



Photo: Daw Aung San Su Kyi at The Myanmar NHP (2017-2020) Launching ceremony, Naypyitaw. (31 March 2017)

The Myanmar National Health Plan (2017-2020) Launching ceremony and dissemination, 31 March 2017

The National Health Plan was launched on 31 March 2017 at Naypyitaw MICC-2. HE State Counsellor Daw Aung San Su Kyi gave the opening speech where she mentioned progress in the health sector, mentioned the Global Fund, and expressed appreciation for the progress in addressing the 3 diseases (AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria).

“The National Health Plan is for the public’s health as well as our country’s peace. Efficiency in the various programs will result if the people are healthy. If efficiency is improved, it will go a long way in contributing to the country’s development. A developed nation goes a long way in contributing to a country’s peace and stability. The National Health Plan is crucial for Myanmar, and the healthcare professionals should acknowledge the fact that everyone can potentially contribute to the country”, the State Counsellor said.

“Health care is everyone’s responsibility. I do not want a situation where only the rich can afford health care. If our citizens have faith in our healthcare system and believe that the nation will take care of them, whether they are rich or poor, then it is the greatest gift for our country,” she added.

The five-year national health plan was drafted by the Ministry of Health and Sports, with the help of several UN organisations and technical experts from NGOs. The plan aims to provide affordable health care which is accessible to everyone and to implement a cost-effective basic healthcare system by the year 2020.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is defined as all people having access to needed quality health services without experiencing financial hardship. Myanmar’s political leadership has expressed a strong commitment to accelerate progress towards UHC, which has also become a global priority. The National Health Plan (NHP) aims to strengthen the country’s health system and pave the way towards UHC, choosing a path that is explicitly pro-poor with the main goal of extending access of the entire population to a Basic Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) by 2020 while increasing financial protection.

M-HSCC Activities (January to September 2017)

- 31 January - Regional Artemisinin Resistance (RAI) Country Dialogue meeting
- 1 February- M-HSCC Executive Working Group (ExWG) meeting
- 6 to 10 February - M-HSCC ExWG oversight visit to Sagaing Region (Kalay) and Chin State (Hakha and Falam)
- 27 February - 9th M-HSCC Meeting which included discussion on the National Health Plan, Adolescent Health Services, GFF, Adolescent Health Services, SR Selection Committees, UNICEF Country Programme and additional GFATM Malaria Grant to Rakhine State
- 2 to 3 March - Second RAI Intercountry High-Level Meeting, 9th Meeting of the RAI Regional Steering Committee

- 15 to 16 March - Workshop for formulation of the first annual operational plan of National Health Plan (2017-2021)
- 1 March - National Health Plan (NHP) Launching ceremony
- 22 May - ExWG meeting (HIV Concept Note, TB Concept Note, RSSH Concept Note)
- 28 July - 10th M-HSCC Meeting which included discussions on the new Narcotic Law, JEE, Interim report on Rakhine State, M-HSCC oversight body reform, NHP implementation, GFATM Concept notes submission updates, Updates from 2 PRs, Beyond 3 MDG
- 11 August - Malaria TSG Meeting (Naypyitaw)
- 16 August - Expanded TB TSG Meeting (Latha NTP Office, Yangon)
- July to 23 August - Call for Expression of Interest for the RAI2E Regional Component package #1
- 30 August - Extended HIV TSG meeting
- September – Meeting for Oversight Body Reform
- September - Global Fund Visit

Highlights

M-HSCC Meetings

Discussion Summaries of 9th M-HSCC Meeting, 27 February 2017

The M-HSCC Vice-Chair Dr. Rai Mra chaired the 9th M-HSCC meeting which included discussions on the following topics:

- **National Health Plan (NHP):**

Myanmar's economy is growing but the population's health status is still poor and inequitable. The health system must aim to ensure the availability and accessibility of the basic package of quality essential health services and interventions. The M-HSCC discussed NHP implementation, financing, infrastructure, health management information system (HMIS), role of NIMU (spell out) and development partners.

