

## PRESS RELEASE

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### USAID Launches New Project on HIV/AIDS

YANGON, Myanmar – On Sunday, February 25, USAID announced the launch of a two-year, \$10 million HIV/AIDS project at a ceremony held in Yangon. The USAID HIV/AIDS Flagship (UHF) Project aims to scale-up HIV prevention, testing and treatment services utilizing NGO and private sector health providers for people living with HIV and key populations: people who inject drugs (PWID), female sex workers (FSW), men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender people (TG).

The project is funded by USAID under the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through UNAIDS Myanmar. UNAIDS is overseeing the project while Community Partners International (CPI) is providing project implementation support and management to five partner organizations: Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN), Medical Action Myanmar (MAM), Médecins du Monde (MDM), Metta Development Foundation (Metta) and Population Services International (PSI). The UHF Project is being implemented in five high-burden areas: Kachin State, Shan State, Sagaing Region, Yangon Region and Mandalay Region.

In Myanmar, key populations bear a disproportionate burden of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. According to Myanmar’s National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS 2016-2020 (HIV NSP III), estimated HIV prevalence rates among PWID, FSW and MSM in Myanmar are 28.5%, 14.6% and 11.6%, respectively; HIV prevalence can also vary depending on geographical regions.

By focusing primarily on outreach and linkage to care, the UHF Project will complement other HIV/AIDS initiatives funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund) and the Three Millennium Development Goal Fund (3MDG). Funding from the UHF Project will enable partner organizations to develop new outreach and adherence strategies including: social media outreach, Common Elements Treatment Approach (CETA) mental health counseling and research on transgender people. The UHF Project will also expand current PWID coverage for methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) and harm reduction services.

The UHF Project aligns with the goals of the HIV NSP III developed by the Ministry of Health and Sports of Myanmar. The HIV NSP III outlines five (90) treatment targets: 90% of people living with HIV know their status; 90% of people living with HIV who know their status receive treatment; 90% of people on treatment have achieved viral suppression; 90% of sex workers, men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, prisoners and migrants have access to combination prevention services; 90% of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV report no discrimination, especially in health, education and workplace settings.

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## USAID HIV/AIDS Flagship (UHF) Project

The UHF Project supports national efforts to achieve an AIDS-free Myanmar. Utilizing NGO and private sector health providers, this two-year project aims to scale up HIV prevention, testing and treatment services for people living with HIV and key populations (KP). The UHF Project is funded by USAID under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through UNAIDS Myanmar, and aligns with the goals of Myanmar's National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS 2016-2020 (HIV NSP III). Community Partners International (CPI) is providing project implementation support and management to five partner organizations: Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN), Medical Action Myanmar (MAM), Médecins du Monde (MDM), Metta Development Foundation (Metta) and Population Services International (PSI).

