Myanmar is among the 30 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 200,000 people with the disease.

There were an estimated 140,000 new TB cases in Myanmar in 2014, more than 36,000 of them in children*.

In its commitment towards the improvement of health outcomes for the people of Myanmar, the 3MDG Fund works in partnership with the Ministry of Health and with local and international implementing partners to reduce the burden of Tuberculosis in Myanmar.

As a joint effort of the Ministry of Health and 3MDG Fund to address the TB burden in Myanmar, a $3.82 million financing agreement was signed in March 2014 to support the National TB Program's activities in active case finding for TB patients.

As of March 2016, the MoH’s National TB Program in partnership with six implementing partners are working together to strengthen and expand TB active case finding across 114 townships in 14 States and Regions including Nay Pyi Taw Union territory and 22 prisons and 11 worksites with a focus on Myanmar’s poor, particularly those living in urban and hard-to-reach areas.

USD 3.82 million to scale up TB Active Case Finding (TB-ACF) in support to the National Respose to Tuberculosis

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Nine mobile teams, deployed with medical doctors, X-ray technicians, lab technicians, counsellors and data assistants and equipped with mobile digital X-ray machines, are operated and functioned in these areas to strengthen the referral system, TB case follow up, treatment adherence and identify more TB cases in the community.

Six implementing partners are:
- Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN)
- Medical Action Myanmar (MAM)
- Myanmar Health Assistant Association (MHAA)
- Myanmar Medical Association (MMA)
- Populations Services International (PSI)
- International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (UNION)

The National TB Program and partner mobile teams are now conducting mass screenings across urban and remote locations. During 2015, around 17,000 of all forms of TB patients were identified through mobile X-ray screening and community based TB-ACF activities.

In addition to mobile team, NTP is also screening TB cases in nationwide Maternal, Newborn and Child Health clinics and six hospitals and two diabetes clinics in Yangon and Mandalay.

* Source: WHO Global TB Report 2015
PROJECT TITLE
Scaling up of TB Active Case Finding activities

BUDGET AND DURATION
USD 3.8 million (01 April 2014 to 31 December 2016)

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION
114 townships in 14 States and Regions

KEY ACTIVITIES
(1) Active TB case finding in urban poor, hospitals, MNCH clinics, underserved and hard to reach areas, work sites/mines, prisons and labour camps;
(2) Active TB case findings by mobile teams in collaboration with implementing partners (INGOs/NGOs);
(3) Providing high quality DOTS; enhancing the quality and expanding services to all TB patients, to sustain and further improve case detection and treatment success rate.

PROJECT SUMMARY
Active TB case finding activities by mobile teams are the main components of this grant. The project is designed in collaborative approach. The implementing partners ensure fully operation of mobile teams by recruiting staff and provide human resource requirement for National TB Program.

In Yangon Region, NTP is working with Myanmar Medical Association (MMA), Myanmar Health Assistant Association (MHAA), Pyi Gyi Khin (PGK) and Populations Services International (PSI) to reach populations living in urban slum areas.

Under the leadership of Regional Officers (TB) of NTP, the mobile team staff conduct active case finding activities by visiting urban slum areas, hard to reach areas, work sites and mines by carrying digital X-ray machines, generators, required medicines and materials.

Hence, the suspected TB patients can take chest X-ray at mobile clinics and can get one stop service for TB diagnosis and treatment. The main purpose of this activity is to find out more hidden TB cases in their earlier stages.

HOW MOBILE TEAM OPERATES

1. SCREENING
2. SPUTUM MICROSCOPY
3. TB DIAGNOSIS AND CONFIRMATION
4. TREATMENT
5. UPDATE TB DATA AT TOWNSHIP TB UNIT

MOBILE TEAM