- **Adolescent health:**

It is important to increase adolescents' access to information and services, create a safe environment, and develop the capacity of human resources to engage with young people.

- **Global Financing Facility (GFF):**

GFF is a financing partnership model that supports country leadership to achieve results for Every Woman and Every Child by improving outcomes in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH).

- **M-HSCC Executive Working Update:**

The Executive Working Group visited Chin State and Sagaing Region in February (more detail below).

- **Other business:**

The M-HSCC also discussed the successor to the 3MDG Fund, the UNICEF country programme (2018-2021), additional GF funding for malaria in Rakhine State, and the M-HSCC's workplan.



Photo: 9th M-HSCC Meeting, Nay Pyi Taw. (27 February 2017)

Summary of the 10th M-HSCC Meeting held on 28 July 2017 at Naypyitaw (Ministry of Health and Sports Office No. 4)

Chair of the M-HSCC, H.E Dr Myint Htwe, welcomed all the members of M-HSCC and officials from other departments from Ministry of Health and Sports and other organizations. He then provided the opening remarks. The agenda of the meeting included the following topics:

- Harm reduction interventions supported by WHO and others
- UNAIDS support in the development of the National Drug Policy led by Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA)/ Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) in cooperation with MOHS, UNODC and others
- CCDAC cooperation with MOHS in promoting community-based treatment
- The amended Narcotics Law drafted by MOHA and discussion in Parliament. The National Drug Policy must be linked to the amended law.
- MOHA conducted activities on drug abuse in Kachin State and introduce the Drug Policy
- USAID and DFID are willing to support One Health
- Updates on the seasonal influenza situation
- INGO feedback on the health-related recommendations of the Rakhine Commission report
- Consideration on the protection of MOHS staff in Sittwe Hospital
- Further discussion on the NHP and the development of the basic essential package of health services

Call for Expression of Interest for the RAI2E Regional Component package #1: Expanding access to malaria prevention and case management services to underserved populations

In July 2017, RAI Regional Steering Committee (RSC) opened a Call for Expression of Interest for the RAI2E Regional Component package #1: Expanding access to malaria prevention and case management services to underserved populations. Under this Call, the RAI RSC invited proposals from government and non-government organizations to implement malaria interventions to reach the most at risk hard to reach persons in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Executive Working Group (ExWG) meetings

Discussion about GRF grant submission from Summary of meeting minutes by Executive Working Group

The National Programme Managers and the Concept Note writing team members had a meeting with PRs before holding TSG meetings to provide guidance on the process of change in terms of the SR issue and work planning for the year 2017. After the work planning and budget preparation process, the core TSGs meeting was necessary to review the finalized work plan. Some discussion points from the meeting with Mon and Karen Ethnic Health Organizations in Hpa-an were shared in the meeting.

Discussion summary of M-HSCC Executive Working Group (ExWG) meeting 1 February 2017

The meeting centered on discussions on the terms of reference (TOR) for the Reproductive Maternal and Child Health (RMNCH) TSG. The main objectives of the TSG are: a) To monitor the progress of implementation of RMNACH strategies and build consensus around technical and operational solutions related to RMNCAH, b) To provide policy and strategic guidance to the development and the implementation of national strategies related to reproductive, maternal, new born, child and adolescent health in Myanmar and c) To ensure effective coordination and collaboration between all RMNCAH partners in Myanmar.

SR Selection Process - A call for SR proposals in line with Concept Notes was placed in national newspapers on 7 February 2017 and posted on the M-HSCC website as well as announced via networks/TSG mailing lists. Thirty-seven (37) organizations submitted a total of 67 proposals for three diseases by 28 February 2017. Three independent SR Selection Committees were approved by M-HSCC and selected SRs were declared on 17 March 2017.



