional migration is currently reported due to the ongoing conflict and limited availability in the private market.</p> <p>Medical professionals are also seeking more lucrative opportunities abroad due to the recently implemented conscription law, which mandates national military service</p>
Identified achievements, challenges and future priorities	<p><b>Achievements:</b> development of a range of HRH-related policies to align the health workforce to national health needs and priorities</p> <p><b>Challenges:</b> reducing attrition and bringing the health workforce back into the public health system, need for a comprehensive and regularly updated HRH information system, updating the National Health Workforce Accounts (NHWA) database with inputs from private professional bodies</p> <p><b>Priorities:</b> implementation of rural retention strategies, implementation of a CPD guideline for nurses and midwives, development of a CPD guideline for medical professionals, and a health labour market analysis</p>

## References

1. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *World Population Prospects 2024: Revision*. United Nations, 2024, <https://population.un.org/wpp/>.
2. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2023 Revision*. <https://population.un.org/wup/Download/>. Accessed 29 July 2024.
3. World Development Indicators database, World Bank (<https://data.worldbank.org/> accessed 03 July 2024).
4. World Health Organization. *World Health Statistics 2024*. World Health Organization, 2024, <https://www.who.int/data/gho/publications/world-health-statistics>.
5. *UHC Global Monitoring Report 2023*. World Health Organization, 2023, <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240066060>.
6. For consistency, previous progress report-identified health workforce densities are presented.
7. See for UHC SCI: WHO Global Health Observatory (GHO), accessed on 17 July 2024; See for density of medical doctors, nurses and midwives: for consistency, previous progress report-identified health workforce densities are presented.
8. National Health Workforce Accounts (Ministry of Health) online portal as of 12 September 2024. United Nations World Population Prospects 2024 was used to calculate latest density.
9. National Health Workforce Accounts (Ministry of Health) online portal as of 12 September 2024.