

## SECTION 4: HEALTH RESOURCES

### 4.1 Human Resources

In Myanmar, under the guidance of the Ministry of Health, Department of Medical Science is taking the responsibility of producing all categories of human resources for health. They include medical doctors, dental surgeons and other allied health personnel such as paramedics, pharmacists, physiotherapists and radiologists etc. Training for basic health workers who mainly take care of the health care delivery system in the rural areas are serving about 70% of the population of the country. National Education Promotion Special 4 years Plan (Health Sector) and Myanmar Vision 2030- the long term national development plan are activated by producing those health personnel. The Department of Traditional Medicine is also upgraded well qualified Traditional Medical Practitioners.

The Department of Medical Science has successfully increased number of students to have effective learning opportunities with modern technologies. As part of the plan, a medical education centre has been opened under the Department of Medical Science to conduct Continuing Medical Education activities. Information Communication Technology (ICT) is also being used in Continuing Medical Education as well as in undergraduate courses, a network system has already been setup to include Department of Medical Resource Centre, University of Medicine (1), New Yangon General Hospital and Yangon General Hospital, University of Medicine (2), and North Okkalapa General Hospital, and within University of Medicine (Magway) and Magway General Hospital, Mandalay General Hospital and University of Medicine (Mandalay) respectively.

The available data reporting health personnel (2003-2004) show a national total of 17476 doctors, 1273 dental surgeons, 16079 nurses, 123 dental nurses, 1739 health assistants, 2679 lady health visitors, 15130 midwives, 529 public health supervisors grade (1), 1199 public health supervisors grade (2) and 760 traditional medical practitioners. The ratio of nurses to doctors is also below the optimum. But now 2 nursing universities train and produce the skilled nurses under the Department of Medical Science.

For provision of comprehensive and quality health care to the community and uplifting of the health standard of the nation, it is crucial to have qualified health personnel sufficiently. Human resources for health development of postgraduate medical education, is one of the project which is envisaged to produce adequate and qualified postgraduates in various discipline according to the needs of the National Health Plan (2001-2006).

Endeavors to ensure equity in health care and reduction of discrepancy between different geographical areas has been implemented by opening of new Universities related with health for students from Central and Upper Myanmar region. Now there are 4 university of

medicine, 2 university of dental medicine, 2 university of nursing, 2 universities of medical technology, 2 universities of pharmacy, 1 university of community health, 43 training schools for nursing and related services.

## **4.2 Financial resources for health**

Capital and current health expenditure for health are 11590.3 and 7151.4 million kyats respectively. Total health expenditure is 18741.7 million kyats. Per capital health expenditure is 359.2 kyats in 2002-2003. Well wishers from the community donated 562 million kyats in terms of cash and materials required for health in 2003 (HMIS).

## **4.3 Physical Infrastructure**

Health care delivery system comprised of 790 General Hospitals including 19 specialist hospitals and 35 General Hospitals with specialist services in 2003-04. Upgrading of hospitals at all levels is integral part of health policy and according to this policy expending and upgrading of hospitals as necessary by support of government as well as public contribution. In addition, 417 dispensaries, 84 primary and secondary health centers, 348 maternal and child health centers 80 school health teams at urban areas and 1424 rural health centers provide health care services. Moreover, 14 traditional medicine hospitals support health of the community by traditional ways. In 2003-2004, total number of hospital bed is 33683 and bed per 10,000 populations is 6.5.

## **4.4 Essential drugs and other supplies**

Myanmar Essential drugs Project is launched in 1988 with the assistance of WHO to obtain essential drug easily and cheaply, drugs reaching patients are safe, effective, acceptable and good quality. National drug formulary is published in June 1989 and National Drug Law is adopted in 1993 to regulate, control and authorize the importation of pharmaceuticals and vaccine into the country. Review and revise of National Drug Policy meeting was held in November 2001. A committee of experts has formulated drugs laws with regards to registration, procurement, storage, distribution and sale of drugs in the country and production of drugs locally. Responsible person try to produce wider manufacturing of essential drugs locally and extend the activities of the essential drugs project to all health care facilities including rural sub health centers. Quality control activity is one of the important functions of essential drug project.

## **4.5 International partnerships for health**

Myanmar closely cooperated with several organizations within the UN system such as WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA. Those are the main responsibility for technical assistance as well as various health care activities. UNDP, UNHCR, JICA, OXFAM, SCF, etc. are also actively involved in health development activities. Inter-country joint activities like health exhibition and health activities at border area were conducted between Myanmar and China, and Myanmar and Thailand.