

Launching of Myanmar National Health Plan 2017-2021 Implementation

Myanmar National Health Plan 2017-2021 implementation was launched at Myanmar International Convention Centre 2, Naypyidaw on 31 March 2017. HE State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addressed the ceremony, informing the initiation of National Health Plan (NHP). She stressed the importance of public health and the importance of attracting people to join implementation.

HE Union Minister for Health and Sports, Dr Myint Htwe explained goals, objectives and vision of the National Health Plan 2017-2021. The NHP aims to strengthen the country's health system and pave the way to Universal Health Coverage, choosing the path that is explicitly pro-poor. The main goal of NHP 2017-2021 is to extend access to essential health services for the whole country without incurring financial hardship.

The Union Minister for Health and Sports urged

all relevant partners, including other Ministries, civil societies, Ethnic Health Organizations, development partners, and the private sector, to involve in implementation of the National Health Plan. The National Health Plan aims to ensure that health services are available and accessible, and that they are of quality. Existing and new health facilities, especially in rural and remote areas, will gradually have the necessary skilled health workers, and the essential medicines, vaccines and equipment to keep the community healthy and address its most pressing health needs.



External assessment of Joint External Evaluation on International Health Regulations



Debriefing session by the external assessment team to HE the Union Minister for Health and Sports, Dr Myint Htwe, national and international stakeholders.

Being a key component of Joint External Evaluation (JEE), the external assessment part of the evaluation was conducted by the external assessment team from 3 to 9 May 2017. The team encompassed a multisectoral group of experts from UN and various international organizations. This JEE assessed the country's capacity under the International Health Regulations (IHR) to prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to public health threats. Key government officials from Ministry of Health and Sports, and other concerned ministries actively participated in this assessment.

H.E. Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe has acknowledged the findings and the recommended priority actions proposed by the external assessment team - highlighting the importance of collaboration with other sectors like animal health. Dr Stephan Jost, WHO Representative to Myanmar, commended national and international experts involved in this evaluation. Development of a country action plan that follow findings and recommendations of this joint evaluation would be the best next step to tackle.

Full details on influenza event in Myanmar

WHO newsletter, August 2017: Special issue on influenza A (H1N1) pdm09:

goo.gl/YQGJHg

Influenza Do's and Don'ts:

goo.gl/wS2Q88



Launching the New HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan



Public awareness raising activities on HIV at Junction Square centre in Yangon

"Please read this plan 10 times. All of us must work together to translate this strategy into action", HE Dr Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health and Sports, said during the launching ceremony of the National Strategic Plan HIV/AIDS 2016-2020 on 17th May 2017.

Myanmar is one of the 35 countries accounting for 90% of new HIV infections globally. The plan aims **to achieve the 90–90–90 targets by 2020**; i.e. 90% of people living with HIV know their HIV status, 90% of people who know their HIV positive status are accessing treatment and 90% of people on treatment have suppressed viral loads. The plan also aims to ensure that 90% of key populations access HIV prevention services and that 90% of people living with and affected by HIV report zero discrimination, especially in health, education and workplace settings.

The plan was produced through the extensive participation and consultation of all stakeholders engaged in the country's response to HIV. Under the leadership of the National AIDS Programme, the development process was coordinated by the core team consisting of UNAIDS, WHO, US-CDC and ICAP at Columbia University.

During the launch, Dr Swarup Kumar Sarkar, Director Communicable Diseases, WHO South-East Asia Region, delivered his video speech. *"This strategic plan adopted the differentiated service delivery model, which is one of the first of its nature in this region"*, Dr Sarkar said. This innovative feature of Myanmar's plan is also highlighted in the WHO's global Progress Report 2016: **Prevent HIV, Test and Treat All**.

