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**

**MNCH in peri-urban and urban areas**

In meetings with the 3MDG Fund Board donors, His Excellency the Minister of Health requested the support of the 3MDG Fund to reduce maternal and child ill-health among peri-urban populations. In response, the 3MDG Fund will support the Ministry of Health’s scale-up of health care services for peri-urban populations living in Yangon.

As an early response to this request, the 3MDG Fund has requested UNFPA and UNICEF to work with the Ministry of Health to present scale up plans for delivery of health services, initially out of 20 peri-urban MoH health facilities, and including mobile outreach services.

This scale-up of service delivery is one of a number of recommendations coming out of a rapid assessment of health needs of the urban poor undertaken by the 3MDG. The assessment confirmed both the need to address health care amongst this population group, as well as outlining a number of key next steps. Key recommendations for the 3MDG coming out of this report include:

- To support the strengthening of the planning and management capacity of the Yangon Health Division to meet the health needs of the peri-urban population, with consideration being given to support the establishment of a Yangon Regional Urban Health Taskforce;
- To support geographical and beneficiary mapping to inform service delivery planning;
- To support the establishment of multi-stakeholder forums to inform the Ministry of Health’s strategic planning – with the recommendation to support a conference on urban health in August 2014.

Scale-up of services across peri-urban areas in Yangon could improve the access to quality health care for a population of 2 million.

**Mission to Wa SR2 and Shan SR4**

3MDG was invited to join the Ministry of Health in a scoping mission to Wa Special Region 2 and Shan Special Regions 4, to assess the opportunity to scale up MNCH services in all areas.

Extensive consultation meetings were held, including with local health authorities. At the request of the MoH, 3MDG will provide financing to support MNCH programmes across these Special Regions. An MoH-led planning workshop is timetabled for August.

At this meeting local health authorities from Wa SR2 and Shan SR4 as well as international agencies currently supporting health care service provision in these areas will review needs, areas of intervention and develop a costed plan for scale-up of service provision.

Service provision including MNCH, EPI, TB and HIV will be financed by the 3MDG Fund.

**Support to MNCH in Kayah State**

A joint Proposal Evaluation Committee comprising the MoH and the 3MDG has selected the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to support the Ministry of Health, the State Health Department, the Township Health Departments and other relevant stakeholders in delivery of an essential package of MNCH services across all seven townships of Kayah state. This work will strengthen health care provision for total coverage population of approximately 270,000 people.

**Shan State: two calls for proposals**

On 30th June 2014, 3MDG released two calls for proposals to support the Ministry of Health, the State Health Department, the Township Health Departments and other relevant stakeholders in health in implementing MNCH, in a total of nine Townships of Shan State, as follows: Shan (Lashio): Manton, Namhsan, Mongyai, Tangyan, Kutkai, and Namthu, and Shan State (Taunggyi): Hsihseng, Mawkmai, Laikha.
COMPONENT 2: HIV, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

MDR-TB project planning

In March 2014, the 3MDG Fund Board approved the provision of $19 million of financing to support the Myanmar National Response to MDR-TB. In May 2014, an initial workshop was held together with the National TB Programme and WHO in order to develop a plan for this work.

The additional financing provided by 3MDG will support the MoH’s plan to expand Myanmar’s national response to MDR-TB. This funding will enable an additional 1,800 patients diagnosed with MDR-TB to access quality treatment for MDR-TB and in line with the MoH national guidelines.

During the first week of July 2014, the National TB Programme convened a MDR-TB Programme Planning and Proposal Development Workshop, to prepare the next phase of action.

3MDG and partners (FHI 360, MSF-Holland and the UNION) identified by the TB-Technical Strategic Group (TSG) were invited to this workshop, which focused on the planning of activities to be implemented.

The geographical scope for intervention will be Yangon and Mandalay Regions. Initial actions under this programme are expected to start in September 2014.

As part of the activities, it is planned to conduct a pilot of shorter-course MDR-TB regimen, which lasts 9-10 months, compared to the current regimen of 20-month treatment.

Other planned activities include the provision of patient care and support (nutrition and transportation), and renovation of MDR-TB wards and medicine storage capacity as well as medical supplies for infection control.

A significant portion of the financing will support improved health awareness, through the mass production of Information, Education and Communications (IEC) materials for the general public.

The MDR-TB Programme Planning and Proposal Development Workshop in July 2014 will provide a coordinated roadmap for the scale up of MDR-TB service provision through partnership.

Information, Education and Communication campaigns help communities understand how to prevent diseases, how to improve the health conditions of the whole family, and how trained health service providers can assist them.
On 11th of June 2014, the members of the 3MDG Senior Consultation Group gathered for their quarterly meeting. Chaired by the Ministry of Health, the meeting focused upon:

Future directions for 3MDG
The 3MDG Fund Board Chair and Fund Director presented ongoing work and plans of the 3MDG, including:

• A strategic review of Component 1 of 3MDG (Maternal, Newborn and Child Health) to take place in the third quarter of 2014
• Plans for scale-up of peri-urban healthcare provision
• Support to health care in prisons, including HIV, TB, MDR-TB, drug dependence, malaria and MNCH service provision
• Support to nationwide strengthening of midwifery training and deployment
• Health infrastructure: new construction of up to 100 RHC/s-RHC.

Amongst presentations made during the SCG, the two following projects are highlighted in this month’s report.

Midwifery strengthening activities
In support of the Human Resources for Health plans of the MoH, and in line with the Universal Health Care strategic priorities, the 3MDG-funded programme has three major objectives:

1. Support the MoH’s ongoing work to improve the existing policy and regulatory framework guiding high-quality pre-service education and in-service training;
2. Support improvements in both midwifery education and the midwifery education system in 12 midwifery schools;
3. Strengthen the continuing professional education system, including in-service training (IST), which leads to optimal performance by midwives and provides support structures for midwives in facilities and communities.

The “Joint Support for DOH and DMS midwifery strengthening activities nationwide” programme will start in July 2014.

Joint UN Proposal update
Following further discussions with the Ministry of Health, approval has been received from the Ministry of Health for support as proposed to the 3MDG Fund by the four UN health agencies (UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO).

The key strategic areas of work, as presented at the SCG comprise:

1. evidence based planning and decision making;
2. sector policy, strategy and planning;
3. sufficient and efficient health workforce;
4. procurement and supply chain management: cold chain system;
5. improved partnership and coordination.

The “UN joint assistance to strengthen health systems in Myanmar” project will start in August 2014.

Other presentations were made during this 3MDG SCG meeting, notably an update on Supply Chain Management System, a proposal for Infrastructure Investment and recommendations for early action for Urban Health care in Yangon.