

No. 1588

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
and
BURMA**

Agreement concerning a plan of operations for WHO malaria control demonstration project at Myitkyina, Burma. Signed at Rangoon, on 1 June 1951, and at New Delhi, on 13 June 1951

Official text: English.

Registered by the World Health Organization on 11 December 1951.

**ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
et
BIRMANIE**

Accord concernant un plan d'opérations pour un programme de démonstrations de lutte antipaludique à Myitkyina (Birmanie). Signé à Rangoon, le 1^{er} juin 1951, et à New-Delhi, le 13 juin 1951

Texte officiel anglais.

Enregistré par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé le 11 décembre 1951.

No. 1588. AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA CONCERNING A PLAN OF OPERATIONS FOR WHO MALARIA CONTROL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AT MYITKYINA, BURMA. SIGNED AT RANGOON, ON 1 JUNE 1951, AND AT NEW DELHI, ON 13 JUNE 1951

Preface:

This plan of operations for the Malaria Control Demonstration project at Myitkyina, Burma, is submitted in support of the request for WHO assistance for this project.

The Malaria Situation:

Malaria is prevalent in all parts of Burma. It is seasonal in the central and deltaic regions, but epidemic outbreaks occur in the dry regions when rains are belated till November. The most affected and hyper-endemic regions are the Shan Plateau and the Northern hill regions.

According to Dr. U Tin, who was Malariologist to the Government of Burma for a period of some 15 years, there are about 5,000,000 cases of malaria per year in a population of 17,000,000 and the registered annual deaths from malaria vary from 6,000 to 10,000, which means very probably about ten times more of actual deaths due to this disease.

On the basis of five working days lost per patient per year, and five million cases of malaria per year, the annual working days loss is estimated at 25 million rupees. Further the indirect loss in lives, economic output and physical and mental fitness from malaria is estimated at one hundred million rupees.

Malaria surveys have been carried out in 22 localities and in some of them the spleen rates have been 90 to 100 %. Malaria is found to be a definite hindrance to the development of the hilly regions.

Twenty-nine species of anopheles have been identified and of these 9 have been found infected, viz., *Minimus*, *Culicifacies*, *Maculatus*, *Aconitus*, *Sundaicus*, *Stephensi*, *Annularis*, *Philippinensis* and *Leucosphyrus*.

¹ Came into force on 13 June 1951 by signature.

Malaria Organization:

Burma has been one of the countries of the South East Asia region which was very badly affected by the second world war. The post-war conditions have left the country in a very disturbed state as a result of which effective re-organization of the administration of the country has not been adequately carried out. The Health administration needs accommodation, equipment and supplies and trained personnel for medical and health purposes to a considerable degree.

At the termination of the war, it is reported that there were in the country nine malaria units for residual spraying of DDT, employing army technique. Owing to post-war difficulties, these units would appear to have been disbanded. At the present time, training of sanitary inspectors is being undertaken at the Harcourt Butler Institute where there are also laboratory facilities.

The Malaria Organization consists of:

- (a) Dr. U Ohn Pe, in charge, with
- (b) Dr. Po Myaung, who was recently trained at the Malaria Institute of India, as assistant, and
- (c) two laboratory attendants.

There is no entomologist.

It would be possible to train the sanitary inspectors passed out from the Harcourt Butler Institute in malariology at the demonstration project that is to be set up.

Need for setting up a Malaria Organization and a Training Centre:

It will be noted that there is a definite malaria problem in the country and that there is also no malaria organization to deal effectively with it. The control of the disease is of very great importance in the economic development of the country and for improving the health of the people.

Request of the Government of Burma:

The Government of Burma seeks the assistance of WHO in the establishment of a malaria control demonstration project and a training centre to provide local training for malaria personnel to enable the work of malaria control to be expanded.

Objectives of the demonstration:

- (1) To carry out a preliminary survey, epidemiological and entomological, of the malaria situation.

- (2) To demonstrate modern methods of malaria control, the effectiveness of residual DDT spraying and the method of carrying it out on an economical basis.
- (3) To provide training of parallel staff and to establish a training centre to serve the northern part of Burma.
- (4) To assist the Government in the setting up of a national malaria organization.
- (5) To make use of the confidence and good-will created by the demonstration to get the people to accept a more complete scheme of health protection.

Selection of Demonstration Area :

Owing to disturbed conditions in the country, the more hyper-endemic areas of the Shan States and the Northern hill regions cannot, for the present, be taken up for the demonstration.

Owing to facility of communications and availability of accommodation for office, laboratory, store-rooms and residence of team personnel, the area selected is around Myitkyina in the Kachin State.

Myitkyina is a small town of about 7,000 inhabitants situated in the valley of the Upper Irrawaddy with permanent communications by air, rail, and river with Mandalay and Rangoon. A good network of roads radiates from the town and it is possible to reach about 20 to 30 miles around during the greater part of the year. During the rains, transport by road may be difficult, but transport by boat will reach many places.

Although Myitkyina has improved in healthiness, still there are cases of Blackwater fever and the area surrounding it shows evidence of high spleen rates.

The anopheles that have been found infected here are :

Aconitus
Maculatus
Culicifacies
Philippinensis; and
Minimus.

While there is a population of about 300,000 in the district, there is within a radius of about 10 miles from the town a population of 30,000 and within a radius of 20 to 30 miles the population would be 40,000.

