

Country Fact Sheets

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AFGHANISTAN

Indicator	Year	Estimate	Source
Population (millions)	2000	21.77	SYAP, UN ESCAP*, 2001
Population growth (1999–2001)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Annual population growth (%)	2000	.7	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Population density (per sq. km)	1979(census)	0	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Sex ratio (females per 1,000 males)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Crude Birth Rate (per 1000)	1999	48.9	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Crude Death Rate (per 1000)	1999	19.4	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Total Fertility Rate (per woman)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	1995	820	UN Statistics Division, Millennium Indicators Database, 2002
Human Development Index rank	N.A.	N.A.	—
Adult literacy rates (% age 15 and above)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Population below income poverty line(%) (\$ 1 a day) (1993) (PPP US\$)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Urban population (%)*	N.A.	N.A.	—
Life expectancy (years)	N.A.	N.A.	—
GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Population using adequate sanitation facilities (%)	2000	1	UN Statistics Division, Millennium Indicators Database, 2002
Population using improved water sources (%)	2000	13	UN Statistics Division, Millennium Indicators Database, 2002
Public expenditure on health (as % of GDP)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Private health expenditure (% of GDP)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Physicians per 100,000 population	N.A.	N.A.	—
Population with access to essential drugs (%)	N.A.	N.A.	—
HIV prevalence among adults (%)	N.A.	N.A.	—

Note: N.A. indicates not available

* Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific (SYAP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), 2001

Country Profile

- One of the poorest countries in the region.
- Devastated by protracted armed conflicts since 1978.
- Large number of internally displaced persons.
- Women's rights suppressed for several years.
- Lack of social and health infrastructure, which impedes access to essential services.
- Placed at 173 out of a list of 191 countries by WHO in its June 2000 ranking of healthcare.
- More than 2 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan.
- More than 1.5 million Afghan refugees in Iran.

HIV/AIDS Scenario

- Information on HIV/AIDS is scant.
- Vulnerability factors indicate the possibility of rapid spread of the epidemic if preventive efforts are not taken immediately.
- Low socio-political and economic status of women.
- Large numbers of displaced people.
- Extremely poor social and public health infrastructure.
- World's largest producer of opium, from which heroin is derived.
- Drug trafficking, use of injecting drugs and lack of blood safety practices identified as factors that could fuel the epidemic.

Source: Country Profile and HIV/AIDS scenario extract from - www.youandaids.org

BANGLADESH

Indicator	Year	Estimate	Source
Population (millions)	2000	137.4	Global HDR 2002
Population growth (1999–2001)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Annual population growth (%)	1975–2000	.4	Global HDR 2002
Population density (per sq. km)	2001 (census)	834	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Sex Ratio (females per 1,000 males)	2001	933	World Bank
Crude Birth Rate (per 1000)	1999	19.8	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Crude Death Rate (per 1000)	1999	4.8	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Total Fertility Rate (per woman)	1995–2000	3.8	Global HDR 2002
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	2000	54	Global HDR 2002
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	1985–99	350	Global HDR 2002
Human Development Index rank	2000	145	Global HDR 2002
Adult literacy rates (% age 15 and above)	2000	41.3	Global HDR 2002
Population below income poverty line(%) (\$ 1 a day) (1993) (PPP US\$)	1983–2000	9.1	Global HDR 2002
Urban population (%)	2000	5.0	Global HDR 2002
Life expectancy at birth (years)	2000	59.4	Global HDR 2002
GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	2000	1602	Global HDR 2002
Population using adequate sanitation facilities (%)	2000	53	Global HDR 2002
Population using improved water sources (%)	2000	97	Global HDR 2002
Public expenditure on health (as % of GDP)	1998	1.7	Global HDR 2002
Private health expenditure (% of GDP)	1998	1.9	Global HDR 2002
Physicians per 100,000 population	1990–99	0	Global HDR 2002
Population with access to essential drugs (%)	1999	50-79	Global HDR 2002
HIV prevalence among adults (%)	2001	<0.1	UNAIDS 2002c

Note: N.A. indicates not available

Country Profile

- Highest population density in the world.
- Topography makes it highly vulnerable to devastating cyclones and floods, which, combined with high population densities, results in high level of damages and loss of life.
- Agriculture is the mainstay of economy.
- Urban population has grown from 6 million in 1974 to 24 million in 1996, about one-fifth of the country's population.
- By 2020, the urban population is expected to reach 80 million.

