The Three Millennium Development Goal Fund (3MDG) supports the provision of health services in Myanmar and will contribute towards the country’s efforts to achieve the three health related Millennium Development Goals. These goals include reducing child mortality and improving maternal health (which forms the focus of Component 1) and combating HIV, tuberculosis and malaria (forming the focus of Component 2). Services will be delivered through a rights-based approach and include a strong focus upon poor targeting. Component 3 (Health System Strengthening) is a flexible funding window which will provide support to the Ministry of Health and contribute towards its effort to scale-up quality and coverage of services.

COMPONENT 1: Maternal, newborn & child health

PROGRAMMING AREAS UNDER DEVELOPMENT: Urban/Peri-Urban Poor

In response to a request from the Ministry of Health, 3MDG began preparatory work to support the design of an urban health programme to target poor populations living in Yangon. The scope of work includes a particular focus upon strengthening Yangon’s maternal and newborn health care services in order to address avoidable causes of neonatal mortality. Dr. Azam Ali, a Consultant recruited to work for 3MDG, arrived in-country on 10 February. Extensive consultations were held, beginning with the Ministry of Health and the Yangon Regional Health Department, followed by the Social Security Board, the Yangon Social Minister, UN agencies and NGOs.

A Core Group comprising bilateral donor agencies, UN agencies and the World Bank has been established to guide the formulation of the approach. A tentative outline focuses upon four main areas of intervention for further discussion and detailed planning:

1. Support to strengthening urban health systems, including the Yangon Regional Health Department
2. Improved and increased provisions of health services for the poor and marginalised (supply side)
3. Enabling the urban poor to access services (demand side)
4. Develop Public-Private Partnership models (piloting 2 or 3 approaches).

Consequent discussions with the Ministry of Health proposed that the next stage of work will require a larger design team who will put in place a more detailed plan for further and extended consultation. This next stage is tentatively timetabled for mid-March.

Midwifery strengthening

A Joint review panel comprising representatives of the Ministry of Health (Department of Health and Department of Medical Sciences alongside 3MDG) reviewed submissions from agencies responding to an Expression of Interest for the ‘Support to the Ministry of Health to strengthen midwifery training service provision’. The panel unanimously agreed the selection of JHPIEGO (Johns Hopkins Program for International Education in Gynecology and Obstetrics) to work with the Ministry of Health and develop a fully costed proposal. A timeline for implementation will commence by the beginning of May. JHPIEGO’s counterpart and partner in this work will be the MoH. The overall scope of work agreed by the Ministry of Health will include:

1. Support to policy development as relevant to Midwifery Service training and provision, to include addressing issues related to curriculum, training and deployment.
2. Support to midwifery schools, including capacity building and infrastructure requirements. JHPIEGO have been requested to plan support for at least one midwifery training Institution in each State and Region.
3. Curriculum review in order to ensure that training meets regional standards.
4. Improvement of teaching and training skills in the tutor cadres to enable the delivery of skills based training.
5. Address Issues of deployment and work force retention
6. Continuous medical education
7. Work with the relevant professional Councils to review standards and a process for continuous accreditation.

Baseline/Service Availability and Readiness Assessment

3MDG worked with WHO GAVI-HSS, who supported MOH staff to design the terms of reference for the Service Availability and Readiness Assessment (SARA) as part of the 3MDG baseline study. The SARA is a health facility assessment tool designed to:

- Assess and monitor the service availability and readiness of the health sector
- Generate evidence to support the planning and managing of a health system.

The background of the SARA started with the convening of the Commission for
MNCJ MEETINGS

7 February

The review of an Expression of Interest for the provision of support to midwifery services was undertaken by 3MDG and nominated Representatives from the Department of Medical Science and the Department of Health. Full agreement was reached around the scope of work as well as the selection of an entity to elaborate a proposal. The agreed scope of work will include curriculum review, strengthening of training as well as support to midwife deployment. This work is scheduled to begin in May 2014.

20–21 February

Dr Azam Ali, a consultant for Urban Health, together with 3MDG’s Senior National Advisor, met with officials from the Department of Health, Regional Health Directors, Social Security Board, the Yangon Regional Health Department, as well as the Yangon Social Minister, UN agencies and NGOs. The consultant gave a briefing of his mission to outline an Urban Poor Health intervention programme and seek guidance.

