

# **COUNTRY HEALTH PROFILE**

## **( MYANMAR )**

### **SECTION 1: TRENDS IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

Myanmar is still continuing its four objectives for each of the three broad areas (political, economic and social). Agriculture is still the mainstay of the country's productivity and equal emphasis has now be given to industrial basis, by developing industrial zones in different part of the country. The social objective of relevance is the uplifting of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation, as well as safe guarding the cultural heritage and national character.

The government formed a National Health Committee (NHC) at the highest level for health matters, chaired by Prime Minister of State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). This committee formulated a new National Health Policy in 1993 which covers the adoption of the HFA goal with Primary Health Care as the main approach. The provision of sufficient as well as efficient human resources for health development, exploring and developing alternative health care financing systems, inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration, intensification and expansion of environmental health activities, promotion of physical medicine and health system research. Border areas and Rural Health Development are being enhanced for all round development of those areas. And there have been also upgrading the role of NGOs and private sectors.

The National Health Plan (1996-2001) has been formulated in line with the second five year short term economic plan for 1996-2001 which was formulated by the government. The prioritized health needs of the country, the HFA targets and relevant component of the 9<sup>th</sup> general program of work of the WHO are the key determinants in the formulation of the plan.

Health Management Information System has been formulated since 1996. Health Management Information System has a regular reporting system, and can monitor the 18 essential health projects, and also monitor regularly the progress of UN Millennium Development Goals (i.e. Goal 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7).

Concerning with the poverty reduction strategies, the Government of Myanmar initiated many development plans especially for hard to reach areas, relevant to health and health systems, such as the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger by 2015, which is the UN Millennium Development Goal (Goal 1). There are (164) new bridges, already built since (1988). The bridges can expedite timely referral of ill cases as well as can easily gain access to formal education from primary level up till university level. Transportation of goods across bridges will improve economic conditions of the community especially the low income group.

Education and income are indirectly or directly related to health and health system development. Therefore (164) new bridges can surely enhance health development of Myanmar.

In Myanmar, population currently is 52 millions and we expect it to reach (60) millions by AD 2010. There will be an increasing need to meet the increased demands for food and the additional requirements will have to be accommodated through crop extensions and land development. This will eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. Altogether 150 dams for (2093219) new areas of agricultural land have been developed during the period 1990-2004. Using (265) river water pumping stations, (282108) acres of new sown area of crop land have also been developed within 1995 and 2002. These dams and river water pumping system can increase production of food for the community which will lead to poverty eradication, change in behavior and life style, and change in climatic conditions as well.

The Ministry of Health laid down the National Health Plan (2001-2006) under the guidance of National Health Committee. Objectives of National Health Plan (2001-2006) are:

- ↓ To implement the national objective of uplifting of health, fitness and educational standards of the entire nation.
- ↓ To implement National Health Policy.
- ↓ To develop a new health system in keeping with political, economic and social conditions.
- ↓ To strengthen rural health services.

In Myanmar as in other countries, the role of indigenous medicine is now put on the forefront. The Indigenous medicine plays an essential role in Health Care Delivery System by offering the communities access to their alternative choices.

To be in line with the international health area, the reproductive health project has now been established and Adolescent Reproductive Health is given grater focus to alert the adolescent group and to give them a sense of ownership and involvement.