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CHALLENGE TB



Challenge TB - Burma

Year 1

Quarterly Monitoring Report

April – June 2015

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Cover photo: *Training for Volunteers of Da-La Township and Sait-Kyee-Kha-Naung-To Township, organized by Myanmar Health Assistant Association (MHAA) under funding of 3MDG (See page 3 for more details). (Credit: Ko Kyaw Ye Naing)*

1. Quarterly Overview

Country	Burma
Lead Partner	FHI360
Other partners	KNCV
Workplan timeframe	October 2014 – September 2015
Reporting period	April – June 2015

Most significant achievements:

Project Start-up: This was the first quarter since the project was approved by the donor; much of the work that was done was administrative in nature. This included: identifying and hiring project staff: Technical Officer PPM and Special Populations, Technical Officer (M&E and Strategic Information), Technical Officer (Prevention and Care), Finance / Administrative Officer, Financial Officer, and Logistics Officer. The remaining position that has not been filled is for a Laboratory Technical Officer.

Financial staff were sent for training at the regional FHI360 office in Bangkok; an office for the project was selected, equipping the office, and preparing the office for the start of the project. In addition, staff travelled to The Hague to participate in the Country Directors meeting.

Support for the National Strategic Plan: The major achievement of the quarter was Challenge TB (CTB) support for development of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Burma (2016-2020). A CTB consultant worked closely with National TB Program (NTP) counterparts, WHO, and other partners to initiate the NSP process. The outline for the NSP is completed and the various sections are drafted and undergoing review prior to national level in-country TSG review and revision of the NSP draft if required which is scheduled to start in August. Final completion and approval of the NSP is not expected until 2016, the next USAID fiscal year.

PMDT: Currently 3 local partners of the regional USAID CAP-TB Project are expanding the CAP-TB model in Yangon Region of Burma with the support of 3 MDG funding. The Challenge TB Project has provided trainers to support the expansion of this model of support for outpatient treatment.

Technical staff from the Challenge TB team provided technical assistance to the NTP for PMDT scale up in Yangon by contributing to a training of trainers (TOT) for NTP and Yangon City Health staff who are rolling out the CAP-TB model.

In addition, Challenge TB staff supported training activities for community volunteers from local partners that are providing evening DOTS for MDR-TB patients. The scope of training provided to the volunteers who attended the training includes: (1) directly observed treatment to MDR-TB patients (2) monitoring side effects and timely referral (3) health education on TB and MDR-TB including training on infection control measures for patients and family members, (4) contact screening, (5) psychological support and counselling.

Technical/administrative challenges and actions to overcome them:

While, the FHI 360 Burma Country Director worked with national authorities to attain approval of the project to allow for activities to formally start. At the time the quarter closed the formal in-

country approval to conduct activities was still pending. This approval is for the project as a whole and once received will not need to be reviewed until three years have passed unless the nature of project activities changes.

While formal government project approval is pending, it is an administrative challenge to organize and conduct the regular background work needed to enable project activities to start rapidly as soon as approval is received. Only national level activities are being approved by the NTP director; lower level planning can't take place as officials at this level will not discuss pending activities until they can see the formal project approval. The project has explored all avenues to accelerate the approval; at this point the team must wait for the process to take its course.

To organize for upcoming activities, project staff are communicating with the international technical consultants planned to provide STTA during the first year of the project. ToRs are being prepared and vetted with national partners to aid the approval process in-country and to allow activities to be tentatively scheduled.

In terms of human resources, the project also faced challenges to hire a high-level Laboratory Technical Officer. While some candidates were identified, securing a strong candidate has been a challenge. For this reason, the Challenge TB Project team is considering other options to fill this position. This is a key challenge because of the importance of the planned laboratory strengthening activities.

