



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 2

April-September 2007



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Special Feature

"A Baby named JICA"

Biliran receives JICA-donated Maternal and Child Health Care Program related equipment

Biliran Provincial Health Officer (PHO) Dr. Alfonso Veneracion, along with Municipal Health Officer (MHO) Dr. Gloria Ramirez, receives the JICA-supported MCH equipment for Caibiran RHU. The ceremony, held on April 23, 2007, was witnessed by MCH Coordinator Rachel Pangan, RHU staff and Women's Health Team (WHT) members.



3 ambulances turned-over to AMADHS

Former Ifugao Gov. Prudenciano, along with representatives from Alfonso Lista, Mayoyao and Aguinaldo district hospitals, receives three ambulances during the ceremonial turn-over in April 2007 at IPHO,



2nd CAR Health Decision-Maker's Forum held in Baguio

The forum, held from August 29 to 30 and spearheaded by DOH-CHD CAR Director Myrna C. Cabotaje, brought together health officials from different provinces in the region to present their experiences. From Ifugao, Dr. Virginia Dulnuan, Municipal Health Officer of Mayoyao shared their experiences on the *Promotion of Safe Motherhood through the Women's Health Team initiative in partnership with JICA and the LGU*. Meriam Baguidodol, Population Development Officer and Dr. Jojo Odan, provincial SP on health presented the *Ifugao Reproductive Health (RH) Code* to protect the rights of mothers and children.



Biliran hosts Ifugao MCH counterparts

Biliran Gov. Dr. Roger Espina welcomes the MCH Project implementors from Ifugao, headed by Gov. Teddy Baguilat Jr., during their visit to the province last September 2007. In his speech during the Welcome Ceremony, Gov. Espina emphasized that strong political will was the reason for the program's success in Biliran. Gov. Espina added that proof of this strong political will is the passage of Provincial Resolution 166, which regulates the activities of Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) with regard to safe motherhood. During their visit, the Ifugao delegation went to health facilities and interacted with health service providers and members of the Women's Health Teams (WHTs) in Biliran.



Biliran Gov. Dr. Roger Espina poses with Ifugao delegates headed by Gov. Teddy Baguilat Jr. and Dr. Allage of CHD-CAR

8 Biliran RHUs get PhilHealth MCP Accreditation

All eight Rural Health Units of Biliran were accredited under the PhilHealth MCP program. The accreditation entitles RHUs to the P4,500 reimbursement for every normal delivery at each facility and will help immensely in providing quality maternal and child care

EV Regional Stakeholders and Development Partner's Meeting

On July 24, 2007, representatives from Eastern Visayas DOH, PhilHealth, Nutrition Council, POCOM, NEDA and Development Partners (GTZ, JICA, Plan Philippines, Culion Foundation and World Vision) attended the Partner's Meeting held at Ormoc City. The highlights of the meeting were: (a) presentation of achievements on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); (b) re-orientation on FOURmula One and Provincial Plan of Action (PPA) for Health; (c) presentation of accomplishments on Maternal and Child Health; (d) development of Partner's Convergence Strategy/Commitments and; (e) presentation of Regional Monitoring System by NEDA.

Ifugao MCH Baseline Survey results disseminated

Ferdinand Gonzalez, Research Manager of the People's Organization for Social Transformation, presented the MCH Baseline Survey results: *A Situational Analysis on Maternal and Child Health in the 8 municipalities (those not covered by the project) of Ifugao* on July 27, 2007 in Lagawe. It was attended by representatives of the provincial government led by Gov. Teddy Baguilat Jr, mayors and officials of the 8 municipalities, representatives of CHD-CAR, UNFPA and JICA Deputy Resident Representative Mr. Kenzo Iwakami. During the forum Gov. Baguilat emphasized that health is everybody's concern and that the results of the survey be used by implementors of programs at all levels to better the health situation in the entire province. Kenzo Iwakami's said during his speech that JICA appreciates the province's continuous efforts to improve maternal and child health. During the forum, JICA's Iwakami, along with Izumi Murakami, MCH Chief Advisor, were declared as "adopted son and daughter" of Ifugao.



