HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Objectives and Strategies

To realize one of the social objectives of “Uplifting health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation”, the Ministry of Health has laid down the following objectives.

1. To enable every citizen to attain full life expectancy and enjoy longevity of life.
2. To ensure that every citizen is free from diseases.

To realize these objectives, all health activities are implemented in conformity with the following strategies.

1. Widespread disseminations of health information and education to reach the rural areas.
2. Enhancing disease prevention activities.
Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health is the major organization responsible for raising the health status of the people and accomplishes this through provision of comprehensive health services, viz promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative measures.

The Ministry of Health is headed by the Union Minister who is assisted by two Union Deputy Ministers. The Ministry has seven functioning departments, each under a Director General. They are Department of Health Planning, Department of Health, Department of Medical Science, Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar), Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar), Department of Medical Research (Central Myanmar) and Department of Traditional Medicine. All these departments are further divided according to their functions and responsibilities. Maximum community participation in health activities is encouraged. Collaboration with related departments and social organizations has been promoted by the ministry.

HE Professor Dr Pe Thet Khin, Union Health Minister delivered an opening speech at 2012 World TB Day Commemoration Ceremony
Department of Health Planning

The Department of Health Planning comprises of the following divisions:

- Planning Division
- Health Information Division
- Research and Development Division
- E-Health Division
- Administration Division

For optimum utilization of human, monetary and material resources, in the context of the National Health Policy and with the need to provide comprehensive health services, it is necessary to systematically develop health plans. The availability of reliable statistics and information is a vital prerequisite in such an effort. The Department of Health Planning is responsible for formulating the National Health Plan and for supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the National Health Plan implementation. The Department also compiles health data and disseminates health information. Health systems research has been conducted to facilitate in making health policy and formulation of plans and programs. E-health data center has been supporting the implementation of health services by using information and communication technology.
Department of Health

The Department of Health is responsible for providing comprehensive health care services to the entire population in the country. Under the supervision of the Director General and Deputy Directors General, the following divisions are in operation.

- Administration
- Planning
- Public Health
- Medical Care
- Disease Control
- Epidemiology
- Law and Legislation
- Food and Drug Administration
- National Health Laboratory
- Occupational Health
- Nursing
- Budget

Among these divisions, the public health division is responsible for primary health care and basic health services, nutrition promotion and research, environmental sanitation, maternal and child health services, school health services and health education. The medical care division is responsible for setting hospitals’ specific goals and management of hospital services. The division also undertakes procurement, storage and distribution of medicines, medical instruments and equipment for all health institutions. Functions of the disease control division and Central Epidemiology Unit cover prevention and control of infectious diseases, disease surveillance, outbreak investigations and response and capacity building. Health education bureau is responsible for wide spread dissemination of health information and education. Food and drug administration division is responsible for registration and licensing of drugs and food, quality control of registered drugs, processed food, imported food and food for export. The National Health Laboratory is responsible for routine laboratory investigation, special lab-taskforce and public health work, training, research and quality assurance. Occupational health division takes the responsibility for health promotion in work places, environmental monitoring of work places and biological monitoring of exposed workers. The division is also providing health education on occupational hazards. Planning division is taking care of the organizational development of the health institutions under the Department of Health, either upgrading or setting new hospitals or rural health centers in align with the 5 years National Plans. Apart from this the planning division takes the role of capacity building of all levels of health staff under the Department of Health.
Human Resources for Health are the most important resources for successful implementation of National Health vision and mission. The Department of Medical Science is responsible for carrying out this duty of training & production of all categories of health personnel with the objective to appropriate mix of competent human resources for delivering the Quality Health services.

The Department has seven divisions which are Graduate Training Division, Postgraduate Training Division, Nursing training Division, Planning and Statistics Division, Foreign Relation Division, Administrative & Budget Division and Medical Education Centre. The Department also has one community field Training centre for practicing the community Medicine and Field Training.

Reviewing, revising and updating of educational programmes and supervision of training processes for Quality assurance, management of faculty development and infrastructure development are the major activities of the Department.
Department of Traditional Medicine

Myanmar Traditional Medicine is truly an inherited profession whose development has interrelations with the natural and climate conditions, thoughts, convictions and the socio-cultural system in Myanmar. Traditional Medicine has been practiced in Myanmar since time immemorial. Over 2000 years ago Myanmar has possessed and nurtured a civilization, high enough to set up city states and Traditional medicine had flourished significantly by a major part of Myanmar culture. It was chronicled that Myanmar traditional medicine has been considered to be prestigious in the earliest history of Myanmar such as Tagaung, Srikittra and Bagan periods which was about 600 BC. Myanmar Traditional Medicine is a broad, deep and delicate branch of science covering various basic medical knowledge, different treaties, a diverse array of therapies and potent medicines.

Traditional Medicine promotion office was established under the Department of Health in 1953. It was organized as a division in 1972 managed by an Assistant Director who was responsible for the development of the services under the technical guidance of the State Traditional Medicine Council. It became the focal point for all the activities related to traditional medicine. The Government upgraded the division to a separate Department in August 1989. It was reorganized and expanded in 1998, to provide comprehensive traditional medicine services through existing health care system in line with the National Health Plan. The other objectives of the department are to review and explore means to develop safe and efficacious new therapeutic agents and medicine and to produce competent traditional medicine practitioners.
Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar)

The Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) comprises 22 research divisions, 10 supporting divisions and 11 clinical research units of various disciplines. The department is conducting research on six major diseases as well as investigation of reputed medicinal plants and health systems research under the guidance of Ministry of Health. Its main function includes organizing research in various fields, promoting research capability, and supporting researchers from health institutes, universities and other departments under the Ministry of Health. Research capacity strengthening has been achieved through provision of regular research methodology training, diagnostic laboratory training and advanced technology training.
Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar)

Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) was founded on 16th November 1999 in Mandalay and moved to Pyin Oo Lwin in March 2001 with the objective of conducting health related research studies in Upper Myanmar. Under supervision of the Ministry of Health, it has special assignment to identify novel plants and herbal products for treating six major prevailing diseases, namely: tuberculosis, malaria, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, dysentery and diarrhea. Collection of medicinal plants of various species from all over the country has been regularly practiced and nurtured in the herbal gardens.

Currently eleven research divisions and seven supportive divisions are functioning in the department. Research areas covered are: reproductive health, monitoring therapeutic efficacy of anti malaria drugs, operational research on various levels of health staff including voluntary workers, study on acute and sub-acute toxicity of herbal products, efficacy of commercially available traditional drugs, vector bionomics and maternal and child health services in the ethnic races of Upper Myanmar.

Findings of research studies are shared with other departments for better implementation of health services by the national programmes of department of health. Presentations on findings are also made in health seminars, medical conferences, workshops and capacity building trainings. In the vision of research for health, Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) is constantly making its endeavours to promote the health status of Myanmar by conducting problem solving research studies.
Department of Medical Research (Central Myanmar)

The Department of Medical Research (Central Myanmar), Nay Pyi Taw mainly conducts research on communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, traditional medicine, health systems research and environmental health research. The missions of the department are: to conduct research activities prioritizing on the problematic diseases in Myanmar; to promote the infrastructure necessary for high-tech biomedical research; to support the health care system by providing advanced laboratory facility; and to provide training in health research and advanced laboratory practice.

The department has three research divisions and an administrative division. Altogether 10 research units are undergoing research works in line with National Health Plan.