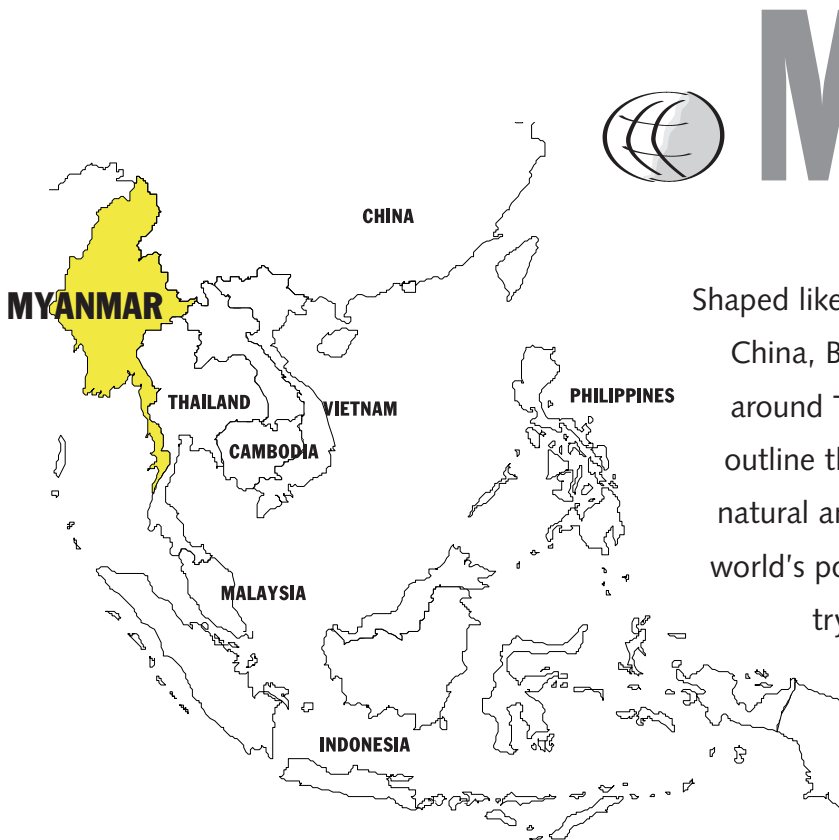


# Fact Sheet

helping you to know your child



## Myanmar

Shaped like a soaring kite, Myanmar touches India, China, Bangladesh, and Laos with its tail curving around Thailand and the Bay of Bengal. Mountains outline these borders. Despite this nation's great natural and human resources it remains one of the world's poorest nations. Warring factions in the country keep it divided and the people poor. The illegal opium trade is the country's most successful industry and finds corrupt support at every level of government.

Buddhism is no longer the state religion in Myanmar but it still holds great influence in governmental affairs.

Yet, in the midst of this turmoil, the Gospel of Christ is taking root in the hearts of the people.

### Quick Facts:

#### Religious breakdown:

Buddhist	87.8%
Christian	6.5%
Muslim	3.8%
Animist	1.1%
Hindu	0.5%
Other	0.3%

Urbanization: 30%

Literacy: 78%

Population: 46 million

Annual income/person: \$400 (1.8% of USA)

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# Grace Haven

In northern Burma, close to the China border, many of the sponsored children are first and second generation refugees from Mainland China. They come from very poor families and have to help their parents each day by working on their meager farms in addition to going to school. They may look much younger than their age due to their poor diets; and often are 10-11 years old before they start school.

These schools are operated by the partner ministry churches in the area. It is very difficult to get school books and supplies to that area, and teachers have to write their own textbooks. Some children go to school early in the morning, then help their parents on the farm, and return in the late afternoon for the remainder of their school work. Children must be able to pass their exams in order to be promoted to the next grade level, so you can often find students 16-18 years of age still in elementary school grades. The schools also have special programs to which the parents are invited as a means of reaching the parents with the Gospel.

Students who do well in school after finishing eighth grade are often given the opportunity to teach in the lower grades to earn money so they can continue their education. Many of these students go on to Bible schools either in Burma or northern Thailand and return to serve as evangelists and church planters with ability to reach into Mainland China.

The funds received through the Sponsor-A-Child funds are used for the operation of the school, including teachers' salaries, preparation of materials for the children, a hot breakfast, and special evangelistic outreach programs.

Many more children are waiting for their chance to go to school.

