

# **Role of private sector in Myanmar's health care system: Implications for health sector reform**

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## **Main sources of health care in Myanmar:**

**Public health facilities**

**Private care Providers**

**NGOs**

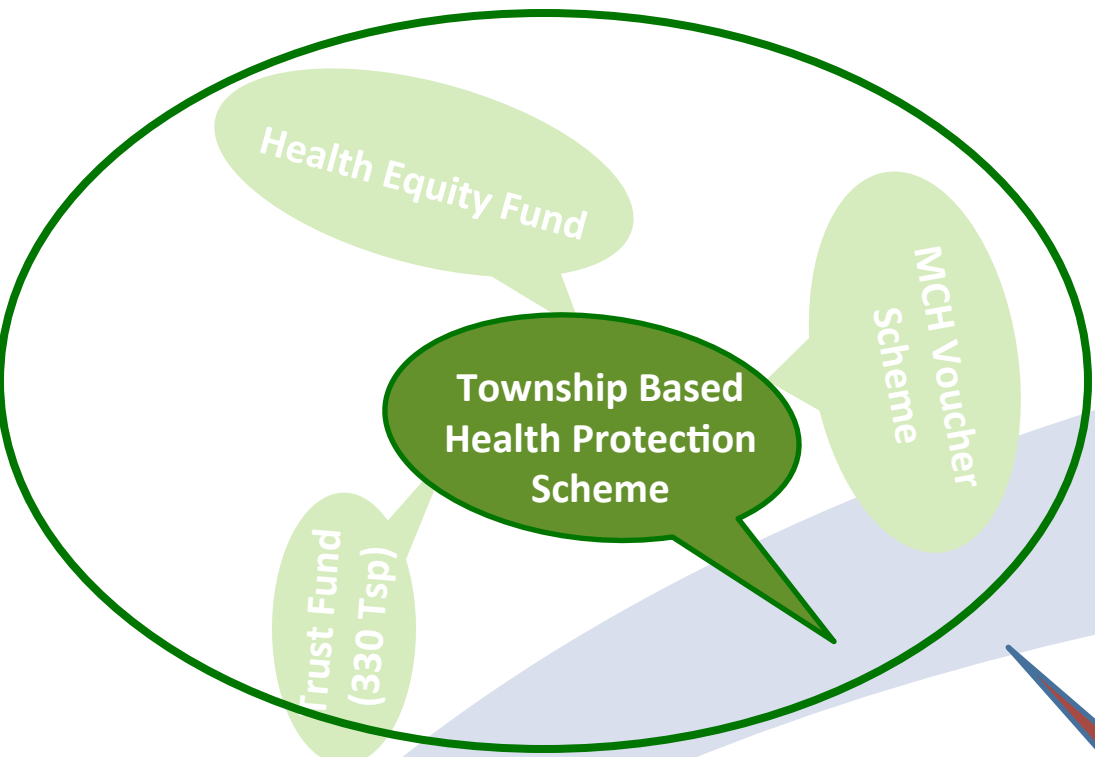
**Private providers are involved in the provision of ambulatory care in some townships and institutional care in large cities**

# Background

**The Government of Myanmar and development partners considering various compulsory and voluntary social health insurance schemes and social assistance programs in order to achieve universal health coverage**

**The options being considered include:**

**increased tax-based financing,  
Township-based health protection scheme,  
Expansion of social health insurance and  
Private health insurance.**



Health Insurance Law

Private Health Insurance

50 %

2022

Expansion of Social Health Insurance

Social Assistants given by CBOs

<5 %

Increased tax based financing - 4 fold higher (330 Tsp)

2012

**Policy-makers need to understand the role and relative importance of public-and private-sector health care providers in the design, resource allocation and implementation of universal health coverage strategies**

## **Objective:**

**To assess the importance of private sector in providing outpatient and inpatient services for the treatment of common illnesses and hospitalisation**

## **Methods:**

**A cross-sectional survey was conducted in two townships of Myanmar in 2011**

**Data were collected from 1,382 households with a population of 7,896 on out-of-pocket expenditure**

## **Data Collection:**

**Use of public and private health facilities for common illnesses and hospitalisation**

**Expenditure for related health care**

## **Data Analysis:**

**Descriptive Analysis**

**Care seeking by sources of care**

**Average expenditure for different categories**

# Findings

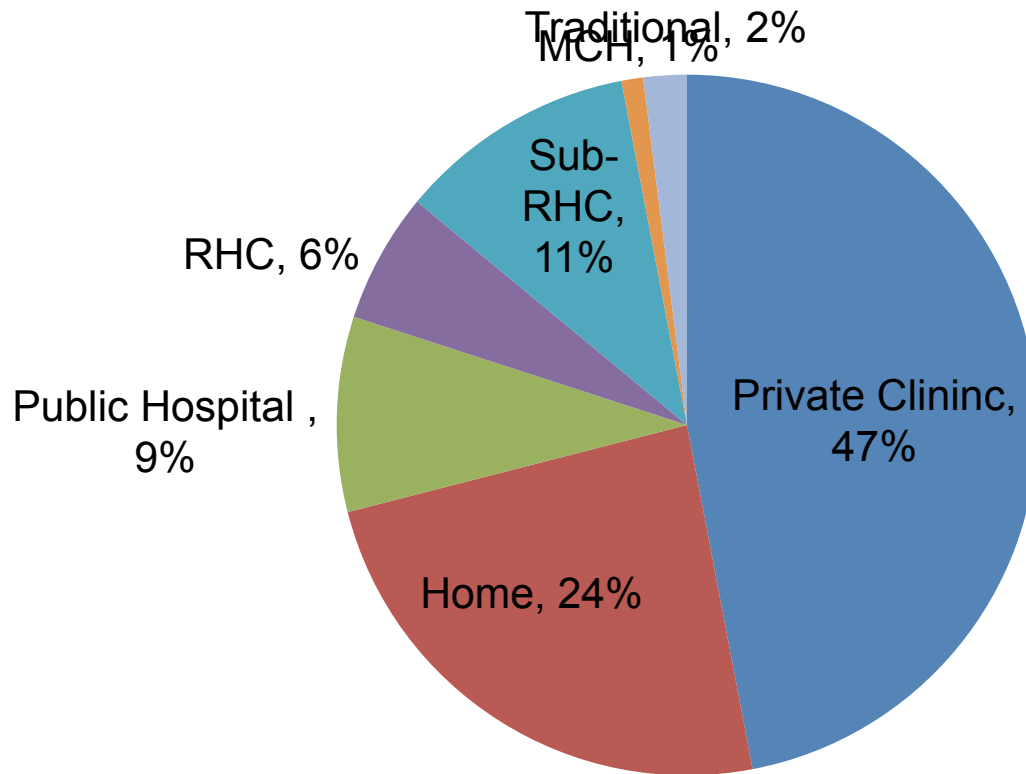
**For most recent episode of a common illness**