HIV/AIDS Scenario

- Limited information on HIV prevalence.
- Available data suggests that overall prevalence low.
- Several socio-economic factors make the country vulnerable to the epidemic.
- Evidence of a high rate of syphilis (approximately 60 per cent) and other STDs among sex workers.
- Condom use among Bangladesh's 36,000 sex workers varies between 4 and 28 per cent.
- Awareness levels among the youth very low. Over 95 per cent of 15-19 year-old Bangladeshis do not know a single method of HIV prevention.

Source: Country Profile and HIV/AIDS scenario extract from - www.youandaids.org

BHUTAN

Indicator	Year	Estimate	Source
Population (millions)	2000	.1	Global HDR 2002
Population growth (1999–2001)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Annual population growth (%)	1975–2000	.3	Global HDR 2002
Population density (per sq. km)	1980 (census)	5	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Sex Ratio (females per 1,000 males)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Crude Birth Rate (per 1000)	2000	39.9	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Crude Death Rate (per 1000)	2000	9.0	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Total Fertility Rate (per woman)	1995–2000	5.5	Global HDR 2002
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	2000	77	Global HDR 2002
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	1985–99	380	Global HDR 2002
Human Development Index rank	2000	140	Global HDR 2002
Adult literacy rates (% age 15 and above)	2000	47.0	Global HDR 2002
Population below income poverty line(%) (\$ 1 a day) (1993) (PPP US\$)	1983–2000	N.A.	Global HDR 2002
Urban population (%)	2000	7.1	Global HDR 2002
Life expectancy at birth (years)	2000	6 .0	Global HDR 2002
GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	2000	1412	Global HDR 2002
Population using adequate sanitation facilities (%)	2000	69	Global HDR 2002
Population using improved water sources (%)	2000	6	Global HDR 2002
Public expenditure on health (as % of GDP)	1998	3.	Global HDR 2002
Private health expenditure (% of GDP)	1998	3.6	Global HDR 2002
Physicians per 100,000 population	1990–99	16	Global HDR 2002
Population with access to essential drugs (%)	1999	80–94	Global HDR 2002
HIV prevalence among adults (%)	2001	<0.1	UNAIDS 2002c

Note: N.A. indicates not available

Country Profile

- Around 96,000 Bhutanese refugees present in Nepal.
- Marked rural–urban migration.
- One of the world's smallest and least developed economies, based on subsistence farming, animal husbandry and forestry.

HIV/AIDS Scenario

- Epidemic at a very early stage. (The first HIV infection was detected in 1993.)
- Only nine out of approximately 75,000 blood samples screened from all over the country have been identified as HIV positive.
- STIs pose a substantial problem in the country.
- There is significant risk of a widespread epidemic if interventions are not intensified.

