

SECTION 3: HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

3.1 General protection of the environment

The National Health Plan (2001-2006) has four projects related to health and environment, namely "prevention and control of environmental health hazards, occupational health and safety, prevention and control of agricultural hazards, air and water pollution control".

Awareness of the environmental health and issues such as impacts of urbanization, such as air pollution, solid and hazardous waste disposal, traffic congestion, noise pollution and substandard housing is increasing and steps to confront these hazards are under active considerations.

Air pollution results mainly from vehicle emission and strict smoke checks are done at the time of vehicle registration renewal. Industrial zones are being developed all over the country, and so air pollution is also due to industrial emissions. Yangon City Development Committee manages to collect more than 80% of solid waste, but some towns still face solid waste disposal problems.

The occupational health division of the Department of Health takes responsibility for occupational health problems at work sites.

3.2 Water supply and sanitation

About two-thirds of the population has convenient access to safe drinking water with urban and rural coverage of 89.2% and 65.8% respectively. It has increased from 32% in 1990 and 71.5% in 2000 (MICS surveys).

The proportion of the population with adequate excreta disposal facilities increased from 82.6% in 2001 and 83.6% and 2003.