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.

**3MDG funds $19 Million to support scale up activities to reduce Multi-Drug Resistance Tuberculosis (MDR-TB)**

Myanmar is among the 22 countries with the highest Tuberculosis (TB) burden in the world. The TB prevalence is twice the regional average and nearly three times the global average, with an estimated 250,000 people with the disease.

There were an estimated 180,000 new TB cases in Myanmar in 2010, more than 40,000 of them in children.

The number of people with drug-resistant strains of TB is growing at an alarming rate, with an estimated 9,000 cases of MDR-TB each year*.

**A top priority of National Health Plan**

Tuberculosis is one of the top three priority diseases in the Ministry of Health’s National Health Plan.

The MoH’s National TB Programme is implementing a Five Year National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis Control 2011-2015, based on the evidence from a 2009-2010 nationwide TB prevalence survey, which found a much higher TB burden than previously estimated.

The TB National Strategic Plan is based around the country reaching the 2015 TB-related Millennium Development Goal.

This will be achieved by addressing the high level of TB burden through accelerated scale up of diagnosis, treatment and care for patients suffering from TB, MDR-TB, as well as those who have TB/HIV co-infection*.

**3MDG contributes to the National Strategic Plan for TB Control**

In response to the Ministry of Health’s National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis Control, the 3MDG Fund committed US$19 million to support the scale up of activities for MDR-TB in Myanmar.

Under this overall $19 million allocation towards MDR-TB treatment scale-up, $11.5 million will be made available to the National TB Programme over the period of 1 October 2014 to 31 December 2016. Financing for infrastructure improvements will additionally be made available – both new construction and renovations – to support infection control for MDR-TB and TB in public health facilities.

Improvements in data and information systems as well as financing for NTP implementing partners (Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar Health Assistant Association, Pyi Gyi Khin and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease) will all contribute towards improved health outcomes.

This funding is part of 3MDG’s goal to provide support to national responses for HIV, TB and malaria.

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* Source: National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis Control 2011-2015
Scaling up MDR-TB activities in Yangon and Mandalay Regions

3MDG funding will enable the scale-up of activities to screen, identify and provide treatment for patients with MDR-TB across 56 Townships in Yangon and Mandalay Regions, with a priority focus on urban poor populations.

The US$19 million funding will enable an additional 2,200 patients diagnosed with MDR-TB to access quality treatment, in line with the Ministry of Health’s guidelines.

Procurement: procurement of medicines to treat MDR-TB will be the largest single expenditure out of the total $19 million financing made available. Second-line drugs for 2,200 MDR-TB patients will be purchased. Specialized medical equipment including three Gene X-pert 16 module machines will be purchased in order to enable identification of patients suffering from MDR-TB.

IEC and community engagement: Appropriate IEC materials and health education videos will be developed and distributed/broadcasted.

Community volunteers and BHS staff will also be incentivized to ensure patients are able to complete the 20 month course of MDR-TB drug treatment.

Improving quality diagnosis: Trainings will be provided for general practitioners to enable them to recognize and refer suspected cases of MDR-TB to specialized TB hospitals.

Health sector financing for the National Response to MDR-TB in Myanmar is provided by the 3MDG Fund as well as WHO, USAID CAP-TB, the Global Fund, DFAT and the World Food Programme.

Patient Cash Transfer System

Support to patients: Every patient will receive patient support throughout their 20 month treatment course. This includes Nutritional Support, monthly patient support (cash) to adhere to their medical treatment.

The provision of patient support will be conducted by four implementing partners - Myanmar Medical Association (MMA), Myanmar Health Assistant Association (MHAA), Pyi Gyi Khin for Yangon Region and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (UNION) for Mandalay Region.

Electronic Cash Transfer System: This support will be provided through the newly-launched patient cash transfer system, an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) service.

In partnership with Kanbawza Bank, the MDR-TB patients who are enrolled in 40 townships of Yangon Region and 10 townships of Mandalay Region will get monthly support of MMK30,000 through this Electronic Cash Transfer System which will be effective from July 2015.

Patients and patients’ care takers can withdraw cash from KBZ ATM machines installed at MDRTB treatment centers in Yangon Regional TB Center, Aung San, Yangon Region and Upper Myanmar TB Center, Patheingyi, Mandalay Region and other available ATM machines.

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.