The 2017 Myanmar Living Conditions Survey Poverty Report

What does poverty look like in 2017?

In Myanmar, 1 in 4 people is poor. Ayeyarwady Region, Shan State, and Sagaing Region have the most poor inhabitants (1.5 million+ each).

In urban areas, 1 in 10 people is poor. Tanintharyi, Mandalay, and Yangon Regions are least poor.

Chin and Rakhine States are poorest.

87% of poor live in rural areas.

1 in 3 of people vulnerable to falling into poverty.

What have been the changes in poverty between 2005 and 2017?

Between 2005 and 2017...

- The share of the population living in poverty has halved.
- Although poverty has declined, vulnerability has increased by 18%.

What are the characteristics of the poor?

- The household head's level of education is strongly correlated to household welfare.
- Households that own land or have diversified from agricultural work have higher welfare.
- Landless agricultural households are 3.5 times more likely to be poor than non-agricultural households.
- Poor households own fewer modern assets.
- 86% of non-poor households own a mobile phone, compared with 64% of poor households.
- 57% of non-poor households have access to a concrete road, compared with 40% of poor households.

Note: Outreach activities took place over the 12 months of data collection, but it was not possible to interview in northern parts of Rakhine State (Maungdaw and Buthidaung) and the Wa Self-administered Division.