

MCH Project Newsletter

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

Maternal and Child Health Project: Issue 3

October 2007-March 2008



Project Mid-Term Evaluation

Inside this Issue

- Project Mid-Term Evaluation
- Women's Health Team Conventions
- Barangay Campaign on Safe Motherhood
- TOT on Facilitating Parents Class

Page 2

- Training in Japan
- Life Savings Skills (LSS) Training
- Visitors to Biliran
- Regional Health Award
- Visit of BEmOC Monitoring Team
- Political Support for WHT and



Signing of the Midterm Evaluation Report by Ms Kitabayashi, Deputy Resident Representative, JICA and Dr. Villaverde, ASEC, DOH

An Evaluation Team from JICA, together with Philippine counterparts at the national and provincial levels, conducted a mid-term evaluation last October to determine and assess the status of MCH Project implementation in Biliran and Ifugao provinces. The evaluation was shared in the Executive Committee meetings of Ifugao and Biliran and in the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting.

Highlights of the evaluation report include the presentation of project accomplishments of the two provinces by Ifugao Gov. Teddy Baguilat Jr. and Biliran Provincial Health Officer Dr. Alfonso Veneracion. The gains were likewise captured in the MCH Mid-term Evaluation Report presented by Yoko Ogawa, JICA Consultant. The report was formally submitted to Dr. Mario Villaverde, DOH Assistant Secretary.

WHT Barangay Campaign on Safe Motherhood completed

WHT Barangay Orientations were completed in 63 and 132 barangays, respectively in Ifugao and in Biliran between June to December 2007. With the support of provincial, municipal and barangay officials, provincial and district hospital staff, Municipal Health Officers and their staff, WHT members organized community information campaigns, wherein people learned about safe motherhood via fun activities.



Barangay Campaign in Nattum, Mayoyao, Ifugao

Equipment donated to Ifugao and Biliran

The first batch of equipment to RHUs and PHOs were turned-over to Ifugao and Biliran. Among the equipment were: desktop computers, a photocopy machine, LCD screen, freezer and refrigerator to Ifugao; generators and ambulances to Biliran. Medical Equipment will follow in April 2008 to upgrade Barangay Health Station to enable them to function as birthing stations.

WHT Conventions held in Biliran and Ifugao

WHT Conventions were held in all municipalities covered by the project, from January to February this year. All WHT members attended and shared experiences gained from implementing the project in their communities as well as best practices. During the conventions in Biliran, monetary incentives for WHT members, such as free hospitalization benefits, were

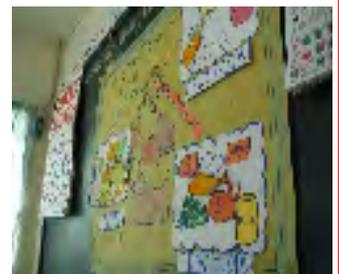


WHT Convention in Cabucgayan, Biliran

Trainers' Training for Facilitating Parents Class held in Biliran

Thirty-five skilled-birth attendants (SBAs) from Biliran attended a four-day training for facilitating Parents Class from January 15 to 18 this year. The training was facilitated by the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC) and CHD VIII.

The training covered the following topics: Birth Preparedness, Mother's Health and Neonatal Care, Breastfeeding, Nutrition, Effective



How to communicate is one of the keys to Health Education

Training in Japan

Eleven participants were sent to Japan from January to April this year to learn more about Maternal and Child Health.

The Maternal and Child Health Care Training, held in Nagoya from January 22 to February 9, was attended by the following: Rural Health Midwives (RHMs) from Mayoyao, Aginaldo, Alfonso Lista (Ifugao), RHMs from Cabucgayan, Caibiran (Biliran), and the MCH Coordinator of the Biliran Provincial Health Office.

The Midwifery Course for Safe Motherhood, held in Osaka from January 28 to March 1, was attended by the following: RHMs from Mayoyao and Aginaldo (Ifugao), and RHMs from Kawayan and Culaba (Biliran).

The ASEAN Maternal and Child Health and Welfare Administration Workshop, held in Tokyo from March 16 to April 5, was attended by a CHD-CAR official.

LSS training graduates 4th batch

The fourth batch of Life-Savings Skills (LSS) Training was participated in by 11 RHMs from Biliran from October 15 to 20, 2007 at Fabella Hospital in Manila. The training has been appreciated by RHMs as it helped them refresh their knowledge and skills, and gave them more confidence and eagerness to work for safe motherhood. By the end of 2008, all midwives in the two project areas will have attended the LSS training.



Biliran experience draws visitors

Local officials and health managers from Southern Leyte, ARMM and Region XII visited Biliran on October 5, November 27 and 28 respectively to observe the implementation and see first-hand results of the MCH project in the provinces. They visited health facilities and listened to stakeholders such as MHOs, PHNs, and WHT members who talked about their experiences.

Biliran gets Regional Health Award

Biliran Province received the Exemplary Practice

Award for "improving access to facility-based delivery through partnership with WHTs". The award, given last December



11, 2008 during the Regional Health Awards ceremony of CHD VIII, wherein Biliran's experience on Safe Motherhood was shared with other provinces in the Region.

STRONG POLITICAL COMMITMENT SPELLS THE DIFFERENCE

In Biliran, Provincial Resolution No.166-2006 – on limiting TBA involvement in deliveries – was enacted in October of 2006, and was one of the factors behind the drastic increase of facility-based delivery in the province. In addition, municipal ordinances mandating additional allocation of midwives, distribution of MCP reimbursement for normal delivery, RHU users' fee, provision of



MCH Ordinance Public Hearing in Naval, Biliran

supporting mechanisms on Safe Motherhood activities were also implemented in Biliran.



Pregnant woman carried on hammock or ayod

In Ifugao, WHTs were expanded as *Ifugao AYOD Community Health Team* via a Provincial Executive Order. The order, announced by Gov. Teodoro Baguilat, Jr. on March 3, 2008, organize the Community Health Teams at the barangay level for safe motherhood and other health-related issues and integrated male members

BEmOC Monitoring Team visits Biliran

From January 23 to 25, 2008, the BEmOC monitoring team, composed of Dr. Paulino of DOH-NCDPC, Dr. Tan and Cr. Mirano of Fabella Hospital, Dr. Montejo of St. Anthony Hospital (Cebu), Dr. Sabulao of CHD VIII, and Izumi Murakami of JICA-MCH, visited Biliran to look into the EmOC system of the province and monitor BEmOC and Life Saving Skills training participants. The team observed both the technical and management side of the program.

Among the team's recommendations were: usage of Partograph, hiring of additional midwives by LGUs, enrolling more indigents in



PhilHealth, and sending health workers for training.

ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

The MCH Project is currently working on the 2007 Annual Report (April 2007 to March 2008) and a process documentation book to share experiences and lesson learned. The book will be launched in August

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