The Three Millennium Development Goal Fund (3MDG) supports the provision of health services in Myanmar and contributes towards the country’s efforts to achieve the three health related Millennium Development Goals.

The 3MDG Fund supports the vision of the Government of Myanmar to reach Universal Health Coverage by 2030 and to ensure that every citizen shall have the right to health care.  

The Fund’s ‘Health for All’ Strategy focuses on community engagement and capacity development. We will use the skills, strengths and knowledge of community members to strengthen health services and consumer satisfaction.

PHOTO: A malaria officer from Karuna Myanmar Social Services (KMSS), implementing partner organization of 3MDG, providing malaria diagnosis care to a villager of Ra Aye Pra village of Demawso township.

3MDG contributes to better health for all through a responsible, fair and inclusive health sector in Myanmar.

The Ministry of Health is leading the way in strengthening responsibility in the health sector but all stakeholders, public and private, have a role to play in being responsible to the communities they serve. To encourage mutual accountability, we will support the Ministry and our partners to improve access to health for all by being responsible, fair and inclusive.

People in communities – including women, ethnic groups and people with disabilities – will be provided with information to help them access health services. At the same time, health service organisations will be supported to listen to people’s voices and respond to them.

1) 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar - Article 367
Global health indicators show that there are significant differences in health status depending on where an individual is born, lives and works. Our health is influenced by our gender, age, social identity, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, cultural norms, disability, education, economics, and politics.

Our purpose is to improve health outcomes by addressing the social factors limiting access to health services. To do this, we must use the skills, strengths and knowledge of communities to the fullest extent possible.

Examples of social factors that influence health users in Myanmar

**Two thirds of the population** live in remote and hard-to-reach areas. People can find it difficult to get to hospitals and health centres.

**37% of the population** live in poverty. Many people cannot afford to travel to hospital or buy the medicine they need.

**Over 130 distinct ethnic groups** live in Myanmar. People’s cultural traditions influence their health seeking behaviours.

**Over 100 languages and dialects** are spoken in Myanmar. People may not understand health information that is not in their language.

**Decision-making power differs between men and women.** This affects the choices women can make about health care for themselves and their children.

**responsibility**

- Promote good governance and accountability.
- Keep commitments to the people who use health services.
- Listen (and respond to) the voices of people.
- Empower and inform users about health and how to access services.

**inclusion**

- Ensure the voices of all people are considered in health planning and decision-making.
- Understand diverse experiences and needs.
- Foster mutual respect, tolerance and make all people feel valued – including women, ethnic groups, the poor, and people with disabilities.
- Engage communities to plan and deliver quality health services.

**fairness**

- Be fair and just to all people who use health services regardless of gender, age, ethnicity and location.
- Understand that people are different and need different support to access health services.
- Be fair to women and men, girls and boys.
- Take actions to address discrimination.

**‘do no harm’**

- Understand the context in which 3MDG partners operate.
- Ensure health activities do not create or worsen conflict.
- Where possible, use health activities to improve the opportunities for peace.
3MDG funds partners to provide services for all people in Myanmar, with extra effort to reach those who are vulnerable or have limited access to health care.

This includes pregnant women, young children, people living with HIV, people in hard-to-reach, rural and urban slum areas, mobile migrant populations, and those most at risk including people who inject drugs, sex workers, men who have sex with men, internally displaced persons in conflict-affected areas, and prison populations.

We develop capacity

Partners and other stakeholders need tools and resources, awareness, skills and confidence to use responsible, fair and inclusive practices in their everyday work. We will improve health outcomes, service quality and consumer satisfaction by strengthening the competence of staff, health service providers (public and private), communities and civil society organisations.

‘highlights’

• Strengthen MoH capacity for enhanced midwifery services to women.
• Build capacity of volunteers to diagnose migrant populations for malaria and provide basic health education.
• Provide on-going capacity support and technical assistance to partners, local organisations and CSOs
• Train partners on gender awareness, gender and project cycle management, and gender and conflict sensitivity.
• Support partners to recruit a focal person to champion Health for All practices

We engage communities for better services

Community engagement creates opportunities for learning from the ground up, and community views can be used to inform health policies, programs, services and projects. Communities have unique strengths, skills and knowledge. Effective engagement supports health services to be more responsive to people’s different needs, including women and men. It can also increase sustainability of health programs through community ownership.

‘highlights’

• Support MoH community engagement strategies (UHC) including information sharing, public participation and community consultation.
• Support partners and township authorities to engage communities in health planning and coordination meetings.
• Train partners on how to engage women, people with disabilities, ethnic groups and other vulnerable populations.
• Support mobile health teams to increase access to services for hard-to-reach communities.
• Directly fund CSOs to address social factors limiting health access in their communities – ‘Collective Voices’. 
We strengthen responsibility in the health sector

We will support mutual responsibility and good governance at all levels of the health system to remove barriers and increase access. We can improve health outcomes and consumer satisfaction through quality health services that respond to people’s different needs. We will monitor our progress and build an evidence base.

‘highlights’

- Support the MoH’s strategic priorities towards Universal Health Coverage - including governance, accountability and national ownership
- Strengthen the Township Health Department and Township Medical Officers in leadership and oversight of health planning
- Guide 3MDG partners performance based on standards on responsibility, fairness and inclusion and principles of conflict sensitivity (Do No Harm).
- Create a more effective and supportive enabling environment – addressing policy, legal and social barriers in order to expand and improve HIV prevention for people who inject drugs.

We create spaces to connect and learn

Opportunities will be created to bring people’s different voices together - to talk, listen, share information, participate, provide feedback and learn. Information gained at the individual and collective level can be used to improve health service planning, design, delivery and evaluation.

‘highlights’

- Participate in sectorwide stakeholder collaboration by supporting Technical and Strategy Groups of the Ministry of Health
- Foster dialogue and exchange through joint selection, coordination and management of partners with the three National Disease Control Programmes
- Support partnership building by making stakeholder consultation a required first phase for any project funded by 3MDG
- Support community feedback mechanisms to improve health services in both public and private sector
- Generate research and learning in the health sector to support evidence-based decision making