

HOW ARE BURMA/MYANMAR'S CHILDREN?

Burma/Myanmar has ratified (pledged to follow) the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This means that Burma/Myanmar must respect the rights of the child and listen to what children have to say. Are the rights of the child respected in Burma/Myanmar? You and other children are the experts.



16 MILLION CHILDREN

53.3 million people live in Burma/Myanmar. More than 16 million are children, and 4.4 million of the children are under five years old.



NAME AND NATIONALITY

From the day you are born you have the right to have a name and to be registered as a citizen in your country. 916,500 children are born every year in Burma/Myanmar. 3 out of 10 of them are never registered. There is no documented proof that they exist!



SURVIVE AND GROW

You have the right to life. Burma/Myanmar must do all it can to allow children to survive and develop. 1 out of 19 children in Burma/Myanmar (46,000

every year) dies before the age of 5, usually due to causes that could have been prevented.



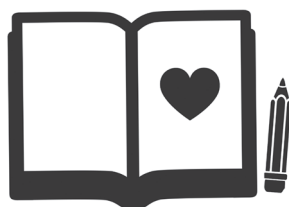
HEALTH

You have the right to food, clean water, medical care and to privacy when consulting an adult about any health problem. 77 out of 100 children in Burma/Myanmar have access to adequate sanitation facilities, and 86 out of 100 have access to improved water sources.



A HOME, CLOTHING, FOOD AND SECURITY

You have the right to a home, food and security. Many children in Burma/Myanmar live in extreme poverty, on less than 1.25 US-dollar (1,500 Myanmar Kyat) a day.



EDUCATION

You have the right to go to school. Primary and secondary schools should be free for everyone. Many children in Burma/Myanmar do not go to school, especially children from minority populations.



PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE

You have the right to protection against all forms of violence, including neglect, maltreatment and abuse. Only 48 countries have forbidden all forms of corporal punishment for children. Burma/Myanmar has not. Many schools still allow caning.



HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOUR

You have the right to be protected against both economic exploitation and work that is hazardous to your health or which prevents you from going to school. All work is prohibited for children under 12. Some children are forced into the worst forms of child labour, such as being debt slaves, child soldiers or used for commercial sexual exploitation. Many children in Burma/Myanmar have to work.



YOUR VOICE MUST BE HEARD

You have the right to say what you think about any issue that affects you. The adults should listen to the child's opinion before they make decisions, which must always be made in the best interest of the child!

