

## **Overview of Health Services rendered by Ministry of Health and Sports for the Population of Rakhine State (As of 18 September 2017)**

- 1. The key objective of the Ministry of Health and Sports is to effectively and efficiently serve the whole population residing in Rakhine State (RS) irrespective of creed, race, religion, socioeconomic status and location (residence) of the population. This is in line with the principles of medical ethics and our staff are trained with this perspective in mind. The services rendered are equal and non-directional and without bias.*
- 2. We noted the challenges that we are facing in RS. However, we are serving the population to the best of our capability, capacity, ability and also within the available budget. The government is also providing sufficient budget to support our activities, especially for RS.*
- 3. In view of the current and evolving situation, we are rendering all-out support in terms of providing resources of all kinds, including supplies and equipment to hospitals and health centers, supplies and equipment related to performing public health activities, human resource for health and many others.*
- 4. We encountered many challenges and issues and some are beyond our purview or control. However, we all are determined to achieve our key objective of serving the population residing in RS. For all those issues which are within our control or reach, we will leave no stone unturned to provide health care services to the population at large without reservation.*
- 5. We will not reduce our momentum in providing health and health related services to the population residing in RS irrespective of the challenges and difficulties encountered. We have briefed, trained and informed our staff regarding the key objective and strategies to the staff through our State Health Director and Medical Superintendents of Sittway and other big hospitals. We are also sending several health teams from the central level and from other parts of the country to RS to reinforce our staff strength in RS.*

6. *We have also issued guidelines and standard operating procedures on health care management (clinical and public health) at temporary camps for internally displaced persons. These guidelines and standard operating procedures are very clear cut, systematic and not only technically strong but also administratively and logistically possible to do it. Our staff are seriously following these guidelines and standard operating procedures to the utmost extent possible. This will dramatically reduce the incidence of many commonly occurring diseases and will also prevent emergence of outbreaks and epidemics. Immunization activities, health talks, environmental sanitation, waste disposals, personal hygiene matters, etc. are being carried out in a systematic manner. Many of our activities are being carried out with unreserved and full collaboration from local communities and community based organizations. The Ministry of Health and Sports highly appreciate it.*
7. *The support from the State Government is phenomenal. We are confident that we can successfully manage the health problems of all those people located in IDP camps. Supplies and equipment to hospitals and health centers are being supplemented almost sufficiently. Many items are also in the pipeline so that there will be no disruption in the supply chain. Central Medical Store Depot is efficiently handling this under close direction and guidance from MoHS, Nay Pyi Taw. We are also sending special health teams from central level to RS on a regularly basis to give a helping hand to local staff who are working tirelessly at this point in time of increasing demand for health services.*
8. *Patient referral activities are beefed up and the number of mobile clinics has increased to 50 at this point in time. Because we want to serve all those people living in every nook and corner of RS.*
9. *Taking advantage out of it, we have specifically intensified, to the greatest extent possible, public health activities with the long-term perspective of gaining health dividends in mind. Only through promotion of public health, we can improve the health status of the*

*population in RS to greater heights and subsequently reducing the number of patients coming to our health institutions. Therefore, we can render quality health care services to less number of patients in hospitals and health centers.*

- 10. We are also intensifying immunization activities (mopping up immunization activities, sub-national immunization activities), nutritional promotion activities, maternal and child health promotion activities, non-communicable and communicable prevention and control activities, mental health promotion activities, environmental sanitation activities, health literacy level promotion activities (health talks), etc.*
- 11. We look forward to the whole population residing in RS to cooperate with us and to take the health care services of the Ministry of Health and Sports to the extent possible with full faith, understanding and confidence.*
- 12. In fact, the above position of the Ministry of Health and Sports is equally applicable to the whole country.*
- 13. As a matter of fact, senior management of the Ministry of Health and Sports highly appreciate and put on record the activities performed by our staff from the highest level to the lowest level.*

*Union Minister for Health and Sports*