Launching the fourth Global UN Road safety week

The Fourth UN Global Road Safety Week, 8-14 May 2017 was celebrated worldwide. It highlighted managing speed with the slogan: **Save Lives: #SlowDown**. WHO's technical information was used as follow:

- Managing speed (www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/publications/road_traffic/managing-speed/en/), highlighting proven interventions to address this major risk for road traffic death and injury
- UN road safety week (www.unroadsafetyweek.org/en/home), featuring solutions, stories, news and more

In Myanmar, the fourth Global UN Road safety week was officially launched on 8th May 2017 in Naypyidaw, emphasizing the significance of "managing speed". A national multisectoral road safety workshop was held, by the partners of the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS), the Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD), the National Road Safety Council (NRSC), with technical and financial support from WHO. It was a great opportunity for the national multisectoral team to learn, meet and discuss road safety issues and find ways to expedite the current **Myanmar National Road Safety Action Plan 2014-2020**.

Road safety programme contributes to the targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), *3.6 Halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents, and Goal 11. Make cities and human settlement and inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*.

All road users can contribute to road safety by driving within speed limit; using standard quality helmets whenever riding on bicycle and motorcycles; not driving while fatigue or sleepy or under the influence of alcohol/drugs; always wearing seatbelts and children have to use child restraint (safety seat in the car) or if not yet available, make sure they always sit in the back seat of the car. Do not use mobile phone while driving. Before driving, always check brake, tires and lighting system. Drivers must always give way to pedestrian crossing the roads and should avoid the road under construction. *Cheers! For the lives we will save!*



Capacity Building on Malaria Elimination

Malaria is one of the major public health problems in Myanmar. Myanmar adopted the goal of eliminating malaria by 2030 and aims to eliminate *P. falciparum* malaria by 2025 in line with the Greater Mekong Sub-region Malaria Elimination Strategy.

Significant progress has been made over recent years in reducing malaria morbidity and mortality in Myanmar. Malaria morbidity declined by 72% and mortality dropped by 95% in 2016 in comparison with 2012, reflecting significant improvement in access to diagnosis, treatment and prevention of malaria. Five states or regions of Myanmar are already in elimination phase of malaria. All states and regions are expected to follow suit in the years ahead.

A central level training workshop on malaria elimination was organized in Naypyidaw on 6-8 May 2017 to strengthen capacity of the staff from national malaria control programme and partner organizations. This training - part of a programme of training - could deliver updated strategies for malaria elimination successfully.



Delivering Long-lasting insecticidal net (LLIN) to local people in Lashio township, Shan State.

Advocacy meeting on Codex and INFOSAN



Group discussion at the advocacy meeting

With collective technical support from WHO and FAO, the Department of Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Health and Sports, organized a key meeting with stakeholders in Naypyidaw from 13-15 June 2017 to accelerate actions for food safety in Myanmar.

Discussions highlighted that the establishment and enhancement of a national Codex committee and its functions is a key step to attain food safety in Myanmar. The implementation of Codex standards promotes international trade and facilitates fair practices in food trade. On top of that, it was opportune moment that participants updated interventions and procedures in

managing food safety risks through International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN).

The meeting helped improve implementation of food safety measures in Myanmar.

important dates

- 28 July:** World Hepatitis Day
- 1–7 August:** World Breastfeeding Week
- 28 September:** World Rabies Day
- 29 September:** World Heart Day

WHO Emergency Response for Cyclone Mora



Emergency medical supplies supported to Cyclone Mora affected areas in Rakhine State.

Cyclone Mora made landfall between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh on 30 May 2017. Strong winds and heavy rains from the cyclone caused damage to thousands of houses, Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) shelters and other infrastructure in Rakhine State.

WHO Myanmar is working with the Ministry of Health and Sports at both central and State levels. While health facilities sustained damages to varying degrees, health service provision continued with minimal interruption. Furthermore, WHO provided two interagency emergency health kits to Buthidaung and Rathedaung townships in northern Rakhine State according to the request from the Ministry of Health and Sports.

WHO co-leads the health cluster with the Ministry of Health and Sports. Additional humanitarian funding has been requested and allocated - for medicines, medical supplies, and communicable disease control for vulnerable population additionally affected by the cyclone in Rakhine State.

