

Guidelines related to Health Sector by
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- Health sector plays vital role in national development and ability to raise the health status of the country reflects the stage of national development.
- In striving for all round development of a nation human resources that are healthy, physically fit and of high education standards are crucial.
- To raise the health status of the entire nation it is essential to give priority to the rural area, resident to the 70% of the population.

Foreword by H.E. Professor Dr. Kyaw Myint, Minister for Health

Advances in science and technology have brought along major advances in health care with millions more lives protected than ever before and significant improvement in longevity globally. A number of communicable diseases have been brought under control, some eliminated and some eradicated in a global scale. Despite these advances and benefits accrued thereupon, many health challenges still remain. There are widening health inequities between and within countries and between different societal, gender and ethnic groups in many parts of the world. The problem of inequitable health outcomes for rich and poor is an issue in all countries. This is often exacerbated by the tendency of private sector to provide more care for the better off.



New diseases, such as avian influenza and SARS, are appearing. Conflicts, natural disasters, disease outbreaks and zoonoses are increasing in number with impact on global health security, which has become a prominent item in the international health agenda. In a globalized world health issues present new challenges that transcend national borders and have impact on the collective security of people around the world. Along with benefits of efficient transport and trade to many people across the world globalization has also favoured the rapid spread of disease that otherwise may have been contained by geographic boundaries or may in the past have traveled slowly enough to be brought rapidly under control.

Advances in medical science have contributed much in global efforts to improve health, but social, economic, environmental and political factors also determine health opportunities and outcomes. The actions required to tackle most of these determinants go beyond the capacity of ministries of health. The current crisis in managing human resources for health, which includes shortage and mal-distribution of health workers, is an additional problem faced by many countries.

Against this backdrop of global health scenario, Myanmar is also sharing these health challenges as a member of the global family while endeavouring to raise the health status of its people. Looking back, considerable achievements have been made in the health sector thanks to guidance and support of the State, selfless efforts of health professional and work force and collaboration of national and international partners. Social and volunteer organizations in the country have invested much of their time and efforts to collaborate with the Ministry of Health. Taking in to consideration their size, private health care providers are also playing an important role in health development of the country. Recent enactment of the Law Relating to Private

Health Care Services will provide a legal support and frame work for mobilizing, encouraging and regulating these important health partners in expanding the coverage of the health care services. Another development in Myanmar health sector is the establishment of the University of Public Health in the country. This will further strengthen the public health work force and also contribute to strengthening of the health system in country. I am confident that these two recent developments in the health sector will provide additional strength and advantages for facing the health challenges mentioned.

This publication, 9th in the annual series, provides a brief account of Myanmar health system along with its efforts and achievements made in raising the health status of the country.

Looking beyond, new health challenges are looming. Some old ones are receding while some are persisting. Myanmar will keep on honoring its commitments by continuing its involvement in the collective efforts of the global community to ensure highest level of health for the people all over the world.



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