

M-HSCC Activities in 2018

- 21st August - 13th M-HSCC Meeting
- 24th September - M-HSCC Executive Working Group (ExWG) meeting

Highlights

- The M-HSCC Executive Working Group (ExWG) conducted periodic oversight Visit to Mon and Kayin States (17-22 July 2018)
- The Global Fund South-East Asia Constituency Pre-Board Meeting (30-31 October 2018)
- Malaria Core Technical and Strategy Group (TSG) conducted oversight field visit to Rakhine State (17-20 November 2018)

13th M-HSCC Meeting Highlights

- Mr. Oussama Tawil from UNAIDS presented on the recent ExWG oversight visit including its findings and recommendations.
- Dr. Thant Zin Htoo, Assistant Permanent Secretary (NIMU) presented updates on NHP strategies and implementation. The NHP is based on UHC. He also presented about the two main strategies; Supply Side Readiness and Financial protection.
- Dr. Stephan Jost from WHO presented the update from the Health Cluster Meeting held in Naypyidaw on 20th of August 2018. The presentation was focused on 5 areas: 1) Flood response – Bago, Kayin, Mon, Sagaing, Thanintharyi, 2) Health service provision in conflict – Kachin State and Northern Shan State, 3) Preparing for returnees – Rakhine State, 4) Rakhine



Photo: H.E Minister Dr. Myint Htwe delivering opening speech at 13th M-HSCC Meeting, 21st August, Naypyitaw

Advisory Commission – implementation of health-related recommendations, and 5) next steps for the management of these issues.

- And then the two PRs updated about the implementation of on GFATM grants and Programme Updates.
- Dr. Thaug Hlaing, Deputy Director General Public Health, presented on RMNCAH policy updates, emphasized on SRHR policy and obstetric emergency referral system. One Stop Crisis Center (OSCC) for Gender-based Violence (GBV) survivors will be established in Nay Pyi Taw 1000 bedded hospital and North Okkalapa General Hospital.
- Dr. Thandar Lwin, Deputy Director General of Disease Control, presented the updates on the M-HSCC Executive Working Group and TSGs and



Photo: 13th M-HSCC Meeting, 21st August, Naypyitaw



Photo: Dr. Si Thu Aung (Director, Disease Control) presenting at 13th M-HSCC meeting

OIG recommendations. She also discussed about the upcoming SARA survey and Southeast Asia Constituency meeting.

- Dr. Si Thu Aung, Director of Disease Control, presented an update on the Multi-country Funding Request on TB among Migrants in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, the goal and timeline of grant and the grant allocations. Myanmar was allocated around USD 1,318,000 (SMRU: USD 800,000; NTP and IPs USD 300,000 and HR support to NTP through WHO: USD 217,737). 1.6M USD was earmarked for Myanmar in above allocation (50% of requested amount).

The Global Fund South-East Asia Constituency Pre-Board Meeting Highlights

The Global Fund South-East Asia Constituency Pre-Board Meeting was held in Summit Parkview Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar on 30 -31 October 2018. The main objectives of the meeting were:

- 1) Preparing for the Global Fund board meeting to be held 14 and 15 November 2018 in Geneva
- 2) Identifying issues from the constituency members to present at the Board Meeting

- 3) To discuss and eventually endorse the set-up of the RCM for the South-East Asia Constituency

It was preceded by a one-day Ad-hoc Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) meeting in the same venue on 29 October 2018.

The South-East Asia Constituency meeting was attended by delegates from 10 countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor Leste. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the Global Fund Secretariat, WHO, UNAIDS and PATH. The meeting was inaugurated by His Excellency, Dr. Myint Htwe, the Union Minister for Health and Sports of Myanmar and Chair of the M-HSCC. H.E. highlighted the Global Fund as a key development partner for Myanmar, which has enabled the country to make exceptional progress in combating HIV, TB and Malaria.

The inaugural session included remarks by the Board Member (BM) for the SEA Constituency, Professor Mohammad Abul Faiz from Bangladesh, Dr. Stephan Jost (WHO Representative to Myanmar), Dr. Shona Wynd (Senior Regional Policy Adviser), Ms. Carole Presern (Director Office of the Board Affairs, Global Fund Secretariat). The speakers acknowledged and expressed their appreciations of the progress made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and its people in fighting the three diseases and assured their full support and continue collaboration in achieving the targets of three diseases. The opening session ended with a vote of thanks from the Alternate Board Member (ABM), Mr. Dasho Kunzang Wangdi from Bhutan.

The meeting was chaired by M-HSCC Vice-Chair Professor Rai Mra with Mr. Dasho Kunzang Wangdi, Alternate Board Member, as Co-Chair and Dr. Samhari Baswedan of Indonesia as the meeting Rapporteur.

The decisions endorsed by the meeting were:

- To nominate candidates for Vice Chair of the Global Fund Board. A Selection Committee in the SEA



Photo: South-East Asia Constituency meeting, 30-31st October, 2018, Yangon.

