PATH’s work in Myanmar

PATH has been contributing to Myanmar’s healthcare transformation since 2012 and supports the government’s commitment to achieve universal health coverage by 2030. PATH works with the government, non-governmental actors, private sectors, community organizations, local organizations, international organizations, and UN agencies to leverage partnerships, policy advocacy, new technologies, and innovative approaches to address inequities in key health areas: nutrition, vaccines and immunization, sexual and reproductive health, infectious diseases, emerging diseases, and non-communicable diseases.

PATH develops and implements new approaches to prevent, manage, and eliminate infectious diseases; detect and control emerging infectious diseases; prepare for potential pandemics; and address the challenges of Malaria, Tuberculosis (TB), HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and COVID-19.

PATH provides technical support to implement innovative solutions, institutionalize sustainable engagement models, strengthen surveillance, train health workers and collect and analyze data for these diseases. This helps to generate accurate and reliable data for decision-making that policy makers can use to improve program management towards elimination or control of these diseases.

Myanmar has a high prevalence of infectious diseases, with rates of HIV and TB the second highest in Southeast Asia. PATH introduced and optimized the usage of artificial intelligence (AI)-augmented chest X-rays to facilitate TB screening and developed gender-responsive interventions for TB care and control. PATH initiated new diagnostics tools like TrueNat in primary care settings and hard-to-reach areas and designed and deployed private sector engagement (PSE) models in HIV/TB service provision.

PATH works with the Ministry of Health to align adaptable, interoperable digital technologies with local health needs and brings partners together to develop, scale digital technologies and make better use of better data, and strengthen local capacity to implement and manage digital health programs.

Under diagnostics development, PATH has been instrumental in developing diagnostics for malaria elimination and point of care diagnostic for detection of G6PD deficiency and advancing several different types of rapid diagnostic tests for G6PD deficiency, including quantitative biosensor.

PATH has also supported Global Health Security (GHS) through nationwide surveillance and review of the existing guidelines and procedures for COVID-19 and Influenza.
Projects under Infectious Disease Program

**Pathway to Vivax Elimination (PAVE)**

PATH supports Myanmar in adopting new and existing tools and approaches of the new *P. vivax* and helped optimize radical cure (ORC) tools and G6PD testing and vivax adherence strategy. PATH completed areview of the pharmacovigilance system to understand the changes needed for tafenoquine (TQ) adoption. PATH supports national programs and malaria implementing partners in the country to implement tools to support better radical cure, determine the feasibility of the use of G6PD analyzers at the community level. PATH also ensures market analytics and learning to make data-driven and well-informed decisions by undertaking malaria commodities procurement, supply chain, and distribution analysis mapping.

**Geographic areas:** Nay Pyi Taw (Central)

**President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI) - DigitalCommunity Health Initiative (DCHI)**

PATH supports to develop country-level capacity, perform analysis of national digital health architecture, prioritize opportunities for improvement, and address identified gaps.

PATH developed Myanmar’s country profile for digital health, a roadmap for the transition of paper-based malaria reporting into digital, strengthen malaria surveillance, monitoring and evaluation, and optimized data flow for current malaria surveillance through implementation assistance and existing digital health applications.

**Geographic areas:** Nationwide

**President’s Malaria Initiative Eliminate Malaria (PMI-EM)**

PATH supports in designing, implementing, and enabling surveillance and response systems for malaria elimination to interrupt transmission and prevent the re-establishment of indigenous *P. falciparum*. PATH provides technical assistance for the assessment of emergency response capability and developing a strategy for malaria outbreak detection and response system. PATH supports to assess township’s feasibility to develop an approach for the prevention of re-introduction and re-establishment.

PATH introduces new tools and approaches in Malaria treatment by generating and making available high-quality evidence for implementation and scale-up; optimized radical cure for *P. Vivax*.

**Geographic areas:** Rakhine, Tanintharyi, Kayin, Sagaing (PMI-EM’s coverage areas)

**USAID HIV/TB Agency, Information and Services (AIS)**

PATH provides technical assistance to AIS partners for TB, and innovation in TB and HIV; designing delivery models along with the implementing partners to optimize TB case detection, management, and care, and to increase access to PrEP; and facilitating revision and updating of existing guidelines on diagnosis and treatment of TB and PrEP delivery models to fit with global advancements. This project focuses on the introduction and optimization of CXR CAD in systematic TB screening; expanding of access to TrueNat in the hard-to-reach area; enhancing TB case finding by a screen-for-all approach; differentiated models for PrEP; strengthening private sector engagement.

**Geographic areas:** Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing, Kachin, Shan (AIS’s coverage areas)

**TB REACH Wave 10**

PATH introduced a private provider interface agency (PPIA) model in Myanmar which is successful in India led by PATH became a cost-effective approach to achieving sustainable health and social impact. It is the foundation of health systems that put people first, address diverse health needs, and leave no one behind.

PATH focuses on strengthening people-centered care by setting up a comprehensive patient support system providing all possible services for the diagnosis and treatment of TB integrated with Diabetes, COVID-19, mental health, HIV, and Hepatitis screening facilitated by PPIA. This project aims to integrate tuberculosis (TB) services among private providers to increase TB notification and improve treatment outcomes.

**Geographic areas:** Yangon

**Rapid Assessment of Chemsex Situation**

PATH conducted a rapid assessment to explore the extent of Chemsex practice among young MSM, young TGW, and general youth populations, including current practices, motivating factors, and harms associated with Chemsex engagement. It also aims to understand the landscape of HIV and other health interventions tailored for people who engage in Chemsex.

**Geographic areas:** Yangon, Mandalay

**Way forward**

With decades of experience in working towards tackling infectious diseases, we continue to advance measures to improve testing, detection, and prevention of infectious diseases. We look forward to work with our partners to accelerate progress towards eradicating these diseases in Myanmar.