



MCH Project Newsletter

Every person has the right to health; to avail of quality health care services and choices.

Maternal and Child Health Project: Issue 1

March 15, 2006–March 30, 2007



JICA & DOH Sign project RD

January 10, 2006

marked the start of the MCH project with the signing of the Record of Discussion (RD) between DOH and JICA. Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III and JICA Resident Representative Shozo Matsuura signed the agreement. Soon after the RD signing, the project was launched in Biliran and Ifugao via inaugural Provincial Execom Meetings presided by Gov. Roger J. Espina and the late Gov. Benjamin C. Cappleman, respectively. The goal of the project – which runs from March 2006 to March 15, 2010 – is to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths by strengthening Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) in the community and medical facilities.



Provincial meetings in Biliran (above) & Ifugao (left)



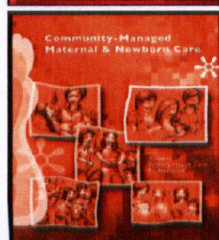
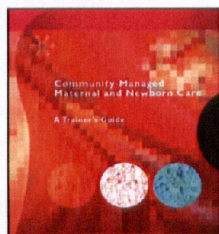
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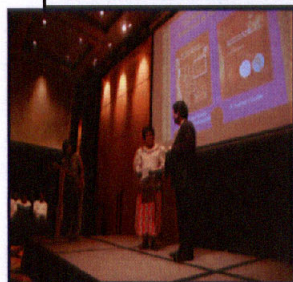
2nd Central Executive Committee (Joint Coordination Committee) meeting held

Highlights of the MCH project's first year accomplishments were presented by the Provincial Health Officers (PHOs) of Biliran and Ifugao during the 2nd Central Executive Committee (Joint Coordination Committee) meeting held at the DOH Secretary of Health conference room on March 13, 2007. Present during the meeting, presided over by DOH Undersecretary Ethelyn Nieto, were NCDPC Director Dr. Oliveros and other DOH representatives, JICA's Deputy Resident Representative, and a representative from the Embassy of Japan.



CMMNC Guidebooks launched

JICA Resident Representative Shozo Matsuura turned over 32,000 copies of the Community Managed Maternal and Newborn Care (CMMNC) Guidebooks to DOH Undersecretary Ethelyn Nieto during the National Launching Ceremony held at Hyatt Hotel Manila on February 22, 2007. The event was attended by 110 representatives from DOH, other government agencies, the academe and other organizations working for the welfare of mothers and newborns. Dr. Nieto emphasized the importance of the Guidebooks in strengthening Emergency Obstetric Care in the country.



➡ The Project has developed a training manual for the CMMNC through the technical assistance of DOH-NCDPC and in cooperation with UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO and Plan International. The CMMNC manual aims to promote the DOH policy of increasing the number of facility-based deliveries nationwide.

Training of Trainers & roll out of CMMNC in project sites

JICA-MCH, in partnership with UNFPA, UNICEF & Plan International, conducted the Training of Trainers for CMMNC from November 6 to 23, 2006. A total of 184 participants from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao completed the 4-day training held in Baguio, Cebu & Davao. After the training, the CMMNC was rolled-out in Ifugao & Biliran (the two JICA-MCH project sites) using the CMMNC Manual.



Dr. Catibog of DOH discusses the Referral System during the TOT on CMMNC for Visayas, held Nov.11-14, 2006 in Cebu City.



Trainings for Skilled Birth Attendants (SBAs: doctors, nurses and midwives)

MCH Training in Japan

Six Health Service Providers were sent to Japan for MCH trainings.

Five HSPs from the two project sites attended the *Maternal & Child Health Counterpart Training*, held in Osaka, Japan from January 30 to February 28, 2007. Dr. Evelyn Garcia (MHO of Almeria) and Dr. Lea Latoja (Newborn Care Coordinator) represented Biliran while Ifugao sent Dr. Jacqueline Kitong (Chief of Tech. Div. IPHO), Dr. Priscilla Pagada (Chief of Hosp. of Mayoyao), Myrna Ancheta (PHN of Alfonso Lista).

Lita Orbillo of NCDPC-DOH attended the *Asian Maternal & Child Health & Welfare Workshop* held in Tokyo, Japan from January 30 to February 24, 2007.

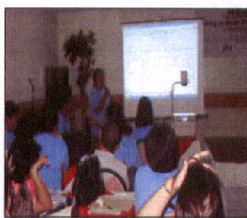
Basic Emergency Obstetric Care (BEmOC) Training

12 SBAs from Ifugao and 25 from Biliran

completed the 11-day BEmOC training held at the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Manila from September 25 to October 5, 2006 (for Ifugao); and at the St.