Constituency was formed consisting of the BM, ABM, the Communication Focal Point (CFP), Dr. Suriya Wongkhongkathep, Mr. Filipe Da Costa and Dr. T.L.C Somatunga.

- To assist DPRK in requesting Global Fund for reinstatement of Global Fund grants for TB and Malaria Programs.
- To start developing a separate Concept Note on Malaria Elimination and TB/HIV integration for mobile/un-documented populations in cross-border areas in SEA Constituency countries, to ensure immediate engagement with the Strategic Committee for the priority under the catalytic funding (2020-2022).

The meeting recommendations were:

- BM and ABM to request to meet with Executive Director of Global Fund during the upcoming 40th Board Meeting to discuss and explore a way forward to revive the grants for Malaria and TB/HIV program in DPRK before progress already made in combating the two diseases deteriorate.
- Further, the meeting recommended that any management, irregularities and obstacles that led to the current situation to be resolved bilaterally between DPRK partners including the PR and Global Fund.

The M-HSCC Executive Working Group (ExWG) oversight Visit to Mon and Kayin States

The Myanmar Health Sector Coordinating Committee (M-HSCC) Executive Working Group (ExWG) conducts periodic oversight visits in the regions and states of the country to assess and observe progress, identify challenges and propose recommendations for improved results in the health sector. The ExWG has conducted numerous oversight visits, including in recent years to Shan, Tarinthary and Chin.



Photo: H.E Minister Dr. Myint Htwe delivering opening speech at South-East Asia Constituency meeting, 30-31st October, 2018, Yangon.

As part of the M-HSCC's oversight mandate and in the context of the support of the Global Fund on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), such a visit was organized on 17-22 July 2018 by the M-HSCC Secretariat to assess status of health services and programme implementation in the States of Mon and Kayin. Over the span of six days, the ExWG visited different health services, including in Paung, Mawlamyine, Thanbyuzayat and Kyaikmayaw in Mon State; and Hpa-an, Kawkareik and Myawaddy in Kayin State.

ExWG representatives from the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS), Donors, United Nations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) were divided into two field teams to assess selected health services, identify health system as well as specific issues in HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (ATM), Maternal and Child Health (MCH), etc. Observations and evidence were also made on other health issues where sufficient information was available, such as on Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH), Health Promotion, Human Resources (HR), and otherwise.

This report includes two sections: First, an Executive Summary that outlines the key findings and observations made by the ExWG during the visit and summarizes recommendations for action based on these findings; and second are the Field Visit Notes that include the background, findings, challenges, and



Photo: South-East Asia Constituency meeting, 30-31st October, 2018, Yangon.

recommendations for each of the sites visited or meetings conducted over the six-days.

It is to be noted that the report focuses more on qualitative and programmatic observations rather than the health system-side, as the latter would require further factual checks on figures, costs and HR. It should also be cautioned that while substantial field notes were prepared during the visit, it would be essential to validate any figures quoted in this report. All additional background documentation collated before or during the visit have been uploaded and are accessible on the M-HSCC website, including tables, graphics and photos of the visit.

M-HSCC Executive Working Group (ExWG) Meeting Highlights

The discussed points on 24th September 2018 were,

- **Dr. Si Thu Aung, Director of Disease Control**, presented an update on the Multi-country Funding Request on TB among Migrants in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. The goal of this 3-year grant is to reduce the burden of TB among the migrant populations of the Greater Mekong Sub-region – particularly aiming at the missing cases and thereby reducing TB transmission, incidence and mortality in each of the participating countries.
- Mr. Patrick Bergman from Local Fund Agents (**LFA**) presented the work of the LFA including the four annual spot-checks of service delivery they did in GFATM funded programmes as well as recent two spot-check done on ART transition and Methadone Maintenance Therapy (MMT).
- **UNOPS PR** presented the financial performance for 2013-2017 period is good with 87% budget absorption rate overall (HIV 87%, TB 83%, Malaria 88%, RAI-Myanmar 96% and ICC-Myanmar 95%). The summary grant rating between 2011-2017 is also good. The 2017 performance for HIV, TB and Malaria is averaging at A2 level. However, the final rating for



Photo: M-HSCC ExWG members at Medical Action Myanmar Volunteer site, Paung township, Mon State.

2017 was B1 due to low performance in Isoniazid Prevention Therapy (IPT) that is at less than 60%, which affects both HIV and TB grant performance. The Malaria grant performance is downgraded to B1 due to stock-out indicators (health facilities with no stock-out in key commodities was at 56%). The total GF grant managed by UNOPS PR for 2018-2020 for ATM is around USD 252 million, not including the regional grant for malaria of USD 9 million. Total grant absorption for January to June 2018 is 46% (HIV 38%, TB 40 % and Malaria 62%).



Photo: M-HSCC ExWG members at drug store of Katoe Station Hospital, Mon State.



Photo: M-HSCC ExWG members at Taw Nor teaching hospital, Kawkaeik (KDHV) township, Kayin State.



Photo: M-HSCC ExWG members at Paung township Hospital, Mon State.

