KEY FINDINGS: INDIA

Health Spending: In India, 81% of health care is paid for through private funds rather than public, closely followed by Viet Nam at 76.3%. As a consequence, lower-income groups have less access to health services in India than in 15 Asian economies (an average of 55.8% of private expenditure on health) or in 30 OECD countries (only 2.4%).

Life Satisfaction: Among 15 Asian economies, India and Pakistan rank the lowest in terms of life satisfaction levels, with respective average scores of 5.8 and 4.9 on a scale from 1 (low) to 7 (high). Marital status is an important factor influencing levels of life satisfaction. But India is one of six economies (with Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Chinese Taipei, and Thailand) in which on average more single/never married people report being satisfied than the married and divorced.

Infant Mortality: India ranks third behind Pakistan and Cambodia in infant mortality rates, with an average of 57 deaths out of every 1,000 infants born. This is down, however, from 1990 when the rate was over 80 per 1,000 births.

Income Inequality: India is one of seven Asian economies where the 10% richest hold 30% or more of the economy’s income. Its income distribution is ranked as being more equal, however, than Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Cambodia, and China.

Low Birth-Weight: Low birth-weight is defined here as less than 2,500 grams or 5.5 pounds. Between 1999 and 2006, in 20 Asian economies an average of 13% of newborns were low birth-weight. This level is nearly double the OECD average of 7%. India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and the Philippines had the highest numbers, with at least one out of five babies born at low birth-weight.

Prisoners: India has the lowest number of prisoners per capita, at 32 per 100,000 population, followed by Indonesia (52) and Pakistan (55). The report shows Singapore with the highest rate of prisoners, at 269 per 100,000.