Gov. Baguilat, Vice Gov. Nora, JICA Deputy Resident representative Mr. Iwakami, and other attendees pose for posterity during the Dissemination Forum

MCH Trainings for Skilled Birth Attendants (SBAs)

Basic Emergency Obstetric Care (BEmOC) Training

Thirty-nine skilled birth attendants (doctors, nurses and midwives) from Biliran and Ifugao completed the BEmOC training held at the Fabella Hospital, Manila.

The training was sanctioned by the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS) and facilitated by master trainer Dr. Cynthia Tan.

BEmOC is the core intervention for strengthening emergency obstetric care in health facilities and was designed precisely to prevent maternal deaths. It is a skills base training wherein each participant is required to conduct five normal deliveries.



Skills-Based Training on Lactational Management

From August 28 to 31, 2007, 37 SBAs from Biliran completed the *Skills-based Training on Lactational Management* supported by JICA. The training, held at the East Visayas Medical Center in Tacloban City, was facilitated by the POGS Region 8 Chapter. At the end of the training, each RHU and the Provincial Hospital were able to formulate policies on the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding. Teams were also created for implementation and



Neonatal Mortality Review (NMR)

Thirty SBAs from Biliran participated in the Neonatal Mortality Review held in Tacloban City from July 25 to 28, 2007. Facilitated by the technical staff of the Eastern Visayas Medical Center (EVMC) and DOH-CHD VIII, the review was meant to reduce the number of neonatal death in the province. In 2007, there have been 13 neonatal deaths reported in the province. The output of the review was the formation of NMR Teams and formulation of action plans in each health facility.

WHT Activity: Barangay-based Campaign on Safe Motherhood in Ifugao can also be FUN

WHT members, RHU staff and LGU officials in Alfonso Lista, Mayoyao and Aguinaldo conducted massive barangay-based awareness campaigns on highlighting the importance of safe motherhood programs in the health of the community. The one-day activities were planned by WHT members from each barangay.

Attended by an average of 100 persons per barangay, the activity included

inspirational messages by provincial and municipal officials. Gov. Teddy Baguilat Jr. himself attended the program in Bgys. San Juan and Little Tadian in Alfonso Lista. Structured games, group dynamics, role playing and cultural shows involving community members made the event fun and interesting and aided enormously in raising awareness and mobilizing the communities to achieve ZERO maternal and infant death in



Life Savings Skills (LSS) Training

POGS president Dr. Rogelio P. Mendiola, Master Trainer Dr. Cynthia of the

Fabella Hospital, and MCH Chief Advisor Izumi Murakami awarded certificates to 39 Midwives from Ifugao and Biliran who completed the 6-day Life Saving Skills training. Held from May to September 2007, the training was mainly focused on normal delivery, suture repair and IV insertion.



A baby named JICA

Bry. Butac is one of the far flung villages of Aguinaldo, Ifugao where poor road conditions and lack of access to transportation prevent people from reaching health facilities in times of emergency. These conditions could prove fatal for pregnant women who suffer complications. This was nearly the case for Cely Blanza.

On July 10, 2007, the 36 year-old Cely was in labor for hours on her second child. As part of the WHT protocol, she was set to travel to Aguinaldo People's Hospital, at least two hours by bus, for her delivery. Since the village had no available emergency vehicle, Cely's husband waited patiently for the arrival of the only public bus for them to hire, but to no avail.

Since Cely was already in severe pain, her relatives decided to bring her to the hospital on a hammock or *ayod*. Along the way, they happened to come across a JICA-MCH vehicle, which was on the way to a meeting with WHT members for an upcoming barangay health orientation.

After almost two hours of travel over rough roads, Cely was finally admitted to the hospital, where she gave birth. The baby boy was named Jay JICA.



Almeria MHO spearheads advocacy efforts

The MCH Project began its activities in Almeria, Biliran in March 2006 to upgrade maternal and child health care at its RHU. Dr. Evelyn Garcia, Almeria MHO, was one of five medical staff who received training on Maternal and Child Health Care Management in Osaka, Japan in 2007. After her training, Dr. Garcia decided to encourage more women to have their babies delivered at the RHU. Along with her staff, Dr. Garcia embarked on an advocacy campaign on safe motherhood targeted at municipal and barangay officials and the community at-large. Slowly the number of deliveries increased and Almeria RHU had over 300 deliveries in 2007.



For more information, please contact: JICA-MCH Project, DOH, Building 3, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila Tel. No. (632) 7438301 loc.1345