



2016 HEALTH FACILITY ASSESSMENT FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH COMMODITIES AND SERVICES



2016 Health Facility Assessment For Reproductive Health Commodities and Services

Department of Medical Research (Pyin Oo Lwin Branch)
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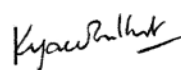
Foreword

Access to family planning is a fundamental human right and is crucial to empowering women and girls to realize their full potential. It is also one of the most cost-effective investments a country can make towards sustainable development. Although Myanmar has given priority to maternal and child health services and considerable investments have been made to improve these services, inadequate health resources at different levels of the health system and the heavy workload of staff are still creating challenges to achieve targets. Limited availability of skilled service providers, essential commodities and logistics management are major concerns in Myanmar. In addition, the weakness of the Logistic Management Information System (LMIS) in terms of its geographic coverage and functioning has led to frequent shortages of essential and life-saving reproductive health (RH) medicines and commodities resulting in an unmet need for potential clients. Since RH services must be of a high quality in all respects, a regular supply of medicines for emergency obstetric care (EmOC) and contraceptives to meet the needs of facilities is crucial.

The Ministry of Health and Sports is making efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in reducing maternal mortality and child mortality by providing quality services covering the whole country. In the area of reproductive health, progress has been made in maternal and newborn health and birth spacing with a reduction in maternal mortality and an increase in the contraceptive prevalence rate. To build on accomplishments to date, health systems need to be strengthened and targeted programmes implemented for the most vulnerable populations. In line with the National Health Plan, the Ministry of Health and Sports has been planning and implementing interventions to improve the health status of mothers, newborns and children. Therefore, a Nationwide Health Facility Assessment for RH Commodities and Services was implemented with strong support from the Department of Medical Research (Pyin Oo Lwin Branch) in collaboration with the Maternal and Reproductive Health Division, the Department of Public Health and the Department of Medical Services. Well organized and trained teams actively participated in data collection across the country during May and September 2016. As the assessment is a continuation of the 2014 and 2015 assessment activities, this report is a result of a successful third mission.

We aim to provide the information and understanding needed to improve the country's Reproductive Health Security. These consecutive assessments over the past three years will make programme managers, donors and policymakers more able to closely monitor the effectiveness, weaknesses, and lessons learnt from past interventions and make reliable projections for future implementations. The current situation on the availability of birth spacing services; life-saving reproductive health medicines; stock-outs; the logistic management system; the availability of skilled staff for reproductive health care services; information and communication facilities; cold chain facilities; and clients' satisfaction are provided in this report. Comparisons of some important parameters over the three years are also included. In contrast to previous reports, information from private sector health facilities is included in this report.

We would like to thank all concerned persons without whose relentless efforts and dedication this undertaking would not have been successful. In particular, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Ms. Janet E. Jackson, UNFPA Representative for Myanmar, for her keen interest and support for this undertaking. Thanks are also due to Dr. Hla Hla Aye (Assistant Representative, UNFPA), Daw Yu Myat Mun (Programme Analyst, UNFPA), Dr. Aung Thu Tun (Programme Specialist, UNFPA) and other staff of UNFPA for their continuous support throughout the implementation process.



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Acknowledgements

The 2016 Health Facility Assessment for Reproductive Health Commodities and Services is the third survey of its kind over the last three years in Myanmar, covering both public and private health facilities across the entire country. This was an immense task that took several months and was undertaken as a collaborative endeavour together with the Department of Medical Research, the Department of Medical Services and the Department of Public Health with technical support from UNFPA Myanmar Country Office. This assessment was made possible thanks to funding from the UNFPA Supplies Programme, formerly known as GPRHCS.

This assessment aims to pinpoint areas to strengthen the health system including the supply chain system in which the Logistics Management Information System has been established to improve family planning/reproductive health commodity security in Myanmar. In order to strategically improve family planning programmes, and to promote resource allocation and enhance programme efficiency to reduce unmet needs for modern methods of contraception, it is essential to ensure that facilities have high quality and equitable family planning and reproductive health commodities, services and the contraceptive choices that women need. The survey also underlines key challenges to strengthen the health system especially in ensuring access to all, irrespective of the level of facility and its location. The survey findings were validated through a dissemination workshop held on 21 December, 2016 and contributed to the Family Planning 2020 core indicators at the consensus review meeting on 19 May 2017.

UNFPA expresses special gratitude to Dr. Kyaw Oo, formerly the Director of the Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar), now the Deputy Director General of the Department of Human Resources for Health, for his valuable support and technical guidance to undertake this survey. UNFPA acknowledges the support of health authorities from each state/region, the Department of Medical Services, the Department of Public Health, and the Maternal and Reproductive Health Division of the Department of Public Health. Our grateful thanks also go to the Department of Medical Research for their leadership, technical support, and managerial and supervisory role in field data collection activities, without which this facility assessment would not have been completed within a very limited time frame. The assistance and support of field enumerators and technical supervisors recruited from the Department of Medical Research (Pyin Oo Lwin Branch) was invaluable. Special thanks are also due to health staff in hard-to-reach areas for their kind arrangements in facilitating local transport to help the survey team complete the survey in a timely manner.



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