New WHO Myanmar country office location in Yangon



WHO flag hoisting ceremony at the new WHO office



Blessing ceremony for the new WHO office premises

The WHO Country Office in Myanmar has been relocated from No. 2, 7th Mile, Pyay Road, Mayangone Township to No. 403 (A1), Shwe Taung Kyar Street, Bahan Township, Yangon effective from 29th May 2017. Please find the following new address and contact details;

Contact information

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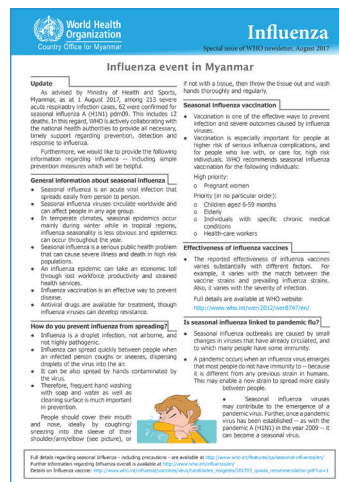
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World Health Organization
Country Office for Myanmar

Influenza

Special issue of WHO newsletter, August 2017

Influenza event in Myanmar

Update

If infected by influenza, then throw the tissue out and wash hands thoroughly and regularly.

As advised by Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar, as at 1 August 2017, among 233 severe acute respiratory infection cases, 53 were confirmed for seasonal influenza A (H1N1) pdm09. This includes 12 deaths. In this regard, WHO is actively collaborating with the national health authorities to provide all necessary timely support regarding prevention, detection and response to influenza.

Furthermore, we would like to provide the following information regarding influenza – including simple prevention measures which will be helpful.

General information about seasonal influenza

- Seasonal influenza is an acute viral infection that spreads easily from person to person.
- Seasonal influenza is a common illness that can affect people in any age group.
- In temperate climates, seasonal epidemics usually occur during winter while in tropical regions, influenza seasonality is less obvious and epidemics can occur throughout the year.
- Seasonal influenza is a serious public health problem that can cause severe illness and death in high risk populations.
- An influenza epidemic can take an economic toll through lost workforce productivity and increased health service.
- Influenza vaccination is an effective way to prevent disease.
- Antiviral drugs are available for treatment, though influenza viruses can develop resistance.

How do you prevent influenza from spreading?

- Influenza is a droplet infection, not airborne, and not highly contagious.
- Influenza can spread quickly between people when an infected person coughs or sneezes, sharing fluks of the virus into the air.
- It can be also spread by hands contaminated by the virus.
- Therefore, frequent hand washing with soap and water as well as cleaning surfaces is much important to prevention.
- People should cover their mouth and nose, preferably by coughing/sneezing into the sleeve of their shoulder/arm/forearm (see picture), or

Is seasonal influenza linked to pandemic flu?

- Seasonal influenza epidemics are caused by small changes in viruses that have already circulated, and so most people have some immunity.
- A pandemic occurs when an influenza virus emerges that most people do not have immunity to – because it is different from any previous strain in humans. This new strain is then able to spread more easily between people.
- Seasonal influenza viruses may contribute to the emergence of a pandemic virus. Further, once a pandemic virus has been established – as with the 1918/19 H1N1 virus – it can become a seasonal virus.

Effectiveness of influenza vaccines

- The reported effectiveness of influenza vaccines varies substantially with different factors. For example, it varies with the match between the vaccine strains and circulating influenza strains. Also, it varies with the severity of infection.
- Full details are available at WHO website: <http://www.who.int/news/2012/29/08/13aug>

High priority:

- Pregnant women
- Priority (in no particular order):
- Children aged 6-59 months
- Elderly
- Individuals with specific chronic medical conditions
- Health-care workers

Full details are available at WHO website: <http://www.who.int/news/2012/29/08/13aug>

Full details regarding seasonal influenza – including prevention – are available at <http://www.who.int/news/2012/29/08/13aug>

Further information regarding influenza event is available at <http://www.who.int/news/2012/29/08/13aug>

Details on influenza event: <http://www.who.int/news/2012/29/08/13aug>