2. Year 1 activity progress

Sub-objective 1. Enabling environment1. Enabling environment							
Planned Key Activities for the Current Year	Activity #	Planned Milestones			Milestone status	Milestone met? (Met, partially, not met)	Remarks (reason for not meeting milestone or other key information)
		Oct 2014-Mar 2015	Apr-Jun 2015	Jul-Sep 2015	April – June 2015		
PPM Assessment	1.1.1	N/A	Consultant identified and hired	NSA conducted and report shared with NTP, WHO and other stakeholder; Availability assessed of data for cost effectiveness analysis; Scale-up plan developed and townships selected.	Identification and hiring of consultant were already finished in June 2015.	Met	<p>It was discussed and agreed with Technical Advisor (Camille Saade) from FHI360 headquarters will visit Burma for three weeks in September, 2015.</p> <p>Background information has been provided to the consultant and a discourse has started to provide him more information prior to his arrival in-country.</p>
Private and Public Hospital DOTS	1.1.3	N/A	N/A	Plan for engagement developed and tools designed; Hospital sites selected (5 private and	N/A	N/A	Tied to activity 1.1.1

				5 public)			
Baseline KAP survey	1.2.1	N/A	KAP survey designed	Baseline KAP Survey conducted	KAP survey has not been designed yet.	Not met	It was delayed because Challenge TB team was only hired in June 2015. However, it was already discussed and agreed with NTP. Now, findings, design and expenses of previous nationwide KAP survey done in 2012-2013 are under review.

Sub-objective 2. Comprehensive, high quality diagnostics2. Comprehensive, high quality diagnostics							
Planned Key Activities for the Current Year	Activity #	Planned Milestones			Milestone status	Milestone met? (Met, partially, not met)	Remarks (reason for not meeting milestone or other key information)
		Oct 2014-Mar 2015	Apr-Jun 2015	Jul-Sep 2015	April – June 2015		
Strengthen TB laboratory capacity from national level to periphery	2.1.1	N/A	Lab assessment conducted and final report shared with NTRL and NTP	TA provided to NTRL to revise Myanmar TB Diagnosis Expansion Plan	This activity was already discussed and agreed with Technical Advisor (Kathleen England) from PMU, and travel itinerary was already prepared for conducting lab assessment in coming weeks.	Partially met	It was delayed for two reasons: 1) The primary reason because the NTP Manager noted staff would not be available to work with the consultant until August. 2) In addition, Technical Officer (Lab) initially selected could not be hired and this person should also participate throughout the assessment.

Sub-objective 3. Patient-centered care and treatment							
Planned Key Activities for the Current Year	Activity #	Planned Milestones			Milestone status	Milestone met? (Met, partially, not met)	Remarks (reason for not meeting milestone or other key information)
		Oct 2014-Mar 2015	Apr-Jun 2015	Jul-Sep 2015	April – June 2015		
Improve TB services for cross-border migrants	3.2.3	N/A	Funding levels assessed	Forum on TB services for cross border migrants conducted	This activity was not started yet.	Not met	It was delayed because Challenge TB team was only on board in June 2015.
Strengthen capacity of ethnic health authorities for TB control	3.2.4	N/A	Openness of ethnic health authorities to engage in TB care and prevention capacity building assessed	Openness of ethnic health authorities to engage in TB care and prevention capacity building assessed	This activity was not accomplished yet.	Partially met	However, discussion with International Rescue Committee (IRC) which is a lead partner of Project for Local Empowerment (PLE) working with Myanmar migrants along the Thai-Myanmar border are planned during the first week of July 2015.
Strengthen capacity of national partners in PMDT and community-based DOTS	3.2.5	N/A	TA provided for ongoing capacity building for local partners	Site visit concluded and PMDT Training Conducted.	Technical assistance including regular trainings to the community volunteers of three local partners (Pyi Gyi Khin, MMA and MHAA) was provided.	Met	Challenge TB technical Staff supported CAP-TB Project training as trainers.