Source: Country Profile and HIV/AIDS scenario extract from - www.youandaids.org

INDIA

Indicator	Year	Estimate	Source
Population (millions)	2000	1008.9	Global HDR 2002
Population growth (1999–2001)	2001	21.34	Census of India, 2001
Annual population growth (%)	1975–2000	1.9	Global HDR 2002
Population density (per sq. km)	2001 (census)	312	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Sex Ratio (females per 1,000 males)	2001	933	Census of India, 2001
Crude Birth Rate (per 1000)	2000	5.8	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Crude Death Rate (per 1000)	2000	8.5	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Total Fertility Rate (per woman)	1995–2000	3.3	Global HDR 2002
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	2000	69	Global HDR 2002
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	1985–99	540	Global HDR 2002
Human Development Index rank	2000	124	Global HDR 2002
Adult literacy rates (% age 15 and above)	2000	57.	Global HDR 2002
Population below income poverty line(%) (\$ 1 a day) (1993) (PPP US\$)	1983–2000	44.	Global HDR 2002
Urban population (%)	2000	7.7	Global HDR 2002
Life expectancy at birth (years)	2000	63.3	Global HDR 2002
GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	2000	2358	Global HDR 2002
Population using adequate sanitation facilities (%)	2000	31	Global HDR 2002
Population using improved water sources (%)	2000	88	Global HDR 2002
Public expenditure on health (as % of GDP)	1998	N.A.	Global HDR 2002
Private health expenditure (% of GDP)	1998	4.	Global HDR 2002
Physicians per 100,000 population	1990–99	48	Global HDR 2002
Population with access to essential drugs (%)	1999	0-49	Global HDR 2002
HIV prevalence among adults (%)	2001	0.8	UNAIDS 2002c

Note: N.A. indicates not available

Country Profile

- Population exceeds 1 billion. Ethnically heterogeneous composition.
- Due to differential levels of economic development across States in India, there is large population migration within the country
- Extensive cross-border trade with neighbouring countries (especially Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Pakistan).
- Existence of some well-established sex work traffic routes between Nepal and India and Bangladesh and India.
- Refugee populations from Tibet, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan concentrated in certain parts of the country.
- Regional disparities in social sector attainments because the subject (especially health, education and social welfare) falls under the jurisdiction of state and Union Territories governments.

HIV/AIDS Scenario

- HIV prevalence estimated at 3.97 million, ranking second only to South Africa.

- First HIV case reported in 1986 in Chennai, the capital of the southern state of Tamil Nadu.
- Rapid spread of HIV from urban to rural areas and from high-risk groups to the general population. (Infection has been reported from almost all the states and Union Territories.)
- The second decade of the epidemic is marked by visible heterogeneity.
- Epidemic slowly moving beyond its initial concentration among sex workers. Sub-epidemics are emerging with potentially explosive spread among groups of injecting drug users and men who have sex with men.
- Epidemic shifting towards women and young people. An estimated 25 per cent of all HIV infections occurring among women. Adverse gender bias adds to the biological vulnerability of women.
- The burden of AIDS cases is beginning to be felt in states affected early.
- The city of Mumbai in the western state of Maharashtra and the north-eastern state of Manipur have recorded 20-40 per cent bed occupancy by HIV positive persons in certain referral hospitals.

Source: Country Profile and HIV/AIDS scenario extract from - www.youandaids.org

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Indicator	Year	Estimate	Source
Population (millions)	000	70.3	Global HDR 002
Population growth (1999–001)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Annual population growth (%)	1975–2000	3.0	Global HDR 002
Population density (per sq. km)	1996 (census)	37	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 001
Sex Ratio (females per 1,000 males)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Crude Birth Rate (per 1000)	000	18.7	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 001
Crude Death Rate (per 1000)	000	6.3	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 001
Total Fertility Rate (per woman)	1995–2000	3.	Global HDR 002
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	000	36	Global HDR 002
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	1985–99	37	Global HDR 002
Human Development Index rank	000	98	Global HDR 002
Adult literacy rates (% age 15 and above)	000	76.3	Global HDR 002
Population below income poverty line (%) (\$ 1 a day) (1993) (PPP US\$)	1983–2000	N.A.	Global HDR 002
Urban population (%)	000	64.0	Global HDR 002
Life expectancy at birth (years)	000	68.9	Global HDR 002
GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	2000	5884	Global HDR 002
Population using adequate sanitation facilities (%)	000	81	Global HDR 002
Population using improved water sources (%)	000	95	Global HDR 002
Public expenditure on health (as % of GDP)	1998	1.7	Global HDR 002
Private health expenditure (% of GDP)	1998	.5	Global HDR 002
Physicians per 100,000 population	1990–99	85	Global HDR 002
Population with access to essential drugs (%)	1999	80–94	Global HDR 002
HIV prevalence among adults (%)	2001	<0.1	UNAIDS 2002c

Note: N.A. indicates not available

Country Profile

- One of the world's largest oil rich countries.
- Alarming drug use problem that directly affects nearly 2 per cent of the population.
- Marked migration, heterogeneous population.
- Significant level of unemployment.
- Major route for drug trafficking.

