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.

**Component 1: Maternal, Newborn & Child Health**

**Integration of Immunization Activities in Comprehensive Township Health Plan**

In May 2014, at the joint review of Comprehensive Township Health Plans (CTHP), the Ministry of Health recommended to further integrate immunization services to the CTHPs in line with the DoH’s Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI).

On 28th October 2014, with the support of 3MDG, the Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) of the Ministry of Health convened a meeting on “Orientation of EPI activities to 3MDG IPs”.

Participants included the Kayah State Health Director, Deputy Regional Health Directors from Ayerwaddy and Magway, the Deputy State Health Director (Shan, Lashio), the Township Health Officer from Chin State Health Department as well as representatives of 3MDG implementing partners.

The objectives of the meeting were:
- To orient 3MDG partners on the EPI activities;
- To work out how to integrate EPI activities into the CTHP Plan;
- To ensure that EPI and its functions are understood at the field level;
- To strengthen the coordination between CTHP and services focusing on immunization;
- To run through the EPI micro plan and session plan;
- To introduce the EPI cold chain system;
- To define the role of Implementing Partners in Vaccine Preventable Disease Surveillance.

Following EPI’s guidance, it was decided to update the CTHPs with the micro plans for EPI and outreach activities.

The EPI committed to provide technical support to 3MDG Implementing Partners to facilitate the updating of the plans and the provision of immunization activities.
Measures to fight multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in Myanmar are being stepped-up, with the Three Millennium Development Goal Fund (3MDG) and the Ministry of Heath’s National TB Programme signing a US$11.5 million agreement on 9th October 2014 to increase the number of patients diagnosed and treated.

The agreement, signed by Dr Min Than Nyunt, Director General of the Department of Health, Ministry of Health and Mr Sanjay Mathur, UNOPS Director and Representative, is part of a US$19 million commitment made by 3MDG to support the scaling up of activities to reduce MDR-TB in Myanmar over the next three years, in support of the MoH’s National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis Control.

The move will strengthen the response to MDR-TB in 56 Townships in Mandalay and Yangon regions, with a focus on the urban poor. It will provide 20-months treatment for an additional 2,000 patients diagnosed with MDR-TB.

Furthermore, 200 patients will participate in a pilot research for a short-term treatment of 10 months, following international standards and under independent monitoring by the World Health Organization.

3MDG’s overall contribution to MDR-TB will cover a range of essential expenses: drugs, laboratory and medical equipment, and renovation of MDR-TB wards. 3MDG funding will contribute to improving community health awareness through the mass production of Information, Education and Communications (IEC) materials for the general public and training of Basic Health Staff and community volunteers. Patients will be incentivized to adhere to treatment through monthly stipends, nutritional and transport support.

The 3MDG funding for MDR-TB is part of 3MDG’s goal to provide support to national responses for HIV, TB and malaria by complementing and adding value to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria’s programme in Myanmar.
The “One Stop Partnership for Harm Reduction” initiative will be steered by the Ministry of Health’s Department of Medical Care and Ministry of Home Affairs’ Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC).

In April 2014, 3MDG initiated its support to “One-Stop Partnership for Harm Reduction”, a Government-led initiative designed to provide people who inject drugs with a comprehensive package of harm reduction services in one single place.

On October 9th and 10th 2014, representatives from the 3MDG Fund joined advocacy meetings in Kyauke Me and Lashio, which were led by the Programme Manager of the National Drug Abuse Control Programme, and attended by representatives from State/District Health Department, local authority, WHO, local organizations and other distinguished guests.

The 3MDG Fund has committed to support the intervention, working through its Implementing Partners: Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (MANA), Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN) and the Burnet Institute. These partners will coordinate and collaborate with the Department of Medical Care’s Drug Treatment Centres to facilitate the provision of a comprehensive package of harm reduction services to people who inject drugs.

The 3MDG Fund will support the MoH’s Drug Treatment Centres, whose function is to provide essential elements of harm reduction services under one same roof. These services will include:

- Methadone Maintenance Therapy
- HIV counselling, testing and treatment
- Screening and treatment for TB and sexually transmitted infections
- Condom distribution
- Hepatitis B screening and vaccination
- Health education etc.

Infrastructure improvements can be undertaken to enable a main health facility within each supported township to provide “One Stop Shop” services. The 3MDG Fund will support necessary renovations and refurbishment.

As with this initiative, the 3MDG Fund aims to support priority gaps in the national response to HIV that are not readily funded by the Global Fund.
On October 29th 2014, 3MDG and the Ministry of Health signed a US$922,000 financing agreement to support the training of more than 4,000 new auxiliary midwives (AMW) in order to further increase access to essential community health services.

The agreement signed by Dr Min Than Nyunt, Director General of the Department of Health, Ministry of Health and Dr Paul Sender, 3MDG Fund Director, contributes to the Ministry of Health’s national target to deploy at least one trained health care provider to every village, and plans to train 9,660 auxiliary midwives in the 2014-15 financial year.

It will support the training of 4,084 auxiliary midwives in 176 townships in 12 States/Regions starting from 1st November 2014.

This agreement complements a previous commitment by 3MDG to support the training of 1,500 new auxiliary midwives.

In total, the 3MDG Fund will support the training of over 5,500 new auxiliary midwives by August 2015, which represents more than half of the national plan for training of auxiliary midwives this year.

The AMW is an essential link between the community and the health system. She assists the Midwife to raise awareness amongst mothers on essential health care for themselves and for their children, and how to detect danger signs for which they must seek emergency care.

With help from the auxiliary midwife for community mobilization, the midwife is able to care for more mothers and vaccinate more children. In case the midwife is not present, the auxiliary midwife can provide preventive care before and after pregnancy, delivery care and newborn care.

The AMW also gathers information about births, deaths and contraceptive use so that the health system can better support the community.

By contributing to the training of auxiliary midwives nationally, the 3MDG Fund furthers its support to the Ministry of Health and its commitment to improving the health of the poorest and most vulnerable people in Myanmar, and particularly of women and children.

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