Sub-objective 5. Infection control5. Infection control							
Planned Key Activities for the Current Year	Activity #	Planned Milestones			Milestone status	Milestone met? (Met, partially, not met)	Remarks (reason for not meeting milestone or other key information)
		Oct 2014-Mar 2015	Apr-Jun 2015	Jul-Sep 2015	April – June 2015		
Review of NTP Infection control guideline	5.1.1	N/A	N/A	Analysis of IC practices and guidelines conducted	N/A	Partially met	The guideline was sent to the consultant for review prior to the upcoming visit (Schedule Aug. 3-13)

Sub-objective 7. Political commitment and leadership7. Political commitment and leadership							
Planned Key Activities for the Current Year	Activity #	Planned Milestones			Milestone status	Milestone met? (Met, partially, not met)	Remarks (reason for not meeting milestone or other key information)
		Oct 2014-Mar 2015	Apr-Jun 2015	Jul-Sep 2015	April – June 2015		
Development of the National Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and accompanying costed Operational Plan: 2016-2020.	7.1.1	N/A	Support to NTP for development of NSP and operational plan provided	Support to NTP for development of NSP and operational plan provided	External consultant (Dr. Christy Hanson) supported by FHI360 participated in National Lab Evaluation Meeting, National NTP Annual Review Workshop, and led National Strategic and Operational Plan Workshop in Myanmar during May 2015.	Met	Dr. Christy Hanson is now working on it. A second trip is scheduled for early August. During that trip it is expected that small technical working groups will meet and begin reviewing and, if necessary, adapting the different sections of the National Strategic and Operational Plan 2016-2020. Finalization and MoH approval is only expected during APA2 (Q2).

3. Challenge TB's support to Global Fund implementation in Year 4

Current Global Fund TB Grants

Name of grant & principal recipient (i.e., Tuberculosis NFM - MoH)	Average Rating*	Current Rating	Total Approved Amount	Total Disbursed to Date	Total expensed (if available)
Tuberculosis NFM - UNOPS	A	A1	US\$ 129,982,450	US\$ 82,517,846	US\$ 77,729,621
Includes: SCF and UNOPS (2014)			10,043,468	9,416,856	9,077,933

* Since January 2010

In-country Global Fund status - key updates, current conditions, challenges and bottlenecks

Currently the Global Fund grants have high ratings. The MoH would like to become principal recipient within the next year but there are extensive cash disbursements which take place throughout the country. These disbursements require large staffing levels (~1200 persons) to handle the disbursements. Given this situation and other management-related issues it is unlikely that the government in Myanmar will be able to become the Principal recipient until at least 2017.

Challenge TB & Global Fund - Challenge TB involvement in GF support/implementation, any actions taken during this reporting period

There were no specific Global Fund-related activities this quarter. Note: The work on the NSP will support the work of all agencies working on TB prevention and treatment.

4. Success Stories – Planning and Development

Planned success story title:	Story not yet identified but potential stories are expected to emerge from all components of the project.
Sub-objective of story:	Choose an item.
Intervention area of story:	Choose an item.
Brief description of story idea:	
Status update:	

5. MDR-TB cases detected and initiating second line treatment in country

Quarter	Number of MDR-TB cases detected	Number of MDR-TB cases put on treatment	Comments:
Total 2010	192	192 (100%)	<p>Not attributed to Challenge TB.</p> <p>Note: In Burma, all RR TB Cases are immediately started on a 2nd line regimen and considered to be MDR-TB cases. At the recommendation of the GLC FLD DST is no longer conducted thus if cases were not H resistant this would not be noted.</p>
Total 2011	690	163 (23.6%)	
Total 2012	778	442 (56.8%)	
Total 2013	1,984	1,537 (77.5%)	
Total 2014	2,076	1,537 (74%)	
Jan-Mar 2015	644	467 (72%)	
Apr-Jun 2015	Not available yet	Not available yet	
Jul-Sep 2015			
Oct-Dec 2015			
Total 2015			