HIV/AIDS Scenario

- First HIV case identified in 1987.
- An estimated 2271 PLWHA at the beginning of 2001.
- Out of this, 2167 are male and 104 female.
- Nearly 65 per cent of the infected are injecting drug users.
- Heterosexual route accounts for 12 per cent of HIV cases.
- Iranian nationals working in high-prevalence countries classified by the government as being at risk.
- HIV/AIDS situation apprehended to be more serious than generally believed.
- The potential spread of infection from injecting drug users to the general population is the main concern

Source: Country Profile and HIV/AIDS scenario extract from - www.youandaids.org

MALDIVES

Indicator	Year	Estimate	Source
Population (millions)	2000	0.3	Global HDR 2002
Population growth (1999–2001)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Annual population growth (%)	1975–2000	3.0	Global HDR 2002
Population density (per sq. km)	2000 (census)	906	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Sex Ratio (females per 1,000 males)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Crude Birth Rate (per 1000)	2000	0.0	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Crude Death Rate (per 1000)	2000	4.0	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Total Fertility Rate (per woman)	1995–2000	5.8	Global HDR 2002
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	2000	59	Global HDR 2002
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	1985–99	350	Global HDR 2002
Human Development Index rank	2000	84	Global HDR 2002
Adult literacy rates (% age 15 and above)	2000	96.7	Global HDR 2002
Population below income poverty line(%) (\$ 1 a day) (1993) (PPP US\$)	1983–2000	N.A.	Global HDR 2002
Urban population (%)	2000	7.6	Global HDR 2002
Life expectancy at birth (years)	2000	66.5	Global HDR 2002
GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	2000	4485	Global HDR 2002
Population using adequate sanitation facilities (%)	2000	56	Global HDR 2002
Population using improved water sources (%)	2000	100	Global HDR 2002
Public expenditure on health (as % of GDP)	1998	3.7	Global HDR 2002
Private health expenditure (% of GDP)	1998	4.0	Global HDR 2002
Physicians per 100,000 population	1990–99	40	Global HDR 2002
Population with access to essential drugs (%)	1999	50–79	Global HDR 2002
HIV prevalence among adults (%)	2001	0.1	UNAIDS 2002c

Note: N.A. indicates not available

Country Profile

- Tourism is the main industry, accounting for 20 per cent of the GDP and more than 60 per cent of foreign exchange receipts.
- Over 90 per cent of government tax revenue comes from import duties and tourism-related taxes.

HIV/AIDS Scenario

- First case of HIV in the country confirmed in 1991.
- The reported number of people with HIV, as of 31 December 1998, was 58, of which 48 were foreigners.
- All the ten Maldivians were in the 15–49 years age group, the youngest being 23 and the oldest 42 years of age.
- Six persons have died of AIDS. Two appear to have contracted the infection while working at tourist resorts.
- A number of factors make the country vulnerable to the spread of HIV, and the government has taken the threat to a small population very seriously.

