



World Health Day 2009: "Protect Health Facilities from Emergencies: Prepare. Respond. Save Lives"

The World Health Day 2009, official commemoration ceremony organized by the Ministry of Health, Union of Myanmar, with close collaboration with WHO Country Office in Myanmar, was held in the Ministry of Health meeting room in Nay Pyi Taw on the morning of the 7th April 2009. The ceremony was addressed by the Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo. Also present at the occasion were Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, the ministers, deputy ministers, members of the national health committee, departmental heads, WR Myanmar and members, delegates from UN agencies, the directors general of departments under the ministry, the rectors, the deputy directors general, the medical superintendents, representatives of local NGOs, and staff from health related departments and local press. Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, delivered a speech and later WHO Representative to Myanmar, Professor Adik Wibowo read out the message of the Regional Director of WHO South East Asia Region.

The guests were then invited to view a mini exhibition "Protect Health Facilities from Emergencies: Prepare. Respond. Save Lives", in which photos of activities of the Ministry of Health and also information, education and communication materials

such as World Health Day magazines, posters and health statistics were shown. The information materials highlighted the events and activities related to health facilities in emergencies.

This year the Ministry of Health produced a big banner depicting effects of "Protecting Health Facilities from Emergencies", which was erected at the entrance of the Ministry of Health in Nay Pyi Taw. A World Health Day Magazine and posters featuring the World Health Day Theme both in Myanmar and English languages were developed and published by Ministry of Health and distributed to the guests at the opening ceremony. The magazine highlights articles on health facilities in emergencies.

WHO Myanmar also produced grey and red advocacy bags and red colour mugs with World Health Day 2009 and WHO Country Office Myanmar logo which were distributed at the ceremony on the morning of World Health Day at the meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw. A WHO fact sheet on "Protect Health Facilities from Emergencies: Prepare. Respond. Save Lives", in English was especially produced along with the regular WHO Myanmar quarterly newsletter and Director General's



Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo makes a speech at the World Health Day 2009 commemoration ceremony at Nay Pyi Taw.

message was also distributed. The fact sheet also featured the World Health Day message from Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director of WHO South East Asia Region. WHO Country Office produced four banners in different colours featuring the World Health Day 2009 theme. After the World Health Day 2009 at Nay Pyi Taw they are now displayed in front of the library of WHO Country Office at Traders Hotel.

There was good media coverage of World Health Day related events. The ceremonies conducted at the central level as well as State/Division level were featured on the official radio and TV channels. Public announcements and articles were published in local language as well as in English in newspapers, journals and magazines. ■

The Strategic Workshop for Planning WHO Collaborative Activities in 2010-2011

The "Ministry of Health - WHO Workshop on Development of WHO Collaborative Workplans for the Biennium 2010-2011" was jointly organized by the WHO Country Office and the Ministry of Health, Myanmar, on 11 May 2009 at Nay Pyi Taw in the main conference hall of the Ministry of Health. The objectives of the workshop were:

- (1) to brief the high-level officials of the Ministry of Health, including the Director Generals, Deputy Director Generals, Programme Directors and National Project Managers the context of the 2010-2011 planning process and strategic directions;
- (2) to share the experience and lessons learnt from planning and implementation of 2008-2009

biennium, both from the perspectives of the Ministry of Health and WHO, in view of improving the process for 2010-2011; and

- (3) to explain the national programme managers the detailed guidelines for developing 2010-2011 workplans.

The meeting was chaired by Director General of Department of Health, Dr Win Myint who has been delegated by the H.E Minister to moderate the discussions on behalf of the Ministry. The chairperson first made welcome speech, in which he expressed his appreciation on the WHO collaboration and benefits of joint planning process. WR Myanmar, Prof Adik Wibowo in her opening remarks highlighted the salient points in the 2010-2011 planning in the context of the changing global and

regional scenario. Dr Ko Ko Naing, Deputy Director of International Health Division and Ms Margareta Skold, PHA, WHO Myanmar, shared experiences and lessons learnt on 2008-2009 biennium, from the perspectives of Ministry of Health and WHO respectively. Later analysis of 2008-2009 was presented by Dr San San Myint and the detailed guidelines for development of 2010-2011 was presented by Dr Myo Paing and discussed by all participants of the meeting. The meeting made 9 recommendations on immediate steps to be taken, including the timeline for submission of complete workplans to WHO/SEARO, in order to be reviewed by the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme Development and Management (SPPDM) planned to take place in July 2009. ■

HIV Surveillance Dissemination Workshop



Participants at the dissemination workshop on findings of HIV sentinel serosurveillance survey & behaviour surveillance survey 2007-08, Yangon.