Anthony Mother & Child Hospital in Cebu from October 16 to 26, 2006 (for Biliran).

The objective of the training is to enhance the knowledge and skills of SBAs and to advance their capacity to provide quality service to pregnant women and their newborns.



Dr. Pedrosa of Culaba, Biliran Province present their plans during the BEmOC Training in Cebu on October 16-26, 2007

Strengthening Field Health Service Information System (FHSIS)

To help strengthen provincial FHSIS, 16 SBAs from the 8 RHUs of Biliran attended the FHSIS Training from September 23 to 27, 2006. The MCH Project has also issued computers to RHUs.



MATERNAL DEATH REVIEW (MDR)

MDR Workshops were conducted in Ifugao and Biliran to respond to the reported cases of Maternal deaths, due largely to hemorrhage, in 2006 (5 in Ifugao and 10 in Biliran). The output of the workshops were action plans prepared by the participants for the implementation of preventive advocacy activities in their respective localities.

Newborn Screening

JICA-MCH Project supported the 2-day NBS Training in Biliran province attended by 20 SBAs & MedTechs from the Biliran Provincial Hospital and 80 SBAs from RHUs last Nov. 23 & 29, 2006.



Blood sample collection during the Newborn Screening Training in Biliran Province on November 23, 2006

Maternal Care Package (MCP) PhilHealth Accreditation

Four Rural Health Units (RHU) from Almeria, Cabucgayan, Biliran and Kawayan municipalities of Biliran Province were given MCP accreditation by PhilHealth as a result of their field assessment held from January 29 to 30, 2007. This has resulted to improvement in their MCH services by increasing facility-based deliveries.

Dissemination of the MCH Baseline Survey

The results of the MCH Baseline survey were released via a Dissemination Forum conducted in each of the project sites. Ifugao held its Forum on January 30, 2007, while Biliran's was on February 2, 2007. The two fora were attended by 80 delegates from Biliran and 250 from Ifugao, representing LGUs (barangay, municipal and provincial levels), DOH-CHD and PHOs, IPHOs, DSWD, DepEd, the church and media (PIA).

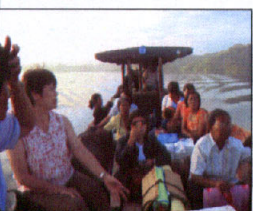
The survey challenged LGUs to commit resources to reduce maternal & neonatal deaths.



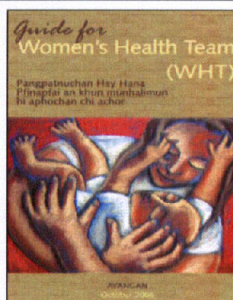
MCH Project Chief Advisor Izumi Murakami during the Baseline Survey Dissemination Forum held in Biliran on February 2, 2007.

Formation of Women's Health Team (WHTs)

A key component of the MCH program, WHTs promote Safe Motherhood and facility-based delivery at the community level. WHTs are composed of Barangay Health Workers, Barangay Nutrition Scholars, Traditional Birth Attendants. Midwives act as team leaders. MHOs or PHNs act as supervisors. Ifugao has 96 WHTs (with 321 members) while Biliran has 221 WHTs (with 700 members). To support promotional efforts for facility-based delivery, Biliran passed Provincial Resolution No. 166 which regulates the activities of TBAs. Intensive community based orientations and trainings were conducted to equip WHT members.

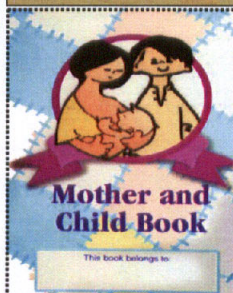


Participants in the Women's Health team Training on their way to a remote area of Aguiñaldo, Ifugao



WHT Guidebooks (Ayangan, Ilocano, Waray & Cebuano)

From the WHT Orientation Module of Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project 2 of World Bank / DOH Project. The MCH project modified the guidebook for Ifugao and Biliran.



Mother and Child Book

The MC Book is given to pregnant women during their pre-natal visits to BHS or RHUs.

The Project reprinted 100,000 copies in support of the Safe Motherhood Program of the DOH.



National and local newspapers featured articles on technical and material assistance received by Ifugao and Biliran for the Japanese Fiscal Year (Apr. 2006-Mar. 2007) 2007