Source: Country Profile and HIV/AIDS scenario extract from - www.youandaids.org

NEPAL

Indicator	Year	Estimate	Source
Population (millions)	2000	3.0	Global HDR 2002
Population growth (1999–2001)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Annual population growth (%)	1975–2000	.	Global HDR 2002
Population density (per sq. km)	1991(census)	126	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Sex Ratio (females per 1,000 males)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Crude Birth Rate (per 1000)	2000	33.6	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Crude Death Rate (per 1000)	2000	10.0	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Total Fertility Rate (per woman)	1995–2000	4.8	Global HDR 2002
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	2000	7	Global HDR 2002
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	1985–99	540	Global HDR 2002
Human Development Index rank	2000	142	Global HDR 2002
Adult literacy rates (% age 15 and above)	2000	41.8	Global HDR 2002
Population below income poverty line(%) (\$ 1 a day) (1993) (PPP US\$)	1983–2000	37.7	Global HDR 2002
Urban population (%)	2000	11.8	Global HDR 2002
Life expectancy at birth (years)	2000	58.6	Global HDR 2002
GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	2000	1327	Global HDR 2002
Population using adequate sanitation facilities (%)	2000	7	Global HDR 2002
Population using improved water sources (%)	2000	81	Global HDR 2002
Public expenditure on health (as % of GDP)	1998	1.3	Global HDR 2002
Private health expenditure (% of GDP)	1998	4.	Global HDR 2002
Physicians per 100,000 population	1990–99	4	Global HDR 2002
Population with access to essential drugs (%)	1999	0–49	Global HDR 2002
HIV prevalence among adults (%)	2001	0.5	UNAIDS 2002c

Note: N.A. indicates not available

Country Profile

- Among the poorest and least developed countries in the world.
- Nearly half of its population lives below the poverty line.
- One of the two countries in the world where life expectancy of men is longer than that of women.
- Ethnically and geographically diverse.
- Seasonal and long-term mobility and migration abroad is common.
- Consumption of drugs is widespread.
- No identifiable red light areas. The sex trade is covert and takes place on the streets and in the parks of Kathmandu and major towns.
- Trafficking of girls to India a major problem.
- Number of Nepalese sex workers in India estimated to range from 20,000 to 100,000 or more.

HIV/AIDS Scenario

- HIV epidemic characterised by high prevalence among groups involved in high-risk behaviour.
- Prevalence among street sex workers in Kathmandu rose from 1 per cent in 1992 to 16 per cent in 1998.
- Prevalence among injecting drug users rose from an estimated 2 per cent in 1991 to 50 per cent in 1997. There are an estimated 20,000 IDUs in Nepal.
- Prevalence among STD patients has been fluctuating, ranging from 1 per cent to 5 per cent in Kathmandu in 1998.
- In essence, the prevalence ranged from no evidence to 3 per cent.
- Sentinel surveys in pregnant women in 1991 and 1992 in eight districts showed no evidence. (US Census Bureau, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Data Base, June 2000)
- The HIV situation is rapidly deteriorating from low prevalence to concentrated epidemic.

Source: Country Profile and HIV/AIDS scenario extract from - www.youandaids.org

PAKISTAN

Indicator	Year	Estimate	Source
Population (millions)	2000	141.3	Global HDR 2002
Population growth (1999–2001)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Annual population growth (%)	1975–2000	.8	Global HDR 2002
Population density (per sq. km)	1998 (census)	166	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Sex Ratio (males per 100 females)	1998	108.1	Government of Pakistan, Statistics Division, Population Census Organisation, 2002
Crude Birth Rate (per 1000)	2000	32.1	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Crude Death Rate (per 1000)	2000	9.5	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Total Fertility Rate (per woman)	1995–2000	5.5	Global HDR 2002
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	2000	85	Global HDR 2002
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	1985–99	N.A.	Global HDR 2002
Human Development Index rank	2000	138	Global HDR 2002
Adult literacy rates (% age 15 and above)	2000	43.	Global HDR 2002
Population below income poverty line(%) (\$ 1 a day) (1993) (PPP US\$)	1983–2000	31.0	Global HDR 2002
Urban population (%)	2000	33.1	Global HDR 2002
Life expectancy at birth (years)	2000	60.0	Global HDR 2002
GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	2000	1928	Global HDR 2002
Population using adequate sanitation facilities (%)	2000	61	Global HDR 2002
Population using improved water sources (%)	2000	88	Global HDR 2002
Public expenditure on health (as % of GDP)	1999	0.7	Global HDR 2002
Private health expenditure (% of GDP)	1998	3.1	Global HDR 2002
Physicians per 100,000 population	1990–99	57	Global HDR 2002
Population with access to essential drugs (%)	1999	50–79	Global HDR 2002
HIV prevalence among adults (%)	2001	0.1	UNAIDS 2002c