With technical input from WHO and financial support from the 3 Diseases Fund, the National AIDS Programme (NAP) of the Department of Health has substantially improved the HIV surveillance system in recent years. These improvements include the revision of HIV Sero-sentinel surveillance (HSS) protocols as well as the

introduction of behavioral surveillance among populations at higher risk of HIV.

In Yangon on 3rd April 2009 the Department of Health held a dissemination workshop for the findings of recent surveys including, the latest HSS and the Behavioral surveillance surveys among populations at higher risk including female sex workers, injecting drug users and out-of-school youth conducted in 2008.

Representatives from the Ministry of Health and other relevant government bodies as well as stakeholders in the national response to HIV/

AIDS such as community based organizations, networks of people living with HIV, international and national non-governmental organizations, donor representatives and UN agencies participated in this workshop.

Participants were introduced to HIV surveillance systems in Myanmar and the efforts of NAP to implement HIV Second

Generation Surveillance as recommended by WHO and UNAIDS. The NAP also presented in detail the methodology used in each of the surveys as well as the findings and preliminary recommendations for action to address the challenges in prevention highlighted by the surveys findings. The data collected suggest continued high HIV prevalence among population groups at higher risk surveyed (female sex workers, men who have sex with men and injecting drug users) as well as diverse patterns of risk behavior - such as sharing contaminated injection equipment - with regional variations. In some areas the surveys demonstrate overlapping of risk behaviors such as injecting drug and paid sex. On the positive side, the surveys confirm what has been observed in previous surveys such as increased report of condom use among sex workers and clients and improved access and utilization of prevention and care services in some areas such as for injecting drug users in Lashio township (Northern Shan State).

The NAP plans to hold such workshops on an annual basis so that partners can inform their HIV programming based on the latest available evidence. ■

Community Home-Based Care Training

Home-based care can be defined as any form of assistance provided to a sick person referred to as the patient directly in the home by family, friends and members of the local community, cooperating with the advice and support from the trained health workers. It is not only intended to give care to bedridden condition, but also intended for the psychosocial support, reducing stigma and discrimination, adherence monitoring in order to have the comprehensive continuum care of People living with HIV (PLHIV) patients.

With WHO technical support, the NAP revised and developed Community Home-based Care training tools targeting care givers and basic health staff. The objective of this training is to support communities coping with the burden of AIDS; to reduce stigma and discrimination for people living with HIV/AIDS; to provide basic Antiretroviral (ARV) knowledge for caregivers promoting early notification and referral as well as the side effects of Antiretroviral (ARV) medicines and solve problems related adherence.

Inputs for the preparation were received not only from National AIDS Programme (NAP) but also from International and National Non-governmental Organizations (INGO/NGOs involved in providing HIV care services such as HIV/AIDS Alliance, Association

Francois - Xavier Bangnoud (AFXB), Aide-Medicale Internationale (AMI), Medecins Sans Frontieres-Holland, CARE Myanmar, Medecins du Monde (MDM), Myanmar Nurses Association, Pact Myanmar, World Concern, and World Vision. The training curriculums were translated into Myanmar language and were field tested during Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions organized by NAP.

Two sets of training documents were developed; one for Basic Health Staff and one for Caregivers. Each set includes one curriculum for the trainer and one manual for the trainee. Besides, one facilitator guide was also produced for the trainer. The subjects covered include:

- What home-based care is?
- Basic knowledge of HIV/AIDS and STI
- Nursing care
- Management of HIV related illness
- Opportunistic infections



A basic health staff taking part in the training of community home-based care in Dawei.

- Antiretroviral drugs
- Positive living
- Emotional and Terminal care
- PLHIV net working and
- Addressing Stigma and Discrimination

Community home-based care training sessions using these modules have been conducted in 15 different townships in 10 States/Divisions since October 2008. Overall 325 basic health staff and 325 caregivers from the above sites participated in the training. ■

World No Tobacco Day 2009 commemorated in Nay Pyi Taw



Mini-exhibition featuring tobacco control activities being viewed by the dignitaries and invited guests.