- Save the Children International (SCI)** presented the updates on the grant implementations under SCI. The burning rate for 2013-2017 is 92% for HIV, 80% for TB and 93% for Malaria. The overall grant rating for HIV is A1, for TB A2 and for Malaria A1 for 2017. The slightly lower TB grant performance of A2 is due to decline in case finding and case notification from the private sector. Grant absorption for Jan-June 2018 is 77% for HIV, 91% for TB and 81% for Malaria and overall absorption rate is 81%. The somewhat lower HIV performance at 77% is due to a few SRs having been phased out from GF support. It was noted that in 2018, SCI is changing reimbursement system with quarterly cash projection from SRs.

Malaria Core Technical and Strategy Group (TSG) conducts oversight field visit to Rakhine, 17-20 November 2018

Malaria Technical and Strategy Group (TSG) consists of representatives from multidisciplinary and multiorganizational body under the Myanmar Health Sector Coordination Committee that guides National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) to formulate and implement malaria national plans in Myanmar. Country has made unprecedented progress by curbing malaria cases by 82% and deaths by 93% in 2017 in comparison to 2012. The core TSG members conducted oversight visit to Rakhine from 17-20 November 2018 with the objective to observe malaria control and elimination activities and provide technical and programmatic guidance. The team led by Dr. Si Thu Aung (Director, Disease Control) visited Defeat Malaria Project sites and Public Health Facilities in Toungup and Thandwe Townships of Rakhine.



Photo: Malaria Technical Strategy Group oversight field visit team



Photo : Defeat Malaria Regional Technical Advisor Dr. Saw Lwin briefing Dr. Si Thu Aung (Director Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Sports) and Core Technical Strategy Group members on Toungup Township malaria activities

Team observed malaria case trend in these townships have significantly declined in recent years with adequate case detection coverage. Malaria elimination activities are ongoing in Toungup Township with significant progress on case investigation and classification. Foci investigation, classification and response has not yet started. In this township, out of 125 confirmed cases from April-October 2018, 114 (91%) cases were notified. Of those, investigated, 60% were indigenous cases. All documents maintained (positive case register, case investigation forms, and village level malaria monitoring forms) at the township office were up to date and satisfactory in terms of completeness and accuracy. This has a potential to be replicated in other Townships. Townships also included malaria data from the defense sector which is not uniform across the country. Malaria Elimination Coordination Committee has been established to guide Township Malaria Elimination Committee.

Core TSG members made the following key recommendations: i) NMCP to prepare the supporting documents for making mandatory malaria notification in the elimination areas in line with the existing Private sector notification law 2007, ii) NMCP to adopt forms and formats currently being implemented by Toungup Township in other Townships targeted for malaria elimination, and iii) NMCP to follow up with Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) on inter-ministerial malaria coordination letter issued by MoHS to Ministry of Defense. Malaria TSG will continue to provide technical guidance for malaria control and elimination activities in Myanmar to achieve malaria elimination by 2030.

Background on the M-HSCC

The Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum in 2013 formalized the establishment of the Myanmar Health Sector Coordinating Committee (M-HSCC) as the Health Sector Working Group to promote sector coordination and development effectiveness. M-HSCC is chaired by the Union Minister for Ministry of Health and Sports and has 35 member representatives from different constituencies, including the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) and other ministries, the

UN, development partners, non-government and community organizations, and people living with or affected by diseases. The M-HSCC is the main health sector coordination structure for partners and stakeholders to provide technical, financial and strategic oversight of the implementation of health sector activities; and to advise the Ministry of Health in strengthening the Health Sector. The M-HSCC was established as an expansion of the scope of work and areas of oversight of the former Myanmar Country Coordinating Mechanism (M-CCM), a Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism in charge of overseeing the national response to AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis.

Objective of the M-HSCC

The main objective of the M-HSCC is to contribute in improving the health and well-being of the population of Myanmar. The specific objectives of the M-HSCC include the following:

- 1) Advising Ministry of Health in strengthening the health sector
- 2) Providing a space for strategic discussion on health-related issues
- 3) Acting as a coordination body for the health sector

Technical and Strategy Groups

Technical and Strategy Groups (TSGs) are bodies that have been established to address health sector issues and thematic areas. The TSGs work closely with and report to the M-HSCC Executive Working Group to provide the best support to M-HSCC to perform its oversight function.

There are 8 functioning technical strategy groups (TSGs) in M-HSCC and some TSG have sub-working groups. The 8 TSGs are as follow:

- (1) HIV/AIDS TSG
- (2) TB TSG
- (3) Malaria TSG
- (4) Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) TSG
- (5) Health System Strengthening (HSS) TSG
- (6) Public Health Emergency and Disaster Preparedness (Health Cluster) TSG
- (7) Research and Development TSG
- (8) Non-communicable Diseases (NCD) TSG

For updated information and the oversight visit reports, please visit our site at : www.myanmarhsc.org and Myanmar Health Sector Coordinating Committee Facebook page.

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