**61% of survey respondents reported seeing health care providers and 47% of them sought care from private clinics**

**About 2.4% of the study population was hospitalised and private sector was the source of 28.7% of all hospital admissions**



# Utilization of health services for common illness by type of facility (1,569 cases)



## Common illnesses (out-patient) Mean expenses per visit (Kyat)

|                                 | <b>Transportation<br/>(round trip)</b> | <b>Consultation<br/>&amp; drugs</b> | <b>Other cost<br/>(Tests/meals)</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Home</b>                     | <b>142 (3.8%)</b>                      | <b>3096 (83)</b>                    | <b>455 (13.2)</b>                   | <b>3693</b>  |
| <b>Hospital</b>                 | <b>8336 (41)</b>                       | <b>10863 (53)</b>                   | <b>1019 (16)</b>                    | <b>20218</b> |
| <b>RHC</b>                      | <b>1031 (32)</b>                       | <b>1349 (42)</b>                    | <b>824 (26)</b>                     | <b>3204</b>  |
| <b>Sub RHC</b>                  | <b>2638 (54)</b>                       | <b>1874 (39)</b>                    | <b>3397 (7)</b>                     | <b>4849</b>  |
| <b>MCH Centre</b>               | <b>2463 (56)</b>                       | <b>1357 (31)</b>                    | <b>571 (13)</b>                     | <b>4391</b>  |
| <b>Traditional<br/>Medicine</b> | <b>3534 (30)</b>                       | <b>6630 (57)</b>                    | <b>1474 (13)</b>                    | <b>11638</b> |
| <b>Private clinic</b>           | <b>4715 (33)</b>                       | <b>9020 (62)</b>                    | <b>698 (5)</b>                      | <b>14433</b> |

**1 USD = 974 Kyats, July 2013**

## Mean cost per hospitalization (Kyat) and number of admissions)

|                               | <b>Township<br/>hospital</b> | <b>Station<br/>Hospital</b> | <b>District<br/>Hospital</b> | <b>Yangon<br/>General<br/>Hospital</b> | <b>Private<br/>Hospital</b> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>N</b>                      | <b>47</b>                    | <b>46</b>                   | <b>10</b>                    | <b>19</b>                              | <b>49</b>                   |
| <b>Consultation</b>           | <b>9021</b>                  | <b>0</b>                    | <b>16167</b>                 | <b>4545</b>                            | <b>117956</b>               |
| <b>Drugs</b>                  | <b>90714</b>                 | <b>78456</b>                | <b>169500</b>                | <b>567062</b>                          | <b>217158</b>               |
| <b>Investigation<br/>fees</b> | <b>2676</b>                  | <b>1355</b>                 | <b>0</b>                     | <b>123045</b>                          | <b>21197</b>                |
| <b>Surgical fees</b>          | <b>51054</b>                 | <b>20455</b>                | <b>6667</b>                  | <b>13636</b>                           | <b>95697</b>                |
| <b>Meals (patient)</b>        | <b>10737</b>                 | <b>16286</b>                | <b>10333</b>                 | <b>11317</b>                           | <b>23129</b>                |
| <b>Gift/Donation</b>          | <b>5890</b>                  | <b>6121</b>                 | <b>5000</b>                  | <b>10800</b>                           | <b>5711</b>                 |
| <b>Transportation</b>         | <b>11019</b>                 | <b>125683</b>               | <b>397250</b>                | <b>922858</b>                          | <b>782685</b>               |
| <b>Others</b>                 | <b>3361</b>                  | <b>1701</b>                 | <b>667</b>                   | <b>57318</b>                           | <b>15813</b>                |

**1 USD = 974 Kyats, July 2013**

# Findings

**Consultations at hospitals, private clinics and with traditional medicine practitioners were found to be the most expensive since these facilities are located only at the township level**

**Average cost of outpatient services for common illness was USD 23.78 and USD 16.98 for the public and the private sectors respectively**

**Average hospitalization cost per discharge, however, was much higher for the private sector (USD 920.9) than that in the public sector (USD 249.87)**

# Conclusions

**In Myanmar private sector plays an important role in health care delivery and a significant proportion of total health expenses is due to out-of-pocket expenses**

**Achieving universal health coverage will probably be more effective and efficient if the Government considers inclusion of vibrant private sector in planning health care provision and delivery for the population**

**The findings have implications in health financing and health systems policy-making and particularly in the health systems strengthening in Myanmar**

# Acknowledgement

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**Thank You**