Improving Service Delivery: Health System Strengthening

The Goal of the Health System Strengthening Program in Myanmar is to achieve improved service delivery of essential components of Immunization, MCH, Nutrition and Environmental Health by strengthening programme coordination, health planning systems, and human resources management and development, in support of MDG goals 4 and 5.

In August 2011, First National Health Sector Coordinating Body for Health System Strengthening was conducted to endorse the HSS implementation at first 20 townships. Also training of Economic Evaluation and Communication for Maternal Voucher Scheme was conducted in Nay Pyi Taw with the assistance by the Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Programme (HITAP) team, Thailand where 40 participants learned upon economic evaluation and communication methods in sensitizing Maternal and Child Health Voucher Scheme (MVS) in the pilot township Yedashe.

Guidelines for health systems assessment at township level were developed, tested, finalized and produced both in English and Myanmar language. Training of Surveyors was conducted in September 2011, to perform Health System Assessment and Coordinated Township Health Plan (CTHP) in first 20 townships.

In October 2011, Workshop on Sensitization of Coordinated Township Health Plan to State and Regional personnel from all State/ Regions and 20 Township Medical Officers from the first 20 townships was conducted. Roles of State/ Regions had been identified in supervision and monitoring of HSS activities as in later years there will be expansion of HSS townships and State/ Regions will be taking major role for supervision and monitoring.

Following the assessment results, RHC and Station Health Unit plans were drawn together with BHS and central team for improving the planning and management of service provision. Later all the costed plan from RHCs were compiled in the Coordinated Township Health Plan. CTHP includes health system assessment, M&E baseline, annual plan and costing for package service tour, supervision and monitoring of RHCs and township level as well as source of finance.

In November 2011, Financial Management Training was given to the first 20 townships at Nay Pyi Taw. In December 2011, the Second National Health Sector Coordinating Body for Health Systems Strengthening was conducted and the members endorsed the CTHP to be conducted in 20 townships.