

Decolonization of Global Health: A Myanmar NGO Case Study

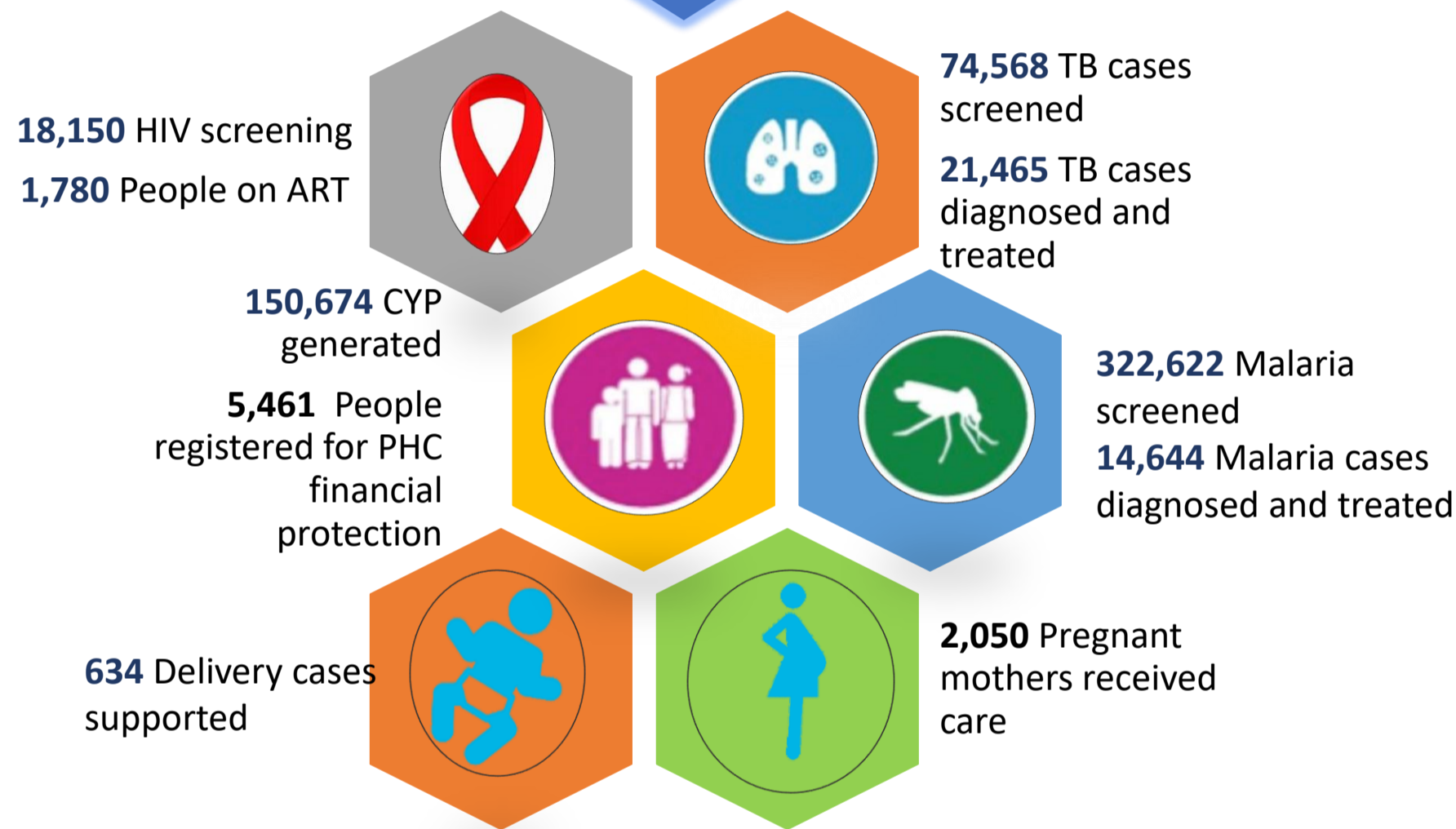
Han Win Htat, Sun Community Health

Background¹: Population Services International (PSI), a US-based NGO has been one of the longest and largest implementing agencies for health in Myanmar since 1995.

