

MYANMAR

Though rich in natural resources, Myanmar continues to be a fragile new democracy that has only recently opened up to the world after decades of isolation and military rule. It has one of the highest levels of poverty in southeast Asia and suffers from ongoing human rights issues, high levels of corruption and macroeconomic instability.

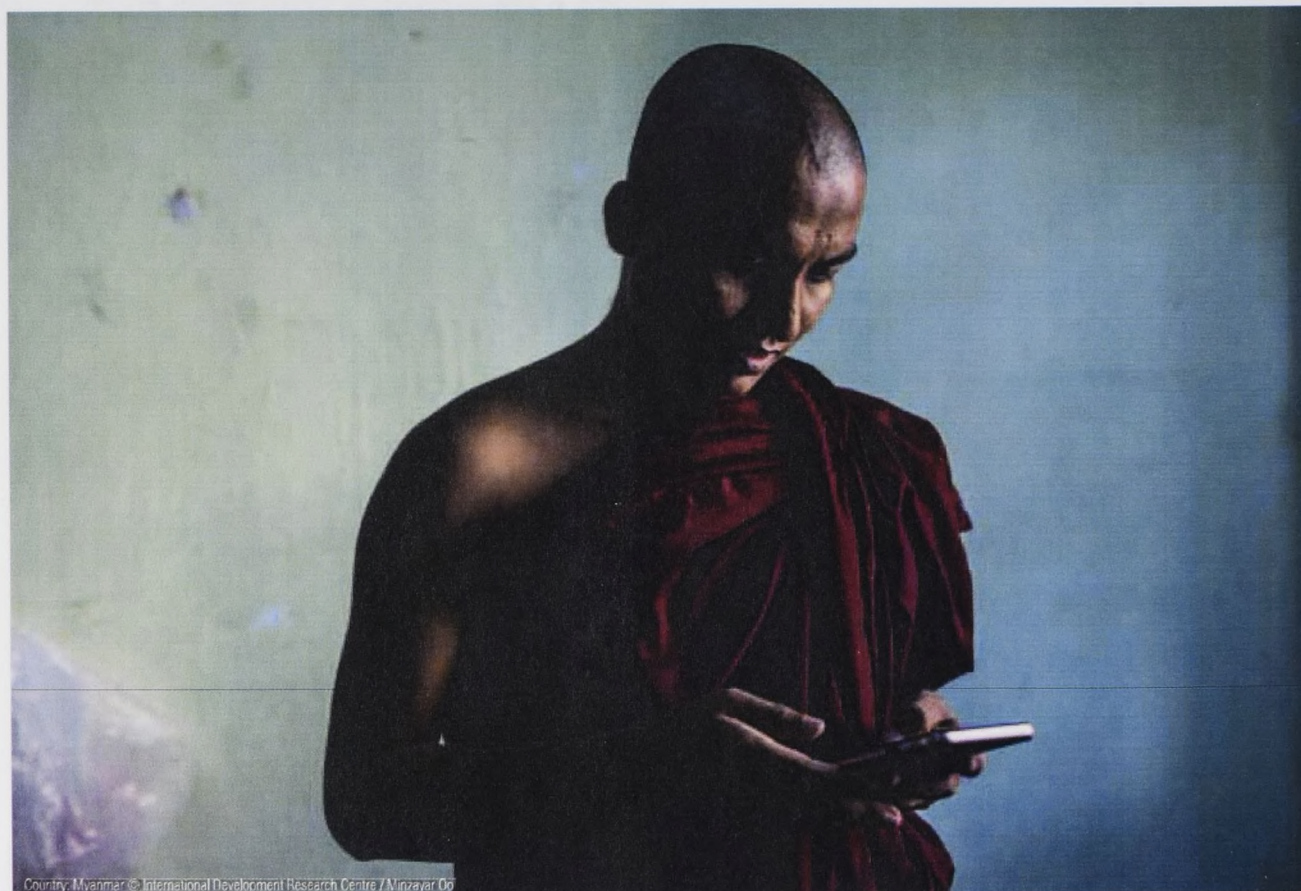
Myanmar is also vulnerable to climate change and is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the region. Its long history of ethnic conflict has also seriously undermined the country's institutions in all areas, including governance, the economy and social service delivery.

In recent years, Canada's bilateral development relationship with Myanmar has grown significantly. The two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Effective Development Cooperation in February 2017. The goal of Canada's development program has been to:

- strengthen democracy by improving inclusive and accountable governance, which contributes to peace; and
- improve the prosperity and well-being of targeted populations, particularly women, the rural poor and young people.

Canada's development program is well aligned with both Canada's and Myanmar's priorities on projects that:

- address the impacts of climate change;
- empower women economically;
- understand federalism;
- promote inclusive governance; and
- increase capacity for evidence-based policy making.



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