Note: N.A. indicates not available

Country Profile

- Among the low HDI countries, with poor indicators of social development and high levels of external debt.
- One million Afghan refugees living in the border areas.
- Labour migration within and outside the country is common.
- Commercial sex work is widely prevalent.
- Males too engage in sex work.
- Injecting drug use is widespread.
- Absence of universal screening of blood and blood products.
- Low condom usage.
- Low education and literacy levels.
- Low status of women and high rate of female illiteracy.

Source: Country Profile and HIV/AIDS scenario extract from - www.youandaids.org

HIV/AIDS Scenario

- Estimated HIV prevalence remains low at about 0.1 per cent of the population.
- Cases have been reported from all provinces but appear to have been confined mainly to people engaged in high-risk behaviour.
- Most of the infected persons belong to the 20 to 49 years age group
- Infection through the heterosexual route is the most common cause.
- Infection through contaminated blood and blood products and through IDU also prevalent.
- An estimated 11 per cent of 60,000-100,000 injecting drug users living with HIV/AIDS.

SRI LANKA

Indicator	Year	Estimate	Source
Population (millions)	2000	18.9	Global HDR 2002
Population growth (1999–2001)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Annual population growth (%)	1975–2000	1.3	Global HDR 2002
Population density (per sq. km)	1994(census)	29	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Sex Ratio (females per 1,000 males)	N.A.	N.A.	—
Crude Birth Rate (per 1000)	2000	17.3	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Crude Death Rate (per 1000)	2000	5.7	SYAP, UN ESCAP, 2001
Total Fertility Rate (per woman)	1995–2000	.1	Global HDR 2002
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	2000	17	Global HDR 2002
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	1985–99	60	Global HDR 2002
Human Development Index rank	2000	89	Global HDR 2002
Adult literacy rates (% age 15 and above)	2000	91.6	Global HDR 2002
Population below income poverty line (% (\$ 1 a day) (1993) (PPP US\$))	1983–2000	6.6	Global HDR 2002
Urban population (%)	2000	.8	Global HDR 2002
Life expectancy at birth (years)	2000	7 .1	Global HDR 2002
GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	2000	3530	Global HDR 2002
Population using adequate sanitation facilities (%)	2000	83	Global HDR 2002
Population using improved water sources (%)	2000	83	Global HDR 2002
Public expenditure on health (as % of GDP)	1998	1.7*	Global HDR 2002
Private health expenditure (% of GDP)	1998	1.8	Global HDR 2002
Physicians per 100,000 population	1990–99	36	Global HDR 2002
Population with access to essential drugs (%)	1999	95–100	Global HDR 2002
HIV prevalence among adults (%)	2001	<0.1	UNAIDS 2002c

* Data refers to 1999

Note: N.A. indicates not available

Country Profile

- Good health parameters.
- High literacy rate of 90 per cent.
- About 160,000 seek employment abroad annually.
- Significant number of persons employed in West Asia.
- Good immunisation coverage of children against potentially life threatening childhood diseases.
- Unrest in north and the east because of a separatist rebellion.

HIV/AIDS Scenario

- Low prevalence of HIV/AIDS.
- First case of HIV reported in 1987.
- Fifty-two new cases of infection reported between January and December 1998. However, the number of cases reported falls short of the projections made some years ago.
- Infection still thought to be largely limited to individuals engaging in risk-taking behaviour
- Condom promotion is a sensitive issue, with opposition from the Buddhist and Christian clergy.
- Ninety-eight per cent of blood and blood products screened for HIV; collection of blood from professional donors virtually stopped.
- IDU is not yet a problem.
- Large-scale emigration

Source: Country Profile and HIV/AIDS scenario extract from - www.youandaids.org

