

# EVIDENCE FOR DECISION

## Health Information Services

In order to ensure minimum essential information of prioritized health projects are integrated in the national health information system, the Health Management Information System (HMIS) was established in 1995. It is well aspired to accomplish the requirements of integrated national health information system for timely, reliable and accurate information based on minimal essential data set. Generating and reporting health information in the course of implementation of the National Health Plans for timely and effective monitoring and evaluation and to minimizing the data collection burden for basic health staffs are key purposes of HMIS.

Health Management Information System collects and compiles both community based and institutional based information as a means to support making evidence based decisions in policy design, planning and management so as to improve overall health system performance. Furthermore, HMIS is now on the route of advance progress by establishing e-Health System in all states and divisions with support of the WHO.

Hospital reporting is another facet of health information service well established through monthly collection of hospital morbidity and administrative information from public hospitals. Morbidity information which is individual case summaries with analysis of all discharges and deaths is processed at the central office (Department of Health Planning). The medical record services have been established in most hospitals and training program exists for medical record officers. By using (ICD 10) for disease coding, data entry, processing and analysis international comparison is facilitated. Computerized medical record system has been established in some major hospitals since 2000 and to be further expanded.

To further strengthen the health information system, ICT Centre has been established in the Ministry of Health. This will enable extension of information network and rapid and smooth flow of information. A web site has also been established in the Ministry of Health providing updated information on health activities and achievements and also the opportunity to search health literatures.

As a member country of World Health Organization Family of International Classification (WHO-FIC) working group mortality, a workshop was conducted in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar from 4 to 6 March 2009 to facilitate its overview of the mission, functions and working methods. It was contributed jointly with WHO country office for Myanmar and Department of Health Planning, Ministry of Health. The consultant team from Thai WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre initiated this

workshop, sponsored jointly by Royal Thai Government and the WHO country office for Myanmar. The mission of this workshop is to improve mortality data quality among countries in Asia Pacific Region by establishing standardized application and standardization of the International Classification of Disease (ICD).

Following the launching of Health Matrix Network (HMN) at the World Health Assembly in 2005, Myanmar joined the international effort for strengthening health information system in the country. As part of HMN activities, a Workshop on Developing Health Information System Strategic Plan has been conducted in the Ministry involving all stakeholders in November 2009. In implementing and processing the health programs, the proper planning is essential. It is necessary for all health personnel to acquire knowledge on how to develop a strategic plan for health programs. Myanmar Health Information System is one of the main components of the National Health Plan that is to assemble, explore, hoard and allocate retrieval of data relating health. This workshop has the aim to formulate measurable HIS performance improvement objectives and strategic interventions which address the problems related to each HIS component and to identify detailed activity that are required to implement each strategy and its various interventions.

## Health Research

In accordance with Vision 2030 and National Health Plan, the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) focuses research mainly on malaria, HIV//AIDs, and TB. Moreover, research on diarrhea and dysentery, diabetes and hypertension, dengue, influenza, nutrition, cervical cancer, application of traditional medicines and investigating of reputed medicinal plants, toxicology, vaccines and operations research are streamlined under the guidance of Ministry of Health.

Promotion of research activities is made by organizing the Myanmar Health Research Congress annually as well as many other workshops, seminars and scientific talks on relevant health issues of current interest. Myanmar Health Sciences Research Journal on quarterly basis and Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) bulletin on monthly basis are also being published. During 2009, Department Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) participated and



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accomplished multi-country collaborative study on Eco-Bio-Social Research on Dengue in Asia and developed and evaluated participatory innovative package of ecosystem management interventions on dengue vectors applicable to peri-urban eco-settings.

Research studies are generally conducted by Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) in collaboration with other departments under the Ministry of Health as well as with renowned international health institutions. Research findings are disseminated to the concerned national programmes of the department of health. Research seminars, workshops and trainings are regularly conducted to evaluate the ongoing research works, promote the technical skills and knowledge of the staff and formulate the future plan of actions. Professionals and experts of concerned subjects are invited to these meetings for their contribution to the research studies.

Department of Medical Research (Central Myanmar) delivers technical and scientific knowledge to other departments and public by conducting workshops, seminars and presentations. In order to promote scientific development of Traditional Medicine and search for new drugs, efficacy, toxicity testing and clinical trials of traditional medicinal plants and formulations are also done on Malaria, Diabetes Mellitus and Cancer.

Research and Development Division of Department of Health Planning has implemented Health System Research (HSR) activities since 1995 in order to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of national and local health systems. Health System Research Methodology Training Workshops for post-graduate students from Medical Universities and for mid-level managers from States and Divisional and Township level Health Departments have been conducted as one of the HSR activities for disseminating concepts of health systems and for imparting knowledge on health system research for obtaining research cultures in managing health problems with the use of evidence-based information. During 2009, a total of 362 post-graduate students from Medical Universities and 30 mid-level managers from State level were trained in HSR methodology and research management.

As one of the HSR activities from the aspect of community health information system, completeness and coverage of mortality statistics in urban areas of Myanmar was conducted in order to evaluate the completeness of registration of vital data by Civil Registration System and Health Management Information System. Three activities including National Seminar on Service Availability Mapping (SAM), pilot implementation of SAM in Pyinmana Township and plan for national implementation of SAM were carried out for the development of SAM in the country.

For monitoring achievements of Millennium Development Goals in Myanmar, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (2008-2009) has been being implemented during 2008 and 2009 with the collaboration of Planning Department from the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and UNICEF. It is a nationwide survey collecting data for assessing healthy life indicators including child mortality, nutrition, maternal and child health, immunization, water and sanitation, education indicators, child protection indicators and HIV/AIDS indicators. From this survey, up to date knowledge on situation of women and children in Myanmar can be used for planning and implementation of necessary actions to meet the Myanmar's targets of MDGs, 2015.