Photo: M-HSCC Executive working group meeting, Nay Pyi Taw. (1 February 2017)

Summary of the discussion of Expanded TB TSG Meeting, 16 August 2017

The meeting included discussions on updates from the 10th M-HSCC meeting, technical updates on ART guidelines of the National AIDS Programme on IPT and LF-LAM, salient facts of the Global Fund grant negotiation (2018-2020), response to TRP (6 months after implementation), new target setting changes (2018-2020) according to TRP and GF CT comments, current grant budget absorption status, updates on possible saving and reinvestment plan (2017) and reports of recent meeting (prevalence survey steering committee).



Photo: Expanded TB TSG Meeting, Nay Pyi Taw Office, Lata Township, Yangon. (16 August 2017)

State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi appreciated the success of the three diseases interventions in a meeting with women entrepreneurs, 6 March 2017

In a meeting with women entrepreneurs at the opening of the Women's Week Forum, 'Creating Inclusive Growth,' in Naypyitaw on 6 March 2017, HE State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed appreciation to the MOHS for the leadership, performance and success in prevention and control of AIDS, TB and malaria.

M-HSCC ExWG Oversight Visit to Kalay, Hakha and Falam, 06 to 10 February 2017

Summary report of the visit

The trip was organized as part of the M-HSCC's oversight mandate and included a varied mix of programmes, including HIV, TB, malaria, maternal and child health, school health, harm reduction, and sexual and reproductive healthcare. Participants of the visit included MOHS officials, the Deputy District Public Health Officer of Kalay District, UN officials, donors, a CBO representative and a representative for people affected by the diseases.

Based on the visit, the participants found out that in Chin State, challenges included the lack of health human resources and the lack of health infrastructure. As for Kalay Township (Sagaing Region), there had been good HIV-TB collaboration. According to 2015 data, of the TB-HIV co-infected patients, 40% get ART during TB treatment and 75% get co-trimoxazole preventive therapy (CPT). In many cases, patients refuse TB treatment because of low education status and because they are afraid of the side effects, preferring to use traditional medicine instead. However, since October 2016, the Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN) has been implementing active case finding (ACF) targeting not only drug users but also the general population. For these patients, treatment adherence is good.



Photo: M-HSCC ExWG Oversight Visit to Hakha General Hospital. (06 to 10 February 2017)

Background on the M-HSCC

The Myanmar Health Sector Coordinating Committee (M-HSCC) promotes health sector coordination and development effectiveness. The Union Minister of Health chairs the M-HSCC, which has 35 member representatives from the Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS), other ministries, the UN, development partners, non-government and community organisations, and people living with or affected by diseases. It is the main structure to provide technical, financial and strategic oversight of development activities in the health sector. It was established as an expansion of the former M-CCM, the Myanmar Country Coordinating Mechanism for overseeing Global Fund support to the national response to AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

For updated information and the oversight visit reports, please visit our site at : www.myanmarhsc.org and Myanmar Health Sector Coordinating Committee Facebook page.

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Photo: M-HSCC ExWG Oversight Visit to Kalay, Hakha and Falam. (06 to 10 February 2017)

Participants - Dr Thandar Lwin (MoHS- DyDG Disease Control), Dr Than Than Lwin (MoHS- Assistant Director,NAP), Dr Htet Myet Win Maung (MoHS), Assistant Director (NTP), Dr Nay Yi Yi Linn (MoHS), Assistant Director (NMCP), Dr Soe Moe Htwe MoHS, Dy District Public Health Officer(Kalay District),Mr Eamonn Murphy (UNAIDS- Country Director), Dr Mohammad Shahjahan (WHO- Public Health Administrator), Ms Kaori Nakatani (JICA-Project Formulation Advisor,Health) ,Daw Nwe Zin Win(PGK- Executive Director), U Thawdar Htun (MPG- Chairman), Mr. Ole Schack Hansen (M-HSCC Secretariat), Dr Aung Nay Oo (M-HSCC Secretariat), Dr Myat Mon Zaw (M-HSCC Secretariat)