6. Challenge TB-supported international visits (technical and management-related trips)

#	Partner	Activity Code	Name	Purpose	Planned month, year	Status (cancelled, pending, completed)	Dates completed	Duration of the visit (# of days)	Debrief presentation received	Summary report received	Final report received	Additional Remarks (Optional)
1	FHI360	12.1	Jackie Mcpherson	Technical Visit	Feb. 2015	Completed	-	-	-	-	-	Conducted on FHI Funds as project was not yet approved.
2	FHI360	7.1.1	Christy Hanson	NSP Development (Two trips)	Q1	Complete	1 st visit complete June 4, 2015	13 days	Yes	Yes	No	Final Report will be written when activity is complete.
3	FHI360	00.1	Tom Mohr	Country Directors Meeting (Hague)	Q1	Complete	June 6 th , 2015	8 days	No	Yes	Yes	Just a Mission Report was filed
4	FHI360	00.2	Phyo San Win	Country Directors Meeting (Hague)	Q1	Complete	June 6 th , 2015	8 days	No	Yes	Yes	Just a Mission Report was filed
5	FHI360	00.3	Kimberly Booher	Country Directors Meeting (Hague)	Q1	Complete	June 6 th , 2015	8 days	No	No	No	As the above reports covered the same topic those submissions were sufficient to cover the necessary information.
6	FHI360	12.1	Carol Hamilton	To provide TA for work plan development for Year 2;	Q2	Complete	July 12-17	5 days	N/A	Yes	N/A	Cost Shared

7	FHI360	12.1	Kimberly Booher	To provide TA for work plan development for Year 2.	Q2	Complete	July 11-17	5 days	N/A	Pending	N/A	
8	KNCV	12.1	Kathleen England	To provide TA for work plan development for Year 2.	Q2	Complete	July 13-18	5 days	N/A	Pending	N/A	
9	FHI360	1.1	Camille Saad	PPM Assessment	Q2	Pending	Scheduled for Sept.	21 Days	No	No	No	Pending
10	FHI360	4.2	TBD	Social Determinants	Q3	Pending			Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
11	FHI360	8.2	TBD	Global Fund Grant Preparation	Q2	Pending			Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Support needed at a later stage of the process. Discussions with UNAIDS on timing underway.
12	FHI360	7.1	TBD	Development of costed Operational Plan	Q3	Pending			Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
13	KNCV	2.1	Kathleen England	Lab Assessment, LSP development ...	Q1 (Two Trips)	Pending			Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Initial Trip rescheduled for reasons outlined above.
14	KNCV	5.1	Max Meis	Conduct an assessment of TB-IC Guidelines, work practices, develop scale-up and M&E plan, review and revise training materials, conduct	Q1	Pending			Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Scheduled pending International Health Department (IHD) approval.

				TOT.								
15	KNCV	4.1	Max Meis	CI Assessment, Scale-up Plan	Q3	Pending			Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
16	KNCV	9.1	Agnes Gebhart	Engage with NTP and key stakeholders and develop a trajectory for introduction of new drug and regimens under international approved standards.	Q2 (Two Trips)	Pending			Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Scheduled /IHD Approval Pending
17	KNCV	3.2	Steven Graham	Assess Quality of Care among risk groups (Two Trips)	Q3	Pending						
Total number of visits conducted (cumulative for fiscal year)							8					
Total number of visits planned in approved workplan							16*** (Includes 3 Ad Hoc requests)					
Percent of planned international consultant visits conducted							50%***					

Note: The calculations in Table 6 are based on the estimated number of trips planned to be conducted in the first two quarters of the approved plan (e.g. Q3 and Q4) of USAID's fiscal year. If taking into account the entire approved work plan that overlaps two fiscal periods the total number of trips planned was 18 of which 27.8% have been conducted by the close of the 3rd Quarter.