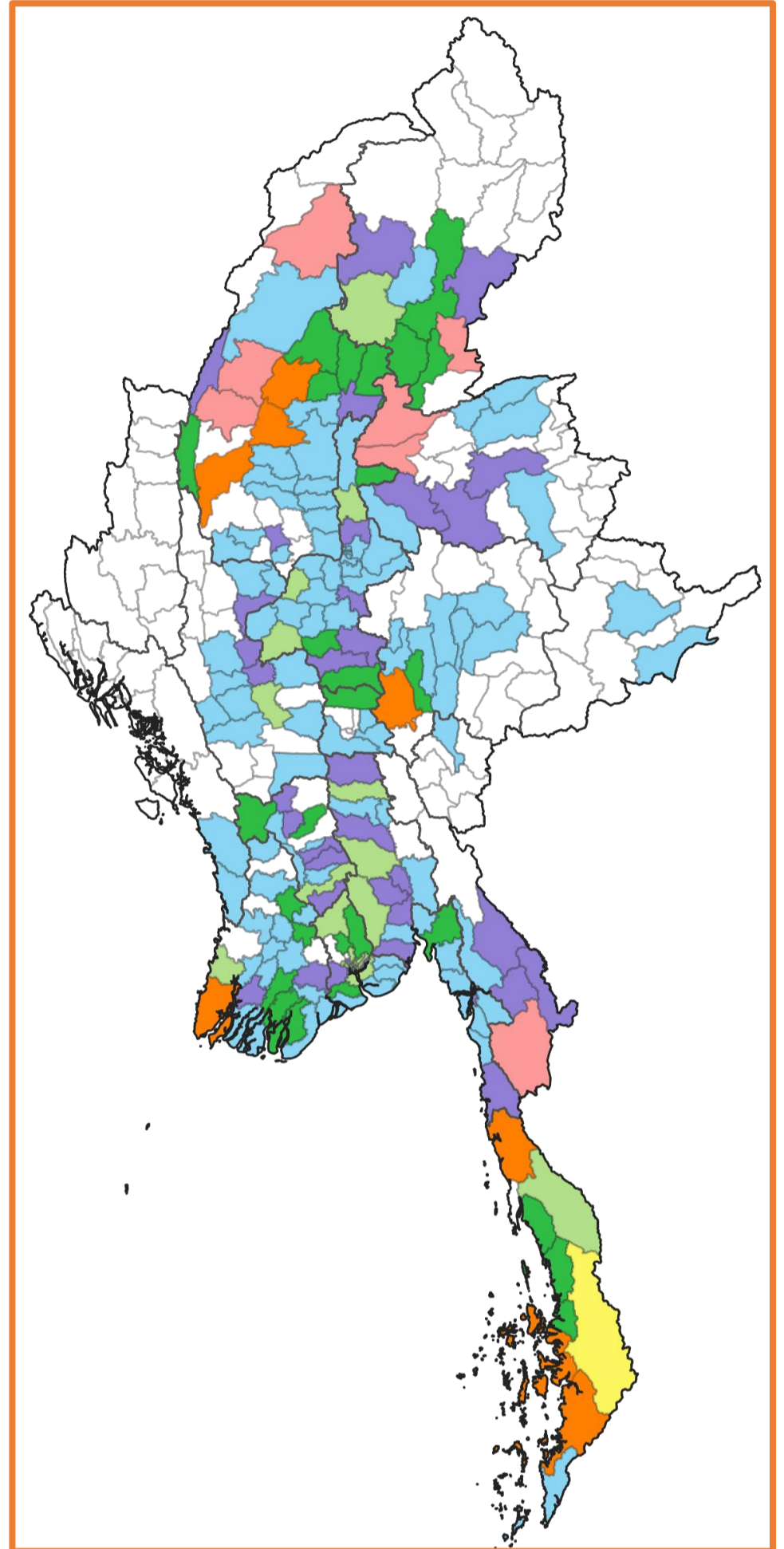
In 2016, given the evolution of funding instruments and trends for localization, PSI has carefully crafted and designed a 5-year deconsolidation plan for its implementing units to become local entities.

Outcome:

PSI's Sun Quality Health, a network of over 1,000 franchised private community clinics and Community Health Services Network with over 5,000 community volunteers have been transitioned to a single local NGO named Sun Community Health (SCH) in January 2022. In 2022, SCH delivered ..



SCH Coverage (2023)



Challenges:

While there are potentials for SCH to become a key contributor to the global health, significant challenges remain ahead as ..

1) Donors tend to be risk-averse with rigorous compliance measures which requires significant support and indirect costs, and for that local NGOs are not eligible to put in the budget

2) Since the general funding support to Myanmar is declined, it becomes harder to sustain the ongoing public health programs while the needs are enormous

3) Organizational capacity building for functions previously covered by international HQ are needed to strengthen

Code	Channel	# of Township
	Volunteer	8
	Volunteer + Private Outlets	1
	Private Outlets	7
	Sun GP	106
	Sun GP + Volunteer	27
	Sun GP + Volunteer + Private Outlets	26
	Sun GP + Private Outlets	39
Total		214

Way Forward

INGOs have been dominant to govern the public health agenda even at the local level for far too long

Time to rethink how the deconsolidation can shapeshift - the sustainable development led by local entities - with the meaningful support of the global community



1. https://www.psi.org/2022/10/psi-myanmars-localization-journey-switching-gears-while-spinning-off-two-new-enterprises/?utm_source=20221006_PSIimpact&utm_medium=&utm_campaign=PSIimpactOctober