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 Iloilo via inaugural Provincial Excom Meetings presided by Gov. Roger J. Espina and the late Gov. Benjamin C. Cappendorean, 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) & Iloilo (left)

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 Iloilo 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.

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 Iloilo & Biliran (the two JICA-MCH project sites) using the CMMNC Manual.
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 26, 2007. Dr. Evelyn Garcia (MHO of Almeria) and Dr. Leo Latoja (Newborn Care Coordinator) represented Biliran while Ilfugao sent Dr. Jacqueline Kilong (Chief of Tech. Div., IPHO), Dr. Priscilla Pagada (Chief of Hosp. of Mayoyo), 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 Ilfugao 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 Ilfugao); 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 to extend their capacity to provide quality service to pregnant women and their newborns.

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.

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 DEATH REVIEW (MDR)
MDR Workshops were conducted in Ilfugao and Biliran to respond to the reported cases of Maternal deaths, due largely to hemorrhage, in 2006 (5 in Ilfugao 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.

Maternal Care Package (MCP) PhiliHealth Accreditation
Four Rural Health Units (RHU) from Almeria, Cabucayan, Biliran and Kawayan municipalities of Biliran Province were given MCP accreditation by PhiliHealth as a result of their field assessment held from January 29 to 30, 2007. This has resulted in 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. Ilfugao 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 Ilfugao, 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.

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. Ilfugao 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.

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

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WHT Guidebooks (Ayangan, Ilocano, Waray&A 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 Ilfugao 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.

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

JICA and the Government of Japan has been providing medical equipment to Biliran RHUs.

Saras with a young girl.jpg

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