



Tel: +66 (0) 97 981 8454, Email: [info@ehssg.org](mailto:info@ehssg.org), Website: [www.ehssg.org](http://www.ehssg.org)

## **ETHNIC HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING GROUP STATEMENT OF THE THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Date. 7 April 2023.

The ethnic health organizations and community based ethnic health organizations from Burma came together for ethnic people to access equal rights on health the Ethnic Health Systems Strengthening Group was formed on 23 December 2015 at a Thai-Burma border area to fulfill the followings;

- To strengthen the ethnic health systems in Burma
- To provide accessible and quality public health care that is acceptable to all without financial burden.
- To upgrade the ethnic and community-based health organizations by implementing projects

The general assembly, with invited representatives from 12 ethnic health organizations and community-based health organizations, advisory members, technicians and management team members, altogether in total of more than 60 people, was successfully carried out from April 3 to 6, 2023. In the meeting, discussion and approval on 2022 activities and financial report as well as review and approval of the strategic plan of EHSSG and lay out the future plans according to the goals set. The reviewing process has undergone on the constitution of EHSSG and the executive body of the steering committee has also formed following the election of new executive members.

Due to the civil war that has been going on in Burma for more than 70 years and the conflicts that intensified after the military coup in 2021, about 2 million ethnic people have been forcibly relocated, living in hiding, their houses were burned and destroyed; and were fleeing from their homes and country. As a result, all the basic rights of the people including those related to health were compromised, where the ethnic people living in the armed conflict areas being the most suffered.

In the current situation, there is no way to end the conflict, and with the civil war that may continue for a long time, it would still remain unpromising to emerge a federal democratic union with full equality and self-determination for ethnic people and to improve the social life of the local people affected by the conflict. Similarly, in the areas where there are intensified military conflict as well as ethnic areas, the basic needs including health care will still high. Therefore, international governments and organizations must provide direct cross-border humanitarian assistance to ethnic health organizations and community-based ethnic health organizations.

EHSSG composed of our ethnic health organizations and community-based ethnic health organizations will not stand any dictatorship. Humanitarian programs that directly benefit the people will be carried out continuously and co-operatively according to the primary goals to promote the strengthening of the ethnic health systems in accordance with the federal democratic system.

Contact:

- 1) Nang Snow +66 872 020 417
- 2) Saw Tha Win +66 992 528 766