On 31 May 2009, the Ministry of Health, Myanmar, in close collaboration with WHO Country Office, organized the official commemoration ceremony of the World No Tobacco Day 2009 at the conference hall of the Ministry of Health, Nay Pyi Taw. The ceremony was attended by H.E. Minister for Health, Prof Kyaw Myint, H.E. Deputy Minister for Health, Prof Mya Oo, Directors-General and senior officials from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Sports

and other ministries, representatives from the Myanmar Women Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and other non-governmental organizations. In addition, nearly 400 people representing the civil society and community members were also present at the occasion.

First, H.E. Prof Kyaw Myint, the Minister for Health gave a speech highlighting the progress of tobacco control programme in

Myanmar being carried out by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with WHO. He gave special emphasis to the activities related to health warnings on dangers of tobacco use. He also recalled the key successes in the area, including the formulation and passing of the "Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Product Law".

Later, Prof Adik Wibowo, WHO Representative to Myanmar, read out the message from Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, the Regional Director for WHO South East Asia Region, on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day 2009. In the message, the facts and figures on prevalence of tobacco use in the South-East Asia Region and activities being carried out by the Member States concerning tobacco control measures and enforcement of the rules, specifically related to pictorial and textual health warnings on tobacco products.

After the ceremony, the dignitaries and invited guests viewed the mini-exhibition displayed by the Tobacco Free Initiative (TFI) Programme of the Ministry of Health featuring various tobacco control activities that took place in the recent years. ■

Follow-up Partners Meeting on Sustainable First-line Anti-TB Drug Supply in Myanmar

Ministry of Health (MOH) had convened a Follow-up Partners Meeting on Sustainable First-line Anti-TB Drug Supply in Myanmar jointly with WHO, in Yangon on 24th April 2009 addressing the financial gap especially for 2010 and 2011.

This meeting was chaired by Dr Win Myint, Director General, Department of Health (DOH) and Co-chaired by Professor Adik Wibowo, Country Representative, WHO and attended by 32 participants including Ambassador of Australia, Officials from Embassies of United Kingdom, Japan, France, United States, UN Agencies in Myanmar, 3DF, UNOPS, USAID, Total Myanmar, JICA, Medical Officer, TB Unit, WHO Myanmar, Country Representatives of INGOs, responsible officials from National TB Programme (NTP) and WHO Myanmar.

Dr Win Myint, in his opening remarks, reassured that the Government will cost match 3% of the first-line anti-TB drug cost in 2010 and incrementally 1% every year thereafter. He also pointed out that the current achievement of NTP and Partners rely mainly on the uninterrupted supply of first-line anti-TB drugs.

Professor Adik Wibowo, in her opening remarks said that key to the success of DOTS in Myanmar has been the support by the Global Drug Facility since 2002, providing grants of TB drugs free of charge. She warned that it is obvious which catastrophic consequences the country and its partners will face soon if the

TB drug supply will finish by the end of 2009. But action has to start today! If TB drugs are going to dry up by end of 2009, procurement has to start mid 2009!

Then, it was followed by the presentation on follow-up action on the recommendations of the Partners Meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw on 1st December 2008 and on current situation of funding for first-line anti-TB drugs in Myanmar by Dr Win Myint, Director General, (DOH). In his presentation, he mentioned that the funding gap for 2010 with 50% buffer plus 2011 without buffer will be US\$ 7.4 millions.

This was followed by the presentation on "The Way Forward" by Dr Hans Kluge, Medical Officer, TB; Team Leader 3 Diseases Fund Unit, WHO Myanmar said that the first-line anti-TB drugs donated to NTP were received also by PSI, AZG, Myanmar Medical Association (MMA), Social Security Board (SSB), Departments of Prison and Railways. He explained the different approaches tried for the sustainability of first-line anti-TB drug supply in Myanmar including the application for the Global fund Round-9.



Participants taking part in the Follow-up Partners Meeting at Traders hotel, Yangon.

This was followed by the presentation on the action plan for funding the gap of first-line anti-TB drugs in 2010 and 2011 by Dr Win Maung, Director Disease Control, DOH.

