

SECTION 2: TRENDS IN SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Economic trends

Myanmar is still transforming to a market orientated economy since 1988. Foreign investment is encouraged, measures to diversify exports, liberalize imports, open up border trades and restructuring wages and prices are being carried out. Along with the economic development Gross Domestic Product per capital (GDP) increase from (1794 Kyats) in 1999/2000 to (68902 Kyats) in 2001, GDP Incomes will rise distinctly in the near future following the rate of development of communication system that include new bridges, roads and rail lines being constructed.

2.2 Demographic Trends

The population of Myanmar was estimated to be (52.17) millions in (2002-2003). The main source of demographic statistics depends primarily upon the birth and death registration (Vital statistics). Estimate for the subsequent period are base on 1983 population census as well as on 1991 Myanmar population changes and fertility survey. Based on available data, the four main demographic indicators are as follows; Crude Birth Rate (CBR) per 1000 population was 23.9 (2001), Crude Death Rate (CDR) per 1000 population was 6.2 (2001), annual population growth rate was 2.02% (2002-2003) and Total Fertility Rate (TFR) was 2.93 (2001). Life expectancy at birth was in urban 65.6 for females and 61.5 for males in 2001 and in rural 63.3 females and 60.8 for males (2001). About 28% of population is urban (2001), with minimal internal migration.

2.3 Social Trends

Myanmar believes that the human development is base on educational development. Therefore the national literacy rate is 91%. Primary education is compulsory and plans are underway to reduce drop out rates. Enrolment in primary schools (Age 5-9) is 86.3%, in secondary schools (Age 10-15) is 39.9%.

2.4 Food Supply and nutritional status

In 2003, the prevalence of low birth weight (less than 2500 grams) was 0.6% (HMIS). The prevalence of under weight children (under three years of age) is 5.5% in 2003 (HMIS). The prevalence of under weight children under 5 years was 36.3% (2000).

2.5 Life style and Risk Factor

The government endeavored to promote healthy lifestyles, especially through encouraging sports and exercises, together with a series of campaigns lunched against tobacco consumption. Youth to youth peer education on prevention of HIV/AIDS, prevention of alcohol and narcotic drugs using habit, is well established.