FUTURE MNCJ MEETINGS

3–4 April

All 20 Comprehensive Township Health plans where 3MDG MNCJ financial resources are currently allocated will be jointly reviewed in Nay Pyi Taw by MoH, State/Regional and Township teams, relevant 3MDG personnel as well as partner organisations.

HIV, TB & MALARIA MEETINGS

3–5 February

Face-to-face meetings between the National Malaria Control Programme, National TB Programme, National AIDS Programme and 3MDG staff were held to agree upon best practices in monitoring and evaluation systems.

4–5 February 2014

Director Generals of the DoH, Ministry of Health and the Prison Department, Ministry of Home Affairs were briefed by 3MDG on initial findings and early recommendations/next steps in respect of the Prison Health Rapid Assessment and Response.

HIV, TB and malaria

AGREED AREAS OF PROGRAMMING:
HIV: Harm Reduction

Following on from the work of the Technical Review Panel, the final Planning and Coordination Workshop for HIV/Harm Reduction was held on 3 February in Nay Pyi Taw. Led by the Ministry of Health, the Coordinating Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) and the Drug Treatment Centres (DTC), the workshop defined coverage areas, agreed approaches as well as targets. The workshop ensured that all partners are fully aligned with national strategies, priorities and targets as recently updated in the midterm review of the National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS. 3MDG partners will submit budgets to 3MDG and contracting will be completed to allow activities to commence on 1 April 2014.

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<tr>
<th>SELECTED ICP</th>
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HIV, TB & MALARIA PROGRAMMING AREAS UNDER DEVELOPMENT:

Prison Health Care
The Prison Health Rapid Assessment and Response (RAR) team visited Insein, Mandalay, Lashio, Myitkyina and Pathem prisons in January and completed the draft Prison Health RAR Report in early February. In line with the previously agreed timeline, the draft report has now been shared with the Department of Health and the Prison Department, Ministry of Home Affairs with finalisation of the report to follow on from receipt of feedback from both Ministries.

COMPONENT 3:

Health System Strengthening

Strengthening of Cold Chain in Myanmar
Subsequent to the 3MDG receiving a request from the Ministry of Health to support the strengthening of the cold chain in Myanmar, invitations to a preparatory meeting convened by UNICEF were extended to MoH, WHO and 3MDG. An MoH/WHO/UNICEF joint review of the cold chain in Myanmar is planned and the results of this assessment, including costing will serve as the basis for a substantial investment by 3MDG in cold chain. The overall objective of 3MDG's Investment is to support expansion of cold chain capacity to both ensure readiness for the introduction of new vaccines and the nationwide availability of storage capacity for heat-labile pharmaceuticals, vaccines and anti-venom across Myanmar. 3MDG will provide financing to WHO and UNICEF to undertake this activity, which will consist of procurement of cold chain equipment and requested Technical Assistance.

Supply Chain Management System
3MDG received a proposal from Supply Chain Management Services (SCMS) to support the strengthening of the National Supply Chain in Myanmar. This was considered at the December 2013 3MDG Fund Board meeting. Work is being overseen by the MoH and undertaken jointly by SCMS and MoH. The first phase of proposed work consists of:

- A baseline survey with a representative sampling of Districts and Townships;
- Undertake a project design activity to finalise the goals, objectives and terms of reference for the national supply chain strategies and implementation plans in consultation with the Central, State/Region and Township stakeholders.

The proposal was approved by the 3MDG Fund Board. The Fund will enter into a contract with SCMS in March 2014, with work to begin in March and over a period of at least 18 months.

Accountability and Humanitarian Accountability Partnership
3MDG’s Fund Board reviewed a proposal submitted by Humanitarian Accountability Partnership to provide technical assistance to the Fund across the areas of accountability and patient feedback/client satisfaction. The proposal is aligned to emerging Ministry of Health strategic priorities including its focus upon client satisfaction as well as Government commitments as detailed in the National Strategy for the Advancement of Women. A briefing for MoH on this work is be requested for late March 2014 and whilst this does not involve the direct delivery of health services, it will ensure a strong focus upon quality of health services and patient understanding of health service provision.

3MDG Implementing Partners will submit semi-annual reports by mid February 2014 covering the period July-December 2013. Consolidated reports will be shared with Ministry of Health shortly thereafter.