## WHO Country Cooperation Strategy Myanmar 2014–2018



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## Message by His Excellency Professor Pe Thet Khin, Union Minister for Health, Myanmar



I am pleased to include this message in the new WHO country cooperation strategy (CCS) for Myanmar 2014–2018. Since the inception of WHO country cooperation strategies in 2000, significant challenges have arisen, and been addressed, which affect health development in our country.

The Ministry of Health developed a national health plan as part of the broader national development plan. The Government is intending to move forward quickly and thoughtfully to

implementation. At this crucial stage of national development, the support of development partners is welcome to achieve our vision of a healthier nation in which good health contributes to economic, social, mental and spiritual development.

WHO has worked closely with the national health authorities, even prior to the development of country cooperation strategies, to help Myanmar achieve its health objectives. The CCS has further enhanced this collaborative partnership, enabling indepth analysis of challenges and strengths. It takes into account the strategic objectives of the Ministry of Health while detailing how WHO will support the implementation of national health programmes. This is embodied in the strategic agenda of the CCS, which was finalized by WHO during a series of consultations, together with the Ministry of Health and other partners. We are very grateful to WHO for its support to our national health development, and anticipate that the new country cooperation strategy will help to carry this support into the future effectively.

Professor Pe Thet Khin Union Minister for Health, Myanmar

### **Preface**



WHO country cooperation strategies are a key instrument of the World Health Organization's work in and with countries. They provide a medium-term vision for technical cooperation in support of national health plans. The World Health Organization (WHO) has been working hand in hand for many years with the Member States of the WHO South-East Asia Region to improve the health of its peoples. In fact,

the Region was the first to promote WHO country cooperation strategies, which guide WHO on how best to support national health development according to the challenges, strengths and strategic priorities of the country.

In the case of Myanmar, WHO began working with the country soon after its independence in 1948. WHO introduced the modality of country cooperation strategies in 2000, since when Myanmar has been experiencing significant transitions, including in health. Therefore, it is the right time to develop a new country cooperation strategy, for the period 2014–2018, to take into account lessons learnt and chart the health challenges ahead.

Linked to the national health plan, the process of the development of the new country cooperation strategy involved close consultation with the Ministry of Health, as well as United Nations agencies, development partners, nongovernmental organizations and civil society. This is important since stakeholders have a part to play in complementing the efforts of the Ministry of Health to address emerging health needs and priorities of the country. WHO's corporate contribution aims to supplement and support the health development efforts spearheaded by the Ministry of Health in Mvanmar.

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