All the participants discussed on the importance of sustainability of first-line anti-TB drug supply in Myanmar among which 3 Diseases Fund agreed to support US\$ 2 million and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was willing to reprogram US\$ 1 million of its budget to support for the first-line anti-TB drug supply in Myanmar. ■



World Health
Organization

Formulation of Five Year Strategic Plan for

Reproductive Health 2009-2013

The Five-Year Strategic Plan for Reproductive Health (2004-2008) ended in 2008. With the financial and technical support from RH Unit, WHO/SEARO, the existing Strategic Plan was reviewed and from the achievements, shortcomings and gaps identified, the new Strategic Plan for 2009-2013 was formulated. The overall goal of the strategic plan for 2009-2013 is to attain a better quality of life of the people of Myanmar by improved reproductive health status of women, men, adolescents and youths. The activities that could achieve this goal are identified.

The Department of Health held the first workshop for formulation of five year strategic plan for reproductive health 2009-2013 on 18-19 December 2008. The representatives from Departments/Ministries/programmes and INGOs/NGOs related to Reproductive Health (Ministry of Population, Ministry of Education, Department of Health Planning, Department of Medical Research (Lower, Central and Upper Myanmar), Central Health Education Bureau, the Academia, National Nutrition Centre, National AIDS Program and Malaria Control Program), UN Agencies (WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF) and INGOs (Marie Stopes International, Population Services International, Merlin, JOICFP, Save the Children) and NGOs (Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women Affairs Federation, Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar Health Assistants Association) attended the workshop.

The objectives of this workshop were:

1. To review and provide inputs into the background information for the existing 5-year strategic plan for Reproductive Health.
2. To identify and build consensus on priority interventions in Reproductive Health in Myanmar.
3. To discuss the existing strategic approaches necessary to successful and comprehensive implementation of priority interventions and
4. To develop the formulation of 2009-2013 Five-year Strategic Plan for Reproductive Health.

The priority areas identified were, setting for enabling environment, improving information base for decision making, strengthening health systems capacity for delivery of quality reproductive health services and improving community and family practices. Following interactive and intensive group works, interventions to be included in each of the priority areas were identified. The Deputy Minister of Health H.E. Professor Mya Oo chaired the plenary session and gave guidance on recommendations for (2009-2013) strategic plan. The first draft was formulated and completed by end February 2009. This was shared to national and sub national levels for comments and inputs. The Deputy Director (MCH) and representatives from WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF also met to review and update the draft document. Finalization of the draft document was done by Dr Akjema Magtymova, RH Unit, SEARO.

The Department of Health next called for a final workshop for dissemination of the final draft on 1 and 2 May 2009, inviting the same departments and stakeholders for finalization. A thorough review of the document was made in this workshop. A Technical Working Group was also formed with clear and specific terms of reference. The MCH Unit, Department of Health will finalize the draft and then put up to the Ministry of Health for final approval. ■



Participants in Group Work for Five-year Strategic Plan (2009-2013)



Deputy Director General Dr Thein Thein Htay at the chair for discussion sessions of the workshop

Book Reviews

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response.

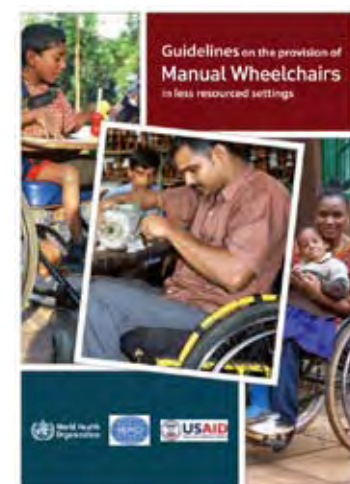
A WHO Guidance Document



This is a joint publication between WHO/WPRO, WHO/SEARO, FAO and OIE. The purpose of the guide is to assist countries and areas in achieving sustainable and functional collaboration between animal and human health sectors, which is crucial to addressing the challenges posed by endemic, emerging and re-emerging zoonoses.

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/PIPGuidance09.pdf>

Guidelines on the provision of manual wheelchairs in less resourced settings 2008



These guidelines, developed for use in less resourced settings, address the design, production, supply and service delivery of manual wheelchairs. The recommendations are mainly targeted at people involved in wheelchair services, ranging from design and planning, to providing or supplying wheelchairs and their maintenance.

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2008/9789241547482_eng.pdf

important dates

1-7 August 2009	World Breastfeeding Week
11-13 August 2009	Regional Workshop on Management of Snake Bites, Yangon, Myanmar
28 September 2009	World Rabies Day
28 September 2009	World Heart Day