*The Commitments of WHO:*1. *Personnel*

- One Malariologist (Senior Adviser)
- One Entomologist
- One Sanitarian
- One Public Health Nurse
- Some auxiliary personnel for about a year.

} All for a period of
two years ;
and

The international staff, apart from carrying out the survey and demonstration work, will undertake the training of doctors, entomologists and other auxiliary personnel so that the project will not only be a research and demonstration centre, but also a *training centre*. The Government of Burma will delegate to the senior WHO expert the direction of the project to begin with. The senior expert will pass on the direction of the project to the national understudy as soon as practicable.

2. *Fellowships*

- One in Entomology—12 months
- Two for one month in Thailand (for field work)

The Commitments of the Government:

1. The project will be a joint enterprise of WHO and the Government of the Union of Burma, and will be the responsibility of the Burmese Government, which agrees that the request for assistance from WHO implies acceptance of WHO technical guidance of the project ;

2. *Personnel*

The parallel team consisting of the following national staff will be provided:

- 1 Malariologist
- 1 Entomologist
- 1 Health Visitor or PH Nurse
- 1 Senior Sanitary Inspector
- Laboratory assistants
- Insect collectors
- Chauffeurs
- Mechanics
- Office staff
- Spraying squads
- Foremen and labourers

} as required

The Government will provide, as far as possible, against each of the international staff members, Burmese specialist workers of sufficient experience to be able to take over and extend the work after one or two years of training in the field. For this purpose, the Government will keep the national personnel on

assignment with the team as long as it will be necessary for them to acquire experience and the government will, in the case of replacement of any staff member of the national matching personnel, consult the senior adviser, and in the event of transfer, will send the reliever three months in advance of the transfer to enable him to acquire preliminary experience.

3. *Equipment and supplies, including transport*

- (a) The equipment, transport and supplies necessary for the survey and control of malaria work will be provided by the Government according to the specifications and detailed list attached herewith as Appendix I¹. This will include office equipment and supplies as well. (Relates to first year supplies).

These are expected to be provided by Government through ECA.

- (b) Requirements regarding equipment, transport and supplies necessary for the second year of operation will depend upon the experience gained and on the total area to be covered in the second year. These requirements will be submitted to the Government by the Senior Malaria Expert as soon as possible after the completion of the survey and the Government will arrange to supply the same.

- (c) The control operations will start when the supplies, transport and equipment shall have arrived in Myitkyina. Pending their arrival, preliminary survey work will be carried out.

4. *Accommodation*

Accommodation for office, laboratory and stores. As regards residential accommodation, the government will provide free living quarters of an adequate standard to be determined by the Government and the Organization in agreement for staff of the Organization and their dependents at the project headquarters or immediate vicinity.

5. *Field Allowances for project staff of the Organization*

Provision in the local currency of cost of travel subsistence per diem for such staff while travelling on official duties within the country, away from the duty station.

¹ Not published.

6. *Travel*

Provision of first-class transport within the country for each staff member of the Organization assigned to the project while travelling on official duties, including local travel to such points and at such intervals as may be mutually agreed between the Government and the Organization.

The Government shall give continuing support for the administration of programmes undertaken under this plan of operations including the progressive assumption of financial responsibility.

For the purposes of this plan of operations, the Government shall extend to the Organization for the performance of its undertakings under this agreement the privileges and immunities of the Specialized Agencies together with its Annex VII,¹ as approved by the World Health Assembly, and such other privileges and immunities as may be set forth in any separate instrument concluded between the parties hereto.

The provisions of the aforementioned Convention shall not apply to the personnel furnished by the Government, and which are not staff, consultants or employees of the Organization.

The Government shall take suitable measures to protect the Organization against any claims for loss, damage or injury to persons or property resulting from or arising out of the execution of this programme undertaken under this agreement.

Any difference between the Government and the Organization arising out of the interpretation or application of this agreement, which is not settled by negotiation shall be submitted to a Board of three arbitrators; the first to be appointed by the Government, the second by the Director-General of the Organization and the third, the presiding arbitrator, by the President of the International Court of Justice, unless the parties hereto agree to resort to a different mode of settlement.

Plan of Work:

The demonstration will consist of the following:

- (a) a preliminary survey for about six months; this survey will be conducted in the check area as well;
- (b) training of personnel;
- (c) control operations; which will be a large-scale application of residual DDT indoor spraying;

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 33, p. 261; Vol. 43, p. 342; Vol. 46, p. 355; Vol. 51, p. 330; Vol. 71, p. 316; Vol. 76, p. 274; Vol. 79, p. 326; Vol. 81, p. 332; Vol. 84, p. 412; Vol. 88, p. 446; Vol. 90, p. 323; Vol. 91, p. 376; Vol. 92, p. 400; Vol. 96, p. 322; Vol. 101, p. 288; Vol. 102, p. 322; Vol. 109, p. 319, and Vol. 110, p. 314.

(d) a re-survey and evaluation of effectiveness of control.

This plan of operations shall remain in force until two full years after the date of arrival of the staff in Myitkyina.

DONE in triplicate at Rangoon on the first of June, nineteen hundred and fifty one.

(Signed) U BA SEIN

Secretary to the Government of the
Union of Burma
Ministry of Health and Local Govern-
ment

and at New Delhi on the thirteenth of June, nineteen hundred and fifty one.

(Signed) S. F. CHELLAPPAH

Acting Regional Director
World Health Organization